

# Salem Is Fast Increasing Its Lead as the Filbert Center of the United States, and the Industry Is Growing and Will Grow, to the Extent of the Supply of Young Trees

## KNIGHT PEARCY GIVES THE POINTS OF FILBERT INDUSTRY

### Filberts Are Frost Proof, Rain Proof, Easily Harvested, the Trees Bear Early and Heavily, and Our District Has Practically No American Competition

Knigh Pearcey, who furnished the following article in The Statesman, is an expert in the filbert industry. He is a member of the firm of Pearcey Bros., who are engaged in the development of fruit orchards and nut groves for themselves and others in this section, their offices being in the Oregon building.

Twenty years ago the first loganberries began to bear in the Willamette valley. Twelve years ago the logan was still comparatively unknown in Oregon. Today it is the second most important fruit crop of the valley and perhaps the third in importance of all the fruits grown in this great fruit growing state.

The loganberry's phenomenal increase in horticulture is not surprising. It is a fruit that is easy to pick up and a few pickers can care for a relatively large acreage. A few days delay in harvesting the crop will not result in heavy loss, as is the case with many of our other orchard crops. No expensive operations such as thinning the fruit, that are so necessary with apples, pears and peaches. Ordinary cultivations such as should be given the prune and cherry are sufficient to cause the filbert to thrive. No special effort to make the nut more popular. We may just as well be raising these millions of pounds of filberts in Oregon as to import them from Sicily and Spain.

No serious disease has yet appeared to threaten this nut. We have some insects and diseases, but none that threaten to become very serious. The worst pests are the squirrels and jay birds and they are not especially difficult to control. Like the prune, the filbert does well on many soil types. Certain of our other trees do very well on certain types of soil, but because of the fact that these soil types generally are found in frosty locations the tree is not heavily planted on them. This is true to a certain extent of the walnut on the sandy loam river bottom soils. It does exceedingly well on these soils, but is too often nipped by frost to warrant heavy planting on such soils except in favored locations. The filbert does not have this frost limitation and seems to prefer the sandy river bottom soils above all others, although it does well on good bench soils or loam soils and even does very nicely on red hill soils, although it does not grow as rapidly or as large as on the latter soils.

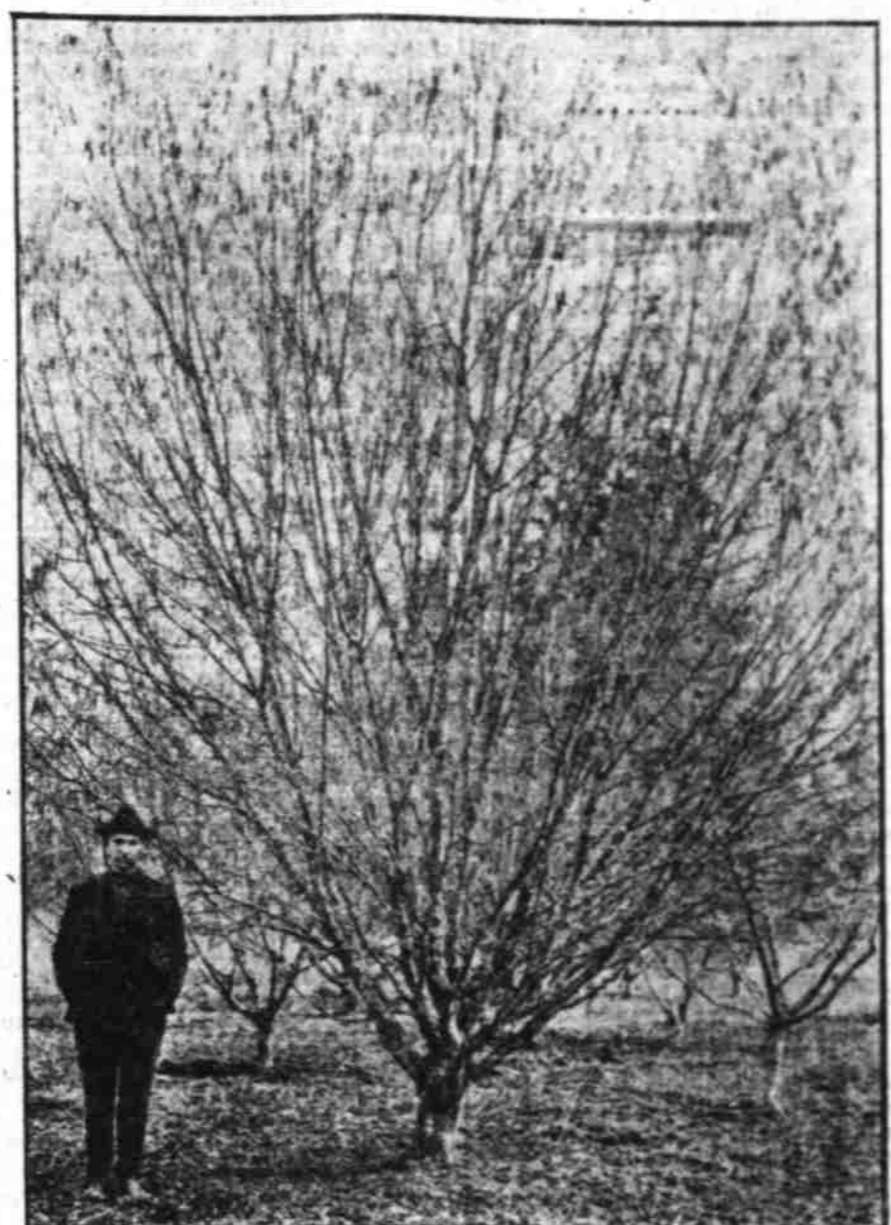
Growers should diversify. Even with erip offering the many advantages of this one, we believe it to be good business to plant at least one other fruit crop along with it. Then in case something unlooked for should happen to one of the varieties the other would still remain to tide the grower over until another season. The filbert enters nicely into certain combinations of crops. In the hills cherries, filberts and walnuts make a nice combination. Their harvests follow one another so that the same help can be used through a long season and they are all profitable crops to grow. In the river bottom locations strawberries, logans or raspberries and filberts make a nice succession of harvests.

Many other combinations of crops whose harvest seasons are such that they do not compete with each other for labor, can be had. Barcelona is our principal variety. It is a heavy producer of nuts that are self husking, and the bulk of the planting will probably be of this variety until some new and better variety makes its appearance. The Barcelona, however, should not be planted in blocks alone, as it is more or less self-sterile. When planted with Duchilly it bears much better crops. White Avellana also seems to act as a pollinizer to Barcelona, but is in itself less valuable than the Duchilly as a commercial nut.

Duchilly is self-sterile. Barcelona will not pollinize it, but Daviana and Clackamas will cause it to bear. Hence in our commercial plantings we plant large areas with enough Duchilly to pollinize the former and with enough Clackamas or Daviana to pollinize the Duchilly.

We have had year old trees to bear nuts, but when they do this it is at the expense of tree growth. Nuts begin to appear about the third year generally, although it is usually the fifth year before a commercial crop can be expected and this when a grove has been given every attention. From this time on, however, the increase in yield is rapid. We have records of five year old trees that bore 18 pounds of nuts and of 13-year-old trees bearing 65 and 70 pounds. These trees are planted 50 to 100 per acre and prices realized last year were 30 to 35 cents per pound to the grower, so the reader can figure the possibilities in dollars and cents for himself. However one cannot figure yields per acre from the yields of exceptional trees. We know of one grower who harvested 30 pounds per tree from 50 trees on a half acre of orchard. This is at the rate of 3000 pounds per acre and is one that we can easily expect from 12-year-old trees.

Viewed from all points, the filbert offers many attractions to the growers of this section. It is frost proof, rain proof, easily harvested, bears early and heavily, has little competition from



A Filbert Tree in the Salem District

other American sections and has no serious insects and diseases to threaten it. Our own faith in it is such that we are planting a holding for ourselves this winter, and the extent of our planting is limited only by the size of our bank account.

For the most satisfactory evidence one can find as to whether or not our climate or soil is ideal for the growing of certain varieties of nuts, fruit, berries, vegetables, etc., that have never been tried, and of the time and improved kinds, first investigate and see if the wild or crude and unimproved varieties of that species of thing you wish to grow is found in a natural state growing somewhere in the locality you wish to make your plantings in, and that will very nearly determine your future success or failure in that line. For example, we can do raise fine apples, cherries, gooseberries, currants, strawberries, carrots, pumpkins, blackberries, filberts and other things too numerous to mention, and we find all these things growing here in the Willamette valley in their wild, natural, crude species and forms. Hence, the cause of my enthusiasm on the filbert question, weighing much more now than it ever did in my writing on the subject a year ago. Let all enthusiasts on the filbert stand by The Statesman in doing what it can to make this a better country to live in, in various ways. Wishing you all every blessing, joy and prosperity. I am as ever yours fraternally.

—REUBEN R. GRAVES, Salem, Ore., Rt. 3, Box 109, Oct. 30, 1920.

## EVEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC THAN HE WAS LAST YEAR

### Mr. Graves Has Gained in His Favor of the Filbert Industry as a Stable One for This Section Since He Wrote in 1919

Editor Statesman: I want to thank the management of The Statesman, and all the others interested in its making of good and useful things for each and every one in our city and country at large, for the courtesy they have bestowed upon me, by giving me an opportunity to tell The Statesman readers why I am more enthusiastic than ever before (since our cold spell last December), in the culture of filberts and their encouraging possibility in the near future here in the north-west after learning from close observation of my own filbert trees of many varieties, as well as a few of other people's trees of different varieties. Where throughout the whole Willamette valley there were many fruit trees of various species as well as a great many young chestnut trees and English (or Madeira) walnut trees completely killed to the snow line last December; during the coldest weather we have ever witnessed in this section of Oregon, I have failed as yet to find a single filbert tree, or even a native wild hazel bush that died from the effects of the severe cold weather last winter, and have noticed but one variety where its catkins (or male blossoms) were damaged, and that variety is the Daviana, which produced a few fertile nuts this season by its pistils (or female blossoms), becoming pollinized (or fertilized) by the catkins of other varieties near them. As the Daviana pistils were not out enough to be damaged at the time, the cold weather killed some of the Daviana catkins, although the filbert blooms from about the middle of January to the last of February (according to variety and season.) The filbert after starting to bear at the age of three

to five years seems to be very loyal to its master by never failing to produce annually. They seem to bear every year, regardless of general climatic conditions and the kind of weather, we happen to have at the time they usually bloom, which is during our winter months, and although there are but few fruits and nuts such as apricots, peaches and almonds, etc., that bloom during late winter, they are often killed in the blossom by either frost, or rain destroying the pollen, where the filbert seems to be, as far as known at present, ironclad, and king of all other fruits or nuts in both tree and blossom, here in our part of the great northwest.

And as we all know, the rain often cracks and ruins lots of cherries, prunes, etc., here in the Willamette valley, as it did this year; but the rain never cracks the filbert—you have to do that yourself with a knife or hammer, or leave them for the squirrels to crack and eat, of which little creatures we have many, although they are becoming less each year in number, and we seem to envy them in some ways. They are brighter than many people in the matter of selecting something

Editor Statesman: I doubt very much if I can add anything new, true and original to the splendid collection of filbert facts and observations which you published in The Statesman of November 6, 1919.

The past year was a severe one on the nut growers of the north-west. While the filbert suffered much less than the walnut, yet, our first impression that it had come through the severe cold of last December unharmed, was not correct. Besides the loss of this year's crop on all law grounds, many filbert groves of Marion county show a good deal of dead wood which continued to develop throughout the summer and can be assigned to no other cause than the severe cold of last winter. However, this injury is not severe, in no case involving the life of the tree, and as we have little fear of a similar season for many years to come, we are not discouraged, and shall continue to plant filberts. In fact there is now a more widespread and intelligent interest in the filbert than I have known at any previous time. There are some popular notions as to the adaptability of the filbert to all soils and situations that ought to be corrected. While the filbert will succeed on a greater variety of

soils and in a greater variety of locations than the walnut, yet it will not succeed in all situations. The filbert thrives best and yields most prolifically on deep, moist, rich bottom land. It will succeed almost as well on deep, fertile soil of the second bottom, and will flourish quite well and bear good crops in the hills where the soil is deep and fertile and moisture abundant. But I have found where been able to find any one who has succeeded in growing the filbert on the top of hills where the soil is shallow and full of gravel or shale. Mr. Reed, of the bureau of nut culture, Washington, D. C., who spent some days with us last February, was very firm in the opinion that the best soils for the filbert are our first and second bottom lands. He also expressed the opinion that we have here in the Willamette valley the finest filbert soils; also the most promising filbert groves to be found anywhere in the United States.

While considering the question of the location of a filbert grove one should not overlook the matter of remoteness or proximity to the habits of the bluejay, the chickadee and the gray digger. Don't plant a filbert grove in a location surrounded by brush and timber unless you want to have

## FILBERTS IN 1920, AS VIEWED BY MR. VAN TRUMP

### The County Fruit Inspector of Marion County Is Very Favorable to the Barcelona and He Strongly Advises Grafting to Profitable Kinds

Editor Statesman: I have very little to report that is new on the filbert question this year.

My trees were not injured by the cold last winter, and they seemed to pollinize very well, especially the Duchilly, which were very full, but the nuts were badly

your nuts harvested free of charge. The filbert is especially to be recommended as a filler in walnut and cherry orchards. It grows and bears well in the shade of other trees, and the English have successfully grown it in hedge rows and beneath fruit and forest trees.

The question of the most prolific and profitable varieties to plant and the best combination of varieties to secure perfect pollination are still unsettled to the satisfaction of all. Most growers in this section have found the Barcelona altogether the most valuable variety, considered as a profitable market nut. It is a vigorous grower, making a large tree; it bears the largest crops of any variety, of large, handsome nuts that hold easily. It is more nearly self-fertile than any other variety. Several years' observations have convinced me that in this location the Barcelona is almost perfectly self-fertile. The past winter nature performed a very convincing experiment at my farm west of Mt. Angel. The temperature there went very low, and the only hazel or filbert catkins that came through alive were those on one Barcelona tree that was beat down on the roof of an out-building and covered with two feet of snow. After the snow melted this tree straightened up and came out in full blossom in February. This was the only filbert or hazel that showed any live catkins within six miles of my place. The result of these catkins was that this Barcelona tree bore a full crop of nuts, bending the branches almost to the ground.

If I were planting a filbert grove of 10 or 20 acres this spring I would not experiment with many varieties. I would plant at least 90 per cent Barcelona. I would stick in 5 per cent Duchilly and 5 per cent Daviana, just to humor the theorist, but I would expect to get my money from the Barcelona.

I feel that I can not do a better or more essential service to the cause of filbert culture in this section than to call the growers' attention once more to the importance of grafting worthless varieties over to varieties that will produce nuts and pay profits. Forty per cent of the filbert trees now growing in this county are not paying taxes on the land they encumber. Cut them off and graft to Barcelona.

—E. H. VAN TRUMP, Marion County Fruit Inspector, Salem, Ore., Nov. 2, 1920.

## SENATOR M'NARY IS STILL AN ARDENT FILBERT FANCIER

### This Pioneer Among the Filbert Growers and Boosters of the Salem Section Predicts a Great Future for This Crop

United States Senator Charles L. McNary, whose home is in Salem, and who did more than any other man to get the now flourishing filbert industry started in this district, was very busy with the closing hours of the campaign work when a reporter of The Statesman found him. But he submitted to an interview, nevertheless, in which he said: "Several years ago I wrote a number of articles on the subject of filbert culture which were published in The Daily Oregon Statesman. In those articles I expressed great confidence in the future of this horticultural industry.

"My enthusiasm for filbert growing has not diminished during these years. The results of many orchardists have confirmed my prophecy that the filbert crop would prove a profitable one and the harvest would not be attended

ed by many of the difficulties accompanying other lines of farm industry.

"Last year was a severe year on fruit. The unprecedented cold spell in December killed a considerable acreage in western Oregon, but of all the varieties of fruit producing trees, I think none withstood the shock of the freeze as well as the filberts. My associate, Colonel Stolz, and I experienced a great loss on our farm north of Salem, and while walnut trees, pear trees yielded first to the injury, other varieties, such as cherries and prunes, did not withstand the cold as well as did the filberts.

"From the past performance of this excellent nut, I believe it will be planted to increasingly large acreage within the next few years, and eventually will become one of the largest and most reliable and profitable crops in the adaptable portions of Oregon."

Editor Statesman: Your favor of 28th inst. at hand advising me next Thursday's Statesman number of The Statesman will be devoted to the Filbert Industry. Glad you are giving Filbert culture attention, as I deem it one of the most promising industries available.

—N. E. BRITT, Newberg, Ore., Nov. 1, 1920.

## FROM MR. BRITT, AN 80 YEAR OLD FILBERT GROWER

### He Wrote to The Statesman Last Year, and Replies This Year to a Letter Asking Him to Report Progress

Editor Statesman: I have said something in regard to filberts before. If so, I have forgotten it, which is not to be wondered at, as I am nearly 80 years old and with memory not as retentive as once. Whatever I have said in regard to the attractiveness of filbert culture has been more than made good by experience of the past year. As there is increased interest in filbert culture and requests for trees for planting much greater than ever before, I am sure filbert culture is receiving more attention than ever before. My own experience the last season emphasizes whatever I have before said as to filbert culture. The fact that filbert growers need have no fear from frosts in spring or rains in fall is a large factor in favor of filbert culture, and the serious damages from rains this season to the prune crop did no damage to filberts. In conclusion, I am glad to report progress at the close of this season's industry. Very truly,

N. E. BRITT, Newberg, Ore., Nov. 1, 1920.

## ACTUAL EXPERIENCES OF SOME OF OUR FILBERT GROWERS

### Pleased, Will Plant More.

W. R. Read, Estacada, Oregon, says, in reply to The Statesman, asking him to report progress: "Excuse haste. We are harvesting now. If we can report progress after a year with filberts. We are more than pleased with the progress our filberts have made, and we expect to plant more."

### Sam Brown's Filberts.

Hon. Sam H. Brown, the prominent loganberry grower of Gervais, commenced putting out filberts last year. He will have 30 acres or more in filberts when he gets through, to help him eke out his loganberry patch of about the same size, for which he has refused \$750 an acre; because it is worth more than that to him.

### Dr. Wilkens Planting Loganberries Between Filbert Rows.

Editor Statesman: In re the filbert situation, will say that only the old trees were hurt somewhat (one in ten) by the freeze, and that only by trying to propagate too many trees, say about 75 sprouts to the tree. There were some pistillate blossoms last spring, but as the catkins were all frozen, the result was no nuts this year. The great freeze has shown that filberts are THE nuts for our low lands. I have this year planted loganberries between the rows, as I believe they can be left there for 10 or 12 years without detriment to the trees. As a consequence, my nursery includes loganberry tips, as well as filbert trees.

—J. H. Wilkens, D. O. McMinnville, Or., Nov. 1, 1920.

injured by heavy wind storms in September, which nearly covered the ground with immature nuts. There were many blanks among the Barcelona, although they made a good yield.

My crop this year is 2250 pounds from about 200 trees, most of which are 12 years old. I have experimented some with commercial fertilizers, but have not had much success, except with nitrate of soda, two pounds per tree, which gave good results. Super phosphate and fish guano gave little or no results. I am still of the opinion that the great need in filbert culture is a more perfect pollinizer. Respectfully yours,

—Percy Gleason, Gresham, Or., Nov. 1, 1920.

## Newsy Notes of State Industrial Growth

Salem—In less than ten months of this year, Salem's building record showed an increase of more than 200 per cent when compared with figures for the entire year of 1919. Thus far \$444,946 has been expended in erection of new homes and other buildings.

Portland-Astoria bridge is entirely completed by November 4. Hood River apple crop will run a little over 1,300,000 boxes—300 carloads shipped mostly for export.

Odell—Much county road work planned. Hood River asking bids for new postoffice.

Enterprise—East Oregon Lumber company announces 20 per cent wage reduction effective October 26.

Albany bakery adds much new machinery. Klamath Falls—New bath house open to public.

Medford plant Oregon Growers' association packing apples at rate of 3000 boxes daily.

Roseburg—J. O. F. hall being thoroughly remodeled. Roseburg—Building permits on increase.

Practically 60 per cent of the wood that is going into the phonograph turned out by the four companies manufacturing these instruments in Oregon comes from this state. One concern is experimenting with larch in the making of amplifiers, while all find that spruce is best for carrying tone.

Recent discovery of large deposits on high grade iron ore in Columbia county is attracting attention of mining men throughout the United States.

Gold Beach—Pistol Creek and Euchre Creek cheese factories each making three cases cheese daily. Have shipped about \$35,000 worth to California markets to date. Expect to run until first of year.

Seattle—The vast bulk of 55,000 carloads, or 13,150,000 shingles, now sold by manufacturers to be shut out of the eastern markets by the new railroad rates, is expected to be moved by water from Seattle and other northwest ports to the Atlantic coast ports as a result of conference between Pacific Coast Shippers' association and steamship companies operating in the intercoastal route.

When the loaf goes back to a nickel, when the bottle of milk drops to 5 cents, when the wagon drops to \$3—a car ride will cost a nickel.

Roseburg—New Umpqua park bridge to be built. Corvallis—New \$20,000 bakery in operation. Eugene—Farmers' creamery contemplates erection of \$25,000 powdered milk factory, to be first of its kind on coast.

In a current wedding story we read: "Mrs. R. wore a beautiful ostrich plume." Where were the police?—Exchange

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Some of the Filberts