

MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE WEST.

W. W. CLARK.

“My impressions of the west” are not more than impressions, they were obtained in a stay of some two and one-half months, mainly near the head of the Willamette valley. This valley is in the western third of the state which is watered by the rains sufficiently to produce satisfactory crops without irrigation. The vegetation is somewhat similar to that of Wisconsin.

The rainfall around Creswell and Eugene is about 36 inches, nearly all of which falls during the months of September to June, leaving a dry season of two to three months. This was the season which I observed. The rain is generally not severe, being more like Wisconsin mist. During the summer dry season crops can be grown in the field and garden without irrigation of any kind by suitable methods of cultivation. There is no doubt but that small fruits would do better during this time with artificial watering, however.

Tree fruits do very well without irrigation provided the soil moisture is conserved. It is claimed, in fact, that they do better because of the dry season during their ripening period than they would otherwise. This seemed to be true.

Agriculture in this portion of Oregon is in a very backward condition as regards modern methods, etc. The same land has been cropped without rotation for decades in many instances and appears nearly exhausted. Eastern farmers are introducing modern methods of rotation and handling, but these are not kindly accepted by the “native Oregonians,” who fail to see how the eastern farmer can know anything about conditions in Oregon. As a consequence of the influx of settlers from the middle west and east, Oregon is waking up to her resources and opportunities, however, and the entire state is experiencing a “boom.”

In horticulture, modern practices in spraying, pruning, planting and cultivating are followed closely. This is perhaps from necessity, it being almost impossible to raise *any* edible apples without careful spraying. As a result many home orchards are of no value to their owners, whatever; the marketable apples coming from those growers who understand their business. The contrast with Wisconsin conditions is especially marked, since

here many of our apples come from these "home orchards" which are given no attention whatever.

Prunes are an important crop of western Oregon and Washington, bringing in excellent profits. They require less care than most fruits grown there. Cherries are an important product early in July. Pears and peaches are increasing rapidly and make an excellent showing, fine peaches being produced on three-year-old trees. Small fruits are important also, the home demand being greater than the supply of raspberries, Loganberries, etc. These small fruits grow and yield luxuriously, especially when artificially watered. Their quality is excellent. Walnuts are still an experiment, notwithstanding the fact that plantations of walnut trees are set out and cared for by some enterprising corporations, for eastern buyers.

Fruit of excellent quality has been grown in western Oregon for many years but only recently has it been possible to market it with profit. This condition has been brought about by fruit-growers' unions. No enterprising grower now tries to market his fruit in any other way.

My impressions of Oregon during my short stay were most pleasant. The cost of living is no higher there than here, in general. Houses may be built for half what they cost here and the same is true of all wooden buildings. The summer climate is tempered by regular sea breezes for seventy or eighty miles from the coast, so that discomfort from the heat, even when working in the field is rare. It does occasionally get hot, however. No ploughing is attempted usually before the rains soften the ground.

After leaving Oregon I visited the irrigated regions of western Washington for a short time. Here, as was to be expected, the growth of young orchards was much more rapid than in the non-irrigated Oregon lands. The climate, however, was execrable to one coming from the east or from the coast. Dry, hot, dusty, windy, barren—the newly developed irrigated tracts seemed very unattractive. The fabulous tales of immense yields and \$2,000 land seemed probable enough, however. This last season had been very unfavorable and unusual one from all reports. No peach crop was harvested in the Yakima valley and the apple crop was much reduced.

Leaving western Washington, the return trip was via the Canadian Pacific. Tales of the magnificence of western scenery

were found not to have been exaggerated, but the green trees and lawns, the yellow cornfields dotted with golden pumpkins and the freshness and civilization of Minnesota and Wisconsin seemed very welcome to eyes wearied with western wonders.

THE SMALL FRUIT PLANTATION.

R. L. Post.

The conditions which determine the location, planning, and management of a plantation for small fruits are so numerous and varied that it will be possible to give only a few scattered suggestions as to some of the factors which enter into the successful management of such a plantation.

In presenting the following suggestions I shall consider mainly the plantation which supplies a local market.

In this brief paper I shall make no attempt to define a system of laying out the plantation, because that will depend to a greater or less degree upon the extent and topography of the land, and upon the character of the soil. Neither shall I give advice as to the varieties that should be grown, since this depends even more upon the peculiarities of soil and climate, also upon the methods of culture and upon the kind of market.

The first suggestion which I wish to make is this—that as a general rule a large number of fruits, together with other crops, is preferable to an excess of any one fruit. By this I do not mean to convey the idea that special emphasis should not be placed upon a certain crop, or crops, but for reasons which are to follow there should be a liberal sprinkling of other crops. Of course it cannot be denied that decided advantages arise from specialization, but I believe that for a retail market it is much more profitable to adopt the plan which has been indicated.

In the first place it necessitates the proper handling of the soil, or, in other words, it brings about the practice of rotation, with all the benefits accruing therefrom. One of the most important things to consider in this connection is the combating of insect and fungus pests, for by varying the crops on a given piece of land the life processes of these pests are seriously interrupted, if not entirely suspended, thereby decreasing materially