

FOES OF BLISTER RUST FOUGHT BY CURRANT GROWERS

Just how amiable or how ruffled the tempers of black currant growers become when the law steps in and demands the wholesale destruction of cherished bushes as a means of saving the white pine forests from the blister rust menace is one of the important subjects under consideration at the third Western white pine blister rust conference now in session at the Chamber of Commerce.

At the meeting, which included the report of state activities, Wednesday afternoon, Senator E. L. Freeman, director of agriculture for the state of Washington, read a number of letters from injured and disgruntled currant growers who did not feel disposed to give up their personal property in view of a remotely impending disaster which had not yet been brought to their attention. Western Washington, unlike the Oregon, is already stricken with the deadly disease which is fast destroying the valuable pine forests in spite of quarantine restrictions and other measures taken to check its progress.

The infection has been discovered so recently that the necessary educational program has not yet gotten the story of the hazard over to everyone. Many currant growers greatly resent the sudden appearance of officials who destroy their plants over their protest and are able to give them no compensation for their loss.

AUTHORITY QUESTIONED

"I don't believe we have a right to destroy currant bushes under existing laws in Western Washington," said Senator French. "We destroy these plants and create a lot of bad feeling and we have no way of paying the owners for their loss. Some of us wonder why we should be benefactors for the whole community just because we have currant bushes on our farms or in our gardens. I will go as far as the law allows, but I can't conscientiously punish my people as I have been doing unless someone will produce funds to repay them."

The fact that the currant bushes carry the infection to the pine trees is not yet impressed upon all communities. People hate to give up their garden products and often the currants are a source of income of considerable importance. Unless laws can be made in each state declaring the black currant a public nuisance, it was stated that the plants ought to be allowed to live subject to the will of their owners.

The weak points of the inspection system of mail shipments in Idaho was commented upon in a report of W. H. Wicks, director of the bureau of plant industry of Idaho, who said that they proposed to ask the legislature for an appropriation of \$10,000 for the continuation of this work. Inspection stations will be located at Fossil, Weiser and Sand Point to prevent the shipment of black currants, gooseberries or the white pine itself into or out of Idaho. So far the rust has not been found in that state, but the menace looms large because of its nearness to Canada, which is the most badly infected district of the Northwest.

TO SEER LEGISLATION

Destruction of the black currant, a campaign to educate all school children as to the danger so that any discovery of the disease may be reported at once, and a wholesale distribution of educational literature are part of the program now in force, but the bureau of plant industry will ask that a law be passed declaring the host plants a nuisance so that their destruction may be compelled under the law. A similar report was read from W. L. Shovell, chief of the division of horticulture of Montana, where the actual disease has not yet been found in the white pine.

C. A. Park, president of the Oregon state board of horticulture, reported that an extensive survey has been made in Eastern Oregon by W. E. Lawrence of Oregon Agricultural college, who reports that so far the territory is free from infection. A force of eight trained scouts with headquarters at the Oregon experiment station were employed from June 15 until September 1 to scour the country from the ocean to Hood River valley, but no trace of the rust was found. Special efforts were made by the scouts to secure voluntary eradication of the black currants in Clatsop county, the greatest danger point in the state, and the result was the destruction of 21 bushes.

BUSHES INSPECTED

G. A. Root of the federal forces in cooperation with the state board of horticulture has been carrying on nursery inspection work and mail shipment investigations. E. A. Barton has conducted an extensive educational campaign with illustrated lectures, literature and posters throughout the state. Through cooperation of J. A. Churchill, state superintendent, the story of the blister rust menace has been told to the school children of the state with the result that 1743 teachers

have responded with special instruction in its behalf.

With the active participation of State Forester F. A. Elliott and officials of the United States forest service, the matter has been widely advertised in Oregon, but to date the infection has not been discovered in the state.

California's problem was discussed by Lee A. Strong, who lamented the lack of proper laws under which the host plants may be destroyed in that state. He stated that because of the possible value of the plants they cannot be proved an immediate menace state would appropriate money for their eradication. In California there were 25 violations of the quarantine laws by means of parcel post shipments and express in 1922. In Southern California, where every doorway has a garden with possible menacing plants, it would be a great task to take a comprehensive census of the outlaws and the problem of their destruction is an overwhelming one to contemplate.

EASTERN STATES PAY

A discussion of the Eastern laws, especially those of New York, where the plants were declared a nuisance, was opened by S. E. Delveiler, forest pathologist in charge of blister rust control, United States department of agriculture. He stated that fair compensation is allowed for the destruction of all plants in the Eastern states, Massachusetts, which did not at first make this provision, eventually paid \$3000 for the 40,000 plants removed by government officials. New Hampshire has a plan of voluntary destruction on the part of owners. Out of 2000 black currant owners only nine demanded payment for their plants.

Reports of forest service work in blister rust control during the past year were given by George H. Cecil for Washington and Oregon, a message was read from Paul G. Redington for California and reports given by representatives of Montana and Idaho.

representatives of Montana and Idaho. The program also included a report of the Western plant quarantine board on law enforcement by Leo A. Strong of California and a report of the Pacific Coast Association of Nursery Men by C. A. Tommason. C. L. Robinson presided during the early part of the session, followed by C. A. Park, chairman.

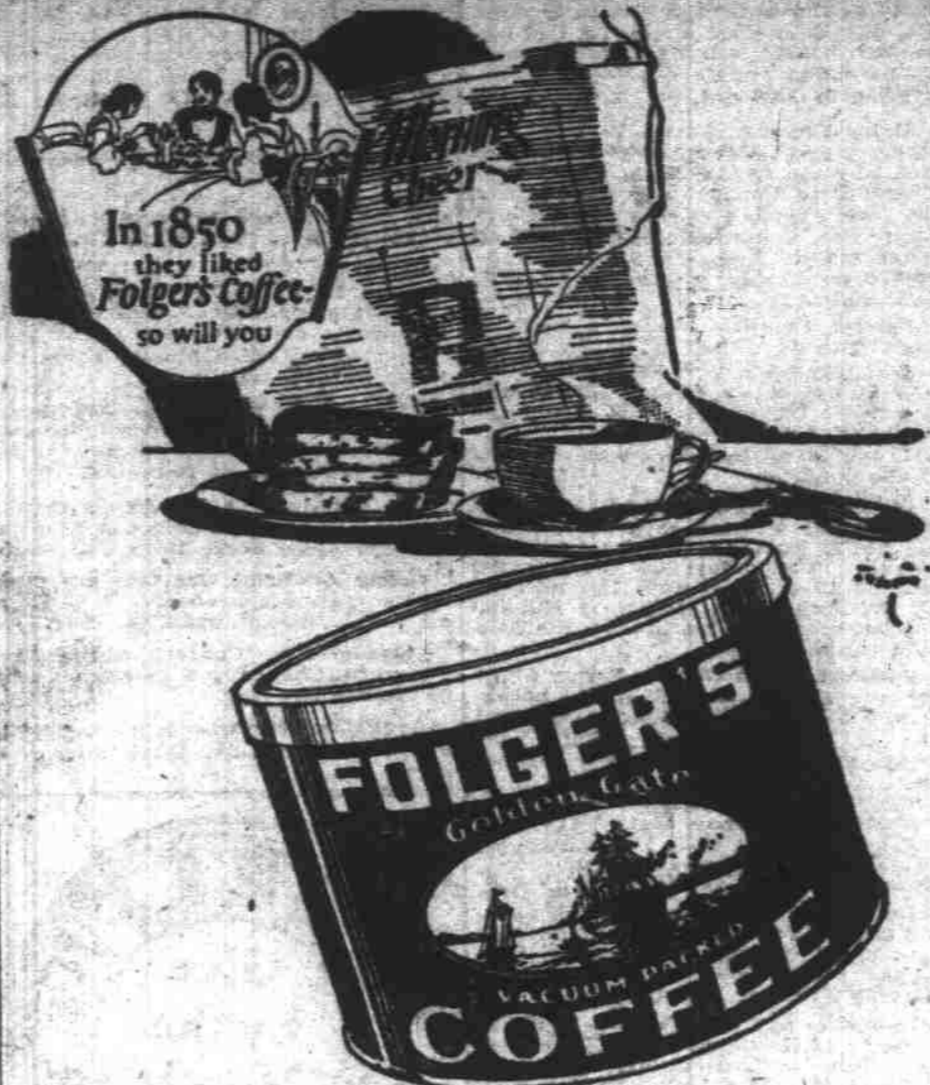
Advertising Held As Staple by Best Business Leaders

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"The businessman has come to know the value of the printed word largely by circulation. Most of us can remember when advertising was used to sell things that would not sell any other way, such as questionable patented medicines. These days there is hardly a business that has not done some successful advertising."

"And the business is growing steadily. New advertising possibilities are being developed every day."

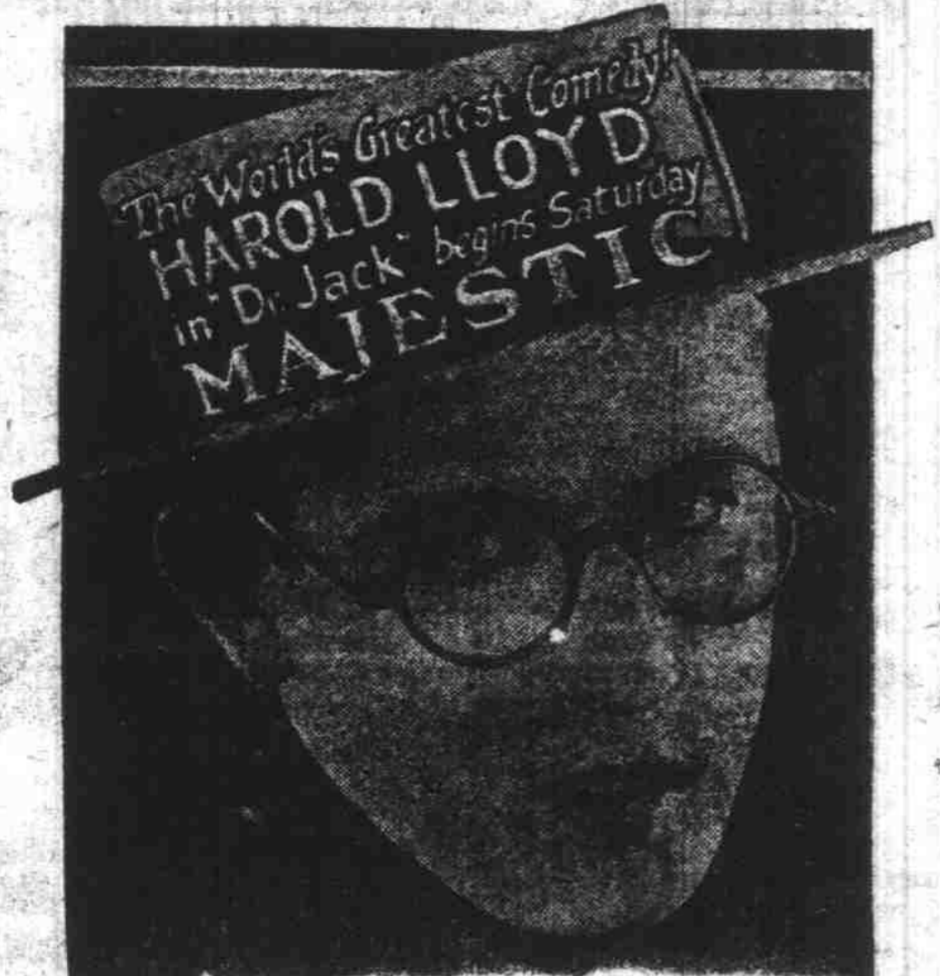
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That Ever Electrified Portland Town!

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\$1.00 and \$1.25	\$1.50 and \$2.00	\$2.25 and \$2.50
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65c	\$1.15	\$1.65
Three for \$1.85	Three for \$3.25	Three for \$4.75

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\$40 \$45 \$50

Lion Clothing Co.
Portland's Best Clothes Shop
Morrison at Fourth

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—John Evelyn.

And so there is in Thomsen's something of the goodness of juicy fruits; of crisp, crunchy nut meats; of mellow milk chocolate. But more than that, their flavor and their purity convey a message of friendship.

A name to associate always with friendship—that's Thomsen's.



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