

CENTRAL POINT HERALD

LANCASTER & PATTISON, PUBLISHERS
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An independent local newspaper devoted to the interests of Central Point and the Rogue River Valley.
Published Every Thursday.
Subscription price, \$1.50 per year, in advance.

Entered as second-class matter, May 4, 1900, at the Post Office at Central Point, Oregon, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

FRUIT PEST REMEDIES.

We have a deal to learn yet about eradication of pests that injure fruit or destroy trees. That present remedies are but inadequate must be apparent to anyone who will stop to think. In the columns of this paper a few days ago it was admitted by competent authority that wormy or scaly apples are not unhealthful, yet it is said to be necessary to prohibit the sale of infected fruit in order to prevent the spread of disease. Yet it is further admitted that a wormy apple is no more likely to spread worms if sold and eaten than if left lying in the orchard. A scaly apple is less likely to spread the disease if it be cooked and eaten than if left as refuse upon the farm. The prohibition placed upon the sale of affected fruit is expected to accomplish its results, not directly, but indirectly by compelling the growers to spray.

Yet here is another seeming inconsistency. A wormy apple is not unhealthful, for the consumer cuts out the worm and eats only the good portion. Can it be said that an apple that has been liberally sprayed with acetate of lead and arsenate of soda is healthful? In order to protect the fruit from worms the grower must spray three or four times in a season, endeavoring to get the poison on every part of the fruit so that the worm shall find no place of admission. Presumably the grower tries to wash off the spray material before he puts the apples upon the market, but does he succeed? After a cloth has been used to wipe one box of apples will it not have enough poison on it to leave some of the spraying material on the next? From the standpoint of healthfulness the unsprayed wormy apple will hold its own with the unblemished apple that has been covered with poison.

But horticultural law and horticultural practice require that the fruit shall be sprayed. Preservation of the fruit industry requires it, unless some equally good or better remedy can be found. Perhaps in time a parasite will be discovered which will entirely exterminate the enemies of the apple crop or some student of scientific horticulture will find an artificial remedy that will be equally effective. Until then it will be necessary to enforce such laws as may be required to compel growers to employ the best known means of destroying the apple worm and the scale. If, in the accomplishment of this, it be necessary to prohibit the sale of wormy or scaly fruit, then it seems likely that the poorer classes of people must go without apples, except in the small quantities which their limited means will permit them to enjoy.—Oregonian.

A visitor from the East, who dropped off here the other day, remarked at once about the ideal location for a town that Central Point enjoys, but, in the same breath, added: "What you need most of all, however, to make the town as well as the location ideal, is a good water system. With plenty of water to sprinkle the streets, irrigate the lawns and protect property from fire, you would have an ideal town for sure."

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