

## SHORT PRUNE CROP.

The prune crop of several Willamette Valley, Ore., counties and Clarke county, Wash., has been badly damaged by cold rains and a frost. This is especially true of orchards in the lowlands, where the trees were in blossom early and the pollen was exposed. In the foothills the bloom was late, and no damage was done by the cold weather. The trees which suffered most were of the Italian variety. They will not yield much more than half of a crop, but the fruit will be larger and of a better quality, and will command better prices than last year. Comparatively little damage was done to the Petite trees.

The prune crop of 1902 in Polk county, Ore., will be considerably smaller than that of last year. On a general average this year's crop will be about 80 per cent of the output of 1901. The main reason for this, the growers say, is that the unfavorable weather of the past month has caused a great many of the prunes to drop off the trees. The orchards in the eastern part of the county growing on the lowlands have been the greatest sufferers.

From information gathered from prune men from all parts of Clarke county, Wash., the yield is estimated at 125 carloads of dried fruit, or about one-half of last year's yield. Estimates of the various prune growers vary from 75 to 200 carloads. This variation is largely due to the fact that the crop is decidedly spotted, and that while in this vicinity the trees bear all they can develop, in another locality the crop is an entire failure.

The prune crop in Yamhill county, Ore., is worse than decimated, and only favorable weather for the remainder of the season will secure a crop even in favored localities. At the present time four-fifths of a crop is predicted for this section of the county by Dr. G. S. Wright, one of the largest prune growers in McMinnville. The orchards on the low or valley lands immediately contiguous to McMinnville will have practically no fruit, but the prospects in the hill orchards are about the same as last year. The reason given for the advantage of the orchards on the highlands over the valley orchards the present year is that the trees in the latter locations bloomed about a week earlier than those in the hills, and the fruit being in full flower, the pollen was exposed to the cold rains which came on at that time.

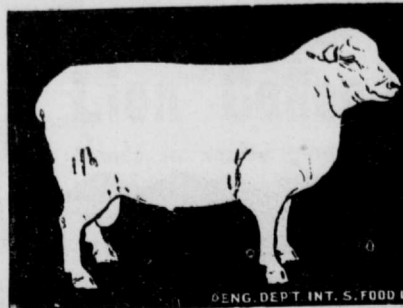
Manager Johnson, of the Corvallis and Benton County Prune Company, which owns a 155-acre orchard north of Corvallis, says:

"The prune crop is badly injured, and while it would be difficult to make an accurate statement of the damage at this time, a conservative estimate would not place this year's prune crop in this county at more than one-fifth of last year's. What fruit we have, however, ought to be unusually large and fine. It was impossible for evaporators to handle the immense crop of last year, and for that reason the output of dried prunes this fall will not be proportionately as small as the crop would indicate."

L. J. Reynolds, treasurer of the Oregon State Board of Horticulture at Salem, says: "As near as can be estimated, the prune crop of this locality will not exceed 30 per cent. of the crop of last year. The above is for the prune orchards north of Salem. I have not yet received enough reports from the district as a whole to give an accurate estimate of the prune crop of the second district."

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**APPLES IN JAPAN.**

Nearly all of our readers remember H. B. Miller, who was for years so prominently identified with Northwest horticultural interests. He has been in the Orient for a couple of years as United States consul at New Chwang, China. He has written to the Oregon State Board of Horticulture, under date of May 2, as follows:

Apple growing in Japan has attracted my attention, and I have endeavored to learn the extent of it, as I have seen many Japanese-grown apples in the markets of China as well as in Japan. Some of these apples are still in the markets of New Chwang and Port Arthur on May 1.

The following information I have secured from official sources, on special request, and presume it is correct: Apple growing in Japan is carried on mostly in the northern part of the Island of Hokkaido. It is in this locality that the Agricultural College of Japan is located. The country is especially noted for its coal and timber wealth, but is being developed in agriculture and horticulture and apple growing is taking on the appearance of a permanent commercial industry. The present acreage on the island is 5,000. Trees are planted at about 20 feet apart, and begin bearing the seventh year after planting, and bear at about the following rate:

7-year-old trees, 7 cattie, or 10 lbs.  
10-year-old trees, 25 cattie, or 34 lbs.  
15-year-old trees, 100 cattie, or 134 lbs.  
18-year-old trees, 180 cattie, or 250 lbs.

The prices usually paid to the producers are as follows:

Early apples ..... 2 sen per catty  
Fall apples ..... 3 sen per catty  
Winter apples ..... 3.5 sen per catty  
March apples ..... 8 sen per catty  
May latest ..... 14 sen per catty

A catty is 1 1-3 pounds, and a sen is equal to one-half a gold cent.

These apples are packed in dry, hardwood sawdust and shipped in boxes and casks of various sizes. While these apples are not equal in quality to the Oregon apples, many of them are very good, and the best of all the apples of the Orient, except those grown at Chefoo from American stock. I have never seen any Codlin moth in Japanese fruit, although I have seen both the moth and San Jose scale on the Chefoo fruit, both on apples and Bartlett pears. The worst disease, and one that is so bad as to seriously injure the fruit is bitter rot, such as is common to the Baldwin apple in the United States. This, together with a black, soft fungus that covers the apples in small spots, are serious defects that seem to develop on all varieties, and increases with time, until it entirely ruins the apple. Much of this is no doubt due to climatic conditions,

and unless some means are taken to prevent it, the apples of Japan will not interfere much with the Pacific Coast fruit in the Orient.

**A NEW THRESHER.**

A great deal of interest is being manifested on account of the introduction in this territory of the Livermore Self-Feeder made especially for threshing machines. It is such a simple arrangement that wherever grain is cut by headers it is safe to say no thresher will be running with anything but a Livermore Feeder before many months pass by. It practically does away with nearly the entire item of expense in keeping up the feeder in repairs. It handles all kinds of grain. Baker & Hamilton of San Francisco, who first introduced the Benicia Rotary Disc Plow into this territory are the selling agents and are ready to give full particulars regarding same.

With proper facilities any one who understands the principle of butter making can make a grade of butter that will command the highest price. When you have a really fine grade of butter it is not difficult to sell it for a good price. If you are close enough to a good town, private customers can easily be secured that will take all you make at a good price. If you haven't a good large town close by, then you can ship to a city market and get good prices.

The chick probably gathers less feed on his own account than any other bird, but it is not as great a consumer of food as other fowls.

Chicks love green stuff and a small patch of oats is a nice thing to sow for these fowls to graze on, so to speak.

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