

More on the British Columbia Fruit Situation.

EDITOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

There seemed to be a taken-for-granted feeling at the convention of the British Columbia Fruit Growers that to a very great extent the solution of their marketing problems was going to be had largely through thorough and efficient advertising arrangements. The President, and Mr. Winslow, though, and some of the other speakers mentioned other phases of the marketing problems that will not be reached by advertising.

The serious loss to the growers of the privilege of unloading express in carloads while in transit was announced. Some saw-off arrangement that the express companies get at by juggling the rates was made. As a compensation for this loss, they reduced the rates by \$60 per car to certain prairie points. The President asserted it was stifling the car-load business.

Mr. Abbott, the Coast Markets' Commissioner, spoke on the coast markets and also on the consumer's side of the question of fruit. Touching on market troubles, he was very emphatic on the point that there is a great lack of information from the producer's end of the business. Mr. Abbott has had to contend to a great extent with a lack of organization among the growers down at the coast, and this no doubt led to this statement of lack of information from the growers as to the quantity he might expect. Then, too, growers inland, along the main line of the C.P.R. and in the Okanagan, who would not unite with organizations and attempted to market for themselves, could give no reports of their expected crops or their plans nor can they expect to receive reports nor suggestions from the various markets. A case where the independence of the farmers when carried to extremes works for their downfall. He stated that often when the season is well advanced the coast markets do not know whether they are to get fruit and produce at all or whether it is going to land on them in carload lots. He asked the producers not to feel hurt when the commissioners from the various markets criticized their methods. The commissioners were not out with one idea only—that of criticizing—but they left that largely to the dealers. No one can know what impressions his goods are making unless he follows them to the market, or else is told by someone on the market, where they fall down in the consumer's eye. British Columbia growers are too far from their markets to be able, in most cases, to follow their goods to the retailers and consumers, and have to depend on those who are at the markets to tell them where they are behind in giving a good service and full value for the consumer's money.

He said, further, that up to now the coast people had been buying largely United States foreign stuff, but British Columbia and eastern growers are now coming on these markets, and if they wish to hold them, and they can, they must ship in only No. 1 stuff. The mainland (lands about Vancouver not on Vancouver Island) has enough of its left-over and seconds to supply all the demands there is for cheaper, poor-grade fruit. Hence, the inland places should ship on only their No. 1 stuff. When the increased production, which the estimates of the other speakers warned was coming, made itself evident, the inland places are going to need all Vancouver and the coast to market the increase. It is absurd to expect that any district can work up these markets in one year. It takes time to get acquainted with the consumer, and he will buy only when he has seen the brand on the market and is familiar with it from year to year. He gave a strong warning against shipping to the coast markets, immature stuff, in order to get the early markets, and the attempt to avoid loss from over ripening before a sale is made. One thing was certain in his estimation—that no fruit firm or grower could hope to make an impression at the coast unless he could equal or surpass the Western States grading. These growers kept the various sizes of fruits so well together and avoided mixing sizes, maturity, color and shape to such an extent that it was a perfected science among packers, and any one competing with them must beat or equal them at their own game if they hope for recognition.

Mr. McTaggart, the Prairie Markets' Commissioner from British Columbia, came from a part of our markets where there has been considerable hard feeling against Canadian growers, and British Columbia growers in particular, over the increase in tariff. The grain growers, he stated, had been pouring contempt on British Columbia and overlooking all the other provinces, and it has made it very hard to get the same consideration for British Columbia produce on the prairies that it has been accustomed to. He was very glad to say that the Grain Growers had a representative at the convention, and that being where he had been so impressed by the difficulties that the growers had to contend with, that he had promised his hearty support upon his return to the prairies.

He took up the advertising also, stating that the Western States, last year, had \$60,000, while we in British Columbia had \$1,500. Their work is clever and efficient, and this year, if they ship only one car, they will advertise in all the Western Provinces. Ontario started to advertise in the Prairies in June, and were then using half-page space in all farm papers on the prairies. The only advertising done by British Columbia was on soft stuff, and that largely was in the form of slips giving directions on "how to preserve without using sugar." Half a million of these had been distributed and were eagerly sought after.

The Dominion Fruit Commissioner from Ottawa seemed quite optimistic on the fruit markets because of the outlook of the crops on the prairie. The people there had stopped the speculation in land and were

spending on necessities. As a register of the degree of prosperity, he mentioned the large sales being made by automobile factories. Last season this was not the case.

He also stated that the quality of produce in British Columbia was considerably better than that of last year. Strawberries this year from British Columbia were the best pack ever seen on the prairies, and they came largely from Gordon Head, B. C. There is a good opportunity for expansion there, and this year, he was glad to note, that there were very few violations in pack.

He, like the rest, emphasized the fact that British Columbia would have to get down to business in advertising, if she wants to hold her present standing and work up the necessary market for her coming increased production.

He spoke in favor of co-operation in marketing, such as was to be found in the Okanagan Valley, and contrasted the results of that with the condition that exists where the apple buyers worked. They were no help; they established nothing of permanency in the industry. He thought it was time we got working to the ideal of never letting fruit sell for a price that will not pay the producer, and to do that we must put a stop to the senseless competition that is bound to exist where individuals attempt to solve their own markets single handed.

He had stopped on his way back from Washington, where the orchards are going back in every respect, due largely to over-planting peaches, and mildew on the apples, which is bound to cause a material decrease in competition on the prairies.

B. C.

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POULTRY.

Preserving Eggs.

Recommendations for preserving eggs by the water glass method.

Selecting Eggs.—The eggs should be collected daily from clean nests only, and from healthy flocks. It is preferable to use infertile eggs and thereby eliminate the possibilities for embryonic development and subsequent spoiling. In no case should old, sun-baked, cracked or thin-shelled eggs be used. Cracks are usually detected by gently tapping the eggs or candling them.

Container.—Generally, glazed earthenware jars, galvanized tubs or buckets and wooden tubs or kegs are used. In case of wooden receptacles it is desirable to let them stand several days full of water, then empty and scald before using.

A gallon stone jar will hold 40 average eggs. One pint of water glass syrup mixed with 10 pints of water will cover 120 eggs in a three gallon stone jar.

Water.—Mix the water glass with water that has been boiled. The mixture should be kept covered at all times in order to prevent evaporation. When cold it is ready for use.

Water Glass.—Water glass can be purchased either in liquid or dry form. Most drug stores, however, carry in stock only the liquid form.

Strength of Solution.—Different proportions of water glass to water have been successfully used, but the higher strengths as for example: one pint of water glass to 9 or 10 pints of water have given better results.

Uses.—Eggs preserved in water glass can be used in place of fresh ones for frying, scrambling, cooking, and, if not kept too long, can be used for meringues, icings, angel cake, etc. A pin hole opening made on the blunt end of the shell makes it possible to boil the eggs without any danger of their bursting.

Commercial Packing.—A large number of persons have packed eggs in water glass successfully for commercial purposes. They should be labeled as water glass eggs when being offered for sale.—Agr. Exp. Station, Washington.

The Moulting Season.

The fall of the year is the natural moulting season. A hen's ability as a winter egg producer depends largely on how she passes this moulting period.

While the moulting period can be forced and shortened by the use of stimulants, it is usually best to allow it to take its natural course. As a general rule the hens that moult late and quick are the highest producers and the early moulter is seldom a winter layer.

To grow a new set of feathers is a severe drain on the birds, and the nature of the feed at this time is of the utmost importance. The common grains such as wheat, corn and oats, fed in sufficient quantities will keep the fowl warm and maintain the body weight, but these grains alone are not enough. The fowls need some real feather making food, rich in protein and mineral.

A mash composed of equal parts by weight of wheat, bran, ground oats or barley, shorts and meat scrap will make a very good supplement to the grain ration. The addition of one half part each of oil meal and sunflower seed to this mash will give the new coat of feathers a very sleek appearance.

FARM BULLETIN.

Another Book.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

A book does not always have the effect intended by the author. Some months after the publication of Upton Sinclair's book, "The Jungle," in which he exposed the revolting conditions in the Chicago Stock Yards and aroused a wave of disgust that reduced the trade in canned meats by about \$300,000,000, the amazed young author exclaimed pathetically:

"I thought I was appealing to the intelligence of the people, and all I did was to turn their stomachs."

Some weeks ago a friend thought he would make an appeal to my intelligence by advising me to get a copy of Gustavus Myers' startling book, "The History of Canadian Wealth" (Albert Britnell, Toronto). He evidently thought it would rouse me to a fury of indignation and make me rage against the rich and powerful. The final effect of reading the book was just the opposite, and I am sitting down to tell about it in a frame of mind that is serene—almost exalted. Instead of reducing me to a state of hopelessness by its sordid record of extortion, fraud, embezzlement, theft, heartlessness, corruption, and all uncleanness, it flung my thoughts upward, even as a character in "Paradise Lost"—who shall be nameless, because I do not want to institute a comparison—was flung, when

"The strong rebuff of some tumultuous cloud,
Instinct with fire and nitre, hurried him
As many miles aloft."

This book is certainly "instinct with fire and nitre," and other high explosives of a financial, political and generally scandalous character, but it caused a revulsion of feeling such as the author would hardly expect. It turned my mind from the rich and powerful—and corrupt—to the decent, plain people of Canada whom I meet in my everyday life, and I exulted in the thought that this young nation has a foundation of honesty and uprightness that is destined to withstand and outlive all the assaults of the powers of evil. The foundations of Canada were laid by the "wise, poor men" who cleared away the wilderness, and the multitude of wise, poor men who are to-day doing the work of the country will slowly build Canada into what it was meant to be by the God of nations. The progress that has been made already in this wonderful work is something that might well rouse us to song.

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The History of Canadian Wealth is about the most pitiless exposure to which any country was ever subjected. Backing up his statements with documentary evidence, Mr. Myers makes revelations that are enough to make any Canadian squirm. Honored names are handled in a way that must be hard for their respectable descendants to endure. Few of the older Canadian fortunes or public men escape unsmirched, and I am told that he has a second volume written, but not published, that brings the story right up to the minute and turns the light on the pleasant Captains of Industry a man is likely to meet when visiting the clubs in Toronto and Montreal. It is a strange form of public service that Mr. Myers has undertaken, and, such as it is, he is doing it well. But, in my present mood, I am not sure that it is very necessary. Of course, it is a good thing for us to learn how wealth is being organized and centralized into a few hands, and also to learn how little the men who control the wealth of the country deserve their power. But I doubt if it is by smashing that power in direct fight that Canada is to win her complete freedom. I incline to the belief that we will win with greater certainty by stimulating the good we find in the country rather than by fighting the evil. And, although he did not set out to do this, Mr. Myers really proves it. While men in place and power were robbing the public domain and oppressing the people, the people went on with their work, and, in spite of every thing, gave us the Canada we have to-day—the Canada of pleasant homes and boundless opportunities. While reading this book, it seems impossible that any country could survive such looting as Canada has endured. The emigrants who were dumped into the wilderness by the heartless selfishness of those who wanted to relieve the congestion of Old Country parishes—to make wider deer parks, or to rid the country of paupers—were forced by their necessities to make homes for themselves, and now their descendants are as prosperous and as highly placed in the service of the country as the descendants of those who claimed their aristocratic birth as an excuse for receiving favors from self-seeking governors and governments. The broken men of the old world touched the earth in Canada, and, like Antaeus, their strength was renewed and multiplied. While those who sought to acquire wealth were stooping to every kind of meanness and rascality, those who were struggling to get homes went on clearing the land, fencing, draining, tilling, building good buildings, raising flocks and herds, and doing their humble tasks. And now look at the results. Although the farmers and laboring men of Canada still have many wrongs to complain of, and must keep on fighting for their rights, the fact remains that their condition is better than that of the common people of any other country in the world, and even of any other part of the Empire. They have freedom of conscience and opinion. They are all educated and their children may aspire to the highest positions in the land. While we have much to complain of, we have much to make us rejoice, for no aristocracy or moneyed power has managed to get a strangle hold on us as they did in the older countries.