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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1907.

The Florida State Horticultural Society.

The next annual meeting of the society will be held at St. Petersburg, Fla. on the 14, 15, 16 and 17 of May, 1907.

We hope that you will make arrangements to be present. If you are not already a member you can become one by sending one dollar to the secretary, Mr. E. O. Painter, Jacksonville, Fla.

The rates of fare are not yet announced, but whatever they are it is necessary to be a member of the society to receive any advantage from the reduction of rate. You will find that the meeting will be profitable as well as pleasant. We hope that the attendance will be the largest for many years, in fact would be very glad if it should prove to be a record breaker in the matter of numbers present. You will have six weeks in which to make your plans to be there. Remember that we are always glad to see a large attendance of the ladies. So bring your wife, both of you will enjoy it.

Proposed Commission Bill.

We learn from one of our exchanges, since congress has adjourned, that a bill was introduced to put all commission houses under the control of the Department of Agriculture. Requiring them, whenever a consignment arrived in bad order, to notify the nearest agent on the Dept. of Agriculture, who is required to make an investigation at once.

So far as we know the bill received little or no consideration at the hands of congress. We have not sufficient knowledge of the proposed law to express an opinion about its merits. But we certainly feel that some thing ought to be done. There are honest commission merchants, but it is also unfortunately true that there are very many who are quite the reverse. The general public have no means of telling the one from the other. We have no doubt that in many cases

the commission man has done his very best, but on account of the rascals in the business, has been unable to prove that the produce was not in good order when received. We hope that something can be done about supervising this business, but do not feel very confident that it will do much good. The only real remedy is to sell at home. That is if a community grows a large quantity of any one marketable product, buyers will come to secure it. We have an illustration at Hastings, where there is always an opportunity to sell at the station, though many still prefer to ship to a commission house.

Denatured Alcohol.

The present status of the law allowing the sale of denatured alcohol free of tax, is not known to us. Several amendments were proposed, but whether any of them passed or not we do not know. Some of the papers assert that just before adjournment such an amendment was passed, while others say it was not. We hope that it did, for otherwise there is no hope of much benefit to the farmer. So long as it can only be made by large distilleries, there will be no chance for farmers to turn their waste products into alcohol nor on the other hand can they buy the alcohol cheap enough to be a substitute for kerosene or gasoline.

The California Fruit Grower says that a Distilling Company has been organized at Los Angeles, for the purpose of making, selling and dealing in denatured alcohol and its by-products. The material from which it is to be made is not mentioned, but is no doubt some of the waste fruit of the orchards and groves.

An article in the Epitomist tells of fuel alcohol in Germany. After telling of the materials which are used in denaturing the alcohol the editor says:

As a result of this system Germany produced and used last year 50,642,720 gallons of denatured alcohol as compared with 10,302,630 gallons used in 1886, the last year before the enactment of the present law. Of this vast amount about two-thirds was of ordinary grade for power and heating purposes, such as costs at present thirteen and one-half cents per gallon. The remaining one-third of the entire amount was denatured for lighting and chemical purposes, or used pure under certain restrictions for the manufacture of perfumes, extracts and medical properties. The second or higher grade of denatured spirits, such as is burned in lamps was used for cooking and heating, sells ordinarily for twenty-five cents per gallon, but on account of the enormous potato crop of last year and the subsequent heavy production of alcohol the spirit price has been reduced by the national association or syndicate of alcohol producers to twenty-one and one-half cents per gallon.

After the above was prepared, we found an editorial item in the Ohio Farmer announcing that the amendment was passed and was now a law. The particulars of the amendment we are not able to give in detail, but they allow denatured alcohol to be made by persons who will comply with certain conditions in much smaller quantities than before. We shall give the full account of it before it

becomes available as it does not go into effect for several months.

The editor of the Ohio Farmer comments on the fact that not one of the great daily papers of the country has mentioned that fact that this law had been thus amended. He draws the inference that some great interests are trying to keep the knowledge from the public as long as possible.

Some New Bulletins.

We have just received, from the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, two bulletins, No. 87 and 88. The first mentioned is entitled Soil Studies No. 1. The other is Whitefly Conditions in 1906, The Use of the Fungi. The one on soil studies is valuable to every farmer in Florida. We have an interesting and valuable series in the Agriculturist, by Dr. Cuzner, but no two writers treat a subject in exactly the same way, and you will find that the bulletin will be useful no matter how carefully you have studied the series in our paper.

The other bulletin is of interest only to orange growers, but for them it contains much important and useful information.

We suppose that you remember that these bulletins are sent free to any address in this state, on application to the Director at Gainesville, Fla.

Plant Camphor Trees.

We do not feel that it is possible to urge this too strongly. The time is not far distant when camphor growing will be a prominent and profitable industry in this state. Those who get the earliest start will realize the greatest profit. That is the latest ones will have a good enough investment, but those who are first will have an opportunity to sell the seed which is produced freely on old trees. Camphor tree seedlings will also be in great demand.

Some people have an idea that the tree is a slow grower, indeed such a statement has been made in some papers. Such is, however, not the fact, provided they are planted on moist soil. On very dry soil they do not grow rapidly, but on flat woods land where there is an abundance of moisture in the soil at all times, the trees will grow with wonderful rapidity.

Olives, Quinces, Apricots, Nectarines, Etc.

Elsewhere, you will find this week, an interesting account of the fruits which are most commonly grown in this state and also of some which are but seldom seen. The author may be a learned and accurate botanist, but we fear that he wrote much of the article from reading or hear-say evidence. He makes the statement that before the war olives were extensively grown in Florida. Do any of our readers know of any record of bearing olive orchards in this state? If they existed before the war, they can be reproduced, and if prolific would be a very profitable investment.

In the closing paragraph he says that plums, quinces, pears, grapes, peaches, apricots, nectarines, etc., are profitably grown in most parts of Florida. We should be very glad to know where he got this information. It may be true, but if so we have not heard of it. Very few of the plums which are grown at the north have been successfully cultivated in Flor-

ida. We have never known or heard of the common varieties of quince thriving in this state. We have some bushes of Rhea's Mammoth quince which have been planted out over twenty years. Only one has ever borne and that never has half a dozen in a year. The Chinese quince is said to bear good crops in this state, though we have not tested it.

We have not heard of a profitable pear tree except of the Le Conte or Keiffer varieties.

Very few of the northern grapes have been profitable in Florida, a few have grown fairly well and borne some grapes, but their culture has been generally abandoned as unprofitable.

As for peaches, while it is true that we can grow as fine looking and well flavored specimens as were ever seen or eaten, yet it is also true that all varieties of the Persian type, the common one at the north, have proved failures in this state.

The nurserymen still offer apricot trees, but say that they are not recommended for general planting. We have seen the trees but never any fruit.

Has any one ever seen any nectarine trees bearing fruits in Florida?

We should be very glad to have these questions answered, if any of our readers have any knowledge or experience along these lines.

Postal Savings Banks.

As an evidence of the hold which the Money Kings of this country have upon the legislature department of this government witness the continued refusal of congress to pass a law authorizing the establishment of postal savings banks. We have given the arguments in its favor at various times, but the following from the Farm Press, will remind you that while it would be greatly to the advantage of all who live in the country yet congress still refuses to even consider the matter:

The new movement for postal savings banks shows that the question is not dead by any means. It is recognized by every one, except those interested in our present banking systems, that postal savings banks would be good for the rural districts. Cities are well supplied with savings banks, but it is not convenient for a persons living in the country to deposit small sums of money where it is absolutely safe and where it will draw interest. The old cry of the bankers, in order to prevent such accommodations, is that the government must not go into the banking business. Friends of postal savings banks answer that the banks have for a long time been engaged in the government business. In Europe where postal savings banks are common they are very popular with the masses. It is thought by many that they are needed in this country more than in any other.

It is estimated that the acreage to be planted in sweet potatoes in the Turlock section the coming season will reach 1,500 acres. John Denair with 550 acres will be one of the largest growers.—California Fruit Grower.

Six Weeks for Ten Cents.

Until further notice we will send the Agriculturist six weeks for 10 cents to new subscribers only.