GREEN PRUNE DEAL IN VALLEY PRACTICALLY OVER

WEEK END LAST OF GREEN PRUNES SHIPPED

The green prune deal in the Willamette valley is practically over and will probably be consummated with the shipment of fruit already purchased and picked by the end of the week.

This is the consensus of opinion among both shippers and growers here today. Operations have been curtailed almost to a standstill, and with the exception of one of the smaller operators all of the shippers have called a halt on the picking operations. Today the packing plants are busy preparing the fruit that has already been picked and delivered for shipment, and six cars are expected to roll from here before night. The total movement from central valley points today will not exceed 15 cars.

The real reason for the sudden suspension of the deal remains a mystery, but the large percentage of cracked prunes resulting from the rain and the consequent increase in the price of sorting that cuts down the margin of the operators is believed to be chiefly responsible. At one local packing plant the force of sorters handling a given amount of fruit had to be trippled this morning to insure first quality shipments.

Not Overripe

Reports on the first cars to move out by freight to eastern markets, received here this morning, stating that the buyers are disappointed and the fruit "too ripe," are being received with a grain of salt. Growers and others interested in the deal point out that the first prunes shipped were so green that some of the operators refused to take them. Prunes picked for tests 16 days ago at Dallas are just getting real ripe and showing good color.

That Denney & Co., have pulled completely out of the local market was pretty well established this morning when growers who have sold to them failed to receive orders to resume picking. In some sections, Dallas for instance, the company is still said to be buying but only in sufficient quantities to use up the box shooks on hand. Further information was to the effect that the company has diverted further shipments of shooks from valley points.

Young Halts Buying

Picking was also called off by Young & Wells this morning but according to John Young, in charge of the company's operations here, the order was issued only to relieve the congestion in the warehouse where three carloads had accumulated and enough picked fruit was rolling in to fill another car.

Mr. Young said that the suspension of picking was only temporary, but whether his company would continue its operations here beyond the end of the week had not been decided. The cost of sorting out the cracked prunes, running as high as 20 per cent in some orchards, was one matter under consideration, he said. He will make no definite decision until he has received reports from the eastern markets on the prunes he has shipped himself.

PRICE CUTTERS PULL OUT OF N. Y. MARKETS

While official confirmation was not obtainable here this morning, confidential reports from two sources in the New York dried prune market told of the complete withdrawal of the Mason-Ehrman company from the market, following its price cutting activities of earlier in the week, and indicated that the market there is now firm but rather inactive at the opening prices quoted by most of the operators.

Earlier in the week Mason-Ehrman dealers were reported as quoting 40s and 50s straight on the New York market at a half a cent under the established opening, causing a flurry which resulted in the suspension of practically all buying.

The withdrawal movement is considered as a maneuver to allow the company to later reenter the market on the higher schedule quoted by the other brokers in the opening lists which, so far as can be determined, are being maintained.

Further activity in the foreign demand for prunes is indicated in the booking this morning by the Drager Fruit company of an English order for a carload of two assortments at the opening prices. The shipment will be made by water out of Portland.

SUGAR PRICES ADVANCE ANOTHER TEN CENTS

San Francisco, Aug. 21—An advance of 10 cents a hundred pounds in the price of refined cane and beet sugar to jobbers to take effect tomorrow was announced today by the Western Sugar Refining company. This increase brings the price of cane sugar to $7.35 and that of beet sugar to $7.15.

Chicago Grain

Chicago, Aug. 21—Wheat No. 2 red $1.33¾; No. 2 hard $1.27¾@1.28¼; corn No. 2 mixed $1.21@1.22; No. 2y ellow $1.21½@1.22½; oats No. 2 white 52½@55½c; No. 3 white 51¼@53¼c; rye No. 2, 93½c; barley $2@90c; timothy seed $6.75@7.75; clover seed $11.50@21.50.

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EGG ADVANCE DUE TO SHORTAGE BUTTER FIRM

Portland, Aug. 21—An actual shortage of fresh eggs is shown in the local market and values are maintaining a very firm undertone. On the exchange fresh current receipts were forced up an other cent to 32½ cents net. Buyers are offering 33 cents to country shippers this morning for good farm stock delivered Portland.

Graded stocks are also in demand with extras holding firm at the 39 cent level on the exchange and firsts posted at 37 cents.

There is a brisk shipping demand with Pacific coast white extras bid as high as 50 cents on the New York market. Chicago is also higher today at 33 cents for firsts.

Storage eggs are good property, according to local jobbers, who see higher prices in sight. Eggs coming in now show a vast improvement in quality over two weeks ago.

The butter market is steady and unchanged. Extras 39 cents; standards 38 cents.

Unsettled weather put a damper on produce trading. Fruits and melons were especially slow with considerable price cutting going on in both cantaloupes and watermelons. Retailers bought only fancy stock and then in limited quantities.

Peaches alone continue to hold up well with Crawfords and Elbertas bringing $1.25 to $1.35 a box.

Supplies of onions are confined to Washington stocks with the Oregon crop still in the fields drying.

New potatoes were plentiful with United States No. 1 stock bringing $2 per hundred. Buying price down around $1.50.

@1.22; No. 2 yellow $1.21½@$1.75 to $2.

LIVESTOCK

Portland, Aug. 21—Cattle and calves slow; receipts 623; steers 1100 pounds down, good blank; medium $6.75@7.75; common $4.00@6.00; heifers, good 850 pounds up blank; common and medium all weights $3.50@5.25; cows, good blank; common and medium $3.00@4.75; canner and cutters $1.50@3.00; bulls, good, beef yearlings excluded $3.75@4.50; common to medium, canner and bologna $2.75@3.75; calves, medium to choice 190 to 260 lbs. $6.50@10; medium to choice 260 pounds up $5.00@6.50; cull and common 190 pounds up $4.00@5.00

Hogs weak; receipts 855; heavy weight (250 to 350 lbs.) medium, good and choice $9.00@10.00; medium weight (200 to 250 lbs.) medium, good and choice $9.75@10.25; light weight (160 to 200 lbs.) common, medium good and choice $10.50@11.00; light lights (130 to 160 pounds) common, medium, good and choice $9.50@10.25; packing hogs smooth $8.00@8.75; packing hogs, rough $7.00@8.00; slaughter pigs (130 lbs. down) medium, good and choice $8.50@9.50; feeder and stocker pigs (70 to 130 pounds) common, medium, good and choice $7.50@8.00. (Soft or oily hogs and roasting pigs excluded in above quotations.)

Sheep and lambs steady, receipts 250. Lambs, light and handy weight Mount Adams $10.00@10.75; medium to good valley $8.50@10.25; heavyweight 92 lbs. up medium to prime $8.00@9.50; all weights cull and common $5.50@8.50; yearling wethers, medium to prime $6.50@8.00; wethers two years old and over medium to prime $4.50@7.50; ewes, common to choice $3.00@5.00; canner and cull $1.00@3.00. (Above quotations except lambs on shorn basis.)

BUTTER AND BUTTERFAT

Portland, Aug 21—Butter steady extra cubes, city 39c; standards 38c; prime firsts 36½c; firsts 35c; under grade nominal prints 40c; cartons 41c.

Butterfat steady; best churning cream 37@38c net shippers' track in zone 1.

POTATOES

Portland, August 21—Potatoes weak; $1.40@1.50 for U. S. No. 1.

WHEAT

Portland, Aug. 21—Wheat bids: hard white 126 bsart $1.40; soft white $1.34½; western white $1.34 hard winter $1.24; northern spring $1.27. Today's car receipts: wheat 32c; flour 2, oats 6, barley 6, hay 9.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Portland, Aug. 21—Eggs firm; pullets 29½c; firsts 32½c; henneries 34@34½c delivered Portland.

Portland, August 21—Poultry slow; springs 20@23c; stags 12c; heavy hens 20@21c; light 12@13c; roosters 16c; ducks, white pekins 19@20c.

HOP MARKET

Portland, Aug. 21—Hops quiet; contract 17@18c; 1923 crop 15@17c.

Teheran, Persia—Dr. Joseph H. Kornfeld, American minister to Persia, who recently resigned, planned to sail for home September 1.

FRENCH CROP OF PRUNES EQUAL TO LAST YEAR'S

Advance estimates made by dealers in Paris place the local 1924 prune crop at about 450,000 Bordeaux metric quintals, says the New York Journal of Commerce. Bearing in mind the fact that a Bordeaux quintal is only 50 kilograms, this total corresponds to 22,500 metric tons. The figure compares quite favorably with the final crop total for last year, which was 580,000 Bordeaux quintals—after having been estimated originally at not far from 600,000, according to the Department of Commerce.

While the 1924 crop does not measure up in quality to the one of last year, it is expected to prove sufficient for local needs and also to allow for at least two-thirds the volume of exports which followed the 1923 season. According to estimates made by local dealers, these exports amounted to somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000 cases, of 12½ kilograms each. The principal markets were England, Belgium, Holland and Germany, in that order. England was by far the best customer, the principal reason, of course, being the depreciation of the French franc, which was important just following the close of the prune season. The British market was apparently well satisfied with the French prunes, and is expected to call for an even greater amount this year.

Prices on certain sizes of prunes varied in some instances as much as 20 francs from one day to the next. In September, when the French prunes first came on the market, prices were comparatively high, but at the end of October they had fallen to the following quotations per 100 kilograms, f. o. b. Bordeaux:

Grade-Size.	Francs
60-60	375
70-75	275
80-85	210
90-95	165

Prices rose again early in December and continued high until the crop was altogether disposed of. This latter occurred early in March and thereby rendered quite ineffective an export duty of 10 per cent which was levied on all out-going shipments of prunes by the French government in an endeavor to keep down the cost of living. This export duty is still in effect, and will be sure to curtail exports after the 1924 season unless it is lifted before that time.

The probability of a good local crop is expected to practically close the French market to prunes from California and Serbia. Imports into France from these two regions have been abnormally small since the 1923 crop came on the market due largely to the depreciation of the franc and the consequent spread between prices within France is said not to be disturbing Serbian growers this year, as Germany is expected to buy practically the entire crop, as it did last year.

ALL PRUNES TO FIND READY SALE AT FAIR PRICES

Suspension of the green prune deal in the valley will have little appreciable effect upon either the marketability or the price of prunes to the growers, it was said

Malaga grapes are selling at watching the situation closely, who predict that all of the prunes in the valley will find a ready sale at picking time at prices equal to or exceeding those now being offered for the green fruit.

Already, they point out, there is a decided activity among the buyers of dried fruit, and during the past few days the commercial driers have been scouring the field for ripe fruit to be delivered at picking time. Prices generally offered for the ripe fruit are as high, or higher than the green fruit prices, and the great weight of the fruit at picking time will increase this margin.

At Dallas, where the buyers for commercial driers are most active, the following prices are being offered freely:

9s or 10s	85c
10s or 12s	80c
12s or 14s	75c
14s or 16s	70c
16s or 18s	65c
18s or 20s	60c
20s or 22s	55c
22s or 24s	50c

This scale, it is claimed, means from $25 to $30 a ton to the growers for the fruit as it will average in size this season.

Cascara Bark and Nuts

Portland, Aug. 21—Cascara bark quiet, no demand; new peal 8@9c per pound; old peel 11@12c Oregon grape root 4c. Nuts steady; walnuts, No. 1 budded 25½c pound; filberts 16c.

Salem Markets

Compiled from reports of Salem dealers for the guidance of Capital Journal readers. (Revised daily.)

Grain: No. 1 white wheat $1.20 bu.; No. 1 mixed wheat $1.18; No. 1 red wheat $1.17 (sacked).

Wholesale Prices

Meat: Top hogs 10½c; sows 7@8c; dressed hogs 14c; top steers 5@6c; cows 2½@3½c; canner cows 1½c; bulls 2½c; spring lambs up to 84 lbs., 8½c; 84 to 90 lbs., 7c; 90 to 100 lbs., 7c; veal 8c; dressed veal 14c.

Poultry: Springers 17@18c; light hens 12c; heavy hens 17@18c; old roosters 7c; ducks 16@18c

Butterfat 38c; creamery butter 41@42c; eggs 24, 28@30c; milk $1.85 per cwt.

Vegetables: New potatoes 2c; Oregon cabbage 2½c; celery 80@90c per dozen; celery hearts 80c per dozen; onions $2.75 per cwt; sweet corn 20c per dozen; white corn 20c per dozen; string beans 5c; green lima beans 9@10c; beets 80c doz. 10c size; sweet potatoes, fancy 14c; tomatoes, generally $1.00@1.25 box; peaches, Yakima Elbertas $1.25; Crawfords $1.15; cucumbers 65c lug; peppers 10 lb.; yellow squash 3c lb.; ice cream melons 2½c lb.; muskmelons, home grown $4.75 per cwt.; bunched carrots 40@80c on 10c size; sacked carrots 3c; grapes, Malagas $2.50; Muscat $1.75; seedless $1.25; egg plant 10c lb.; casabas 3½c lb.; watermelons, honey dews 3¾c lb.; Klondike 2½c; Klicknick sweet 2½c.

NUT GROWERS TOUR VALLEY

Enthused by the manner in which the program for the first day of their tour through the nut producing sections of the Willamette valley went off yesterday, members of the Western Walnut Growers association who spent the first night of their junket here are today inspecting the Skyline Orchards, the largest walnut grove in the state.

Yesterday's program included visits to a number of Marion county orchards in the Silverton section, luncheon in that city, and dinner here last evening, followed by a meeting at the chamber of commerce at which crop, picking and marketing conditions were discussed by various growers, experts from the agricultural college and farm publication representatives who are accompanying the growers on their tour.

So far the junketeers have found the orchards visited to be in excellent condition, with prospects of a banner crop.

DALLAS PICKING OF GREEN PRUNES COMES TO HALT

Dallas, Or., Aug. 21.—Shipment of green prunes for the eastern market will come to a sudden halt in Dallas, today. Denney & company gave orders Wednesday morning by telephone to the local plant authorizing them to notify all growers to cease picking and to stop packing operation Thursday.

Cracking of prunes from the recent rain was assigned as the cause for the move. The decision to cease shipment came like a bolt out of the blue for Tuesday buyers were at work among the growers and notification was sent to prune men to pick their prunes as fast as possible, notwithstanding the rain.

The cracking has been slight and is of no consequence whatever so far as drying is concerned, local prune men state. A continued rain will have a bad effect, however, as the fruit is ripening rapidly.

The dropping out of the green prune shippers at the heighth of their season means that a larger amount will be dried here than had been anticipated. The packers shipped out between 40 and 50 cars of green fruit from Dallas, or approximately half of the amount they had signed up. Some growers had cleaned up their crop, while others will have a considerable carry over of fruit to dry.

Opinions differ here as to the time the drying will start. It is probable, however, that some fruit will have to be cared for by September 1, or possibly a few days earlier.

No brown rot has developed in prunes taken in here, and a very careful check was kept on this during the operations of the green fruit packers.

It is entirely possible that something other than the cracking of the prunes hac caused the cutting off of the shipments. It was predicted on the start from many points that prunes were being taken too green and it is possible the condition of the first cars at the market had something to do with the fear of the effects of the rain.

The prunes handled this week have been of much better quality, aside from a small percentage of cracked ones, than had been handled earlier.

CUCUMBER CROP PROMISES TO BE AVERAGE

Woodburn, Aug. 21—The outlook for a normal cucumber crop here has taken on a new aspect with the recent rain and if no frosty weather is experienced through this month and September it is expected the crop will come through as large as anticipated and the Oregon Packing company pickling plant will receive its desired tonnage. Earlier in the season the outlook was poor and receipts at the new plant here were discouraging.

Three women are now employed sorting the cucumbers and another man has been added to the force. Although the deliveries are not at their peak a few warm days will put the plant at full running capacity. William Blivens is manager of the Woodburn plant and he anticipates a good season with the encouraging weather conditions. In thi sdistrict the rain benefitted the cucumber crop perhaps more than any other one thing.

Dill is being supplied the local plant from a small patch east of town owned by Leo Hayes. Some of the crop is also being sent to the Albany plant where they have run short the past few days. 150 acres have been signed for in the territory near here and the company figures on an average yield of between five and ten tons of cucumbers to the acre. The quality has held up good and sizes have been coming in the right proportion. This is the first season for the plant here and with many growers handling cucumbers for the first time the recent rain was a godsend, turning discouragement to optimism.

PAULUS SELLS PRUNES PACKED FOR $47 TON

Sale of about half of the prune crop of the Paulus orchards for green shipment to the Schobel and Day company at a price which will gross about $47 a ton to the growers is announced today by Robert Paulus.

The exact prices paid for the various sizes of prunes packed in suitcases was not given out, some averaging considerably above this figure, but the returns from the whole deal will average around $47 Mr. Paulus said.

The prunes are to be delivered all sorted and packed, and Mr. Paulus contemplates letting the packing of the fruit out on contract.

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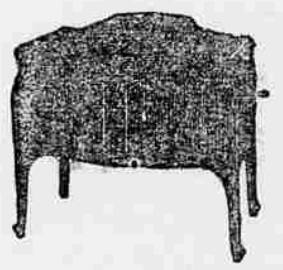

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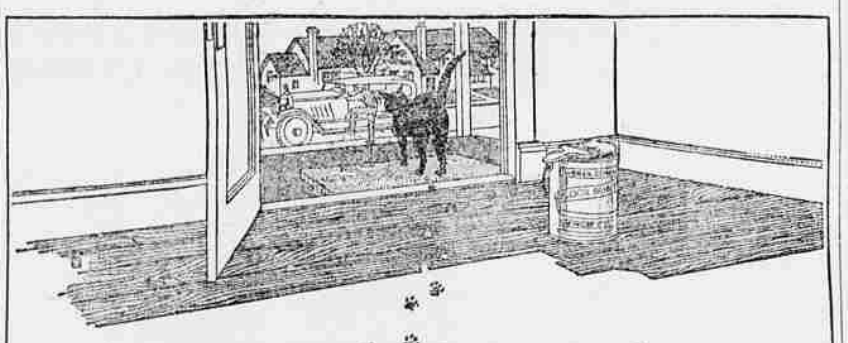

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