

NOW FOR PRUNE PIE.

THE FRUIT WILL BE CHEAP AND TONS OF IT TO BE HAD.

At Which the Heart of the Boarding-House Mistress Will Jump With Joy—The Method of Preparing and Packing Prunes for the Market.

Do you live in a boarding-house? If so read and shudder: California goes to market this year with about \$5,000,000 pounds of prunes, and the Wilson Tariff Bill makes it possible to dump the foreign growth on our markets with the result that prunes ought to be away down. Think, then, of all the prunes and prune pie you must eat—tons of prunes to be had and prices unusually low.

California is the greatest prune producing section of this country. The first prune trees planted in the state were set out near San Jose in 1857 by a Frenchman, who had come to this coast as a sailor. They were brought from France. No one seemed to realize the advantages of California as a home for the prune for at least 25 years after the first trees were set out. The largest of the old orchards not being planted until 1870, near San Jose. Since then the history of the industry has been one of steady and rapid growth.

Most consumers know that prunes are dipped in lye as a process of curing them. The new method is a very simple one, involving the use of machinery in the form of a cylinder, into which the fruit is fed through a hopper. Inside the cylinder is a lining which carries thousands of short, sharp, pricking points, and as the prunes pass these the skins are perforated, thus obviating the lye-dipping process, which is chiefly employed for breaking the skin of the fruit, as well as to make it tender. The advantage of the pricking method is supposed to be that it produces a sweeter and heavier prune. By the old process, if any lye was allowed to remain in the prune it spoiled the taste, and was necessarily injurious to the stomach. It requires so much water to wash the lye-dipped prune that many people would gladly adopt a method not requiring any, but the old method was continued in favor with those who can use water without stint.

When the lye-dipping process is used the fresh fruit is placed in wire screens and submerged in boiling lye for about 30 seconds. If left in the liquid too long the sugar will come out in drying and cause the prune to become sticky. After dipping, the scalded prunes are plunged into clean fresh, cold water, which must be changed frequently. After the bath they are spread on trays for drying, which in California is done altogether in the sun. In Europe drying is done by artificial heat, which is not productive of such good results. However, as the European prunes are finally subjected to a baking process in immense ovens, rendering it cooked rather than cured fruit, the artificial drying there employed is less objectionable.

California prunes are cured by sun heat, leaving the fruit of a dark, distinguished even from ordinary dried fruits, like the apple.

After coming from the trays, where it has been allowed to remain from a week to a month, as the conditions may necessitate, the fruit is put through a sweating process by placing it in large bins, where it is frequently turned and left for a period of two or three weeks, in which time it assumes a bluish-drying appearance, and regains its plumpness in such a degree as almost to equal the fresh fruit. Then it is dipped in boiling water to soften the skin and to remove insects or their eggs. In this final hot water process some growers use glycerine, glucose, firebricks and some even logwood or indigo. Frequently salt is added to the water, with possible advantage, but the use of the other drugs to improve the appearance of the fruit is deprecated by the best authorities, for the reason that they are injurious to the stomach.

Next comes the packing in boxes or bags. Where boxes are used the fruit is put up in packages of 25 or 50 pounds. The boxes should be lined with white paper and covered with oiled paper to keep out the dust and insects as well as to make a neat package. Where bags are used they are about the size and quality of 50-pound flour sacks, varying in weight when filled from 75 to 90 pounds, according to the size of the prune. Prunes shipped in bags are not properly protected against grit, dirt or insects, and it is regarded as a rather slovenly way of placing the prune on the market.

The Missionary in China.

The missionary in China is always in bad case in time of war or civil commotion, and his position now is less favorable than that of his predecessors three and a half centuries ago. They followed the return of Jenghis Khan's western wars of invasion, and during the continuance of his dynasty were pretty well treated, and their work on the whole encouraged. Carpin and William of Rubruk, Franciscan friars, visited the country as early as 1250, and both have left records of it which are yet extant, describing the habits and social customs of the people. Fifty years later came Friar John, and Monte Corvino, also a Franciscan, and after much obscure propagandist labor among these interesting pagans obtained a following, and was appointed by Pope Benedict XII. Archbishop of Cambaluc, known to later gazetteers as Peking. Afterward, as the faith spread, numbers of suffragan bishops and priests of his own order were sent out, and missions were established all over the country. They were favored and protected by the great Khans who succeeded Jenghis, Kublai among them, lord of the pleasure dome of Xanadu, as well as many others; but with the downfall of the line of Jenghis the old national hostility to foreigners revived, the work of the missionaries was entirely "blotted out," and only resumed after the accession of the Manchou Emperor two centuries later. This time it was the Jesuits and the Dominicans who came, and they have maintained a footing in the country with varying fortune and favor ever since, their power and influence being greatest in the early period of their occupancy there. The policy of the Government is to extend protection to all missionaries, whom it cordially despises nevertheless, but they are not always safe from local outbreaks of fanaticism. It was the advice of Li Hung Chang that they should be as inconspicuous as possible during the present troubles, and there is no doubt that it was sagacious counsel. New York Tribune.

Plain Facts. As a prompt, pleasant and perfect cure for cough, cold, asthma, bronchitis, croup, whooping cough, quinsy, influenza, and all throat and lung troubles, Norway Pine Syrup is the best remedy known. 246

Toronto Industry for Hamilton. Hamilton, Nov. 7.—When the Smelting Works are in operation here the Toronto Mineral Wool Manufacturing Company will move to this city.

In its inquiries considerable slag is required, which now is imported from Cleveland, but which the Smelting Works will supply.

THE CZAR'S PHYSICIAN.

DR. ZACHARIN AND HIS ECCENTRIC WAYS IN A SICK ROOM.

As Full of Grown as the Russian Bear and as Little of a Flunkey as Was Diogenes' Characteristic Stories.

Dr. Zacharin, who has been treating the Czar, is known as one of the most impolite men—to use no stronger expression—in his profession. He is a fierce democrat and has respect for no one. Like Professor Schweininger, the physician of Bismarck, he insists upon the liberal execution of his orders, it matters not who the patient may be, and will brook no interference. He is a man of middle age and began life as a butcher boy. He has become one of the richest men in Russia by his practice.

When the malady of the Czar began to look serious a few weeks ago the Emperor at once asked that Zacharin be sent for. A telegram was dispatched to the Governor of Moscow, says one of the imperial attendants in the Copenhagen Politiken, ordering him to send Zacharin to St. Petersburg. The assistant of the Governor found the professor in his clinic, and asked him to make as rapid preparations as possible, as the last train would leave the city for the capital in a few hours.

"The fast train? What?" was the Professor's answer. "The Emperor of Russia is sick, and you talk of the fast train! Will you kindly order me an 'extra,' which must be ready in half an hour."

At the time appointed he started for St. Petersburg, and, arriving there, hurried with an attendant to the castle. "His Majesty awaits you, Professor," said a chamberlain who received him at the entrance. "Your rooms are at the head of the stairway, and you will find everything in readiness to make your toilet after the journey."

"Toilet!" answered the physician. "His Majesty is sick and wants my advice, not to see me in 'toilet.' Take me to him at once."

The Emperor was lying in bed in a dark room. All the windows were closed and the curtains were down. The Eczacki sat in a rocking chair next to the bed. Three body-physicians stood about the room. Zacharin entered the room, made his obeisance to the imperial party, but almost totally disregarded the presence of his colleagues. "What an atmosphere! It is diseased and breeding. And in this atmosphere you allow Russia's sick Emperor to lie? Quick! Put back the curtains and raise the window blind. Such was his first order. He then became silent and began a thorough examination of his patient. Then, taking a chair, he rested his arm on his knee and began to think. Almost ten minutes passed without his uttering more than a half dozen words. As the other physicians, who apparently did not like his action, began to talk softly to one another he rapped with his pencil and told them to "be still."

A year ago, when the Emperor was suffering from influenza, Professor Zacharin was called also to the palace of the Czar. Upon his arrival with his assistant, the doctor was asked to take a suite of rooms on the third story. Zacharin refused to be housed there. He said the habit, he said, of always sleeping on the ground floor, and did not wish to change his habits. It was bad for his health. He had his way and was led to chambers on the first floor.

The Czarina, wishing to show her friendly interest in the physician, invited him to take his meals with the family at the imperial table. To this Zacharin replied:

"I never eat with women, Your Majesty."

He insisted, upon being served in his room, and the good-natured Empress allowed him to have his way.

One day, the Czarina, believing that the evil from which the Czar suffered was increasing, descended to the room of the doctor and begged him to examine the temperature of the patient and see if it were not higher.

"My assistant," replied the autocratic physician, "will go and examine him."

A little later the physician returned to the rooms with the announcement that there had been no change in the temperature of the sick ruler.

"You see, Your Majesty, that it is not worth while to disturb me."

The doctor was accustomed to go about the palace in the early mornings wearing a gown and the felt slippers of a peasant. But no one ever dared to call him to account.

The doctor gives away large sums of money yearly to the poor. "Poor students he always treats free of charge. But when he finds a rich patient, he makes him pay for all that he has lost."

Respectfully yours, *Abbe May.*

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ALD. A. F. STAGG, BROCKVILLE, ONT.

A citizen whose influence carries a good premium in the growing town of Brockville is Ald. A. F. Stagg, an extensive stock dealer in that section of the province. For over 30 years he has carried on business in Brockville. The people know the man. How much he has accomplished during this half century in building up the municipality is known to them, and they have been ready to show their appreciation of these labors by making him a town father. Mr. Stagg, however, failed, just where so many other men of active and aggressive temperament fail, namely, in exceeding his strength. About two years ago his nervous system became broken and shattered, and he was unable to do work of any kind. This was a serious blow to a man of so active a temperament and with the volume of business he had on hand. He did, as anyone else would do, and this is the natural thing to do, sought the assistance of the local doctors of the place. He tried not only that, but all of them. Whatever the trouble was they seemed unable to master it and did him no good. He went to Kingston hoping to find greater medical skill in the last stone city. There was no better for his trouble. A friend influenced him to visit Messina Springs, being believed that the peculiar charm that surrounds that spot would have its effect in giving back to Mr. Stagg his lost health. But it was simply a case of history repeating itself.

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TORONTO POSTAL GUIDE—DURING THE month of November, 1894, mails close and are due as follows:

	CLOSE	DATE	TIME
G.T. & N. East	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. West	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Railway	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Express	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Mail	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Parcel	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Freight	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Goods	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Mail	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Parcel	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Freight	5.00	7.40	7.10
G.T. & N. Goods	5.00	7.40	7.10

English mails close on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 p.m., and on Saturdays at 7.15 p.m. Supplementary mails to Mondays and Thursdays close on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12 noon. The following are the dates of English mails for the month of November, 1894:

DATE	TIME
Nov. 12	10.00
Nov. 15	10.00
Nov. 18	10.00
Nov. 21	10.00
Nov. 24	10.00
Nov. 27	10.00
Nov. 30	10.00

N.B.—There are branch postoffices in every part of the city. Residents of each district should transmit their letters, parcels and money orders to the Local Office nearest to their residence, failing to notify their correspondents to make orders payable at such branch postoffices.

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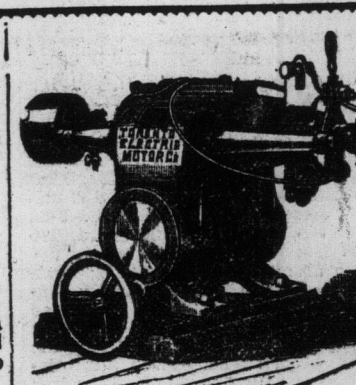
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