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### EXPERIMENT STATION WORKING ON BERRIES

(By Gordon G. Brown)

It will be of interest to fruit growers in the Hood River valley to know that the local experiment station is cooperating with the United States department of agriculture through the bureau of plant industry in testing the firmness and keeping quality of raspberries and strawberries. It is recognized that in the production of these two fruits, firmness is a prime requisite. This is true, not only where fruit is shipped fresh but also where it is sent to the cannery. It is impossible to produce high class canned goods unless the berries are firm. This fact was particularly emphasized during the 1923 season when raspberries, on account of softness, met with much disfavor among canners.

The experiment station is testing these factors in so far as they are related to the use of various commercial fertilizers. During recent years there has been a great deal of propaganda offered the public by various fertilizer concerns which claim particular virtues to their own brands in influencing quality. The man who has potash in his soil is sure that the use of potash is a panacea for a great many troubles. Likewise the man who has organic fertilizers to sell has a marked advantage in the use of his particular brand as compared with the one who has mineral fertilizers for sale. The experiments as staged, have a direct bearing upon some of these more important considerations. The experiment station is testing out a large number of different fertilizers from different sources applied at different times and the data thus far collected, although not inclusive, show the error of many misconceptions that have often been accepted without question. For instance, many growers would make us believe that the use of nitrate of soda necessarily causes soft fruit. Preliminary tests on raspberries this year do not show that growers using potash or superphosphate produce a berry with greater firmness than is true in the case of nitrate of soda alone. On the other hand, the use of potash has been found to tend to reduce yields. Apparently there is a big field for future investigation along this line as it has an important bearing upon future recommendations in the fertilization of these crops.

### JAPANESE DRUBBED BY DR. HULBERT

Dr. H. L. Hulbert, lecturer of the Ellison-White chautauqua circuit, who addressed a large audience at the open air theatre here Sunday night, declared that the United States need have no fear of war from Japan. Dr. Hulbert, who was for many years the chief commander of the emperor of Korea, characterized the Japanese as a people who think of might only as right. The Japanese, he said, are considered an aggressive, warlike nation, but he characterized them as shrewd but cowardly. Dr. Hulbert said the Japanese have never entered a war without first having taken a full account of all the chances. They have always known in advance, he said, that war was already won. Dr. Hulbert said the Japanese would have found a way to have joined the central powers, had they won the world war.

Dr. Hulbert termed as the crime of nations the seizure of Korea by Japan. He declared that America erred in not answering the plea of Korea. When the United States failed, Japan drew the conclusion that the United States was a cowardly nation. Because of this attitude it became necessary in 1907 to send the American fleet around the world as a demonstration to Japan of American power.

Dr. Hulbert declared that Japan makes much of the propaganda that new territory is needed for an expansion of her people. He said, however, that the country owns an island to the north of Japan, where the temperature is similar to that of New York City, and another island is controlled by Japan to the south where the climatic conditions are similar to those of Florida. The one is considered too cold, while the other is too hot.

### Free Water Is Hit By Elements

Adverse price conditions last year and the elements of this year, according to N. W. Mumford, apple grower and shipper of Free Water, here last week conferring with the office of Dan Wullie & Co., have left growers of that section in a serious status. Mr. Mumford said that the freeze of last April left the Free Water district with only three cars of cherries where 100 cars were shipped last year. The apple crop, he declared, will not be over 25 per cent of normal. Prospects were good for a small yield of pines, but the drought has reduced these to negligible quantities.

"We had planned to recuperate by a heavy acreage of tomatoes this year," said Mr. Mumford, "but the dry weather has ruined the 1,000,000 tomato plants set in that section."

### Museum Man Praises Hood Scenery

Curator Woodruff, of the Lincoln Museum, Chicago, who spent last week at Mt. Hood lodge and Cloud Cap Inn, expressed enthusiasm over the mid-Columbia Cascades as a recreational center. He predicted an increasing popularity for the district in the next five years.

Mr. Woodruff spent his time while here securing a collection of photographs for the Chicago museum.

### No Arrests on Fourth

Although the crowd of celebrators at Kellogg beach was estimated at 3,000 to 3,500, and a large crowd assembled at the Park grange community center on the West Side, orderly conduct was the order of the day, and not a single accident occurred to mar the pleasure of the celebrations.

Sheriff Edick and City Marshal Hart declared they had never seen a more peaceful Fourth of July celebration. Not a single intoxicated person was observed, and no squabbles and fights occurred. Not a single arrest was made.

### Skyrocket Fires Shepler's Home

The burning fragment of a skyrocket bomb fired the roof of A. S. Shepler's home last Friday night. (The Los Angeles Times.) The volunteer fire department, was knocked out at the fire when he came in contact with an electric wire. He revived after first aid ministrations.

The principal damage was caused from smoke and water.

## Goin' Camping?

Fishing, Touring, or what not, you should have with you a few emergency supplies.

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### MISS ELIZA BUTTS HAS FATAL STROKE

The body of Miss Eliza Butts, aged 73, who died suddenly from an apoplectic stroke at her West Side orchard home Monday of last week, was shipped Tuesday to her birthplace, Napierville, Ill., for interment. Miss Butts was a sister of the late Aaron Butts, for many years a well known West Side orchardist. She had resided here for the past six years. Miss Butts recently returned from a visit with relatives in Omaha, Nebr. Two brothers survive Miss Butts. The news of the sudden passing of Miss Butts brought sincere grief to the residents of the Belmont and Frankton districts.

H. L. Hasbrouck, optometrist.



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