

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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IMMATURITY IN CITRUS FRUITS

THE FEDERAL LAW APPLYING

Department of Agriculture Defines Position and Gives Results of Investigations

Washington, D. C.—(Official)—The Department of Agriculture has been requested by growers and shippers to define its position with respect to the application of the Federal Food and Drugs Act to the transportation in interstate commerce of immature oranges and immature grape fruit. These requests have been accompanied by requests for modification of the tests announced by the Department for determining whether oranges and grape fruit are immature.

On April 6, 1911, Food Inspection Decision 133 was issued with respect to the coloring of green citrus fruits. This decision reads as follows:

"The attention of the Board of Food and Drug Inspection has been directed to the shipment in interstate commerce of green, immature citrus fruits, particularly oranges, which have been artificially colored by holding in a warm moist atmosphere for a short period of time after removal from the tree. Evidence is adduced showing that such oranges do not change in sugar or acid content after removal from the tree. Evidence further shows that the same oranges remaining on the tree increase markedly in sugar content and decrease in acid content. Further, there is evidence to show that the consumption of such immature oranges, especially by children, is apt to be attended by serious disturbances of the digestive system.

"Under the Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, an article of food is adulterated if it be mixed, colored, powdered, coated or stained in a manner whereby damage or inferiority is concealed. It is the opinion of the Board that oranges treated as mentioned above are colored in a manner whereby inferiority is concealed and are, therefore, adulterated. The Board recognizes the fact that certain varieties of oranges attain maturity as to size, sweetness and acidity before the color changes from green to yellow, and this decision is not intended to interfere with the marketing of such oranges."

Following the issue of Food Inspection Decision 133, seizures were recommended of immature oranges which had been artificially colored by sweating either prior to shipment or in transit. These seizures led to numerous requests that the Department announce tests for determining the immaturity of oranges.

In November, 1914, the Bureau of Chemistry in its service announcements issued the following statement:

"As a result of the investigations carried out during the season of 1913 and 1914, the Bureau of Chemistry considers California oranges to be immature if the juice does not contain soluble solids equal to, or in excess of, 8 parts to every part of acid contained in the juice, the acidity of the juice to be calculated as citric acid without water of crystallization. Owing to the fact that opportunity has been given to study the composition of California oranges during one season only, the ration set at this time is lower than that which is believed

to be the minimum for properly matured fruit. It may, therefore, be expected that the requirements will be made more strict after data from several crops are available."

The value of the test laid down in the service announcements has been confirmed by investigations carried on during the season of 1915.

On September 22, 1915, a press notice was issued defining tests for determining the immaturity of grape fruit and Florida oranges as follows:

"With the information now available, the Bureau of Chemistry considers grape fruit to be immature if the juice does not contain soluble solids equal to, or in excess of, 7 parts to each part of acid contained in the juice, the acidity of the juice to be calculated as citric acid without water of crystallization. The Bureau also considers Florida oranges to be immature if the juice does not contain soluble solids equal to, or in excess of, 8 parts to every part of acid contained in the juice, the acidity to be calculated as citric acid without water of crystallization.

"Owing to the fact that the investigations of the Bureau have not been completed, the ratios set for grape fruit and for Florida oranges are lower than those which are believed to be the lowest for properly matured fruit. It may therefore be expected that the requirements will be made more strict after data from several crops are available."

The Department, with the information available as the result of its investigations, regards the tests as defined for determining the immaturity of California oranges and for determining the immaturity of grape fruit and Florida oranges as being fair, accurate, and reasonable tests.

Oranges and grapefruit, in common with other articles of food, in the opinion of the Department, are adulterated "if they are mixed, coated, colored, powdered, or stained in a manner whereby damage or inferiority is concealed." The only announcement of the Department affecting the shipment of immature citrus fruits with which growers and shippers are at present concerned is that given in Food Inspection Decision 133. In that decision, the view was stated that green, immature oranges which have been artificially colored in a manner whereby inferiority is concealed and are therefore adulterated. In the opinion of the Department, grape fruit which have been similarly treated also are adulterated. The Federal Food and Drugs Act prohibits the shipment in interstate commerce of such oranges and grape fruit.

The Department, therefore, gives warning that the transportation and sale in interstate commerce of oranges or grape fruit which have been artificially colored by sweating or otherwise so as to conceal damage or inferiority will be regarded as in violation of the Federal Food and Drugs Act and proceedings under that act will be instituted in all cases where sufficient evidence is obtained to justify such action.

Fort Myers Press, Monday—K. B. Harvey, who has been spending the past several weeks on business at Washington, New York, and other northern cities, returned last evening to Fort Myers.

Capt. Howard M. Reid visited Tampa on business last Saturday.

DeSoto County Schools to Have Clean-Up Day

To Patrons, Trustees and Teachers of DeSoto County:

When a community awakes to its need of better local health conditions, then more sanitary and attractive surroundings will follow. It is the duty of every school to hasten this awakening. Two obligations rest upon every teacher who considers himself faithful to the trust imposed upon him: namely, school-house hygiene and personal hygiene. Clean yards and a well kept school room not only indicate the degree of efficiency in the teacher; but they enable that person to teach hygiene by example as well as by precept.

To encourage more vigorous work in this direction it has been decided that every school in DeSoto county shall observe a Clean-up day on the second Friday in Nov. for at least part of the day, or the following Saturday if the teacher thinks best. Then strive to keep the school up to this standard. It is urged that the trustees and teachers plan the work well, and that every patron, man and woman, meet with the children on that day at the school house.

The following is suggestive of what may be done:

1. Remove all trash, weeds and palmettoes from the yard. Secure a trash box or barrel for use during the term, placing it out of sight if possible. Place the woodpile back of the house. If the yard is not fenced, make a special effort to have this done. Plant trees and shrubbery. For suggestions as to kinds of trees and methods of planting write for Farmers Bulletin No. 134 which

will be sent free upon application to U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Marian A. McAdow, Punta Gorda, will furnish seeds of vines and flowers free upon request.

2. See that the pump and out-buildings are in good condition.

3. Scrub the floors, or oil them.

4. Clean the walls and ceiling. If paint is applied, make the ceiling a lighter hue than the walls.

5. Wash the windows and replace all missing panes. Arrange desks so that no child faces the light.

6. Cleanse the water-cooler and provide individual drinking cups.

7. See that stove and pipes are in proper condition for coming cold weather. Polish the stove and arrange an attractive wood box.

8. Secure some growing plants for rooms. Some clever boy will be glad to make and paint a window-box to be filled with seasonal plants. This will afford pleasure to the eye and instruction to the children in caring for the plants.

9. Destroy all old calendars and remove gaudy colored pictures from the walls. Secure a few approved pictures.

10. Dust and arrange the books in the library.

When the work is done, grade your school on the accompanying Clean-up Day score card and keep it hanging in your school room where it may be inspected by visitors, trustees and the county superintendent, to see that the school is not only kept up to the standard, but that it improves.

The second obligation is that of

Florida the Winter Playground of the Nation

The state of Florida is rapidly becoming the winter playground or amusement park of the people of the United States who reside east of the Rocky mountains.

But it is more than that, for it is also becoming the residence of hundreds of thousands of persons who desire to escape from the more rigorous climate of the northern sections of the United States and who are establishing their homes under the sunny skies of the land discovered by Ponce de Leon.

No state in the Union has made greater advances in percentage of population and in business development during the past ten years than has Florida, and from reports as to the tide of emigration from the North and West this winter it would seem that 1915 is to prove a record-breaker in Florida annals for gain in population.

Many farmers from the North-western states, many persons of independent means from the Central States, many industrial workers from the New England and Middle Atlantic States are reported as being Florida bound during the months of autumn and winter, not as tourists, but as desiring to become permanent residents of that state of genial climate and perpetual flowers.

It is early yet to speak of tourist travel for the winter, but the improved business conditions in the North will undoubtedly contribute strongly to an increased travel to all the Southern states.

The announcement of the estab-

lishment of a national golf club near Jacksonville and the fact that Miami has been selected as the winter headquarters of the Hydroplane and Aeroplane Association of the United States gives a guaranty that lovers of these sports will be found in Florida in great numbers.

The beach at Ormond, with its fine facilities for automobile speeding, will not be overlooked, while the new national highways running from the North to the South have their routes laid out through the length and breadth of the Peninsula state.

Florida seems to have as great attractions to the money seekers as it does for the pleasure-loving sportsmen, and its commercial and agricultural interests are growing in a wonderful way.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

You are plucking roses and flowers in Florida every day in the year; fresh vegetables and fruit the year round, basking in a health giving sunshine, inhaling exhilarating breezes from the Atlantic, the gentle zephyrs from the Gulf, enjoying the moonlight nights had in no other country on earth, happy and contented that you are not housed up in snow-bound homes and from the wintry blasts six months at a time in the North.—DeLand Record.

Palm Beach suits and straw hats, looking as tony as in May, are still worn here. They enlivened the landscape, Sunday.

personal hygiene. At the last session of the Florida legislature a law was passed requiring medical inspection of all school children. A physician will call at your school some time in the near future to make this inspection. Aid him in every way possible in carrying out his work. Furthermore, let us follow this by making our work in hygiene very practical. Send to Colgate & Co., New York, or some other firm and get a free sample tube of a good dental cream for each child in your room. Keep a record of how many children care for teeth and nails daily, of how many sleep with windows up every night, etc.

If you have no library, the board of public instruction has purchased 50 libraries for rural and small town schools. These may be secured by any school that has a suitable building for taking care of them, that has lock and keys for doors, latches on the windows, with their school grounds cleared of palmettoes and undergrowth, and with a substantial fence around the grounds. The board agrees to pay one third the cost of the libraries and where necessary, to give the local school three years to pay its part. In these libraries will be found books suitable for every grade in the school and many that will be read with enjoyment and benefit by the parents.

Children will read books of some kind; why not furnish them the best literature, and have them read under the direction of the teacher? The larger libraries contain 150 volumes; the smaller ones 135 volumes. The entire cost of libraries placed in the school is \$160.00 and \$135.00 respectively. The local school will therefore have to pay \$80.00 and \$67.00 respectively, with each library will be sent a nice oak case, with record book, lock and key.

Two of the above libraries will be given free; one each to a one and a two or more teacher school that makes the most improvement in their building, grounds and equipment during the year.

A number of other valuable prizes, such as teacher's desks and chairs, manual training bench and tools, domestic science table and equipment, pictures, dictionaries, and other valuable equipment have been donated by school supply houses and will be awarded on same conditions. Much more credit will be given for improvements made by local subscriptions and work done by individuals than if same is paid from sub-district funds. Likewise the condition of your school at the beginning of the year will be considered; in other words, your school may not come up to the standard of some other school that was in better condition to begin with; and yet if you have made more improvements during the year, you will be awarded a prize.

All the above prizes will be exhibited at the County Teachers Association to be held in Arcadia Nov. 26th and 27th. Come prepared to report on results of your Clean-up Day, the improvements you are making. Why not make your school one of the number to receive a prize?

Miss Allie M. Stribbling, county agent in Home Demonstration Work, will assist in carrying on this work in the county, she will be pleased to answer any questions or help to plan any work for the improvement of your school.

Yours very truly,
J. O. BICKLEY,
County Superintendent of Public Instruction.

ROUMANIA TO JOIN ENTENTE

SUCH ARE THE INDICATIONS

Greece May Yet Go into the War Situation in Serbia—Standstill in Other Zones

London, England—Public interest is divided between Premier Asquith's speech in the house of commons and Roumania's reported intention to throw her lot with the allies. News by way of Paris lends support to the growing impression that Roumania is preparing to enter the war.

By royal decree new classes of Roumania recruits are being mobilized. Vienna reports that "a grave situation" may arise between Austria and Roumania in connection with the proposed use of the lower Danube to transport Russian troops to Bulgaria. Little news comes direct from Bucharest owing to a strict censorship, but it is known the agitation in favor of war is spreading through the army.

The Austrian, German and Bulgarian armies are drawing the net more closely about Nish.

In the south the French assert they have inflicted considerable losses on the Bulgarians who are reported to have been thrown back on the right bank of the Vardar.

The only political development of note in the Balkans is a change of tone in the ministerial press of Athens, which is publishing apparently inspired articles, although still insisting Greece must maintain her policy of benevolent neutrality.

Along the eastern front there is evidence of a considerable extension of the Russian offensive. This is indicated by official reports from both sides, although neither claims any important result. Definite reports concerning the progress of the new German attack on Riga also are lacking.

Russia's active participation in the Balkans may have begun, inasmuch as Bucharest reports Russian troops have landed at Vrana. This Bulgarian port is said to be defended by Turks, commanded by German officers.

The English public awaits with keen interest Premier Asquith's speech in the house of commons. It is expected to be not only a review of recent diplomatic and military activities but a defense of the coalition cabinet's conduct of the war.

George W. Gossim of Columbus, Ohio, a federal veteran who usually spends his spare time at the old soldiers' colony at Zephyrhills, came here about three months ago for a stay of a few days, but he was so much pleased with climatic and social conditions that he remained until this week. Tuesday he went to Fort Myers for a brief visit, after which he will return to Zephyrhills. He is a very pleasant gentleman and we hope he will eventually decide to become a permanent resident of Punta Gorda.

Standardization simplifies marketing. The consumer likes a product that can be depended on. Compare the ease of marketing wheat and corn with the difficulty of marketing fruit and vegetables. Corn and wheat are standardized.

Oscar Thoresen of the Marlboro section was transacting business in the city Saturday.