

OREGON FRUIT WORLD-FAMED

W. R. Radcliff of Watsonville, Cal., visited Hood River about a month ago, and on his return contributed the following splendid article descriptive of Hood River and the Oregon apple to the Evening Pajaronia of Watsonville:

Hood River valley, Oregon, is justly famed for its high grade Spitzenburg and Yellow Newtown apples and its wonderful strawberry crop. The Clark Seedling, which stands shipment from 7 to 10 days across the continent and arrives in Eastern markets in excellent condition. The Hood River valley is one of the most prosperous districts of the West.

The Hood River valley is about 60 miles east of Portland and runs south from the Columbia river to the lower range of Mount Hood, one of the highest of the many snow-capped peaks of the Northwest. The valley is 20 miles long and 5 miles wide. Its area is not similar to the valley of the Sacramento in California is small. Much of it is rolling ground, and the valley is broken by a range of hills into upper and lower valleys.

The town of Hood River is one of the most prosperous of the small towns of Oregon. Several brick buildings have been constructed while we were there, and several blocks were planned for early building. There is business activity in the river town, and evidences are plentiful that it is one of the best trading points in the West.

The Hood River valley has the largest strawberry district on the Pacific coast, and its 1200 acres of strawberries are confined to one variety—the Clark Seedling—the most famous of the many famed strawberries of the United States. Other varieties may produce more per acre, but no other has yet reached the high price average of the Clark or equalled it in shipping qualities.

About 1200 acres of Hood River valley are in strawberries. It is estimated that the acreage will be much less next year as some of the patches are over their prime, and the sharp competition of Missouri and Arkansas strawberries the past season has caused many growers to consider the risk in growing great in growing strawberries for markets 1500 or more miles distant. They are turning to apples as a safer and probably more profitable crop.

packed in boxes holding a pound apiece, and are faced four each way, the pack looking in form much like an apple pack. In each crate are packed 24 boxes and in the latter form shipment is made. A crate of berries (24 boxes) costs about 70 cents f. o. b. and the freight to Eastern markets and expenses of selling bring the cost to land above \$1 per crate. The crop this year was about 10,000 crates. Occasionally the latter figure is exceeded. Growers told us that they feared the variety was showing off in quality—a showing which is not unusual where a district continues to produce but one variety year after year. Across the Columbia from Hood River there is a large acreage in strawberries.

When the strawberry is picked and shipped it is quite tart. It colors and sweetens in transit. It does not bruise in handling and to that remarkable quality is attributed its wonderful keeping showing. The vines are rather small and foliage is not heavy.

Omaha is the main point for Hood River strawberry distribution. Fifty cars went to that point this year. Several cars went to New York. The shipments of berries are made largely for the account of the growers through the Hood River Fruit Growers' Union.

A strawberry cannery has been operated by the Davidson Fruit Co., but it was closed a few weeks ago. A cannery has nothing to do in a season of fancy prices for the Hood River berries.

Montana points takes lots of these strawberries. The Hood River strawberry and the Pajaro valley Belleflowers are favorite fruits and market leaders in Butte, Montana, the largest and liveliest mining town on the continent. Hood River strawberries retail there from 15 cents down to 85 cents per pound, and the usual price for Belleflowers is 11 to 12 cents—almost five cents per pound.

The fruit on which Hood River valley will make its enduring reputation is the apple. As in all new districts there was much "hit or miss" in the varieties of apples selected for planting, but in the school of experience which the orchardists of that valley have been attending the process of elimination has been vigorously pursued until the varieties chosen for young commercial orchards are very limited—scarcely more than those "tried and true" favorites, Spitzenburg and Yellow Newtown Pippins. Last year 60,000 apple trees were planted in Hood River valley, and a limited number of trees of other varieties for pollinating purposes, the planting was of the varieties named above.

The Ben Davis and Gano are planted among Newtowns, and Baldwin among Spitzenburgs, for pollination. In making the selection for this purpose trees are chosen which blossom at the same time as the main blocks of trees. The Ben Davis and Baldwin are not such money makers as the Spitzenburgs and Newtowns (though they sold last year at Hood River from 85 cents upward per box), but they make the Spitzenburg and Newtowns surer and more profitable producers than if they have been planted in solid blocks. In Hood River valley, as in the Medford district, pollinating varieties are considered a necessity, and no orchard is planted without them.

The soil of this valley has made a remarkable showing in production of large, round, high-colored apples of choicest flavor and excellent keeping qualities. Its red apples are genuinely red, and they make a striking showing as a still fruit.

There is quite an investment in Hood River valley lands by Eastern people. Mr. Van Horn, a Rochester, N. Y., millionaire, has invested \$43,000 in orchard lands and is to invest more. He bought one tract (20 acres bearing and 20 acres to be cleared and planted) for \$12,000. Henry T. Miller, an old leading peach grower of Ozark, Ark., is also a heavy investor in apple lands.

The cherry does well, but growers say it is not as profitable as apples. On October 15, 15 apple growers of Hood River valley will hold their biennial fair. They are going to show their best fruit, and then send it to the St. Louis exposition. It will be an exhibit worth seeing, which could be visited with profit by Pajaro valley apple growers. It would be a good thing for the growers of the two districts to exchange ideas.

Spitzenburgs in this orchard 2 1/2 acres—100 trees seven years old and 190 trees eight years old, and Mr. Sears estimated the crop at 3000 boxes, an average of 10 boxes to the tree and no tree over eight years old. The crop looked as large as estimated. The apples were large, five weeks ago, no small ones showing. The absence of small fruit is one of the notable features of this orchard. The five-tier has no place there. Three years ago this block of 250 Spitzenburgs averaged five boxes per tree, and a part of the trees were only four years old. The succeeding year an improvement was shown, and last year they averaged eight boxes per tree. And it is this stock that sells at \$25 per box.

Last year from a block of 91 Newtowns—three-fourths of an acre—they had 588 boxes of choice apples, and the crop is larger this year. This is very close to a car of Newtowns from less than an acre. Sears & Porter spray six times each season for codlin moth. They use the white arsenic before the trees fall they use Bordeaux and soon after give the first application of white arsenic spray. They also use bands and go over them often and carefully.

The codlin moth does not get many of Sears & Porter's apples. The caterpillars are too strenuous for him. Sears & Porter have a crop of at least 20,000 boxes. In addition to their home orchard they have a bearing orchard of 30 acres under lease, and have a young orchard of 35 acres not yet in bearing. They do not commence picking Newtowns and Spitzenburgs until October 10. They were first attracted to the valley by a purchase of apples at The Dalles, while on their way to Oregon to settle about 12 years ago. A boy was selling apples at the station, they bought some, they were so good they asked where they were grown. The boy said, "Hood River," and when they found out the name of the place which they thought could produce such apples was the place for their location, and to Hood River they went and there they remained. Their orchard, the result of their industry and intelligent labor, is an object lesson for all fruit growers and is worth the trip from the Pajaro valley to view.

Mr. Sears very kindly took us over the orchard and very fully answered all our inquiries. The work of his orchard is doing much for Hood River valley. It is estimated that about 30,000 acres of Hood River district can be profitably planted to apples. Most of it will have to be cleared and planted. There are 3,000 acres planted to apples, and the annual increase is expected to average close to 1000 acres for some time. But a small portion of the acreage is in full bearing. The new planting is in large blocks on the East Side, and they know how to care for them. Their young orchards make a handsome showing.

The crop this year is estimated at 110,000 boxes. Last year prices (except for Spitzenburgs) were from \$1.80 for Newtowns to \$2.00 for Spitzenburgs. No prices for this year had been quoted when we were there, but Spitzenburg prices were expected to be as high. The fruit is handled by the farmers direct or through the exchange. The middleman does not get much of a "look in" in Hood River valley.

Ed Williams of the Hood River pharmacy contracted the entire output of prunes from his ranch in the Crapper district for \$2.50. The Medford Mail says Manager Perry of the Rogue River Fruit Growers' union has received returns from the first carload of Bartlett pears shipped from Medford this year. The pears were sold in Chicago and netted the shippers a little over \$1.30 per box. This is the highest price obtained at Medford this season for pears.

Although newspaper quotations in Portland gave the price of Burbank potatoes at \$1.10 to \$1.25 per 100 pounds, retail grocers charge \$2 per sack and say the wholesale price is \$1.75 per sack, which is equivalent to \$1.45 per 100 pounds.—Rural Northwest.

California pruner growers have a tendency to feel discouraged on account of the extremely low prices which are being offered this year. With the hold-over from last year and an immense crop in nearly every pruner producing country of the world, they do not see much hope for a speedy improvement in the market.

Colorado people are going wild over a Wolf River apple that was grown in that state and measures 17 inches in circumference. The export apple trade is as yet rather light and no heavy movements to the European markets are expected for at least another month. Advice from abroad state that good prices can be realized if stock is sound and well packed, some of the fruit bringing back from \$2.25 to \$2.50 net New York for fancy Graustein and Kings. These prices are exceptional, the bulk of the sales being around \$2 a barrel net for other varieties.

Chamberlain's Remedy Aids Nature. Medicines that aid nature are always most effective. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy acts on this plan. It allays the cough, relieves the lungs, aids expectoration, opens the secretions, and aids nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. Sold at Williams' Pharmacy.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878. NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. United States Land Office, The Dalles, Ore. May 25, 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, the following named persons have on November 20, 1903, filed in this office their sworn statements, to-wit:

QUINCY MITCHELL, of Tolocon, county of Union, state of Oregon, sworn statement No. 219, for the purchase of the west 1/4, 8 1/4, and lots 1 and 12 of section 7, township 2 N., range 9 E., north 1/4 of section 7, township 1 N., range 9 E., W. M. That they will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish their claims to said land before the register and receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on October 18, 1904.

United States Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, May 25, 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, the following named persons have filed in this office their sworn statements, to-wit:

JOHN F. DALY, of Blunt, county of Hughes, state of South Dakota, sworn statement No. 201, filed August 19, 1903, for the purchase of lots 8, 9, 10 and 11 of section 17, township 1 N., range 9 east, W. M. That they will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish their claims to said land before the register and receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on October 18, 1904.

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ELIAS M. MILLER, of Hood River, county of Wasco, state of Oregon, sworn statement No. 203, filed August 19, 1903, for the purchase of lot 11 of section 7 and 1, 2 and 3 of section 15, township 1 north, range 9 east, W. M. That they will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish their claims to said land before the register and receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on October 18, 1904.

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DAVE FLEMING, of Hood River, county of Wasco, state of Oregon, sworn statement No. 202, filed January 19, 1904, for the purchase of the S 1/4, 8 1/4, and NW 1/4 of section 27, township 2 north, range 9 east, W. M. That they will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish their claims to said land before the register and receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on October 18, 1904.

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JOHN X. SAX, of Portland, county of Multnomah, state of Oregon, sworn statement No. 204, filed November 20, 1903, for the purchase of the E 1/4, 8 1/4, SW 1/4, NE 1/4, and SE 1/4 of section 27, township 2 north, range 9 east, W. M. That they will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish their claims to said land before the register and receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on October 18, 1904.

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W. J. BAKER, of Hood River, county of Wasco, state of Oregon, sworn statement No. 205, filed August 19, 1903, for the purchase of lots 8, 9, 10 and 11 of section 17, township 1 N., range 9 east, W. M. That they will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish their claims to said land before the register and receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on October 18, 1904.

W. J. BAKER, Real Estate Agent, Hood River, Oregon.

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W. J. BAKER, Real Estate Agent, Hood River, Oregon.

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