POMOLOGICAL ART.

TRYING TO PRODUCE SEEDLESS AND THORNLESS FRUIT.

Methods by Which Fruit Scientists Succeed In Improving Upon Nature—Results Have Shown That They Are on the Right Basis—Slight Success With Apples.

One of the most important objects pomologists are striving for is to produce thornless and seedless fruits, and from the results already obtained it is not unlikely that the end will soon be realized. Seeds are not relished by the consumers of fruits, and if they could be removed we would enjoy our grapes without experiencing a dread of appendicitis and kindred complaints.

Thorns are not in good standing among fruit growers, because they are constantly puncturing the best fruits and, what is equally important, the skin of the pickers. The thorns and prickles of plants and trees were undoubtedly intended by nature to protect them from animals, but that is no reason why they should be continued for generation after generation on the cultivated varieties. The gardener has no need for them, and, for that matter, the trees and shrubs have none either.

Our domesticated pears and apples were all derived from the thorny, wild varieties, and pomologists have succeeded in ridding them of these spikes and prickles by careful culture and selection. Oranges and lemons have not been cultivated in this country as successfully as pears and apples, and many of them are very thorny. The wild and sour orange trees of Florida are bristling with thorns, as is also the high priced king orange, one of the best of the mandarins. The wild lemon trees of Florida are so thorny that growers question the advisability of grafting the fine La France lemons on them.

In Florida, however, the thorns of the orange and lemon trees have been greatly reduced by selecting buds from branches with the fewest thorns, and by continuing this process year after year the sharp spikes disappear. In California nearly all of the orange trees are thornless—not naturally, but as the result of cultivation and selection.

The thorns on blackberries, raspberries and rosebushes give the greatest bother to horticulturists in the north, and there is a determined effort to get rid of them. The thorns give endless trouble to the pickers, and their removal might save many a puncture to delicate hands. There is an improved variety of raspberry placed on the market today which is entirely thornless, but the trouble is that quality and quantity of fruit have been sacrificed to the gain made in destroying the thorns.

There is little doubt that perfect thornless blackberries and raspberries will soon be obtained, for there is a widespread movement among gardeners and seedsmen to accomplish this. The man who is fortunate enough to produce a variety that gives perfect fruit without the thorns will receive a pretty stiff price for his plants.

Seeds are also unnecessary plant products in these advanced days of horticulture, when gardeners propagate half their stock by cuttings, grafts and slips. Nature need no longer trouble herself about the fear of losing any of her types. The modern horticulturist is sure to preserve every one of any value without gathering a seed.

The California navel orange represents the best type of fruit grown without seeds. Nature produced this orange as a freak at first, and man has taken advantage of it to propagate fruit of a high order. Half the oranges of California are grafted with the navel, and it is the most important fruit of the Pacific coast. Nature tried to produce twins in the navel orange, and one survived only as a protuberance in the blossom end, while the other expanded into a well shaped fruit without seeds. These oranges are occasionally found with small seeds; but, as a rule, they are perfectly seedless.

Several varities of seedless apples and pears have already been produced, but the quality of the fruit is generally poor and nearly worthless. They are called "bloomless" pears and apples and are exhibited more as curiosities than as the triumphs of pomological art. Nevertheless, they are the beginning of a new era of apple growing, and they represent the primary stock of seedless fruits which may produce in time the finest flavored apples and pears.

The grape industry would be benefited more than any other by the production of new varieties without seeds, and toward this end scores of fruit growers are working, especially in California. The idea is to produce not only table grapes, but grapes that will make fine raisins. Seedless raisins would prove such a boon to the whole civilized world that any other variety would be quickly run out of the market.

There is a seedless grape of Corinth, which commonly passes as a currant, and the Sultana raisins of southeastern Europe are also seedless. But these fruits are so small that they can never answer the purpose. What the trade wants is a large, seedless grape, with perfect color and flavor, and to get that it is necessary to experiment for years. —New York Journal.

The Austrian Dynasty.

The present emperor of Austria is Francis Joseph, who ascended the throne Dec. 2, 1848. He is of the royal house of Hapsburg, which has held the throne since 1282. Twenty-six sovereigns of this house have ruled over Austria. Rudolph I, the nobleman who founded this royal family, built a castle on the Habichtsburg, or Hawk's mountain, whence the name of the family.

An authority on deaf mutes says that the ratio of deaf mutes to hearing is about 1 to each 1,600, according to which there are about 40,000 such persons in the United States and about 1,000,000 in the world's entire population.

Commissioners' Proceedings.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.]

McCook, Nebraska, January 8th, 1897.

Board of Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment. Present, James Carmichael, Stephen Bolles and Jas. Robinson, commissioners, and R. A. Green, county clerk. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Annual settlements of the following overseers of highways examined and approved, and on motion clerk directed to issue certificates in payment thereof as follows, to-wit:

Overseer	dist. No.	Cer. No.	
C. F. Waterman	18	51	$26.76
Wm. Heirsekorn	24	52	30.32
Wm. Relph	14	53	7.21
Wm. R. Scarrow	41	54	15.66
Eli D. Akers	33	55	23.96
W. L. East	17	56	11.38
A. Kuhlman	36	57	27.00
Benjamin Baker	10	58	29.28
Joseph Junker	22	59	30.00
T. D. Horton	32	60	29.38
Lewis B. Korns	5	61	27.98
J. H. Carr	12	62	16.95
Wm. Darlington	8	No balance due	

On motion the following appointments were made to fill vacancies:

H. I. Peterson, justice, Grant precinct.

A. N. Puckett, overseer dist. 4, Alliance pre.

Geo. Harbor, overseer dist. 27, Danbury pre.

W. S. Fitch, overseer dist. 9, Driftwood pre.

A. Kuhlman, o'erseer dist. 36, N. Valley pre.

The following official bonds were examined and on motion approved:

John Long, assessor, Alliance precinct.

T. K. Quigley, assessor, Red Willow prec't.

Chas. S. Ferris, assessor, Driftwood prec't.

Felix Wilhm, assessor, Valley Grange prec't.

Joseph Walkington, assessor N. Valley prec't.

Leonard J. Shippee, assessor, Tyrone prec't.

T. M. Campbell, assessor, Box Elder prec't.

James Woodworth, assessor, Willow Grove precinct.

Everitt Oxley, justice, North Valley prec't.

John P. Reiter, constable, Alliance prec't.

Henry Kulhman, constable, North Valley precinct.

Overseer	dist. No.	Prec't.
J. Pickrell	35	Driftwood
C. W. Lepper	25	Perry
Henry Corcoran	40	Perry
W. M. Wallace	20	Indianola
C. A. Bede	1	North Valley
A. W. Utter	10	Willow Grove
M. F. Davis	34	Tyrone
Ed Jordan	8	Willow Grove
John Broomfield	11	Red Willow
James Bergin	28	Fritsch
Patrick Cashen	7	Box Elder
Harvey Burgess	18	Lebanon
W. S. McTaggart	23	Tyrone

The following banks were designated as depositories for county funds for the year 1897, viz: First National Bank of McCook, Citizens Bank of McCook, State Bank of Indianola, Bank of Bartley and State Bank of Lebanon.

The following depository bonds were examined and on motion appproved: State Bank of Lebanon, Bank of Bartley and First National Bank of McCook.

On motion C. F. Waterman was appointed constable for Lebanon precinct to fill vacancy.

Semi-annual statement of L. A. Carnahan, county superintendent, examined and approved, which statement is as follows:

"McCook, Nebraska, Jan. 6th, 1897. To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners: The following is a report of institute money on hand:

Amount on hand from last report was	$93.76
Amount received for certificates	2.00
Amount now in my hands	$95.76

L. A. CARNAHAN."

The following claims were audited and allowed and on motion clerk was directed to draw warrants on the county road fund, levy of 1896, in payment thereof as follows:

G. W. Kimpton, sharpening plow	$ .35
Wm. Darlington, road work	2.25
Lewis B. Korns, road work	Rejected

The following claims were audited and allowed and on motion clerk was directed to draw warrants on the county bridge fund, levy of 1896, in payment thereof as follows:

C. F. Waterman, bridge work	$ 9.50
S. G. Bastian, lumber	21.42
Wm. Scarrow, bridge work	5.00
Wm. Hiersekorn, bridge work, claim $5.-50, allowed at	4.50
T. J. Cress & Son, spikes	1.50
Barnett Lumber Co., lumber	2.80
Charles Harris, hauling lumber	5.00
Frank Schmoldt, bridge work	6.40
Stephen Bolles, bridge work	10.00

On motion board adjourned sine die.

Attest: R. A. GREEN, County Clerk.

McCook, Nebraska, January 12th, 1897.

Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Present, Jas. Carmichael, Stephen Bolles and James Robinson, commissioners, H. W. Keyes, county attorney and R. A. Green, county clerk. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

The following depository bond was examined and approved: State Bank of Indianola.

Resignation of Elmer Rowell as Justice of the Peace for Willow Grove precinct, received, and on motion same was accepted.

Petition of Patrick Gibbons et al. asking for the appointment of A. J. Rittenhouse as Justice of the Peace for Willow Grove precinct to fill vacancy, read and on motion A. J. Rittenhouse was appointed as Justice of the Peace for Willlow Grove precinct to fill vacancy.

The following official bonds were examined and on motion approved:

C. F. Waterman, constable, Lebanon prec't.

A. N. Puckett, overseer road dist. No. 4, Alliance precinct.

August Kuhlman, overseer road dist. No. 36, orth Valley precinct.

A. J. Rittenhouse, justice of the peace, Willow Grove precinct.

Applications of the various county officers asking for deputy and clerk hire for the year 1897, read and considered and on motion granted as follows:

J. H. Berge, treasurer, one deputy at $600 per annum.

J. R. Neel, sheriff, one deputy at $600 per annum.

R. A. Creen, county clerk, one deputy at $600 per annum and assistance to the amount of $300.

The following claim was examined and on motion rejected:

Dr. W.A. DeMay, med. attendance..Rejected

Pursuant to the provisions of the Statutes for such cases made and provided the Board proceeded to select the names of 60 electors to act as jurors at the February term of the District court. Whereupon the clerk of the District court was furnished the list so selected, which list is as follows, to-wit:

Alliance precinct, Patrick Callan, Maurice Reddy, John Reiter.

Beaver precinct, J. M. Thomas, W. A. Minmear, John DeLong, Soren Simonson.

Bondville precinct, Joe Schwarz, W.P. Burns.

Box Elder precinct, Ad. Pinkerton, George Younger.

Coleman precinct, H. K. Bixler.

Danbury precinct, Almeron Reed, E. B. Lister.

Driftwood precinct, C. T. Eller.

East Valley precinct, Sam Young, Wm. Enyeart, A. F. Hardin, A. G. Dole.

Fritsch precinct, S. O. Hoagland, R. E. Hatcher.

Gerver precinct, V. J. Gathercole.

Grant precinct, T. A. Rowland.

Indianola precinct, Chas. Colling, Geo. Cramer, S.E. Hager, C.B. Hoag, O.D. Mosher, William McCallum.

Lebanon precinct, Wm. Murphy, S. E. Ralsten, C. F Waterman.

Missouri Ridge precinct, John Ervin.

North Valley precinct, G. W. Arbogast, R. C. Catlett.

Perry precinct, J. A. Brinton, Frank Real.

Red Willow precinct, T. K. Quigley, Adam Grass, Martin Rinck.

Tyrone Precinct, L. J. Shippee, Jack Farrell.

Valley Grange precinct, A. D. Johnston, H. H. Pickens.

Willow Grove precinct, M. E. Horner, John Shepherd, R. J. Predmore, Howard Finity, M. O'Leary, M. H. Holmes, E. J. Wilcox, Henry Penner, L. W. Cox, C. I. Hall, S L. Doan, B. F. Olcott, Joseph Spotts, C. G. Holmes, Wm. Darlington, W. O. Russell.

On motion Board adjourned to meet January 13th, 1897.

Attest: R. A. GREEN, County Clerk.

McCook, Nebraska, January 13th, 1897.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present, James Carmichael, Stephen Bolles and James Robinson, commissioners, and R. A. Green, county clerk. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Resolution: On motion it is hereby ordered and the county treasurer is hereby instructed to transfer all moneys collected in the Bridge and Road funds, into the County General fund, as soon as collected, until further instructed by this Board.

Petition of C. H. Boyle et al. asking for the establishment of a public road, as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of section six, township 3 N. Range 29 west, thence south on section line 1½ miles to the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 7, said Town. and Range and terminating thereat; read and considered, and on motion same is granted and road established as petitioned for. Clerk directed to notify overseers of highways to open said road, and also to notify land owners along line of said road to file claims for damages as provided by law.

On motion the estimate for the necessary expenses for the ensuing year was made as follows, to-wit:

County Bond	$ 3,000.00
North Valley Bond	1,000.00
Willow Grove Bond	2,000 00
Indianola Bond	200.00
Bartley Village Bond	500.00
School Bonds	7,000.00
County General	12,000.00
County Bridge	6,000.00
County Road	3,000.00
Soldiers Relief	500.00
High School	1,500.00

On motion O. L. Everist was appointed constable for Beaver precinct to fill vacancy.

On motion clerk was directed to call for bids for the county printing for the ensuing year.

On motion Board adjourned to meet February 19th, 1897.

Attest: R. A. GREEN, Country Clerk.

The Boys Entertained.

Norman Campbell and Harrie C. Troth delightfully entertained a number of their friends, last evening, at the residence of Supt. A. Campbell. Refreshments were served during the evening, and everybody had an enjoyable time.

Those present were: Bertha Shaffer, Edna Garrard, Nina Doan, Sarah Oyster, Ida McCarl, Vera Hileman, May Stangeland, Lillie Norval, Arvilla Olcott, Elsie Burgess, Eva Burgess, Edna West, Grace Strasser, Ethel Barnett, Millie Slaby, Fred Brewer, Fred McManigal, Willie Meyer, Chas. Todd, Archie Utter, John Wentz, Judd Kay, Howard Hileman, Guy Tomlinson, Albert Berry, Frank Colfer, Ben Engel and Frank Francis.

Norman and Harrie were assisted by Misses Phelan, Strasser and Troth.

The dancing club, John Stranahan in charge, and Miss Lillian Troth pianist, held its initial hop in Babcock hall on Wednesday evening.

John Bergeman of Hastings is a new acvuisition to the Pythian band. He is a cornetist of ability, and also handles the violin effectively.

James Hatfield, who has been making quite a long visit here, left for Decatur, Illinois, Thursday morning.

Miss Mary Watson left for her home, Wednesday morning, after quite a long visit here with friends.

Mrs. A. C. Clyde is again very ill and some alarm has been entertained for her recovery.

L. E. Cann is in charge of the Western Union duridg Manager Watson's illness.

For Sale.

Lots 1 and 2, in block 23, original McCook. Write to G. W. Jacobson, Freedom, Illinois.

Dr. Z. L. Kay.

Office, rooms 4 and 5 over Leach's jewelry store. Residence, front rooms over Ganschow's shoe store.

All the different forms of skin troubles from chapped hands to eczema and indolent ulcers can be readily cured by DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, the great pile cure. A. McMillen.