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# Citrus Talks-Handling the Orange-Long Beach 1903

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CITRUS TALKS

"HANDLING THE ORANGE"

Sea Side Beach Institute--Long Beach

July 28, 1903

Notes for talk before Sea Side  
Beach Institute July 25, 1903

Ship fruit in its season when it is at its best. Not permit it to get over-ripe, and one variety to lap over on to the next. Trouble is decay largely on this account.

Know your orchards & pick  
where fruit matures

Not pick too soon after a rain. At such times we may think the market will be lightly supplied and prices high, and we go into the orchards in the mud, sometimes with rubber boots on. This not only damages orchards by packing ground but puts fruit on the market that rots quickly.

Found spots where fruit rot even  
from dew.

Kind of boxes in general use. The common packing boxes and the cleated for picking boxes. The former should never be used. Has sharp corners which cuts and bruises the fruit, and in

Markets were  
more fluctuating after  
the Agency star before  
were on my table  
Under the general  
distribution

When in Exchange  
Bills

Those outside Agency  
received more than  
last year in complete  
with great benefit

Wm. H. Buff

stacking the boxes are liable to slip down into each other. Box becomes dirty in appearance and an unsightly package for the fruit. Where the picking is done by the box the grower insists upon the boxes being full greatly to the detriment of the fruit. Economy on wages but pays heavily on fruit. The regular heavy cleated box is easy to handle, no sharp edges to break the fruit at the top and can be piled with safety.

*Picking by day is 10% difference - human  
male  
Picking 12 boxes*

Ladders should have broad steps to prevent sinking into the tree and breaking limbs and is easy on the feet. Broad base not allow it to twist in tree. Long enough so top don't settle in tree. It is essential whatever other qualities that a ladder should be long enough to do this.

The question of clippers is an important one in order that the stem may be cut short without injury and even with the best clippers they must be looked after and kept in condition. Recently in a packing house upon looking over the fruit saw twelve or fifteen oranges punctured by the long stems of other oranges. This fruit, of course, all would rot within the <sup>two</sup> ~~three~~ weeks necessary to reach the consumer. He was having work done cheaply though when his attention was called to it <sup>Queen</sup> did not think that was any serious difficulty.

Picking bags should be small, and even with the most approved should be handled rightly. Pickers should stoop and empty them and not fire the fruit out with stiff backs.

*Large sacks + throw them in even with both hands,*

Hauling fruit to packing houses on springs.

Good roads.

care in packing house. Piling off the wagon.

*not through*

x Handled with rubber-tired trucks. Preferably with clamp trucks unless in picking boxes. Piled with space for air between each tier.

Padded hopper. Soft <sup>hair</sup> as brusher. No fall for fruit. Elevator to bins.

Accurate sizer. To make an attractive

pack this must be done —

while in flow just one point made against  
*fray on sides — all sizes in box*

Tight pack from bottom so as not to necessitate heavy pressure by press. Press allow more spring in cover making an uniformly even curve. Fruit should be tight.

Washing sometimes necessary tho undesirable. Saw recently Tangent washer run by power at the rate of 100 a minute shooting fruit through. Complete drying, yet not permitting fruit to keep

Put in car tight and uniformly lined so as to admit of ventilation and under refrigeration close to the bottom.

*Remember a bruised orange is just  
 sure to rot & like the bad guy in the  
 neighborhood likely to affect others.  
 Apparent to pay packing charges*



Take box out  
of your map

Peaches in  
it for Dr Buzk



Stanley went

utton to  
meat - on  
his best -

Broke one.

Can't you go  
to Lumber + get  
Belts at 3

Is

Wanna coming  
down

It is one thing to grow an orange and quite another to put it on the market so it will bring profitable returns. What our aim should be - indeed our highest ambition - is to put this luscious and wholesome fruit before the consumer in a most attractive manner and in perfect condition. It is poor satisfaction for us to grow splendid fruit unless we can present <sup>it</sup> to those for whom it is produced in a way <sup>that</sup> it will appeal to them and make them willing to pay liberally for it. It should be put before them in as good condition as when clipped from the tree. The splendid transportation facilities provided by the railway companies ought to enable us to do

*As good as there are however*  
 this. We have not yet reached perfection in this respect, but *progress is being made* <sup>onward</sup> ~~are~~ making progress. The next step will be the *precooling* of the fruit. *For doing this they*

*railway companies*

*are erecting large plants.*  
 The Divine Hand has been most lavish in bestowing upon Southern California rare, natural advantages, perhaps greater than are enjoyed by any section over which floats the stars and stripes. The magnificent mountain ranges not

8 1/2

The general idea prevailing with reference to the amount of fertilizer required was one developed and advanced by one of the pioneer fertilizer manufacturers. In order to be definite in statement, that he might sell his goods he conceived the plausible theory that a pound of fertilizer to the year in the age of the tree was the correct and proper way to use the fertilizer. This was religiously followed by those who used the compounded article. We did not stop to consider the condition of either tree, soil or ingredients of the fertilizer; just a pound to the year. We were therefore frequently disappointed in results.

Barn yard manure, upon which many growers rely as a fertilizer if needed at all, should be heavily applied. That is, a quantity sufficient to make a marked impression upon the soil should be put

1/2

the decay found in oranges on their arrival in the Eastern market is due to carelessness in handling here. Reckless work is done by the pickers, the fruit is poured into picking boxes or ~~worse~~ into packing boxes, thrown on springless wagons and hauled to the packing house where it is roughly handled, and often times indifferently packed. The best results cannot be secured by following these methods. I don't often have the opportunity of visiting my neighbors' orchards; but recently in ~~an~~ <sup>one</sup> adjoining ~~orchard~~ I saw men picking. One man in particular interested me. A steady stream of fruit flowed into his cage bag. He did not touch an orange with his hands. His daily average ran from 120 to 130 boxes.

*This is not the kind of picking that I would desire, but it seems to satisfy some people.*  
It is one thing to produce an orange and quite another to convert it into money. The "modus operandi" of this change of fruit into ~~the coin of the realm~~ is a question which has perplexed most growers. There have been numerous methods proposed and experimented with, but none have met the approval of all growers. This many feel is <sup>unfortunate</sup> important, for they claim it not only robs the business of what should be a pleasant feature, but prevents getting such financial returns as a well established and a universally adopted plan of almost any kind would