

COOS BAY TIMES

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FRUIT GROWERS OPPORTUNITY.

That was a timely and interesting article of P. M. Hall-Lewis on the establishment of a fruit cannery in Coos Bay. This cannery is handicapped in handling small fruits because of shipping facilities. The cannery solves the problem easily, wisely and profitably.

Eternal vigilance is the price of prosperity in these days of hustle. No matter how flourishing a commercial organization may be one little nod on the line of battle and there is apt to be a new face in the front rank on the morrow.

Coos county fruit growers should realize this and act accordingly. There should be no lethargy or devil-may-care indifference to the opportunity.

A campaign of education and betterment should be mapped out, and here is not a detail from the planting of the trees to the marketing of the fruit that should not receive attention. Cooperation, organization and the strict maintenance of the highest standards in quality, are the main points which are to be considered, and the action of the fruit growers in this matter means much for the continued growth and permanent prosperity of the fruit industry.

CO-OPERATIVE DAIRIES.

The cooperative dairy, which has been carried to such a great extent in New Zealand, and which now being carried out on a large scale in Canada and has proven successful in Coos county where it is being extended. But cooperation in milk is an idea which originally was either English nor American. It has its origin in the Swiss mountains and Northern Italy, where it has been carried on more or less extensively for several centuries, and here it still is one of the leading industries. In the more recent cooperative dairies of this part of Europe the milk is treated in a depot assessed in common with utensils, cetera, which are common property, and the production, instead of being divided among the members, sold in common and the profits are divided, according to the amount of milk which is turned in the various associate dairies. The advantage being, of course, in the latter market.

The dangerous pitfall, however, is a human habit of sending milk which is inferior in grade to that of other distributors. Hence the milk carefully graded on its receipt and set grades only are mixed together. There is a large amount of capital invested, which amount is in Europe to be gradually swung larger. The public seems to be served with a better milk upon whole and the farmer to obtain more permanent profit.

CONCERNING EGGS.

The department of agriculture estimates that the average production of eggs for the last 10 years has been about one and three-

quarters billion dozen a year. Taking the average price of 1899 as 1.15 cents per dozen, and that of 1910 as 18.3 cents, the increase in the value of the total egg production has been \$125,000,000, or nearly 45 per cent.

"There is money in eggs," has been the cry of men with poultry to sell, of agricultural experiment stations and agricultural journals for more than a quarter of a century. Certainly, it has not always worked out that way. There was money for the farmer who paid little attention to his poultry and invested little in chickens. If the season was propitious and disease and predatory animals failed to appear in the hen house, there was money for the breeders of fancy chickens who were able to convince purchasers that their chickens were great producers. Also, there was money for the patient soul who gained by experience and did not let his discouragement cause him to abandon the ranch. But of the thousands—many of them city folks—who put their all into chicken farming, who brought to the work more enthusiasm than knowledge, the enterprise was more often a dismal failure than not.

The reports of the department of agriculture mean, prosperity for those who are making chicken raising and egg production a specialty rather than merely an increase in pin-money for the housewife whose husband cultivates chickens as a sort of perfunctory by-labor. However, Secretary Wilson gives us no enlightenment in this matter. One can only be an optimist and trust that the subscribers to the poultry periodicals, the buyers of incubators, outfits and special foods, are at last coming into their own, and Fred Buchanan says they are.

THE LOWLY HEN.

You for the hen, the lowly hen; She lays an egg to-day and then To-morrow goes about her biz And where her nest of rubbish is Lays us another. Cluck on cluck, Day after day with endless pluck; Happy if in solitude She may at last hatch out a brood Of fluffy chicks with yellow legs, To become hens and lay more eggs.

She knows no holidays at all Nor Sundays. At the clarion call Of Mr. Rooster, with a lurch, She lunges down from off her perch, And, once upon a footing firm, She goes to hunt the early worm. She takes a worm, a piece of grit, A bug, and makes an egg of it That will pass muster until met In scramble, fry, or omelet.

And does she rest with one egg laid, And lounge around beneath the shade Of some tall tree? Not much! Not she! She scorns the shade of fence and tree, And across shaded bits and sun She keeps the bug world on the run. And scratches with her tollworn feet Barnyard and garden, lane and street, And with her bill doth search and poke The stuff for albumen and yolk.

Egg after egg, day after day, In unobtrusive, cheerful way, And, when her laying life is done, She lounges not in shade or sun But with a rush that rest doth mock She lays her head upon the block, And, the piece de resistance of Some boarding-house feast, shows her love

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