Agriculture and Husbandry

Sugar Beet Ills

Agriculturalists in California for the past several years have noted that the sugar beet industry was on the decline, have seen many and great sugar-beet factories close their goods for good, until now only a few grind out sugar from raw beets.

At Oxnard, the American Beet Sugar Company operates a huge refinery, which during the beet harvesting and grinding season employs over 1000 men. A gradual decline in beet growing has lately confined the activities of this Oxnard plant to a few short months in the summer. Oxnard, however, observed with interest last fortnight an experiment being carried on by the American Beet Sugar Company there. It was experimenting with Philippine beets, 5000 tons of them. If the Oxnard company can successfully refine Philippine beets it will be able to keep the plant open, employ the 1000 men for eight or nine months out of the year.

* * *

Prime among sugar beet growing and manufacturing districts in Southern California at the present time is Orange County. Many thousand tons of the white, meaty, sugar-bearing vegetable are yearly pulled from the soil, taken to the factory, sliced, ground up, and the sugar removed. From the Holly Sugar Company refinery, last surviving sugar factory in Orange County, 51,000 tons of beets were handled this season.

Ten years ago five sugar beet refineries, slicing some 175,000 tons of beets annually, were operating in Orange County. Today but one factory is running and the crop has decreased proportionately.

H. E. Wahlberg, Orange County Farm Advisor, investigating the cause of the decline of beet production in Southern California and with especial attention to Orange County, found three major reasons for the production decrease. They are: 1) Foreign competition of cane sugar, a low tariff on Cuban sugar, and the accompanying ill effects upon the farmer of low prices brought about by competition of cane sugar; 2) the belief on the part of contracting farmers that sugar beets are harmful to the soil, with the accompanying decrease of acreage planted; 3) the selection of poor soil for planting, and improper methods of thinning.

Regarding soils and the complaints of farmers, Farm Adviser Wahlberg had the following to report: "Give the lowly sugar beet a good soil, and it will make a good record. The tendency with this crop, however, is to plant it on the poorest lands available, usually lands that won't grow anything else. Then the growers growl about low yields. Most of the beet plantings in California are to be found in the areas disposed to alkali or shallow water table or unfavorable subsoil. It is seldom that the best soils are devoted to this crop. That explains the usual low yields of eight to ten tons per acre."

Ordinary soil will not accommodate a crop of sugar beets for more than one year at a time. After beets have grown, the land must be planted in some other crop, preferably alfalfa or lima beans. However, although the beets use up many of the earth's necessary elements, to a certain extent they improve the soil for the other crops. Every operation in the growing of beets requires intense thoroughness; the field must be plowed deeply; thorough cultivation during the growing season is necessary; careful thinning out must be done; and finally, at harvest time, the land must be stirred deeply to remove the beets. Furthermore, the beet, having a fleshy root tap, penetrates deeply into the earth, thereby loosening and aereating it, breaking up the subsoil. Statistics show an increase in the yield of other crops when they have been raised on former beet land.

Strangely enough, most of the propagating beet seed is imported from Germany. During the four years of the War when the foreign supply was almost completely cut off, beet seed was more or less successfully propagated in Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Montana and Nebraska. But with the War's end, European trade became re-established, and the cheaper German, as well as Russian, beet seed again dominated American markets.

Professor W. W. Robbins of the University Experiment Station gives as a main reason for the decline in California beet production, a lack of attention to "thinning" operations, probably the most important process in beet growing. In Utah, Robins observed, as well as most other beet growing districts other than California, the grower and his family do the thinning. In California the grower "herds a bunch of hired Mexicans in the field and trusts to luck that they will leave a few plants here and there in the thinning operations." With the establishment of more scientific, careful thinning practices, Robbins believes the California beet crop would appreciably increase.

But with all the reports of a low California yield, California, according to the latest Federal statistics (1928) stands third in the United States in order of sugar-beet production. The biggest sugar-beet raiser was Colorado with 179,000 acres yielding 2,322,000 tons; second in the list was Nebraska, 88,000 acres and 1,023,000 tons; third in the list was California with 52,000 acres and 637,000 tons. All other states took lower places on the list.

HARVESTING SUGAR BEETS IN ORANGE COUNTY

.... They herded a bunch of Mexicans in the field.

GEORGE FARRAND

His work was done.

UNLOADING BEETS AT THE OXNARD REFINERY

.... they experimented with Philippine sugar beets.

Farrand Finishes

Lawyer George E. Farrand of Los Angeles, who last August was called by President Hoover to act as General Counsel to the Federal Farm Board at Washington, last week sat back in his chair, surveyed the list of his activities. When he had perused them all he realized that his work was finished, decided that the job he came to do was completed.

Early in the summer, Farrand, roused from the routine of his work with the firm of Farrand and Slosson, by President Hoover's request, had dropped his local activities, left directly for Washington. Well acquainted with farm problems, especially from a legal standpoint, Farrand had formerly been counsellor for the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, as well as aiding in a legal way the Bean Growers' Association, the Walnut Growers' and the Milk Producers'. Also he reorganized and represented the banking interests of the raisin cooperative in 1923 (News Review, Aug. 19-26).

To Washington Farrand has gone expressly for the one purpose of completely organizing the legal section of the Farm Board. From the minute he arrived at the nation's capital, when he went direct from his train to the offices of the Federal Farm Board, Farrand continually worked at his task. Last week, the task done, he prepared to resign his position, and next month return home to California, to Los Angeles.

As a result of Farrand's advisements, the board learned that it need not employ a large number of lawyers in Washington, but rather should decentralize the legal work. On his resignation, the board was of the opinion that Farrand had rendered it invaluable assistance, was generous in its plaudits.

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The Herald

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NIDO SEEKS ANEXATION TORRANCE

eta District Annexation ogressing Despite Oppo- ion from Those Outside ea

idents of El Nido commun- ave signified a desire to an- Torrance, and have present- notice of intention to circulate ition for annexation, which e read at the council meet- night.

territory embraces a district ed by the present Torrance imits on the north; Ingle- avenue on the west; Electric on the north and Hawthorne ard on the east. The west- nd northerly boundaries as described are also boundaries City of Redondo Beach, embraces portions of the fract annexation of the lat- unicipality.

El Nido district seeking an- has an area of 160 acres assessed valuation of ap- ately $175,000. At present the Perry school zone.

Moneta Annexation

committee in charge of the d McDonald Tract annexa- rth and east of Torrance in neta district reports satis- progress in its work of signatures to the annexa- ition. Notice of intention this petition was given the City Council two weeks includes 4½ square miles tory with an assessed valu- f $2,600,000. The proper- the Moneta Water Com- e included in the proposed ion.

derable opposition is said been experienced by the in the Moneta district, but touch with the affairs at it is coming from prop- ners who are not included proposed annexation.

RDENA HOST AM. LEGION YS TONIGHT

na will be host tomorrow November 20 to more than adred Legionnaires, includ- McGonegal of the County Lawrence Klinker of Hunt- Park, commander of the th district, and command- utants and representatives merican Legion posts who her here for a meeting of teenth District, of which a and Lomita are a part. e plans are being made to visiting Legion men, ac- to Dr. C. W. McQuarrie, der of Gardena Post No. the public is invited and o attend. Everything is

include a parade, review ley field and an entertain- the high school auditori- e parade will start from Hall at 8 o'clock and led dena's Drum and Bugle he "baby" of the drum and orps of the district, will o Whitely field, where a um corp of 40 girls from each high school and drum gle corps from Whittier, ach, Maywood, Huntington d representatives from 25 ill pass in review before e assembled in the bleach- llowing the review and e assemblage will go in- high school auditorium, ominent Legionnaires will be introduced and where an enter- tainment of three acts of vaude- ville from the West Coast theatre circuit will be given. Carl Sturze- nacker, president of Gardena Lions club, will welcome visiting Legion men to Gardena Valley and Carl Rosecrans and Ben Long will make brief talks. At the close sand- wiches and coffee will be served free of charge to everyone, the lat- ter effort being made by the Gar- dena Legion to express their appre- ciation to the community for the hearty co-operation of its citizens.

BELL NAMES COMMITTEE ON CONTEST

Garden Club Will Sponsor Better Gardens Contest to Last Several Months

Outlines of the year's work for the Torrance District Garden club were made Thursday evening at a meeting of a special committee appointed by President C. B. Bell for that purpose. Mr. V. L. Maxfield, chairman, and his committee composed of Mr. Herbert S. Wood, Mrs. N. F. Jamieson, Mr. Charles LeBoeuf of Keystone and Mr. Jesse Tonkin of Lomita, announce that plans for the coming year will include many community projects.

First, there will be a Better Gardens contest to begin in January and last over a period of five or six months. Details of this contest are being planned by a special committee and will be announced soon.

At the last meeting of the club, the unsightly approaches to Torrance were discussed and it was pointed out that not a single approach to Torrance gave the incoming motorist a favorable impression of the town or brought out the beauty of the town. The committee decided to start work beautifying the worst one, Western avenue from the curve to Border avenue at once. Mr. V. L. Maxfield and Mrs. N. F. Jamieson will take care of the details of that beautification.

Another community project, which will require the co-operation of the entire community was the decision to make an attempt to cover all vacant lots with California poppies. Years ago, the entire town and surrounding country was a mass of golden poppies in the springtime and literally formed a carpet of gold over what would have otherwise been unsightly vacant land. Can we again create this lovely effect? The committee thinks we can, and will have an announcement of ways and means to accomplish this to announce in one of the forthcoming issues of the Torrance Herald.

Thousands of people travel each year to Beaumont to see the maze of glorious cherry blossoms and admire their beauty, and have thereafter associated the name of Beaumont with cherries. Ventura has long been known as the "Poinsettia city," for in every yard the poinsettia trees are given a prominent place. In the springtime, Eureka's gardens blaze with beauty of the delphiniums, and Portland is known as the city of roses.

All of these cities have earned their fame because they have adopted one shrub or flower for their community flower, and co-operation among the citizens has done the rest. Torrance people are desirous of doing the same thing, and in the near future a committee of experts will be appointed to make a list of several flowering shrubs or flowers that are particularly suited to Torrance climatic conditions and soil, easily grown, very inexpensive, and shrubs that will present a mass of beautiful blossoms at some time in the year.

It is believed that this, when accomplished, will give Torrance a name that will equal the name of the cities aforementioned.

After the experts have compiled the list, it will be submitted to the community to be voted upon and the community shrub or flower chosen. Then the agriculture classes at the high school will propagate the chosen shrub and the following year they will be sold to residents at an extremely nominal sum. It is hoped to obtain the shrubs in this manner for 25 or 30 cents or lower.

A project of the immensity of this one cannot be completed during the first year, but the foundation can be laid for a beautiful Torrance that will create much favorable comment during the coming years.

Mrs. Jennie Torrance Welch, sister of the founder of our town, who was the speaker at the last meeting of the Garden club, was much interested in the plans for planting poppies here, and presented the Garden club with $5 to be spent towards that purpose.

CROWD FILLS AUDITORUIM AT MCGROARTY LECTURE

Weill Known Californian Delights Torrance Audience with Talk on Olden Days

By LUTE FRASER

With a capacity crowd to mark its financial success, and the delighted comments of all present to measure the great worth of the initial offering on Friday night, the Torrance Women's club launched its 1929-30 lecture course with a talk on "California," a glimpse of the old days, by John Steven McGroarty.

Under the management of Mrs. Harry H. Dolley and her committee, arrangements have been going forward for some weeks for this series of lectures. Only four numbers will be given, but each one will be of the highest merit in its field.

Every available seat had been taken, in the clubhouse auditorium, when Mrs. Frank Sammons, president of the Women's club, in one of her gracefully characteristic speeches, introduced Mr. McGroarty. Her droll reference to an acquaintance that "might have been" brought laughter from the crowd an an appreciative chuckle and a witty retort from the distinguished guest. Since Mrs. Sammons considerately postponed her visit to the home of a mutual friend at Balboa, where the McGroartys were guests, because "John had been writing a play and he is very tired and would rather not see anyone just now," some twelve years passed before they met, and "not until tonight," said Mrs. Sammons, "did John know just what he missed."

Mr. McGroarty, with his years of labor in investigations, his sure knowledge and sympathetic insight into the ways of the old California, drew for his listeners a most appealing picture of the Spanish don.

Like an old neighbor who drops in to sit by the fireside and spend an hour or two in pleasant reminiscence, Mr. McGroarty talked on in his quiet easy fashion, sketching for his hearers the every-day life of those early pioneers, those who truly mastered the wilderness and prepared the way for those of us who have chosen this California to be our home.

Out of the wastes they wrung their wealth; their cattle roamed the hills, their vineyards and gardens provided their living; few, in number, their possessions were of vast extent, and they lived like kings. Open-handed hospitality, loyal friendships, trustful faith in their fellowmen, were the foundations of their characters and in this ideal way their lives were passed until the coming of the American changed the old order of things and the sway of the dons was no more.

Of the missions and the coming of the padres, Mr. McGroarty spoke at some length. His descriptions of the work of these men brought home to his audience how astounding were their accomplishments. They were men of God, who dared the dangers of the savage mountain wastes and the burning desert sands to bring to a benighted race their first glimpses of a higher life and the first consolations of religion. They were men of action, who planned a tremendous work and lead the way to its final completion. They were teachers, who not only showed the way to accomplish but made the tools and instruments by which success was won.

Every mission from San Diego to Sonoma is a colossal monument to the integrity, intelligence and persistence of these devoted men.

In closing Mr. McGroarty spoke briefly of those men of a later day, also pioneers of this great commonwealth, the men of the days of '49. To these decent men, much is due in appreciation of their splendid work, and more, in appreciation of their splendid moral fibre. This third phase of the development of California is to be the theme of a new play now planned and in the making by Mr. McGroarty, which will take its place with those other gems from his pen and brain, the Mission play, and La Golondrina.

TWO ISSUES A WEEK 'TIL CHRISTMAS

Look for Your Paper Tuesday Afternoon and Early Friday Morning, Beginning This Week

Beginning with this Tuesday, November 19, the Torrance Herald will be published twice a week until after Christmas.

This action was decided upon by the management of the Torrance Herald in order to afford local merchants and other advertisers the opportunity of advertising their Christmas stocks more frequently during the holiday period.

There will be no added cost to the subscriber. The Tuesday issue will in every sense be a regular issue of the Torrance Herald with full news content, features, and all the regular departments of the Thursday issues. During the period from now until Christmas that the Herald is issued twice a week, the Thursday issue will be delivered early Friday morning, before the carrier boys attend school.

Advertising copy for the Tuesday issue will close at 5 p. m. Monday and for the Thursday issue at the usual time of 5 p. m. Wednesday.

Never have Torrance merchants offered such a variety of Christmas gifts as they have bought this

(Continued on Next Page)

IMPORTANT!

Look for your next issue of the Torrance Herald, before school FRIDAY morning, instead of Thursday afternoon.

there. The volume of building construction throughout the Pacific Coast and inter-mountain states is steadily growing. The rail purchases of the western roads involves millions annually. The great oil development in Southern California uses immense quantities of pipe each year, and the broad fruit regions of California and the Northwest with their mighty canneries constitute one of the largest tin plate markets in the world. Wherever you go the world over, you see Pacific Coast fruits sold in tin cans. This demand for tin plate is enormous and has already called for a $4,000,000 expansion of the Columbia tin plate plant at Pittsburg, California.

The demand of oil country supplies from Southern California, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and other oil producing states is growing despite Federal efforts to curtail production. In Southern California present projects involve the laying of hundreds of miles of gas lines.

The foreign trade within reach already represents a huge volume of business, which is growing constantly. Japan has just commenced its program of stable, permanent construction. When the great earthquake destroyed whole cities a few years ago, the Japanese decided they wouly do only temporary work until a general plan of building could be arrived at. The real work and the real call for steel products have just begun. China is growing by leaps and bounds industrially and is becoming a large factor in export trade of all sorts from the United States. China

(Continued on Page 8)