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Next Week's Slogan Subject Is

OUR GREAT WALNUT INDUSTRY

MR. HANNEMAN MAKES FILBERTS HIS HOBBY AND PLEASURE AND RECREATION

He Has Collected and Tried Out Many Varieties, But He Warns New Growers That They Would Better Follow the Lead of the Men Who Have Done the Pioneering in This Prospectively Great Industry in This District

Editor Statesman:— Your letter requesting something on filberts received. Your filbert number is timely and good. It is about 40 years ago that filberts came to our notice; never realizing until about 10 years back what the possibilities were and the wonderful future there is in the nuts that grow in the temperate zone here in our beautiful Willamette valley. At that time I wrote that one with some love

for nut lore, time a plenty, and a flivver, would get an eye full, and no need of going to Europe, Asia or Africa to find some new filberts, as most of the good ones are here now, as they have been imported years ago and their correct names and identity lost; only they have been kept as a light under a bushel, and their owners now see that no good can be done by trying to keep them all for themselves and having the reputation of a NUT miser. It has been the hobby and pleasure of the writer and his genial life partner. We have had the privilege of seeing many nut groves, and I collected trees, thereby passing on the assembled facts to the Western Nut association, with the assistance of our secretary, Prof. C. E. Schuster, Corvallis, who has done more to stimulate the nut industry than any other known agency. All the work and time are an open book. The gatherings are an asset to any one who is interested.

Keep Eyes and Ears Open To the one trying to break into the nut growing game our recommendation is for him to keep eyes and ears open, mouth closed thereby saving time and not causing any useless debating with those who made the SHORT CUT in nut growing.

In nearly every mature grove there are one or more trees that have some excellent quality in them. It is not always essential to have a giant tree or a Jumbo type nut. (A Jersey cow has the best butter record.) The growers that we look up that have ideal groves have from two to five types of bearing Barcelonas as the foundation stock, which is of such assistance in cross pollination, 50 to 80% is O.K. and the ever necessary other varieties must be systematically placed to cause good pollenization or no fruit of any consequence will be the positive result.

We now have 45 varieties in our grove and these varieties are only from proven trees. Of the ultimate result there is no question in our minds. There are a number of seedling groves of doubtful value. Some trees came from unscrupulous so called nurserymen, and others of pedigreed and hand pollenized nuts. Of the former grove of 300 or 400 trees, there were one Barcelona, three Diviana, two Giant De Halle, I actually examined a number of trees with mature nuts as large as common vetch seed; and the rascals are layering the whole grove and have sold thousands of trees in the past as Barcelona—mostly the Diviana or Duchilly and Giant De Halle, or White Avalline, all at bargains; half prices.

Three other seedling groves have some good nuts. These men deserve much praise for the good work in trying to advance, although the percentage of chances is very small for them to get anything better than we now have. Others have done this for us some centuries ago; so don't waste your valuable time playing with seedlings. Do not get any trees from any one where you cannot see the trees, or who has not the reputation of passing on good breeding stock.

Do not let any one tell you they have a monopoly on any one variety, as that is like of old, "what is told you in secret is being preached from the housetops." There are three or more old groves

with the newly named Clackamas and a good nut it is. The correct original name has been lost temporarily and a half acre of groves with Giant De Halle, a seedling of 1788; some from Europe direct, others from Mr. Felix Gillette's nursery in Nevada, Calif.; others from Stores & Harrison in Ohio years ago, and one man is holding his trees at \$5 per. Of the last named 5 growing trees layered by myself from the original, and the owner had three come by mail, and the Giant De Halle bore nuts the second year and continuously had a good crop for a number of years, and the other two nearby always blooming in season but no nuts; so the owner destroyed the supposed lazy trees thereby destroying the prolific bearing quality, and now others are being planted.

No correct the mistake of destroying the pollenizers. Many Were Lost It is our firm belief that many early plantings were lost by improper care in their first years of planting, and crowding them out with robber crops. The grand old men in the nut game will point out with much pride the best part of their grove where the old barn once stood on the parking place in stock pasture. This nature tells us that good old barn manure is helpful and always welcome to any growing tree. A scattered handful of bonemeal in the newly made hole will not be amiss, or anything of a meat or fish nature sparingly used where the roots can feed.

Our own Senator, Charles L. McNary wrote a pamphlet years ago on the filbert in which we are told that in Spain the groves are along the rivers or bottom lands. That is the place where the Barcelona originated. We note that the well drained bottom land filberts are more prolific than on the uplands. OAC Station Bulletin No. 208 is the best short cut work ever written and published; "Growing Filberts in Oregon." We have six acres in growing filberts. This is our recreation. —H. A. HANNEMAN. Portland, Oregon, Oct. 28, 1924.

(The address of Mr. Hanneman is 306½ Pine street. He is a member of the firm of Hanneman & Johanson, painting, paper hanging and tinting.—Ed.)

NOTES ON FILBERT CULTURE BY THE BEST AUTHORITY IN UNITED STATES

Prof. Schuster of the Oregon Agricultural College Is No Boomer, But He Believes Filberts Here Will Yield a Profit—However the Industry Cannot Be Successfully Carried Forward Without Intelligence, Care and Labor

Editor Statesman:— Some fruits, through cultivation, have, in the past centuries, been widely scattered and adapted to a wide range of climatic conditions and to a large number of countries. Fruits like the apple have been widely disseminated and varieties have been developed with special value to the different sections. While no one variety is universally grown with equal success there are many different varieties some suited to one place and others suited to other places.

While the filbert has been known for over 2000 years, its cultivation has not progressed to any extent in the lands of its nativity, nor has the commercial production spread over any greater area than has been known for some time.

No Orchards in East Among the early horticultural writings of the United States, we find references to the filbert and in some cases a description of varieties. Of course this referred to the eastern part of the United States, yet today there are no bearing orchards in that section while mature bearing trees are practically unknown. Apparently one drawback has been the east-filbert blight which is a fungus disease. According to some men interested in filberts they have imported varieties that are immune to this trouble. It may be that such is the case or that it may be possible to control it by sprays. As yet there are but few plantings, none of any commercial importance, though some recent plantings have the possibility of assuming commercial importance in the future.

Some Old Trees Here In the Pacific Northwest, filbert trees have been growing for 50 to 60 years, while for 20 to 30 years definite attempts have been made to build up this industry. It has lately been brought to mind that filberts have a possibility of being a successful crop for this country.

In that territory west of the Cascade mountains and east of the Coast Range, the filberts have been successful. This territory extends from the Umpqua river valley north into the corresponding part of the state of Washington. Though the wild hazel grows abundantly west of the Coast Range, the filbert itself has not yet been demonstrated as successful. East of the Cascade mountains, the filbert is being planted in small lots for testing it out. Large plantings would be very much of an experiment.

Not Above 1000 Feet Since up to this time the proven possibility of the filbert is more or less limited in geographical area, the idea should not become prevalent that the filbert will be successful on all locations. At what elevations they can be planted, no one knows. Anything above 1000 feet will be an experiment. While the wild hazel grows at elevations much higher than that, it is usually more like a bush than a tree and probably the filbert might behave in a similar manner.

This article will make no attempt to demonstrate or prove that the filbert is destined to become a leader in horticulture, or that anyone taking up the growing of filberts is bound by circumstances to make a success. It is the belief of the author that the growing

of filberts will, where properly handled, prove profitable. From a study of influencing conditions, it cannot be seen that this industry is bound to be the most profitable in returns per acre or the easiest to grow from all view points. It is the aim to mention a few things noticed, in going over the country, that are going to cause failures and not successes in many cases. Must Have Right Location One of the most noticeable violations of plant requirements is in soil and locations. Just because the wild hazel grows well along creek and river banks where moisture is abundant, should and does not mean that the filbert can be grown on poorly drained lands with a high water table. The filbert is very sensitive to stagnant water such as is found on poorly drained soils, and while the trees live as long as any other type of tree under the same circumstance, it is more apt to be a bush or very poor tree. Filberts must have well drained, deep soil with a natural fertility, or the chance of developing filbert.

If anyone makes a trip through the Willamette valley, it is brought forcibly to mind that many plantings are doomed to failure. The trees are making a very poor growth. Late in the summer they show a decided need of moisture, due doubtless to the fact that the root system was drowned out during the winter and the plant was unable to take in sufficient moisture when the greatest need was felt. Even if the trees do bear, they will seldom bear large nuts, as the size of the nut is dependent on moisture as is any fruit. Trees under those conditions are unable to furnish enough moisture for proper growth.

They Need Good Care Hand in hand with poor soil and locations can be noticed poor care. The attempt to grow an orchard by sticking the trees into the ground and waiting for nature to do the rest will naturally be doomed. Filbert trees, regardless of method of propagation, have a tendency to sucker. Unless these suckers are kept down, the strength of the tree will go into the suckers and not into the tree proper. So long as the work of removing suckers is delayed, just as the danger of extensive suckering after that. Of the rootstocks used today all will sucker more or less. While it may be claimed that seedling rootstocks are suckerless, it must be noted that each seedling will behave independently, some probably suckering little, others heavily. Observe how the filbert varieties vary in this, and then remember that the original tree of each variety was a seedling.

As the suckering has been neglected, so has cultivation. Although the grower is dealing with a hardy tree and a hard fruit, optimum conditions as to moisture are necessary for best growth and consequently for heavy fruit production. Fairly Disease Free The filbert tree is naturally fairly free from insects and diseases up to the present time. During 1924, considerable loss has been suffered from the western filbert blight, which is a bacterial disease. Many young trees have been lost by the girdling of the trees when the cankers were formed. This disease is especially no-

ticeable in young trees, seldom doing any damage after the third or fourth year. In 1924, climatic conditions seemed to be very favorable for its spread. This can be combated by keeping down suckers, opening up the tree and cutting out the diseased portions. Especial care is necessary in working around the trees, as the disease is as easily spread as fire blight on pears. In cutting out wood, the tools and wounds should be thoroughly disinfected. Formaldehyde is good for this purpose, or Reimer's solution of one part mercuric chloride, one part cyanide of mercury and 500 parts of water. This latter solution is very poisonous, so should be handled with care.

Apparently all plantings in the state are infected with the filbert blight and it is with us to stay, but the simple measures given above will help control it. It is doubtful if many plantings escape some loss from this trouble.

One Big Advantage One advantage that looms big for the filbert seems to be its resistance to frost. Ordinary frosts have no effect on the bloom. In this country, the trees normally bloom during January and February. In spite of the inclement weather met with at that time of the year, the filbert is a pretty sturdy cropper. The freedom from frost damage makes it especially valuable in those places where soil conditions are excellent, but there are constant losses from frost when other fruits are planted there.

The Competition With a fruit that is a good cropper and easy to grow with a comparative freedom from insect and disease troubles, the prospective prices will naturally be of interest. It would be of no use to raise large crops that did not bring a profit.

The filberts that this country raises will necessarily have to compete with filberts from the lands around the Mediterranean sea, as this is the country where they are raised in large quantities. A study of consular reports shows that the prices for these nuts in those countries ranges from 4 to 11 cents a pound. This means that they can be laid down in American ports for 8 to 15 cents a pound.

The duty into this country is 2½ cents a pound unshelled or 5 cents shelled. As walnuts and almonds have a higher tariff attached to them, it is possible that filberts will in time have an additional duty placed on them. Most of the filberts imported are of an inferior grade, but certain shipments have come into this country from Europe that were of such quality that wholesalers refused to pay a premium for American grown nuts. If a few small shipments can arrive in that shape, more may be expected in the future. As trade demands have forced an improvement in handling almonds in those same countries, the same may happen in the case of the filberts.

Great Supplies in Europe European countries have larger quantities to ship to this country. We are importing about 30,000,000 pounds of filberts when computed on the unshelled basis. Most of these came from Italy, Spain and Turkey. Spain and Italy export upwards of 50,000,000 pounds annually. Before the war, Turkey had exported as much as 148,000,000 pounds in one year. This material is again finding its way to our markets.

Will Yield a Profit But even if the price per pound should go low, the cost of producing is relatively low when produced well. Orchards that go above the average will undoubtedly pay. If we take England's figures, the average will be about 1000 pounds per acre. At that yield, filberts will yield a profit and it would seem that the grower going into the industry should

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FROM THE OUTSTANDING PIONEER OF THE FILBERT INDUSTRY IN OREGON

George A. Dorris Says Only One Branch of the Industry Has So Far Been Put on a Firm Foundation, the Certainty of the Ability to Produce Quantity and Quality—Road Clear Ahead for the Other Branches

Filberts have been grown in the Willamette valley in a small way for over twenty years. Of late years the plantings have been steadily though slowly increasing as have the crops. The total acreage and the aggregate production, insignificant as they now are from a commercial standpoint, are nevertheless of the highest importance. They point with unerring certainty to the development of a new and special horticultural pursuit in this valley.

These small experiments have demonstrated beyond doubt, that here the tree will grow as vigorously, will bear as regularly and abundantly, and the nuts will be as fine as in the most favored filbert growing sections of the Old World; a distinction that to date can only be accorded to one other locality in America, our neighboring western Washington. That these sections can in time supply the national demand for filberts there can also be no doubt. That they will eventually do so to the profit of the growers and the fame of the Pacific Northwest is a reasonable expectation.

Work For the Future But up to date let it not be forgotten, only one branch of the industry has been put on a firm foundation by those who have pioneered the way—that is the certainty of the ability to produce quantity and quality. Those who come after must do their part to cooperate to make prices attractive. Remember that the people of the United States know only the cheaper imported filbert. Those of you who have used many of them can readily understand why they are not in greater demand. The blanks often run as high as 25 per cent or higher, and it is rare that a pound will not contain many nuts with rancid kernels, and a few rancid kernels soon cures the most voracious appetite for filberts. The imported filbert is used in this country largely in mixed nuts, which are worked off on the unsuspecting and not overly particular kiddies on holiday trees. The superior merits of the northwestern grown filbert is not generally known, and unless special efforts are taken to make its merits known it is apt to be classed with the inferior im-

figure on a low steady income producing property rather than a gold mine affair. From individual tree records enormous yields per acre can be figured out. So it can with other fruits, but no one has attained those possibilities. Taken all in all, the filbert should be a good thing over a term of years, and especially good to combine with other fruits. There are no fixed spray schedules and so on to follow, but within reason they can be worked with other fruits, thus adding another line of production to Oregon's many resources.

—C. E. SCHUSTER. Corvallis, Ore. Oct. 28, 1924.

(A prominent man engaged in the filbert industry, in the Salem district, is authority for the statement that Prof. Schuster is the best posted man in the United States on filbert culture, and especially on pollination problems connected with the industry. Prof. Schuster is assistant horticulturist of the Oregon Agricultural college.—Ed.)

I do not claim that all imported filberts are of that low grade, but enough of that kind is always in all markets that the discriminating purchaser is apt to pass them by.

Same as Walnut Growers In every new market we enter we will find ourselves up against such competition. We will be in the same condition as the early walnut growers who had to sell their product in competition with inferior and cheap imported walnuts. But the walnut growers have solved their problem by cooperation and they have found that the consumers are willing to pay for quality when it can be guaranteed. They now set their prices regardless of prices on imported stuff and the crop moves and consumption is enormously stimulated.

Because of its undoubted superiority, the Oregon and Washington grown filbert through proper cooperation will command a like premium and the consumption will likewise be enormously increased. Sell to Appreciative Buyers It is not our present purpose to outline a plan of cooperation, further than this. See to it that all the filberts you put on the market are clean and all the blanks have been floated out. That is a very simple and inexpensive process, and will justify you in asking more and the consumer in paying more than for the imported nut. Sell your filberts to dealers who have some regard for quality and who have sufficient state pride to help you in establishing a new industry at no cost to themselves. The writer can testify that there are many such. Our production is yet too small to reach for, so for the present we had better satisfy our home markets and establish an enviable reputation for quality, and we can expand as the production.

Will Be Good Market From the reports of a trial shipment of 500 pounds made last year to a dealer in the east the writer feels confident that there will be no difficulty in disposing of all filberts that we will raise at remunerative prices. The western walnut has paved the way for the equally superior northwestern filberts. Let us first thoroughly establish for the filbert a home reputation and it will soon be nation wide. It is tending in that direction now.

"The filberts were received. They are the best of the kind we have ever seen. Hope the time will soon come when you can ship in quantity." That is the opinion and those the words of a prominent eastern dealer to whom samples were sent last year. We have the quality and that fact will soon be generally recognized. GEO. A. DORRIS, Springfield, Or., Oct. 25, 1924.

Don't Sow Too Deep Deep planting of fall grain, 3 to 4 inches, sometimes results in winter killing in Oregon, as the plants emerge in a weakened condition and are thus susceptible to the winter injury. The right depth to plant is the depth that will give prompt sprouting—generally about 1½ to 2 inches, reports the experiment station. Some small boys are abnormal, but most of them spit with great frequency and proficiency.

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