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Editor Statesman:  
I certainly think the strawberry industry is a very good industry and has grown quite a bit and will certainly continue to grow, as the strawberry is a fruit that nearly everybody likes. I also think that the growers should try to raise the best berries they can. Of course every grower does. What I mean by that is the kind and variety that the people demand. I have been raising Etterburg 121 for the past five or six years, and have had very good success. I have some planted on both red and black soil. I do not see very much difference in the berries, except that they do not do so well on the red soil as on

## MORE THAN 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN GROWING STRAWBERRIES HERE

Mr. Southwick Says in Conclusion That if There Is Any Secret in Growing Strawberries It Is This: Have Your Patch in Good Shape for the Late Summer and Early Fall, for It Is in This Time That the Plant Gets Its Strength for Next Year's Crop

Editor Statesman:  
Having raised strawberries for more than twenty years, I feel qualified to offer a few opinions on the strawberry game. Being in touch with the raising of strawberries for such a period of time has brought to me the realization of how this industry has grown in the territory surrounding Salem. When we first began to grow strawberries there were few patches planted and tended on a commercial scale. A yard containing eight or ten acres was an exceptionally large acreage of berries.  
The market was as undeveloped as the acreage. The Oregon packing company was our first and only canning market for a number of years. Many of our berries were sold right at the patch to people who came sometimes as far as fifteen miles to get them. Finally people began to set out more berries, not as a leading crop, but mostly as an expansion of the whole fruit industry in the valley. New markets opened up, and finally the strawberry industry began to open up as a distinct and leading crop in the fruit game.  
Third of Nation's Supply  
The territory adjacent to Salem now markets at least one-third of the canned and barreled strawberries in the United States. Plantings of from twenty to forty acres are now considered common. It is here that I would caution growers to remember what happened to the loganberry industry. If the plantings continue too fast

## STRAWBERRY CROP OF 1926 HERE IS ALREADY MOSTLY SOLD ON CONTRACTS

The Prices Are Such as to Make Large Profits for Growers With Right Locations and Knowledge of Cultivation—Is There a Chance for Over Expansion in the Next Few Years?—Talk With the Dean of the Industry  
W. G. Allen, manager here for Hunt Bros. Packing company, may appropriately be called the dean of the strawberry industry of the Salem district. He introduced the Etterburg 121 and the Trebla here, along with about twenty other varieties, which were discarded as not offering advantages for this district over old varieties.  
Mr. Allen is also himself a strawberry grower. He has 40 acres in strawberries, in the Mission Bottom section, nine miles below Salem, and he is putting out still more strawberries. He has 30 acres of Etterburg 121 berries and 10 acres of Marshalls, and his new plantings are of these varieties, with some Treblas. His straw-

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**MARION COUNTY FRUIT INSPECTOR GIVES TALK**  
(Continued from page 8)  
on 30 different plants. A lady from Aurora sent a sample of infested rhubarb, and it was found that it had the strawberry root weevil. The way to fight the weevil is to keep it out.  
The root weevil has completely destroyed strawberry patches in Hood River and Freewater districts, and some near Portland cultivated by the Japanese gardeners.  
If the weevil once gets started, the only thing to do is to change

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district has 90 acres in strawberries. Large yards are becoming common, and small yards are increasing fast in number and acreage.  
The past season the prices were 6 and 8 cents for barreling and canning berries. They started off for 1926 at half a cent above that, and the prices being offered now on contract are 7 cents for barreling berries and 9 cents a pound for canning berries. Those figures mean large profits for growers who have the right locations and understand strawberry culture. The ultimate consumer fixes the price finally. He will have to pay more for berries in the barrel or in the can. Will he do it, and take all the berries that are offered?  
Mr. Allen believes in good prices to the grower, in order to stabilize the industry. And he is not an alarmist. He thinks he sees room for expansion, gradual expansion. But he also knows expansion might be overdone.  
Probably 75 or 80 per cent of the prospective strawberry crop for the Salem district for 1926 has already been contracted for.

**What of the Future**  
So much by way of introduction. But Mr. Allen is not an easy man to interview. No, not that. He is approachable and genial and easy to interview. But he does not like to be quoted as posing in an oracular manner—as telling the growers just what to do and what not to do.  
In fact, while he is optimistic about the strawberry industry, and knows we have a great strawberry district, he also sees that the industry needs direction; supervision. It needs expansion, but it might be over expanded, to its ultimate injury.  
Mr. Allen said yesterday that the canners here used to buy Wilson berries at 3 cents a pound. Now new plantings are being made of Wilsons. The almost exclusive canning berry here now is the Etterburg 121. It may be that if the merits of this berry as a canned product could be properly stressed with the trade, a higher price than for the ordinary strawberry in cans might be realized, to the benefit of the industry here.  
The same might be true as to the Marshall berry for barreling. The east does not produce a blood red berry like the Marshall, and large buyers are turning to the west for quality in strawberries. So Mr. Allen sees the need of constructive supervision.  
**Big Acreage Going Out**  
This is growing to be a big strawberry district. The acreage is being increased very fast. Mr. Allen contracted for his company a few days ago with a certain grower for 125 tons of strawberries for 1926, and 150 tons for 1927. J. Q. Swink of the Lebanon

berries are all under irrigation.

There is a lot of difference in variety of strawberries and strawberry soils and methods of culture. This is caused mostly by location of plantings. In the hills in which I live the successful varieties are the Wilson, Oregon, Marshall and Trebla. These berries, and all others for that matter, require well drained soils. A strawberry that has a great deal of water around its roots soon dies. In the hills most of us plant our rows from three and one-half to four feet apart, and the plants from fourteen to twenty inches apart in the rows. This only allows us to cultivate one plant, but allows us to plow to the plants in the late fall, for drainage and the covering of weeds and other vegetation. In the spring we plow away from the row and hoe and cultivate in the best manner possible to hold the moisture.  
In the lower lands with their heavier soils, the Ettersburg 121 is the chief variety raised, and it commands the highest price at the canneries. They plant differently, generally in squares of three feet.  
If there is any secret in growing strawberries, I would say that it is this. Have your patch in good shape for late summer and early fall, as it is in this time that the plant gets its strength for next year's crop.  
A. R. SOUTHWICK  
Salem, Ore., Nov. 7, 1925

**ARTHUR GIROD**  
Salem, Or., route 8, Nov. 10.

**TO SHIP MANY PLANTS FROM SALEM DISTRICT**  
(Continued from page 8)  
and diseases.  
This condition seems peculiarly common in the hill country around Silver Creek Falls. It is the strawberry plant land par excellence. And it is a fine strawberry producing district, too. The patches there come in about a week later than those in the lower valley, and persist longer, usually.  
If Peters, Sublimity, route 1, whose place is in that district, last year produced four and a half tons of Marshall strawberries (9,000 pounds) from a single acre,

and to cultivate such crops as potatoes till the weevil pests are completely starved out. This may take some years. However, the strawberry root weevil has not proven itself the pest that we feared it might become, in the commercial yards. This may be because we have large acreage of lands, and we change plantings often. Plantings ought not to bear more than four crops. Then there should be rotation. Do not plant on clover sod. After a crop of potatoes or grain is a good rule. New land is especially good for strawberries say after a potato crop for the first year to get rid of the roots.

**EIGHTEEN ACRES OF STRAWBERRIES**  
(Continued from page 8)  
There is a good local market for the Marshall, as it is early and quite large, beautiful red, fine flavored, a great favorite in hotels and restaurants. Also, it commands a good price, generally \$1 per crate above canneries' prices. It is not a very heavy yielder; is a soft berry, must be picked often and handled with great care. Hope this will help.

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### WILL PLANT SIX ACRES JOHNSONS

Mr. Allen Thinks They Make a Superior Barreling Fruit; Other Merits  
Editor Statesman:  
Your letter of Nov. 5th relative to the strawberry industry. I am not prone to take any definite standpoint of view. However, I am satisfied we should always look forward to quality as well as production. Just at present most farmers are at a loss to know just what varieties are the best adapted to this locality. Canners seem to favor the Etterburg 121. While they are splendid canning berries and possibly will yield satisfactorily in some localities, I don't believe they are reliable in all sections, as some years they are a short crop and do not mature as well as other varieties. Wilsons do well on well drained rich land, but are not profitable on poor or wet land. I am satisfied that strawberries require good, rich and well drained soils. This, however, applies to any berry crop. It is a mistake to depend on making berry crops profitable on soil that will not produce good grain without the use of fertilizer.

I am under the impression that the Improved Oregon, in the soft or table berries, will come as near to quality as any variety grown here. However, they are not a canning berry, as they grow too large for grade canning. I am setting out six acres this spring of Johnsons. Just at present the canneries are not recommending them. I have kept in close touch with them for three years, and I believe they will grow in demand. There is no better barreling fruit, and they are perfect for preserves, and better adapted to all soils and more reliable in production than any variety I know of. I have never seen a plant crown wilt, which is quite common with the Trebla. At present I am experimenting with crude sulphur as a prevention of insects, such as root grubs and diseases such as mold. While I am not sure of the results, I am confident 300 pounds applied to an acre in the late winter or early spring, after the ground is plowed and worked down before setting plants, will be profitable in more ways than one. It forms a chemical action in the ground that is destructive to small insects and also increases production. You can consider this for publication, or as personal information.  
O. B. ALLEN.  
Salem, Or., Rt. 4, Nov. 10, 1925.  
Roseburg.—Broccoli yield from 4,000 acres should be near 2000 cars, a record crop.  
Cottage Grove.—New garage, 100x100 feet, will cost \$20,000.

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