

FRUIT IN THE OREGON COUNTRY

The following well-written article on the fruit industry in Oregon appeared on the editorial page of a recent edition of the Chicago Record-Herald, from the pen of S. Glen Andrus, who visited Hood River last July with R. M. Hall of the O. R. & N.:

One of the chief charms of the Pacific Northwest lies in its complete variedness, a variedness which extends to its climate, its soil, its product, its scenery, its topography, and the opportunities which it presents.

Almost anything contained in nature's variety store house can be found in the Oregon country. This fact is becoming generally known and accounts for the growing attraction which the North-west has for the homeseeker. Nearly all conditions are found, and every desire of the farmer or the pleasure seeker can be satisfied in some portion of the domain which Lewis and Clark blazed for civilization. According to desire, one may live in a high or low altitude, where the rains and dews of heaven water his lands abundantly or where little or no water touches the parched land unless it be by irrigation; where the happy medium between heat and cold is always maintained, or where the rays of a most brilliant sun beat fiercely; where the valley of almost tropical verdure stretches away for miles, presenting to the eye nature's color pictures framed by the rugged mountains or hills—places in which to dream a life away, forgetting drear realities of a bustling world; on the rolling plains, on the hill tops, or in the cradles of the mountain sides, in the dead feet of the sands of the arid lands or surrounded by scenery so grand and indescribable that it casts a spell which is never shaken.

Should one desire to become a land owner, there are the great cattle ranges or the grain fields of the inland empire. On the contrary, should he desire to become modestly independent, there is the ten-acre tract upon which an entire family can be maintained upon the products of fruit or vegetables.

Despite the partial annihilation of distances by the modern express train, the Pacific Northwest is so far removed from the middle West and the East that its magnitude and its possibilities are little appreciated. Oregon, for example, is vaguely known as a large state, but few realize that it contains 95,000 square miles or 61,495,000 acres of land. Notwithstanding the fact that large portions of this are mountainous or arid, there are sufficient resources to accommodate as large a number of people as dwell in any like area in the East. This means that Oregon, with nearly 2,000 square miles of territory in excess of that of New York and Pennsylvania combined, may in time contain and support as great a population as these states, or over 14,000,000 people. Now, with scarcely more than half a million people, this state is producing more than \$35,000,000 worth of grains, fruit, fish, dairy and poultry products, live stock and minerals. What it will add to the annual productive wealth of the country, when it arrives at a settled condition is food for the imagination. The Cascade mountains divide the state of Oregon into portions which are known locally as Eastern and Western Oregon. Between the Cascades and the Coast Range lie several valleys which have become famous. There are the Rogue River valley, celebrated as "The Italy of Oregon," the Grande Ronde valley, with its wealth of wheat and Willamette valley, with their varied industries, the Hood River valley, with its unrivaled fruit, almost equally attractive. To the Eastern man the valleys of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest have the strongest attraction, for they are so close to earth to the man who has been accustomed to toil early and late through six months of uncertain weather in order to maintain himself and family through six months of rigorous winter.

Extending south from the Columbia river a distance of more than 150 miles, averaging thirty miles from mountain range to mountain range, lies the far famed Willamette valley with its 5,900 square miles of fertile country which produces bountifully almost every crop known to a temperate zone. Through this valley runs the Willamette, which is fed by many picturesque and full-flowing streams and which pours its great volume of water into the broad Columbia close to the city of Portland. In this valley are raised great quantities of fine fruit. First given over to grazing, later to wheat raising, the Willamette valley is now one of the most healthful, beautiful and diversified farming districts in the United States. In 1850 the state of Oregon raised but eight pounds of hops. In 1900 its hop crop, most of which came from this valley, amounted to 21,548,377 pounds, more than any other state in the union produced.

Another valley, not so large, but of exquisite beauty and great fertility, is the Hood River valley. Oregon has gained a wide reputation as a fruit raising state, for which the valley of the Hood River is largely responsible. Despite the variety and excellence of Oregon fruit, however, there is a difference of opinion as to whether fruit will ever become a leading commercial staple or one of the chief factors in the commercial life of the state. It is fair to say, however, that it has been recently discovered that the Oregon fruit can be grown with a toughness of skin and a strength of fiber which will enable its transportation to distant markets. During the season just passed, for example, seven carloads of Hood River strawberries were shipped under refrigeration to Chicago, arriving here in excellent condition. They came at the height of the Michigan berry season and brought \$1 a crate more than the product of the Wolverine state. Hood River berries were also expressed to New York and Boston and the demand there created for them has placed new ideas in the heads of Hood River fruit growers regarding market possibilities. Oregon apples, and especially those of Hood River valley, long ago found their way into the markets of Canada, London, Liverpool, Hamburg, Berlin, Paris, St. Petersburg, Honolulu, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Manila, and the mining camps of Alaska. In London during the holiday season Yellow Newtowns from Oregon sell as high as \$1.65 a bushel, netting the grower \$2.35.

The Columbia river is the northern boundary of the Hood River valley. Its eastern boundary is a spur or divide, 2,000 feet high, its western boundary the timbered slopes of the Cascades, while Mount Hood stands sentinel at the southern end successfully disputing entry. The valley is generally covered with oak and pine, while to the west and south the mountains are covered with Douglas fir. The hills to the east are well wooded with fir, oak and pine, which almost disappears as Eastern Oregon is reached. Being thus protected by nature the valley of the Hood is a medium between the arid sections of Eastern Oregon and the humidity of the far western portions of the state. The eastern hill range protects the valley from the cold blasts in winter, and from the snows which sweep south-west across the Rockies in summer,

bearing destruction to plant life. To the west the Cascade range keeps away the plentiful rains of spring, which abundantly water the Willamette valley. For years the rainfall has averaged between thirty and thirty-eight inches, which is sufficient to grow apples without irrigation, and reduce to a minimum the artificial watering of other fruits. The valley is about twenty miles long, and averages five miles in width, containing an area of 64,000 acres. Owing to bluffs and tracts unfit for culture, there is about 50,000 acres available for tillage. Bisecting the valley into the eastern and western portions is the Hood River, which has its source in the Elsie glacier of Mount Hood, is fed by the eternal snows and ice of that peak as they melt and tumble through the Devil's Punch Bowl and into the Columbia river, near the town of Hood River.

To meet the demands of irrigation Hood River has been tapped in two places, 4,000 acres have been placed under irrigation, 20,000 more prepared for irrigation, and 1,000 additional acres have been cleared. Of the irrigated lands, 800 are in strawberries, 700 in apples in bearing, and 1,300 in apples not in bearing. In 1903 the Oregon country produced \$12,500,000 worth of fruit. In the same year the Hood River valley and the state of Oregon produced \$2,501,000 worth of fruit. The Hood River valley shipped 90,000 crates of strawberries in 1904 season, valued at \$150,000, and apples which sold for \$125,000. Blackberries, cherries, raspberries and other fruits brought \$20,000. Fruit is not the sole product of this wonderful little valley, for the mountains skirting it south and west contain fully a billion feet of lumber, which is within easy reach of the sawmills. This year more than 24,000,000 feet of lumber will be cut from the mountainsides. In addition there is the Hood River, from which can be developed 100,000 horse power to operate the industries which are bound to come to this small garden of Eden, snugly ensconced, with Mount Hood as its guardian on the south, and the rounded dome of Mount Adams showing as plainly to the north.



FOR YOUNG FOLKS
THE OBSTINATE FLAME.

How to Extinguish a "Blower" by Letting Him Blow.

Of course you know what a "blower" is. The meaning that we have in mind is not to be found in the dictionary, but you are doubtless familiar with the term blower, which is the same thing. The next time you encounter him tell him that you don't believe he can blow out a candle placed only a foot from his experienced mouth without any other obstacle than his own breath between them.

If he accepts the challenge seat him comfortably at the table, place the lighted candle in front of him and, putting to his lips a large tin funnel, with the center of its mouth opposite and near the flame, tell him to blow through that.

He may blow until he becomes black in the face without extinguishing the candle. The harder he blows the more it doesn't go out.

After he has given it up say, "It is easy enough when you know how," put the funnel to your lips and blow out the candle. How? Simply by bringing the rim instead of the center near the flame.

When you blow through a funnel your breath spreads and follows the conical surface, leaving a region of dead calm in the center. Your friend blew all around the flame without touching it, but you extinguish it with a puff.

There are a good many queer things about air currents that would never have been thought of if they had not been found out by experience. This is one of them.—New York World.

Clever Sparrows.
One of the prettiest sights as regards seamen's pets was afforded by six sparrows which were tamed and trained by an old bluejacket on board a coal barge. He had trained them to such a degree that they would march in regular military order, "turning" and "wheeling" as desired by merely moving his hand. On each of their heads he had fastened a small piece of scarlet cloth, cut so as to form a cockcomb, which gave the birds a very saucy appearance as they went through their varied evolutions.

Animal Notes.
Naturalists tell us that sometimes a single beaver will go off and live by himself, leaving the colony to which he belonged. Whether these "bachelor beavers" have been put out of their native towns or leave of their own free wills we do not know.

A gentleman on one of our western ranches found a nest of young rabbits and took them in to his cat, supposing she would make a meal of them, but she surprised everybody concerned by adopting them and bringing them up along with her kittens.

Why They Want a Curl.
Do you wish to know why sister's friends ask you for a curl? Why Uncle Will tosses you up to the ceiling? Why all the grownup people talk with you and ask you questions? If you really want to know, dears, lean right close and you will hear that it is because they love you so and care so much for your good opinion. It is well for you to know how much you are loved. You will wish to be loving to others always, will you not?

Disappointed.
Clarence had been looking forward eagerly to his sixth birthday, and when it came his sister woke him up early

In the morning, Clarence lay still a moment and then said in a tone of deep disappointment:
"Pshaw, I aren't a bit bigger!"

Had to Have the Material.
Jack—Mother, may I play making believe I'm entertaining another little boy?
Mother—Yes, dear, of course.
Jack—All right. Then will you please give me some cake for him?
Philadelphia Ledger.

In the Night.
Do you ever waken sometimes in the night. When the room's all dark, except the queer, dim light. From the window, and you're turned about in bed. And you can't tell where the foot is, nor the head? And you sit up, scared, and look round everywhere. But the door to mother's room just isn't there. Oh, it's very bad, I know, because, you see, it happens often just that way to me. But then if I lie down again and wait. Why, by and by just everything comes straight. The bed stands in its old same place again. The window's where I thought it was—and then. Right over here, this side, is mother's door. And then I don't feel frightened any more.—Youth's Companion.

If a man could only make as much money out of the cow by letting the calf suck her as he can by milking her it would greatly tend to solve the dairy problem.

The state of Missouri will send to the world's fair at St. Louis a four inch section of a monster cypress tree growing in that state. It is twelve feet in diameter.

The exports of cereals from Russia amount to 200,000,000 bushels, and every bushel of it should be kept in that country to feed the people, but they are forced to sell and then starve.

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New Pool Room
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