PEAR BLIGHT AND ITS CONTROL UPON THE PACIFIC COAST

This Is the Ninth of a Series of Articles That Will Be Printed Daily Until Subject Is Completed—Every Orchardist in the West Should Save These Issues for Future Reference, as They Contain Valuable Information.

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(Continued from Tuesday, May 17.)

Remarkable Example of Eradication Work.

Some remarkable cases of eradication have been attempted and successfully accomplished in California and Oregon orchards, notably in the vicinity of Vacaville, California, and in the upper Rogue River Valley in Oregon. In some cases where perhaps fifty per cent of the trees were infected on the bodies and in the roots, but still had sufficient living bark and a few roots left, the diseased portions were completely cut out even to the removal of all of the roots on one side of the tree and peeling fully three-fourths of the bark from the body. I have noted in some instances where fully three dollars in labor was expended in removing the blight from a single tree. This, of course, is exceptional, but where the value of the tree may be placed at from ten to fifty dollars, depending upon its ability to bear heavy crops of fruit, this would not seem to be an undue expenditure in eradicating the blight and saving the tree. Many of the trees so treated have not lost their vigor and are still bearing good crops of fruits. From our standpoint, as pathologists, if the pear blight is completely removed under antiseptic methods from the body and roots, the job is satisfactory. It remains, therefore, with the grower to decide how much labor he is going to undertake to save the tree. Experience throughout the east and south has been that where much work of this sort has been attempted on the bodies, numerous failures have resulted, and the work rendered worse than useless. There is also more or less danger, in such cases, of the blight in the sap wood. While the germ almost wholly lives in the bark and cambium, it is also known that it may infect the rich sap wood of the Bartlett, Howell, and other varieties of pears. This is also true of the Spitzenburg apple. Occasionally it has been noted that the germs spread out in the vessels of wood and live on the starch and sugar stored there. It is, therefore, desirable to leave all eradication work on the bodies dry out thoroughly for perhaps a month or so before painting over the wound with white lead paint. If any growth takes place the ooze may be detected by the discoloration appearing on the paint. It is certain that a great deal of blight eradication work may be done to the best advantage in the early autumn, for certainly better results may be obtained before the fall rains begin. It is also much easier to detect the blight which has attacked the branches and twigs during the summer, because at this time the foliage generally shows where the blight has been working. Besides, trees that have the roots infected usually begin to show a reddish discoloration in the foliage. A bad body or limb infection will also have a tendency to cause the same discoloration in the foliage above the infected part. However, this reddish discoloration of the foliage, is, by no means, a certain indication of blight infections, as there are many other causes which would produce a like appearance in the foliage. Root rot, borers, gophers or even a girdle caused by any means whatever will produce practically the same discoloration. In irrigated orchards where the water has been cut off too early in the summer, there is always a tendency toward foliage discoloration. The foliage test, however, is a sure one that something is wrong with the tree, and such a tree should never be passed by without making a very critical examination. Never leave a tree unless you are absolutely sure of your work. Careless inspection and careless eradication are really worse than no work at all, for, on the one hand, enough work may be done to deceive, while on the other hand the chances for infection and subsequent spread of the disease remains.

Secondary Methods—Spraying.

Spraying as a rule is of little use in controlling the blight. In the blooming season new blossoms are opening every hour of the day, and new shoots are pushing forth, all of which are subject to infection through insect agencies. From the standpoint, therefore, of attacking the pear blight problem by spraying there is nothing to be done so far as the blossoms and young shoots are concerned. On the other hand, we have been able to cover up some mild cases by whitewash applied thickly so that they were unable, temporarily, to be a source of infection during the blossoming season. Whitewashing or spraying in the winter time may be of some slight assistance in the matter, but it is not recommended. A strong lime-sulphur wash applied to the bodies just before the blossoms open will have a tendancy to keep insects away from any infection which would ooze. It must be understood, however, that all pear blight infection should be carefully removed and in no case should there be any attempt to cover up any known case of hold-over blight. The only reason for advocating the strong lime-sulphur wash is that, should a case be missed by accident, the use of the wash may prevent the infection from getting away. Just as soon as it is discovered, whether the wash has been applied or not, it should be removed. I wish to emphasize that any attempt to spray or wash may be considered only a temporary makeshift. If there is a case of holdover that has been covered by spray or wash, it must be eventually removed, and especially so if it is in the body of the tree. The wash in no way controls the spread of the blight in the soft bark beneath; its only office is to prevent, if possible, the spread of blight to other trees, by preventing insects from coming into contact with the bacterial ooze.

Use of So-Called Remedies.

There are on the market a number of so-called remedies for pear blight. All of the concerns selling these remedies have no standing whatever, and their literature, which is sent broadcast over the country, should be promptly burned. A favorite remedy is a mixture of potassium cyanide and sulphur placed about the roots of the tree. Still others consist of such insolubles as charcoal, calomel, sulphur, bone black, and other substances put into holes bored into the bodies of the trees. In every community trees may be found which have been treated in this way, and invariably the material put into the holes has neither changed its chemical makeup nor has it diminished in quanity by absorption.

A common remedy is the use of table salt or even some alkali, both of which would be promptly removed from the soil if present in too large quantities in nature. The use of table salt is merely to inhibit the growth of the tree by preventing the normal taking up of water by the root system. A tree grown in a very saline soil cannot take up water enough to make a strong growth, hence, it does not blight badly, perhaps not at all. As indicated before, trees grown under good cultivation with sufficient moisture and plant food make a strong growth, and are, therefore, more subject to blight. There should be no desire on the part of an orchardist to injure his soil and, consequently, his trees by adding to the soil any chemical or salt known to have a poisonous action, or, at least, an inhibitive effect. Do not take the word of every one or any one who has something to sell. Before buying any cure or remedy, consult some one who can be trusted and who has nothing for sale.

(To Be Continued.)

THE OLIVER MEETINGS

Dr. Oliver preached a splendid sermon last night at the tabernacle on the subject, "What Is Hell?"

A good crowd was present to hear him and were well paid for their coming. His text was from Heb. 3:7, 8. He said in part:

"The Bible is not a good book if it is not the word of God. Jesus was not a good man if He was not the Son of God for He claimed to be the Son of God.

"Hell was not made for man, but for the devil and his angels. If a man serves the devil here it is a logical thing for him to dwell with him in eternity. The more a man rejects the gospel the harder it will be for him to accept it."

Another Man Goes Hungry.

BUTTE, Mont., May 18.—Twenty days without food with the exception of water and lemon and orange juice is the record established by Henry Roberts of this city.

Roberts is endeavoring to correct stomach trouble.

Haskins for Health.

CENTRAL OREGON LINES AGREE NOT TO WAR LONGER

Complete Understanding Arrived by Hill and Harriman Officials—Trade Right of Way for Running Rights in Narrow Canyons.

PORTLAND, Ore., May 18.—The Hill and Harriman lines building up the Des Chutes Canyon in Central Oregon, have come to an understanding in regard to trackage arrangement according to announcement from railroad officials today.

The two principal points in conflict on the lines have been adjusted so the Des Chutes railroad shall have running right over the twelve miles on the east bank of the river where the Oregon Trunk had filed its surveys in the United States land office ahead of the Des Chutes railroad, thus shutting out the latter road. Further, the Oregon Trunk bridge at Crooked River is to become free to the Des Chutes road trains, and running powers will be given to a point 500 feet south of Redmond.

In return the Des Chutes company will convey to the Oregon Trunk the necessary right of way for the line of the latter through the Smith ranch, possession of which was acquired by the Harriman people. The Smith ranch is close to the Warm Springs reservation.

In addition the Des Chutes company is to grant the necessary permission for the overhead crossing of the tracks of the Oregon Trunk at Celilo and also conveys, for a consideration, the necessary rights of way required by the Hill road between Celilo and the mouth of the Des Chutes river.

The agreement was made following long conferences between Judge C. H. Carey, acting for President Stevens, of the Oregon Trunk, and W. W. Cotton, chief attorney of the Harriman lines, acting for General Manager and Vice-President O'Brien.

It is announced that the agreement will not prevent the Des Chutes railroad from continuing construction of its tracks, with the exception of the points over which the Oregon Trunk has granted running rights. The agreement is purely one of mutual convenience.

Talent M. E. Church.

First M. E. church, Talent, Sunday school 10 a. m., Dr. Forbes, superintendent. Five classes organized now. People of all ages and disposition invited. Preaching services at 11 a. m. Public cordially invited to attend these services. f*s

Haskins for Health.

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6-room house, close in.
7-room house, lot 91x200; a fine bargain.
West Walnut Park lots, terms.
1 lot, 50x215, $300.
7-room modern bungalow.
2 lots at a bargain for cash.
2 lots on Oakdale avenue.
Blacksmith.
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Hay men, $1.50 per day.
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The Pasadena of Oregon

People of refinement; people with means; retired business men; professional men; college and university graduates, are coming to the Rogue River Valley by the score. Within the past two years almost a hundred Chicago and Evanston, Illinois, people have purchased homes near Medofrd, and nearly every one of them has a friend or two whom they hope to induce to come and locate in the valley.

New York, Philadelphia, Boston and many other eastern cities are almost if not quite as well represented, while St. Paul and Minneapolis have more representatives here than any other several cities combined.

Think these statements over and get your thinker going. Write to the undersigned or the Medford Commercial Club for detailed informtaion about the country, and you will never have cause to regret it.

Bearing Orchards Near Medford

Most of the producing orchards have been held in large holdings until recently. A few weeks ago the Eden Valley Orchard, containing 605 acres, was placed on the market in any desired acreage. We have been authorized to offer the bearing apples and pears for sale, and if you know anything about this country and want a desirable block of bearing trees, write or come soon. During the past week over $150,000 worth of the property has been disposed of. It is located within two miles of Medford at an elevation of about 100 feet above the city and is one of the best kept orchards in the world. Parts of the orchard offered for sale have paid the owner over $600 per acre per year for four years straight.

Do not come unless you are prepared to stay, for just so sure as you do come the combination of fat soil, grandeur of scenic beauty and Italian climate will steal you, body and soul. After one visit here you will be miserable any other place on earth.

John D. Olwell

EXHIBIT BUILDING MEDFORD, OREGON