

SCIENCE GASSES ORCHARDS TO BOOST YIELD OF FRUIT

Gassing orchards to make them produce more and bigger oranges or on other fruit is acclaimed on the Pacific coast as the latest achievement of California chemists. And the roots, not the blossoms and leaves, are gassed, for the gas is used in the fertilizing.

The scientists who are in San Francisco to attend the nineteenth convention of the American Chemical Society will be told all about this novel method of fertilizing fruit trees.

Seek Improvement

Fertilizers and orchardists, from way back when, have been feeding their crops with solid and liquid fertilizer—generally a laborious job. But the state of the Native Sons always is looking out for ways and means to do necessary work with as little muscular effort as possible.

Now comes the industrial chemists of the Golden State. They have found

a way to fertilize fruit trees which involves only as much labor as is required to up-end a steel cylinder in which is ammonia gas under high pressure. The gas is turned loose into the water running in irrigation ditches. And that's all the orchardist has to do; the water carries the dissolved ammonia directly to the roots of the trees and the orange grower goes home to let nature pursue its course.

This new method of fertilizing, it is reported, has boosted the production of synthetic ammonia in the state. It is made in the San Francisco district by chemically combining atmospheric nitrogen with cheap by-product hydrogen available in vast supply from the Kettleman Hills natural gas area. The ammonia, liquefied as is due for the refrigeration industry, is shipped to the orchards in steel cylinders and introduced at high pres-

sure into irrigation streams which carry the gas to the tree roots where it seems to stay until oxydized into plant food.

Study Bug Poisons

Bug poisons, politely referred to as insecticides, will be considered by the chemists at the San Francisco meeting. The annual production of insecticides now runs up to \$20,000,000. The research chemists of the Du Pont laboratories have expressed the opinion that the development of new chemical products to control insect pests will expand the industry up to \$150,000,000 a year and, also will provide employment for a large number of workmen in the factories and fields. The manufacture of other new chemical materials to combat plant diseases, weeds and other pests will it is said, afford additional jobs and will result in yearly sales running into the millions.

Farmers Save Much

The savings to farmers in crop production and in other ways will amount to billions of dollars, according to the chemists. They foresee drastic cuts in the nation's annual "waste tax" due to insects, plant diseases and weeds, of approximately \$6,500,000,000. The weeds alone, declare researchers in pest control, are responsible for a yearly loss of \$3,000,000,000.

I. L. Ressler, Du Pont entomologist, points out that \$2,000,000,000 annual loss is caused to agriculture and its products by insects of which there are more than 6,000 known species of economic importance in the United States. Thirty-four kinds of these insects alone cause a known damage of \$924,440,000 yearly.

Diseases take an annual toll on such crops as wheat, rye, barley, corn, oats, potato, sweet potato, apple and peach of \$780,000,000; forest trees and products suffer an average loss of \$410,000,000.

The total annual damage due to plant diseases alone, are placed in excess of \$500,000,000.

MAN FATALLY INJURED ON BROMPTON ROAD

SHERBROKE, Quebec, September 11—An inquest will be held on the death of Alphonse Portier, who was knocked down and fatally injured on the Brompton Road last night by an automobile which police reported was driven by Dr. A. R. Gregoire of Asbestos, Quebec.

Portier with two companions was walking at the side of the highway, when the automobile struck him down. Dr. Gregoire picked up the victim and rushed him to the hospital, but he died before reaching the hospital.

CHURCH DECLARED PUBLIC NUISANCE

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida, Sept. 11—Because services of the Church of God disturbed the neighbors, a jury convicted the Rev. C. W. Kears, pastor of maintaining a public nuisance.

Fifty-three neighbors appeared to protest the "hollering, moaning, screaming, stamping and wailing of the congregation". The church witnesses, denying any unnecessary noise said that they were praying for forgiveness in the "old-fashioned" way.

The verdict recommended the mercy of the court and sentence was withheld.

CRAZED MAN SLAIN AFTER KILLING 3

DELANO, Calif., Sept. 10—A crazed Filipino shot and killed three Mexicans and was later slain by a city traffic policeman after a trivial argument in a West Delano restaurant today.

Two others were stabbed and slightly injured by the maddened man.

ASSAULT CHARGE LAID TO MAN 104

COLOMBO, Sept. 10—There was a surprise in the Matugama, Ceylon police court when the oldest local inhabitant—aged 104—appeared in the dock.

There was still more surprise when he was charged with assaulting a neighbor. He pleaded guilty.

He revealed, however, that he had had opportunities for plenty of fighting practice during his long life for he has been married eight times.

THE SUEZ CANAL

The attention of the world is turned upon the Suez Canal, while the British increase their naval strength in the eastern Mediterranean and Italy makes a counter demonstration. The possibility, unlikely as it would appear, that the British, backed by the League of Nations, will close the Canal against the movement of Italian forces against Ethiopia is being discussed in every European capital.

British control of the Suez rests upon the fact that the Government holds seven-sixteenths of the shares of the Compagnie Universelle du Canal Maritime de Suez although the building of the canal was largely due to the French engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps and even today the opening company is predominantly French in its administration. At the time the canal was built, the British had a proposal of their own, a railway link. British control dates from 1875. The acquisition of the shares was a dramatic incident in the life of Beaconsfield. British control is strengthened by the fact that, since 1882, the defense of Egypt has rested in Britain, although the Geneva Research Centre recently reported that Egypt never has recognized Britain's right by treaty.

How important the Suez Canal is to Italy may be judged by the Canal statistics. In May, 1934, forty-three Italian ships passed through the Canal but in May this year, with war preparations on, there were no less than one hundred and three. Without the Canal, Italy would be faced with the necessity of sending her troops to Eritrea by the Cape of Good Hope, which would mean an extra ten thousand miles by sea.

The British control the Suez Company, but the Suez Company does not own but merely leases the concession. When the canal was opened in 1868, the company was given a 99-year lease. A 99-year lease seemed like eternity in 1868. Today, it has only 32 years to run. Then the canal will revert to Egypt, the owner of the land through which it passes. In 1909, the Egyptian government undertook to renew the concession but the proposal was overwhelmingly defeated in the Egyptian Parliament. — Moncton Transcript.

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FLORIDA DISASTER HELD 'ACT OF GOD'

No One Blamable, Says
Report to Roosevelt

MIAMI, Fla., Sept. 11—A report to President F. D. Roosevelt characterizing the heavy casualty list from last week's Florida Keys hurricane an "act of God", and not directly blamable to any human element, was on its way to Washington yesterday.

The report was released here by Aubrey Williams, assistant administrator for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, shortly after a mass burial of 90 bodies of storm victims.

In his report to the President, Williams said delays in the arrival of an evacuation train at Islamorada were probably unavoidable in view of the fact that it was a holiday and unforeseen incidents occurred on the way to the Keys.



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