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## Citrus Talks-Citrus Growers Problems

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CITRUS TALKS

"CITRUS GROWERS' PROBLEMS"

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The citrus growers of California have for twenty years, to my knowledge, had problems of one kind or another to solve. They are, however, an intelligent and resourceful class of farmers and heretofore been able in a very satisfactory way, to take care of these various problems as they have come along. Some of them in the distance seemed insurmountable, but when taken hold of intelligently and with a firm determination, they have been solved.

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There are two or three problems that are today confronting the California citrus growers. I am frank to say that they have a tendency to make some of them more or less nervous. I am sure, however, that we are better prepared to cope with these today than we were in the past to meet the problems that came up. One of these which is demanding consideration is the question of overproduction. California already produces two-thirds of the citrus fruit consumed in this country, but during recent years large acreage has been set to oranges and lemons, so that the production will be very largely increased within the next three or four years. Instead of having 40,000 to 45,000 cars we will have 75,000 to 80,000 cars. Our improved system of culture and modern methods of handling and distribution of the fruit will largely assist in marketing the increasing crop. I am sure that the excellent quality of our fruit will be more and more appreciated by the American people, so that they will very gladly take at fair prices, all of the incomparable oranges that California can produce. Our Washington Navels and Valencia Lates have no equal as good keepers and delicious and wholesome oranges. The fruit dealers and consumers

throughout the nation are learning more about these excellent qualities of our oranges and lemons and take them in preference to those grown elsewhere, even at higher prices.

Another problem which confronts us is to know just what the practical effect the reduction of the tariff will have upon the marketing of our oranges. Doubtless on this account large quantities of the cheaper grades of foreign fruit will be dumped upon some of our markets. This will have a tendency to demoralize these markets and thus result in a general way to the detriment of the grower, the shipper, the handler and to the consumer. The old tariff very largely kept out this class of fruit and thus all classes were benefited. The consumer always pays relatively higher for this trash than he does for good stuff and yet it is that grade of fruit that is always crowded upon the class of buyers less able to be imposed upon, so that in every phase of practical business, the tearing down of the protective tariff wall is harmful.

Our California growers will go bravely and resolutely on meeting and overcoming every obstacle and make the future of the industry profitable and attractive. We, however, feel outraged that politicians should add to our burdens. There are many which naturally come along in the fruit business without this useless and unnecessary burden being laid upon us.

Just how much benefit we are to receive from the Panama Canal is the shipments of our fruit, is an unsolved question. It may in a large measure

help us to successfully meet the difficulties mentioned above. Anyway, California has many millions invested in the citrus fruit industry and proposes to largely feed the American people with her incomparable and delicious fruits.