

# WEEKLY INDUSTRIAL RECORD.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY. DEVOTED TO NAVAL STORES, LUMBER AND MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

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## POISONING GROUND SQUIRRELS AND GOPHERS ON NATIONAL FORESTS.

Interesting results have just been announced by the Forest Service as a result of the campaign conducted in Southern California by Stanley E. Piper, Expert of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, to exterminate ground squirrels and gophers.

Extensive experiments were tried to determine the best means of killing off these destructive little animals, and it was found that most effective results were obtained by using poisoned green or ripening barley heads. The squirrels are exceedingly fond of this green herbage, and eagerly ate the poisoned food placed along their runways. Tests were also made with oats, wheat, barley, raisins, prunes, dried apples and cracked corn, but these did not prove so successful.

While green barley proved most successful for poisoning ground squirrels, yet the difficulty of procuring a sufficient supply in all localities led to dried barley grain being tried. The grain was treated with strychnine sulphate, saccharine and eggs, and although this combination proved very destructive to the squirrels, it had practically no effect upon doves and quail. In fact, a deliberate attempt was made to poison these birds at their watering places, but no bad effect resulted. The poisoned grain was also used in fields grazed over by sheep and produced no ill effects whatever.

The experiments also proved that gophers were partial to raisins and dried apples, and these were successfully used in the poison experiment. It was found that by sprinkling the apples or raisins with the strychnine solution, as effective results were produced as could be obtained by inserting the poison into the fruit.

The experiments for extermination of squirrels also resulted in the death of a considerable number of rabbits, and in other experiments it was found that oats proved very effective in killing both jacks and cottontails. Green alfalfa was used with good results for the same purpose.

## EAST COASTERS AT IT.

The East Coast Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association has been holding meetings all the week for the purpose of organizing the local growers and bringing them into line with the main association, the object of which is to secure better shipping facilities for East Coast growers and reduced freight rates to Eastern and Western markets. During the past week meetings were held at Fort Pierce, Jensen, Sebastian, Vero, Viking, Stuart, Quay and White City. Considerable interest was manifested at all these meetings and action taken to support the Association in its work. At White City, St. Lucie county, the local organization elected James Neilsen, president; S. Sorensen, vice-president; Charles Bermenderfer, secretary, and H. Kundsens, treasurer. These, with Andrew Christensen, will comprise the board of directors.

## AN INTERESTING INSIGHT INTO FOREIGN FEELINGS.

(From the Oil and Colour Trades Journal).

Recent British Consular reports from Bordeaux and Bayonne furnish the following particulars:

**Bordeaux.**—Exports of resin and pitch, etc., in 1908 amounted to 39,708 metric tons—a metric ton is 2,204.6 pounds—of which 14,257 tons were shipped to Great Britain and Ireland. This shows an increase compared with 1907 of 8,209 tons in the total and of 4,404 tons in exports to the United Kingdom. The dry residue left after distilling turpentine from the maritime pine is classed as colophony and pitch. The former is the more refined produce obtained from spring resin by superior method of extraction. "Brai," or pitch, is of inferior quality, obtained from summer and autumn resin. The entire supply of the former is generally absorbed in manufacturing varnish and fine soap, the latter being in demand for common soap, paper-making, electric cables, resin and pyrogenous oils, etc. The resinous oils of the Landes, which were formerly much used in the fabrication of carriage grease, have lost their importance with the rising price of pitch and the substitution of mineral oil. The resinous produce industries of the Charente, Gironde, Landes and Lot et Garonne are almost exclusively in the hands of large forest owners, who supplement their own stores of resin by purchases from their smaller neighbours. Several foreign capitalists have, however, recently formed companies and erected factories equipped with new patented methods. Co-operative societies have also been formed by landowners and resin collectors, but these organizations have not sensibly modified the industrial situation in the districts, which are still characterized by communal division without much possible concentration.

**Bayonne.**—The extensive pine forests continue to provide an industry of great importance, which consists of tapping the trees and extracting the resin, which is collected in very large quantities and used for the manufacture of turpentine, pine oil, colophony, and pitch. The trees do not in any way suffer from the resin being extracted, but are, when cut down, even better suited for certain purposes, e. g., paper making and the preparation of pyroigneous acids. The rates of wages are 5 fr. (4s.) (97c. per day).

**Essence of Turpentine.**—The statistics published by the Minister of Commerce and Industry during the 12 months of 1908 show the following figures: Exportation, 1908, 9,213 tons. During 1907 the exportation amounted to 9,754 tons; in 1906 12,938 tons. In consequence it is noticeable that during the year which has just closed there is a marked decrease in the exportation on the two preceding years, more

especially during 1906. The market prices during 1908 per 2 cwt. (100 kilos.) ranged between a maximum of £3 6s. 6d. (\$16.17) (at the end of Jan. and the first half of Feb.) to a minimum of £2 1s. 8d. (\$10.13) throughout October. In the closing weeks of the year the price was £2 7s. 3d. (\$11.49.) The production of essence of turpentine during 1908 amounted to very much the same quantity as that produced during the two preceding years, which was about 22,000 tons. The market prices for resin during the season which has just closed show a tendency to decline as the result of the economic crisis which has been felt throughout the world. Another reason, not less serious, regarding the decline in the sale of essence of turpentine is the continued use of a substituted article, as it is estimated that during 1908 several million kilos, of white spirits and other petroleum were brought into France and took the place of essence of turpentine in the manufacture of cheap varnish. It is probably the same in all parts of Europe, but if the exportation was less during 1907 and 1906 and more especially during 1905 it is to be accounted for by the fact that the high prices during July and August—that is to say, at the time when the production was greatest—coincided with the complete cessation of the sale to foreign countries. For those who follow closely the markets for the resin industry, the season which is about to commence is of somewhat doubtful promise, inasmuch as since July last the tapping of the tree has been carried on in all the four corners of the forest with great activity, a further fall in prices being apprehended. At the time of writing owing to a disagreement between the workmen and the proprietors, a general strike has been declared. The workmen refuse to treat the trees until they have received a satisfactory settlement of their demands, and for however short a period it may last it will obviously cause a delay which it will be difficult to overtake. In the event of the strike being prolonged, or from other unlooked for causes, the result may, on the other hand, be of an opposite character—a shortage.

## AVON PARK INTERESTED.

At a meeting held at Avon Park, DeSoto county, by several resident orange growers, an association was formed and application made for charter. E. M. Hyde, E. L. Richardson and William King are the directors who have this matter in hand.

## TAMPA ASSOCIATION.

The local association of orange growers formed last week at Tampa has for its directors James E. Crane, J. T. McMichael and W. B. Coarsey.

## FOREST RANGER EXAMINATION TO FILL MANY VACANCIES ON NATIONAL FORESTS.

Albuquerque, N. Mex., Aug. 21.—An examination to fill vacancies in the ranger force on all National Forests in District 3 will be held October 25 and 26. From this examination it is expected that 75 appointments will be made on National Forests in this District.

The examination will be held at the headquarters of each National Forest in the District, at the following places: Douglas, Flagstaff, Nogales, Prescott, Safford, Snowflake, Roosevelt, Springerville, and Tucson Arizona; Harrison and Mena, Arkansas; DeFuniak Springs, Florida; Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Capitan, Gallup, Magdalena, Santa Fe and Silver City, New Mexico, and Cache, Oklahoma.

While the examination is entirely along practical lines and knowledge of field conditions rather than book learning is considered essential, the opportunities for those applicants with educational advantages are considerably increased. The rapid development of the National Forests is making continually increasing demands upon those engaged in their management, and men with ability to assume responsibility and serve in supervisory capacities are in demand. These more responsible positions on the National Forests are filled by promotion from lower grades, so that anyone entering as a ranger is eligible for promotion to any of the more responsible and higher paid places, including that of Forest Supervisor.

Only those men who are at least 21 years of age, not more than 40, of good character, temperate, and in good physical condition, are eligible to take this examination. The salary paid to beginners is \$900 a year.

Applicants can secure information concerning the examination from the District Forester at Albuquerque, New Mexico, Forest Supervisors, or the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.

## CROPS IN FLORIDA.

The condition of pineapples in Florida on August 1 was 94 per cent of a normal as compared with 94 on July 1, 1909 and 90 on August 1, 1908; limes, 92 per cent on August 1, as compared with 94 on July 1, 1909 and 94 on August 1, 1908; and grapefruit, 85, as compared with 88 on July 1, 1909, and 81 on August 1.

The crop report issued by the United States Department of Agriculture for Florida gives the following figures for August 1: Corn, 94 per cent; rice, 80 per cent; tobacco, 87 per cent; potatoes, 90 per cent; sweet potatoes, 92 per cent; peaches, 55 per cent; pears, 52 per cent; watermelons, 87 per cent; cantaloupes, 79 per cent; sorghum, 80 per cent; sugarcane, 90 per cent; cowpeas, 90 per cent; oranges, 92 per cent; lemons, 80 per cent; peanuts, 90 per cent.

The Cuban orange crop of 1908 was a record one, aggregating nearly half a million crates; the pineapple crop amounted to approximately 1,000,000 crates, nearly all of which was shipped to New York.