

The Hood River Apple Growers.

The apple growers of Rogue River and of Hood River each organized a union last year, and the following synopsis of the proceedings of the Hood River union at their first annual meeting is taken from the Hood River Glacier, and will be of interest to the members of the Rogue River union, who hold their annual meeting on Saturday of next week at Medford.

A misstatement is made in the mention that there is no fruit growers union in Rogue River and that the growers here received but 85 cents per box for their Newtown apples. Had the statement been qualified by placing the date two years ago instead of last year it would have been more true as to the price and a fact as regards to there being no union.

Last year Rogue River growers got an average \$1.50 a box for their Newtons and Spitzenbergs, this raise in the price being largely the result of their union in eliminating the middlemen's profits.

The Rogue River and Hood River unions are the only apple growers in Oregon and their success last year under the adverse conditions that always handicap a new organization of farmers, is a proof that with added experience these unions will be a very great benefit to the members and to all other fruit growers of their sections of the state for the better prices and more extended markets that the union secure the more prosperity will come to all.

The Apple Grower's Union of Hood held their first annual meeting Monday, and it was an enthusiastic gathering of some of the best apple growers of the valley. The union organized late last season, almost too late for effective work. It was fortunate in securing J. A. Wilson for manager and shipping agent. Joe is a rustler and accomplished much good for the members of the Union and is well deserving of the vote of thanks which was so heartily voted him at the meeting Monday night.

Until the Union was organized \$1.25 to \$1.50 was the best offer that could be obtained for high class Newtons and Spitzenbergs, and Ben Davis apples could not be sold at any price whatever. As soon as it became known that the farmers had organized, bids began to come in and the price was forced up until a few days later the entire crop of Newtowns and Spitzenbergs of the Union were sold to the Davidson Fruit Co., for the fancy price of \$2 for Newtowns and \$1.80 for Spitzenbergs and also 300 boxes of Ben Davis apples at 85c per box. In the mean time one or two cars of Ben Davis were sold to parties for Alaska shipment at \$1 per box, and Baldwins at \$1.50.

The Davidson deal was the largest one by far ever before made in the apple market of Hood River and reached the nice figure of \$20,000. Down in the Rogue River country where they have no organization of growers they sold many of their high grade Newtowns at 85c, and the fact that Hood River apple growers had organized, demanded and obtained a fair price for their fruit, was a revelation to apple growers and took first page place on the big dailies of the country. The total number of boxes shipped by the Union last year was 17,120 and the sales reached \$21,265.01.

In the organization of a body of men in any vocation, there is bound to be more or less friction the difference of opinion, and this instance is no exception to the rule, but all things considered the results were very gratifying to the Union.

There were many very valuable lessons learned and the experiences of this first year's business cannot but be of great advantage to the Union. Some of these lessons may be enumerated viz: the importance of careful picking, selecting and handling, the necessity for uniform grading and packing, the thorough knowledge of the market supply and demand, and after all, these conditions have been met successfully, as our growers have now learned by experience how to do. The one other vital question remains, that of manager and shipping agent. The man to be selected to handle this season's crop should be a man of known ability in this line, one who is up-to-date, and who is in touch with the markets to which our apples go. Also one who could devote his entire attention to the shipping of the fruit when it is ready for market. Mr. Wilson made a most excellent record the past season and the Glacier knows of no reason why he is not the best man available as his successor.

A Successful Mine.

The Greenback mine near Grants Pass, which five years ago was unknown to the mining world is now one of the factors in the prosperity of Josephine county and is certain to carry a big pay roll for years to come. The Opp mine near Jacksonville is

quite as promising as ever the Greenback mine and that it too will have a pay roll of a hundred men is one of the certainties that it may be expected and which will give an era of prosperity to Jacksonville similar to that of the days of the placer diggings.

Of the extent of the work now carried on at the Greenback the Oregon Mining Journal of Grants Pass has the following to say:

Much has been said and written with regard to the Greenback Mine, of the Grave Creek district,—so much in fact, that it would seem impossible to say anything with regard to the young giant that was not already familiar. Yet it is an interesting subject, for among all the mines of Southern Oregon none have made such remarkable progress as this. In 1898 it was a mere prospect, and its product was worked out by an old arrastra. To-day it has a shaft down 1100 feet into the earth and its tunnels, shafts and drifts would measure fully two miles in extent. The site of the old arrastra is occupied by modern mills, with an aggregate force of 40 stamps. The tailings from both mills are treated by a huge cyanide plant, and an average of 100 tons of ore is treated every day.

Except for a few weeks each season, the mills, compressors, hoists and other machinery are operated by waterpower, and much of the ore is removed by gravity, the cost of operation for the Greenback is remarkably low. Ten machine drills are operated in the tunnels, shafts and drifts, day and night, and a crew of 100 men is employed. As the great bulk of the ore body between the 300 and 1100 foot levels is yet to be removed, the Greenback will continue to be a producer for several years at least.

Brings Contentment to Farmers.

The great extension of rural delivery of mails and of farmers' telephone systems can not fail to have a profound effect upon farmers. Already farmers go to town so much less frequently than they used to do that the smaller cities and towns have a lifeless appearance which deceives even the residents of such places and leads them to believe that business is injured by the rural delivery system. In fact there is of course no decrease in the amount of business transacted by farmers but rather an increase because the earning power of the farmers is increased and they have more to sell and more to spend. The rural telephone not only relieves the isolation on the farm but it enables the farmer to take advantage of market conditions and to transact much business at home that without the telephone would require trips to town. When the farmer is able to enjoy good roads free delivery of his mail and has a telephone in his house he has little occasion to envy the city man.—Oregon Agriculturist.

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Will overcome indigestion and dyspepsia; regulate the bowels and cure liver and kidney complaints. It is the best blood enricher and invigorator in the world. It is purely vegetable, perfectly harmless, and should you be a sufferer from disease, you will use it if you are wise. R. N. Andrews, Editor and Mgr. Cocoa and Rockledge News, Cocoa, Fla., writes: "I have used your Herbine in my family, and find it a most excellent medicine. Its effects upon myself have been a marked benefit. I recommend it unhesitatingly." 50c At City Drug Store.

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