

C. C. Cate Says "Tell Me Your Troubles"

Editor's Note:—C. C. Cate was formerly a Union county agricultural agent.

BY C. C. CATE.

(County Agent and Pathologist.)
Medford, Ore., Feb. 14.—The duties of the county agricultural agent and pathologist for the past year have embraced many phases of work along the line of agriculture and horticulture. While the primary object of the office in this county is to work in cooperation with farmers and fruit growers in the matter of controlling and combating the various diseases and insects that effect our agricultural and horticultural industries, yet other phases of agriculture have received considerable attention, as for instance, crop rotation, better seed selection, drainage, irrigation and fertilization.

Building Up County's Resources.
Our policy is to encourage the development of any agricultural project that will assist in building up or maintaining the county's resources. There are many crops that may be grown and marketed on a profitable basis in our county besides grain and fruit. The farmers need more assistance along the line of suitable diversified crops which will net them greater return on their investments. We should diminish our importations on many commodities and increase our exportations.

Special efforts are being made to organize the farmers of the county in order that more efficient work can be accomplished by holding regular meetings for the discussion of every day agricultural problems. Organization, especially along the line of cooperation, is what the farmers and fruit growers is in greatest need of.

Loan Associations as Farmers' Clubs.
Many farm loan associations are already organized and in time they will be reorganized so as to serve as farmers' clubs for holding meetings for the discussion of agricultural problems.

Within the last year apple and pear scab has invaded the valley and has caused large losses to many orchardists. The orchardists were not familiar with its habits and rapidity of dissemination, and consequently did not realize the necessity for immediate control measures, with the result that many crops were seriously damaged. Last spring and summer much time was allotted to the control of scab, and where instructions were followed in spraying, the amount of scabby fruit was small. Some experimental spraying was conducted in order to determine the best spray materials for controlling scab. The lime and sulphur gave the most uniform and reliable results. However, it was found that later in the season, when there is danger of burning the fruit and foliage by the use of lime and sulphur, self-boiled lime and sulphur can be substituted with equally good results.

Old Enemy Still With Us.
The control of the codling moth was also given considerable attention. This pest is familiar to all, since it is one of our oldest and most destructive pests of the apple and pear. To insure its control, it is necessary to spray thoroughly and at the proper time. Unfavorable weather at the time of spraying is the cause of many larvae entering the fruit. Considered generally, the amount of fruit culled due to codling moth injury was small.

Our old enemy, fire blight, is still with us, and will continue to be more or less of a nuisance, but indications are that it is on the decrease. The southern part of the valley was quite free from blight this last season, whereas in 1913 there was a very serious outbreak. This fact is attributed to the efficient root-inspection practiced since that time.

Sulphur for Root Blight.
A few districts in the northern part of the valley were harder hit, and this can be attributed to the lack of root inspection. The fruit inspectors have been hard at work this fall, locating and aiding the orchardists in his blight

work, and every effort will be put forth this winter to get a thorough cleanup. One phase of our work which is going to aid materially in the blight control is the absolute determination of the insects which act as carriers of blight. By knowing these insects, together with their life histories, we can proceed along more intelligent lines by waging war on them. From experiments conducted in the Klamath orchard for the past two years it was found that sulphur applied about the roots of the trees acts as a repellent to insects, and by its use root blight will be a lesser problem. In general our method of controlling insect pests and plant diseases compares favorably to that of other districts.

A Few Facts and Figures.
During the past year 18 public meetings were held with a total attendance of 855. Seventy-one thermometers were tested. One hundred and twenty moisture tests were made. Fourteen orchardists were assisted in getting legume inoculation cultures at reasonable prices. In the fruit ripening tests a total of 337 tests were made. From this work some valuable results were obtained which can be taken advantage of the coming year. No less than 1900 people called at the office for information on various matters of which number 1654 were actually engaged in some line of agriculture. During the frost season there was a total of 1332 phone calls, the largest number for one night was 149. The total other phone calls in were 1411, and 1280 out. A total of 544 letters were mailed and 572 received and 840 bulletins and circulars were distributed.

"Tell Us Your Troubles."
To be of the greatest service to all agricultural interests it is of utmost importance that we have cooperation at all times. If you have found either through observation or experimentation, something new that may be of value, tell it to us so that we can pass it on for the general good of others. Tell us your troubles, if we cannot assist you directly, perhaps we can get in touch with experts on just that subject. We do not pretend to know everything; however, we are in a position to obtain information from the department of agriculture, state experiment station, the agricultural colleges and practical men engaged in the various agricultural pursuits. Suggestions as to how this office can be greater service are always welcome. Fair criticisms are also invited.

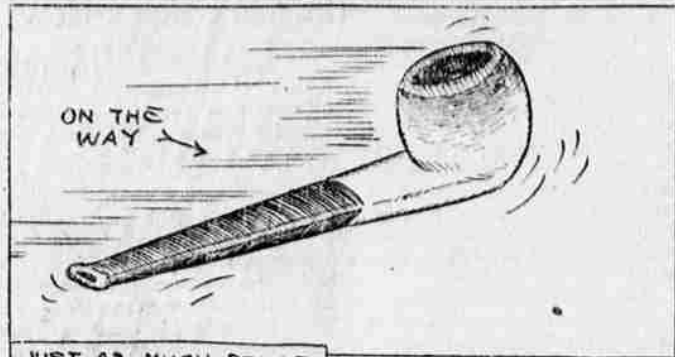
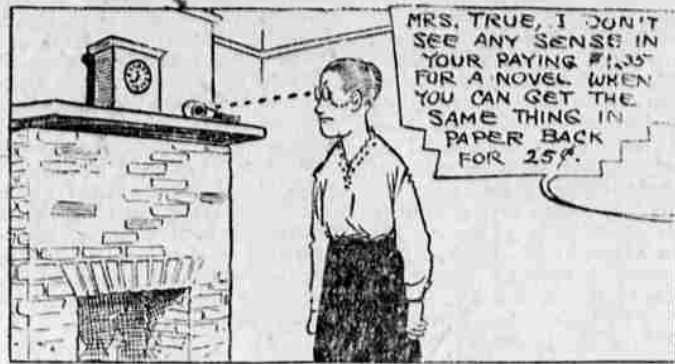
Are You Aware?

That Julius Roesch has a sense of humor that is as dry as it is delightful? It is so dry, in fact, that it requires a little moisture occasionally to keep it from getting dusty. "Yes," says Julius. "You see, I was born on a dry farm, and it was so dry on that dry, dry farm that my mother had to raise me on a bottle. There were bullfrogs on that dry farm all the way from fifty to one hundred years old that never had a bath in their lives."

That "Ole" Bill Allison stole a crowbar from Jim Garrity's blacksmith shop last week and broke into the Mammoth Grocery again? "I tried my best to keep Bill out of that store," says Ralph Fowler, "but it was simply no use. The only way to get rid of that man is to kill him, and Bill is such a darn good fellow that I hate to do it."

Speaking of Jim Garrity: Are you aware that Jim is the real, original and identical smith that Longfellow wrote about in his poem, "The Village Smithy"? "I never worked under a spreading chestnut tree, though," says Jim. "Longfellow was full of chestnuts and put that in for literary effect. The way that piece came to be written was this: Henry owed me a bill for shoeing his horse. I presented my bill regularly every month until I got very well acquainted with the poet. He was hard up as poets usually are, and one day when I came

THE OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE.



around with my bill he told me that he was going to write a little poem about me, and hoped to sell it for enough to pay me. The piece came out soon after and it was so good that I never had the heart to dun Henry for the money, and just credited the account in full.

That Gale Sturdevant, the wholesome looking fellow who works in N. K. West's shoe department, is a first-class salesman and a genuine good fellow—"to boot"? He makes you feel that it is a real pleasure to wait on you; one is almost tempted to buy a pair of shoes whether one wants them or not, just for the pleasure of having Gale fit them on. And Gale just can't help being gallant to the ladies; he makes each one of them feel that she is the real Cinderella in disguise. It's a wonder that Gale remained a bachelor as long as he did. He was a

bachelor for quite a while; in fact, until just recently. And since he got married he has been so happy about it that sometimes his happiness goes to his head and he gets mildly delirious. The other day he and his wife (formerly a Miss Wissler of Pendleton) were walking along the street when they met a traveling shoe salesman, and old friend of Gale's. "Ah, Dick," cried Gale, seizing his old friend warmly by the hand, "I want you to meet my lady friend, of whom I have often spoken: Mr. Jones, this is Miss Wissler of Pendleton." And then Gale suddenly remembered that Miss Wissler had been Mrs. Sturdevant for several weeks, and strong man that he is, he collapsed and had to be carried into the corner drug store.

That W. G. Sawyer, of the commission firm of Sawyer & Holmes, is a mighty pleasant man to do business

with, and that he likes to be called Bill. W. G. says he was christened William Goodfellow Sawyer, but his father always called him Bill because he was born on the first of the month. "That's when the bills usually come around, you know." Bill was born in Massachusetts but that is nothing to his discredit, of course, for he couldn't help it, and he got out of there as soon as he was big enough to know better. When Bill left Massachusetts, he stopped off at Hannibal, Mo., to see Mark Twain. "Just wanted to find out if I was a relative of Tom Sawyer." While he was chatting with the famous humorist, a herd of mules was driven through the street in front of the author's house. "Ah," said Twain, "I see some of my relatives are leaving town." Then, after a pause, he added in his inimitable drawl: "I understand they are going out to Massachusetts to teach school."

That Dr. Charles A. Edwards, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, loves a good story, and that he relishes one at his own expense? When Edwards was a student in the University of Denver, it is said that he roomed with Billy McDowell, who has since become a bishop in the Methodist church. Neither of these young worthies were distinguished at that time for what is known in theology as "entire sanctification." Among other

forms of innocent friskiness, the boys had a passion for the indiscriminate collection of signs. Their room at the frat house resembled a sign painter's shop. At one time a certain broker, who missed the familiar three balls from its accustomed mooring above his door, visited the celebrated connoisseurs to find out if they had one like it in their unrivaled collection. The boys saw the irate broker coming and bawled the door. Then, as the broker stormed outside, Edwards mounted a chair, and speaking through the open transom, preached the broker a fine sermon from the text—"A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, but I say unto you that no sign shall be given unto it, except the sign of the Prophet Jonah."

The population of a Swiss village was called on to express a preference for arc or incandescent lamps, and the decision was in favor of the incandescent.

An aluminum alloy has been invented by an Australian that is said to be as hard as steel, to be non-corrosive and which can be brazed and soldered.

St. Louis is said to receive more raw furs direct from trappers and traders than does any other fur market in the world.

CIGARET TAKES PLACE OF FAN IN NEW PORTRAITS OF SOCIETY WOMEN!

Society no longer whiffs its gold monogrammed cigaret in private. Not since the famous portrait painter, Oskar Gross, began painting society women holding cigars instead of fans.



—you may remember her as Virginia Idsterman, the concert singer—is the first of several well-known women to use the little "cig" as an artistic incident in a portrait, shown here.

As to whether I smoke, who cares," says Mrs. Baxter. "The picture is Oriental in atmosphere and pose."

Job Printing quickly and neatly done at The Observer.



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Auction Sale

Will sell to highest bidder, Thursday, March 1st, 1917, at our warehouse, La Grande, Oregon, one lot household goods and piano, stored by Gertrude Thompson, for storage charges.

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