

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

BETTER THAN WHEAT.

Eastern Oregon Farmer Raises 40 Acres of Potatoes.

Pendleton — John Ferguson, who raised a crop of potatoes on his land adjoining the city limits on the south side of Pendleton, has drawn the conclusion that potato raising is much more profitable than raising wheat.

On 40 acres of land Mr. Ferguson this season raised 40 sacks to the acre, or 1,600 sacks. As the market price has been on an average of at least \$1.25 a sack since the beginning of the potato season up to the present time, he estimates that his crop has brought him in the neighborhood of \$2,000, without a great deal of labor. This land was in wheat last season, growing about 30 bushels to the acre. At the same ratio had it been in wheat he would have had 1,200 bushels, and at the market price of 75 cents a bushel, would total \$900. Besides the crop of potatoes the land, as a result of the cultivation, is more benefited than had it been summer fallowed.

The potatoes grown in soil of the nature of this field are of the best quality. Being large, smooth and free from clinging soil, they command a premium of from 25 to 50 cents a sack in California markets, in direct competition with California potatoes.

The whole of Umatilla county has the same soil as this particular field, and instead of summer fallowing the entire wheat area, it has been demonstrated time and again that a crop of potatoes or corn can be grown with profit and to better advantage for the soil than the rest.

Electric Line Has Free Way.

La Grande — The La Grande city council, at a recent meeting, favorably considered the granting of a franchise for a right-of-way into the city limits of the Eastern Oregon Development company for an electric railway. As the Union county court and the towns of Union and Cove have granted a franchise, the company will now go on with the work of connecting all principal points in the valley with an electric line, including the Hot Lake sanatorium, Union to Cove, and from Cove to Summerville, Elgin, Island City and La Grande. The company has been given all necessary encouragement as to tonnage, and part of the road will be completed by October, 1905.

An Accommodating Raspberry Bush

Albany — A raspberry bush on which there are ripe raspberries, green raspberries, buds and full blossoms stands in the door yard of the residence of George Wright, in this city. On one limb there are 12 ripe, fully developed berries and 15 green berries. Ripe raspberries and a raspberry bush in full bloom in the middle of November are both curiosities, and when the two are combined in one the circumstance is unusual. Mr. Wright selected a limb on which there were ripe and green berries, and also buds and blossoms and placed it on exhibition in the window of a local office.

Apples by Carloads.

La Grande — The apple crop of Union county is being picked and packed as rapidly as possible, and the Oregon Produce company, of La Grande, has already purchased 31 cars of the best varieties to ship out to the markets. From 12 to 15 cars have been shipped from the Cove district, and there are now about 25 cars awaiting shipment from there. The Oregon Produce company will build another large storage building in the near future at La Grande. Six hundred boxes are being packed a day. Many apples are being stored for the growers also by this company, awaiting better prices.

Land Prices are Higher.

Pendleton — County Assessor C. P. Strain has just completed making the real estate transfers to his assessment roll for the past year. They number nearly 1,000, not counting over 500 recorded on the books as described by deeds and bounds. The latter are principally the section in the vicinity of Milton and Freewater, where the land is cut into small tracts. Mr. Strain says the prices recorded on the land sales far exceed those of previous years. Several quarter sections are recorded as having been sold at \$9,500.

Looks for Eastern Apple Market.

La Grande — E. C. Carbine, one of the leading fruit growers in the Grand Ronde, has left for the East with two car loads of choice apples grown here, and will visit New York and other important cities to look up a market for the many apples that the growers wish to ship East. If the experiment meets with favor, many car loads will be sent out from here.

NEW WING FOR ASYLUM.

Recommendations to be Made to the Oregon Legislature.

Salem — Governor Chamberlain, Secretary of State Dunbar and State Treasurer Moore visited the state insane asylum a few days ago to investigate the need of an addition to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of patients. That more room will be needed is certain and the only question before the board was whether to recommend to the legislature the construction of a new closed cottage at the asylum farm or a new wing at the main building.

Because of the better facilities for water supply and sewerage at the main building it was decided to recommend the construction of a new wing. This addition will cost about \$40,000 and will provide room for 120 more patients.

The population at the asylum is increasing at the rate of 50 to 60 a year, or 100 to 120 in a biennial term. A new wing will therefore provide only for the increase in the next two years.

Lane's Display of Products.

Eugene — The committee on the Eugene Commercial club, which has been working for an exhibit of Lane county products at the Lewis and Clark exposition, has appointed E. M. Warren, an enthusiastic farmer of Coburg, to superintend the collection of agricultural and horticultural exhibits. Mr. Warren will take up the work at once and will devote his time and energies towards making an exhibit that will surpass anything of the kind ever before shown from this county. He has had valuable experience in making exhibits at state and county fairs, and already has a large assortment of grains, grasses, canned fruits, nuts, etc., and will add to this by securing the best that can be produced of all kinds of products before the opening of the exposition. The county has already made an appropriation to defray the expenses of collection.

Rich Ore of Bohemia.

Cottage Grove — Twelve tons of ores selected from the Bohemia mining district have been shipped to Portland for exhibit at the Lewis and Clark exposition. Three thousand pounds are already at Portland at the bureau of information. Another shipment will be made in the spring. When all the ore is assembled Bohemia will be represented by 20 tons of ore that cannot be excelled. D. H. Weyatt, solicitor of minerals, has been here several days, assisting in the accumulation of these ores and announces that he is much gratified with this collection and the vigorous manner in which the miners of Bohemia collected these minerals.

Poultry Show at Albany.

Albany — The executive committee of the Central Willamette Poultry association met in this city and perfected arrangements for their third annual poultry show, which is to be held in Albany, January 18 to 21, inclusive. Prizes for the three best birds of each kind in each class will be given, as in the past. Three silver cups are to be offered as special premiums, one to be given to the best pen in the American class, another for the best pen in the Mediterranean class, and the other for the best collection of cock, cockerel, hen and pullet in the show.

Contract for 1,000-Foot Well.

La Grande — Senator A. McDonald, of Alice, has just made a contract with Mr. Hunt, an expert artesian well digger of California, providing for the sinking of a well 1,000 feet deep for the Union County Artesian Well company. The location of the well depends on which farmer in the vicinity of the well gives the most toward the expense. Thomas McConnell has a well down at this time to a depth of 514 feet and operations have been suspended until the arrival of 900 feet more of casing which has been ordered.

Paper Mills Resume Operations.

Oregon City — After having been shut down for five weeks because of an unprecedented low stage of water in the river, the paper mills have resumed operation here. Resumption of work at these large institutions furnishes 425 men with regular employment and will materially add to the monthly payroll in this city.

Fine Display from Blue River.

Eugene — The ore for the Blue river exhibit at the Lewis and Clark exposition is now being hauled to Eugene and will be stored until such time as the exposition is in shape to receive it. The miners are all interested in the matter and will make a fine display.

Northwest Wheat Markets.

Portland — Walla Walla, 83c; bluestem, 88c; valley, 87½c.
Tacoma — Bluestem, 90c; club, 87c.

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