

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FORTIETH FRUIT
GROWERS' CONVENTION OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA HELD UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE STATE COMMISSION OF
HORTICULTURE AT SANTA ROSA,
CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 19, 20, AND 21, 1911**

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AT

Santa Rosa, California, December 19, 20, and 21, 1911



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Capitol Building, Sacramento.

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G. E. MERRILL.....Chief Deputy Commissioner.
E. O. ESSIG.....Secretary.
H. S. FAWCETT.....Plant Pathologist.
MISS A. G. BIRD.....Clerk.

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C. H. VARY.....Quarantine Inspector.

SAN DIEGO OFFICE.

Court House.

E. O. AMUNDSEN.....Quarantine Inspector.

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FORTIETH STATE FRUIT GROWERS' CONVENTION OF
CALIFORNIA

Hold Under the Auspices of the State Commission of Horticulture, Santa Rosa,
December 19, 20, and 21, 1911.

MORNING SESSION—FIRST DAY.

Pursuant to call, the convention met at Germania Hall, Santa Rosa, California, at ten o'clock A. M.

The convention was called to order by Chairman A. J. Cook, State Commissioner of Horticulture.

Mr. E. O. Essig, secretary of the State Commissioner of Horticulture, acted as secretary.

After an invocation by the Reverend W. C. Day of Santa Rosa, followed by music, the proceedings continued as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN. We will now be welcomed by his Honor, J. R. Edwards, mayor of this city. [Applause.]

MR. EDWARDS. *Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:* Situated as we are in the center of a country that is given over very largely to the growing of the tree and the vine, it is very fitting that I extend to you a cordial greeting, and as the representative of the citizens of Santa Rosa I extend to you a very hearty welcome.

It has been a great many years since the pioneers came across the plains into California. At that time they were in quest of gold. They little thought that the valleys and the hills and the plains of California were going to be devoted to the raising of fruit; but since that time things have progressed so that the output from the orchards and the vineyards and the fields of California for the past year was twice that of the best year that was ever seen in California in the production of gold. This simply shows that the man who has a fine orchard, or a fine piece of land devoted to the culture of the tree, or the vine, has an everlasting gold mine. He simply has to take care of it properly and it means that money is coming his way.

We have seen that around this locality this year and for a few preceding years the large checks that the farmers have received for their products have been very gratifying. And when you take all into consideration you may say that the centers of population are builded up off of the farm, and why should we not receive a good price for our products?

Your sessions here will be devoted to all that is good, bringing different ideas from different parts of the State, and I am sure that you will all gain a great deal from this convention; and I hope you will,

and when you depart from Santa Rosa, I hope you will take pleasant memories to your firesides, and that you will think kindly of us when you get home. [Applause.]

THE CHAIRMAN. *Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen:* This kind and generous welcome from the mayor of this beautiful city is no surprise to us. Your enterprise and hospitality have been noised abroad and have greeted our ears throughout the confines of the entire State. We have heard of your oranges—always in Cloverdale—and your Gravenstein apples and the superb exhibitions of your suburban city of Sebastopol have been noised far across the mountains and sea. You know what the Archbishop of Canterbury said of the strawberry, "Doubtless God might have made a better berry, but doubtless He never did"; so if all the stories are true, doubtless God might have made a more favorable county than Sonoma, for the apple and the grape and the plum and a finer folk to prune and care for them, but doubtless He never did. May I tell you a little secret that was whispered to my ears the other day! That the display of fruit at the recent Watsonville exhibition was superb and that the banner fruit and pack was from Sonoma County. It was not a Sonoma County man that confided this opinion to me. We thank you, Mr. Mayor, and ladies and gentlemen, for this hearty welcome, for these beautiful decorations, for the fine display of fruit to be seen at the room of the Chamber of Commerce, for the splendid work done to further the success of this meeting. It all argues eloquently for the success and value of this conference together.

As I am such a late comer to this northland, though an old-time resident and farmer as well, for I own a splendid ranch in a near-by county, it was thought best by the chairman of the program committee that I should not take a prominent place on the program. Thus I take advantage of this occasion to give you a brief sketch of my desire and aims in my new office and as your servant.

It is my earnest desire to cooperate with our fruit growers and ranchers in every way possible. Please bear this in mind and never forget that the ear of your commissioner is ever to the ground to catch the faintest lisp of need that may come from any of you. We are also eager to gain any hint of improvement in cultural methods or other improvement from any of you that we may send it broadcast to all our growers.

Of course, the main work of this commission, for which it was established, is to aid in the control of insect and fungous pests. We, myself and colleagues, will ever stand ready to advise regarding insect ravages and fungoid attacks and to identify all insects that essay to rob you of your fruit and vegetables and to advise you as to the latest and best means to combat these ubiquitous foes.

It is my pleasure to state that we are so fortunate as to secure the services of one of the best mycologists in the world, who will be with us after February 1st. Prof. H. S. Fawcett, of Florida, is one of the very first students of fungi, and those infinitesimal bacteria which are so difficult of detection. Professor Fawcett has just made two very important discoveries; first, that stem end rot of citrus fruits, a new disease, is not only the result of the attack of micro-organisms, but he has discovered the germ, has used it successfully to inoculate healthy fruit, and what is more to the point, has proved a way to its control.

His second discovery concerns not a new pest, but an old one, the well-known gummosis. This is also bacterial, not physiological, as has been supposed. The specific organism is identified, and control methods are explained. It is interesting to learn that gummosis of the peach and the citrus fruits is one and the same malady, caused by the same specific germ. Like the bacterium that produces stem end rot, it produces spores, so that the ailment may come from the mycelium or from the spores. The control comes from the same method that conquers the pear blight, severe pruning and cutting away. One of the most successful pear growers of Sacramento County, Mr. E. A. Gammon, has done royal service in his fight with pear blight, which surely is "to the knife." His work is as phenomenal as is his success. Greatly are we to be congratulated that we are to have Professor Fawcett. He is our man, and he will prove a great asset to our State and people.

You will be much interested in two valuable papers by two of my colleagues, the one, on quarantine, by Mr. Bremner and the other, on the terrible Mediterranean fly (*Ceratitis capitata*), by Mr. Carnes. This latter, fairly knocking at our doors, like the Mexican orange maggot, *Anastrepha (Trypeta) ludens*, to which it is closely related, would be a frightful pest, if once introduced. It must be kept out. Various destructive scale insects, the potato eelworm (*Heterodera radicicola*) and the alfalfa weevil (*Phytonomus murinus*), all alarming foes and all just at the very entrance way of our State, show how important it is that we maintain the strictest quarantine, which we will do at every cost. We must be able to guard entrance points where railroads come into our State, and must be legally authorized to search baggage and even persons if safety to our fruit growers demands it. This year our orchards emptied more than \$75,000,000 into our state pocket-book. Can we dare to neglect a single effort that shall conserve this splendid source of gain?

Once more this commission wishes to cooperate most fully with the several county commissioners. We must be mutually helpful to each other. We can and will gladly identify all insects that come to rob our people of their hard-earned gains. We shall advise with you and suggest how to cope with any pest or disease, either insect, fungoid or physiological. We hope for as valuable aid from you. You are at the source of disturbance, and we shall count on you for information and suggestion regarding all attacks from fungi or insects. I hope you all will, with us, be hard students in this field of work and study. We must all be "live wires" and grow apace. I will always take pleasure in promoting such growth.

Our nurseries are also of great interest to us. Most, I believe, are clean and a credit to their owners and to the State. Some are surely foul with insect despoliation or fungoid disturbance. We all know that a dirty nursery is the seat or center of contamination, as in the case of the San Jose scale, which may contaminate the whole country far and wide. We must have only clean nurseries. I am sure that nearly all our proprietors of nurseries the State over will cooperate to the fullest degree to accomplish this important end. The county commissioners can do much to secure this cleaning up of infested nurseries. The quarantine law can be very potent to this end and must be in case the better way is ineffective. I hope we will never need to quarantine against any of our nurseries. Let us all work to make such action unnecessary.