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SALEM DISTRICT INDUSTRIES

SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

THE DAILY STATESMAN dedicates two or more pages each week in the interests of one of the fifty-two to a hundred basic industries of the Salem district. Letters and articles from people with vision are solicited. This is your page. Help make Salem grow.

THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO CHOICE; EVERGREEN GREAT COMMERCIAL BERRY

Prof. Schuster of the Oregon Agricultural College Gives Latest Hints on Soil Conditions and Other Matters in Successful Growing of Our Great Pie Berry of Commerce—He Thinks Irrigation Will Improve the Quality and Quantity

Editor Statesman:

The blackberry industry of Oregon is primarily concerned and confined to the canning of the Evergreen blackberry. The big bulk of the berries canned in this state are those of the wild patches, either in the Willamette valley or in the coast valleys adjoining. These berries have a reputation of being very firm and solid, and as such are sought after by the pie factories of the eastern part of the United States. Oregon cans but a very small quantity of fancy blackberries in syrup, as the blackberries are not primarily of that quality.

Acres under cultivation of the Evergreen is very limited, but increasing quite rapidly. There is a tendency and a demand for larger berries such as could be grown under cultivation with good care. Probably as these patches develop a larger percentage will be canned in fancy syrup, bringing a slightly higher price.

The growing of the Evergreen has not met with the general favor that many other berries have, due to the difficulty in handling it in a commercial way. The tremendous growth and the very thorny condition of the cane, make them very difficult to handle, but the crops reported in Washington, where they average six tons to the acre, make them attractive to growers notwithstanding the difficulty in handling.

The Other Varieties

The Himalaya and Australian are grown only to a limited extent. Both of them being a softer, less desirable blackberry for the canning trade. We find the Himalaya grown to a certain extent to furnish a larger berry for the fresh trade in local markets. The Australian is seldom found and does not seem to be as satisfactory as the Himalaya. Probably all of the berries that we have the Himalaya is the rankest, most vigorous grower of all, and as such it is the most difficult to handle. It does have the advantage, though, that it does not have to be entirely renewed each year, as some growers are handling it by keeping the original canes year after year and merely renewing from points on those canes.

The Mammoth blackberry is the first large blackberry to ripen in the summer. The quality is very excellent, but is inclined to be soft for canning. Connected with the Mammoth is the Cory Thornless that apparently is a bud sport of the Mammoth. The Cory Thornless has a characteristic similar to many other bud sports of reverting to its original condition, so that it has been commonly reported that a Cory Thornless planting may in a short time be almost or altogether nothing but a planting of the Mammoth. In other words, the thornless rots or kills, by putting out new canes of a thorny condition, and reverts to the original Mammoth blackberry.

Self Sterile Varieties

In connection with these two berries we have a condition found only in them. Most of our blackberries are entirely self-fertile, needing no cross-pollination. Experiments with the Mammoth have shown definitely that it is self sterile and needs cross pollination. So far as known no exact work has been done with the Cory Thornless but it apparently behaves in the same way, for whole plantings of this variety have failed entirely where no other blackberry was near. Where they are interplanted they seem to bear and bear quite heavily, furnishing delicious fruit for the fresh market.

Our Native Variety

All of these trailing evergreen varieties have been imported from other countries. We have here in the Willamette valley the native dewberry or native blackberry, which is now called the Ideal Wild. It is a perfect fruiting and and perfect blooming variety of the Rubus Macrocalyx, the native dewberry or native early blackberry of this section. From this species has come in the past varieties like the Cazadero, Belle of Washington, and similar varieties which have not up to date made any impression on our horticulture. The ideal wild apparently is a little larger, though not as

sweet as the common wild blackberry found in the woods.

All of the blackberries mentioned previously have been those of a trailing character. There has not been found any of the upright that have been satisfactory under our conditions as compared to those that we are growing of the trailing variety. The Eldorado, Kittatiny or any of the others that have been tried and grown have been discarded for one reason or another. They are easier to handle as a rule, but have proven less satisfactory in yield or in quality of fruit as compared to the others.

Ideal Conditions Here

We have in our locations of western Oregon apparently ideal conditions for the development of the Evergreen blackberry. They are simply at home here, as evidenced by their escape to the wild, and the way they spread in the hillsides and valleys without any care.

Anyone noting the wide distribution of these berries would think that they would be grown permiscuously without any care or adaptation of soil. However, the best berries will always be found on the deep, well drained soils, that supply abundant moisture. Anyone that has hunted through the mountains or fished along the streams knows that the largest and finest berries are found next to small streams or even larger streams where the soil is deep but well supplied with moisture underneath. This moisture, though, is not standing stagnant water without oxygen in it but is free, moving water that supplies plentiful oxygen to the roots. The attempt to grow Evergreen blackberries or Himalayas on our heavy white land or similar types of land where the water table is high throughout the winter has invariably met with poor results. The roots are apparently choked off or killed off so that when the demand comes for heavy supplies of moisture in the late summer and the fruit is maturing, the plant is not able to get it. We find in those patches that the steady, hard fruits predominate and the quality is very low.

Irrigation Beneficial

One point that is yet to be developed but is being studied at the present time is the effect of irrigation upon that berry in this section. It would seem conditions and from observation that a heavy irrigation in the late summer would greatly increase the crop and there would be a possibility of enlarging the yield from any acreage.

Due to the heavy growth and the heavy production, it would seem essential that very rich soil be provided for these fruits. Evidently and probably the fertilizers added to these fruits on most soils will pay well for themselves. If they are to make a heavy growth and provide heavy crops they must be furnished with abundant plant foods, and this can only be done under most conditions by artificial manure such as barnyard manure and commercial fertilizers in combination with cover crops. In any planting made, cover cropping should start at the very beginning in order to hold up the fertility of the soil and keep the soil open and friable by the addition of the vegetative matter. Cover cropping is one of the easiest and the cheapest ways of furnishing plant foods to the berries.

Need Much Room

In connection with plant food and a large moisture supply comes the advisability of giving large space and room for such plants. A distance from 15 to 20 feet apart in the rows for Evergreen blackberries and the same for the Himalaya blackberry does not seem to be unreasonable. The rows should be at least nine feet apart for ease in cultivating and working, and apparently with such distances the yields are just as large as from closer planting and the care and work necessary is greatly reduced.

The Mammoth blackberry on the other hand takes about the same spacing as does the loganberry. It is very similar in its

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Dates of Slogans in Daily Statesman (In Weekly Statesman)

(With a few possible changes) Loganberries, October 7, 1926
Prunes, October 14
Dairying, October 21
Max, October 28
Elberts, November 4
Walnuts, November 11
Strawberries, November 18
Apples, November 25
Raspberries, December 2
Mint, December 9
Beans, etc., December 16
Blackberries, December 23
Cherries, December 30
Pears, January 6, 1927
Gooseberries, January 13
Corn, January 20
Celery, January 27
Spinach, etc., February 3
Onions, etc., February 10
Potatoes, etc., February 17
Bees, February 24
Poultry and Pet Stock, Mar. 3
City Beautiful, etc., March 10
Great Cows, March 17
Paved Highways, March 24
Head Lettuce, March 31
Siles, etc., April 7
Legumes, April 14
Asparagus, etc., April 21
Grapes, etc., April 28
Drug Garden, May 6
Sugar Beets, Sorghum, etc., May 13, 1927
Water Powers, May 20
Mining, June 3
Land, Irrigation, etc., June 10
Floriculture, June 17
Hops, Cabbage, etc., June 24
Wholesaling and Jobbing, July 1
Cucumbers, etc., July 8
Goats, July 22
Schools, etc., July 29
Sheep, Aug. 5
National Advertising, Aug. 12
Livestock, August 26
Grain and Grain Products, Sept. 2
Manufacturing, September 9
Automotive Industries, Sept. 16
Woodworking, etc., Sept. 23
Paper Mills, Sept. 30
Summary, Oct. 7
(Back copies of the Thursday edition of The Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 10 cents each, mailed to any address. Current copies 5 cents.)

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DID YOU KNOW that Marion county produces a big tonnage of the Evergreen blackberries in Oregon, that Polk county is next, Yamhill county third and Linn county fourth, giving the Salem district a large part of the Oregon acreage of this most important crop; that there are chances for immense development in this great pie berry industry here; that it is an important link in diversified agriculture; that there is profit in growing Evergreen blackberries, and an empire here in extent suitable for their growth, and that new comers will do well to study the importance of this berry in their schemes of production.

CASCARA MAY PROVE PROFITABLE ON UNUSED LAND; OAC AUTHORITY

Experiments Are Being Carried on at the Oregon Agricultural College. There Being Three Ways to Start Plantations—It Is Likely That There Will Be a Market for Cascara Bark for a Long Time

(In the December number of "The Oregon Countryman," one of the publications of the Oregon Agricultural college, there is printed the following article, by T. J. Starker, professor of forestry at the college.)

On most large farms there is usually some land that cannot be cropped successfully with ordinary crops. This land may be too wet, too dry, or too steep or, here on the Pacific coast, too expensive to clear. Under some of these conditions the growth of cascara or chittim may be profitable and with this in mind the school of forestry has had this tree under observation for several years.

Cascara (Rhamnus purshiana) was discovered on the banks of a tributary of the Columbia river about 1805 by members of an exploring party attached to the Lewis and Clark expedition. It has been grown under cultivation at the Arnold Arboretum near Cambridge, Mass., since 1873.

In old California the Mexican and Spanish priests claimed to have known it since the early 19th century, calling it cascara sagrada (sacred bark) because the wood was supposed to be identical with the "shittim or chittim" wood used in the ark of the covenant. The same wood was also said to have been used for dowel pins in the construction of King Solomon's temple.

The commercial range of this tree is much smaller than its botanical range, being confined to northwestern California, western Oregon and Washington and southern British Columbia. By far the largest per cent of the bark is gathered in western Oregon and Washington.

Methods of Planting

Two methods of starting plantations are available. Our experi-

ments indicate that wild seedlings dug in the woods and transplanted to the nursery, do remarkably well. The root system is also made more compact and fibrous by this transplanting process and better success is assured in the final field planting. However, if the ground could be well prepared, good survival should result in direct planting from forest to plantation. No confusion need result in selecting cascara seedlings, as it is the only deciduous tree in this region whose buds are not covered by bud scales. Young seedlings are apt to retain their leaves through the winter, which makes identification doubly sure.

Germination Variable

Seedlings can also be secured by planting seed which can be collected direct from the tree or from the ground in early fall. Germination of cascara seed is variable, but our present knowledge seems to indicate that early fall planting in sandy moist loam will give good results. If necessary to keep over winter the seed should be stratified in moist sand.

A third method of securing stock has also been successful, but is only practical when a few plants are desired or when there is no seed or wild stock of suitable size available. This method is "layering," a practice quite common in filbert culture.

On fair soil in the nursery at Corvallis, fall sown seed grew to three feet the first season, while spring sown seed averaged less than one foot. If the seedlings are planted in rows three feet apart, and two feet between plants, commercial harvesting should be able to start within eight to ten years. The weaker

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BLACKBERRIES ARE EVER IN DEMAND

It Does Not Require Fortunes to Introduce This Well Known Fruit

Editor Statesman:

While I am honored by this, your invitation, to write an article about blackberries, yet I must admit that my experience covers only five years. So this article must be limited accordingly.

We have evergreen blackberries only. They grow rank and are very prolific. Ours grow in well watered grounds. They require very little attention excepting at gathering time. The crop has never failed us. The fruit is luscious, large and abundant. The buyers always seem ready and anxious to accept our blackberries at market prices. We usually receive 4 1/2 to 5c per pound for this fruit.

Buyers never make any criticisms or deprecatory remarks about our blackberries. As our farmers have learned to their cost, this is not true of all kinds of fruit they take to market.

Quality Well Known

All over our big U. S. A. everybody knows that blackberries are very good eating and it is not necessary to spend fortunes to introduce this well known fruit. Who ever saw any one that didn't like blackberries? I know of no other fruit that is so sure a crop or requires so little effort to produce as the wonderful Evergreen blackberry.

—H. E. STEWART.
Crystal Spring Farm.
Salem, Or., Rt. 4, Box 118,
Dec. 18, 1926.

trees could be entirely removed, while the others could be cut close to the ground after all the bark is removed, allowing the stump to sprout or coppice and thus provide an additional later crop. This should be an absolute rule. In either harvesting the cultivated or wild bark, for if the dead stub is allowed to remain, it vitalizes the root system and the sprouting is greatly decreased. In cultivated plantations the removal of all but one or two sprouts per stump is considered good practice and will hasten the development of the next crop.

It Will Persist

It seems fairly certain that the price of cascara bark will never rise to any fabulous mark because of the competition of mineral compounds which will take its place as a laxative preparation in case

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of its high price. However, cascara bark will find a market at a reasonable price for a long time in spite of competition. This fact can be explained by the slowness of people in changing their old ideas and customs, and also from the fact that the laxative preparations from cascara bark are really superior to that of mineral compounds.

An Excellent Laxative

Professor Justin Power of the school of pharmacy says, "For the treatment of habitual constipation due to the lack of fundamental activity of the intestines or lack of digestive secretions, cascara sagrada has no peer. In the use of most laxatives, gradually increasing doses are necessary to produce their effect, but this is not true of cascara sagrada. It not only increases the secretions of the gastro-intestinal canal, but, due to its bitter principle, it acts as a tonic, improves the appetite and digestion and prevents the constipation which usually follows the use of similar drugs."

It is rather difficult to forecast the probabilities of any industry, but it is believed, under the right conditions, that cascara can be raised at a profit to a number of years.

(The Slogan editor of The Statesman has been contending, for many years, that the time was coming when cascara trees in the forests would become depleted, and that the cultivation of this crop would become a paying one in this section. It is not likely that the time will come, within any near future period, when any substitute will be considered just as good as cascara.—Ed.)

American Writers Swell Riviera Literary Colony

NICE.—(AP)—American authors are becoming prominent in the Riviera literary colony which has been exclusively Anglo-French for many years.

Brand Whitlock spends the winter months writing at Cannes, Max Eastman is completing another book on Soviet Russia in the garden of his Antibes home. F. Scott Fitzgerald is polishing off another flapper novel at Juan-les-Pins; Struthers Butts is working at Hyeres and Frank Harris is dividing his time between preparing the third volume of his autobiography and attempting to free the second volume from the hands of the law.

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ORGANIZING THE PRUNE INDUSTRY; HOW WORK HAS SO FAR PROGRESSED

"Preliminary Report to Date of the Organization Work in Connection With the Dried Prune Industry of Western Oregon and Clarke County Washington, December 21, 1926." Shows Very Good Progress Has Been Made

(The quoted words in the above heading is the title of a report of progress that has been sent out from the Portland Chamber of Commerce, and which deserves careful reading, as follows:

Because of the very unsatisfactory returns to the growers of dried prunes for the crop of 1926, and because of the fact that the opening price for dried prunes the last four years, was cut several times until to most growers there was no profit, upon the request of many owners and business men the marketing department of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, together with the marketing department of the Oregon Agricultural college, after many conferences with individual growers throughout the state and bankers and other business men, worked out plan which it was believed would remedy or at least improve the marketing situation.

In order to ascertain whether or no the prune growers generally throughout the state would approve of organizing along the lines that were suggested, a general state wide prune growers meeting was held at Dallas on November 5, at which time there were present over 200 prune growers and about 25 other people interested in packing and distributing prunes as well as business men, and a full consideration was given to the plan to organize the growers into

some one of three different kinds of units.

Three Different Plans

The first form of unit suggested was a unit which would pool their prunes and pack them and distribute them through a growers distributing organization similar to the Northwestern Prune Exchange.

The second plan of unit was to merely pool the prunes and pack such portions as could be sold through brokers or other prune packers, and to sell the remainder in bulk through packers or brokers.

The third form of unit to be merely a unit for pooling the dry prunes of the members, and all such prunes to be packed and distributed by the private packers.

A Central Organization

Regardless of the kind of unit which the grower might desire to form, it is the intention that representatives of all locals formed will come into a central meeting or organization for the purpose of carrying out the different matters which pertain to the industry as a whole and which everyone con-

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