

Fruit Growers Meeting.

By Charles Meserve.
To handle a modern orchard is a problem as difficult as to handle a modern warship. The modern fruit tree is as highly and delicately bred as is the modern dairy cow or fine horse and to make it profit, he takes the same thorough, intelligent care that the dairyman or the horseman gives to the cow or horse. And as is the finely bred cow or horse, the finely bred fruit tree is far more subject to disease and the ravages of pests than was the hardy, coarsely bred tree that grew in the orchards of our forefathers. This lack of vigor and resistant power of the modern fruit tree is the sequence that comes in securing the quality of fruit that the market of to-day demands and the productiveness that the modern fruit grower requires of his orchard. When man disturbs the balance of nature to secure finer quality or greater productiveness in an animal or a tree the penalty is a loss of vigor and disease resistant power.

And while the modern orchardist has been so breeding his trees that they readily fall a victim to any pest that may attack them, he has been making a further unbalancing of nature's arrangements and has made conditions exceedingly favorable for the development of a multitude of pests, both animal and vegetable, that seek to destroy his trees and the fruit they bear. The experts of the Department of Agriculture and of the various agricultural colleges have identified over eleven hundred pests that are found in the orchards, gardens and fields of the United States. And to make this problem all the more serious to the farmer this number of kinds of pests is increasing each year, four new pests having been identified the past year. An instance of the development of a pest is that of the pear thrips. Prior to 10 years ago the thrips was known as a harmless insect found on fruit trees, roses and other shrubs. Then for some cause unknown to entomologists a species found in California began to feed upon fruit buds, especially the pear. So serious is its ravages that it is rapidly becoming one of the most dangerous pests that California orchardists have to contend with. And this pest has started out on a campaign of conquest, as did the San Jose scale that started at San Jose, California, and has in but a few years reached every state in the Union. No pear thrips has so far been found in Rogue River Valley, but last spring Prof. O'Gara found many in an orchard near Salem, which evidently had been imported from California. The pear blight has been in existence as long as pear trees have grown, but it is only a little over one hundred years ago that the blight began its ravages upon pear trees. It began its destruction in Connecticut and from there it has spread until it is now found in every section in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

That the fruit growers of Rogue River Valley may be able to identify the most serious of the 1100 pests that threaten destruction to their orchards and that are most likely to soon appear here the Rogue River Horticultural Society has arranged with Prof. P. J. O'Gara, from the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. to give a lecture in Medford on Saturday, December 12, on fruit pests. In his description of pests Prof. O'Gara will show by means of stereoscopic views about 150, of them, the slides for the lantern having been sent to him from the Department this past week for the purpose. The lecture will begin promptly at 1:30 p. m. as Prof. O'Gara has to leave on the 3:20 train for California, where he goes to join a farmers institute train that will traverse a part of this month.

Fruit growers, who propose to make their orchards pay the big dividends that are certain where the trees and fruit are protected from the pests, will be quite certain to attend this meeting and gain the valuable information that Prof. O'Gara will give in his address. Alleged fruit growers, who declare that they have no time to attend such meeting and have no knowledge of the pests and consequently no fear of them, will not attend, but they will think differently later on when the receipts from their orchards are so small that no profit is left after the expenses are paid.

Chief of Police Biggy Suicides.

Chief of Police Biggy, of San Francisco, disappeared from a gasoline lunch while crossing the bay Monday night under circumstances which point strongly to suicide. Biggy has been severely criticized since the attempt on Francis J. Heney's life and the suicide of his assailant in the city jail and it is believed that he preferred death to facing an official investigation of his private and official conduct.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Stevens were up from Tolo Friday. They have just completed a fine new residence on their farm.

Trespass notices, printed on cloth, for sale at this office. 50 cents per dozen.

The milk cows will do much better during the winter months if, in addition to their hay and grain, they can be given a daily ration of beets, which have a high sugar content and seem to increase an animal's capacity for digesting and assimilating other foods.

Expressed appreciation for work well done often furnishes as strong an incentive to effort as the money which is paid in the shape of wages at the end of the week or month, and it is a kind of incentive that is not utilized as much as it ought to be.

To the tiller of the soil more than to any other class of people is the country as a whole indebted for a perpetuation of good times. When crops are bountiful good times are assured, but when there is a failure hard times come, no matter what political administration may be in power.

When members of the home circle leave it for a visit or take the long journey whose end is not on earth we realize with greater clearness than before that it is the folks rather than the furniture and fixings of the dwelling place that constitute the home. When they are gone it is but at best a cheerless, lonesome place.

The excellence of a man's digestion is quite often in inverse ratio to the measure of success which he achieves in the business world. There is many a captain of industry and millionaire who would gladly give thousands of dollars to the humblest laborer in his employ in exchange for a good digestive apparatus.

The necessity of sufficient rain for the corn at earing time is shown from the fact that for the production of every pound of dry matter in stalk or ear there must pass through the stalk from 275 to 300 pounds of water. Thus when there is a shortage of moisture in the soil the size and weight of the stalk and ear are likely to be reduced in the same proportion.

A friend inquires how he can exterminate a patch of quack grass that has gained a foothold in his lawn, the patch being about 4 by 10 feet. In a case of this kind the best as well as the most effective method to follow would be to cover the patch with tar paper, covering the outer edges with dirt as well as the edge where the two pieces of paper lapped. Six or eight weeks of this kind of a dose will put the quack grass, root and branch, out of business.

Many farm animals which are killed in pasture during summer thunderstorms get the fatal charge of electricity from being in too close proximity to wire fences enclosing the pasture. Loss from this source could be completely done away with. An Ohio farmers' mutual insurance company requires all members who take out insurance for live stock to ground the wire fences on their premises. This is done by connecting short wires of the proper length to the several wires comprising the fence and grounding them at intervals of about six rods by running them down the posts. The lower end of the wire should extend into the ground about six inches.

Figures given us recently by the representative of a leading lightning rod manufacturing company show that a barn 40 by 50 feet and 50 feet high at the gable can be equipped with three effective rods and the wires necessary to ground them properly for \$41.50. Considering the fact that the insurance rate on farm buildings thus protected is considerably less than on those not protected and in view of the large number of barns which are burned to the ground every year, with their contents of hay, grain and live stock, protection of property at the above cost would not seem to be a matter of extravagance, but one of good business judgment. It goes without saying that to be worth anything the job of rodding a building should be carefully and scientifically done, but when it is so done there is as nearly complete protection from loss by lightning as can well be.

A locality 100 miles south of where the writer lives this year had in slight some fifteen earloads of Wealthy and other varieties of fall apples. A few days before it was time to pick them a hard wind blew through the orchards for several hours, with the result that two-thirds of the fruit on the trees was precipitated to the ground and rendered worthless for packing purposes. In no instance were any of these orchards protected by a timber belt as a windbreak. As a result the ripening fruit was an easy prey for the swishing winds. The importance of a windbreak for the orchard in localities where heavy winds are likely to blow from a given quarter can hardly be overestimated. If a site cannot be chosen for the orchard which already has a belt of natural timber to the windward, it is well to set out several rows of quick growing trees, such as cottonwoods, willows or elms, which will furnish the needed protection by the time the trees get into bearing. Next to hail, damage from wind the orchardist has most to fear, and against serious loss from this source he can largely insure himself with a timber belt of the above type. In the writer's orchard this protection is furnished by a belt of natural timber to the south and west, which has proved invaluable since the orchard came into bearing.

J. B. Biggy

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Odd Contrasts in Climate.
New York is usually thought of as being directly west from London. It is, however, despite its far more rigorous climate, 900 miles nearer the equator than is the British capital. The bleak coast of Labrador is directly west of London. The same line passes the southern part of Hudson bay and Lake Winnipeg. On the other side of the continent it touches the southern extremity of Alaska and continues through the center of the Isthmus of Kamchatka and Siberia and Russia to Homburg.

It is astonishing, too, to reflect on the fact that Montreal, with its winters of extraordinary severity, is 350 miles nearer the equator than is London. Montreal, indeed, is on the same degree of latitude as Venice.

Another illustration of the unexpected in contrasts is found in a comparison of St. John's, Newfoundland, with Paris. Paris has a winter of comparative mildness, while St. John's is a region of bitter cold and fogs, with drifting icebergs along its coast. Yet St. John's is 100 miles nearer the equator. —New York Tribune.

Mystery.
"I wonder why it is?" said the man who seemed to be thinking aloud.
"Why what is?" queried the friend who had overheard.
"That people who are so different from us seem to be satisfied with themselves," concluded the noisy thinker.—Pittsburg Post.

Why She Couldn't.
"Oh, I couldn't love him!"
"Why not?"
"He wears a wig. The very idea!"
Then the dear creature removed two rats, some puffs, a coronet braid, a pompadour, a switch and sat down to peruse a novel.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

There'll be no net saving on the cut rate postage from 5 cents to 2 cents on English mail if you start in sending three letters now where you sent one before.

Railroad Expansion and Business.

Early in the year the Iron Trade Review discussed the question of railroad expansion and stagnation and the effect of both upon business. The argument of the Review was that a period of dullness in railroad building and renewal might follow the year 1907 without reference to the general depression of business. This dullness might either be broken or extended by the state of business, which must affect railroad earnings. In a recent issue the paper repeats its argument and concludes that normal business, be its advent early or late, will bring the railroads to the front as large buyers and therefore important factors in the general prosperity.

From a source of authority in the railroad world there has recently come confirmation of the Review's opinions. Speaking to the freemen and engineers at their convention in Ohio, B. F. Yoakum explained the close relation between railroad expansion and the general trade. Every ton of rails, he says, represents three and one-half tons of raw material that has been produced by labor, and the movement of the 3,000,000 tons of rails and fastenings purchased by the railroads of the country in 1907 involved the movement of 13,500,000 tons of raw material and finished product. The production and movement of this material and the putting of it in place give work to millions of hands, and, as the railroads are good and steady paymasters, railroad expansion puts new money in circulation.

In Doubt.
"That's a curious looking mule you're driving," remarked the man who was whittling a pine stick.
"Yassir," answered Erastus Pinkley.
"He is kind o' cur'us."
"What will you take for him?"
"What'll I take for him? Say, boss, is you referrin' to dat mule as a piece o' property or an affliction?"—Washington Star.

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