

HOOD RIVER AND HER FINE FRUITS

Hood River is represented at the meeting of the Northwest Fruitgrowers' association at Boise this week by E. L. Smith, president of the association...

Another distinguished expert, who will be present, is Professor W. D. Carlisle of Spokane, superintendent of the Evergreen State Fruit Company.

Mr. Smith responded to the address of welcome by Governor Gooding of Idaho. A. I. Mason delivered an address on "Hood River's Reputation for Fine Fruits, and How it was Acquired."

Our worthy secretary C. J. Sinsel, in selecting my subject and requesting me to write upon it, has placed me in a very embarrassing position. To tell you of the entire reputation of Hood River fruits, and to do so in a few lines, is a task which is almost impossible.

In speaking of the reputation of our fruits I desire to withdraw any claim for great honors on any varieties such as grapes, peaches, plums, etc., and while we have won many prizes and gold medals on nearly all of these and many other varieties of fruit adapted to our climatic conditions, yet I only desire at this time to call your attention to the reputation of our exceptionally high grade of berries and apples.

For several past seasons our strawberries have been shipped successfully to Skagway, Alaska, and Dawson, Canada, and Reno, Nev., and the latter place receiving daily shipments during our last season. A few years ago, a crate of our berries was served at a banquet in Hong Kong, China.

We asked for honors on our berries at the world's fair at St. Louis. Our instance received a stamp of being an equal competitor. But the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon any fruit is the price paid for it by a satisfied public.

"No, we get our best berries from Hood River, Or. There will be a car in tomorrow. We will have some of them, but they will retail for 15 cents per box." This was during our season's heaviest shipment.

"I thanked him for his information, told him I was from Hood River. A good laugh and an introduction followed with more questions asked of me than I had asked of him. Our reputation from the strawberry growers' credit side of the ledger, conservatively speaking, shows the net annual gains to be from \$100 to \$200 per acre, and often times much more.

Let us now look toward our apple record. The reputation of our apples for Hood River apples, tells the globe. While we concede that many districts can grow some very good apples, yet it remains for Hood River valley to grow still better, or at least other people have told us so until we are led to believe it.

One of the best retail dealers in New York city wrote me a year ago that our Newtowns were retailing for 60 cents per dozen and Spitzbergs for \$1 per dozen. He said they were received in fine condition; quality was delicious and they were the acme for beauty and size. These apples were packed in Hood River valley November 3, shipped over 3000 miles and opened January 20 in New York city.

A former prominent fruit grower of Palo Alto, Cal., writes: "I received a box of Hood River apples the other day, the best I ever ate. I have seen what I thought were good apples but nothing equal to these."

published in one of California's best fruit districts, comments on them as follows: "The apples are very large, richly colored and finely flavored and the varieties re Hydus King, Spitzberg, delicious, Arkansas Black, and Mammoth Black. They are from Hood River valley. They surpassed all other displays at the St. Louis fair and the strawberries grown there are equally famous."

"A resident of Portland, Or., while in Hamburg, Germany, last winter, had the following experience: He stepped into a fruit stand and asked the dealer to give him some good apples. 'Here are some of the best apples in the world,' replied the dealer as he handed out a sample of the big, red Spitzberg, so familiar to an Oregonian. 'These apples are raised in America. They call them Hood River apples, and I can truthfully say they are the best apples in Europe.'"

The chief clerk of the governor of the Samoan islands wrote me as follows: "I shall take a run to your district with a view to pitching my tent there. After careful consideration I am persuaded that Hood River will suit me. I think it admirably located as far as markets are concerned."

Let us not forget our reputations in the markets of the world. So eager are foreign shippers to buy our fruit that for the past two seasons the apple growers union of Hood River have in it and the top of soil will be a blanket of dust from two to four feet deep.

Our orchardists have learned that it pays to prune trees and thin fruit intelligently in order to secure excellence in color and size. They have also learned that it pays to keep the spray pump in action and oftentimes the reward for their labors are so great that they are willing to invest in their apples are free from codlin moth worm, San Jose scale or any fungus growth. We spray from one to two times with the winter spray and, sulphur and lime; from six to eight times during the summer with arsenite of soda and lime.

These prices are 25 to 75 cents per bushel more than are received in any other apple district in the United States. We shipped apples at these prices this season into New York city in competition with the largest crop of apples ever grown in the state of New York, and we received more for the grower, for a box of our apples than they did for a barrel of their best winter varieties.

Gentlemen we must have some very good apples or a wonderful reputation. We may have a good supply of both and each may play its part in obtaining such prices. Our reputation for net profits to the apple grower is from \$200 to \$500 per acre. This is a very conservative figure after trees have had eight years' growth. Much higher returns have been reported in some instances.

At the Buffalo Exposition in 1901, Hood River won the Wilder gold medal for their fine display of fruit, and at the world's fair recently held in St. Louis, the Apple Grower's Union of Hood River, Or., was awarded the gold medal for the best display of apples and one of our private citizens received the gold medal for his fine display of cherries.

And listen! Wasco county, Or., received the only grand prize given to any county in the United States for the best display of fruit, and this prize was won mainly through the exhibition of a car load of Hood River's choicest apples.

Professor H. E. Van Deman, late chief pomologist of the United States, a man of whom none of you need an introduction, nationally speaking, and a man whose ability to judge has no superior, tells us in the December number of Grower's Fruit Grower: "I saw at St. Louis the largest display of apples that has ever been made. There were apples from almost every section of our own country and also from other parts of the world. Two acres of floor space were occupied by this display from the Hood River country such as was never before displayed at any apple show in America. Here the Baldwin was so smooth and glossy red that it could not be recognized by the best apple experts. Esopus Spitzberg has its characteristic shape, but its color and general perfection were a marvel. Roxbury Russet showed scarcely a trace of russet. Grimes Golden looked as though it had been made of wax; Jonathan was crimson red and Ben Davis equally handsome." Professor Van Deman has told all that could be said. It was the largest apple show on earth.

The finest apples ever shown and they were grown at Hood River, Oregon. Gentlemen, I am at a loss to know where to sell you my report on the Hood River apples. It is like trying to find the end of the rainbow. The farther you go it still remains ahead of you shining brighter and brighter. I have now told you of a small portion of our reputation, but suffice to say it is enough for this occasion.

How we have acquired this reputation may be more interesting, more instructive and more beneficial to all of you. Our reputation has been acquired through two channels. The gifts of nature and individual efforts. Nature has given us a volcanic ash soil which seems to contain all the elements necessary for the growing of first class fruit. Our continual sunshine during our summer days and our proximity to perpetual snow, giving us very cool nights, makes our climatic conditions unsurpassed for giving our fruits color, flavor and keeping qualities. It would seem that Mount Hood and Mount Adams were two grand old sentinels standing guard over our fair valley, seeing that nothing should be given us by either source except that of the very best.

Let us now examine the record of our individual efforts which has helped to make our reputation known in every clime. The first duty for a successful horticulturist, after he has selected his location for growing a certain class of fruit, is to determine what varieties are best adapted to that locality, considering soil, climate and markets.

This has been well considered by the fruit growers of Hood River valley. They have passed the experimental stage. They know that the Clark Seedling strawberry and the Spitzberg and Newtown apples are varieties that can be grown in our valley so far superior in quality to like varieties in other districts, that it is no longer a question of dispute.

Other localities can grow a imitation of these varieties but it remains for Hood River to grow them to perfection. Our strawberry growers have learned to grow only the Clark Seedling because it stands long shipments better than any other. They have given their berry beds clean and thorough

late fall. After the crop of berries is picked they remove all the vines and hand rake all trash and haul it off the ground and burn it. It would make any man who admires the beauty of nature feel as if he had seen well paid for having made a trip through any of our berry districts in the spring after their dark green foliage intermingled with a million snow white blossoms. I'll admit; I can't describe or word-paint this picture.

Our berry growers do not use any mulching but use irrigation during our berry season. The cultivation of our apple orchards is a matter of pride to all of Hood River's progressive and successful orchardists. Before a tree is planted the soil is cultivated in the best possible condition. You can't dig a tree hole too deep or too broad. Twenty inches deep and three feet across is about the average size of holes dug before planting trees in our valley. You can't dig orchards too deep while young. I have plowed my 2-acre commercial apple orchard twice, while trees were small, to a depth of 18 inches while trees were small, by using a subsoil plow and I have every reason to believe that it was a paying investment of time and labor.

Our climate is a very dry one during the summer season and we must give our orchards clean and thorough cultivation in order to retain moisture without irrigation. So well do our orchardists cultivate their orchards that oftentimes you can look over a large orchard and find very few weeds in it and the top of soil will be a blanket of dust from two to four feet deep.

Our orchardists have learned that it pays to prune trees and thin fruit intelligently in order to secure excellence in color and size. They have also learned that it pays to keep the spray pump in action and oftentimes the reward for their labors are so great that they are willing to invest in their apples are free from codlin moth worm, San Jose scale or any fungus growth. We spray from one to two times with the winter spray and, sulphur and lime; from six to eight times during the summer with arsenite of soda and lime.

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Locate your home where the best improvements are going. Sewers, Spring Water and Sidewalks, fine view and good drainage. All these are found in

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Which will be included in the First Sewer District, and which is beyond question the most desirable residence section in Hood River. Buy now before the prices advance.

Hood River Development Co.

GEORGE T. PRATHER, Selling Agent. A. A. JAYNE, Secretary.

on end of box the number of apples packed—Each grower will be required to put on his shipping number with a rubber stamp in the upper right hand corner of the box—All stamping must be done on the same end of the box.

Pile your boxes after being packed on the sides and load on the wagon in the same way—Haul on springs and use a wagon cover to keep off the dust and rain—Each packer, before he is permitted to pack for the Apple Growers' union must have his name registered at the office of the union; he will then be given official packers' stamp—Each packer shall be required to put up a first class pack—Each box of apples shall be packed with about a 3/4-inch swell in the middle of top and bottom but no box must be packed so high that it will be necessary to cleat the box before nailing on the lid.

Members, our reputation and price this year and in the future depends upon our pack; assist the packer and remember that he is following instructions given by the board of directors who are acting as directors for you and with your interests at heart.

Fellow fruit growers any language that I might use, would fail to express the importance of, and the benefits derived from our two fruit growers' organizations in Hood River valley. They are solving the problem of how to pick, pack and market our fruits. They are horticultural and business schools for their members and have returned to the growers many times the cost of their

maintenance. They are placing our fruits upon the markets in a more uniform and attractive manner, they are in touch with the best methods and markets of the world. They meet in council with all transportation companies through which they do business. They are preventing the growers from being competitors with each other. They are reducing the unnecessary middle commission men.

They are returning more money to the grower for their fruit. They are driving out jealousy and suspicion from their members and are establishing confidence and esteem.

And they are today the foundation upon which rests the commercial reputation of Hood River.

Fellow fruit growers, I do not desire to tire you much longer. I hope I have satisfied you that the reputation of Hood River fruits is about all we could ask.

It might be summed up in this one grand thought THE WORLD IS OUR MARKET, IT'S PEOPLE OUR FRIENDS. We have acquired this distinction, briefly told, by: First—through natural advantages of location, soil and climatic condition; second—by practicing scientific, up-to-date methods of cultivation; third—by placing our fruit upon the markets in good condition with an honest pack and an attractive appearance; fourth—by being favored by special market facilities; fifth and last, but not least—through the educational and financial benefits derived from two well organized and incorporated fruit unions.

Something You Should Know

Your health or that of your family should be a great object to you, and when you need any medicine you should make sure that you get the purest and freshest DRUGS. That is the kind sold by

CLARKE The Druggist



Smoke a Good Cigar FEW AS GOOD--NONE BETTER

3 Sizes: FIVE CENTS TEN CENTS TWO FOR A QUARTER For sale at all Cigar and Grocery Stores in Hood River ASK FOR THEM

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED

A Carload of DRAIN TILE

AND CAN MAKE YOU PRICES THAT ARE RIGHT. NORTON & SMITH

We Can Save You Money

And also a good many hard knocks and inconveniences. You cannot afford to be bothered with your laundry at home while we are in the field to do your work. If you have a large washing inquire of us what we can do it for, as we will be glad to take the matter up with you. We do all kinds of laundry work, including the washing and cleaning of lace curtains, cotton and woolen blankets, ladies' dresses gents' suits, carpets, rugs, etc. Our prices are standard laundry prices and the work is guaranteed to be satisfactory. We are prepared to give the domestic finish to all gents' starch work and give our special attention to cotton and woolen underwear. Rough edges you usually find on collars and cuffs, we extract without pain. If the work we do pleases you, tell your friends; if not, tell us.

THE PARADISE LAUNDRY. Hood River.

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For All Kinds of Grubbing Supplies, Wood Choppers and Loggers Tools

A full line of stock always on hand. Does your horse interfere? Bring him in. No cure no pay

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FRUIT, SHADE AND ORNAMENTAL TREES GRAPE VINES AND SMALL FRUITS Evergreens, Roses and Shrubby.

Remember, Our Trees are Grown Strictly Without Irrigation.

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For Flour, Feed, & Groceries

Look at our prices on Rubbers: Child's Rubbers, 20c Ladies' Rubbers, 50c Men's Rolled Edge " 75c Ladies' and Children's Rubber Boots at proportionately low prices. Underwear at prices that cannot be duplicated in town. Call and see us. Free delivery.

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Clearance Sale.

For 30 days we will give from 20 to 30% discount on all goods except school books.

Toys and Games at Actual Cost.

Now is your time to stock up with Tablets, etc. We can give you some bargains. Don't forget the place. Call, and call again.

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Now is the time to begin Winter Spraying.

