

Standard Packing and Grading of Apples Means Better Market Prices

UNIFORM APPLE GRADE LAWS AID IN SOLVING PROBLEM

Sulzer Bill, While Not Mandatory, Serves Valuable Purpose of Awakening Public Sentiment.

STANDARDIZATION BENEFITS

Established Grades Form Recognized Basis for Buying and Selling and Aids Prices.

There is a growing sentiment, both among apple growers and dealers, in favor of standard apple-grading laws. The objects to be attained by such laws are elimination of fraud and deception, prevention of waste, establishing a basis for trading, creation and maintenance of confidence, stabilization of the market and encouragement of better methods of production and handling.

The first definite attempt toward securing the passage of a national apple-grade law was initiated in 1907 by a number of prominent growers, shippers, and dealers who were instrumental, after working on the problem for several years, in getting the Sulzer bill enacted in congress.

APPLE GRADE LAWS

This bill became a law in August, 1912, when it was signed by the president to take effect July 1, 1913. Although this law was not mandatory, it served a valuable purpose in awakening an earnest public sentiment throughout the country favoring the enactment of legislation which would serve to stabilize the barrel-apple industry by eliminating fraudulent and deceptive packing by establishing a uniform basis for buying and selling.

STATE LAWS LAW

The state laws have not been wholly successful in obtaining the desired results, because the requirements in some cases have not been practical and because the extent to which they have been enforced in the different states has varied so greatly that in many instances the grade terms have come to have little value. However, they have done much good. In spite of the objections mentioned, a state law that is practical in its specifications and intelligently enforced will carry with it many advantages.

Specialists in the bureau of markets have conducted investigations in all large producing sections and at packing houses handling the products of approximately 1000 commercial orchards from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts to ascertain the need of a national uniform apple-grade law. Apple dealers, county agricultural agents, and state college horticulturists were also consulted on the question. Ninety per cent of the growers and dealers who were visited were in favor of apple-grading laws, and county agents and college horticulturists were unanimous in their favor.

BENEFITS OF STANDARDIZATION

Without established grades, the specialists say, there is no recognized basis for buying and selling; there is no common language by which the grower, shipper, transportation company, dealer, and consumer may clearly understand each other; and there is no standard quality which values and prices may be fixed. Such a basis cannot be established through individual producers and associations representing hundreds of thousands of farms in widely separated districts, shipping their products to the same markets. Confidence is the foundation of trade, and without grade standardization confidence in the fruit and produce market cannot be established and maintained. For the want of confidence fruits and vegetables are largely sold subject to inspection, or consigned to commission houses to be sold on their merits as revealed when the packages are opened, a misunderstanding or a difference of opinion as to what the grade or quality should be results in many rejections, which necessitates re-sales and consequent delays and

PACKING APPLES IN BARRELS



With the apple season getting into full swing, orchardists to secure best results should thoroughly familiarize themselves with best methods of packing and grading. The Oregon Agricultural college is holding packing schools in the various fruit producing centers of the state.

HIGHER PRICES IN PLACING THE PRODUCT IN THE HANDS OF THE CONSUMER.

STANDARDIZED GRADES

Standardized grades furnish a basis for market quotations and tend to stabilize the price of the commodity. Except as based on recognized standard grades, market quotations cannot be comprehensive and reliable, and the national market news service cannot be developed to its highest efficiency. The value of such market reports depends to a large extent upon the accuracy with which the product may be described through the use of fixed grade terms.

There is an educational value in enforcing standardized grades. By being forced to comply with definite standards the producer will improve his methods in both growing and handling his crop, and he will be compensated for his efforts by increased returns, due to the reduction in waste and marketing expenses.

Central Oregon Will Order Much Sulphur

Send, Sept. 6.—That more than a half million pounds of sulphur will be ordered this fall by the farmers of Central Oregon is indicated now by the number of inquiries being received by the county agricultural agent and other institutions carrying on the campaign to induce farmers to use sulphur as fertilizer on their lands.

Farmers everywhere throughout this section are enthusiastic about the results that have been obtained in using sulphur on alfalfa and clover lands. Where it has been used the crop increase has been from 50 to 100 per cent over the crop last year. The quality of the clover and alfalfa is far superior to that grown on lands upon which sulphur was not used.

FARMERS WARNED TO LOOK OUT FOR DODDER IN THE ALFALFA SEED

Station at O. A. C. Making Tests of Seed for Farmers in Pacific Northwest.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Sept. 6.—Dodder in alfalfa is distinctly a western problem. Miss Agnes Ryder of the federal and O. A. C. seed testing station at Corvallis has learned. For a year and a half before being assigned to this branch station as analyst and tester, Miss Ryder was employed in the main office at Washington and tested many samples of alfalfa for other parts of the country without finding any dodder. Since coming to Oregon she has found dodder seed in many samples.

"It is because the western farmer evidently hasn't taken pains to plant pure seed," she said in explanation. "There is a package of seed sent for germination test and from that point proved admirable. It's about 98 per cent

viable. But I looked it over for purity and found it to contain seeds of the big dodder."

This farmer sent a hurry up order, as he wants to plant his seed immediately. He can't clean it by screening, as even the complete set of screens of a laboratory would not separate the forage and the weed seeds. The farmer was informed of the impurity, and may either go ahead and sow the seed along with the crop seed or else discard it and get pure seed, if he can.

Knowing that the dodder is present the farmer could go over the field as the plants grow and weed out the pest. The branch at O. A. C. serves all the northwestern states, and some alfalfa samples from all of them contain dodder.

Green Cut Bone for Hens Best for Food

Green cut bone can often be purchased from the butcher. This material, when procured fresh, makes an excellent substitute for beef scrap. It should be purchased in small quantities, as it can not be kept fresh for any length of time and when spoiled may cause severe bowel trouble. It is best fed in a trough not often than every other day, allowing about one half ounce per bird. Should severe or continued looseness of the bowels follow the feeding of green cut bone it should be discontinued or the quantity reduced.

DESCHUTES GROWS BIG ALFALFA CROP

Acreage Was Increased This Year And Use of Sulphur Proves To Be Beneficial.

The first crop of alfalfa in Deschutes county is practically all harvested. The weather was very good all during haying and most of the hay has gone into the stack in excellent condition. On some few ranches stacking was somewhat hampered by wind, but the injury to the quality of the hay was very slight. The first crop this year is considerably in excess of last season, due to two causes: First, an increased acreage of about 15 per cent, and secondly, to the use of sulphur.

Those fields which have always produced well and which were sulphured the past winter and spring, made an increased yield of about 35 per cent, while fields which in the past have never cut more than one ton per acre have been increased by the use of sulphur fully 50 per cent. Considering that the average application used was around 50 pounds per acre and that 10 carloads of sulphur were purchased by the farmers the past season, a general idea of about what the increased tonnage will be may be gained.

The second crop is making a good growth in all but a few sections. These places have suffered a considerable setback due to the fact that labor was so high that only, as few men as possible have been employed. The farmers have worked over considerable time and made it impossible to irrigate as soon after cutting as should have been done.

In some instances where sulphur was not applied until late, the effects on the second crop will be much more apparent than the gains made by the first cutting. This condition, coupled with the more favorable weather during the period in which the second growth is making its growth, make the prospects for an exceptionally good crop quite promising.

Conference Farmers' Week at Corvallis

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Sept. 6.—That the people on the farms have the same opportunities for education, worship and recreation and social contact as those in the city is the big object in view, the college will cooperate with the newly organized farm economics committee of the department of agriculture by holding a community life conference farmers' week, at O. A. C., December 29 to January 3. Professor E. T. Reed, college editor, has been appointed chairman of a committee to arrange for this conference, which is expected to attract many persons from the rural districts of Oregon.

Nearly every advertiser on the farm pages issues a catalogue containing valuable information to farmers. Answer these advertisements—always mentioning the farm pages of The Journal.

Poultry Experts to Address Classes at Corvallis Sessions

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Sept. 6.—Judging from the number of inquiries received, the calling and judging school for poultrymen and others interested at the college September 18 will draw a large attendance.

Factors in the control of egg production is the general subject upon which Dr. Rice, eminent poultry expert of Cornell university, will speak. He will talk both afternoon and evening. Poultrymen who desire to have their own flocks judged by specialists are requested to give advance notice to James Dryden, professor of poultry husbandry. A demonstration will be given in the morning, followed by a culling contest which those presiding at the meeting will be given a chance to test their ability in judging trap-nested hens.

FRUIT GROWING FAST BECOMING PRINCIPAL INDUSTRY OF VALLEY

Field Manager of Growers' Association Completes Tour of Rich Districts.

Fruit growing is fast becoming the principal industry in Western Oregon, according to Earl Percy, field manager of the Oregon Growers' Cooperative association, who has just returned from an extensive survey of the various districts in the Willamette and Umpqua valleys. "Certain fruits have proven adaptable to each of the districts," Percy said, "so that it is no longer necessary for the growers to wait several years in experimentation. The Dallas region is devoted exclusively to prunes and the thriving little city of Dallas deserves the title of 'The Prune City' Several thousand acres of prunes are coming into bearing in the hills around Dallas. A general tone of prosperity pervades the whole district. Fifteen prune dryers have been erected this year.

"Estacada, on the other hand, is pushing the berry industry, and over 500 acres of loganberries and raspberries are in bearing there. Some remarkable yields are reported by the growers, as the deep rich soil of the Estacada foothills seems best adapted to berry production. Another exclusive district is located at Scotts Mills, a quiet little town a few miles back of Silverton. A district which is going to be heard of in the next few years is at Shifidian, where hundreds of acres of walnuts and cherries are coming into bearing. While it is true that Salem, Eugene and Roseburg are the principal centers of horticultural development, there are many small districts that are rapidly coming to the front. "Walnuts have proven one of the best crops in Western Oregon, as there are

over 8000 acres coming into bearing," said Percy. "Certain varieties of apples, mainly the Orley, Grimes and Wigan Banana, seem peculiarly adapted to our conditions and the plantings of the future will contain a large proportion of these varieties."

"Fifty per cent of the world's loganberries are produced within sight of the capitol of Salem, and a very rapid expansion of this industry is expected because of the entrance of a number of by-products factories in Salem and other cities of the Willamette valley. These factories will consume thousands of tons of berries."

PRUNES BEST INDUSTRY

"The principal industry, however, is prunes, as there are some 25,000 acres of this crop in the western part of this state. Another horticultural branch deserving comment is that of filberts. Filberts are rapidly coming to the front as a very profitable nut crop to grow, and the red hills of the Willamette valley seem to be the natural home of the cultivated hazelnut.

"You Can't Keep Them in the Ground"

"Indications," said Percy "point to a very rapid expansion of the fruit industry in Western Oregon, which will mean that thousands of people will soon be making a living on the present large

brush lands, the expense of muscle and money is too great to warrant the cost. After the wood from such lands has been cut and sold, the field is then sown with grasses and clovers, which soon take possession of the soil, when it is pastured with sheep, horses and other stock. During the time of pasturing the roots and stumps will decay, and thus the brush lands are made profitable from the beginning at very low cost.

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tracts of general farm land. With the growth of the countryside, the cities will take on renewed activities.

The tools and facilities required for keeping harness in repair are comparatively simple and inexpensive. A considerable portion of the repair work on harness can be performed by the aid of tools required for other purposes, but there are a few special devices that are desirable.

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