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AIR IS FULL OF RAILROAD TALK

Activity of Milwaukee in Upper Valley Stirs O-W. R. & N. to Action

Since actual work was commenced on the Milwaukee line south from Beverly, it has been persistently reported that the C., M. & P. S. would soon have competition in the development of the rich upper valley. This was verified last week when F. L. Pitman, chief engineer of the Yakima division of the O-W. R. & N. system made a visit to the White Bluffs country and let it be known that his company would soon have a representative on the ground procuring right-of-way along the line of their survey made two years ago. Then there is the proposed connection of the Great Northern at Wenatchee with the S. P. & S. at Kennewick. This connecting link between the Hill lines is bound to come sooner or later, and as it has never been the policy of the Hill management to lag far behind in the development of available new territory, railroad men say that we may look for something to be doing along this line before long.

On the other side of the river, there is the long-planned S. P. & cut-off, from near Riparia to Waula, a distance of some 60 miles. It is reported on good authority that this new line will be begun during the coming season. The cut-off will save the S. P. & S. about twenty miles between Spokane and Portland, though to do it they will have to bridge the Snake near Riparia and cross the Columbia at Waula. The building of another bridge across the Columbia near this point is looked upon as a near necessity in any event, as the large increase in traffic which is expected within the next few years will be too great to allow of the combined business of the S. P. and S. P. & S. being handled over the present structure.

President Williams, of the Milwaukee, has promised the ranchers of Hanford and White Bluffs that the new line will be so far completed as to be in readiness to move the fruit crop from those districts in the early fall. Grading crews are now being organized at various points along the survey, between Hanford and Beverly, and dirt will begin to fly during the coming week. C. E. Griffith, of this city and Wolfe & McElvain of Richland are among those who have secured grading contracts on the work.

About twenty members of the Commercial Club went to Richland Monday night and met in joint session with the Richland club. While a get-together session of the two clubs had been planned for some time past, the prime object of the meeting at this time was to talk over railroad matters and particularly to devise some inducements to lay before the Milwaukee officials in the effort to get the new line completed through Richland and into Kennewick this year.

Mayor Lasher, of Richland, was chairman of the meeting and A. R. Gardner secretary. Short talks were given by Messrs. Richardson, Desgranges, Gardner, Moulton, S. Y. Stewart, Rudkin and Amis of Kennewick, and Messrs. Palmeter, Nelson, Lansch, Wheelhouse and Randall of the Richland club.

C. B. Stewart and E. A. Palmeter were chosen as delegates to represent the two clubs in an effort to secure a meeting at Seattle with President Williams and other officials of the Milwaukee. At this meeting the railroad people will be assured that if the line can be completed at this time every effort will be made by the people of Richland and this city to assist in securing right-of-way at equitable figures and complying with such other reasonable favors as the company may ask.

TULLES BOYS SELL STORE

The Tulles Drug Co. became the Vibber-Gifford Drug Co. this week when H. R. Vibber and K. C. Gifford purchased the local store which has been conducted for the past four years by R. P., A. J. and Perry Tulles.

The establishment which changed hands through this deal is one of the most attractive and up-to-the-minute drug stores to be found anywhere in a city of this size. The Tulles boys have been very popular with the local trade and will turn over a profitable business to their successors. They still retain their store at Newport and other interests in this city. "Russ" and "Art" have made no very definite plans, but Perry will probably try his hand at ranching in the near future.

Mr. Vibber, who as local manager for the Columbia Steamboat Co., has been favorably known in local business circles for several years, is a registered pharmacist and has had many years of experience in the work. Mr. Gifford has also had considerable experience behind the counter before coming to Kennewick where he has had charge of the collection department at the First National Bank for the past three years. The new firm will make a good "team" and may be depended upon to keep up the popularity of the west end store.

ESTABLISH SCHOOL FOR FRUIT PACKERS

More Stringent Grading Rules Make Experts Necessary in the Packing Sheds

The secretary of the Farmers' Institute, L. S. Crossland, has been in correspondence with Mr. Ashley of the agricultural department of the Washington State College in regard to establishing a packing school here this summer. Mr. Ashley writes that to maintain a one-week's course the expense will amount to from fifty to eighty dollars and a sufficient number of pupils must be guaranteed in order that their tuition may aggregate this sum. One of the crying needs of the future will be to secure experienced packers. A standard of packing excellence is to be established and must be lived up to by the fruit growers, hence it is evident that raw hands cannot be employed in the packing sheds without working serious detriment to their employer.

Fruit packers should wake up to the necessity of making the most of this opportunity by preparing for the emergency calls of the coming seasons and to see to it that the matter is talked up throughout the valley and a large number of packers enrolled. An experienced packer should command better wages than others and if some make special effort to fit themselves for this work, there should be a scale of wages devised, based on the quality of the work performed.

MORE BERRIES AT RICHLAND

John Storland attended a meeting of the Richland strawberry growers last week. The problem of the Richland people is to secure pickers if the present bright prospects for a bumper crop materialize. They need more pickers in proportion to the acreage than Kennewick growers do as they have to have the berries in readiness to go on the afternoon boat and the force of pickers must be doubled in the morning to take care of the ripening crop. In July and August of last year, many Richland farmers put in strawberries and the acreage would be materially increased if it were not for the disadvantage of hampered transportation facilities.

PLAY BALL!

If this pleasant weather continues, the first game of the season on the local diamond will be played next Sunday. Frank Beste is organizing a married men's team and "Punk" Larkin will captain the outfit of single fellows who will endeavor to demonstrate to the old boys that "they never come back." It is hoped to have the band out, and a big crowd should be there, as the proceeds of this game will be used toward putting the diamond in good shape.

ASSOCIATIONS MAY COMBINE

Wenatchee and Hood River Fruitmen would Join Yakima Valley—New Packing Rules

There is a possibility that the Yakima Valley Fruit Growers' Association and the associations of Wenatchee and Hood River will become one federated organization within a short time. These associations have asked to come into the Yakima Association because at the present time its various branches are working smoothly and it is giving the most satisfactory results to its patrons of any in the Northwest. General Manager J. H. Robbins and his staff have the matter under consideration and it is a question of some discussion in the upper valley.

A committee of three men appointed by the association, Mr. Robbins, S. P. Shiley, of Nachez, and L. S. Crossland of this city, met in North Yakima Thursday afternoon of last week to formulate satisfactory rules for shipping strawberries and grapes. These are subject to modification but have been carefully compiled and are designed to further the best interests of grower and consumer. The necessity for such rules has been born of the carelessness of many farmers who in past years have flooded the markets with inferior fruit, poorly packed and altogether below the market standard. It is recognized by the association men that the valley must establish a reputation for high grade fruit if good prices are to be obtained, otherwise the honest packer suffers the consequences of his neighbors' lax methods and no one is able to get good prices.

The committee decided to have only one grade of strawberries, after considerable discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of establishing two, and their purpose in this was to exclude the smaller berries being packed with larger ones and sold for first grade prices. The smallest berries to be used in making up this grade are No. 5's. It was argued from the standpoint of the grower that these small berries could be boxed without packing and placed on the market as canning berries and a better profit be realized on them than if they were scattered among the large berries and the grade of these demoralized.

In coloring, the berries which are three-fourths red or all pink are ripe enough to ship and in picking, the fingers should be placed under the base of the berry and the berry severed from the stem by pinching off with the finger nails.

In packing they should be placed in the boxes carefully and solidly, using uniform berries for facing. In a full crate the berries should be one-fourth of an inch above the edges of the boxes and when the covers are placed on the crates there should be a slight pressure on the berries in order to keep them from sliding around. Labels, such as will indicate the contents of the boxes, must be placed on the outside of all crates.

For grapes the following rules were established: The grapes must be fully matured, carefully picked, properly trimmed and wilted 24 hours before packing. They are to be packed in crates, four baskets to the crate, the crates to be four and one-fourth inches deep with an eleven-sixteenths cleat under the cover. No stems are to be in sight and the weight of the crate is to be not less than 26 pounds. The crates are not to exceed five inches in depth, inside measurement.

A copy of these rules given in greater detail will be mailed to every member of the Association as soon as they can be printed and sent out.

FARMERS STUDY STRAWBERRIES

How to Get Best Results from Berry Fields was Topic at Saturday's Institute

Judging from the somewhat depleted attendance at the last meeting of the the Kennewick Farmers' Institute, the busy season has begun in real earnest and the waking hours are all "full up." "Strawberry Culture" was the subject up for discussion and the talks were of an extemporaneous nature, as the leaders appointed were unable to be present. In absence of the president, Rev. F. L. Fraser, the vice president, Wm. Engles, took the chair and opened the meeting.

L. S. Crossland gave a report of the transactions of the committee recently appointed by the Yakima Valley Fruit Growers' Association to confer in North Yakima, last week, and establish rules for strawberry packing. This gave the farmers opportunity to express their opinions and some believed that there should be two grades of berries instead of one.

Many theories were advanced as to the relative merits of the hill system of growing berries and the matted row, but the majority seemed to favor a narrow matted row, not wider than one foot. Mr. Crossland keeps his thinned out so that his beds are a combination of the hill and matted row system—a double row, with the plants diagonally placed.

J. F. Perry is in favor of the hill system and has proved its value to his own satisfaction, although it is said that plants grown in this manner are too much exposed to the wind and for this reason the system is not popular in this section.

H. W. Desgranges spoke of an instance he had noted on the Highlands where two strawberry patches adjoined each other, one an example of the hill system and the other showing the matted rows. Superior results came from the matted row patch while the other was far under the average in yield and quality. Where the hill system is used extensively as in the Hood River Valley, round cutters are used in cutting the runners from the vines and labor greatly reduced. Dr. Hedger, of Kiona, is experimenting with the two systems this year in the same field and under equal conditions, and his experience is likely to be valuable to others.

The best land for strawberries is alfalfa land and the best preparation for putting in a bed is a thorough manuring of the soil. J. F. Perry has had success with commercial fertilizer. In cultivating great care should be taken not to disturb the berry roots which grow each year and for this reason it is not safe to disturb the soil much within 4 or 5 inches of the plant. A good deep furrow between the rows serves to keep the moisture in the ground. The hoe and a five-tooth cultivator will give satisfactory results when intelligently applied. The plants should be set out in the fall and not allowed to bear the following spring. In the succeeding spring a good crop may be expected. Nitrate of soda, using 150 or 200 pounds to the acre used immediately after blooming time stimulates plant growth.

There is little to be done for strawberries in the way of frost protection as the smoke and heat does not stay near enough to the ground to be of much protection to the plants. Canvas spread over the plants is an effective shield but impractical for any but small beds on account of the expense and labor involved.

Mr. Robbins advocates the Clark Seedling as the only satisfactory berry of this valley for commercial purposes. It is well flavored, of good size and a good shipper.

The necessity for an honest pack was emphatically expressed by several and Mrs. E. M. Sly believes that the most direct method of dealing with the trouble is to insist that every grower place his name and address on the outside of every box and crate and in this way a check may be obtained on the growers and faulty packing and inferior berries may be traced back to their producer.

SMALL BLAZE

A small fire broke out in the smoke house of the Kennewick Packing Company's establishment, Tuesday evening shortly before eight o'clock. The fire department responded promptly to the summons and had no difficulty in getting the blaze under control, as the smoke house is built of brick and there was little for the fire to feed upon after the woodwork on the inside had been gutted. The loss was approximately \$250, partially covered by insurance. Seven or eight hundred pounds of bacon were destroyed and "Billy" is trying to work up a fire sale on hams and lard.

OLINGER TO BE FRUIT GROWERS' NEW MANAGER

Take Charge of Grading, Packing and Inspection for this District. April 1st

The Kennewick district of the Yakima Valley Fruit Growers' Association has secured the services of J. B. Olinger as manager for the coming year. Mr. Olinger will come to Kennewick the first of April and have active charge of the grading, packing and inspection of the fruits shipped through the association from this district.

Mr. Olinger is an expert in the line, coming from the Wenatchee district where he has had charge of this work for the past year or so. Before that time he had charge of Paulhamus fruits in the Puyallup valley, and is well acquainted with the demands of the industry.

Mr. Sly states that since his trip up the river recently, both Hanford and White Bluffs have been admitted into the association, making five new districts added since the close of last year.

More attention will be paid this year than ever before to the grading and packing of the fruits, in an endeavor to secure a high standard for the Kennewick products. Such a condition will go far toward guaranteeing reliable markets for our fruit in seasons to come.

BOX FACTORY MEN HERE

L. H. Marks and Chas. T. Prehn, Jr., representing Coats & Marks, box manufacturers, arrived the first of the week and are busy with details preliminary to opening the local branch factory. While at this writing the location of the plant had not been definitely decided, it is possible that the Moore warehouse will be secured. The machinery has arrived and Mr. Marks states that they expect to be making boxes by April 6th.

BUSY ON WALKS

The concrete mixer for the 2-Miracle corporation arrived Tuesday, and several hundred feet of curbing have already been laid.

The wide crossing near the O-W. R. & N. station has been completed and the outfit moved up into the Beach Addition where a batch of the six foot walk will be commenced. The 2-Miracle concern has a crew of about twenty-five men at work and will add more as soon as the weather conditions permit. The Dago colony has not been employed.

FORTY THOUSAND FOR SIDEWALKS

Practically Entire City to Have Advantages of Good Walks—Holiday, April 11th

Ordinances were passed this week creating two more improvement districts, providing for concrete walks. A third ordinance was given its first reading. The two ordinances passed, which will be found on another page in this issue, call for cement walks all through the First Addition and Amon's Addition to Kennewick. The call for bids was also made. In these two districts over three miles of cement walk are asked for. There is now laid nearly two miles and the contractors are now busy putting in another mile and a half. In the third ordinance it was planned to put walks in Menhinick's, Morain's and Weisel's additions. This work is being held up slightly, owing to the lack of assurance as to whether a right-of-way can be secured on Sercombe street. The attorney was instructed get busy and get all the right-of-way possible on the highway to the S. P. & S. station, that the work may not be held up.

While by far the greater portion of the new walk is only six feet wide, Kennewick will have, when the new contracts are completed, some forty thousand dollars worth of concrete walks. It will be an improvement that even the much-lauded city of Pasco cannot duplicate.

The interest that the ladies' clubs have displayed in working for a city beautiful, has resulted in the council declaring a holiday on Arbor Day, April 11th. The hours from 10 in the morning till 4 in the afternoon will be devoted to the planting of trees. Councilman Annis wanted to put in a clause to "pinch" every man found idle between the above mentioned hours. It is the intention to ask all business houses to close during the strenuous period.

The first contract on the sewer on the county road is about completed, and the official tour of inspection will be taken the first of the coming week. Engineer Smith reports that the work is in good shape and ready to be connected—all that is lacking is something to connect with.

Dr. Elms appeared before the council in regard to the proposed market day plan. He asks that the council pass an ordinance regulating the shipping of second-hand furniture into this from other cities, without a strict fumigation. In the interests of the health of the community the council favored the action and will take steps to pass a strict ordinance.

SCHOOL NOTES

Mr. Shumate, representing Ginn & Company, was here visiting the High school the last few days.

Miss Ely resumed her work the first of the week.

Richland High school has sent word that they will not take up the debate which was abandoned by Finley, owing to the lateness of the season and the lack of interest shown. No word has been received from Pasco concerning their attitude.

A rule has been made denying the use of the gymnasium to pupils who are down in their work. When their standing has been brought up to standard, they will be admitted to the gym again.

Miss Wetmore is training a boys' chorus for Commencement exercises. In addition to the regular mixed chorus, it is composed of good singers taken from the fourth grade up and will be one of the most interesting features of the exercises.