

ARE LAND PRICES HERE TOO HIGH

Clarkston, Wash., May 25.—To the Editor of the Spokesman-Review. An eastern critic—a warm friend and ardent worker for the Empire—says that prices for farming and fruit lands, particularly irrigated lands, in this section are so high that they have a tendency to frighten would-be settlers.

Near to North Yakima, Wenatchee, Clarkston, Walla Walla and other prosperous towns irrigated lands are sold frequently change hands at from \$500 to \$1500 per acre without buildings. The casual observer may note for himself around any of these towns that miles measure prices as well as distances.

In nearly 13 years' experience in the irrigated arid valleys of this coast, the number of improved irrigated tracts within my observation which have not constantly increased in value are a woefully negligible quantity in the consideration of the value of the land.

Our wheat lands also, lying 2000 miles distant from Chicago, the great central grain market of the world, seem high in price. The price of wheat here is the immigrant from Illinois and Iowa. But when it is known that the wheat lands of the Columbia river basin are unquestionably the richest in the world; that the cultivated lands of Washington are producing an average of nearly \$20 per acre against about \$11 per acre for the farms of Iowa, \$14 for those of California and less than \$10 for those of Kansas—then we may realize that even our agricultural prices here may still be bought at reasonable prices.

Lead in Quantity but not in Quality. The following figures show the apple output of five of the leading apple growing states. It is pretty safe to say that twenty years hence, other states in the west and Pacific northwest, will enter into the fruit estimates much more largely than they do now, and are likely to reverse present conditions.

The production by the states referred to is as follows: Illinois, 5,000,000 bushels of apples, and 13,000,000 trees; Kansas, 8,000,000 bushels of apples and 11,000,000 trees; Missouri, 6,000,000 bushels of apples, and 20,000,000 trees; Michigan, 3,000,000 bushels of apples and 10,000,000 trees; Arkansas, 2,000,000 bushels of apples and 7,000,000 trees.

Secretary George Foster, of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, in commenting on the situation in that state, says: "Despite the fact that Illinois leads in the growth of apples, it is a rare thing to see any effort toward replacing the old orchards that die out or to enlarge the acreage of apple trees. Farmers seem to believe that their primary object is the growing of corn, and the majority neglect the side issues. Few attempts to grow apples for family use, while most farmers declare that apples are not suited to the black soil of this state and that the growing is not profitable.

To Try Orange Raising. E. J. Rose, who owns a ranch at Magnolia beach, believes the climatic conditions in the Puget Sound region are ideal for the production of Japanese oranges, and he is going to try to raise them. He yesterday received several orange trees from Japan and has planted them.

A Bumper Crop. A week ago while the weather was cold and disagreeable and a frost not at all improbable, many fruit men were feeling a little blue. Every day possesses whatever little blue the timid ones may feel concerning a cold snap—something which the favored Rogue River valley seldom suffers from. Reports from all parts of the county seem to indicate that the 1906 fruit crop will beat anything which we have yet seen. The old orchards will evidently out do themselves in the production of luscious fruitage, and the many young orchards are showing up to the best advantage. Cherries, pear and apples, the chief fruits that go from the Medford market, will undoubtedly make a bumper crop this season.—Medford Tribune.

To Revive Old Fruit Trees.

A horticulturist claims that after several years of experiment he has discovered a way to revive old fruit trees and keep them in bearing condition long after their supposed stage of usefulness has passed. As the cause of decay in a tree is its inability to carry sap to all of its branches, heading the tree lessens the area to be moved varying—according to the farmer's judgment. Bone dust and ashes must then be administered as a fertilizer, the one in the autumn and the other in the spring. It is necessary to introduce the bone dust through holes in the ground near the roots of the tree, while the ashes may be sprinkled over the top surface of the earth.

More Dairy Cows Needed in Oregon. Cream is being shipped into Portland from California, Utah and Idaho, to be made into Hazelwood butter. Of course, it is easy to understand why the farmers ship cream from such distant states. The Hazelwood people have built up a great demand for Hazelwood butter and they have to get sufficient cream to supply that demand. They pay for cream on the basis of the selling price of Hazelwood butter, which sells at a figure considerably above the price obtained for other brands of butter.

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Nursery Needed in Mexico. The United States consul, V. L. Duhaime, of Saitillo, reports that there is not a fruit-tree nursery in all Mexico, and suggests to American nurserymen of push and energy that they could succeed in that republic. The consul says that fruit of the highest grade can be raised, all altitudes being available from the sea level to 5337 feet. Apples and pears thrive in the elevated regions, while there are excellent opportunities for raising peaches, grapes and plums. The consumption of fruit in the Mexican cities is large, much of it coming from the United States.

Full Fruit Crop at Grand Junction. H. G. Fletcher, of the Grand Junction (Col.) Fruit Grower's Association, tells the Pacific that the people of both the Grand valley, and what is known as the "Narrow Gauge" country, in Western Colorado, now consider themselves safe as regards crop prospects for the coming season, and that they will have a full crop of all varieties and fruits raised there.

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With nearly all medicines put up for sale through druggists, one has to take the maker's say-so alone as to their curative value. Of course, such testimony is not that of a disinterested party and accordingly it is not to be given the same credit as if written from disinterested motives. Dr. Pierce's medicines, however, form a single and therefore striking exception to this rule. Their claims to the confidence of invalids does not rest solely upon their makers' say-so or praise. Their ingredients are matters of public knowledge, being printed on each separate bottle wrapper. Thus invalid sufferers are loan into Dr. Pierce's full confidence. Scores of leading medical men have written enough to fill volumes in praise of the curative value of the several ingredients entering into these well-known medicines.

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O. R. & N. TIME TABLE. East bound. No. 3, Chicago Special, 11:45 a. m. No. 4, Spokane Flyer, 8:35 p. m. No. 5, Mail and Express, 8:10 p. m. No. 6, 10:35 a. m. No mail. No. 7, Way Freight, 12:15 p. m. No. 22, Fast Freight, 4:55 a. m. West bound. No. 1, Portland Special, 8:35 p. m. No. 2, Portland Flyer, 8:35 p. m. No. 3, Mail and Express, 4:42 a. m. No. 4, 8:40 p. m. No mail. No. 5, Way Freight, 12:25 a. m. No. 26, Fast Freight, 1:50 p. m. Union Depot—Leave. Arrive. Chicago-Portland Special for the East via Huntington, daily 9:30 am 5:00 pm Spokane Flyer for Eastern Washington, Walla Walla, Lewiston, 1 hour 41 Alene and Great Northern points, daily 6:15 pm 8:00 am Atlantic Express for Eastern Washington, Walla Walla, Lewiston, 1 hour 41 Alene and Great Northern points, daily 6:15 pm 7:15 am Portland-Biggs local, but points between Biggs and Portland, daily 8:15 am 6:00 pm

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