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## IMPROVED CRATE IS URGENT NEED

Manufacturers Should Make a More Rigid Inspection of Materials Put Into Boxes.

## NAILING IS BIGGEST FACTOR

Consideration Should Be Given to Methods of Construction Which Will Lessen Possibility of Loss in Shipping.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

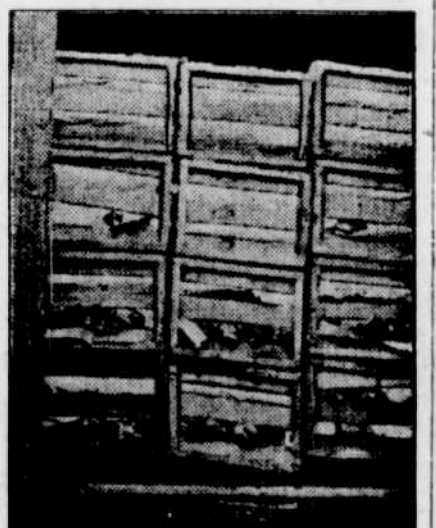
Important factors affecting the successful use of crates in marketing fruits and vegetables were carefully studied by a specialist of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture, during a recent trip. The first of these is the need of manufacturers making a more rigid inspection of materials used.

While most manufacturers make an effort to have their stock inspected and to use only good material, in some cases this attempt is frustrated by the failure of the workman to understand and appreciate the ideal which is guiding his employer. Many crate-makers employees seem to cherish the old idea that because the crate is a gift package it should be made as cheaply as possible, using any sort of material so long as there is a chance of its holding together, thus reducing the cost to the grower and shipper.

**The Grower's Responsibility.**  
The crate manufacturer having done his part in providing materials free from defects, the grower or shipper should see to it that the crate is not spoiled in being made up in his packing house or field.

Growers and shippers should remember that the nailing together of the crate is one of the biggest factors in determining whether the container is to be strong and substantial or weak and productive of damage claims. Cement-coated nails, not less than four-penny in size, should always be used, and care should be taken to see that they are properly spaced and placed.

Greater care is perhaps necessary in making up crates for express shipments than for car-lot freight shipments, due to the more frequent handling they must undergo. For either method of shipping consideration should be given to methods of construction which will lessen the pos-



Showing Results of Poorly Crated Lettuce.

sibility of loss. An instance of this is the use of the "web" or cleated side for celery crates. The slats are stapled to the cleats in the factory, making but one piece to each side to handle in the field instead of three. It also insures even spacing of the slats and gives an extra thickness for holding the nails, thus counteracting any tendency of the slats to split and come away from the nails.

Some celery growers are experimenting with a patent crate which is re-enforced with wire around the ends and the body of the crate. In actual use the end wires were twisted together to close the package. It being found impracticable, owing to the height of the celery, to twist the center wires together. There is no doubt of the strength of this type of crate.

**Need of Co-operation.**  
Whatever the type of crate used, it is the duty of the manufacturer to supply good material, accurately cut and properly put together. This much the purchaser of crates should demand and should expect to pay for. Having secured it, he should do his part by seeing that the crates are made up in a workmanlike manner, and, after packing, that they are properly closed and fastened for shipment. By such co-operation manufacturers and growers can feel better assured that the crate will measure up to the ideal of a fruit and vegetable package; that it shall carry the commodity intact from the grower through the wholesale market to the retailer.

## BANTAMS INTEREST CHILDREN

Few of Small Fowls Keep Young People Out of Mischief and Teach Them to Like Poultry.

Bantams are very interesting to children, and even if it does not pay in dollars and cents to keep a small flock of bantams yet many families have found a few of these small fowls useful to interest the children, keep them out of mischief and teach them to like poultry.

## THE PHONE CALL

By ANITA WEBB.

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Supper at Miss Almira's boarding house was in progress.

"Steak, cold ham, potato salad, hash or liver!" sang Millie, first class waitress, all in one breath.

"Steak! I love it! I'll have some," beamed Mrs. Miller, the only inhabitant of the Palace House who could stomach the well-browned leather the mistress of that establishment served as steak.

"What'll youse two have?" demanded Millie of the "Hallroom boys," Tom and Dave.

"What was that first piece you rendered?" asked the latter.

"Cease, fair girl, cease! If you are passing around steak, my friend and I will have two nice, fresh cold storage eggs boiled to a crisp."

"Sasso? Don't be sassy or you'll get nothin'." Millie was a very independent waitress, and being Miss Almira's niece, ventured more remarks during meal hours than President Harding at a meeting of congress.

"Give me some liver and—"

"Awright, Mr. Moore," put in Millie, before he had a chance to finish.

"Hash, please," spoke up Mr. Perrin.

"Our kitchen has been cleaned up today," said Dave.

"How can you tell, you funny fellow?" gushed Mrs. Miller.

"Hash for supper!" gravely returned Dave.

"Oh, my stars!" Mrs. Miller went into a spasm of laughter, consisting of gurgles, sneezes and coughs.

"Evening," remarked Mr. Richards, as he took his place at the table.

"Why the gloom, Dave?"

"Them's harsh words! I was just thinking of the eggs I must feast upon tonight, and trying to imagine I liked 'em when along you come, suggesting gloom!"

"Ha, ha!" roared Mr. Perrin. "When you boys have been here seven years like me, you'll stand anything, and like anything."

"Seven months is plenty; we couldn't stand it another seven," said Tom.

"Good evening," Miss Allen slipped into her place opposite Mr. Richards.

"Good evening," spoke he, timidly.

"Good evening," spoke she, slowly.

"Hum!" muttered Tom.

"Quite so!" whispered Dave. In his ear. "Methinks some dire disaster has fallen. Richie and Allie used to be good friends—church, Sundays; movies, Wednesday and Saturday, and now they hardly speak."

Supper at Miss Almira's boarding house was over, for which the suffering boarders were duly thankful. The entire assembly gathered on the porch to talk over the day's events. Miss Allen found a little rocker in one corner, and seating herself, gazed up at the evening sky.

"Fran—Miss Allen."

"Mr. Richards?" in cold tones.

"Miss Allen, why have you avoided me so, of late?"

"I had my reasons, Mr. Richards."

"You used to call me Edgar," he reminded.

"That was before you were engaged to Julia."

"To er—what, who?" he demanded.

"I believe you heard me," came in 10 below zero tones.

"But I suppose it was understood that we, you and I—"

"I supposed so, too. You practically asked me to marry you, and I practically agreed."

"Then what is the matter?"

"I distinctly heard you say over the phone: 'Congratulations, Bill; I'm to be married next week.' 'Who to?' asked Bill, 'Julia,' you said. My name is Frances," finished Miss Allen.

"There must be a mistake somewhere," insisted Mr. Richards.

"Impossible. I heard you myself. You are the only Edgar here."

"How did you hear me?"

"I—well, I got the call, so couldn't help hearing," stammered Miss Allen.

She was a telephone operator, and, strangely enough, her switchboard was on the Palace House line.

"Frances, wait!" Mr. Richards dashed off.

Mr. Moore, just about to descend the steps on his way to his club, felt a heavy hand upon his collar and found himself being rudely dragged back up the steps.

"Wait!" he yelled. Then found himself standing in front of Miss Allen.

"I have it, Frances. You didn't know, but Mr. Moore's name is Edgar, too, and he is engaged to Julia Mason. It was he you heard over the wire. Tell her it's so, old man," Mr. Richards hurriedly explained, while Mr. Moore stood glaring and rubbing the back of his neck.

"Yes, that's right," he admitted, "and Julie is the best little woman you ever saw."

"Can you forgive me, Edgar?" humbly asked Miss Allen.

"If you'll cook my meals for the rest of our lives, yes!" was the answer.

Of course, the "hall room boys" were right around the corner of the porch, listening to it all.

"No more hash, stewed prunes or canned corn for him—lucky dog!" muttered Dave.

"Let us get married, then, and have no more of it," suggested Tom.

"Huh? Say, stewed prunes, canned corn and hash aren't that bad!" quickly retorted Dave.

## GREEK SOVEREIGN LAUDS WORK OF NEAR EAST RELIEF

Cables Thanks for Christian Lives Saved in "Beautiful Work" of Mercy

Athens, Greece.—The wonderful work done by the Near East Relief organization in saving the lives of tens of thousands of Christians throughout Asia Minor and Transcaucasia has received signal recognition in praise bestowed by Queen Sophie of Greece in a cablegram dispatched by the Greek sovereign to Dr. James L. Barton, Chairman, and Charles V. Vickrey, Secretary, of the



Photograph by International. KING AND QUEEN OF GREECE

Near East Relief organization, 1 Madison Ave., New York City. Her message reads:

"Deeply touched your great kindness towards Greek war sufferers in Straits Area and Asia Minor. Thank you all most sincerely. SOPHIE."

At the same time, the Greek queen sent her check to Dr. Barton, Chairman of the Near East Relief Committee, for 1,000 francs as a contribution to what she termed the "beautiful work" of feeding, clothing and housing the more than 110,000 little children who have come under the care of the Near East Relief during the past year.

Besides Queen Sophie, Admiral P. Coundouriotis, of the Royal Hellenic Navy, who was regent of Greece following the death of the late King Alexander, on October 25, last, has also cabled to express the gratitude of the Greek people for the aid furnished the Christian populations of Turkey by the Near East Relief. More than \$120,000.00 was raised among the Greeks of the United States, in two weeks, and sent to the Near East by the Near East Relief, to be used in helping the widows and orphans rendered destitute by the continuation of disturbed conditions in the former Ottoman Empire. The funds of the Near East Relief are gathered by private subscription not only among Americans, but among the Armenians and Greeks in the United States whose countrymen in Turkey and Transcaucasia have been through indescribable suffering.

In an official report to Charles V. Vickrey, General Secretary of the Near East Relief, Miss Glee Hastings, of Spencer, Iowa, describes the pitiable condition of tens of thousands of homeless, starving, half-naked refugees, driven from their homes in the war area, and huddled in stables and out-houses, or on the bare ground, for lack of shelter.

"Most of the refugees are country people with almost nothing except the clothes on their backs, stupefied and dazed by their misfortunes. Bread is given only to women and children at the rate of one-half loaf for a person, each day. The milk is reserved for the babies and sick. The refugees sit around, huddled up against the walls—women with dull, sad faces, little children that are blue and pinched with the cold, and too miserably lifeless to cry. One family of five sleeps at night on a bare stone floor, under one thin, ragged half-cotton blanket. In one room several women are wasting away with tuberculosis; in another are some severe eye cases, including two young blind girls, who have no one in the world to care for them. The overflow from these buildings live in a wooden shed with the walls and floors gaping with holes where the wood has rotted away and in tents improvised from rags and pieces of carpet."

A nation-wide appeal is being made to carry on this work, checks to be sent to Cleveland H. Dodge, Treasurer, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

## U. S. ARMY HEAD ASKS ARMENIAN AID

Washington. — Major General James G. Harbord, recently appointed General Pershing's assistant Chief of Staff, has gone on record in support of the work of the Near East Relief in Armenia. He says, in a letter to the Near East Relief:

"Of all the heart-breaking distress that exists in other countries, I believe that the Near East situation should most appeal to our charitable people. There are many thousands of helpless orphans—children of Christian parents in a Moslem land, who must be helped by our people if they are to survive. The Armenians have preserved their race, their religion and their language under conditions of distress for over a thousand years. They are worthy of a better fate than to perish, and I believe that will be their fate without substantial financial and moral support from the good people of our country."

"J. G. HARBORD, Major General, U. S. Army." General Harbord is one of the trustees of the Near East Relief organization, now making a general appeal for funds to continue its work among the destitute of Bible lands.

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