

Klamath County Development News Columns

Completion of Cascades Line Opens Avenue for Shipments of Alfalfa to California Points; Industry Thrives

With dairy farmers in the valley and along the coast directing their attention to Klamath county alfalfa hay, now that freight service over the new Cascade line is to bring the new empire's broad fields closer to their cattle barns, it seems pertinent to devote space to one of the eminent agricultural crops of this region.

Production of alfalfa in the county has been extensive for a number of years, and until this year acreage was steadily increasing. In 1923 the county yield on about 16,000 acres was approximately 69,000 tons. The following year farmers produced 80,000 tons on 17,500 acres, and last year 85,000 tons on 19,000 acres.

Slight Decrease Reported
This season the acreage dropped off somewhat, and is estimated by A. C. Henderson, county agricultural agent, to be nearly 18,500. Under farming methods which grow constantly better with experiment, acre yield is apparently increasing, as the 1926 crop, it is believed, will aggregate 85,000 tons.

This hay is grown chiefly on irrigated land by farmers interested in diversified agriculture, and in many cases, in dairying. In the past the majority of the hay has been shocked and fed in that state, either to the grower's own cattle, or to stock which he has contracted to feed during the winter. Under the latter plan a stockman buys the hay from the farmer with the stipulation that the farmer feed it. The stockman's beef or sheep are then brought in from the range in the fall, and are kept in the feed lots for the winter.

Langel Valley Prosperous
A recent exhibit of alfalfa hay from the Langel valley illustrates very well, in the opinion of Mr. Henderson, what can be done with the product in Klamath county. The display comprised three cuttings from one field in the valley named. Both the first and second cuttings were extremely heavy, and well leaved, while the third in itself would have passed for a good first cutting in many hay producing sections of the west.

The number of cuttings possible per year in the county varies from two to three, with the season, and farmer. Two each season are assured throughout the county, and when this is the case excellent pasturage is found on the fields the balance of the season. Three cuttings are often possible, and many farmers get this many virtually every year. The past season is said to have been most favorable to alfalfa, with the result that a maximum crop will be taken from the hay fields, with sufficient time left for the growth of good pasture.

Grimm Variety Is New
With the introduction of the Grimm variety of alfalfa, which is rapidly displacing the common brand because of the former variety's hardiness, the frost hazard, never of vast proportions in Klamath county, has been reduced to a minimum. Grimm is particularly frost-resistant, and during the freeze in the winter of 1924, proved its superiority on this point, according to County Agent Henderson.

On one ranch two fields, one of common and the other of Grimm alfalfa, lay immediately adjacent to each other. The freeze in question killed out the common and left the

Grimm uninjured, the results being plainly visible by a definite line of frost damage between the two fields.

In addition the Grimm alfalfa, it has been found here, produces a much heavier yield and the stalks are considerably more leafy than those of the common, thus insuring greater food value.

Excellent for Stock
A new practice in the feeding of alfalfa to dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep and lambs, has been introduced here and is gaining rapidly in popularity. This consists of chopping the hay for feeding, thereby avoiding waste of the heavier stalks. This has made for a great saving, and it has been found that the stock consumes more of the hay, giving another advantage in point of heavier milk production.

Alfalfa production in the county has not reached its peak by any means. The principal reason why acreage has not increased more rapidly than it has in the past few years, is that little effort has been made to market the hay outside the production area. A great deal of stock is raised in the county, so that home consumption is great. Consequently hay producers have not reached out for foreign markets, even those lying within this state.

Consumption at Home
A few carloads are shipped out each year, it is true, but only a few. The hay is chiefly fed on the ranches and in logging camps or other phases of industry where horses are in use. Hence the present supply meets local demand, and there has been no great call for additional alfalfa acreage.

Now a new outlet has been provided for Klamath county's excellent hay, as high in quality as any of that grown in the west, and probably better than most, and dairymen to the north and west are looking toward Klamath for winter feed. Heretofore, freight rates have prohibited the farmers of this county from shipping to the rich dairy regions in other parts of the state. With the new railway opened, these have been materially reduced, and letters from jobbers asking about hay prices and rates have begun to pour in.

Diversified Agriculture
With the discovery that almost any crop can be grown with outstanding success on this high plateau in the southern Oregon basin which is Klamath county, many farmers are devoting fields formerly planted in hay to diversified agriculture. This, too, has tended to reduce alfalfa production, or, at any

rate, to curtail heavy increases in its production.

But of the rich land which is bringing this county into prominence as an outstanding agricultural region, there is a great plenty at surprisingly low prices, so that even with diversified farming rapidly widening its scope here, there still remains plenty of land for the production of quality alfalfa when the markets have fully opened.

Demand Is Growing
The market in the heavy dairying section on the coast is of vast proportions, as alfalfa, the leading food for dairy cattle, cannot be produced to advantage there. In the past, these dairymen have been buying their hay from the Columbia river basin to the north.

No one can say yet how big the coast market, from a Klamath county standpoint, will be when freight operation begins in full over the new Cascade line. Only future demand, now in evidence, can tell that. But it can be readily seen that the scope of the Klamath alfalfa market will widen to an extent hitherto not known, and blessed is that farmer whose foresight prompts him to probe a little more deeply into the possibilities suggested here, before letting his attention stray too far afield. And smart, too, is that man outside the county, who, searching for opportunities, investigates an "empire awakening."

New Building at Ninth and Klamath Will Be Erected

With construction scheduled to begin in 30 days, a new two-story brick building is to be erected at a cost of \$65,000 on the corner of Ninth and Klamath, it was announced Thursday afternoon by W. W. McNeally, local realtor.

Mrs. Mary A. Farrell, Portland, purchased the property through McNeally from the Ross estate. The first floor of the building will comprise two stores and a super-station, while a dance hall and auditorium will be on the second floor. Plans for the new building are now being completed by a Portland architect.

JUST ONE PERMIT
The only building permit to be issued yesterday from the office of the city clerk, Lem L. Gaghagen, was for the construction of a \$60 house by H. M. Metcalf on Addison street.

Congoleum rugs, large size, only \$12.00, ivory dressers only \$25.00. Terms if desired, Klamath Home Supply Co., 1038 Main St. if

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Peppermint Oil Would Be Great Industry Here

Experiments Have Shown That Peppermint Can be Profitably Grown in Klamath County if Properly Seeded

Authorities on peppermint growing have estimated that if the indications of a short crop in the east grow to reality, no less than \$1,000,000 will be brought into the Northwest from the 1926 crop of peppermint oil. Experienced western growers, skilled in market judging, predict that the western oil may sell for \$20 a pound.

In 1925 mint growers of Oregon received \$1.30 per pound for their oil, and made good money. Growers generally throughout the northwest received from \$275 to \$1,000 per acre for their crop.

Here is another possibility which may be considered for Klamath county, as it was proved several years ago that peppermint can be successfully grown here. The one experiment here was not as profitable as the industry can readily be made, due to unfortunate difficulties in marketing and management.

Quality Was Excellent
The yield on the few acres planted in this county was, however, excellent, and the quality of the oil as fine as any in the west. Very fine peppermint in quantities which would make the planter good returns on his investment, can be raised in many parts of Klamath county, in the opinion of the county agent.

The fact that the product received a poor start here will not hold it down very long, is the general belief, and before many seasons have rolled by it is expected that cultivation of peppermint will commence again.

O. H. Todd, Eugene, who introduced the peppermint industry in Oregon in 1910, estimates that there will be between 2000 and 2500 acres of peppermint grown in the Pacific Northwest this year.

In 14 years the industry has become stabilized, and brought a revenue of more than \$200,000 to the northwest in 1925. The average yield of peppermint oil is around 20 and 35 pounds of oil to the acre. In some parts of this state the yield is much higher, and Klamath county is one district in the latter category.

It requires 20 sacks of pepper-

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mint roots to plant one acre of ground. Fields planted in April produce a crop early in the fall. The product thrives especially on sandy loam and beaver dam soil, which may be found throughout various sections of the county, and irrigation is desirable during the dry season.

The distillation of peppermint oil is an interesting feature of the game, and is a commercial proposition which has helped bring agricultural prosperity to more than one section of this state. When the peppermint hay is ready for distillation, it is placed in big vats with false bottoms. Slats bear up the hay while steam is turned upon it.

Treatment Methods
The steam, oil-laden after its permeation of the hay, is conveyed to the condenser, where the oil vapor is condensed with cold water. From here it passes into the worm of the still for final condensation. The mixture of oil and water drains into another vat, and the oil, coming to the top, is dipped from the separator, ready for the market.

In these lines may be found a suggestion for gaining additional revenue by farmers with a few spare acres of good land and the desire to pioneer another excellent agricultural possibility in Klamath county. Future development of the industry here will very likely take place on a small scale, which may grow into vast proportions.

The Klamath County Fair Board calls for sealed bids covering labor and material for a poultry and pet stock pavilion, 96x48 feet, the same dimensions and construction as the present hog and sheep building on the Fair grounds, except footings of posts are to be set on concrete blocks 6 inches thick by 12 inches square (being a mixture of 1-2-3), and bids to be submitted on 36-gauge corrugated iron and heavy composition roof. Foundation of building will be leveled by Fair Board. The Fair Board will also consider bids for labor only, the Fair Board to furnish the material. Bids received until 12 o'clock noon, Saturday, August 28th, at the office of the Klamath County Fair Board, Room D, Courthouse, Klamath Falls. Work to be completed on the building on or before September 11th, 1926.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
LEDA E. PARKER,
Secretary, Klamath County Fair Board.
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Holiday Dairy Is Owner of Master Holstein Bull

With the purchase this week of a fine registered Holstein bull, by the Holiday Dairy, the movement on foot for higher grade dairy cattle in Klamath county received another boost.

The thoroughbred bull, Imperial Pontiac Burke, No. 435344, was purchased from Robert S. and Eben Adams, breeders of registered Holsteins at Merrill.

The bull is said to have been sired by some of the best lines of Holstein blood in the world, and has as well, a show record of no small import. Imperial Pontiac Burke in 1924, won the Junior championship distinction at the Klamath County fair. He was owned



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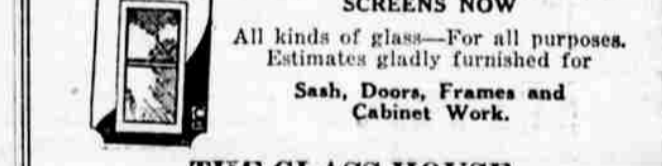


LEDA E. PARKER, Secretary, Klamath County Fair Board.

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