

# NEWS OF THE ORCHARD

## Some Historical Facts Concerning Blight

What the United States Department of Agriculture Has Done and Is Doing.

(Continued from Friday.)

The U. S. department of agriculture has always taken the lead in handling epidemic diseases, not only in plants but in animals as well. So far as the control of pear blight is concerned the department of agriculture is the only institution which has taken up the matter in a serious way. Naturally it is not the department's business to go into a state and assume the work of control of any plant or animal disease. As a rule the department does not do work of this kind unless called upon, but it goes without saying that the department is usually called upon by states or by communities to do work of this kind.

In the matter of the control of pear blight it has been my duty during the last dozen years to visit several states to take charge of the control of pear blight because of the fact that the state institutions in the states in which I have worked had made no attempt to give instruction in the control of the disease. In 1904 when the department of agriculture was called upon by the prominent men of the state of California to take charge of the pear blight work, practically all the pear orchards of the San Joaquin valley had been already destroyed. It was forecasted by men in the state institutions that pear growing would cease to be an industry in California, simply because of the fact that more than one half million pear trees had been destroyed by blight in the San Joaquin valley and that this infection would continue over the entire pear area of the Sacramento valley and wipe it out. I had a great deal to do in the matter of arousing interest in the work of eradication simply because on every hand we were met with discouraging statements coming from those who not only took no interest in our work, but fondly hoped that we would utterly fail. However, what has been done in the state of California by the department stands today as a monument to work of this kind. Not only is California still shipping pears, but in certain districts pear growing is on the increase. Had the department been called sooner, the San Joaquin pear orchards would have been saved.

It may be interesting to those who are following this article, to know that there is now raging in the east a disease of the chestnut known as the Chestnut Bark disease, which has to date destroyed probably fifty million dollars worth of standing chestnut timber. This disease is very severe in the New England and north Atlantic states, particularly in New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The disease is of rather recent origin, that is to say, it was clearly recognized as serious in 1904 and it undoubtedly existed several years earlier. The first infections occurred on Long Island and from this vicinity as a center it has spread in every direction and is still spreading at a very rapid rate, being now known in ten states. It is a strange, but sad commentary that nothing was done by the state institutions in the control of this disease until it had become a severe epidemic. As a matter of fact, the different states which were seriously affected made no endeavor in its control, and not until the department of agriculture in 1907 began a thorough investigation of the district was any particular notice taken of it. The state pathologists in some of the states actually ridiculed the idea that the disease was dangerous and put themselves on record as saying that the trouble was largely climatic, and that conditions would soon come about where the disease would be self-limiting—that is to say, it would control itself. Through Dr. Haven Metcalf, forest pathologist of the United States department of agriculture, together with other members of his staff, it was suggested that the fungus organism causing the disease was an introduced one; that it was not of American origin, and that every endeavor should be made to stamp out the disease. However, all of this bore little fruit excepting ridicule on the part of those who should have been most interested in co-operation with the department. Pathologists who put themselves on record as stating that the fungus was native, or at least European in origin, have now had to take a back seat since the department pathologists have shown that the native home of the fungus is China, it having been found there by an agricultural explorer of the department of agriculture.

It has been recently found that this disease has been carried up into a certain district in British Columbia through importations of chestnut

(trees from the Orient—these trees having passed through the United States by way of the San Francisco port of entry.)

It has been through the efforts of Dr. Metcalf and his assistants that the Pennsylvania state legislature in 1911 passed a bill authorizing the governor to appoint a commission for the purpose of thoroughly investigating the chestnut tree bark disease. The act placed an appropriation of \$275,000 at the disposal of the commission for the investigation and scientific study of the problem, and more specifically to ascertain the extent of the blight and to devise ways and means through which it might if possible be stamped out. The United States department of agriculture also appropriated funds so as to push the work in Dr. Metcalf's department. At the head of the commission's laboratory Dr. M. E. Carlton, of the department of agriculture, was placed, and he has taken charge of the investigations which have since been under way. As in the case of the studies which have been carried on in the control of blight, the department and state officials working on the chestnut bark disease have used every possible method which could be called forth to aid them in this work to save the chestnut forests of the United States. Eradication, tree surgery, and medication are all employed. As regards tree medication, Dr. Metcalf has this to say:

"The possibility of controlling disease in trees by special fertilization or by direct chemotherapy, that is, by the introduction of chemicals or immunizing substances directly into the tree, has long been a fascinating ideal. The method has been discredited by the number of 'fake' remedies which are supposed to be applied in this way. The Pennsylvania Chestnut Tree Blight commission, in co-operation with the United States department of agriculture, is making extensive experiments along this general line. From this work every valuable scientific result are to be expected, whether the method becomes a practical success or not, and the results obtained may be expected to be in some measure applicable to other species of trees, including fruit trees."

(To be continued.)

## WHISLER'S BILL TO STANDARDIZE BOXES OF APPLES

A year ago before the Oregon State Horticultural society, C. E. Whisler of Medford proposed a national law to standardize the apple box and its contents along lines similar to the Swiss law now in effect concerning the apple barrel and its contents. This measure was unanimously adopted and was afterward approved by the state horticultural societies of Washington, Idaho and Montana. On November 18, 1913, at a conference held during the Spokane apple show, some slight changes were adopted and in the form shown below it will again be referred to the state horticultural societies that assisted in its inception. All fruit concerns, interests or growers are invited to add the weights of their endorsements to the proposed law and forward same to C. E. Whisler at Medford, Or., at an early date, as it is expected that the bill will be introduced in congress during the next session.

The bill provides that the standard box for apples shall be of the following dimensions when measured without distention of its parts:

Depth of end, 10 1/2 inches; width of end, 11 1/2 inches; length of box, 18 inches, all inside measurements, and representing as nearly as possible 217 3/4 cubic inches.

Sec. 2. That any box in which apples shall be packed and offered for sale, which does not contain less than the required number of cubic inches as prescribed in section 1 of this act, shall be plainly marked on one side and one end with the words "Short Box," or with words or figures showing the fractional relation which the actual capacity of the box bears to the capacity of the box prescribed in section 1 of this act.

Sec. 3. Standard boxes when packed, shipped or delivered for shipment in interstate or foreign commerce, or which shall be sold or offered for sale within the District of Columbia or the territories of the United States of America, shall bear

## GIVES MORE THAN \$500,000 IN CAMPAIGN FOR Y. W. C. A.



Mrs. Willard D. Straight Mrs. Finley J. Shepard

Mrs. Willard D. Straight, daughter of the late William C. Whitney, and wife of the man who has had much to do with financial matters in China for J. P. Morgan & Co., and the American bankers who have taken part in Chinese loans, and Mrs. Finley J. Shepard, who was Miss Helen Gould till a year ago, have given more than a half million dollars in the campaign for a \$4,000,000 fund for the Young Women's Christian Association and the Young Men's Christian Association.

In fact they, with John D. Rockefeller and Miss Grace Dodge, head the list of large givers. These four persons in all gave as follows: Mrs. Straight \$300,000, Mrs. Shepard \$200,000, Mrs. Dodge \$250,000, Mr. Rockefeller \$250,000.

upon one or both ends in plain figures the number of apples contained in the box; also in plain letters, the style of pack used, the name of the person, firm, company or organization which first packed or caused the same to be packed; the name of the locality where said apples were grown, and the name of the variety of the apples contained in the box, unless the variety is not known to the packer, in which event the box shall be marked "Unknown." A variation of three apples from the number designated as being in the box shall be allowed.

Sec. 4. That the apples contained within the said standard box when so packed and offered for sale, shipment or delivery in interstate or foreign commerce, shall be well-grown specimens, of one variety, reasonably uniform in size, properly matured, practically free from dirt, insect pests, diseases, bruises and other defects except such as are necessarily caused in the operation of packing.

Sec. 5. That standard boxes packed in accordance with the provisions of this act may be marked "standard."

Sec. 6. That boxes containing apples marked "Standard" shall be deemed to be misbranded within the meaning of this act—when the size of the box does not conform to the requirements of section 1 of this act, and when the markings on the box and the contents thereof do not conform to the requirements of section 3 and 4 of this act.

With Medford trade is Medford made.

## FOR SALE

18 head of mares, and horses, ranging from 850 to 1600 pounds; ages yearly to 10 years. Can be seen at any time. 33 North Riverside.

D. S. LITTS

## PEARS FAVORITE IN ROGUE VALLEY ASSERTS RANDALL

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 1.—While Rogue river has captured most of the world's prizes for apples that that section has gone after, the district is destined to become more and more a pear section.

While the returns for apples have been exceedingly favorable, it is the pear that the average Rogue river orchardist banks upon. The pear acreage of that section is already about equal to that growing apples, but the increase recently has been most noticeable in the former.

"About 50 per cent of the acreage in the Rogue river valley at this time," says A. C. Randall, president and general manager of the Rogue River Fruit & Produce association, "is in pears, and much the largest per cent of the increased fruit acreage there to come into bearing within the next few years will be pears."

"We know that we grow the best pears in the world—and our judgment is shown by way that Europe and the United States competes for our fruit. We not only turn out a first-class product but we get the money."

"All told this season's output of apples and pears in the Rogue river valley will reach perhaps 1200 cars compared with about 757 cars a year ago. There was an increase in both pears and apples this season although the greatest increase was in pears."

"A large per cent of our increase

### Coffee

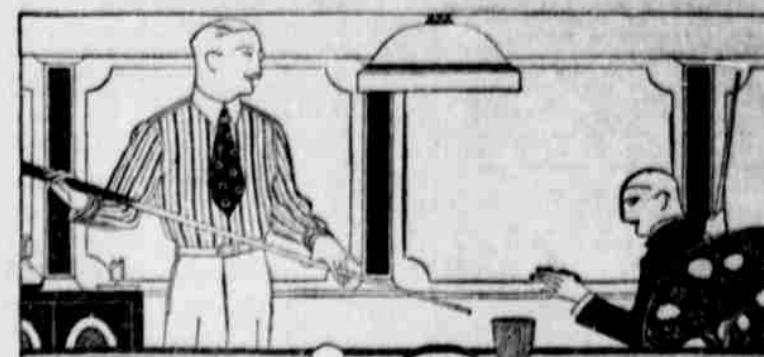
There is nothing truer than this, we make what we buy. If nobody would buy poor coffee there would be none of it roasted. The sale of Schilling's Best is increasing because the number of people who demand the best coffee is increasing. Ask for it.

The best time to buy Schilling's Best is today.

in the pear acreage was due to the fact that we have grubbed out practically all of our Ben Davis apples. All of this acreage was put in pears because there are much better returns to the growers. Pears produce more fruit to the acre than apples and there is much less expense in getting the fruit to market.

"Our Spitzenburg apples this season were by far the best ever produced in the valley. The colors were far superior to anything heretofore grown. Our apples sell abroad at the highest price obtained in the markets. A cable just received from Germany shows Rogue river Spitzenburgs sold there at a price that means \$2.90 f. o. b. Rogue river."

"Some people have stated recently that the apple market in Germany had slumped. We consider it excellent—the prices show for themselves."



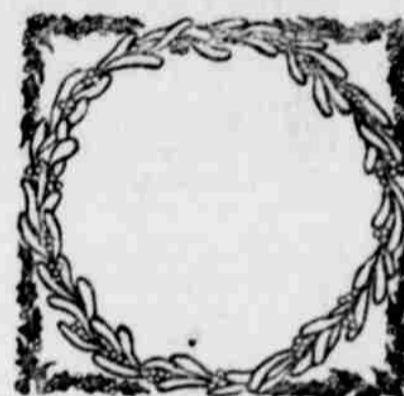
## ARROW SHIRTS

Note the styles, enjoy the comfort and test the quality that an Arrow label assures in shirts. \$1.50. up.

CLUETT, PEARSON & CO., Inc., Troy, N. Y. Makers of ARROW COLLARS

## The Season for Gift Choosing Has Arrived

We are ready with a shop full of appropriate gifts and ask that you inspect these interesting things before making your purchases. You know the wisdom of early shopping. We list a few of the many articles:



CHRISTMAS CARDS, CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, SWEET GRASS BASKETS, LEATHER GOODS, FRENCH MOROCCO WORK BASKETS, HAND MADE NOVELTIES OF ALL KINDS, HAND EMBROIDERED LINENS, EMBROIDERED PILLOW TOPS, CROCHED INFANTS' SETS, CROCHED SHAWLS.

You will find it really a relief to visit this shop, with its many beautiful articles. It takes all the unpleasantness out of Christmas shopping and makes it a delightful pleasure.

## Handicraft Shop

# Page Theatre, Thursday, Dec. 4

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THE ULTRA VIVACIOUS

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