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FRUITGROWERS IN CONVENTION.

The Rogue River Fruitgrowers' Association Holds Meeting in Jacksonville and the Problems of Interest to the Industry Ably Discussed by Prominent Authorities.

Had Jupiter Pluvius waited another day before he began to caress the earth with his fall showers the attendance at the Fruitgrowers' meeting last Saturday would have been very large. The hard rain from 4 a. m. until 8 a. m. of that day kept many of those away who had expressed their intention to come. The Board of Trade had prepared good benches with backs to accommodate over two hundred persons and all arrangements were completed to hold the meeting in the Court House park but although the rain ceased about 8 o'clock and the day was fine until about five in the afternoon the grass and trees were too wet to follow out this plan and the convention was held in the city hall. Many were late in arriving but when the crowd assembled at 1 o'clock the town hall was filled with representative fruit men of the valley and a number of board of trade members and citizens of this place.

Of the talent that was to address the meeting there were present Prof. A. C. Cordley, entomologist, and Prof. E. R. Lake, botanist and horticulturist, at the State Agricultural College at Corvallis, and Hon. A. H. Carson of Grants Pass, commissioner on the State Board of Horticulture for the Third district, which embraces Southern Oregon. Hon. E. L. Smith of Hood River, president of the State Board of Horticulture, was not present he being unable to make the trip to Southern Oregon by reason of a press of business in connection with his office. As railroad traffic was never so heavy in the history of the state as it is this fall both Mr. Comau and Mr. Lounsbury, of the traffic department of the Southern Pacific, were unable to be present.

The meeting was called to order by Charles Meserve, president of the Jacksonville board of trade, who extended on behalf of the citizens of Jacksonville a welcome to the fruit-growers and to the speakers who were to address the meeting. Mr. Meserve then introduced S. L. Bennett, president of the Rogue River Fruit-growers Union who, outlined the objects of the convention and gave a comprehensive statement of the growth of the fruit industry in Rogue River Valley and of the certain prosperity that would come to the person who intelligently carried on fruit raising. President Bennett then introduced Hon. A. H. Carson, who took up the topic that had been assigned to President Smith and gave a thoughtful and convincing argument in favor of fruitgrower unions. Mr. Carson called attention that organization was the watch word of the hour and that every line of endeavor was forming union. Even the commission merchants were forming unions so that they could better gather in the profits of the lone fruit raisers. Eliminating from one to three middle men's profits was not the only gain that comes to the fruitgrowers by joining a union. They are enabled to buy their spraying material, boxes, fruit paper and other supplies at wholesale prices thus eliminating another middle-man's profits.

Prof. Lake next addressed the meeting taking as his theme "For What?" For what was the fruit grower striving if it was not for a fruit that had a quality and a distinctiveness to it that would make it saleable in the markets of the world no matter whether there was a big crop or a small crop the country over. In France Prof. Lake, who was sent to that country last year by the department of agriculture to investigate their fruit industry, found the specialty idea carried to its highest point of perfection. There being a demand in Paris, London and the other great cities for fancy apples with monograms and other designs, imprinted upon them the alert French growers took selected apples and incased them in paper bags soon after they were formed, keeping light away from them and preventing their coloring. About two weeks before the fruit was ripe the sack was removed and figures cut from paper were pasted upon the apple. The apple was then left exposed to sun with the result that the uncovered part took on its natural bright color while that covered by the design remained a light color giving the outlines in clear distinctiveness of the figure that

was wanted upon the apple. Apples embellished this way often sold as high as \$2 apiece. All the apples used on the tables of one of the Rothschilds contained the profile of his face on each apple. The Rogue River orchardists should strive to grow a district apple, pear, peach, cherry and other fruits that could be advertised as a special Rogue River product. And this caused the Professor to remark that Rogue River fruit was suffering a loss in price by not being advertised as it should. Hood River never loses an opportunity to advertise and Hood River apples and berries lead this Coast in price. In planting an orchard he favored trees grown in a climate and soil similar to that in which they were to be planted. In selecting a site for an orchard surface soil, subsoil, drainage, altitude and thermal belt must be considered and the kind of fruit planted that it will best adapt itself to the conditions had. Deep growing trees must be kept off wet subsoil and go on the dry land where only such trees will thrive, while tender trees must not be planted in a district where frosts are liable. While he was sure that the climate and the soil of Rogue River Valley would always produce fruit, if but a small per cent would be second grade, yet there would be much fruit and berries that would not do to ship, but would be suitable for canning, preserving and vinegar purposes.

Asked about the future of the prune industry the Professor thought that the day of dried fruit was drawing to a close, as cold storage was enabling green fruit to be kept on the market all the year and the canned fruit is now so perfect and so cheap that it is driving the dried fruit out of the market. For a good many years to come there would be a profit in prunes for Alaska and other mining districts where freight was high would still use dried fruit.

Prof. A. B. Cordley followed Prof. Lake and gave an interesting address on the San Jose scale and the efforts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to destroy it. It is about thirty years ago that Prof. Comstock, while traveling through California found this pest near San Jose and named it the Pernicious Scale but being discovered near San Jose it was popularly known as the San Jose scale notwithstanding the efforts of that city to keep it from being called so. Previous to this time the Cottony Cushion scale in the Santa Clara valley of California had been destroyed by an imported lady bird beetle and every effort was now put forth to find a beetle to feed upon the San Jose scale but without success until a specialist from the U. S. Department of Agriculture found the scale in the northern part of China near the great

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Chinese Wall and ascertained that there were but few there on account of good work of its natural enemy, a beetle to which he gave the name, Asiatic lady bird beetle, and sent several shipments of them to the department at Washington. Of this large number sent over in several shipments only two beetles survived but these were carefully nurtured and now there is an abundance of them to be used in ascertaining whether they will thrive in this country. Prof. Cordley had received a small supply of them from Dr. Howard, entomologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, just before leaving Corvallis and brought the greater part of them, about thirty, with him and these were placed in some old fruit trees in a pasture belonging to Mr. Emil Britt and he will watch their work and report the results. The beetles were examined by the fruit growers and much interest was manifested in the experiment. The speaker invited those present to ask questions and received a generous response to the invitation. Having been the entomologist at the Agricultural College for several years his knowledge of pests and their extermination is very complete. The best method of destroying the squash bug is to pick off the eggs early in the spring as there are only a few clusters of eggs on the under side of the leaves at that time. If they are neglected until later a kerosene emulsion will kill young bugs but the old bug cannot be killed without injuring the vines. The strawberry leaf roller can be controlled by spraying with Paris green. In a general way all plant lice can be killed

with kerosene emulsion but it should not be used near fruiting time. Bulletins will be sent free from the Agricultural college to all who are interested and these will give much valuable information to the farmers and fruitgrower. Many questions regarding the woolly aphis, round headed and flat headed borers, and other pests were discussed and Prof. Cordley gave practical answers to the inquiries. In answer to the value of birds he said that as a rule they were of more benefit than harm. Nuthatches, and woodpeckers pick up Codlin moths that try to winter under surfaces of bark. Sap suckers probably injure trees.

Hon. A. H. Carson was the next speaker. He cited an instance of an old orchard near Grants Pass badly infested with scale that was entirely rid of the pest by the ordinary lady bug and that he thought it was as good as the foreign importation. To keep flatheaded borers from the trees his experience had been that the most effective plan was to wrap the trees with heavy paper when they were first planted which keeps the moths from depositing their eggs in the bark. In the matter of success in fruit raising his thirty years experience had taught him, that it was a question of personality. The fruit grower must be intensely interested in his work and raise the variety that he likes. When the crop brings in plenty of dollars the person is usually pleased with his work. Soil, subsoil, and climate have everything to do with the variety of fruit and these must be carefully studied before planting the orchard. Subsoil is vital in fruit raising, for with depth we get warmth, feeding power and ability to stand dry weather. Southern Oregon is especially well adapted to fruit culture and Jacksonville has a perfect depth, drainage, and exposure of land for several varieties of fruit and these hills should be covered with fruit trees instead of brush. There are many fine orchards and vineyards here but there is room for a great many more. In the near future every part of the valley adapted to fruit will be utilized.

After the close of the regular addresses the professor answered a number of questions in regard to various matters pertaining to the fruit industry and then President Bennett in answer to a question gave a brief outline of the organization and work of the Rogue River Fruitgrowers Union. The membership fee was \$1.00 and stock shares were \$5. All members must own at least one share but could not own more than five shares. An assessment of 25 per cent had been levied upon stock to pay expenses of the Union and no other assessment would likely be made this year. The fruit business

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