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NICELY GATHERED AND PACKED

Southern Pacific Begins Building of Pre-Increases and Growers Are Propogat-

Few of those who see an orange in heir stocking Christmas morning realize how it got there. Beginning late in Nov. carload after carlead of this fruit is rushed across the continent at passenger train speed, in cars so carefully constructed that the temperature varies hardly two or three degrees in ten days.

There is as much difference between the handling of a carload of oranges and a carload of lumber as there is between a New York-Chicago eighteen-hour train and a branch line local.

Besides buying this year 6,600 of the most expensive refrigerator cars for its California fruit traffic, the Southern Pacific railroad has taken up the problem of cooling the fruit before it is packed in the cars. The company is working on the lines shown to be the most successful by the experiments of the Department of Agriculture, which loaded fruit just as it came from the grower, then after careful selection and brushing, and lastly after it had been pre-cooled before it was put in the cars. All this fruit was sent across the continent in frigerator cars, under careful observation as to temperature along the route and the condition of the fruit on its arrival. It was found that the percooled fruit was far in advance of any

The Southern Pacific has already begun the building of pre-cooling plants, as well as ice-making plants to supply its cars. When pre-cooling comes to be the general rule, it will mean not only the saving of a large amount of fruit that now becomes spoiled, but also that the fruit can remain on the trees longer and be in finer condition when it reaches the consumer. It is expected that pre-coolng will add from 10 to 20 per cent to the value of California's citrus fruit production, which, in the season just closed, brought \$34,000,000, and made the otal fruit crop of the state worth twice as much as her gold production.

Largely as the result of the demands of its fruit shippers, the Southern Pacifie has carried out extensive improvements between Sacramento and Truckee, which increase the efficiency of this part of its lines by at least 50 per cent. Fifty miles of track has been laid in the new Roseville classification yard, the natural distributing point for coastwise transcontinental service that brings California's oranges from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast in the finest possible condition, not only at this time of year, but throughout the twelve months during which the California grower now sends his product to market.

All the year round demand for oranges has increased to such an extent that California growers have found it necessary to prpagate more very early and very late varieties, until now there is hardly a day in the year in which citrus fruit shipments are not made from this state. The bulk of the crop, however, is handled between January 1 stand July 1st. For the fruit season ending last month, the total number of cars of oranges shipped was 23,984, and the increase for all citrus fruits was 2,000 cars for the year.

FULTON SOON HOME

Expected Home to Register as a Candidate For Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24-Senator Fulton states his expected visit home is not on account of Heney's demonstrations or interviews against him, but solely to register himself as a candidate for the Senate. He expects to reach Astoria by January 6, and return here immediately upon registering.

Attorney F. J. Heney had another conference with the President this morning, but persisted in declining to make publie its purport. Later he had a conferenec with District Attorney Baker and Attorney Pugh, of the Interior Department, who wish him to take charge of the prosecution here of the Hyde-Benson cases, which they wish to have tried at the spring term of the District of Cofumbia Federal Court.

Senator Fulton declines to talk for publication concerning Hency's visit. Senator Fulton expects to leave here this week for Oregon, to remain until the close of the Congressional recess. He P. A. PETERSON, Prop. expressed a wish to have the Oregon

delegation unite on a recommendation or a successor to District Attorney firistol before he leaves, but the chances are remote that this will be done. In fact, a deadlock is threatened over the place, as Senator Bourne stands pat for Soluebel, and will probably refuse to join the balance of the delegation on the ecommendation of another candidate.

DISCUSS WAGE AGREEMENT.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24-A conference be ween representatives of the Illinois Coal operators Association and the officials or the United Mine Workers Union will be held in Chicago Jan. 2. The object of Cooling Plant-Demand For Oranges the meeting is to discuss the new wage agreement and working conditions. it is ing Earlier Varieties on Pacific Coast. predicted that the miners union will make a demand for an increase of ter per cent over the present scale of wages

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