

Problems Facing Fruit Growers

(By W. S. Carpenter)

NOT the least of the functions of the Oregon State Board of Horticulture is to protect the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state against the introduction of plant pests and diseases which are not yet established in Oregon, and to enforce control measures when necessary for those pests that we now have. It is the duty of every county fruit inspector to enforce the regulations of the State Board of Horticulture under the general supervision of the District Horticultural Commissioner for the district in which the county is located.

Among the many plant quarantines affecting Oregon and other western states, those which are of real importance to Douglas county are the following: strawberry root weevil, alfalfa weevil, White Pine Blister Rust, filbert blight, grape phylloxera, pear thrips and the potato tuber moth quarantines. Other regulations refer to the inspection of nursery stock, manufacture and sale of adulterated spray materials and shipment of infected fruit.

The real importance of rigid enforcement of the quarantines referred to above is not apparent to many taxpayers of Douglas county. To illustrate I would say: Consider what it would mean to the farmers and fruit growers of this county if the strawberry root weevil, or the grape phylloxera, or the pear and prune thrips, or the potato tuber moth should become as prevalent as the codling moth. Nearly everyone is familiar with the codling moth and the enormous losses and expense that it brings to the apple and pear growers. In fact many of these pests and diseases are far more dangerous than the codling moth, in that there is no practical way to control them as far as is known. The potato tuber moth and the strawberry root weevil are good examples of this. These insects in the various stages of their development are either under ground or buried within the tissues of the host plants, for that reason they cannot be reached by the usual spraying operations.

Strawberry Root Weevil Quarantine. So far this pest has not been found in Douglas county. It is prevalent in several other strawberry growing sections of the state and only the most careful enforcement of the quarantine regulation will keep it out.

Grape Phylloxera Quarantine. The growing of grapes in Josephine, Douglas and Wasco counties is

developing into an important industry. This has stimulated a demand for grape vines and cuttings, particularly from California where the phylloxera is quite prevalent in certain localities. It is hoped that the entrance of this pest can be prevented.

White Pine Blister Rust Quarantine. The Western White and Sugar Pine forests of Oregon are among our most valuable resources. The White Pine Blister Rust exists in the state of Washington but not in Oregon. That is the reason why the current orangeberry plants are the most susceptible hosts and carriers of this disease.

Between February 1st and December 31st, 1923 the Douglas county fruit inspector has inspected 397 shipments at the various shipping points within the county. These shipments included not only fruit trees and berry plants from nursery stock, but bulbs, ornamental plants, vines, shrubs and cuttings of many kinds from various sources.

Three hundred and fifty-three shipments of fruit trees, grape vines and cuttings and strawberry plants, containing 74,315 trees were inspected and of this number 463 trees were condemned on account of insect pests and diseases. Two shipments of strawberry plants and two shipments of grape cuttings were destroyed because they were shipped in violation of quarantine regulations. One shipment of current bushes was destroyed on account of disease. Out of 44 shipments of ornamental plants, one shipment of 150 rose bushes shipped to the city of Roseburg for street planting, were condemned for root borers. Eight shipments of California potatoes were inspected but none rejected.

One of the police duties of a county inspector is to force a clean up on diseased orchards when such methods are necessary. The purpose of this provision is not to work a hardship upon anyone who is making a reasonable effort to keep an orchard in shape, but rather to protect the average fruit grower who is trying to make a living by raising clean marketable fruit from the adjoining orchard which may be infested with all sorts of pests and diseases because the owner has refused to spray or care for it. Any man who has attempted to produce marketable fruit in an orchard adjacent to a tract heavily infested with scale or anthracnose will tell you how difficult a job it is. It is for the protection of those so unfortunately located that the forced clean up is sometimes resorted to.

During the past eleven months 124 orchards involving 1414 acres have been inspected. Most of these were orchards against which complaints had been sent in by people whose holdings were being damaged by the infested tracts. Twenty-three orchards totaling 183 acres were cut and burned. Twenty-eight orchards involving 219 acres were sprayed under the supervision of the county fruit inspector.

CURE FOR SEA SICKNESS

Origin of the Game of Mah Jongg Three Thousand Years Ago Told in Chinese Legend.

Some 3,000 years ago, according to the legend, there was a fisherman named Sze who lived on the shores of the East China lake near Ningpo. Sze's family had considerable wealth, and they backed him in the purchase of several boats.

Then he employed a hundred fishermen from other villages. All went well until the wind began to blow, for all of the fishermen were "land" fishermen. They became seasick and had to be taken ashore.

A family council was held, and it was decided that seasickness was merely a matter of the mind. Therefore the thing to do was to devise some method for getting the men's minds off their mal de mer. Fisherman Sze and his brothers then thought long and seriously, and the result was a game which they called Mah Dinu.

So there one has the origin of "Mah Chang," "Mah Choh," "Mah Jongg," "Mah Luck," "Pe Ling," "Pung Woo," "Mah Cheuk," or whatever you desire to call this game of the ancient Chinese.

GARDINER FINE CITY FOR HOMES

"White City" Is Beautiful Place in Which to Live Schoolboy Says.

MANY ADVANTAGES

Only Highway Is Lacking to Make Gardiner a Perfect Place—River and Hills Offer Many Sports.

(By Oliver Perkins, 6th Grade.)

It is desirable to live in Gardiner because it is a nice quiet town situated on the Umpqua river nine miles above the Pacific Ocean. It furnishes a very good harbor for quite large vessels. It is built on a sloping hill facing the river, and consists of about one hundred and twenty houses, which are nearly all painted white, giving it the name of "The Little White City by the Sea." The timber is behind the town so that boys who like to play in the hills can do so. At night and in the morning you may see a beautiful sunset and sunrise. The roads are not the best, but are good enough for the few cars that are here.

Our town has two stores, one confectionery, one National bank, one barber shop, one post office, three churches, the Methodist, Catholic, and Episcopal, one hotel which is noted for its huge fireplace, and our school building of which we are very proud. It is the very best in Oregon for the size of the town. The school house was built as a memorial to W. E. Jewett. We have two large play rooms, and have rings, swings and bars which afford the children much amusement. We have about 250 inhabitants. As the town is situated on the banks of the Umpqua river we can go swimming, fishing and boating. The Roosevelt highway, when completed, will go through the main street of the town. And all we lack is this highway to complete our perfect little town, and we can then list automobiles as another sport. We are about two miles from the depot, and a bus meets the four daily trains. About three miles from here is Lake Tahkenitch where we can go and see the moose which the government has brought here and where we can also fish.

We have a beautiful climate, which is never extremely hot nor cold. Whether you are a health seeker, a sportsman, a tourist, or on a summer vacation, or looking for a home, you will find plenty of ways to pass your time pleasantly and profitably. There are ideal boating conditions on the Umpqua. There is a large variety of motorboats and other water craft and you can spend your time exploring these waters, and as you travel you can troll for salmon, and if you succeed in getting one, "Oh, boy!" what a grand and glorious feeling. If you prefer trout fishing and have a little skill, you can lure them from the ice-cold mountain streams near here. If you are fond of clams, crabs and fish, they are here in abundance. The ducks and deer afford hunting for the man with a gun. The soil is fertile and you can raise all varieties of berries, fruit and vegetables.

Port Umpqua Courier.

UMPQUA FOREST IS RICH IN RESOURCES

(By Walter R. Leve.)

Ninety per cent of the Umpqua National Forest, which has an area of approximately one million acres, is in the watershed of the Umpqua river in eastern Douglas county. The forest has been estimated to contain 23,500,000,000 board feet of timber. Of this, 83 per cent is Douglas fir. The rest consists of hemlock, noble fir, sugar pine, red cedar and various less important species.

It is the plan of the forest service to have this timber cut on a sustained annual yield basis. That is: logging operations will be carried on in such a way that the same amount of timber will be available for cutting each year for an unlimited period. This means that provision must be made after logging, in each case, for the establishment of a second growth. Under this system, the forest would produce, at the present time, about 300 million feet annually. This would be enough for about six good sized saw mills. Under intensive forest management the capacity of the forest would be increased to nearly 400 million feet annually.

The forest service is anxious to have the cutting of this timber commence. When railroads are constructed up the North and South Umpqua rivers, the timber will be placed on the market immediately. It is thought that it is simply a question of time till these railroads are built, because there are large bodies of privately owned timber adjacent to the forest which are "economically ripe" at the present time.

The only logging operations of any size on the Umpqua National Forest at present are on the Row river watershed, in the north end of the forest, in Lane county, where forty million feet a year is being cut. This timber goes out over the Oregon, Pacific and

Eastern Railroad to Cottage Grove.

One of the important industries on the Umpqua Forest is grazing. Stock graze on the mountain ranges during the summer and are kept on ranches, usually outside of the forest and at lower elevations, during the winter. Some of the sheep are brought in from Eastern Oregon. During the past season, permits were issued for 1720 head of cattle, seven horses and 5500 sheep.

Another use of the forest, which is developing rapidly, more so than the limited appropriations which the government has for the purpose can take care of—is recreation. The Umpqua region has long been known as a wonderful fishing and hunting country. The construction of roads and the increased use of the automobile is leading more and more people every year to spend their vacations in the forests. During 1923 over 11,000 people spent an average of three days each for recreation purposes within the Umpqua National Forest. Diamond lake, which has been opened to automobile travel within the last few years, received more attention than any other place. There is a natural camping ground three miles long along the east shore of this lake. However, the Tiller country and the North Umpqua also received their share of visitors.

For the protection and administration of this forest a year-long force of ten people is maintained. During the summer months this number is increased to about 85, which includes men employed on road and trail construction as well as the administrative and protective organization. A very complete system of fire protection is maintained. Trails and telephone lines radiate to all parts of the forest. Seventeen lookout points are established on high peaks from which extensive views of the surrounding country may be obtained, during the dry season men are constantly on watch from these points for any fires that may spring up.

Tools and equipment, food supplies, pack horses, etc., are kept in readiness at various points for the use of fire fighters. Men known as smoke chasers are within reach of the telephone so that they may proceed to a fire immediately on its discovery.

The construction of new roads and trails is being carried on from year to year. One of the most interesting parts of this program is the construction of a road up the North Umpqua to Diamond Lake. This will connect with existing roads which lead into Eastern Oregon. Work was begun on both ends of this road last summer, the work on the lower end being in co-operation with Douglas county.

Twenty-five per cent of the income from the national forests is returned to the counties in which the forests are located for the benefit of the county road and school funds. In addition, ten per cent is turned back to the forest service for the construction of roads and trails within the forests. This is in addition to the regular appropriations which congress makes for roads and trails in the forests.

New Year Surprises

By Mary Graham Bonner

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AN OLD-TIME custom on the first day of the New Year was for a group of people to prepare surprise baskets filled with fruit and nuts and candies and a jar of jam or a pudding, and fixing the baskets gayly with ribbon, take them around to less fortunate ones.

Many and many were the small towns where the people followed this custom, and as the basket was presented, a happy New Year was wished to the recipient.

It would be well for many of the old customs to be preserved!

DOUGLAS COUNTY FLOCKS.

(Continued from page 22.)

This is due to the big city population and their demands.

The wool association has done quite well. It has helped members and those who are not members, by creating a ruthless competition. Association prices on mohair have been much higher than private buyers on the average.

Under more intensive methods, no

doubt two or three times as many sheep could be raised here as now run our pastures. It seems that the sheep is an industry especially fitted to our lands. No other animal improves soil any more than sheep. In the British Isles one sheep is carried for nearly every acre. In the United States we have about 60 million sheep; in the Isles of Great Britain are about 35 million. On the same basis Douglas county could carry a half million sheep.

Cross Breeding

The pure stock faddist advises the sheep owner to breed one kind of sheep only. He advises against crossing. But different from some other kinds of livestock, cross breeding is a recognized standard in handling sheep. It is not done much in England, but in the United States, Australia, and South America, the largest flocks practice various methods of this nature.

For Douglas county most of the practical sheep men seem to think that the best cross is a Merino ewe and a blackface ram. This gives a sheep, which has a fine fleece and is yet capable of bearing a good mutton lamb.

In buying rams some authorities seem to believe that show stock is often a poor investment. Show standards should be kept in mind, but the animal is better for not having been pampered and over fed. Very frequently animals fed up and trained for exhibition purposes are said to be poor breeders. All authorities advise purchasing pure bred rams, but to select them for type rather than blood.

New Year Greeting

THANKING THE PUBLIC OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

For their liberal patronage during 1923, and trusting we may merit your confidence in the New Year, we wish for everybody prosperity and a

Happy New Year

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ONCE more we pass another milestone in the history of the world! Once more another year of progress in civilization! And once more we stand on the threshold of another year!

What 1924 will bring forth, none of us can foretell. Such vision is not within our province. But every indication points to the fact that the work of reconstruction will proceed—go onward with a determination, known only to America.

We face the next 365 days with an optimism that is certain to bring us to the coveted goal—an optimism that will eventually make America a better and happier nation.

Let us remember that our goal can only be reached through co-operation, a unity of purpose and a feeling of brotherly love.

To you—our friends—we extend the greetings of the season!

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