

AN INTERESTING PAPER ON PACKING OF FRUIT

Describes the Necessary Outfit, and Goes into the Detail of Processes of Grading and Selecting—Rules and Methods in Use at Hood River, and Also the Colorado Methods Given—Well Packed Fruit is Well Sold Fruit, and Too Much Attention Cannot Be Given It.

(Paper read by O. H. Cash of Edenbowser, at the Fruitgrowers' meeting in Roseburg Saturday.)

To pack fruit properly one must in the first place have the right equipment. Good work cannot be done with any old ramshackle bins or boxes. The grower of good fruit, who depends on the profits derived therefrom, should have enough interest and pride in his output to see that proper bins, sorting tables, packing and nailing benches are provided. Not everyone can have a packing house, altho' the first spare money the grower has at his disposal should be invested in a building of this kind, unless he is a member of some exchange or union who maintain a large house for the packing house of his own, and belongs to no organization owning one, he can with a little care and small expense, fit up a handy place to put up his fruit, either in a barn or under some trees. First, make one or more (depending on size of crop) bins by tacking canvas on to a substantial frame, say 4 feet wide and 8 feet long, with one side higher than the other and allowing the canvas to sag down in the middle. Make the legs long enough so that the lower side of the table strikes the packer just above the hips. The opposite side of bin being higher the fruit gradually works down to the low side as the first is taken out and enables the operator to continually clean up the bin. This prevents some of the fruit from staying in the bin all day. Make a packing stand of some rough

lumber or scraps, of a size to just take a fruit box of the kind you are using and hold it at an angle of 30 degrees or so, with the slant towards the packer. A cleat nailed at the front edge holds the box from sliding off. Above this, and attached to the stand, build a light frame with a board also inclined 30 degrees immediately above the fruit box and from 8 to 12 inches higher than the edge of the box. cleat along the edge holds your paper. Take a bundle of tissue wrapping paper, nail it to a board about the same size and the aforementioned cleat holds it there just where you want it. A rubber finger stall on first finger of the left hand, which enables you to detach one piece of paper at a time, completes the outfit. The grading or sorting table is any kind of a table big enough to hold the box of fruit you are grading—also a box for fancy, one for choice and one for culls. If the packer does the grading for size, selecting the fruit from the bin first for one size, then another, the grader only grades for quality. Some fruit men, however, let the graders sort for size as well as quality, in which case the table must be large enough to hold more boxes, so the grader can have two or three boxes for each grade in quality around him. The best practice is undoubtedly to let the packer grade for size as he packs, if he is an experienced hand, as the moment he begins a box of certain size he will see only that size in the heap of fruit at his right hand. The next box he

packs a different size, and so on. The grading table should be just the other side of the packing bin, that is, immediately across from the packer and on the high side of the bin, so when the packer calls for fruit the grader just turns around and elevates a box to the side of the bin and gently tips it over onto the canvass. The nailing bench consists of a strong stand fitted with springs; ordinary carriage springs do very well, with a foot lever and ratchet and descending arms to catch the covers and press down on the box. The ratchet then holds while the pressman nails and cleats the box. He should be on the left of the packer and have a long table made of two 2x4's a foot or so apart to receive the packed boxes on. The sizes of tables and bins are of course determined by the amount of fruit and number of people engaged.

As to grades, a few words will suffice. The following classification is used by the Hood River Apple Growers' Union and applies to apples only, but the same general terms would apply to other fruit: Fancy grade, consists of perfect apples only. They must be free from worm holes, stings, scale, fungus, scab, rust, or any other disease, and free from all insect pests, decay or injury. They must be free from bruises and limb rubs, and the skin around the stem must not be broken. All apples must be clean, fully matured, not deformed, and must have a healthy color. Spitzenbergs must have 70 per cent or more good red color. All red apples must be of good color.

Choice grade, consists of apples a little below fancy and includes such apples as are not perfect. These must be good apples, not culls. No apples with worm holes or broken skin will be accepted. Limb rubs must not be larger than a 10-cent piece. Only two strings will be allowed and no string is permitted where the skin of apple is broken. No apples will be accepted if affected with San Jose scale or dry rot, or which show an open or black burr.

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WILL THE CANAL GET THE TRADE?

TECHNICAL WORLD SAYS THE TEHUANTEPEC RAILROAD IS A QUICKER AND CHEAPER SOLUTION OF TRADE PROBLEMS.

What shall it profit a nation to squander more than a third of a billion dollars in digging an interoceanic canal when another nation already has in successful operation a rival transportation line that can cut rates below the possibility of competition by the canal and still make a profit?

This is the conundrum that has confronted the people of the United States since January 1, 1907, when Mexico opened the Tehuantepec National railway for traffic. It will continue to confront them so long as the railway remains in operation in spite of all the rhetoric that can be touched off in congress or out of it.

On paper, of course, water transportation can put the railroads out of business with one hand tied. It has been demonstrated beyond the possibility of successful contradiction again and yet again that a steamship or a steamboat, or even a canal boat, can haul freight so much cheaper than a train that the latter can not even earn interest on its bonds. As a matter of prosaic history, however, it will be remembered that the railroads, even in their crude days of undevelopment, simply took all the traffic away from the canals, which had had some years the start of them, leaving the canal boats to rot and the canals themselves to degenerate into duck ponds.

Ocean freight rates are worth on an average a dollar per ton per thousand miles. The ordinary freight steamship makes about 10 miles an hour, or 250 miles a day, thus requiring five days more to go by way of Panama, assuming the time of crossing both isthmuses to be the same. It will take a steamer about one day to pass through the Panama canal, while the cargo could be passed across Tehuantepec and loaded into another steamer in two days, leaving four days to the advantage of the Mexican route. The extra cost of the four days to a steamer with a 5000-ton cargo to go by way of Panama would be \$2000; adding the canal tolls would bring the total up to \$10,000.

That this saving is actual cash by the Tehuantepec route is not merely an academic theory but a commercial reality has been demonstrated by more than three years of operation. The first demonstration was the diversion of a couple of hundred thousand tons of sugar per year that was formerly shipped from Hawaii by way of Cape Horn to New York and Philadelphia, saving more than 30 days time. The directness of the Mexican route is shown by the fact that a cargo which left Hong Kong April 8, 1909, consigned by way of Tehuantepec was delivered in New York May 31, making the time in transit 53 days.—Technical World Magazine.

The Poor Middleman.

In these days of investigation of the high cost of living it is generally the result of a scholarly inquiry that the profits are going to the middleman. This not only works out with the work done by the expert economists but it is demonstrated by the amateur investigators. Last fall a Wenatche apple grower placed a note in a box of apples which he packed offering a reward to the final purchaser of the apples if he would return the note telling where and when he bought the box and how much he paid. The grower was paid \$1.75 for his box of apples. His note was returned to him with the information that the apples had been purchased in the New York market in February for \$2.75. Poor old commission man. Allowing fifty cents for freight this worthy object of pity only received \$1.50 for the service of handling a box of apples from the producer to the consumer. Of course these were not Hood River apples but a note in a box of Hood Rivers for which the grower received about \$2.75 would have brought a reply from New York saying that they had been bought there for about \$5. Again our sympathy to the man who gets only a dollar or two for making some brief entries on his books, perhaps storing the apples a few weeks and telling the people he has some apples to sell. Why, his profit is not much more than \$1,000 on a carload. And the man

who grows the apples may get nearly \$2,000 from the carload.

The producer of course gets a good price but when the man who sometimes never handles or even sees the commodity gets almost as much and often more than the man who produces, it is easy to see the cause of the high cost of living. Hood River growers get more for their products because they have their selling association and have cut out the middleman at this end of the line but the consumer in New York and London still pays tribute to the commission man at that end. Of course the man who can indulge himself in the delicious Hood River Spitzenberg may not care for the pittance the commission man exacts but if we look in other lines, for instance in lines where we are consumers we will find that there is a long jump from the price the producer receives to the price that we pay for the article. We need the middleman and he is a necessity but it would be better to pay him at the rate we pay for other necessities instead of paying in the way we pay for great luxuries.—Hood River Glacier.

Disease from Thought.

(By Dr. Charles Gilbert Davis in New York World.)

If a thought can in an instant time dilate or contract the blood vessels, causing a rush of blood to or from any part; if it can increase or diminish the secretions of a gland; if it can hasten or retard the action of the heart; if it can turn the hair gray in a single night; if it can force tears from the eyes; if it can in an instant produce great bodily weakness; if it can produce insomnia; if, as has often occurred, it can bring instantaneous death—then is it not natural for us to conclude, without further argument, that it may bring about a more or less continuous derangement of the physical organism, which we call disease?

On every hand we note instances where the action of the mind both produces and perpetuates disease. Indeed I can truthfully say, after an observation of many years in the practice of medicine, that a majority of the cases of illness which come under the daily observation of the physician are largely due to the condition of the mind.

It is not unusual for some one returning from the funeral of a loved one to be taken ill and in a few days follow that one to the grave. What causes this death? Depressing thought.

Mother hears of some calamity having befallen her child. She goes into a collapse, fever follows and she is near the gates of death. Was it not a thought that produced this illness?

A man is seated at a banquet table, full of health and happiness and blessed with a good appetite.

A message is brought to him that his family has been drowned in a flood. He turns pale; his appetite deserts him and his strength is gone. Soon he is in a delirium and ill. All the functions of the body are deranged; a doctor is called and names his disease. But is it not true that this man's disease has been produced by what he thought?

I have seen the most wonderful effects follow a fit of anger. After an outburst of passion the function of every gland in the body is impaired. Time and again I have observed acute illness in an infant where it was permitted to nurse immediately after the mother had been engaged in a quarrel, and on more than one such occasion I have seen death follow in a few hours.

Such instances might be multiplied indefinitely, and every observant physician has a mental store of such cases.

Closing Acts of Congress.

Taft signed the \$20,000,000 irrigation bill Saturday night at 10 o'clock.

Each house of congress in its closing hours appointed committees to investigate the charges of bribery in connection with the Oklahoma Indian lands, made by Senator Gore.

President Taft left the capitol building at 11 o'clock, having signed practically all bills passed by congress.

Hay Fever and Asthma.

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LARGE AUDIENCE HEARS THE DEBATE

Between Colonel Hofer, of Salem, and Rev. Wilson, of Portland on Liquor Question as to Merits of Proposed Prohibition Amendment to Constitution.

(The Dalles Chronicle, June 29.)

The joint debate between Rev. Clarence True Wilson, of Portland, and Colonel Ernest Hofer, of Salem, drew a packed house at the Vogt theater last night. The audience appeared to be about evenly divided with sympathizers of the two policies as advocated by the speakers. The question debated was: "Resolved, that the proposed prohibition amendment to the constitution, to be voted upon in November, would be beneficial to Oregon." Rev. Wilson favored state-wide prohibition, while his opponent talked in favor of local option and high license.

Rev. Wilson opened the debate with a half-hour talk. Colonel Hofer followed with a speech of 30 minutes and thus alternating, both sides were put before the audience of about 750 people for two hours, the only intermission being to take up a collection for expenses. The audience responded with enough to cover hall rent and advertising. Both sides received a great deal of applause.

Mr. Hofer was introduced as a probable candidate for governor, which position he modestly declined to assume but said he was in favor of aspirants for public office coming out and stating where they stood on this and other vital questions. "No man can be elected governor of Oregon this year," he said, amid great applause, "who straddles this issue and carries water on one shoulder and beer on the other." The state of Oregon should decide this matter whether there is to be state-wide prohibition or the present system of local option and high license and regulation for the cities, and if the state goes dry, the man who is elected governor should enforce the laws and if the people vote Oregon dry and elect him governor, the Salem editor said he would use all the executive power to see that the state was made dry and the mandate of the people was obeyed. "So don't vote dry unless you expect to go dry," he continued. "I shall do all in my power on the stump and in my newspaper work against this amendment to the constitution, and I feel this amendment, but I believe the will of the electorate fully and fairly expressed should be the su-

preme law of the land." (Great applause.)

Dr. Wilson made an eloquent appeal for the rights of the home and the family against the liquor traffic. He made a strong point in favor of state-wide prohibition by showing that all the bad debts of merchants were caused by men paying cash to the saloon keeper and buying of the merchant on credit. Colonel Hofer asked Dr. Wilson if making and selling intoxicants were to be made a crime, why not go a step farther and make drinking liquor a crime? Dr. Wilson defended the right of private drinking as a matter of conscience and personal privilege and responsibility, while he said traffic in intoxicating liquor was a matter of public concern. Colonel Hofer asked him if prohibition were founded on truth and principle, why the German nation was leading all Europe in industrial, financial, educational and moral progress, while it was the nation farthest from practicing prohibition.

The Portland minister attacked the wholesalers and manufacturers of liquors in Portland as the backers of lawlessness and corruption in Oregon affairs. He said: "Why try to find the blind pigs under the law today, when the manufacturers and wholesalers of liquor, the power that is demoralizing Oregon politics, the power that owns the police commission and council of the city of Portland and controls the newspapers, is sending men to dry territories to sell liquor, telling them that they will see them through, that they will pay their fines if arrested, and see that they do not get into serious trouble. These men are doing more to defy the sovereign law of Oregon than any other body of criminals in the state. They are damning our boys, ruining our girls, corrupting our laws, defeating good men for election, even on the circuit bench in Oregon." Rev. Wilson said that there was no use to fool with the blind pigs any longer, that the people should go to the center of the trouble, and prohibit the sale and manufacture of liquor.

Colonel Hofer's strong point was that, if the amendment was carried, there would be many communities which would not be in sympathy with the new enactment, and that it would be impossible to enforce the law there, that more laws would be broken and more liquor sold than under the present system.

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