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PLANT QUARANTINE MUST BE ENFORCED

SAFETY OF FAR WESTERN CROPS DEPENDS ON STRICT BARRING OF FOREIGN PESTS.

Have you noticed how few wormy apples and pears appear on the market today compared with their abundance fifteen and twenty years ago? In those days nobody cared to eat an apple or a pear without first peeling and quartering it, performing a surgical operation on those numerous specimens showing unmistakable evidence of animal life, present or past. Not infrequently a third or a half of the fruit in a barrel was infected. Though "lively" cheese might have its friends, inhabited apples or pears had none at all and the consumption of these fruits suffered.

Why has the number of wormy apples diminished? And what produces the parasitic infection of the noble fruit, anyway?

Let's answer the last question first. The infection is produced by the codling moth, the female moth depositing the eggs on the outside of the young fruit or within the blossom.

Fifty years ago there wasn't a codling moth anywhere west of the Rockies. Though the moth was plentiful from Michigan and Missouri to the Atlantic, the Far West was clean, free of the pest.

Matthew Cooke first noticed the codling moth in California during the summer of 1874. Cooke was no scientific entomologist. He was merely a manufacturer of fruit boxes who had a sharp eye and a brain keen enough to make the right deductions from his observations. He traced the wormy condition of the apples in several orchards to the new insect, the codling moth, and he made himself a nuisance by urging quarantine measures, including the thorough cleaning or destruction of picking boxes.

Expensive Ignorance

Did they listen to him? Of course not; until the codling moth was flying in droves through every orchard until a sound apple or pear tree became exceedingly rare. Then, when it was too late, they created the office of state horticultural commissioner, gave Matthew Cooke the job and enabled him to start the world's first quarantine against the introduction of plant pests.

But the control of the codling moth cost money, lots of it. The codling moth inflicts a loss of at least seven dollars a year on every acre of commercial apple and pear orchard. To put it another way, the codling moth loads a perpetual mortgage of \$100 an acre on every orchard and the owner has to pay seven per cent interest without a chance to pay off the principal.

The Charge of the Bug Brigade

Yet he need never have incurred the debt. If the proper quarantine measures had been taken early enough, the codling moth, an immigrant from foreign shores, need never have gained a foothold in America, and most emphatically it could have been kept out of the Far Western orchards.

But so far as monetary damage is concerned the codling moth is a piker when compared with that king pin among naturalized alien plant enemies, the cotton boll weevil. Twenty years ago this insect was unknown in the United States. Coming from Mexico, a country which it had reached from its original Old World home, the boll weevil crossed the Rio Grande and marched north until it had spread over nearly the entire cotton area of the South. Talk about Sherman's march to the sea! Compared with the ravages of the boll weevil, that historic raid was as destructive as a convention of superannuated Sunday-school superintendents. Last year, in 1921, the greedy larvae of the boll weevil destroyed, according to the Department of Agriculture, cotton equal to 6,250,000 bales weighing 500 pounds each. At seven cents a pound this quantity represented a value of \$312,500,000!

Between 1900 and 1921 the boll weevil damage reached the equivalent of thirty million bales worth a billion and a half at ten cents a pound, the loss averaging 35 pounds per acre per annum or twenty per cent of the actual production.

Can you blame Arizona and California for establishing strict quarantine against Southern cotton? Their cotton plantations are clean and they want to keep them clean if it is humanly possible.

Twenty years hence Arizona and California will have a million acres in cotton, not the common Southern variety, but the long-staple Egyptian type worth thirty cents a pound up. If the boll weevil loss be only 35 pounds to the acre—the pink worm has twice the destructive appetite of its humbler brother—infestation by the pest will then cost the Southwest twelve million dollars a year. Infestation can be prevented by an efficient quarantine backed by popular support and co-operation. Which is better, to spend twelve thousand a year now or lose twelve million per annum in the near future?

Alfalfa Next

Let's take a look at a small beetle that puzzled some ranchers in Utah fifteen or sixteen years ago. They noticed that the first cutting of their alfalfa was very light, that the yield was only half or three-quarters of a ton per acre instead of twice that quantity. That was bad enough, but there was no second crop at all. The fields just wouldn't grow. When the ranchers investigated, they found every stalk of alfalfa covered with greedy little worms eating the new stems and leaves as fast as they grow. And then the worms disappeared. The alfalfa grew again. Two weeks later the fields were swarming with flocks of small beetles equipped with a long snout, with which they tapped the alfalfa stems to imbibe the juice. If the ranchers had taken a very close look, they would have discovered that the female beetle, having punctured the stem with her point d snout, turned round and deposited a cluster of eggs in the hole; that those egg clusters, almost invisible to the naked eye, would cost them two to three tons of hay per acre the next season.

"It's a weevil," said the entomologists. "It belongs to the order of the Coleoptera, more particularly to the subdivision of the Curculionidae, also known as Phytonomus positions, the Austrian or European alfalfa weevil. Very common in all Mediterranean countries and very destructive. Now how did Phytonomus positions come across the ocean, travel overland two thousand miles without stopping off anywhere and settle down here on the west side of the Wasatch?"

An Alfalfa Quarantine

That mystery has never been solved. Nobody found out how the alfalfa weevil got from Europe to Utah, but the Utah alfalfa growers, besides losing a large portion of the crop annually, soon discovered that no one wanted the balance. All the surrounding states established quarantines against Utah alfalfa.

Radical, drastic measures taken early enough might have succeeded in totally eradicating the pest while it was confined to a few acres near Salt Lake City, just as Florida has practically succeeded in eradicating citrus canker by burning every orange and grape fruit tree found to be infected. But nobody realized the seriousness of the new pest and it was allowed to spread until it covered practically every alfalfa district in Utah. From Utah it crossed over into southern Idaho, southwestern Wyoming and a portion of western Colorado, the quarantine notwithstanding. Two years ago it took a long leap west and appeared in Nevada.

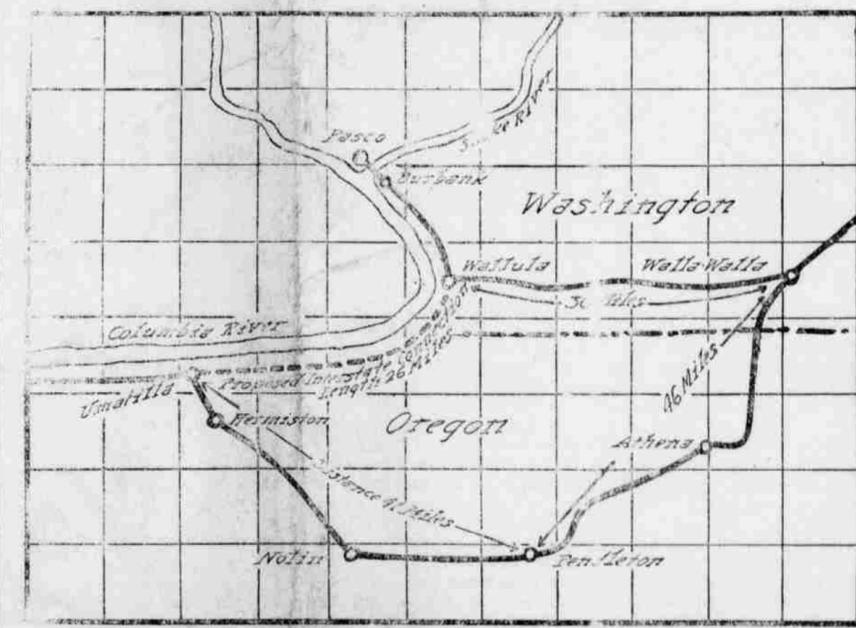
The Tinney Weevil

There are hundreds of miles of desert, long stretches of salt flats totally devoid of vegetation between the infested Utah field and the Nevada district in which the weevil now made its appearance. The railroad was constantly watched by suspicious inspectors. How did the weevil make the leap?

After a short investigation the culprit was found. It was that new breed of hobo, the Tin Lizzie tour-

WALLULA CUT-OFF

Designated at Last Meeting of Highway Commission as Primary Road



FEDERAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER PUTS WALLULA CUT-OFF OVER

ist. In Utah he robbed the nearest alfalfa stack of hay upon which to make his bed. As he rolled up his blankets in the morning, a few weevils or larvae were rolled up in them. Making camp the next night in Nevada, the indignant weevils abandoned their prison, took wing and lit in the nearest alfalfa patch.

California has a half million acres in alfalfa. Even though Utah has learned to hold down weevil damage through better cultivation, through pasturing early in the season and through spraying with arsenical poisons, nevertheless there is still considerable loss. This loss plus the cost of control measures is probably the equivalent of a ton and a half per acre. At the low price of six dollars a ton, California's potential loss through the alfalfa weevil would be close to five million dollars a year.

It surely is worth while to keep inspectors on all the main roads leading from Nevada into California to examine the ever-increasing number of automobiles making long-distance tours. Even if it were necessary to keep five hundred guards employed on the roads from snow to snow, the expense would be a drop compared with the ocean loss that would be incurred should this European pest succeed in crossing the Sierrita Nevada.

Keep the West Clean

The fruit industry of the Far West has reached its present huge size, largely because the West was clean. Compared with Europe, the West had very few species of injurious insects and fungi as a result the growers were able to produce large crops of clean, marketable fruit. They still enjoy this advantage, but every year the increase in world traffic necessitates greater vigilance, more rigid inspection of the growing number of commercial arteries.

The prosperity of the farmers affects all of us. If the alfalfa weevil reduces Farmer Brown's hay crop twenty tons, the town retailers, the city wholesalers and manufacturers lose a hundred dollars' worth of Brown's business. Eventually the weevil will force the price of alfalfa up, whereupon you and I will have to pay more for our milk and butter. You, Friend Reader, may think that it's not your funeral if the Mediterranean fruit fly, the citrus canker, the Oriental melon fly, the boll weevil or the plum curculio are turned loose in the orchards and fields of the Far West, but nevertheless you will help pay the cost.

Therefore, let us all co-operate with the quarantine officials and keep the west clean.—December SUNSET.

Last week the big news was the Umatilla Rapids meeting in Pendleton. Now comes the announcement that the Wallula cut-off has been designated a primary highway and comes in this year's appropriations.

Paradoxical as it is, Pendleton is behind the rapid project full-hearted and magnanimously, but a few (we cannot believe any of the big and broadminded ones) lead by the narrow-minded, selfish E. O. (Eddie's Orgy) make an awful hullabaloo, holding Pendleton as greater than the whole northwest—even the United States! Why? In their supreme selfishness and aversion to the nicker, they wish to force all the traveling public to come through Pendleton even at the sacrifice of time and money. The East Oregonian loudly shout brigand at the federal engineer and in the same breath implores for a road into the mountains and barren wastes to the south.

The Wallula cut-off requires scarcely any grading, and as we learned in school, is a straight line—the shortest distance between two points. The diagram above will show you the saving in distance. It is along the river grade—a route always selected by railroads for their routes. It is demanded by the people of eastern Washington, northern Idaho, Montana, and every city but petty Pendleton.

There is some of the most productive land along the cut-off of any on the Umatilla project and Pendleton would derive more benefit from this area, if she did but know it, than from all the barren wastes to the south.

Where and how the esteemed editor of the evening paper could get in such a frame of mind as to lose absolutely his sense of right and fairness is beyond us. We all boost for the Round-Up and the whole world knows about it. Pendleton is looked upon as one of the biggest little cities in the world. Don't tell us that the bigwater being spilled by the E. O. represents the real Pendleton spirit.

Such tactics as are being pursued by the E. O. will not hasten the construction of the Grant county road nor retard the building of the cut-off. It will only serve to breed a great big seab on Pendleton.

Herniston has come out for the cut-off, but qualifies her endorsement by wanting the road diverted

at Cold Spring thence through the Columbia district, which also shows the cloven hoof upon her part. The cut-off has been surveyed within a mile or so of the road from Herniston to Columbia and could be easily connected for any travel that might wish to go that way, but there is no reason for this additional distance.

The cut-off has been designated by the United States government for the greatest good to the greatest number, so let the heathen rage.

Thanksgiving Program by School

Wednesday afternoon each grade in the school contributed a number to a successful program.

The audience joined the school in singing "America", after which the school gave the salute to the flag. Then the school and audience sang, "Bringing in the Sheaves."

The first and second grades gave a Thanksgiving exercise, each one showing which part of the menu his letter of the alphabet stood for. Poor old Z had a hard time getting on the table, but he remembered how he felt the next day. (Lazy) and so forth, and stood for all the other things belonging to the dinner.

The 3rd and 4th grade boys recited "Over the River and Through the Woods", and the girls dressed in little Puritan caps and aprons, sang a little Puritan song.

Fifth and sixth grade boys gave a dialogue, where in it centered around Buster Knuds and his Thanksgiving dinner, with the result that the doctor had to be called next day, and who administered his pills very efficiently, and Buster got rid of them just as ably.

The seventh and eighth grades gave a dialogue, "A Thanksgiving Predicament." Louise Kixas representing a young housewife was left alone to prepare the first Thanksgiving dinner for her husband. She called in Mary Smith to help her.

Who let the dog get the dressed chicken and carry it off down the street. The grocery boy, was called and an order given him for a 10-lb. roast and some cranberries. The cranberries were spilled twice, and were never cooked, the grocer boy took the apples Mrs. Newlywed was

(Continued to last page)

GOVERNMENT TO FILE WAR FRAUD SUITS

Recovery of \$75,000,000 Alleged Improperly Spent at Camps Is Planned.

Washington, D. C.—Legal action to recover more than \$20,000,000 alleged to have been obtained fraudulently from the government in the construction of four army cantonments during the war was instituted by Attorney General Daugherty as the first formal step in a far reaching prosecution of these who held contracts for the building of war camps.

The number of suits to be filed has not been definitely decided, but it was indicated that a dozen or more separate actions were in prospect.

The initial cases are expected to involve construction of Camp Upton, Yaphank, N. Y.; Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.; Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, and Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kans.

Unofficial estimates place the total sum that will be sought in all of the recovery suits contemplated at more than \$75,000,000. In one camp, costing \$12,000,000, auditors were said to have found indications of an excess expenditure of \$5,000,000.

In the first group of four suits in which action is to be instituted, the government seeks to recover a total of \$21,500,000; the Camp Upton suit involving \$6,000,000, the Camp Jackson suit \$6,500,000, the Camp Sherman suit \$5,000,000 and the Camp Funston suit \$4,000,000.

DECREASE NOTED IN TAX COLLECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—Federal tax collections during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1922, fell off almost \$1,400,000,000, or 30 per cent as compared with the previous year. Income and profits taxes collected showed a decrease of \$1,141,000,000, or 35 per cent.

Total tax collections for the year aggregated \$3,197,451,083, compared with \$4,595,357,061 for 1921, while income and profit taxes for 1922 amounted to \$2,086,918,464, against \$3,228,137,673 the previous year.

Miscellaneous collections arising from taxation other than that on incomes and profits amounted to \$1,110,532,618 for 1922, a decrease of \$256,686,770, or 19 per cent.

Summary of the income and profits tax receipts during the year by states showed New York far in the lead in amount with Pennsylvania second and Illinois third. Collections by states include:

Alaska \$173,787.12, California \$92,251,112.85, Hawaii \$14,632,590.97, Idaho \$1,372,658.23, Montana \$2,392,231.74, Oregon \$14,934,997.18, Washington \$18,733,630.39, Wyoming \$1,547,987.02.

IRRIGATION AID IS OPPOSED

Desire For Economy May Prevent Any Legislation at This Session.

Washington, D. C.—Opposition to further federal activities in reclaiming arid lands at this time has manifested itself among the members of congress who represent the middle west sections.

This became apparent when President Harding conferred with a number of the most active members of the committee on irrigation and public lands in the house.

In view of the desire for economy in all departments on the part of the administration and of the middle west opposition, those best informed in reclamation matters believed there would be no reclamation legislation at this session.

Citates Divorce on C. P. Divorce.

Washington, D. C.—Railroad commissions representing two western states, California and Nevada, have asked the interstate commerce commission to continue the merger of the Southern Pacific and Central Pacific railroads, which the supreme court has ordered dissolved, while commissions of two other states, Wyoming and Idaho, have urged approval of the separation. Representative Mondell, house republican leader, made the principal argument for Wyoming in supporting the separation decree.