

## HORTICULTURAL.

## A Prune Grower on Sun Drying in Idaho

"It is a question in my mind," said Rev. R. M. Gwinn, of Caldwell, to a representative of the RURAL, "as to whether sun drying of prunes is the best method for Idaho. I have read the RURAL'S report of the discussion of this subject at the Autumn meeting of the State Horticultural Society. As I understand it, there are two or three objections to the plan—the difficulty of keeping out the dust and dirt and the liability of having trouble with flies and other insects. Then again the uncertainty of the fall weather in this country. Of course, California is less liable to rains at this season, and has far more continuous sun shine. I speak more particularly with reference to the San Joaquin valley. Even there, however, they get caught occasionally and sustain serious losses, and once in a while they get a dust storm too, that covers their drying trays pretty thoroughly. It might be that we could handle the early prunes successfully, with our kindly sun shine, but it is not safe to assert this positively. While a resident of Chicago a few years ago, I was in the position to know, that the evaporated prune commanded from one to one and a half cents better price per pound in the market, than the sun dried, because it was cleaner much freer from worms, and even the quality was regarded rather better. Conditions may have changed since then, but the facts at that time, were as stated. Fuel in most parts of California is a big item, and they have to economize along that line, and further more, some heavy fruit growers there have their evaporators for use in emergencies, where they sundry as a rule. However, I am not opposing the plan of sun drying and I want to see it tested, but am willing to be quoted as saying that, in my judgment, the matter is by no means free from doubt. The question is an important one to every prune grower in this state. My little orchard of 1800 prune trees will bear next year, and I am anxious to know about this, as well as other things connected with the big industry. The coming meeting of our State Horticultural Society should bring out

many points of interest to our orchardists, and should be well attended. THE GEM STATE RURAL is on the right track and I wish it success."

## Standing Committees State Horticultural Society.

NAMPA, IDAHO, Dec. 4, 1895. ED. GEM STATE RURAL.—In accordance with the instructions of the society at the semi-annual meeting of the Idaho State Horticultural Society, the president has made the following appointments of standing committees for 1895:

ORCHARDS—A. T. Thomas, Boise; David Gorrie, Payette; Jacob Plowhead, Middleton.

PRUNES—James Haerell, Boise; S. L. Sparks, Payette; Rev. R. M. Gwinn, Caldwell.

SMALL FRUITS—Chas. P. Hartley, Caldwell; J. R. Jamison, Payette.

ENTOMOLOGY—Prof. J. M. Aldrich, Moscow; Robert Milliken, Nampa; A. McPherson, Boise.

PACKING AND MARKETING FRUITS—Thos. Davis, Boise; N. A. Jacobson, Payette; L. A. Porter, Lewiston.

NOMENCLATURE—V. D. Hannah, Weiser; John F. Groome, Star; W. H. Whitney, Payette.

FLORICULTURE—Mrs. Seamens, Boise; I. P. Marcellus, Boise; Robert Milliken, Nampa.

SHADE AND ORNAMENTALS—Prof. J. M. Kiggins, Boise; Geo. Little, Caldwell; F. G. Cottingham, Nampa.

LEGISLATION—A. E. Gipson, Caldwell; S. A. Swauger, Weiser; Thos. Galloway, Weiser.

These committees will be expected to make a report through their chairman, or otherwise, in writing at the annual meeting to be held in Boise Jan. 22 and 23, 1896.

ROBERT MILLIKEN,  
Secretary.

## The Standing Committee on Prunes.

One of the most important committees of the State Horticultural Society is the one above named. The specific duties of this committee will be to investigate the prune industry of Idaho, as to its extent, condition, yield, profitableness, the difficulties to be encountered, and the means of obtaining the same, and to make such suggestions, as in the judgment of the committee are needed for the improvement of the industry. Hence, the committee

desires to obtain the experience of prune growers in all parts of the state, together with the yield, acreage, ages of trees, prices received etc. The committee desires to make as complete a report as possible at the annual meeting of the State Society next month in Boise. Hence, all prune growers are urgently requested to aid them in every way possible. This is destined to be one of the great interests of our state, and needs the most thorough knowledge and the application of the most approved and up to date methods, to insure best results. The RURAL would like to assist the committee to the fullest extent, and to that end would be glad to receive and publish any information bearing on the important matter in question.

## To Keep Rabbits From Trees.

Wrap the stems to the height of four feet with thick paper or wash the trees with a thick white-wash in which is mixed flowers of sulphur and an ounce of carbolic acid in each bucketful of the wash, and the rodents will let the trees alone. Do not daub them with axle grease, as one did to find them ruined in the spring, says Samuel Miller, in Rural World.

We say, whatever you do, do not rap tarred paper about the trunks of the trees. This used to be recommended, but it has destroyed a few of our Wilder Early pear trees.—C. A. Green.

## Orchard Items.

Charles Robinson, who has a choice 40 acre tract, midway between Caldwell and Middleton, has a thrifty young orchard of 1000 trees. Of these, 100 are prune, apricot, pear and peach and all the rest, or 900, are winter apples. He has 700 Ben Davis and 100 each of Lawver and Mammoth Block Twig. Mr. Robinson last fall and winter, gave his trees a heavy top dressing of manure, and has this year cultivated thoroughly. As a result many of his apples trees have this season made a growth of 8 feet. He also grew a fair crop of corn between the rows.

A. M. Pettingee and H. G. Monce, recently from Beatrice, Nebraska, have, through Robert Milliken's agency purchased 40 acres of choice land  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles

north of Nampa and will proceed at once to put the same into first class nursery stock, and the "Nampa nursery," will very soon be one of the institutions of the "fruit gardens of the northwest,"

Prof. Milliken has under preparation 20 acres of land on the north edge of Nampa, for a prune orchard to be set in the spring, for Mr. J. H. Egbert, of Anaconda, Montana.

Wilson Leiser received a few days ago 5000 Tenant prune trees for his orchard 3 miles on the sunset side of Nampa, a part of which he has already planted and all of which will be set as soon as possible.

Mr. Leiser's son is preparing to set 2000 trees on his recent purchase of a part of the Vankirk ranch, on the Caldwell Boulevard.

Mr. B. R. Mullens, of Bliss, recently made us a call, and during a conversation spoke very encouragingly of that portion of Lincoln County. He mentioned some extensive improvements in contemplation there looking to the bringing of large tracts of land under cultivation. The details of the plan are not yet ready for publication.

Mr. Mullen also spoke with much enthusiasm of the fruit grown in that locality. He says apples, pears, prunes and peaches yield abundantly and continuously, and cited the fact that Mr. D. B. Bliss had raised peaches for 9 consecutive years without a failure. He also referred to the fact that at the farm of L. L. Ormsby, near there, at an altitude of 4000 ft. 9 or 10 year old apple trees, were this year producing a thousand pounds to the tree.

It is probable, Mr. Mullen thinks, that some very extensive orchards will be planted there within the next year.

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