

The Oregon Statesman

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SALEM IS THE WORLD PRUNE CENTER

Salem is the market center for 40,000 acres of prunes, that will be long be 80,000—

That will mean, in a few years, the market and shipping and banking center of a half billion pounds of dried prunes annually.

Even then, the prune industry of which Salem is the capital will be in its development stage.

At the rate new plantings are being made, it will not be long till the acreage is doubled. In Polk and Yamhill and Douglas counties, the acreage of prune orchards not yet in bearing is practically equal to that in bearing orchards, and in Marion county the new acreage is about a third of the whole; and new plantings are being made all over the Willamette valley, to the extent of the supply of young trees by the nurseries—

And this condition is bound to continue.

Better methods of cultivation, too, will bring up the yield of all or nearly all the prune orchards in this district; and it is high time this matter were accentuated.

The writer would suggest intensive activity on the part of the prune associations and the Oregon Agricultural College along this line.

It will make for better fruit; and the better the fruit the wider the market distribution.

A number of factors are entering into the industry now to give prune culture a better and more solid basis—

As, for instance, the advertising campaign of the MISTLAND brand, by the Oregon Growers' Cooperative association, and the taking into their trade of the Oregon prune by King's Products company; using it in their dehydration process. There is a great future in dehydrated prunes. This year, 12,000 to 16,000 tons were used; and still not enough could be had to fill this new market channel.

Then many large dryers have recently been built; including probably the largest prune dryer in the world, in West Salem, erected by Bruce Cunningham.

Future years will find the prune growers better prepared than they were this year to take care of their product when they have excessive and unusual rains.

In conclusion, the outlook for the prune industry in the Salem district is bright. It is great now, and it has the impetus that is bound to carry it to greater heights than was dreamed of by the pioneers in the industry.

The writer predicts that there will not again be a prune crop in the Salem district of less than 100,000,000 pounds, and that only a very few years will pass till double that aggregate will be the minimum.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Hail to the prune!

If it is not our fruit king, it is at least the crown prince or one of the grand dukes.

And it is no longer the lowly prune; the boarding house prune. It is the patrician prune, fit for the palace of the plutocrat or the profiteer or the palate of the proletariat.

The MISTLAND brand of prunes will presently be advertised into fame and fortune.

In order to make the prune trees of the Salem district live up to their opportunities, they must be given better cultivation and fertilization—and then the prunes must be properly pruned. The product of the present trees can thus be more than doubled.

and the quality vastly improved, too.

That ought to be the big thing in the prune industry from now on—more prunes to the tree, and better prunes, too.

It is a hard matter to get a crowd to hear a political speech in Salem—even a good speech. Salem people have their minds made up—they are going to vote for Harding; and most of them are going to vote the straight Republican ticket, right down the line. They want a change; a clean slate; a business administration.

The election ballots for Marion county are already being printed. Not many days now till Mr. Wilson will get his vacation notice served on him.

The trouble is too many folks are putting their backs to the farm.

If You Make No Will

The Law declares that your children shall all share equally.

It supposes all have been born equal in mind and body—have been equally educated and equally aided financially: have had equal fortune; their marriages equally happy and successful, and that they have been equally devoted to you, your wife, and your interests.

If You Make a Will

You decide how your property shall be distributed.

You may choose to give more to some of your children, than to others more fortunately situated. You may prefer to give to some real estate, to others personal property, and to others an income only.

See your lawyer and have your will drawn to suit your own ideas of justice.

We offer our services as executor and Trustee.

Capital National Bank

Trust Department
SALEM :: OREGON

(More about wills in this space tomorrow)

BRIEF HISTORY OF PRUNE

(Continued from page 3)

section of the city, and still in good repair. The world's greatest food administrator, who spent a hundred million dollars of the people's money trying to keep Europe from starving without one word of scandal connected with the mighty task, saw and was a humble part of the beginning of the great prune industry in the district surrounding Salem.

Unfortunately not many of those who began in the early days of the prune planting in Oregon stayed long enough to reap the reward toward which they had set their faces.

During the years 1897-98 and 99 prunes began to bear in this section in sufficient quantities, so that the question of marketing began to be a serious one. Prunes were not at that time dried with much efficiency and without much attempt at grading, and no attempt at properly packing; they were sold or consigned according as the growers could find a way to dispose of their products.

The real beginning was made in 1900, when the Willamette Valley Prune association was organized out of a real existing necessity. It began an honest attempt to properly prepare and market Oregon prunes under its own brand as such.

This pioneer prune packing organization in the northwest had passed the darkest days of its career by 1904, and it had consistently from the beginning carried on a limited amount of publicity and had set high standards of quality for the product which it was producing and selling. A complete history of this organization would be an interesting reading for the younger prune growers.

It was no small task to introduce a rather force upon the market a prune which was a distinct competitor of the California French prune, which at that time had just about reached the height of its popularity.

The Oregon prune was not wanted by the wholesale merchants of this country, and there was good, sound reasoning in their objection to placing in their stocks another variety of prune entirely different, entirely unknown, and according to their judgment, of doubtful quality. The result was that at the time when most of our prune orchards had reached the stage of full bearing, there was an overproduction measured by the demand. In fact there was no demand; the demand had to be created.

It would be too long a story to recite the experiences through which the prune growers passed and through which this association had passed at about that period.

It will be sufficient to say that the product sold at less than the cost of production, which forced matters in two ways.

Orchardists also learned that there were certain sections, certain elevations, certain slopes and soils where the fruit produced more regularly and ripened the best quality of prunes for evaporating, while there were other districts which produced the same fruit better for fresh shipments.

All of these experiences are available by the amateur who today wishes to become a prune grower; he can be assured that he will avoid the rocks which have caused wrecks in the past.

Not only had home markets to be cultivated, but it soon became apparent that if any large success was to be obtained we must also secure foreign markets, and there again the pioneer packers of the northwest had a still harder struggle, coming in direct contact and opposition with the French prune and the so-called Turkish prune and carrying the battle very close to the base of their own supplies.

A foothold was gained first in England, and from there it spread until practically all of the European countries, to a greater or less extent, had become acquainted with Oregon prunes, and were using them more or less freely up to the time of the war.

So H. S. Gile, who is still a young man and extremely active in both lines, and many other lines, was a pioneer in both the prune industry and the loganberry industry in this section. He is president of the great Pheasant Company and interested in the Willamette Valley Prune association and engaged extensively in the growth of both fruits.

It is a great industry now, with many large interests concerned, and with the acreage and number of growers increasing very rapidly.

Even so, the prune industry here is only fairly started, compared with the immensity it is bound to assume in future years—for the wide world is the market, as the prune can go to any corner of the world and the finished article produced here is the premier prune of commerce, and it is now generally so recognized.

FUTURE DATES.

October 13, Wednesday—Samuel H. Piles, former United States senator from Washington, speaks at armory.
October 15, Friday—County Y.M.C.A. convention, Salem.
October 16, Saturday—Football, Willamette vs. Chemawa.
October 20, Wednesday—Open Forum meeting of Salem Commercial club.
October 23, Saturday—Football, Salem high school vs. Silverton high school at Salem.
November 2, Tuesday—Election day.
November 3, Saturday—Football, Willamette vs. Pacific University at Forest Grove.
November 11, Thursday—Football, Salem high school vs. McMinnville, at Salem.
November 16, Tuesday—Football, Salem high school vs. Dallas high school, at Salem.
November 18, Thursday—Football, Willamette vs. College of Puget Sound, at Tacoma.
November 20, Saturday—Football, Salem high school vs. Eugene high school, at Eugene.
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November 25, Thursday—Football, Willamette vs. Whitman college, at Salem.
November 25, Thursday—Football, Salem high school vs. The Dalles high school, at The Dalles.
November 25, Thursday—Thanksgiving day.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. FATHER LAINCK

By P. H. D'ARCY

An event of more than ordinary importance occurred at Sublimity, Marion county, on the seventh day of October, that should not pass unnoticed. It was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Rev. Father Lainck, resident of Sublimity, as pastor and religious teacher of the Catholic people of that place and Station.

On that date a number of the prominent clergy of the Catholic archdiocese of Oregon met to pay their tribute of respect to Father Lainck. Some of the notables were Archbishop Christie of Portland, Rt. Rev. Abbot Placidus of Mt. Angel, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Hildebrand of Oregon City, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Lane of Albany, Rev. Fathers Buck and Derochin of Salem, Rev. Father Scherbring of Shaw and Silverton. There were also a number of laymen present to congratulate Father Lainck on the long period of time he had been rector and the success of his labors in the cause of Christianity.

The parishioners of Sublimity and Station joined in making this silver anniversary a notable one in the Catholic annals of Oregon.

The religious services in the morning were elaborate and in accordance with the character of the occasion.

The Catholic women of Sublimity and Station prepared a splendid banquet at which the clergy and invited guests participated.

At the banquet Rt. Rev. Monsignor Hildebrand acted as master of ceremonies. His witty introduction of the speakers was intensely interesting. C. B. Hottinger, on behalf of the people delivered an address in which he recounted the merits of Father Lainck. In accordance with the request of the congregation of Sublimity he presented Father Lainck a beautiful gold watch. On behalf of the congregation of Station he presented to Father Lainck a certificate of \$1000.

Frank Bell, one of the oldest residents of Sublimity, spoke of Father Lainck's long residence in Sublimity, his kindly acts and zeal in education and religious progress.

Rt. Rev. Abbot Placidus in a timely address indicated the kindly feeling he had for Father Lainck and his praiseworthy endeavors in all that tends to build up a parish and the betterment of the people for whom he has acted as a religious teacher.

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Lane in a pleasing manner spoke of his long acquaintance with Father Lainck and what had been accomplished through his friend's efforts.

Archbishop Christie in an eloquent address, replete with beautiful thoughts, referred to the esteem in which he held Father Lainck for the good work he had accomplished while in Marion county. The archbishop's remarks were a touching and loving tribute to Father Lainck.

Father Lainck, in response to the expressions of good will which had been tendered him, spoke of the many years he has been in Marion county and the respect which he had been offered by his congregations and all classes of citizens. His speech was of an ideal character and much appreciated by his friends. It can be truly said of Father Lainck: "Remote from towns he ran his Godly race."

Nor e'er had changed nor wished to change his place; Unpracticed he to fawn or seek for power.

By doctrine fashioned for the varying hour.

It was indeed a gala day in Sublimity on the 7th day of October when priests and laymen met to participate in the silver jubilee of one who had endeared himself by his good works to his parishioners.

Father Lainck's long service as a religious teacher entitles him to the plaudits and sincere appreciation of those who believe in the elevation of the human race and the welfare of the people.

HISTORY AND HABITS

(Continued from page 3)

evaporators used for drying fruit; namely, steam and hot air. The steam driers are used only where a very large output is obtained. It is customary for most of the orchardists to dry their own fruit. Since the orchards on the whole are rather small, an inexpensive building is used for the process, and the hot air type of building is erected. These hot air driers are of two distinct types; namely the tunnel, and the stack. There are many types of tunnel driers. These tunnels consist of groups of long, nearly horizontal pipeways, built over a fire pit. They vary in length from 25 to 50 feet. Each tunnel in itself may be complete, or they may all be connected. The tendency in the past has been to have the tunnels too long. In the newer buildings, however, there are tunnels from 16 to 25 feet in length. The capacity of the drier can be increased more satisfactorily by increasing the number of tunnels rather than by increasing the length of the tunnels. The heat pit is found directly below the tunnels, and as a rule, brick arch furnaces or iron stoves, such as are commonly known as the hop stoves, are employed. In order to distribute the heat more uniformly, it is generally conducted from the furnaces by long pipes from nine to 15 inches in diameter, decreasing the farther they get away from the source of heat.

The stack drier is arranged to contain trays which are placed one over the other, the bottom of the stack being open. A single stack consists of three or four small vertical compartments generally open to each other. The fruit is first placed in the top compartment and after slightly drying is removed and placed in a lower compartment. The stack driers turn out a very good product, but require a maximum amount of labor. The buildings have to be so constructed that

they are very well ventilated and these ventilators should be of an adjustable nature so that they can be opened and closed quickly. Cold air inlets are also provided. These should be in below the vent pipes so as to furnish fresh air rather than to assist in rapidly sucking out the warm air. There is a very close relation between ventilation, air circulation, and the humidity of the atmosphere. Such relationship, unfortunately, has not been well studied by the majority of men operating the evaporators.

The temperature is gradually increased during the drying process, starting in the neighborhood of 125 to 135 degrees and finishing at from 160 to 180 degrees. It takes about 36 hours on the average to dry prunes well, the time depending on the building, ripeness of the fruit, and atmospheric conditions.

The fruit will generally produce about 20 pounds of dried fruit to a bushel of fresh fruit.

Before the prunes are placed over the heat, it is customary to wash and grade the fruit. The more modern buildings now have automatic machinery which does all this labor in one process. The prunes after being sorted, are dipped into boiling lye, generally at the strength of one pound of lye to from 30 to 50 gallons of water. This use of lye is adopted solely for the purpose of checking the skin of the fruit so that the gases can escape more readily and the prune be more easily dried. In the majority of cases, as good results could be secured by boiling not water. There are probably cases, however, where the skin of the fruit is so thick that it is difficult to secure as quick and satisfactory results without the use of lye. As soon as the prunes have been dipped into the lye, they are quickly dipped into clean water. A chemical analysis of the rinsing waters has shown that they are generally acid rather than alkali and it is very doubtful if lye remains on the fruit any length of time, or if it does, it is not sufficient to ever in any way be injurious to the health. As soon as the prunes have been thoroughly dried, they are taken from the driers and stored in large bins and allowed to sweat. They are then ready for the processing. The processing is largely a steaming process. This is generally done in central buildings owned or controlled chiefly by the buyer or packer. The prunes are submitted to the steam for a very short time. This steaming cleans and sterilizes the fruit and adds luster to the product. The processing of the prunes also softens them so that they can be packed more easily.

Formerly some bleaching was done, but very little is now practiced in the Pacific northwest.

As soon as the prunes have been processed, they are taken in the hot, warm condition and then packed in boxes. These boxes range in capacity from 10 to 50 pounds. The bottom of the box is faced. Uniform, well proportioned prunes are flattened with the fingers. This makes a very attractive top for the box when it is reversed. Lace paper and lithographs are used on the better packs.

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MOVE IS ON TO WIN FOR MR. STANFIELD

(Continued from page 1)

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"In the presidential election of 1916 California failed to do its duty in electing upon other states to elect a Republican president, and in its failure brought the present deplorable condition upon the nation and upon the world. Oregon should not now fail in its duty. You must elect to the sen-

ate an honest, upright Republican instead of an honest upright Democrat. It makes no difference how excellent the personal character of the incumbent, his party is wrong, and these are not the days nor the hours to elect Democrats to office."

Speaker is Pitiless

Mr. Piles bolstered his argument by exhorting the administration pitilessly when he turned his remarks to the high cost of living, which he attributed to Democratic waste, extravagance and bargaining with the big interests.

When the administration commandeered the bodies of 4,000,000 American youths to fight the war, why did it not have the power of vision," he asked, "to commandeer the non-perishable products at prices then prevailing and take them out of the hands of the profiteers and the speculators? Afterward the government was compelled to pay two and three times the value of those products. Hundreds of millions of dollars were paid the speculators and the profiteers which should have been saved to the people. That is what caused the high cost of living."

The speaker reviewed the continuous rise in prices after the end of the war and told of the vast quantities of canned goods relative to which the administration contracted with the American Cannery's association not to put on the market in competition with the association's goods.

Policy Unfair to Soldiers

"Was this fair," he demanded, "when the men who fought in the war were coming home by tens of thousands to take up their regular occupations and were compelled to pay tribute to those who had been favored by the administrative power?"

The speaker cited the war department's purchase of 32,000,000 pairs of shoes for less than 4,000,000 men, of 11 saddles for every horse owned by the government and other vast surpluses purchased for war use.

"This policy withdrew leather and other materials from the channels of trade," the speaker said, "and helped on the high cost of living. When the administration saw the profiteers were active why were not these things not thrown upon the market to relieve the situation?"

Sugar Question Touched

The administration came in for a severe rebuke for failing to buy the Cuban sugar crop at a low price and afterward authorizing the American sugar producers to put their crop on the market at a tremendous advance.

Mr. Piles decried the league of nations and supported the court of justice plan.

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RATE CUT NOT IN SIGHT

SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 13. — West coast lumbermen and loggers cannot hope for any reduction in railroad rates from the blanket increase announced August 26, for several months at least, it was declared here today by R. W. Vindegar of North Bend, Wash., president of the West Coast Lumberman's association, returning from a conference of lumbermen and railroad executives held at Chicago last week.

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