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### CRANBERRY INDUSTRY. Tillamook County Has Valuable Peat Land.

Tillamook County has quite a number of pieces of peat land suitable for cranberry growing that will be valuable whenever that industry is made a specialty of in this county. It is a money maker when properly and successfully handled. Sandlake has probably the most acreage of peat land in the county, it being estimated there are 300 acres in that vicinity. Dan Goodspeed has twelve acres north of Tillamook City that is waiting to be taken in hand by some enterprising citizens and cultivated who wants to get into the cranberry business, and there are numerous other pieces of land in different parts of the county that is suitable for raising cranberries.

Mr. D. Goodspeed has handed us some literature as, we are endeavoring to boost the cranberry industry of this county, which will bring a large amount of money into the county whenever it is properly developed.

C. I. Lewis, chief of the Experiment Station of the Oregon Agricultural College, writes:

Your recent letter to the college has been referred to this Division to be answered. I have also received the package of soil. I am going to send you a carbon copy of some information that I gathered on cranberries on the Pacific coast which will be of some assistance to you. To grow cranberries successfully you will need a peat soil, should be scalped, that is all vegetation removed. Next you will want to put on from 3 to 6 inches of sand. You will have to see that it is free from salt and that the land has not recently been flooded with salty water. You will have to keep the water table under control. During the summer you will need the water within a foot of the surface. You want to avoid land that has much clay as it tends to make your vines run to foliage. The sample which you sent if typical of your entire patch I should say is good cranberry land. It seems to be a peat soil, practically devoid of clay and if this is typical of the entire piece, I should think you had a pretty good proposition. Of course, it is rather hard to pass on a mere sample. You want to be sure and drain off the water if necessary to do so. So many pieces are so close to the ocean that the tides keep backing up and it is hard to get good drainage. The control of the water table is fairly important.

The Director of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, Amherst, Mass. states that

cranberries are grown on reclaimed salt marshes, but that the fruit will not succeed in such locations until the dykes have been constructed, which prevent flooding with salt water, and that a longer and shorter time, according to the general conditions of the bog as the amount of salt it contains, would have to lapse in order to give the salt a chance to wash out before planting could be resorted to; that cranberries will stand only a limited amount, either in the water that is used for flooding or in the land upon which they are planted, but it seems that salt marshes, when you have fresh water for flooding, can after a time be put in such a condition as to be feasible for cranberry growing.

Mr. Otto Mischer, Chinook, Washington, states that he has about one acre planted, of which about one-fourth will bear this season. He is growing the McFarland, which he seems to think is perhaps one of the best berries for this coast. The Cape Cod Beauty is also with him a good producer and keeper. One of his neighbors recently harvested about 60 barrels from one acre, and this has been, I should judge from his letter, on an average, with the exception of two years ago when he only had seventeen. Last year, however, he harvested 140 bushels, or 130 barrels on the acre. He has no way of getting water in the summer. Sprays his vines every spring. Mr. Fischer seems to think \$500 will be about the average cost of getting an acre of cranberries developed. The cost of maintenance he claims, however, is very low. That is, a week of work in the spring will handle an acre. He has never been troubled with frost, and only one year in his experience has there ever been any trouble of that nature. He claims there is a great deal of land on the peninsula adapted to the culture of cranberries, but that many of the marshes are very expensive to drain.

Mr. K. A. Kennedy of Long Beach, Washington, writes that the industry in that section is new with them, and has been rather expensive in developing, costing from \$500 to \$1,300 per acre, but that they hope in the future to materially reduce this expense. He has been working for two years on machinery which he thinks will materially reduce the expense, so that he can put it in for about \$400 per acre. They have tried some bogs without scalping but they have not been successful. He believes it is not necessary to flood. He says that some of his neighbors are spraying for insects. He thinks that some of his neighbors who do not flood have better results than those who do. He has harvested as high as 200 barrels and more. He thinks Cape Cod Beauty and McFarland are his two best berries. It costs him \$2 per bushel to pick by hand, and 60c to pick with a scoop. The Cape Cod scoop easier than the McFarland. The berries have averaged about \$8 per bushel f. o.

b. He believes there will be some 200 acres put into berries in their vicinity the coming year. It will take about 700 lbs. of vine to plant an acre. He is selling land at \$150 per acre in five acre tracts.

Mr. Thos. Holtz, of Nahcotta, writes that there are about 80 acres of cranberries planted in Pacific County at the present time, although they are not all in bearing, but there seems to be a great deal of interest in the business, and promise of considerable development. He thinks there are several thousand acres of bog fit for cranberry culture in his vicinity. He believes the first step in developing cranberry bogs is to put in ditches and dykes so as to give thorough drainage; next scalping and planting according to the best knowledge on the subject. His experience has been that the muck is not as good for the plants as the top soil, and in scalping tries to keep as much of the top soil as possible. He believes that it is well to cut the bogs up into small sections separated by ditches, and to board these ditches so as to keep the sand from washing down. He would also recommend keeping of the ditches pretty thoroughly clean from the weeds. He puts on about four inches of solid sand after it is settled. Emphasizes the necessity of clean sand, and care that one should use to avoid the introduction of any clay into the sand. Prefers the month of May for planting. He plants 10 inches apart each way. Some of his neighbors plant from 4 to 14 inches apart. He owns about 80 acres of bog for cranberry culture, and has about two acres of it planted, all of them being McFarlands.

He believes this is the best berry on the coast, that it is the best keeper, and has the best flavor. He started in business six years ago, and has done all his own work, and plants each year a little piece. From the first planted section of about 1/4 of an acre he harvested 16 barrels last year. This year his bog will be in full bearing. From the second piece of one eighth of an acre he got 4 barrels last year, which he thinks was an exceptionally favorable season. One of his neighbors harvested 130 barrels per acre of McFarlands. He believes that flooding cranberries in winter is not essential but may do some good in killing harmful insects and a few weeds. He believes one should not flood newly planted vines. He thinks there is little or no danger from frost although the latter part of July or first of August one should watch out for frosts. He considers the cranberry business a good one and does not regret that he has done into it.

Mr. C. T. Lansdale, of Olympia, has not been as successful as some. Says he has lost so many crops during the past five years that it cuts the average returns down to an unprofitable basis. Says there are good reasons for his loss, however. It is not due to unfortunate

climate conditions or pests. He says he has always flooded his bog every winter, and has been slow in learning from experience, and that this has been the main reason for his crop losses. He believes that winter flooding is injurious to the fruit buds, and that he is not going to flood in the future. He did not flood last year, and his bog now looks the best in its history, the prospects being bright for a heavy crop. He has had no diseases or insect pests so far. It has cost him \$1,000 per acre to develop his bog, but he believes he can do it now for less than \$500. He is growing six varieties of cranberries of which he considers the Hetic Bell, the McFarland, and the home varieties the best. He has nine acres planted, half of which is in bearing. He has land to sell and would like to take in partners.

Mr. W. C. Worden of Ilwaco, Washington, has been interested in the cranberry business for nine years. He says that sometimes he can get sand 16 inches to 5 feet of the surface, and when you can do this it is better to scalp the land and take the sand out of ditches, and fill the ditches with scalplings. He uses from 4 to 5 inches of sand. In his section marshes which have not been flooded yield more than those which have been. He says occasionally in marshes which are flooded a crop is lost on account of the sun coming warm after flooding, which blights the blossoms. Some of the marshes have been slightly injured by spring frosts, and occasionally there has been some damage just before picking by frost, and there has been some scalding by the hot sun after rains. Says, however, this rarely happens. He has fitted and planted 3 1/2 acres, and is now preparing another acre. He does his planting in March and April, but prepares the ground in the summer, as he can do it at that time cheaper and better. Thinks it cost him over \$1,200 to complete his first acre. In this case he scalped the ground, hauled the scalping off, and sanded it with a car. His next acre and a quarter cost him \$830. He dug ditches and took out sand, and filled the ditches with scalplings. The last acre which he planted he cultivated the ground all summer, and destroyed all vegetation. He ditched and took out sand, and bought scalplings of a neighbor to fill the ditches. It cost him \$35. He has watched the three methods with interest to see whether or not they will make any difference in the quality of the berries. His principal varieties are the McFarland and Cape Cod Beauty. He believes his next acre will be the Late Howe. The ocean has not flooded his land for many years, if it ever did. The price for raw land, of which he has some for sale, runs about \$120 to \$225 per acre, according to location. His mature marshes have been yielding from 60 to 140 barrels an acre yearly. He believes it is foolish to attempt to grow cranberries without sanding the ground.

Mr. J. H. Arthur, of the Pacific Cranberry Marsh of Breakers, Washington, believes that cranberry land will be worth \$2,000 per acre in five years from now, basing his figures on the small acreage that yielded and the profits. He is operating in a company which is selling stock, their bog lying in between sand ridges which are found along the long peninsula in that vicinity. It was probably at one time the mouth of the Columbia but rocks and other debris have caused a filling up. The soil is full of vegetable deposit, and is covered with peat. The land that he had in question required very careful handling since it was surrounded by a rim rock, and was a sort of pot so to speak. They dug their ditches along the edges rather than in the middle, and never cut through the rim rock. He states that if they did it would leach the bog out the same way that ashes could be leached. He is able to hold water within 3 inches of the surface of the ground. He says that it is useless to claim that there are no pests, because there are. He only floods his bog in winter time at certain periods, because of the benefits which come from certain deposits which make a good top dressing. He also watches for the hatching of the eggs, and floods to drown the worms as early in the spring as they make their appearance. Where eggs are covered with a fibre similar to a spider web, and generally hatch from two to three before the flowers actually blossom, and he says it takes very careful watching in order to drown the pests without interfering with the blossoms. If the water is put on when the blossoms are in bloom it would destroy it, and the pests would not be killed. If you do not kill the pest before the flowers bloom you cannot do anything with it until a long time afterwards, which means that the pests have greatly injured your crop. Says he is also troubled with a great many water weeds which got into the ditches and cross ditches, and must constantly be removed. This company alone has at the present time some 55 to 60 acres in standing vines. Their varieties are Early Blacks, Natives, Early Reds, Late Dark Reds, McFarlands, Bels, two varieties of Huges, and Cape Cod Beauties. He believes it will take a number of years yet to demonstrate thoroughly the best varieties to plant. He believes that the Jumbo has more of a tendency to fungus growth than some of the other varieties, and has not given them very good success. The Late Howe has given them good satisfaction. It has been his experience that salt marshes cannot be used to very good advantage. Claims one of his neighbors used beach sand for the sanding, and has an absolute failure. As far as yield is concerned he says that in a patch containing less than one half of an acre not far from their place, part of which was Cape Cod Beauties

and part McFarlands, he having furnished the plants to the people after they were thoroughly acclimated, although they were not taken very good care of produced last year for the Cape Cod Beauties 280 barrels to the acre, and the McFarlands, at the rate of 211 barrels to the acre. He believes that it is safe to estimate 100 barrels per acre yield where the bogs have been put in properly.

Mr. H. H. Williams, of Sea View, Washington, writes that he has but recently started in the cranberry industry, but knows a good deal about it from experience in Cape Cod. He believes our conditions along the coast would be most excellent for cranberry culture. He scalps and removes all vegetation, sanding to a depth of 2 1/2 inches. Has ditches and dykes dividing the bogs into five acre tracts, and is prepared to flood for frosts, fire or pests. The varieties he is planting are the Early Black, Late Howe, McFarlands, Bugle and the Bell. They have in all about 400 acres and expect to plant about 50 acres this year. He believed the cost of maintaining depends on the manner in which the bog is put in, very little expense being incurred after the fourth year. Frost has threatened the bogs there occasionally, and he believes it is necessary to have water to flood. One of his neighbors by the name of Adams gathered 180 barrels from an acre six years old. Good cranberry land is getting from 150 to 250 dollars per acre undeveloped in their region.

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