

Our Evergreen Blackberry Industry Should Grow

The Pugh Pear Peeling Machine Will Help Put Up a Big Factory Here

Each Unit Will Do the Work of 100 Women and Make Numerous Other Savings; Machine is Going Out on Royalty

Salem is to be headquarters of a concern making labor saving cannery machinery and devices that is destined to have a large and world wide business.

A few days ago there was a meeting of the stockholders of C. J. Pugh & Co. at which were present among others, J. O. Holt of Eugene, James G. Heltzel, Paul Wallace and L. T. Reynolds of Salem, and K. M. and C. J. Pugh of this city, and it was decided to begin making up immediately after the first of the year, five units of the Pugh pear peeling machine units which have been spoken of as a contractor for also, it was decided that for each unit contracted for beyond five an extra one is to be made, up to at least a total of ten units to be put out this year. They are not to be sold. They are to be put out on royalty contracts.

C. J. Pugh, the inventor and patentee of the machine, commenced working on the idea 10 years ago. In 1917 one trial machine was made and taken by Libby, McNeill & Libby, and it worked very well. This year a machine was made for the cannery at Eugene, of the Eugene Fruit Growers' association, long managed by J. O. Holt, and that machine was tried out successfully in the pear canning season of last fall, and attracted much attention from canners.

Mr. Holt found that the machine effected a saving, not only in wages paid out for women peelers, but it eliminated a great deal of waste, for on the fruit going through the machine there is an 11 per cent waste only, a saving of four per cent, or about \$1.50 a ton. He thought the machine might work on tomatoes and beets, and it was tried out on them. It worked on beets, but was not successful on tomatoes. Mr. Pugh will no doubt, in time, find out why, and make a machine that will handle tomatoes.

The process, as was described on the Slogan page last year, is to first put the fruit through an acid bath. This loosens the skin. Then it is carried through water, which stops the action of the acid. Then it is taken to a cylinder where the skin is rubbed off. The capacity of the machine at Eugene is about 1500 bushels a day.

In the meantime, Mr. Pugh has been working in the factory here on improvements. He has a machine "on the floor" now, fully set up. It is run by four women, and each unit will do the work formerly done by 100 women peelers.

The present machine is as far ahead of the one at Eugene as that one excels in its operations, the original one installed by Libby, McNeill & Libby.

A recent trial run made by the present machine resulted in the putting through of 108 bushels of pears in 30 minutes.

The machine on hand can be taken to any cannery and installed in an hour. All that is needed is electric, water and sewer connections. Then it will be ready to go. The cannery installing it will have no initial expense. It will save \$25 on each \$100 former cost of peeling. It saves inspectors for peeled pears; saves pay of men to put up ing boxes, and hauling of peeling. Saves tables, conveyors, pans, grading for size before peeling. It does a job that cannot be duplicated for neatness; obviates strikes and labor troubles; overcomes labor shortages; handles fruit at proper time; will work overtime and Sundays without extra pay. It takes small floor space; eight by 30 feet. No muzz or stop or slack time because of sickness or lateness of women.

Here is a prediction by the Slogan man: The C. J. Pugh factory will become one of the big manufacturing concerns of Salem, and

MORE EVERGREENS ARE DOUBTFUL BET

(John C. Burtner, high authority at the Oregon State college, sends the following, written for this blackberry Slogan issue of the Statesman.)

The Agricultural Outlook report for 1928, issued February 15 last, had this to say regarding the prospect for blackberries and other bramble fruits:

"At present canned bramble fruits are receiving serious competition from canned peaches, prunes and pears, all of which are comparatively low in price. It is evident that to meet this competition the price of canned brambles must be kept as low as possible. No increase in the acreage of brambles can be recommended at this time except in localities where the best cultural conditions are obtained and where market facilities are available."

No official figures of this year's production of blackberries in Oregon are available, but official observations indicate that little change has taken place in acreage or general volume of production. Prices this year were not such as to stimulate production, and, as predicted in the outlook report, plantings giving good return were those where cultural practices were the best and where markets were close at hand.

Fortunately these conditions obtained in many parts of Marion county, where canning plants have provided a steady outlet for good berries especially of the evergreen variety. High quality is being more and more insisted upon however, with the consequent lessening of competition from the uncultivated evergreens. Almost phenomenal yields are obtained from evergreens in some sections of Marion county, and where high yields of good quality berries are possible profits are good even at the marginal prices prevailing the last two years.

The Market Outlook A recent review of the canned goods situation in the United States had this to say regarding the competition afforded canned berries by other fruits:

"In order that the farmer may be advised relative to the conditions which govern the sale of berries on the canned goods market, it might be well to give some figures relative to the output of peaches in California, which governs in a way the consumption of our common fruits."

"In 1927 California packed 10,829,681 cases of peaches and 3,116,713 cases of apricots. The year before California packed 13 million cases of peaches. This commodity is sold on the market at a much lower price than Oregon berries and consequently influences the berry sale to a considerable extent. The demand for California peaches and apricots is quite large because of the extensive advertising campaign that is being carried on constantly through the national magazines by California packers."

"The normal carry-over of peaches represents such a large quantity that in order to move these products they are sold on the market at less than half price in some cases. Consequently, Oregon berries are not bought by the consumer and the canner holds a perishable article."

Thus the seasonal fluctuations in production of major fruits in the canning trade has a direct bearing on the demand for Oregon canned berries and explains to some extent the marked changes in demand from year to year on the part of packers.

The Big 1926 Pack Volume of Oregon canned blackberries reached a peak in 1926 when 343,582 cases were packed. The following year the total dropped to approximately half of that amount, only 175,864 being

packed. Just how many were packed this year is not known as yet, but late last year this warning was issued among the packing trade:

"Blackberries. Blackberries were packed in smaller quantities this year than normally because of the larger carry-over in 1926. It is not desirable to pack blackberries in such extensive quantities as were packed in 1926 because of the other states in the union that normally pack blackberries in large quantities, causing the price to drop down below the cost of packing, making it unprofitable for the packer to pack this commodity in any large quantity except on order."

Statistics on Packs The following groups of statistics show the relationship of blackberry production in this and competing states, and shows the growth in this state together with its relation to other fruit crops.

Blackberries canned in 1924, by states: Washington 489,337 Oregon 222,088 Texas 106,274 California 59,963 Michigan 42,095 North Carolina 37,240 Missouri 18,550 All other states 19,060

Total 1,007,429 Figures for 1927 for Oregon and Washington: Washington 468,834 Oregon 175,864

Total 644,693 Packs of various fruits in Oregon for 1926 and 1927:

Commodity	1926	1927
Apples	420,357	327,892
Black raspberries	27,501	26,073
Blackberries	343,582	175,864
Cherries	387,335	251,735
Gooseberries	82,252	84,503
Loganberries	484,718	375,759
Plums	7,815	2,660
Pears	679,114	459,644
Rhubarb	4,957	11,954
Raspberries	70,075	82,236
Strawberries	19,760	270,314
Prunes	372,038	345,151
Peaches	4,338	
Jams, Jellies and Preserves	32,448	54,530
Miscellaneous	3,173	
Totals	3,201,403	2,508,245

CHARGES PUBLISHED BY GOVERNOR-ELECT

TOPEKA, Kans., Dec. 22.—(AP)—Charges that "boozing parties" had been used by lobbyists in effort to influence legislation by the Kansas legislature were made today by Clyde M. Reed, governor-elect, in notifying state and local officials he would expect strict law enforcement during the biennial session convening next month.

Mr. Reed charges that eight state senators, four railroad attorneys, representatives of the Bell Telephone company, and "other public utility and corporation representatives" had attended a "big boozing party" which he said had been held this year in one of Topeka's principal hotels by the corporation lobby.

Names of the guests and hosts were not disclosed.

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Evergreen Blackberry Is Great Pie Berry, and It Originated In Our Valley

Too Many Cases of This Berry Were Canned in 1926, and The Industry Is Now Marking Time; Tame and Wild Ones

Robert C. Paulus, of the Paulus Bros. Packing company, Salem, canners and brokers, answering the reporter's question concerning the prospects for the evergreen blackberry industry, said too many cases of these berries were canned in this section in 1926. The valley canners put up unusually large packs, and the fish canneries along the coast went into the canning of these berries. They could buy the wild berries in Tillamook, Clackamas and other counties along the coast at very low prices, and they took a chance.

So there was a large carry-over from that year. There is still a carry-over, but it is not more than half as large as at that time last year. Mr. Paulus thinks it will all clean up by the next harvest, or if any canned evergreen are left over the supply will be small. So, if the pack of next year is not too large, the season of 1930 for evergreen blackberries ought to be good; or at least fair. For the present, that branch of the fruit growing industry here is marking time.

Cultivated Berries Better In normal years, the cultivated evergreens are better than those grown on the vines that come up in the wild state all over the district. Of better quality for canning. But the last two seasons there has been little difference. They were peculiar seasons. It just happened. The reason the wild berries are inferior for canning, in ordinary years, is that they shrink more. They do not come out of the cans in as solid a state as the cultivated berries. That is a prime consideration in the markets. The big bakers and other consumers want a berry that comes out firm, solid and not mushy.

Taking one season with another, the cultivated berries will command a shade better price from the canners than they will

pay for the berries from the wild vines.

"Tame" and Wild Ones Will it pay to plant more evergreens and cultivate them? That is a question no canner wants to be quoted on for the present. New outlets for marketing may develop that will make safe an answer to this question in the affirmative. That will be a matter in which time will be of the "essence of the contract," as the lawyers say.

One thing is certain, this is a great evergreen blackberry country, for both the berries that come from the wild vines, and from the vines that are cultivated. This industry was started here. The evergreen vine is not native here. It just happened. It probably came from seed scattered by birds, in long flights. Some authorities say the start came from England.

Any way, it is here, and the evergreen blackberry is one of the great pie berries of commerce. It has had a very fair past, and it may conceivably have a much greater future.

GOVERNMENT LAND PERCENTAGE GIVEN

The apportionment of approximately \$1,500,000 of federal aid money to the road building program of Oregon each year serves to bring out numerous questions relative to the amount of government owned land in the various states. According to statistics compiled by the Oregon State Motor association the total area of land and water in the 48 states is 3,026,719 square miles. The total area of land owned by the federal government in the form of unappropriated and unreserved public land,

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DID YOU KNOW that Marion county produces the largest tonnage of the Evergreen blackberries of any county 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 cultivated Evergreen blackberries here in the right locations and under the proper conditions, 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?

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non-taxable Indian land, and national forests, parks and monuments, is 612,108 square miles, or 20 per cent of the total area comprising the 48 states. The land owned by the federal government is not distributed evenly among the 48 states. Nine states have no federal land. In 16 states the federal land is less than one per cent of the total state area. In nine states the federal land represents from one to 4 percent of the total state area. In 14 states the federal holdings are from 7.2 percent to 84.2 percent of the total state area.

Evergreen Blackberry Center SALEM is the actual and potential evergreen blackberry center of the world—

And this comes by fortuitous accident, as is the case with the loganberry. Neither berry is native. The loganberry came by way of California, where it was born as a cross between a blackberry and raspberry. The evergreen blackberry probably came from seeds carried by birds, or in some other way, from England. The loganberry was developed into a commercial fruit in the Salem district.

And the same is true of the evergreen blackberry; now sometimes called the Oregon blackberry, to which name it is entitled and by which it should be known in all the markets, in whatever form.

It is not likely that the cultivated evergreen will be overdone here. It is more likely to be underdone, because we must gain our great reputation as a fruit center on quality.

And the quality of the cultivate evergreen is in most years far superior as a canning product to the berry gathered from vines growing in the wild state.

The evergreen is the great pie fruit of commerce; and other uses will be found for it.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that our fruit growers should maintain and increase their plantings and their care of their evergreen blackberry vines, and be patient in their wait for the complete stabilization of this branch of our great fruit industry.

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Dates of Slogans in Oregon Statesman

(With a few possible changes)
Loganberries, October 7, 1928.
Prunes, October 14.
Dairying, October 21.
Flax, October 28.
Filberts, November 4.
Walnuts, November 11.
Strawberries, November 18.
Apples, Figs, etc., Nov. 25.
Raspberries, December 2.
Mint, December 9.
Beans, etc., December 16.
Blackberries, December 23.
Cherries, December 30.
Pears, January 6, 1929.
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 5.
Sugar Industry, May 12.
Water Power, May 19.
Irrigation, May 26.
Mining, June 2.
Land, Irrigation, etc., June 9.
Floriculture, June 16.
Hops, Cabbage, etc., June 23.
Wholesaling, Jobbing, June 30.
Cucumbers, etc., July 7.
Hogs, July 14.
Goats, July 21.
Schools, July 28.
Sheep, August 4.
Seeds, August 11.
National Advertising, Aug. 18.
Livestock, August 25.
Grain & Grain Products, Sept. 1.
Manufacturing, Sept. 8.
Woolworking, etc., Sept. 15.
Automotive Industries, Sept. 22.
Paper Mills, Sept. 29.
(Back copies of the Sunday edition of The Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 10 cents each, mailed to any address. Current topics, 5 cents.

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