

SALEM DISTRICT LEADS OREGON IN CELERY

200 Car Loads Shipped from Labish District Alone Last Year; Will Ship 200 Cars this Year, and Will Increase Every Year—Hundreds of Acres Muck and Peat Soils Available

There were many people here in the doubting Thomas class when, some years ago, the Slogan editor of the Statesman began saying that the world was the best celery country. The world, and that the celery industry might be made, and was bound to become, a big industry, and finally a gigantic industry—



A Snapshot Taken On the 50 Acre Celery Plantation of Roy K. Fukuda, Labish Meadows

Because these people were in the habit of thinking of celery growing in terms of a few rows in the kitchen garden; and they did not realize that the Salem district could produce a better quality of celery than is grown in the Kalamazoo district in Michigan, supposed to produce the best celery in the world.

The Beginnings
The beginnings of the celery industry on a commercial scale in the Salem district were made by Roy K. Fukuda in 1909, when he experimented with some 10 rows, or 2000 to 3000 plants, in the Labish Meadows district, on the former dam land of Hon. M. L. Jones, some five miles below Salem, between the Oregon Electric and Southern Pacific railroad lines—between Quinaby and Chemawa. The experiment proved a success. Mr. Fukuda grew more celery the following year, and soon

his neighbors began growing celery. In 1919, Mr. Fukuda had brought his planting to eight to nine acres. In 1922 the plantings in that district had been brought up to about 100 acres, and the growers shipped about 65 cars to points outside of Oregon, besides 3500 crates by express.

least 250 cars of celery this year. The membership of the Union will be increased this year to 30 or more; including some American growers, who are welcome, and one Korean. Mr. Fukuda told the Slogan editor recently that he expects to see more rapid growth after this year; perhaps a 50 per cent increase of acreage annually. That will mean the mounting up very rapidly of the money returns to come into Salem district from far places. The shipments went the past year in car lots as far away as Birmingham, Ala.

This fact will allow the reader to visualize the growth of the industry: There will be at least 6,000,000 plants in that district this year, against the 2,000 to 3,000 plants 15 years ago, when the industry was started there. Some growth!



A Snapshot of Labish Meadows Lillies; from 500 Bulbs Raised Last Year By Roy K. Fukuda

The Big Thing
The big thing in the celery industry in the Salem district is the fact that we grow and ship the best in the United States. This is not an idle claim. The celery trade recognizes the fact; pays \$1 more a crate for our celery than for the California product. The California growers ship east 4,000

ers are principally Japanese; the leaders being Americanized Japanese, a number of them American citizens.

The Possibilities
There are prospects of rapid growth of the celery industry on the beaverdam lands east of the present large plantings; to say nothing of the asparagus industry and the other vegetable growing industries that flourish on those lands.

Mr. Fukuda told the Slogan editor recently that in that section alone 10,000 acres of beaverdam land is available for such crops; perhaps a good deal more.

And there are many other sections in the Salem district where the same kind of land may be made available for celery growing. Celery will grow on almost any of the land in the Willamette valley, and make a good crop.

But the kind that will stand up against all comers, and command a premium of \$1 a crate against the celery of the famous California districts, can be counted upon more certainly when grown on the beaverdam soil, and when produced under the methods such as are described by Mr. Fukuda in his letter.

With that kind of celery, our growers can meet all competition. They can go on increasing their plantings with perfect confidence that, with proper marketing facilities, they can find a profitable sale for it—even in the face of big costs per acre for growing it. And celery is not a cheap crop to grow; not a cheap per acre crop. It costs around \$1200 an acre to grow our finest celery, in commercial quantities.

The Oregon growers market their celery through regular brokers; through American firms that are experienced in finding markets for the product. They know in advance about what they may expect. They are confident that they are not going to have an over production; whatever may happen to growers of other sections who are unable to produce the quality grown here.

The Routledge Company Expands
On the Eastside (Grand avenue corner E. Stark), Portland, which means in that section of the city lying east of the Willamette river, the Routledge Seed & Floral company has erected a very large and modern store. This in addition to their Westside store where they have been in business many, many years.

From the Eastside quarters will be handled all mail orders and all shipping will be done from there. By this we do not wish to imply that the store will not be open to customers who wish to call in person—far from it. Their show rooms are much more spacious here than at their Westside store and the most complete stock of everything they catalog will be available to call—customers and parking space for your autos is ample and without limit of time by the police. It is the wish of the Routledges, especially George Routledge who is manager of the Eastside store, that farmers, poultrymen and others interested in their lines—call and inspect the new place of business.

The 1924 Routledge Seed catalog is ready to mail and if you have not received a copy address a postcard today and get it.

In conversation with Ralph Routledge, the president, he said this: "We have had to reorganize, of course, in enlarging our business and in so doing, we have outlined three principles which we are bound to live up to, namely: we are going to give real service to buyers. By this we mean quick action either by mail or over the counter, and all the information about any line which we handle, that is available. Our clerks are informed correctly and are capable of imparting this information."

"Secondly, the quality of our seeds and supplies and stock which we catalog is the best we know of. For we KNOW that while poor quality may mean cheaper prices to customers in some instances—it means expensive quality in the end to us. Poor quality is unsatisfactory, more so in seeds and poultry equipment than in some other lines. So quality is our watchword in buying so we will have quality to sell."

By the by, I meant to put those folks wise to something who are raising poultry and may want a Queen incubator or a Newton brooder. The Routledge company has determined to make one grand clean-up this year on incubators and brooders and have placed the prices at from one-third to one-half off the list price—a word to the wise—you know what I mean.

The best canning gooseberries in the world are raised in the Salem district. This is growing into a gigantic industry. And gooseberries are almost a bonanza crop. The gooseberry kings of Oregon are in the Polk county hills in sight of Salem.

Letter From Salem Pioneer

Editor Statesman—As one of the pioneers, I would like to express, if not too late, my appreciation of the invitation extended me by the Rotary club to attend their meeting held at the Marion hotel January 2 last.

I was pleased to be at the same table with Oliver Beers, a native Oregonian, born in 1845, and with another native, Abner Lewis, who "arrived" in 1846.

The fathers of both of these native Oregonians had the honor and distinction of being present at the historic assembly at Champeeg May 2, 1843, and voting with the majority, 52 to 50, in favor of establishing the sovereignty of the United States over this country.

Another pioneer, Mr. J. A. Baker, the oldest one present, also sat with us. He is not a native, but arrived in Oregon in 1843 at the tender age of 4. Mr. Baker thinks he is the oldest student, low living, who attended Willamette university. He went to school there in 1849. The school then was known as the Oregon institute.

I enjoyed the program at the meeting very much, especially the papers read by R. P. Boise and A. N. Moores, pertaining to pioneer events.

It is rather a remarkable coincidence, I think, that the ancestors of both of these gentlemen should have been members of the constitutional convention which met in Salem in August, 1857.

Judge Boise, father of R. P. Boise, and Isaac R. Moores had the honor of being members of that celebrated convention. I was well acquainted with Judge Boise whose honorable career in this state is well known. He served with distinction for many years on the bench.

I did not know Isaac R. Moores as he died early in 1861, the very day, I understand, that Fort Sumpter surrendered. For many years I had an intimate acquaintance with J. H. Moores, father of A. N. Moores. When I first arrived in Salem, in the early 60's, J. H. Moores was one of the leading merchants of this city. He enjoyed the respect and confidence of the whole community and was a very influential citizen. He was a member of the first city council and the second mayor. He was elected to the latter office four different times. He also represented Marion county in the state senate. He was for many years a director of the public schools and for a long time a trustee of Willamette university and the Methodist church. He and the late Rev. G. H. Atkinson were elected by the Oregon legislature as commissioners to select locations for the state penitentiary and insane asylum and the lands so selected by them are now occupied by these institutions.

—G. P. Litchfield, 1082 Center St.

1924 CATALOG

Seeds

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LABISH MEADOWS CELERY UNION

TOKUTO BRAND CELERY
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There are now 29 members of the Union, seven of them new members for the 1924 operations. Growers of all nationalities are solicited and welcomed as members. Membership shares are divided in proportion to acreage cultivated.

Tokuto Brand Celery is grown and packed under strict rules of treatment and inspection, and it is guaranteed to be the choicest of its various grades shipped to the markets of this country.

It represents the skill and experience of the largest association of celery growers in Oregon, with a constantly increasing output, produced and shipped by men who make the business a life work and study. The total output was in 1923 about 200 cars; it will be about 250 this year, and a larger number every succeeding year. The excellence of the first grade of this brand of celery is attested by the fact that it sells at \$1 a crate, or \$160 to \$180 a car, above the price of celery of the same grade grown in California.

AT YOUR SERVICE OUR DEPARTMENTS

1. **Radio.** We are constantly trying out new sets—culling out the poor and offering you the best. We give you the result of our years of experience. A full line of parts. Advice gladly given.
2. **Fixtures.** We have designed and built fixtures for some of the best homes in Salem. We do not just hang up pieces haphazard but we study your color scheme and general arrangement and build original fixtures to harmonize with your interior. Yes, we handle low-priced fixtures—as low as you like.
3. **Wiring.** We have five high-class men who know their business. You can depend on them. Our prices are as low as is consistent with good material and workmanship. Get our figures—you will find them interesting—no job too large—no job too small.
4. **Merchandise.** Our line of general electrical merchandise is always high class and of the best. We guarantee everything and our goal is to please you. The prices are right—come and see for yourself.
5. **Labor Savers.** This line embraces washers, ironers, sweepers and the like. We have tried many many makes and we offer you the best. Give us a chance to prove our statement.
6. **Mazda Lamps.** We handle the famous Westinghouse Mazda Lamps. None better.

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