

THE KENNEWICK COURIER

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WHOLE NUMBER 165

SEVEN CARS OF BERRIES

This is the Number Shipped up to Date.

The Crop has Averaged About \$5.00 a Crate net to the Growers and will be Worth \$15,000 to the Valley—This Week Closes Season.

A canvass of the various berry shipping agencies in this district today discloses the fact that over seven cars of berries have been shipped from this place this season. While this is not as big as was expected at the beginning of the growing season, it is highly satisfactory in the face of events and conditions since the growing season opened. The frosts, the first that have occurred at this time of the year for a number of years, cut off a large percentage of the early berries and blighted considerable more. Then the backward spring delayed the growth of the fruit not injured by the frost. But if the production was not what it should have been the price received has in a measure made amends for the shortness. The price at the beginning of the season was very high and has remained good to date, averaging in the neighborhood of \$5.00 per crate. When it is considered that berries can be profitably raised here and sold for \$1.50 a crate, this is a big thing for the growers though the crop was short. The berry crop this year will bring about \$15,000 into the valley.

It is expected that the shipments in quantities will cease about the latter part of this week.

GOVERNMENT MAY BUY CANAL
W. I. Co. Has Offered Its System for Sale.

Washington, May 19.—A proposition has come to the interior de-

partment from the Washington Irrigation company, owners of the Sunnyside canal, looking to the sale to the government of all the company's property and rights in Yakima valley for \$550,000. The offer is under consideration.

Secretary Hitchcock said today that he was not prepared to announce what the government would do. State Land Commissioner Ross is bending every effort toward securing the approval of the state's selections by the secretary of the interior. The matter was going smoothly until today, the papers being ready for the secretary's signature, when the reclamation service registered a protest. This protest was not unexpected.

As soon as Commissioner Ross encountered the protest of the reclamation service at the interior department today he walked up F street and entered the office of Engineer Newell, of the reclamation service, in the geological survey building. Mr. Newell and Consulting engineer Bien, of the reclamation service, were in the room. Mr. Ross told the chief engineer that he had come to learn what the ground of objection was, and to obtain a copy of the report recently made to the board of consulting engineers. Mr. Newell replied that he could not give him this report, as it was before the secretary for his consideration, and he had no right to make its contents public.

NEW LOCAL TRAIN.

Will run Between Spokane and Seattle.

The Northern Pacific Railway company will put on a new train service June 1st between Seattle and Spokane.

It is expected that the extra train will provide means for people to patronize the road without filling up the overland trains. It will also furnish service in the day that is not now considered in the schedules. The train for Spokane will leave Seattle at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and will arrive at Spokane at 7:30 the morning following the return trip will be made leaving Spokane at 4 p. m., arriving in Seattle at 8:30 a. m.

PORTAGE ROAD OPENING

Saturday, June 3, Fixed As the Day.

Vice-President Fairbanks and Senatorial Party May Be Present at The Dalles

The Portage road will be opened to the public on Saturday, June 3, instead of on May 30, as was intended, according to an agreement reached at a meeting of the executive committee of the Open River association May 20.

The change has been made in view of the fact that the date first set apart fell on Decoration day, and so many of those who were expected to take part in the opening exercises had promised to assist at different Decoration day celebrations.

Another reason for the change was that Senator Fulton had agreed to meet the Senatorial party now on the way here from the East to attend the opening of the exposition and ask the members of the party, together with Vice-President Fairbanks and Speaker Joseph Cannon, to lend their presence to the occasion of the opening. It will be arranged for the entire party to be taken up the Columbia by boat on Saturday morning in time to be present at the exercises at The Dalles.

An elaborate program is being arranged, which will include speeches by several of the distinguished visitors who have been invited to attend, as well as by members of the state board and the Open River association. This programme will be announced as soon as all details have been settled.

THEY ARE SATISFIED

The Strawberry Growers Find no Fault With Valley.

From the opinions expressed by the strawberry growers as they congregate at the depot each day to make their shipments, we find that there is no doubt in any of their minds as to Kennewick's future as a berry district. While they have all suffered from the bad weather this spring they, without exception, say they are more than ever convinced that this place will continue to place the first berries on the market each year and receive the cream of the market price. This year has been the worst in the history of the valley and still our berries have gone on the market from a week to two weeks ahead of all competitors. In fact the only place that has sufficient territory to ever compete with us in quantity, Hood River, has just come on the market this week, and the market prices received show that even that place is not a formidable competitor. We have never sold a berry this season for less than \$4.00 a crate and we are informed that the first crate of Hood River berries were sold for \$3.00 a crate.

When such men as Rev. Mr. Bartlett, J. Sercombe, H. Delepine, R. A. Oliver, C. B. McConnell, W. S. Haxton and A. Spence, the heaviest growers in the valley, say they are more than satisfied we see no reason for others to be disappointed.

The Date Changed.

As will be seen by a dispatch in this issue the excursion to The Dalles has been postponed till Friday the 2nd of next month. The exercises will be held at that place on Saturday, the 3rd. Capt. Danaher this morning received a message from Manager Cover stating that he would write him regarding the arrangements for chartering the boat and it is possible that we will be able to tell you about it tomorrow.

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