

GROWERS OF FRUIT

An Able Article On Fruitgrowing In Our State, Which Is Destined To Become the Banner Fruit-Producing State In the Union.

INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE

The following address was delivered before the Oregon Development League in Portland last week by E. L. Smith, of Hood River, president of the State Horticultural Society. The address contains so much information that is of value to the apple growers of Rogue River Valley that it is herewith published in full:

Mr. Thomas Richardson, Portland, Ore.—Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your valued favor requesting information how a "tenderfoot" or new comer should proceed to grow a commercial orchard in Oregon. You suggest that I write such a letter as I would to some dear friend in Iowa, Illinois, or some distant state.

Having been absent from these distant states nearly half a century, my friends are tolerably scattering there, and I cannot recall one whom I think would be interested in fruit growing here; so I take the liberty of addressing this letter to yourself. I hasten to express my gratification at the commendable interest you are evincing in the horticulture of Oregon.

The infusion of new blood will undoubtedly result in great benefit to this important industry. I assume that you desire to grow a commercial orchard, and I congratulate you that you have chosen the state of Oregon for the field of your labors; for nothing is more important to the fruit grower than adequate transportation facilities by sea and by land, and in what other locality can half the population of the world be reached more readily than in Oregon? A survey of this state by the board of horticulture discloses the fact that more than 90 per cent of land adapted for fruit growing is unoccupied for that purpose. In a brief letter I can only suggest outlines of how to grow an orchard; details cannot be supplied. In selecting your location hug closely lines of transportation and your position will be enviable in proportion to the number of markets you can reach in the shortest time at a minimum of expense. In choosing a tract of land to plant, you will be governed largely by local conditions. I name some of them: Immunity from spring frosts, ample water and drainage, a proper amount of sunshine and moisture, and a proper temperature; soil to be preferred, a deep, clay loam. Avoid hollows in the lower levels and see that the soil is fairly rich in those mineral salts that enter into plant and fruit growth. Plant none but No. 1 nursery trees from nearest nursery.

I cannot stop to consider planting, cultivation, etc. You will do well to consult the most successful orchardists in your vicinity for necessary details, and there are excellent manuals that you will also do well to read. Head your trees low, for you can prune and spray to better advantage, and it costs money to use a step ladder at picking time. Select your varieties to suit not your own taste but the taste of the markets and those varieties adapted to your locality. Apples vary greatly in flavor size and color in different localities. Examine the orchards about you and ascertain what kinds grow best and give best results. If the locality you examine produces only common grades, move on to one that produces the best.

I again emphasize the point, be careful as to varieties, for in this age of rapidly multiplying orchards there is safety only in the production of fruits of the highest excellence. I do not plant many varieties nor large blocks of a single variety, for "Nature abhors self-fertility;" no matter how self-fertile a variety may be, the fruit will be larger and finer if the blossoms have received pollen from other varieties. Professor Fletcher of Cornell university has given the subject of cross-pollination considerable attention, and I copy a portion of his list of self-fertile and self-sterile varieties:

APPLES.

SELF-STERILE.	SELF-FERTILE.
Belleflower,	Baldwin.
Spitzenberg,	Oldenburg,
Winesap,	Astrachan,
	R. I. Greening.

I add to the list of self-fertile varieties the Yellow Newton pippin.

PEARS.

Angouleme,	Bosc,
Bartlett,	Clairegeau,

Clapp,
Idaho,
Kerffer,
Winter Nellis,

Lawrence,
Seckel'

PRUNES AND PLUMS.

Coe's Golden Drop, Bradshaw,
Italian prune, Burbank,
French prune, Green Gage,
DeSota,

Practice clean cultivation, keep the surface finely pulverized to imprison moisture, and when the humus has been dissipated by cultivation renew it by plowing under leguminous crops. Thin fruit properly and spray systematically according to up-to-date methods.

Pick apples with greatest care, as the slightest bruise renders them unfit for market. Do not pack your own apples, pack your neighbor's as spots and blemishes will be more apparent on his fruit than on your own. This packing business is most important. Fruit must be simply perfect as to color and size, paper wrapped if going out of the state, package clean and stenciling or labeling attractive. The fancy pack brings the fancy price.

Of course you will want to know about how much it will cost to grow an orchard. Given a tract of land ready for planting, it will cost in my section about \$40 an acre to buy the trees, plant, prune and cultivate up to the fifth year, provided you hire all the work done. After that time the orchard will pay its way with increasing margin of profit. In other sections the estimates are less than this. Land varies so greatly in price that I have not included interest on investment for land, taxes, etc.

It is impossible to even approximate the returns from growing orchards, they vary so greatly, owners likewise. I have known orchards the sixth year to pay all expenses up to date, and have known others at ten years to return from \$300 to \$500 per acre. There, however, are exceptional cases and are not to be considered in estimating profits. I am, however, prepared to maintain that when an orchard is in fairly good bearing, apples can be cultivated, thinned, picked, paper-wrapped, hauled to station if not more than ten miles distant and a fair road, box paid for, all for 50 cents a box, and that No. 1 winter apples will sell for not less than one dollar per box for a series of years.

In 1900 there were growing in the United States 201,794,769 apple trees; in Oregon 2,825,998, since increased to over 3,000,000 trees. Will not over production ruin the markets? Yes possibly in some years, for common grades; never for the fancy product. Let us discuss for a moment the effect of the enormous production of apples in recent years has had upon the market. C. C. Bell, for many years a shipper of fruits, in the current number of "Orchard Fruits" furnishes a statement of the purchasing power of a barrel of apples from 1870 to 1903, and I abstract briefly: A barrel of apples in 1870 paid for 39 pounds of wheat, in 1880 for 72 pounds and in 1903 for 120 pounds.

In 1870 it paid for 7½ pounds of white sugar, in 1903, for 22½ pounds.

In 1870 it paid for 14½ pounds of nails and in 1903, for 40 pounds.

In 1870 it paid for 7½ yards of calico, in 1903 for 22 yards. In 1880 it required 204 barrels of apples to buy a harvester; in 1903, 90 barrels bought a better machine. Thirty-seven years ago the writer bought in Salem, Oregon, the finest Wine-saps he had ever seen for 25 cents a box. Last year like fruit would have brought five times as much. In 1903 carloads of apples from Hood River's fancy fruit crop were sold to retailers in New York City at \$3.80 to \$4 per box, of 45 pounds of fruit, the highest price I have ever known paid for apples in such quantities. But why multiply instances? A great demand for American apples has gone up in Europe, and our exports from Atlantic ports in 1903-4 exceeded 3,300,000 pounds. Cold storage and rapid transit, added to increased consumption of apples everywhere have made a demand ahead of increased production for our fancy fruit. The difficulty lies in disposing of our common grades, but there is encouragement even there.

Our own citizen, Hon. Harry B. Miller, consul Niu Chang, China writes, "If the inferior grades of the proper shipping varieties of apples grown on the Pacific coast could be sent to China for the Chinese trade at a low cost, I am convinced that an extensive and permanent market can be created. He also adds in the same communication that the Russians are great lovers of apples. May we not expect, then, that when the oriental freight tariffs become a little lower, when the Russian bear returns from his outing in Manchuria, (and he has already headed for home), and when conditions have become settled, that our

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countless neighbors along the eastern coast of Asia will consume ever increasing quantities of our common fruits?

In concluding these lengthened pages may I say to you in growing your orchard there will come to you recompense other than dollars and cents, a recompense of wealth and added years a feeling that you have mastered every adverse condition; and when your trees that you have grown and loved are burdened with great harvests will you not rejoice that you have been a factor in a fruition so noble, so beautiful?

E. L. SMITH,
Pres. Oregon State Board Horticulture.

CHOLERA INFANTUM.

This disease has lost its terrors since Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy came into general use. The uniform success which attends the use of this remedy in all cases of bowel complaints in children has made it a favorite wherever its value has become known. For sale by City Drug Store.

SICK HEADACHE.

"For several years my wife was troubled with what physicians called sick headache of a very severe character. She doctored with several eminent physicians and at a great expense, only to grow worse until she was unable to do any kind of work. About a year ago she began taking Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets and today weighs more than she ever did before and is real well," says Mr. Geo. E. Wright of New London, New York. For sale by City Drug Store.

Furnished Hotel At A Bargain.

At Newport, on Yaquina bay, the famous Oregon summer seaside resort that is destined to equal the great Newport resort on the Atlantic coast, a 13 room hotel, one block from the main business section, fully furnished with good bedding, carpets, furniture, and kitchen fixtures, and the woodroom full of wood, is offered for sale at a bargain for cash, or will trade for land in Rogue River Valley. Title perfect, house in good repair and supplied with hot and cold water on lower and upper floors, bath room, wood room, closets and all conveniences of a modern boarding house. The house is paying property and is only offered for sale by reason of the owner's wife having asthma and not able to live in a low altitude. Full particulars by addressing the Sentinel office.

TAKEN WITH CRAMPS.

Wm. Kirmse, a member of the bridge gang working near Littleport was taken suddenly ill Thursday night with cramps and a kind of cholera. His case was so severe that he had to have the members of the crew wait upon him and Mr Gifford was called and consulted. He told them he had a medicine in the form of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy that he thought would help him out and accordingly several doses were administered with the result that the fellow was able to be around next day.

The incident speaks quite highly of Mr. Gifford's medicines.—Elkader, Iowa, Argus. This remedy never fails. Keep it in your home, it may save life. For sale by City Drug Store.

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