

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

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W. C. MARSH



Civic Pride.

Maybe Galveston couldn't have helped growing and thriving, but certainly the Galveston spirit had a lot to do with its marvelous development.

It is fourteen years since the great Gulf storm "destroyed" the city and killed

one-fifth of its inhabitants. Since that catastrophe Galveston has nearly tripled its population, and has multiplied its business activity until its foreign trade is now the second largest in the United States. In 1913 it exported more American goods than Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore together—with one-seventh of their population.

If all the people of the second American seaport were dropped down into the first—which is to say, if all the Galvestonians were precipitated into the midst of Manhattan Island—they wouldn't cause even a transitory blockade on Broadway. But if they stayed there, New York would soon find out that something had happened.

That is the spirit that makes cities grow. Some cities will grow in a desert or on a mountain top. Others will starve in the Garden of Eden. It all depends upon who lives in them.

Rambles of a Visitor

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the tracts and planted the trees, and it is he that has nursed them along, until now, at their second year, it would be difficult to find a more uniform orchard, considering the size.

Efficiency! Indeed efficiency of the highest degree has been necessary to the success of the entire undertaking. Efficiency of the men who are supplying the finances; efficiency of the man who is personally in charge of the undertaking; and efficiency of every man, beast and living thing on the place.

A half days' visit to the place leaves one somewhat bewildered. There is so much to see and comprehend. You wonder how it could all be built in two years. A fine green lawn around the house; good size rose bushes just ready to burst into bloom; a climbing

rose considerably higher than a man's head; the house, as modern a five-room bungalow as you will find anywhere, equipped with out-door sleeping porches, stationary shower bath, modern bath room, septic tank, cabinet kitchen including cooling cabinet; a well 175 feet deep from which a one and one-half horse power gasoline engine pumps pure, cool water for domestic purposes; a 315 gallon pressure tank in an outdoor cellar which forces the water into the kitchen and bath room; a modern laundry house; permanent dog kennels; a hot bed which supplied the table with fresh lettuce, green onions and radishes all last winter; modern chicken houses with south sun fronts; a large flock of pure blood White Wyandotte chickens; a flock of bantams kept for the purpose of supplying delicious individual bakes for home use; a well-equipped blacksmith shop; a good barn which was built so that it could

eventually be turned into an apple packing house; one of the finest gardens in which there is an ample supply of strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, dewberries, currants, sour grapes and California grapes, besides thrifty beds of all kinds of vegetables; these are only a few of the details of the big undertaking—sort of side lines, as it were, to the primary idea—that of a modern commercial orchard. And of course they are all essential to the success of the project as a unit.

Two distinct ownerships of land comprise the four hundred acre orchard. Morton Barrows of the law firm of Barrows, Stewart & Ordway, of St. Paul, Minn., owns 240 acres of the orchard, and L. P. Ordway of the firm of Crane & Ordway, plumbing jobbers of St. Paul, owns 160 acres. A peculiar feature is that Mr. Ordway has never seen the place. He purchased the land upon the recommend-

ation of Mr. Barrows and he has never been here to look over his holdings. The Barrows land was purchased from the Oregon & Western Colonization Co. A county road separates the two ownerships. But in reality it is all one big orchard. Trees on both places were planted at the same time and the same scheme of alternating the different varieties has been followed out on both places.

While the primary object has been to build a commercial orchard, yet due regard has been given to changes that future years might bring. And if it should ever become desirable to cut the place up into smaller tracts, it can be done. For the entire four hundred acres was laid off in forty acre tracts, and on each forty there is planted thirty acres of apples and ten acres of Italian prunes. The apples are divided into four varieties as follows: Ten acres to Rome Beauty; eight acres to Winesap; six acres to Jonathans and four acres to White Winter Pearmain. On each forty acre tract this percentage has been carefully observed. On the Barrows tract there is a hill comprising ninety acres. This land is above the irrigation ditch. The reclamation of this part of the place has not yet been totally accomplished. Just this week the work of clearing the sagebrush has been completed. But this work has been left to the last for the reason that on the hill will be planted Italian prune trees, and these bear fruit in four years, while the apple trees require an age of about eight years before they will produce a full crop. In order to irrigate the ninety acre hill tract, it will be necessary to pump water from the ditch to a height of about fifty feet. A modern electric pumping plant for this purpose will be installed. And the whole tract will be planted to prunes for the reason that prune trees require very little water, and can be irrigated cheaper than any other kind of fruit.

Before the prune trees commence to bear a modern four tunnel dryer will be built to take care of the crop. In speaking of the prune crop, Mr.

Mahan expressed surprise that there were not more prunes grown here. Mr. Mahan lived in the Willamette valley before coming here. He spoke of the fine prune crops raised there, and the good prices which they brought to the growers. "But this is a far more favorable country in which to grow prunes," he continued. "The fall season here is nearly always dry, and is ideal for drying prunes. Much more so than in the Willamette valley where the fall season is always rainy and wet."

As we sat on the front porch of the pleasant little home and looked out over the growing orchard, it was almost impossible to believe that only two years before, this was a sagebrush waste. The transformation brought about in two years is almost wonderful. And yet, looking out beyond the rabbit-tight fence there is more sagebrush—more land in its native state and producing three thriving growths—sagebrush, jackrabbits and squirrels. The wonder really comes that such land is allowed to remain idle so long. You wonder why it was not brought under cultivation long ago. Why it has not been made to produce, and yield up untold profits. And that thought brings one back, with a start, to the question of financial profits on the land which is under orchard. In opening up the subject of investment and profits, I asked Mr. Mahan when the orchard would produce its first full crop.

"When the trees are eight years old," he answered.

"And what will the investment be at that time," I asked.

"I don't know what the first cost of the land was," he answered, "but allowing a fair value for it, the total investment will be about \$400 per acre."

"Will there be any profit from the output of the orchard at its eighth year," I asked.

Mr. Mahan smiled. "I expect to clear a profit of about \$40,000 from the eighth year crop," he answered.

A few moments' reflection brought forth more pertinent questions. For there are many things that ordinarily enter into the producing of a fruit crop. Weather conditions, droughts, pests, markets—all these things must be considered when one is in the fruit business. Mr. Mahan took up the questions in their order. "Weather conditions," he stated, "are something which no man can foretell. Possible late frosts and cold spells might come. In this country danger from such is reduced to a minimum, yet they do happen. But there are successful ways to combat even frost. Smudge-pots have proved successful in colder climates where frosts must be reckoned with every year. And I am not worrying about danger from this source.

"Droughts, of course, cannot happen in this country for everything is irrigated. Whenever we want it to rain we just open the head-gate of an irrigation ditch. Pests are always to be taken into consideration, and to this possible danger I have devoted a great

deal of study. These things can all be overcome and are no longer a serious menace to an orchard.

"As to markets," he continued, "we shall do our own marketing and there is little to be feared from 'off' markets."

This explanation of the markets, however, was not satisfactory. The fruit growers of the country have just experienced an "off" market year. Many fruit growers did not receive enough for their product to pay for the wooden boxes in which it was shipped. But he explained away this objection.

"The producer," he said, "must market his own product. He must attend to the actual selling of it. He must not only grow his fruit, but he must pack it, load it on the cars, and take it to market himself. This will solve the market question. You state that last year was an 'off' year, and that fruit growers all over the country lost money. That is true, but it was not necessary. In the Grande valley of Colorado, I own a ten-acre tract upon which there is an apple orchard of six and one-half acres. I have this orchard rented, or rather I have a man in charge of it, and we divide the cost of the place equally and also divide the profits equally. Last season we had four cars of apples on the place that were fancy apples and these were packed according to the standard method and the man in charge of the place took them to market himself. He found a good market in Iowa where he sold direct to the consumer. The other apples on the place were sold in bulk. When all the expenses of the season were paid, and after I had paid out of my share, all of the taxes, I had left just \$885 clear profit. That is the solution for 'off' markets," he finished.

This brought to memory the fact that the product of a large Ontario orchard—the Boyer orchard—was marketed in this manner last season. Mr. Boyer went to Texas and spent the winter profitably and pleasantly in marketing his apples. He sold direct to the retailers something like twelve cars of apples. And when he returned this spring he stated he was well satisfied with the prices he had received.

Mr. Mahan has many ideas on the culture and care of orchards which he has studied out and in each instance has carefully adhered to the practical. He claims it is the sheerest folly to try to grow "field crops between the trees of a bearing orchard. "Take alfalfa for instance," he said. "Alfalfa requires irrigation at times when the trees do not, and to irrigate the alfalfa injures the fruit. The result is that the trees produce over-size, mushy apples that will not keep well, and are deficient in flavor. I find that it is impractical to even mix varieties of apples, for each variety must be irrigated differently to produce the best results."

He says that blight is due to improper irrigation, and is not spread by insects as is the common belief.

W. T. LAMPKIN

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Ontario, Oregon, May 13, 1915

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W. T. Lampkin

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