

# HOOD RIVER AND ITS FRUITS

November Lewis and Clark Journal

JUST where the turbulent waters of the Hood River pour into those of the mighty Columbia, enthroned among the surrounding hills and guarded by the snow-capped sentinels of the valley, nestles one of the most beautiful little cities in Oregon—aye, in all the West. As one stands on the heights of the city of Hood River and views the glorious panorama spread by the lavish hand of a bounteous nature, the majestic Columbia, ever rushing towards the sea, the broad expanse of fertile valley, so thickly dotted with comfortable homes and wealth-yielding orchards—seen in the distance the timber-clad mountains holding in their fastnesses untold wealth for him who will wrest it from them—and tied with ribbons the Spitzbergen readily sell for \$1 per dozen for the holiday trade in New York and London. They are eagerly sought for by the fancy fruit stands, hotels, ocean steamers and restaurants. The Spitzbergen, a rarely beautiful variety of red apple, is the favorite in the United States, but in London, Liverpool, Hamburg, Berlin and other European cities the Yellow Newtown is the choicer fruit, bringing as high as \$3.85 per box, and setting the growers \$2.25.

There are about 2800 acres of growing orchards in the valley. However many of the trees are not yet bearing. It is estimated that the crop this year will be about 100,000 bushels, or 160 carloads. Figuring on a conservative yield of 200 bushels per acre, fruit men of this section say that the yield by 1907 should be between 800,000 and 1,000,000 bushels. When we know that the entire crop this year has been sold for \$1.50 per bushel, Hood River at \$2.10 per bushel for 4-tier Spitzbergs and \$1.75 for 4-tier Yellow Newtowns, and that there are but 96 4-tier apples in a box, we gain some idea of what an enormous source of wealth the orchards are and will be to the residents of this valley.

These two varieties lead in the commercial orchards, though many Baldwin and Ben Davis are planted, principally as a polisher. While other varieties raised here are remarkably fine, they can be grown in other localities, but the Spitzbergen and Yellow Newtown attain no such perfection elsewhere in the world. At Rogue River, Oregon, and in a portion of West Virginia, they raise very fine Spitzbergen apples, but not to compare with those of this valley and they never bring the price the latter fruit does.

It is an inspiring sight to drive through the valley at apple harvest time. The orchards are planted with methodical precision, the ground is as smooth as a lawn, the trees are pruned into uniform size and droop almost to the ground under their loads of red and yellow fruit. The majority of the trees are pruned in what is known as the wingless shape and are headed so low that most of the fruit is picked by men standing on the ground. It is then hauled to the apple house, where it is packed by hand and packed by professional packers. No fruit is shipped until inspected and pronounced in first-class condition. The growers are thoroughly up-to-date in methods of growing, handling and shipping, and have won many prizes at the world's fairs in the past few years.

Four-tier apples are the standard, while 3 and 2 1/2-tier apples are sold to the fruit trade and bring prices accordingly.

A fruit fair was held in October of this year, which was a source of wonder to the many visitors. We print some illustrations this month of fruit exhibited there which speaks volumes. This exhibit was shipped in a train to the fair at St. Louis, where it attracted universal attention and admiration and proven a great advertisement for the valley and the whole state of Oregon.

There are few absentee landlords in this section—almost all the fruit farms are being operated by resident owners, and as twenty acres or less is the usual sized farm it is almost like a city. A very few acres properly handled will soon make its owner independent. We were shown one orchard of three acres of 10-year-old Yellow Newtowns which last year netted its owner \$1300 per acre. In this orchard we were shown one tree which this year produced 30 boxes of apples. There are from 65 to 100 trees to the acre, depending on the variety and the individual fancy of the orchardist.

Only a small fraction of the available apple land is under cultivation. Uncleared fruit land can be bought for from \$30 to \$100 per acre; that which is cleared and ready to plant brings from \$100 to \$400 per acre, while bearing orchards sell as high as \$1000 per acre.

Not is the fruit the only source of income. The lumber industry is bringing \$350,000 into the valley and is only in its infancy. There are about 150,000 feet of logs cut yearly in the surrounding mountains and rafted down to the big mills located at the city of Hood River. The mill men tell us there are millions upon millions of feet of the choicest timber in the vicinity of the Hood River, which will keep the mills cutting 200,000 feet of lumber daily, busy for forty years.

Grain and hay are among the principal export crops of the valley. Clover and timothy hay grow very heavy, the former yielding four to five tons a season in two cuttings. This affords unsurpassed dairying facilities, which in time will be developed, though up to the present time it has been overlooked by other industries.

Hood River, with an abundance of water power at hand, offers every inducement for manufacturing plants of various kinds. A pulp mill would do well, as would also a woodenware mill. An engineer's measurement of the water power in the stream of Hood River shows 10,000 horse power per mile for a distance of ten miles. This gives a total of 100,000 horse power, a power, when converted into electrical energy, sufficient to operate the machinery of the state. A fifty-foot dam in the stream of this river is a projected scheme now under way by local capitalists.

Transportation facilities are always of considerable moment in the growth and development of a new section. One of the best at Hood River, the O. R. & N., the Oregon line of a great trans-continental road, passes through the city, affording three passenger trains each way daily. The Columbia river, with its many daily steamers, offers another and easy mode of transporting produce; while competition keeps the freight rate at the minimum.

Besides these, Hood River is within easy access of three other trans-continental roads, so there is never a dearth of shipping facilities.

While speaking of transportation it will not be amiss to mention the excellent country roads found in this valley. They are kept in fine condition by constant work, and the grades are not much more difficult than in a level prairie country.

In the immediate city there is a plan on foot for an electric street car line between the city and the river docks. A franchise has been applied for and the promoter tells us there is every

chance of its being readily granted, and he promises that the line will be ready to operate within 90 days from the date that the franchise is granted. All tractors, poles, cars and other equipment have already been secured, so there need be no delay. This will greatly facilitate handling orchard products, as it will handle freight as well as passengers.

And what of Hood River for a home? The climate is very mild and equable. The eastern range of the Cascade mountains protects it from the stormy winter and the high range of the same mountains on the west protects it from the heavy rains which visit the state further west. The rainfall here is about 35 inches, affording ample moisture for maturing early crops, while several large irrigation canals, and a farmer to produce abundant yields of all crops throughout the summer regardless of the summer rains. Ben Davis, Winesap and Jonathan are the chief commercial varieties grown there.

The Lewis and Clark fair is not well advertised in the East, says Mr. Robinson. Now and then there is someone who has heard of the Portland exposition but very few. He saw no world's fair literature whatever. But many people are coming west next summer to see the great Pacific coast country. Almost every one is talking about the coast, and next summer there will be a good thing for the westerner.

The Colorado fruit section is not to be compared to the Hood River country. The people there have no water to drink save what they get from the irrigating ditches. When the land is irrigated it has a bad sinking. In one place where Mr. Robinson passed along the road the uncultivated land on one side was six feet above that which had been irrigated. This sinking of the land makes it very difficult to construct ditches.

Ben Davis apples sell for \$1, while fancy Winesaps bring \$1.50. The orchards being so near Denver it takes but a little while to run the fruit into market. The Spitzbergen does not grow there because it does not color well where, and nowhere as at Hood River. While apple culture is paying in the Grand Canyon, many of the apple men are grubbing out the six and seven-year-old apple trees and waiting to peace, because they believe there is more money in the latter fruit.

There are all the usual business interests represented in Hood River, to an extent very unusual in a town of its size. A good electric light system, waterworks, two stable and conservative banks, a live newspaper, particularly efficient schools, fraternal societies, a vigorous and growing commercial club, which is handled in a manner to redound to the credit of the city and her institutions—all combine to make of Hood River a most desirable home town.

It is not necessary that one have large capital. Here is a place and a welcome for the farmer and the man of small means who is willing to work not only singly, but in conjunction with his neighbor for the upbuilding of this three favored portion of the footstool. The secretary of the Commercial club will advise you of all matters concerning the Hood River country.

New Office for Culbertson & Co. The real estate firm of Geo. D. Culbertson & Co. has new offices in the Middleton building on Oak street, two doors west of the Big Store With Little Price. While the rooms are not overly large, they are light, airy and convenient.

Attorney E. H. Hartwig also has rooms with Mr. Culbertson. Mr. Culbertson says he is receiving numerous inquiries from persons who have heard of Hood River through Westerland & Co., the Chicago representative of Culbertson & Co., but of the western immigration was cut short by the railroad companies suspending the cheap rates to the coast. Last winter these tourist rates continued all winter. This year they were discontinued October 15.

Mr. Culbertson believes the railroads evinced a shortsighted policy in cutting off the cheap rates so early in the season. There are many Easterners who have sold out and would have come west this fall had the rates been maintained.

Klickitat Strongly Republican. The official returns for Klickitat county give Roosevelt a plurality of 1008 votes. His total vote was 1370; that of Parker 362; Debs 124; Wallow 89; the socialist labor 7; peoples 7.

The republican vote for congressmen was 1296; that of the democrats 428; that of the republican candidates 806 plurality. Mead received 1154 votes; Turner 622, making Mead's plurality 532.

The only close vote on the county ticket was that of sheriff, Warwick defeating Vactor by the narrow plurality of 179. J. P. Egge received a total of 1147 votes, a plurality of 495 over his democratic competitor.

Sam C. Ziegler, the socialist nominee for auditor polled 106 votes.

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Klickitat's Share for Open River. Dan O'Conner of Dot was in town the latter part of last week. Mr. O'Conner is a member of the Open River Association and is the committee for this county on the finance committee. The \$40,000 to be raised by the association has been divided among the counties according to population and this county's share is \$2,000. Mr. O'Conner will be around in a few days to give the people of his county an opportunity to subscribe to the fund. Walla Walla has subscribed the \$5,000 which was her share.—Goldendale Sentinel.

Insomnia And Indigestion Cured. "Last year I had a very severe attack of indigestion. I could not sleep at night and suffered most excruciating pains for three hours after each meal. I was troubled this way for about three months when I used Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, and received immediate relief" says John Dixon, Tullamore, Ontario, Canada. For sale at Williams' Pharmacy.

Hood River Apples in New York. Messrs. Roe & Hatfield of New York City, have received eight cars of Western box apples the past ten days, which sold promptly on arrival at what are considered by the trade very high prices, considering the prices realized for Eastern apples. The Hood River Newtowns were of the finest quality and were snapped up quickly by the uptown fancy fruiters.—Fruitman's Guide.

160-acre improved farm, under irrigation, in Nebraska, for farm in Hood River or White Salmon. W. J. Baker.

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