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Cranberries

THE NATIONAL CRANBERRY MAGAZINE



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Christmas Greetings



and best wishes for
a prosperous 1940

Our sincere thanks to the Cranberry Growers
for their splendid cooperation with us during
this past season. We have made many new
friends among the Growers and it has been
a pleasure to transact business with you.

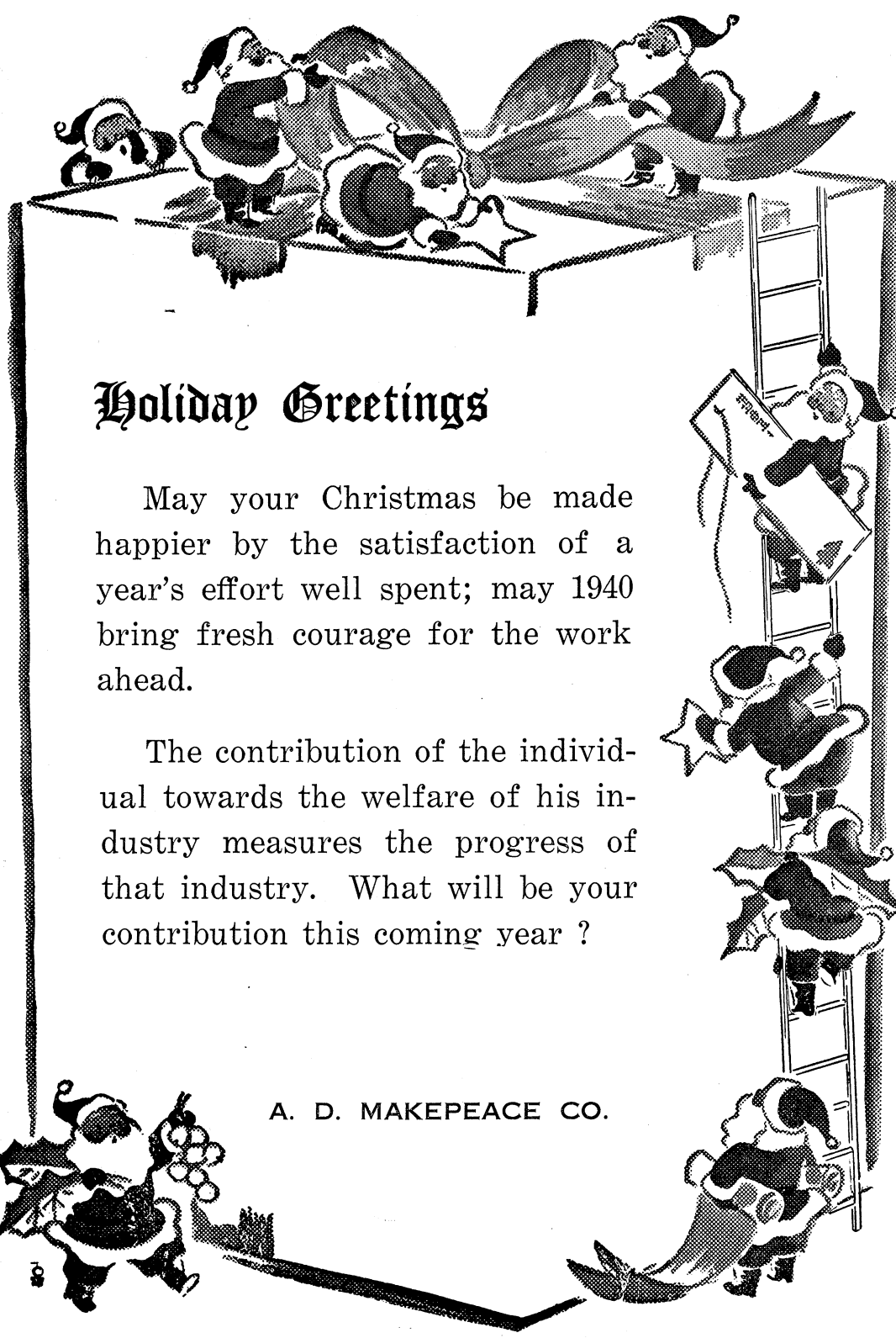
Harvesting of another crop of Cranberries
is only 8 or 9 months away. May we all find
in it, the abundance which we now anticipate.

MINOT FOOD PACKERS, INC.

HAMMONTON, NEW JERSEY

D. D. CONWAY

J. H. KESSLER



Holiday Greetings

May your Christmas be made happier by the satisfaction of a year's effort well spent; may 1940 bring fresh courage for the work ahead.

The contribution of the individual towards the welfare of his industry measures the progress of that industry. What will be your contribution this coming year ?

A. D. MAKEPEACE CO.

Cranberries

THE NATIONAL CRANBERRY MAGAZINE

FRESH FROM THE FIELDS

By C. J. H.

Mass. Crop Now Well Cleaned Up

The Massachusetts cranberry crop as well as the yield for the country is now pretty well cleaned up, even though the estimate for the final total for the country seems to be still climbing. One source now figures it will reach 688,000 barrels, another authoritative source as around 675,000. It is figured there are possibly 40,000 barrels left in Massachusetts, which is roughly ten percent of the total harvested in that state. That isn't much of a late season carry-over.

Price Still at \$2.85 a Quarter Bbl.

A few days ago 1,049 cars had been shipped from Massachusetts as compared to 938 a year ago. The price continues about \$2.85 a quarter for Howes at which it opened, and isn't expected to vary much except for a probable rise for the very late holdings. Massachusetts Blacks have of course been disposed of.

Canners Bought Heavily This Year

A great deal of canning has been done this year by a number of canning companies, and it is estimated that a considerable percentage of the crop went to the canners, in spite of a carry-over of something like 70,000 barrels from 1938. The demand for canned cranberry sauce was very good this year, and the price for the canned product was low. While the canners relieved the fresh fruit market by their buying, the canned product undoubtedly was in competition to quite an extent with the fresh fruit. However, new markets are being opened up by canners, and with the trend toward canned products of all kinds, the canning of cranberries will undoubtedly continue to grow, but there should be no undue difficulties between the fresh and the canned product.

Cape Cranberry Grower Elected To Office

I. Grafton Howes of East Dennis, Mass., prominent Cape cranberry grower and Dennis selectman and assessor, has been elected president of the Association of Massachusetts Assessors in the annual election at Boston recently.

Plans To Cultivate Beach Plums

Plans are continuing to cultivate the wild beach plum which grows so plentifully on the sandy shores of Cape Cod, a number of Cape cranberry men being interested in the idea. It is understood that a Federal project is also becoming interested. Good beach plum plants have been transplanted from the Cape to nurseries on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard Islands. Incidentally, it is said that President Roosevelt is a great lover of the delicious beach plum sauce and keeps a supply of it on hand at the White House.

Cranberry Products Sale Held

The Mothers' Club of Marion, Mass., recently paid recognition to the cranberry industry by holding a special cranberry products sale in which cranberries were used in a great many ways. Cranberries were shown and exhibited in jelly form, made into conserves, pies, relishes, salads, muffins, tarts, etc. A great variety of uses for the cranberry was achieved. The sale was at the Marion General store under the direction of Mrs. Arlie MacDougall, president, and was for the benefit of the tonsilectomy fund.

Cape Berries Displayed at Chicago

Cape Cod cranberry products were on display at the recent meeting of the American Farm Bureau in Chicago. Among those attending were Andrew Kerr, Cape grower and president of the Cape Cod Farm Bureau, who was present as a floor delegate, being elect-

ed to that office during a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation in Worcester, Mass.

Jersey Crop Nearly Shipped

In New Jersey the growers are busy shipping the last of the crop and the regular fall and winter work and the flooding of bogs there is underway as usual.

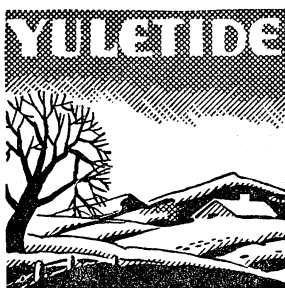
Sand Payments To Be the Same in 1940

The National Farm Program for 1940 has been completed in Washington and although it contains some changes it has none which will effect the cranberry growers of Massachusetts. Most of the changes have to do with rates of payments for various soil building practices, but farmers of all kinds will be able to earn just about the same payments as in 1939, an average of \$53 per farm. Control practices will continue to operate as in past years, under the supervision of county committees composed of farmers. All cranberry bogs, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, will still contribute to the soil-building allowance at the rate of \$2.00 per acre and this soil-building allowance may be earned by the cranberry growers for sanding with at least one-half inch of sand at the rate of \$7.50 per acre.

A New Cranberry By-product—Vines Used As a Mulch

Cranberry vines trimmed and raked from the bogs after harvest time are now being made into a commercial product by one Massachusetts firm, that is the vines are being baled and sold to gardeners for a winter mulch. This cranberry vine mulch is meeting with favor, as it is said to have a num-

(Continued on Page 12)



AND WE EXTEND
TO OUR MANY FRIENDS
AND PATRONS
SEASON'S GREETINGS

AND BEST WISHES FOR A 1940 FILLED WITH HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY

BEATON'S DISTRIBUTING AGENCY

WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN J. BEATON

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Extinction of N. J. Cranberry Industry Seems No Longer Threatened by Leaf Hoppers

**Not Long Ago There Was
Doubt if Growers There
Could Survive False Blossom — Growers Waging
Successful Battle.**

by CHARLES S. BECKWITH
N. J. Cranberry Specialist

Excerpt from Journal Series Paper of
the New Jersey Agricultural Station,
Cranberry and Blueberry Substation.

There is a decided renewal of interest in cranberry bogs in New Jersey today as compared with 5 years ago. Some new growers are setting bogs in virgin land and some old bogs are being remade. Many are improving the condition of their present holdings. There are a few really remarkable crops this year. Not long ago, there was some doubt as to whether the industry would survive the false blossom onslaught or not. It appears now, that the threat of extinction is past. However, the control of the blunt-nosed leafhopper is, and will remain one of the important chores of the grower of New Jersey.

Leafhopper Control

In the successful use of insecticides there are three important points that should be correct: the insecticide, the manner of application and the timing of the treatment. In leafhopper control, the insecticide and the manner of application are already well understood. The timing of the treatment varies for one reason or another. Often, sufficient preliminary plans have not been made to get the work done on time. Some wait until they have a chance to test out the bog for leafhoppers before a treatment is put on. Many wait to be sure that the last leafhopper has hatched.


Small leafhoppers are killed much more easily than full grown ones. In New Jersey, the latest hatch recorded in our very careful study, made over a period of two years in 1928 and 1929, was June 13. Only one year since that time has observation indicated that there was a slightly later hatch. For all practical purposes this observation might be ignored as it was so different from the ordinary

occurrences. Our insect charts printed in 1937 recommend treatments between June 20 and 30. The new charts will read June 15 to 25. This advance of date is extremely important. Some of our most successful treatments have been made on June 15. Most treatments that have been but partially successful have been applied late, sometimes well into July. By that time, some of the leafhoppers are a month old and have well developed wings and body protection.

I realize that in Massachusetts the dust is applied later than we recommended. However, they use a larger dose of dust and have thinner vines with which to work. It is also possible that in that state leafhoppers hatch later than ours so that their recommendation does not fit our conditions.

In order to save time in spraying it might be well to judge from previous performances the bogs that need leafhopper treatments. For instance, it is perfectly evident that a bog badly infested in 1939 will be badly infested in 1940 unless a very effective control measure had been applied. If there is any room for doubt as to the leafhopper population on a bog, it should be tested with a sweep net to make sure that there will be no wasted effort on the bog. As far as I know, in New Jersey, leafhopper-free bogs do

(Continued on Page 8)



To the
Cranberry
Growers

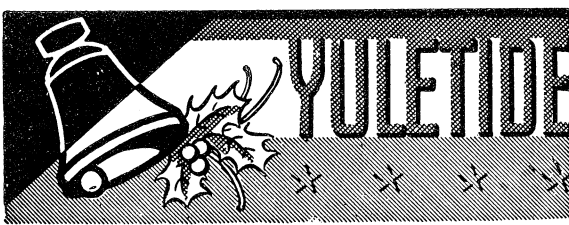
ONE and ALL

WE EXTEND YULETIDE GREETINGS AND
BEST WISHES FOR A PROSPEROUS 1940

TO THOSE WE HAVE SERVED IN
THE PAST OUR SINCERE THANKS

JESSE A. HOLMES & SON

CARVER CENTER. MASS.



AND your cran-
berry magazine
extends the greetings
of the season and the very best of wishes
for a prosperous 1940 to its many readers,
advertisers and friends within the cran-
berry industry. CRANBERRIES looks
forward to the coming year with confi-
dence and faith in the fact that cran-
berry culture will continue to stride ahead
in the future.

Wisconsin Once Again Has Good Cranberry Year

**The Badger State Growers
Seem To Be Making Big
and Successful Crops a
Habit—Second to Massa-
chusetts and Forging
Ahead Steadily in Pro-
duction.**

Another year has rolled around and the cranberry growing state of Wisconsin has once more come through with an excellent cranberry crop. The Badger state was second in production, with a yield which is now estimated to be about 108,000 barrels.

Wisconsin has shown an almost constant increase in its productivity in the cranberry field. Cranberry growing was not started in that state until about 1870, much later than in either New Jersey or Massachusetts.

Its average crop has greatly increased in the past two decades. Twenty years ago a five year average was about 36,000 barrels. The last ten year average was 60,000. In 1937 Wisconsin produced 175,000 barrels, but of course that was a bumper crop for cran-

berry growers everywhere. Last year Wisconsin raised 64,000 barrels, but that, as all growers know, was a lean year in all the cranberry states.

Wisconsin has about 2,600 acres under cultivation as compared to nearly 14,000 in Massachusetts and 12,000 in New Jersey, although in the latter state only about 9,000 is estimated as being in really bearing condition.

Wisconsin has plenty of marsh land available to tremendously increase its cultivated acreage. It has an advantage in shipping rates over both Massachusetts and New Jersey on the Atlantic coast and over the smaller growing states of Oregon and Washington on the Pacific, through its location in the midwest.

Its average crop is about 35 barrels per acre which is higher than the average in either Massachusetts or New Jersey, although much higher averages are produced on individual bogs in other cranberry states, just as the average is still higher on some Wisconsin marshes.

At any rate this year Wisconsin produced nearly a quarter as many barrels as did Massachusetts (465,000), not too far from double that of New Jersey (80,000), more than five times as many berries as Washington and Oregon (23,000) combined, and about a sixth of the total cranberry yield of the country, which is 10,800,000 pounds or

5,400 tons, a lot of cranberries, and places Wisconsin in the million dollar class as a cranberry producing state.

CRANBERRIES

E. Harriett Donlevy, in New York Times

Along Cape Cod the cranberry bogs
Are burned-red patches in the
sun

When first October days are clear,
With frost in wait till day is
done.

In cottages, the wives stir jam,
Fill jars of rich preserves and
spices;

In kitchens there is talk of food—
How scarce the sugar—high the
prices.

While at the other end of town,
By lanes through wood and
bridges strong

Brown shanties buck the high-tide
wind,

With only families and their
song

To bar the cold. Warm russet-
skinned

From sun and heritage, slow-
tongue,

The cranberry pickers worship bogs
That grant them food. Deep
peace has clung

To land where pungent cranberries
grow;

Where workers plant in whit-
ened sand;

Where cottage women stir their
jam,

Weigh sugar, cull red fruit by
hand.



Cape Cod Cranberry Turkeys

A Hobby Develops Into a Real Vocation in Which Owner Finds Pleasure and Happiness.

by Prof. G. T. KLIEN

Reprinted with permission from
"The New England Homestead"

A visitor leisurely circled Cape Cod in his plane. It was a reminiscent mood that brought him back to this quaint part of Massachusetts with its cranberry bogs, sand dunes, windmills and its artists. What have been the changes on the Cape since I vacationed here as a boy, he quandered?

As he landed his plane at Pleasant Lake he frightened a large flock of turkeys. The sign said it was the Robin Hood Model Turkey Farm. His interest in turkeys prompted a visit to this farm teeming with turkey activity and the amazement that was his is the surprise that comes to hundreds of others who visit Cape Cod.

Here, hidden away among the cranberry acres and quietly secluded from industrial activity is one of the largest turkey farms of Massachusetts. It is owned and operated by Thomas G. Jamieson, a one-time engineer. His mechanical ability has not been dissipated for Robin Hood Farm is probably the most highly mechanized turkey farm of Massachusetts.

The capacity of the farm is well over 5,000 birds. The business is largely a wholesale or jobbing one. Birds are identified with tags and the Robin Hood mark which carries through to the consumer. The principal outlet is through carefully selected stores that cater to a select clientele. There is some direct selling by mail and Mr. Jamieson tells the interesting story of delivering turkeys to a movie actor in Hollywood where the express alone was \$15.00 a bird. These birds were expressed to Hollywood alive and dressed by an agent at their destination. Other sales have carried them to the four corners of the United States.

The Robin Hood turkeys are called "Cape Cod Cranberry Turkeys" with all rights reserved. On a billboard near the entrance to the plant Ten Stages in Scientific Manufacture are listed.

The nursery stage is a battery brooder where poults spend the first three weeks of their life. The battery is home made in construction with contact heat and a wire floor $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch mesh. Poults are very satisfactorily started in the batteries and with but very little trouble from perosis.

The second or the "Interim" brooding is on the floor with all the mechanical devices that were ever used in brooding turkeys. Clean gravel is the litter and heat

is oil. The watering system employs neither float nor the customary gadgets. But every poult has the equivalent of a running brook, self-sanitizing and self-purifying. There are feeding ramps in these compartments with wire floors and conveyors for the droppings.

Two more transfers are made which Mr. Jamieson calls "colonization" and "weaning." Here, too, the poults have sand and gravel floors and the best that is known in sanitation. Finally at 12 weeks they go to range which consists of gravel yards. With nothing to do but grow feathers and flesh, attendants at Robin Hood farm apply the best methods known to science in feeding.

At the other end of production—the dressing for market—machinery has been substituted for the customary crude, messy, hand-operated equipment. All the birds are dry picked but nevertheless, conveyors have dispensed entirely with blood cups and similar devices. The turkeys are placed in shackles suspended from rollers, which move through an over-head track.

The operation of sticking and cutting the arteries takes but a split second and the bird immediately begins to move with the head and short portion of the neck passing through diverting tunnels. These tunnels are capable of many different adjustments. Within the tunnels, blood is collected. Picking proceeds with the bird under full control. There is no blood and feather mess to contend with.

The pinning work is very carefully done on the conveyor line and final inspection is done on well padded tables. Here the last pin feather is carefully removed with pinning knives and tweezers. But this job is lightened by the man who selects the birds for killing. No bird is killed that shows immature feathers and lacks flesh. But inspection and grading work goes on just the same and it is a critical eye that looks over Robin Hood turkeys. They are stamped and tagged according to grade and packed two pair (four birds) to a specially designed carton. Before

packing they are transferred to the coolers, one of which has a capacity of seven tons in 48 hours. Each of two smaller cooling rooms have a capacity of about 3 tons.

The question is frequently asked Mr. Jamieson about the name of the brand—"Cape Cod Cranberry Turkey." "Of course," he says, "turkeys cannot be raised on cranberries alone. Neither are cranberries mixed with the feed, fed in troughs, fed on the ground or cooked and fed." Then comes the question, "How do you do it?" and the answer is that we do it and have a reason for it and this is about the only secret of our business."

The out-door roosts seem almost to tower to the sky. They, too, show the handiwork of the engineer. They are not massive but their construction is such that they easily withstand the tons of turkeys that is their load just before marketing season. So spectacular is this roosting sight in the late evening or silhouetted against the sky or the lake on moonlight nights that the highway at times is practically blocked with visitor's cars.

When these feathered "jitter-bugs" take off in one of those night flights so familiar to all who have raised turkeys on a large scale, a lightning set-up is immediately set into action. At the throw of a switch, the triple row of roost structures stick out like a lighthouse in a fog. Slowly but surely the roving "jitter-bugs" make their way back to "home port." Here they again settle for the night safe from predatory animals and what not.

One of the three adjacent lakes is only 100 yards from this turkey "hotel." There have been occasions when a night panic came to halt in "mid-ocean." In pitch darkness many of the birds would swim around in circles offshore and eventually go down from exposure if they had no chart to follow. "But," Mr. Jamieson says, "we Cape Codders should know how to bring our ships back to port and even a feathered navy can be safely docked by a good skipper, without loss of a life."

Ocean County, N. J., Has Successful Cranberry-Blueberry Growers' Club In Operation

Steps Taken to Prevent Theft of Berries from Bogs Very Effective Last Fall—Group at Work on Protection from Deer Damage — Purpose of Club to Promote Lowland Fruit Industry There.

Ocean County, New Jersey, now has a cranberry club which has had several very successful meetings and appears to be of great promise to cranberry, blueberry and other lowland fruit producers of that county. The object of the organization is to create wider interest in recommended practices among the growers of the county, to work in cooperation with the County Agricultural Extension Service, the Ocean County Board of agriculture, and state and federal agricultural agencies.

County Agent Herbert C. Bidlack started the organization which is a producer's group open to anyone in the county interested in developing the lowland fruit industry and is especially designed to be of assistance to the small grower, particularly of cranberries and blueberries.

The officers of the club are Daniel McE. Crabbe, president; Albert Lillie, vice president, and Mr. Bidlack, secretary and treasurer. Annual dues are \$1.00.

In the history of Robin Hood Model Turkey Farm is the story of a man who came to Cape Cod to retire and devote a little time to a hobby. As the hobby developed, the man found more pleasure and happiness than had been his in his chosen vocation. Turkey raising has had its ups and downs for Thomas G. Jamieson but, nevertheless, it suits him very well.

One thing in which the club has had especially good success already is in working with the New Jersey State Police in preventing the stealing of berries from the bogs. For a number of years Jersey growers have been greatly troubled and suffered considerable loss by "moonlight" picking of green berries which were sold at low prices in nearby city markets. Growers reported the position of their bogs to the State Police, particularly those bogs in out of the way places where theft was especially liable to take place.

Sergeant J. Crawford of the police worked in close conjunction with the organization this fall and there was only a single case of stealing cranberries, due it is believed to effective police patrol and the publicity given this phase.

Also the club has been very active with problems concerning the deer damage situation which has been another source of particular worry to the growers of New Jersey. In an attempt to obtain favorable legislation the members of the club are posting their properties against the hunting of deer. It is felt that by doing this sportsmen will be brought to the realization that something will have to be done to relieve this situation.

Some growers hope for state assistance in fencing their cranberry properties with electrified wire on ordinary fences and are working with the Fish and Game Commission in regard to this. Also the idea of planted pastures for the deer at some distance from cranberry and blueberry fields is being worked upon.

In short this new cranberry and blueberry organization promises to be of great value to the growers of Ocean county, which is second only to Burlington county in New Jersey. The club meets at Toms River every two months.

Leafhopper Control In New Jersey

(Continued from Page 4)

not exist unless they are artificially made that way so that for all general purposes we may assume that an untreated bog has a considerable leafhopper population.

The sweep net has a very definite use in checking up the number of leafhoppers not reached by the treatment. It would be very nice if the number of the leafhoppers before the treatment were determined, so that the percentage of kill could be estimated. Nevertheless the important thing is the number of leafhoppers after the treatment regardless of how many there were previously. The point that I am trying to make now is that examination with an insect net should not be allowed to hold up the treatment of bogs known to be infested. There are few growers who would recognize a leafhopper in its first molt. It is only about 1-25 of an inch in length. I have to use a magnifying glass to be sure of this insect in the net. This stage lasts four days and it is at this time that pyrethrum is most effective against this insect.

Anyone who has worked with the problem will realize how difficult it is to control leafhoppers. No doubt many have tried some of the recommended methods and, failing to get control, thought that the methods were ineffective. I wish to emphasize the fact that all of our recommended methods have been used by growers and in no case are we depending entirely upon the experimental results made in small plots for the effect of such treatments. If you fail to get results, the chances are that you have failed to apply the treatment properly. The most common trouble of all is putting the treatment on too late.

Our attempts to make this job surer have led us into spraying with oil-pyrethrum from aircraft. It is expensive to fit aircraft for this work especially since most of the apparatus has to be changed after trials and the time for work is short. Oil spraying from air-

craft offers the greatest possibility for good work of any method used in New Jersey. We hope in 1940 to have machines available early in the year for test work so that more definite recommendations can be made for later years. This is not something to change to immediately as other materials have been giving good results. Many growers are already planning to give this method a thorough trial and there is some possibility that the present methods will be further refined. It will not be recommended for general use until we have had more experience.

Don't forget that we have several proved and tested methods for leafhopper control. All have been used by growers with good results.

Obituary

WALTER E. TRUFANT

Walter E. Trufant of Whitman, prominent Massachusetts cranberry grower passed away December 3. Mr. Trufant was 77.

Mr. Trufant's interest in cranberries dated from his early childhood, when he gathered the wild berries from the "peathole" near his home in Abington. His next connection was unintentional, but perhaps the one most familiar to growers. About 1890, he saw promise in a patent for coating nails to increase their holding power. They were extremely unpopular, as the cement used was bituminous and very messy to handle. He took over the patent, and developed the cement now used, designed machinery for making them, and was sole manufacturer during the life of the patent, when he sold out to Pearson, the present leading producer. With the adoption of the half- and quarter-barrel boxes, these nails have since become familiar to every cranberry man.

Retiring from the nail business, he soon turned to cranberries, purchasing the Sherman farms in North Carver piecemeal. Failing to make major improvements in

wheeling plank, he discarded them, and introduced the first cars and track to the industry in 1906. There were no light locomotives available then, and he contended himself with man power and a horse for propulsion.

His first cranberry years were disappointing. Owning but a fraction of the swamp, flowage was poor, and frost threw the vines repeatedly. His sand pits were gravelly and packed so vine-setting was almost impossible. Weeds flourished. Though repeatedly advised to abandon the bog, he stuck to it and won out. The first few acres became twelve, and finally twenty-five; by land purchases, his water supply became ample.

His last twelve acres are somewhat of an innovation. He diverted the brook so as to run along the shore, and built his sections the full width of the swamp, with great care in grading for water level. These level sections a quarter-mile long, nearly, are a sight to delight the eye of any grower. They are also a joy to the picking-machine operator, the duster, etc.

His early inventiveness was still active, and he holds patents on cranberry separators, picking machines, etc., which he did not see fit to develop commercially. However, the screenhouse is full of gadgets here and there which testify to an inventive, labor-saving mind. He assembled a bog-railroad outfit in 1928 which was superior to any then operating, due to heavier track and heavier motive power. This outfit has been much in demand for rental, and has seen service from Whitman to beyond the Canal.

Mr. Trufant's experience with the picking machine is quite illuminating. He was busy on the design at the same time the Sales Company was sponsoring the early experiments, and took out a patent on a machine different in principle. The other experimenters took out patents on various designs, and at long last a machine was commercially produced. At least one observer of the first machines came to Mr. Trufant in consternation, exclaiming that the builders had ignored the patents they controlled

(Continued on Page 11)

1939 A SATISFACTORY YEAR

THE marketing of the good crop of Cranberries for 1939 is now practically a matter of history. Cranberry growers, we feel, may be congratulated upon a successful season; it was a relatively large crop and it was disposed of at very favorable prices.

No little credit can go to the cranberry industry in this happy result. Especially is it likely that a very large part of the consumer demand may have been due to the good and continuous advertising done by the American Cranberry Exchange. Others also played their part in disposing of the '39 yield satisfactorily.

Demand started well last fall and continued to be steady. Price was a considerable factor, as is always true. The retail price probably averaged 15 cents per pound. In many markets and in some chain stores cranberries were featured at two pounds for twenty-five cents during the Thanksgiving season.

Prices in general fluctuated very little and the retail price seems unlikely to change materially, except perhaps for a few of the very latest hold-overs. It has been estimated that 90 percent of the cranberry harvest of the country was out of the growers' hands by Dec. 1, which should mean a first class wind-up of the season.

TWO THANKSGIVING DAYS

THERE was quite a bit of confusion occasioned this year by the act of President Roosevelt moving up the date of Thanksgiving one week as it was observed by many states but not by most of those in New England. Since Thanksgiving is "the day" for cranberry sauce it is to be hoped that a definite day of thanksgiving will be established for the entire nation early to avoid any trouble in 1940.

Incidentally, most folks may be under the impression that Thanksgiving was always observed on the last Thursday in November but this is not so. In 1621, the first Thanksgiving feast was held by the Pilgrims in October; the following year when rains came after a severe drought, the Plymouth colonists were so thankful

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they declared a day of Thanksgiving in July. The date in fact was more or less hit-or-miss until the Civil War when President Lincoln declared by proclamation the fourth Thursday of November to be a national day of Thanksgiving and so it has remained until 1939.

THE BLUEBERRY GROWER

Blueberry Culture in Massachusetts

By John S. Bailey, Henry J. Franklin,
and Joseph L. Kelley

(Continued from last month)

For those with a few bushes in the back yard, a ready-mixed, complete fertilizer is easiest to obtain and handle. Any good garden mixture or grass top dressing will do.

Pruning

Pruning is one of the most important operations in blueberry growing. Its purposes are to induce the bush to grow as many vigorous shoots as possible, to prevent the bush from overbearing, and to stimulate the production of large berries. It must be done in the winter or early spring before growth starts.

The bushes need little pruning the first two years after planting. Only short, weak branches need be removed. Bearing during this period is detrimental because it reduces growth and delays the production of a commercial crop. Therefore, the fruit buds are removed during pruning. If any are missed, the flowers may be pulled off when the bushes bloom.

To prune bearing bushes correctly, one must know their bearing habit. The fruit buds are borne on the terminal part of the shoots. They form in the axils of leaves during the summer, remain dormant during the winter, then bloom and produce fruit the next summer.

The pruning treatment of the different varieties varies according to the character of their growth. Those producing many shoots from the base require more thinning out of this growth than those with few such shoots. Varieties branching freely need more top thinning than those with few branches. Varieties whose shoots have fruit buds on

the terminal two-thirds or three-fourths require more cutting back than varieties whose shoots have fruit buds on the terminal third or fourth only. The following outline of pruning practice is given as a general guide; not as a set of rules.

First, remove or cut back a few of the older stems. These stems after they are three or four years old, tend to produce short, weak shoots and small berries.

Second, remove all branches which are so near the ground that their fruit will get dirty.

Third, remove the shorter, weaker shoots to prevent crowding.

Fourth, cut back shoots with too many fruit buds. Three or four such buds on a shoot are enough because each bud produces a cluster of eight to twelve berries. If more buds are left, so many berries will develop that they will be small. Since some varieties, such as Cabot, grow many fruit buds relative to the number of leaf buds, their shoots must be cut back half to two-thirds. Other varieties such as Rubel, produce fewer fruit buds and need little or no cutting back.

Finally, study the needs of the plants. Cut freely to encourage new growth. If pruning for the first time, seek expert advice.

Insects and Diseases

The cranberry fruit worm, *Minoclea vaccinii* Riley, sometimes attacks blueberries. It has become a serious pest of this fruit in Michigan. The mature worm is about half an inch long. It has a yellowish head and a green body sometimes tinged with red on the back. It often webs several berries together and works among them. It probably

can be controlled by applying a derris dust (2 percent rotenone), at the rate of 100 pounds per acre toward the end of the blooming period.

The cranberry weevil, *Anthonomus musculus* Say, is sometimes a serious blueberry pest. The adult is a long-snouted beetle similar to the plum and apple curculios but smaller. The larva, about one-ninth inch in length, is a whitish, legless grub with a yellow head. The adults injure the flowers somewhat but the grubs do more harm in the berries. The insect can be controlled by spraying in the spring after growth starts but before egg laying begins, usually about May 10, with Bordeaux mixture and calcium arsenate made up as follows:

Stone lime.....	10 pounds
Copper sulfate.....	6 pounds
Water.....	100 gallons
Calcium arsenate.....	6 pounds
Fish-oil soap.....	4 pounds

The blueberry stem borer, *Oberea myops* Hald, sometimes damages the bushes considerably. The beetles lay their eggs in young shoots about six inches from the tip. The female girdles a shoot in two places about half an inch apart and deposits an egg in a slit in the bark between these girdles. The tip of the shoot then dies, turns brown, and often breaks off at the top girdle. When the egg hatches, the young larva bores down the center of the shoot. It continues this boring for two or three years and may even reach the roots. The infested stem usually dies. If the borer gets into the roots, it weakens the whole plant and the leaves turn yellowish or reddish.

This insect can be largely con-

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trolled by having the pickers break or cut off the dead tips while gathering the fruit. If the egg has hatched and the larva has started to bore, the shoot should be cut off below the lower end of the tunnel. Infested stems missed in the summer will usually be found during pruning the following winter and should be removed then. As the larva is a legless grub and cannot crawl back to the bush, the infested shoots may be dropped on the ground. When the borers get into the roots, a piece of baling wire shoved down the tunnels will kill most of them.

The red-striped fireworm, *Gelechia trialbamaculella* Cham., does some harm to blueberries at times. The larvae, which are pale green when small, develop reddish brown stripes along the back and sides as they grow older until they appear to have a solid color unless closely examined. These worms fasten two or more leaves and feed between them. They make a tubular case of silk covered with brown castings. The injury to the older leaves is slight, but the stunting of new shoots resulting from the work of these worms on the terminal leaves is more harmful. A thorough application of the following spray about August 6, controls this pest:

40% Nicotine Sulfate . . . 1 quart
Fish-oil Soap 415 pounds
Water 100 gallons

White grubs, the larvae of June beetles, *Phyllophaga* sp., injure blueberry plants seriously by eating the fibrous roots. They are usually troublesome in the propagating bed in dry seasons unless excluded by a fine metal screen, coarse gravel, or cinders under the bed. Plants set on land recently in sod are very subject to attack. This can be prevented by keeping the land fallow for a year before planting. Mature bushes sometimes become infested. A solution of sodium cyanide, 6 ounces in 100 gallons of water, applied around the crowns at the rate of 2 gallons per square foot, kills most of the grubs. The cyanide is a deadly poison, and must be used with care.

Caterpillars of the gypsy moth, *Porthetria dispar* (L.), sometimes do considerable damage but are easily checked by spraying with 6

pounds of dry lead arsenate in 100 gallons of water, about May 20.

Red-humped caterpillars, *Schizura concinna* Smith and Abbot, sometimes attack the blueberry. They feed in colonies, in August or September, and can strip a branch of leaves in a short time. If only a few are present, they can be shaken from the bush and crushed. Where they are abundant and the crop is entirely off, spray with lead arsenate, 4-5 pounds to 100 gallons of water. If the crop is not all harvested, use a heavy spray or dust of rotenone made up according to the manufacturer's directions.

The cranberry spittle insect, *Clastoptera saint-cyri* var. *saint-cyri* Prov., infests blueberry bushes occasionally. It is a sucking insect about an eighth of an inch long, appears usually in early June, and covers itself conspicuously with froth. It is controlled by spraying with:

Nicotine Sulfate 1½ quarts
Fish-oil Soap 4 pounds
Water 100 gallons

(Continued next month)



The SEASON'S GREETINGS To CRANBERRY GROWERS and OTHER FRIENDS New England Cranberry Sales Co. Middleboro, Masuachusetts

WALTER E. TRUFANT

(Continued from Page 8)

and built on Trufant's design. Mr. Trufant refused to believe this; refused to look into the actual machine to see for himself; refused to embarrass the Sales Company and its agents in their effort to do something for the grower.

This attitude did not prevent him from eventually buying one of the machines and improving it in his own way, however. His machine is still recognizable, but differs widely in wheels, rolls, drum control and teeth. With the aid of one of his scoopers, he re-forged every individual tooth in every scoop on the machine, and at the age of seventy-five. His operator now claims that every year a section goes unsanded makes a difference of one tooth in the forward wheel adjustment on the drum. This shows the degree of precision attained in drum control.

It is expected that the operation of the Trufant properties will be taken over by his son, Russell A.

For
Christmas

For
New Year



WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK OUR FRIENDS, MEMBERS, AND
CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR FAVORS DURING
THIS AND OTHER YEARS PAST, AND TO
EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES FOR 1940

Wisconsin Cranberry Sales Company

Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

Trufant, civil engineer of Middleboro. In addition to several years association with his father in the bog business, the younger Mr. Trufant has built irrigation systems in South Texas, state highways in southern Illinois, and has most recently been laying the largest (150" inside diameter) concrete pipe for the Boston water supply's new line down from the Quabbin reservoir. He devised the estimating hoop which so many growers fail to use properly, judging by their crop estimates.

New Cranberry

By-product

(Continued from Page 3)

ber of advantages over other mulches.

The purpose of a mulch is not to keep plants warm, but to protect them from extreme changes in temperature, which cause freezing and thawing and frequently result in heaving. Cranberry mulch is

claimed superior to hay because it provides a protection, permitting a circulation of air without forming a dense, smothering mat; it has no weed seed to germinate; it does not blow around like straw or hay, and does not attract rodents; also it is especially adaptable to the uses of suburban gardeners who have no easy access to pine boughs, marsh hay or other types of covering material.

The cranberry vine is pleasing in color, a neutral shade of greenish gray purple.

It has already been used by a number of prominent Massachusetts horticulturalists and is being used by the Waltham station of the Massachusetts State College.

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE FACT—

THAT, according to a Federal survey recently the highest average day's pay for farm labor was on the Pacific Coast where it was \$2.79; the next highest in New

England which was \$2.70 . . . THAT corn supplies about 15 manufactured products including explosives, paper, perfumes, pipes, wallboard and alcohol . . .

THAT, in a century of extensive cultivation this country has destroyed, seriously damaged or threatened with destruction an area about equal to all land from which the country normally harvests crops . . .

THAT rubber is now playing a very important part in agriculture including the cranberry industry. From wheelbarrows to tractors, rubber tires are now used extensively, greatly increasing efficiency . . .

THAT New York state produces more cabbages than any other state in the union . . .

THAT in Pittsfield, a Massachusetts truck gardener personally sells his products fresh from his farm, by carrying them from house to house over an exclusive route in a wheelbarrow . . .

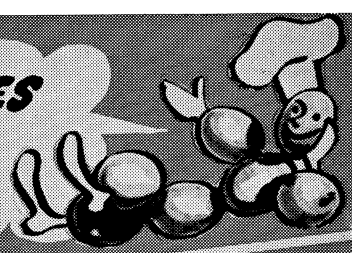
THAT it has been estimated that the amount of food eaten by a single field mouse during a year is from 24 to 36 pounds?


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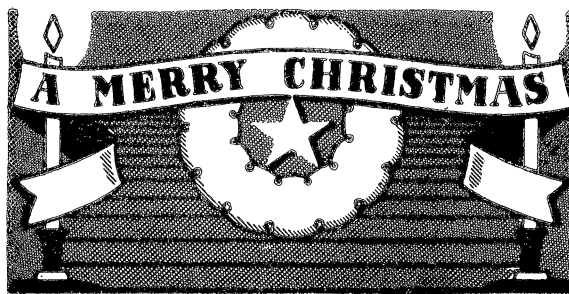
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AS cranberry growers are ending another successful season, it is pleasant to think of the friendly relations that have become mellow with the passing years . . . and there is a feeling of assurance that these relations shall continue as in the past . . . and that new friends will join our circle.

Best Wishes to the Entire Cranberry Industry

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