

Fruit Growers Finish Work

Windup of the Convention of the British Columbia Association.

An Interesting Discussion on Question of Adulterated Jams.

Westminster Chosen as the Place of Annual Meeting Next Year.

With two sessions held yesterday afternoon and evening, the annual convention of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association came to an end.

Mr. J. E. Maynard then read the following paper on "Fertilizers."

It may be well to state that we will take chiefly into consideration those soils which are heavily drawn upon, and of which the soil contains the available forms of potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen.

Water, as absorbed by rootlets, is not pure, containing, probably, to every cubic centimetre, one or two parts of mineral matter, from which plants derive their entire supply of the necessary constituents.

These elements, in their crude and insoluble state, are not available to the growing plant, but are made available by the processes of decomposition and decay, being slowly changed by nature into soluble forms.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon you that the most abundant fertilizer element present, but in proportion to that one which is most deficient.

How about the supply of humus? Would it not become depleted? With ordinary careful agricultural practice, humus is continually renewed.

Three separate experimenters found that ground dressed with chemical manure, for many years, produced much humus as soils regularly dressed with barnyard manures for the same period of time.

From preceding cultures are the principal sources of the humus of cultivated soils, and thus is explained the well-known richness of humic matter of the soils in Holland, where three times as much chemical fertilizers are used per acre as in Great Britain and elsewhere.

The question that perhaps suggests itself to some of you is, Why would not the use of barnyard manure, in addition to the residues left from crops, be a more economical method of securing needed supplies, up to a great extent, break up and destroy the humus of the soil?

Now if we compare these proportions of plant food with those found in commercial fertilizers, we are readily impressed with the one-sided nature of these fertilizers.

In growing annual plants it is possible to note early results and to judge of the results to be expected, by which, in a few seasons, it can be readily determined the kind and quantity of fertilizers that are most profitable.

The manure of the soil is not only a source of food, but it is a source of health, and vigor of the tree that must also be considered.

What is true of the orange is undoubtedly true of other fruit growing crops, and may seriously affect the quality of fruit produced.

There stands a cherry orchard, now aged, in the famous Santa Clara Valley, which, in California, is one of the best of its kind.

These experiments strongly illustrate the fact that the best results are obtained when the soil is supplied with a complete fertilizer, each supplementing the others, and in suitable proportion supply the food wants of the plant.

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digging made August 19, second October 4. Taking the average of the eight varieties dug August 19, the results are as follows, marketable potatoes only considered: The fertilized plots gave 41 per cent more potatoes than unfertilized, and 2 1/2-3 per cent more than the manured plots.

Our Agassiz Experimental Farm also is doing most excellently along this line, and other lines, decidedly profitable results are being obtained there from the use of chemical fertilizers.

A word in regard to the conservation of soil moisture. The soil is the foundation of the conditions in the soil of the plains of Western Kansas, Nebraska, and Eastern Oregon, suffering from drought.

The afternoon session opened at 1:45 o'clock. Mr. Palmer delivered his address on "Transportation."

Mr. Cunningham then delivered an address on Horticultural Board Work.

Mr. Maynard then delivered an address on the subject of Fertilizers.

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cultivation, care, and irrigation could go, were futile, resorted to chemical fertilizers. The result was marvelous, the crop increased 88 per cent.

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terly meeting. This was moved by Thomas A. Brydon and seconded by Kipp. Mr. Cunningham said the inauguration of the inspection station at Vancouver had kept him pretty busy, but he hoped to travel over the province in the future.

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ditions of the analyst beyond any precedent. The twelve samples analyzed both by Dr. Faran and by the analyst at the Victoria, Dr. Faran reports nine samples, and three adulterated.

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A RETROGRADE PROPOSITION

Proposal to Decrease the Area of the City Fire Limits.

Efforts are being made to have the fire limits placed within a narrower limit than at present, and, as might be expected, the fire underwriters are in opposition to the movement, which would mean higher rates and the placing of Victoria in the third class of cities.

Mr. Elliott, secretary of the Underwriters' Association, looks upon the proposal to decrease the fire limits as most unwise and unfeeling for a decidedly retrograde step.

HOW ABOUT SHIP'S COOK

Mr. Morrison Sides With Culinary Artist and Captain Matheson Retires.

From Our Own Correspondent. Westminister, B.C., March 9.—Capt. Matheson, of the fisheries steamer Georgia, has resigned and been succeeded by Capt. T. H. Strang.

MINER KILLED AT KNOB HILL

Explosion Knocks William Watson Lifelong and Injures John Salmon.

From Our Own Correspondent. Phoenix, B.C., March 9.—On Tuesday a shift was coming off at the Knob Hill mine, one man was killed and another seriously, perhaps fatally, injured.

THE ALASKA BOUNDARY

Mass Meeting of Citizens to Discuss the Question This Evening.

PLANNING NAVAL SHAMFIGHT

Warships Will Attack Macaulay During Volunteer's Next Mobilization.

Arrangements are being made for the annual mobilization of the Fifth Regiment, which will start on the 15th inst. and will last for a week.

TOO ELABORATE. Winnipeg Cannot Build Carnegie Library on Proposed Plans.

Winnipeg, March 9.—(Special)—The citizens here are so opposed to the plan that they cannot erect a Carnegie library according to the plans and specifications prepared by Architect Guthrie for \$750,000, and no tenders are being made therefor. Another plan is probably being selected.

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