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Citrus Talks-The Citrus Industry

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CITRUS TALKS

"THE CITRUS INDUSTRY"

The Citrus Industry

While one of the smallest in area of the many counties of the great State of California Orange County supports a more diversified farming industry than any other. Here are the greatest celery fields of the world. Beans & Sugar Beets are grown by the thousands of acres. All of the staple cereals are grown here. Almost any variety of deciduous fruits do well here & many semi-tropical fruits flourish here. The chiefest of her products, however, is that to which her people give greatest attention & which contributes most to her renown is the orange

The ~~Orange Industry~~ 1 2

Orange Co., as the name implies, ~~seems~~ has given splendid evidence of being the ideal section for the culture of the orange. It is as highly developed here as in any other portion of the world. Indeed I do not hesitate to say that the orange as grown here has no equal. This is demonstrated by the fact that growers in this county have brought the highest prices in the most discriminating markets of the country for many years.

The soil & Climate of Orange County
are splendidly adapted to the culture
of the orange. Indeed the Divine hand
has been lavish in bestowing upon
all Southern California, & upon Orange
County in particular, rare natural
advantages, perhaps greater than those
enjoyed by any other section over which the flag flo
The magnificent mountain ranges not only
form picturesque scenery & grand barriers
to guard the fertile valleys, but are our great
natural reservoirs. Our coast is washed by
the boundless Pacific. Our climate is fa
Indeed it is not too much to say that
as to fertility of the soil, the charming climate
& the scenery with its grandeur & beauty,
is not surpassed the world around.

of this county 4

Not only is climate & soil adapted to the culture of the orange but irrigating water is in abundance & rain as plentiful as in any other section of Southern California. The temperature in Sumpia does not go as high here as in the more inland sections ~~bordering the ocean as low~~ The extremes are not experienced & therefore oranges are frequently held here upon the trees for many months after they are fully matured & without detriment to their texture, color or flavor.

The splendid equipment now in use for packing oranges for
our packing house is the result of
a very considerable evolution in the
orange industry. Ingenious mechanical
machinery as well as discarded methods
have found their way into
improved method for doing
every department, from picking
the fruit from the tree to putting it
on the market.

The methods of handling oranges
were very crude & simple at first.
There was no uniformity in packing the box, or
in general method adopted by the
early growers. The only thought seeming
in the mind of the shipper was to get the fruit
in some sort of package in order to
ship to the consumer. (over) Soon some

enterprising shippers began to realize that if the fruit was uniformly sized it would pack more evenly & ~~thus~~ be more attractive. Some very simple & inexpensive machinery for doing this was invented for sizing

Perhaps the first machine of any prominence was the one known as the California grader. This was a simple rope grader about ten feet long & worked by fork power. From time to time this was lengthened until some of them were made from twenty to thirty feet long, delivering fruit to bins arranged on either side & extending five to ten feet longer.

Other sizers, more complicated & with greater capacity, have been invented & ~~are~~ ~~than~~ the latest have two or three ~~to~~ guide extension fingers in

Southern California which ~~are~~ make packing house equipment ~~of~~ for doing practically all work in the handling of the orange. The new Lane ~~They make~~ washers ~~for washing~~, dryers, polishers, grading, sizers & wrapping machines of several designs & of varying prices.

Progress has been made along all lines of the business. ~~The~~ uniform packages have been adopted for both the orange & the lemon. These are embellished with lettering ~~in color~~ & designs ~~in color~~ printed in color on plate ends. Shippers have individual brands & most shippers use elaborate & beautifully colored lithographic labels of these on end of ~~the~~ box. The orange wrappers have also been changed from the coarse brown paper to fine

silk tissues, upon which richly colored designs or monograms are printed. Some of the more enterprising shippers use two color prints on their wrappers. & ~~Some~~ Some ~~of the~~ who cater to the best Eastern trade use beautifully laced & printed side curtains for the boxes. Thus we have now going from all over packing houses ~~pro~~ uniform ~~&~~ & attractive packages. One shipper in Orange County ~~has~~ even tags every orange of a certain brand with a little green & gold tag. A specially prepared machine for putting these on is in use.

In some packing houses the equipment is very elaborate & expensive, costing many thousands of dollars, & with capacity of ten cars per day

The first orange trees put out in Orange County ~~were~~ as in Los Angeles & Riverside Counties were seedlings, the present popular varieties being unknown here. Much time was required for these become into bearing, as the seedling is slower in this regard than the budded varieties. However, the time came when there were a few oranges ready for the market.

The modern packing houses with their splendid equipment were of course unknown in that early day, nevertheless the fruit was after a fashion packed & shipped & found a ready market & at such splendid prices that the culture

of the orange became an attractive
& established industry in several sections
of the county. &

Any naturally an occupation
which is so attractive as citrus
culture soon attracted to it enterprising men.
Some of these realized that other
varieties than the Seedling might
prove more profitable, & immediately
steps were taken to secure varieties adapted
to this climate. The result in a
few years was the introduction of
number of varieties which have
proven productive & profitable &
well adapted to our soil & cli

The Washington Navel, now the
popular California orange & the

Chief variety grown here, was introduced in 1880. The first two trees were put out & developed at Riverside. From these the vast orchards of Washington Navels in Southern California have come. The original trees are still living & are objects of interest to the people & visitors of Riverside. Some years ago one of these was removed from its original home to the grounds of the Glenwood ~~Hotel~~ Inn, & reset with great pomp & ceremony on the occasion of a visit of President Roosevelt, the distinguished visitor taking part in the work of transplanting.

Among ~~the other~~ standard varieties of ~~grown~~ oranges grown in this county besides the Washington Navel are the Mediterranean

Sweets, St Michael, Malta & Ruby blood
Satsuma & the Valencia late.

From 1886 to 1890 quite a rage was made by the Mediterranean sweets & many thousand trees were put out. It was thought that this variety would supply the early late Spring demand, after the season of the Washington Navel had passed. It has proved a tender orange & not altogether satisfactory. One reason for this variety not being more in favor, though of late years it has very generally proved profitable, was the introduction of an orange that more completely fills the requirements of a late orange. This is the Valencia Late, which in

as it has been developed here Be
many respects, is the best orange grown
in the world. For more than a dozen
years it has made the record for
prices received for California oranges.
It has many excellent qualities which
make it a most desirable & profitable
orange for growers & consumers.
handlers
It is the best keeper on or off the tree & keeps
a splendid shipping orange for late autumn.
It has been the most popular orange with growers
for six or seven years in California,
especially in Orange County which
seems to be about the finest citrus
variety more perfectly than any other
section of the State

During their early days Chinamen were generally employed both in packing. The fruit was cut from the trees & piled up on the ground or in some shed & the Chinamen sat upon the ground or floor & made a selection as they went from the pile & put them in the box, sometimes wrapping them with the ordinary coarse brown paper such as usually found in the grocery stores of that day.