

GROWERS HERE
FARE THE BEST

In order that people engaged in growing strawberries may better understand the situation, the Glacier has endeavored to obtain information which it feels may be of interest to them, and acquaint them with the conditions of the market, etc., as they existed this year. With this object in view, a reporter sought out E. H. Shepard, manager of the Hood River Fruit Growers' union, who very courteously went over a number of letters in his possession, which, in a great measure, explains many causes of unsatisfactory returns.

Mr. Shepard is very busy these days arranging for a market for the apples of the Hood River Apple Growers' union, and is a hard worker for the cause. He has a moment to talk, but as the news gatherer dropped into Mr. Shepard's office last Friday, the manager of two fruit unions, showed much work long enough to let the reporter gather the following valuable information:

"This has been an off season in fruit from the beginning of the orange crop to the present time," remarked Mr. Shepard, "due probably to the following causes: In the first place a presidential year makes money tight; in the second place the acreage of all fruits has been greatly increased, and in the third place the crops were larger. In fact every berry-growing district produced a large crop with the exception of Hood River and Colorado. Texas came first, California, Arkansas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Minnesota, all come along in regular order with big crops.

"Big yields means low prices in all the eastern markets, of course. A great many of the home markets were crowded with berries from their own locality, said Mr. Shepard, as follows: Utah, Boise, Milton, Athens, Walla Walla, Spokane, which not only supplied their own towns, but also the markets of Lake Washington and the Sound cities and Montana. This, of course, cut out part of the former markets for Hood River berries.

"The first slump in fruit," continued Mr. Shepard, "came from overcrowded markets in orange, California producing 32,000 cars, and oranges were selling at 75 cents a box in Seattle, this spring, from which was to be deducted the commission, drayage, wharfage, etc., leaving probably a net figure of less than 50 cents a box, causing the grower to lose about 50 cents a box on oranges on the Seattle market, inasmuch as the cost to the grower to lay these down at his own depot, is one dollar. Other cities also made poor returns.

"Strawberries came next, meeting crowded markets; raspberries and blackberries met the same condition, and the chances are that the grower sold at this season to be glutted with peaches and other early fruits.

"We are, however, glad for Hood River valley, that the apple market bids fair to be good, so far as we are able to ascertain at the present time, as the California crop and the Missouri crop are both light.

"While the net average for the entire season has not been figured up for returns on strawberries the lowest returns made were about \$1 average to the grower, and ranging from this up in round numbers, to \$1.10, \$1.20, \$1.30, \$1.45, while some early growers realized above this figure, as high as a \$3.00 average, and some of the very late berries averaging \$1.55 net.

"Comparatively at least, Hood River growers have not suffered as badly as other districts. The Yastion growers received but about 45 cents net per crate, Missouri berries in Omaha brought as low as 68 cents per crate on the 20th of June as 83 cents per crate; consequently the berries here brought better returns than that market than this figure for the reason that it costs 15 cents freight to market in Omaha, and if sold at 83 cents per crate, all berries sent to Omaha would have netted but 8 cents per crate. This figure was based on the report from one of the large commission houses in Omaha.

"To quote from one of the letters: 'This is the toughest year on record, starting from the orange slump last fall, until the present time. So far as berries go, I do not believe the growers from this section of the country, that is around Omaha, with the exception of the early Texas berries, have received money enough to more than pay for the crates and baskets, to say nothing about their cost of picking.'

"Here are quotations from a number of telegrams and letters: 'Denver—Car shipped 8th, due Monday, 4 cars Mo. due Monday, divert if you think best.' 'Atlantic City, Iowa—On account of the large amount of home grown berries that are coming into the market, I will be obliged to cancel my berry order with you.'

"St. Louis—I would not advise shipping of strawberries at present, inasmuch as we have an overstocked market, selling at 40 cents from the stores. You are not able to go against a proposition whose peddlers are offering in any part of the city, the best berries from 6 to 7 cents per quart, even selling an excellent berry at 15 cents per gallon.

"Denver—There are 9 cars of strawberries in here today, and all except Hood's consignments. We wired you to cut out any cars that might arrive here tomorrow, and also see diversion is accomplished on car 1944.

"From this last letter it is easy to see in a comparative way, how some markets were crowded with strawberries. Nine cars to be sold in a single day in a city the size of Denver would mean approximately that 60 crates would have to be retained in a city the size of Hood River.

"In addition to these, a number of telegrams were received from Omaha, asking the shippers here to cut out train loads on certain days on account of the crowded condition. It is fair to presume that no broker acting on the percentage basis, would send such telegrams and cut out his own profits, if he felt able to find any market for the berries.

THE APPLE
IN OREGON

Bulletin No. 81, July, 1904, issued by the department of horticulture, Oregon Agricultural Experiment station at Corvallis is an intensely interesting one to all fruit growers of Oregon. It is prepared by Professor E. R. Lake, horticulturist and botanist of the station. Mr. Lake's work shows careful research and thorough mastery of his subject, and his language is couched in the simplest terms, easily understood by all.

The bulletin is nicely illustrated with half-tones, on a fine grade of book paper and the press work is faultless. It opens with a history of the introduction of the apple to Oregon, telling how Henderson Luelling of Iowa, in 1847 brought across the plains with an ox team what is supposed to have been the first grafted apple trees planted in Oregon. These trees were grown in boxes by Mr. Luelling in Iowa, loaded into the wagon and carried through the long, hot, weary months of summer travel across the plains. We now can never be able to realize what tremendous task this must have been, and can only faintly imagine some of the difficulties when we recall stories of suffering from scarcity of water at times and at other times where two or three teams coupled together were necessary to drag the heavy loads through the marshy places or up the steep, stony inclines of the mountain passes. Added to these natural difficulties were those more hard to meet, the pestilential diseases and more strenuous objections of his short sighted companions. At times Mr. Luelling was obliged to show a disposition to fight to prevent his comrades from throwing out his ideas in order to lighten the load. But he was a typical pioneer, possessed of the necessary ability and determination to carry him through, and in the fall he planted his trees in some freshly cleared lands near the mouth of the Willamette. From this beginning Oregon achieved her fame for growing the Big Red Apple.

Mr. Luelling lived to see the wisdom of his course thoroughly demonstrated for his trees returned—a dollar a drop for the each in fruit in getting necessary water to keep them alive while he crossed the desert; and their luscious fruit repaid me many times over for the jeers, ridicule and contentions of my comrades.

Mr. Lake quotes Dr. J. R. Cardwell in First Oregon Report as follows: "It is related that the first big red apple produced by Oregon soil was borne upon a one-year-old root-graft in this county in 1848, (7) and so great was the fame of it, and such the curiosity, that men, women and children came from miles to see it, and made a hard, beaten track through the nursery to this joyous reminder of the old homestead so far away."

"The first orchards of notable size were planted in the Waldo hills, on French prairie near Salem. The following varieties were common ones of those early days: Red June, Sunburst, Red Astrachan, Gravenstein, Taiman Sweet, Blue Pearmain, White Winter Pearmain, Gloria Mundi, Genet, Baldwin, Rambo, Winesap, Jemnetting, Sweet No further, Tolpabun, American Pippin, Red Cheek, Pippin, Rhode Island Greening, Virginia Greening, Little Romanite, Spitzenburg, Swaar, Waxen, and a spurious Yellow Newtown Pippin, since called the Green Newtown Pippin, and generally called the worst apple. Some few other varieties were probably introduced at the same time but of these there is no certain record.

"In 1850 Mr. Luelling returned to the East and selected at the nursery of A. J. Downing, in New York, the Yellow Newtown Pippin which, were dug under the personal supervision of Mr. Downing. These trees were brought across by the Isthmian. On fruiting these proved to be nothing but a variety of the old Green Newtown Pippin of the first introduction, and the real Yellow Newtown Pippin as we have it now was not introduced until some years later.

"The first box of apples of red for sale in Portland, Mr. Luelling was eagerly purchased at one dollar apiece, netting him \$75. Following this, prices ranged from one dollar a pound to \$20 a box and retailed as high as \$1.50 per pound, and in one instance \$2.50 per pound, and only one apple.

"In 1853 the surplus, a few boxes securely bound with strap iron, were shipped to San Francisco and sold at \$2 per pound. The surplus amounted to 500 bushels and was sold at a net price of \$1.50 to \$2 per pound.

"In 1855, 6000 bushels were shipped returning a net price of \$20 to \$30 per bushel. "In 1856 shipments amounted to 20,000 boxes. This year one box of Esopus Spitzenbergs sold in San Francisco for \$60 net, and three boxes of Winesap sold in Portland for \$102.

"From the time till 1869 the shipments during the fall and winter months varied from 6000 to 12,000 boxes per month. From 1870 the shipments to California declined, as the young orchards of that state came into bearing at such a rate as to not only supply the local demand but to furnish some for exportation. In consequence of this loss of market, prices fell so low that thousands of bushels annually rotted beneath the trees and other thousands of bushels were consumed by stock. The enormous prices obtained during the '50s resulted in the planting of a great acreage of orchards. With the loss of the California market came a total collapse in the industry, since there were no adequate means of transporting the great yield of fruit from these young orchards to suitable markets."

Mr. Lake also quotes the following from E. L. Gervais, in the Farmer's Congress, Salem, 1892: "At a farm near Salem I purchased several hundred boxes of the largest Winesap I had ever seen. I could have bought almost unlimited quantities of this fine fruit at from 12 to 15 cents per bushel. In an orchard near Jefferson this fruit was still cheaper for there I remember seeing great Golden Bellers now falling to the ground to the evident satisfaction of the pigs beneath the trees."

The bulletin also contains the following interesting letter from John Minto, Salem, Oregon, February 14, 1902: "I should just like from my knowledge of the French Canadian settlers, that Joseph Gervais, who settled at Chenay, was the first planter of apple trees in the Willamette valley. He was the leader of his class, and in 1845 his orchard of apple trees looked to be 12 or 15 years old at least. The Montie brothers, Walter and Thomas, got water sprouts from Gervais' orchard, which were the first planted at Albany, Linn county. Mr. Gervais used to seem proud to bring apples to Salem for sale at \$3 a bushel in 1849. I never saw nor heard of other French Canadian who had apple trees as old as his appeared nor that had apples to sell. Gervais came to Oregon with Mr. Hunt, Astor's partner, in 1811."

This bulletin should be in the hands of every apple grower in Oregon, and especially of those who contemplate planting an orchard, because of the valuable information contained therein on that subject. Mr. Lake describes at length both the square and hexagonal method, giving full instructions as to manner of laying out the orchard.

The bulletin is the first of a series on The Apple in Oregon and the topics discussed are: Early history, earliest varieties, later plantings, the problem of planting, site as to soil, site as to aspect, selection of trees, planting. It is one of the most valuable bulletins yet issued by the station to apple growers, and will be sent free to any resident of Oregon for the asking. Address James Withycombe, director of experiment station, Corvallis, Oregon.

(Timber Land Act, June 3, 1878.) NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. United States Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, June 29, 1904.—Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington Territory," as extended to all the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1892.

EDWARD W. REIDER, of Portland, county of Multnomah, state of Oregon, has on the 21st day of May, 1904, filed his sworn statement No. 2338, for the purchase of the W-1821-1 section 17, T-14-N-21-E-1 and NE-1/4 of section No. 26 in township No. 1 north, range No. 9 east, W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said lands before George T. Prather, U. S. commissioner, at his office at Hood River, Oregon, on the 26th day of September, 1904.

He names the following witnesses: Charles Casner, Lewis E. Morse, Lewis C. Morse, and William F. Hand, all of Hood River, Oregon. Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said day of September 1904.

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