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# Citrus Talks-Pleading for the Citrus Industry

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CITRUS TALKS

"PLEADING FOR THE CITRUS INDUSTRY"

Meeting before Legislators-elect

Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce

December 12, 1902

*Presented for Meeting before Legislators - elected  
at Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Dec. 17  
"Pleading for the Citrus Industry"*

Gentlemen:-

I wish to call your attention to a question of great importance to a large number of your constituents, and one which I trust you will give due consideration in your official capacity.

California is famed the world over for her fruits. No single industry in our great Commonwealth is so vast and important as that of fruit growing. It not only represents greater wealth than any other of our varied products, either of mines, oil fields, lumber of the mountains.

Not only so but a larger proportion of our people are engaged in this industry. *than any other* Not only are they a producing class but ~~more of our population~~ exhibit a higher moral tone and cause the State less expenditure of its moneys than they

I speak in these terms of the fruit grower that you may be prepared to concede the importance of the legislation we ask for at your hands.

While our soils are fertile and produce the finest fruits grown in the world, we all recognize the fact that to continue the production of this unsurpassed quality in paying quantities we must not impoverish the soil--we must feed it. We must provide it what is known as commercial or compounded fertilizer. Here comes the perplexing question and one which I come to you in behalf of the fruit grower for solution. While we may have ordinary confidence in the integrity of fertilizer manufacturers we want to feel a greater degree of security in our dealings with them than this usually warrants. We want to know with a reasonable degree of certainty what we buy. I therefore ask you in their behalf for such a law as will protect us.

I will not attempt to tell you what this law should be in detail, but let it be fair and just to all parties, always bearing in mind that the farmer has less app

much if not  
 Every State has a fertilizer law,

One should suppose that there would be little difficulty in forming a law that would be satisfactory to all, but as in the past, will doubtless meet with opposition.