STUDENTS' CHRISTIAN UNION.

The Christian Union starts this session under a numerical disadvantage, owing to the small number of students in residence. In common with all other branches of College activity, the Christian Union has lost some of its best supporters in the ranks of the volunteers. For this reason we appeal to the remaining students for continued and additional support, particularly in the matter of attendance at the Sunday service, or we shall not be able to maintain the present high standard of speakers. First class speakers cannot be expected to come to the College to address a few dozen students.

The Bible study circles have not felt the unsettled condition of the time and are as flourishing as ever. Thirty students are now attending them.

The attendance at the Sunday services has averaged 46. The speakers have been:—Mr. C. Potts on "A Man's Obligations," Rev. S. Best on Prov. XXIII., 23, Rev. Stacey Waddy on "War, and a Man's Duties in War-time," and Principal Thatcher on "The Origin of the New Testament." The orchestra will now be a permanent feature in these services.

Entertainments have been arranged for every Saturday during the session and we shall have another chance of seeing and hearing many old College favourites. As the School of Arts is booked for every Saturday until Christmas we have decided not to hold a concert in Richmond this session, but the Y.M.C.A. Glee Club will come to the College instead.

HAWKESBURY COLLEGE LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

The general meeting of above society was held in the large lecture hall on 14th inst. Student Macdermott in the chair.

About 120 students present. Business: Election of officers for the ensuing session.

The secretary, student Tonking, read his report for the last session which was adopted.

The following were elected to hold office for the ensuing session:—

President.—The Principal, Mr. H. W. Potts.

Chairman.—Mr. C. Potts.

Vice-Chairmen.—Mr. Musson, Students Wessells, Macdermott and Tonking.

Committee.—Mr. White, Students Waller, Thorpe and Kershaw.

Secretary.—Student A. F. E. Smith.

A vote of thanks was carried to the outgoing secretary.

The meeting then terminated.
Vol. 11. Richmond, N.S.W., Sept. 1, 1914

OLD BOYS,

THEIR WHEREABOUTS AND OCCUPATIONS

(If any Old Boy deriving pleasure from a glance at the columns, would for Robert a moment reflect that there may be other delectable destination of our old comrades, of perhaps, those of his brother graduates at College, in the distant, far-off lands of the Old Boys Union, the present of the O.B.U. Even on address would be acceptable. By any doing would be an end to the oldest soldiers the Union has been called to line existence—of leaving a hint between the past and the present.)

J. E. Carrier (1908, piggy certificate) writes from Koooraingath, via Millmeran, Q., and sends a number of photographs which show the many phases of a pioneer's life. The photographs help as to realise the difficulties which beset him in the con quest of the bush and the scrub; we make the acquaintance of his kelpie, his horses, the sulky, his neighbours, hardy men like himself, the slab residence and the cheese and butter factory, that great adjunct to the development of the country, and we see him planting corn with the spade upon the cleared slopes under the sun. He states that the Berkshire boar received from the College grew at a great pace and would now kill at 250 lbs., it is very quiet and is easily kept, and is fed on small quantities of steamed corn and thick separated meal, with a scaffold or any vegetable available. People in general have a great fancy to him, and there are many applications at 10s. per sow than he is able to serve. With regard to the wild pigs in the district he has tried to secure a photo. Exaggerating their dimensions, he says he can only see the wild sows one way, and that is broad side on. Their hooves now have no spur, but have trunks instead, 18 inches to two feet long, from the front of the ears. They grow no hair, the leg comes down like a good milking cow, even when prime fat they grow none, but they get pot-gutted, and will drink at a feed two buckets of thick milk each. Looking along an old sow from behind her you can see her big jowls sticking out on either side of his flat ribs. Their colour is black with red tipped bristles, others are black and white or yellow and white. It takes a good dog to catch them in a 200 yards sprint. His neighbour let a sow and its young loose in an 80 acre well grassed paddock. When Liberated they set off at a dog cutter, and went around the fence five times from sunset to dark. She must have kept going all night for the young gave up purpose and she was still going at daylight. Its owner had last at run it down on horseback as he feared it would get wild and subsequently ran it towards our correspondent and the owner's son, and the former was enabled to place a noose over her neck. As an experiment he was making her with the Berkshire. Speaking of the country he says that it reminds one of the Richmond River, but the scrub is not so rich in soil for grass purposes, although it appears to him superior for crop culture, it is, moreover, a drought resisting soil, having a good subsoil; it is not a creeper scrub, but dense, with tall woos of brigalow and belah, with wheat, black tea-tree, and other undergrowth of buffalo bush, hop bush, curvate vine and native cotton bush. It coats its per acre to brush and fall light timber, and up to 30s. for heavier. It is mostly beautiful wood to chop and as most trees have a leaning to the northeast and west, one is enabled to get breaks of six to 12 trees at a time. Moreover, the brigalow are all top heavy, and in a 60 feet there are only about to 10 to 20 feet of limbs, which are at the top.

A. F. Warden (dairy certificate, 1910) is in partnership with R. Tucker (1910) on the Patterson.

W. L. Warden (dairy certificate, 1909) is establishing the dairy farm at Milton.

C. M. Warden (dairy certificate, 1909) is managing the dairy herd on Dr. Davies' farm near Scone.

W. D. Brooks (orchard certificate, 1907) has a place on the Yanco Irrigation Area.

H. J. Schardt, B.D.A., (diploa., 1899) has taken up his duties under the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. His present address is Griffith, via Willbrigill. He considers there is a great future for the settlement.

J. E. Donkin (1897-98) writes from Zak River, Cape Province, South Africa. He has been in Africa since 1899; during the last two years he has been representing the Sunshine Harvester Co., of Melbourne, and is assistant agent of the Zak River estate, where wheat and general farming are the chief interests.

D. Betha (1910) sends greetings to old friends and the officers of the College. In dealing with yields in South Africa the morgen is the unit of area which he explains is roughly two and a ninth acres. A bundle is the colonial term for a sheaf, and yields are sometimes spoken of as containing so many bundles. Noman Shave informs us, is very busy at the Forchelbroch Agricultural College, Trarneal.

H. A. Lyth, H.D.A. (1913), is at present in St. Leonards, England, but he has booked his passage to Western Australia where he intends to settle near his brother. In June he made a week's journey to Devon and saw some fine specimens of Devon red cattle. Around St. Leonards dairying with Shet thorn herds is the chief farming industry.

E. F. Ward, H.D.A. (1913), has settled down to his work at Wellington, N.S.W., and is supervising the work in the park,

N. C. L. Old Boys' Union.

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N. C. L. Old Boys' Union.
which is being prepared for the Governor's visit to the show the same month.

H. P. Waring (diploma, 1906) has left Gracemere, Rockhampton, Q., and has gone to "New Spring", Boyne. He is taking up past and citrus fruit growing. We are to receive further details at a later date.

W. A. Bodman-Whitlam (1907) has started orcharding at Terrigal, N.S.W.

Colin Ward (1910), we regret to announce, is lately deceased. We were informed by S. C. Ward & Co., Adelaide.

F. F. Haddo (H.D.A., 1913), is gaining experience on a farm at Narrambat, and is reported to be comfortable and doing well.

In answer to our inquiries as to the whereabouts of Old Boys, we hear from B. E. Moir (1910) that he met H. W. Sharpe (1900) and R. J. Savage (1900) on Koowawatha Station, about four years ago. The three of them travelled to Grenfell when that station's show was being held. Sharpe was then engaged in horse breaking at which he was doing well, whilst Savage was sheep farming on the old place near Goulburn, he thinks.

**TEENYS.**

By "Sideliner."

This year there was a record entry of 20 competitors for the championship.

The tennis has been of much higher standard than that of the previous year, and some really first class contests have been witnessed. Like last year it was very difficult to pick the winner and the next three to win their colours. At present eight have an equal chance for these honours. We are somewhat behind this year as only one court is being used for the championship, another being used for the handicap and the third is under repair.

In addition to the championship there was a singles handicap with 20 entries. After some close and exciting contests Student Brett was placed first, with Student Goch runner-up. The play in the handicap was of even a higher character than that in the championship.

Students Brett and Goch are to be specially congratulated as they were both heavily handicapped.

Owing to our having no lady players we were unable to enter a team this year in the Hawkesbury District Association, the previous years we have been allowed the privilege to compete.

By S. N. BRETT.

On August 9 an inter-block tennis tournament was held. This was looked forward to with great enthusiasm and the chances of the different blocks was eagerly discussed. In the draw A. block drew F. block, and B. block drew E. block.

A. block, which was represented by Porter, Hadley, Howard and Chadleigh, made a poor stand against F. block which was represented by S. Campbell, A. Campbell, Mayne and Brett.

B. block after some strenuous play made a draw with E. block. In the play, however, B. block proved to be the better team, and was represented by Pauli, Scholet, Rundell and Goeb. E. block was represented by Macleanott, Yeats, Johnston and Allansou.

This was a great surprise as everybody thought that E. block would win the tournament.

The final proved to be rather an easy thing for F. block. The scores being.

Campbell, S. and A. v. Pauli and Scholet, 6–4
Campbell, S. and A. v. Rundell and Goeb, 6–3
Mayne and Brett v. Pauli and Scholet, 6–4
Mayne and Brett v. Rundell and Goeb, 6–1

For the winners Mayne and Campbell played best. The tennis proved a great success and provided a good day's amusement.

**OUR EXCHANGES.**


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**NEW ZEALAND SECURES MORE OF OUR EX-STUDENTS.**

J. W. Hardfield (diploma, 1906), instructor in agriculture at the College, has been appointed to a similar position under the Auckland Board of Agriculture, N.Z. There he will again have ex-student A. V. Domans as a colleague, and New Zealand is fortunate in securing the services of the two instructors.

We congratulate Hardfield on his well deserved advancement, but are sorry to lose him. Born at Lila, in the Loyalty Islands, he was educated at the Eltham School, Kent, England, when that school was situated at Blackheath. He obtained the College Diploma in Agriculture in 1900, then did further work at the Sydney Technical School, and was appointed instructor in agriculture at the Burdale High School in 1907; in 1911 he was made experimentalist at the College and the same year was appointed to the position of instructor in agriculture.

The latter position involves a large amount of lecturing and field instruction which has increased correspondingly to the growth of the College.

John Bull (1902–5), who took a special course in carpentry at the College, has been appointed as instructor in woodwork and farm carpentry under the Waigau Education Board. Following his course at the College he entered the trade in Sydney as an apprentice and attended the Sydney Technical College for a full course, taking honours in woodwork and building construction at his final examination. He was then appointed assistant instructor in carpentry at the College which he has now vacated for the post in New Zealand.

He has taken up his residence with his family at Fielding, N.Z. At the College he was an enthusiastic and excellent rifle shot. We wish him good fortune in his new sphere.

**FIRST XI HOCKEY TEAM.**

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THE SPORTS CLUB.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Sports Club was held on August 6. Mr. C. Potts was in the chair and there were some 30 students present.

The election of the committees for the various branches of sport was as follows:-

General Secretary—Student Patterson was elected but he subsequently resigned and Student Walter was elected in his stead on August 7.

Football—Students G. G. Potts, C. A. Lee and S. Campbell.

Rugby—Students F. E. Paul, C. J. Macquarrie and S. Campbell.

Wicket—Students J. Kemp, Rickards and McElroy.

Rifle Club—Mr. Inder, Students A. Campbell and E. Stephens.

Swimming—Students Kemp, Rickards and Hollingworth.

Gymnastics—Students Thorpe, Kershaw and Smith.

Rifle Club—Mr. Inder, Students A. Campbell and E. Stephens.

General Business—The following motions were carried:—(i) "That all motions to be put to a general meeting of the Sports Club, or which notice is given in the 'Club' notice board for seven clear days before such meeting, and further that such motions must be carried by a two-thirds majority of the meeting." (ii) "In the event of a student or students wishing to call a general meeting of the Sports Club, a request, stating reasons, must first be submitted to the Sports Committee, who will then decide whether such meeting is to be called or not."

The following motion will be moved at the next general meeting:—"That the champion halfback athlete of the College have a distinction placed on his blazer and that this be retrospective."

FOOTBALL.

By Student G. G. St. C. Potts.

College First XV. v. Holwood F.C.

This match was played at the College on August 15, 1914. Holwood kicked off against the sun, and Still returned the kick down the line with fine judgment. From the line-out Hadley passed to Johnson, the half back, who set the backs moving, which ended in Goodchild scoring at the corner after a very determined run. S. Campbell failed with the kick.

From now the College took charge and two tries came in quick succession by Mr. McGillivray, S. Campbell converting one. Mr. McGillivray obtained his tries by following up fast, driving with good judgment, and using his weight to advantage.

S. Campbell was the next to score. From the line-out Mr. McGillivray passed to the back and the ball went across to Goodchild on the wing, who was stopped, he in-passed to Campbell, who ran well and scored. McBroom converted. The next to score was McLaren, who followed up fast from a penalty kick by McBroom.

McBroom kicked at goal but the ball flew wide, and McLaren rushing up fast, secured and fell over. Campbell converted.

The half-time whistle now sounded with the scores: College, 12; Holwood, nil.

From the kick-off Holwood pressed hard, but Still continually drove them back with good line kicks. His play throughout was splendid, and he centred when on attack with well judged kicks.

Thorpe now scored a good individual try. From a kick Thorpe secured, beat two men, posting over the full back's head, and running fast showed the field a clean pair of heels and scored under the posts. McBroom converted. College, 26; Holwood, nil.

From a line-out Hadley broke through and passed to Allison, who scored. Campbell converted. College, 31; Holwood, nil.

The play was very even and S. Campbell was doing good work in the backs. However, play soon hovered near Holwood's line and from a line-out Morrow secured, gave the dammy pass to two men, and after getting Allison into a good position, passed the last named scoring the try. McBroom failed to convert.

The final whistle went shortly after with the College victors by 34 points to nil after a very good game.

The points scored would make one think it was an interesting match, but this was not so. The points were scored in an excellent manner, and the College played the best combination game of the season.

FOOTBALL RESULTS.

June 8th Hawkesbury Jun. v. Holwood Jun. Won 70...0

Aug. 1st v. Warrego...0...10...3

Aug. 8th v. Wavell...0...10...3

Sept. 1st v. University...Lost 8...25

13th v. Holwood...Won 34...0

A DREAM.

Officers v. Student's Football Match.

(By "Ref."

Just as the petty affairs of States, and the internal discords of nations faded into insignificance with the event of the present European crisis, so the Lecture v. Special Match, as also all other struggles on the sport's ground, or functions within the walls of the H.A.C. lost their momentary interest and were forgotten when it was announced that the officers had accepted the challenge of the students to measure swords on the football field.

Anticipation made the great day seem far off, but it arrived at last. The crowd included some Richmond folk who were never before seen at a football match, Old Boys and every student to whom the "tags" turned out.

SECOND XI. HOME TEAM.

Robertson and who in the colloquial lingo of a student is termed a "runt." Some argued when they saw the list up on the board. From the scrum Johnston secured the ball and ran strongly, but was over-balanced by his opponents, and amid the horror remembered that he cannot be held responsible for the non-acceptance of the paper.

Referee Biddle protested that he was wasting his time in drawing a diagram but he insisted and mechanically talking eight paces he kicked, the ball describing a beautiful parabola through the air, but the kicker having mis-calculated the force to be applied, the ball dropped short.

From the drop-out Barlow, "the cream" of the backs, kicked into touch at the centre. From the line-out McBroom broke away, dribbled, and Thorpe picked up and "butter-flied" his way through the opposing backs and fell over. The referee had dropped behind being a little out of condition, but admired a try. Campbell added the extra points.

The whites now made a great rally in their play and direction of the force to be applied. From the line-out Barlow, he was carried off at the corner. "He was carried off in fine style headed by Musson." However, at 5.30 p.m. the ball was kicked off the thundering. The vanguard pranced off in three styles headed by Musson, Campbell followed. From the scrum Johnston secured passed to Lee, who ran strongly, but Potts soon put the acid on him, the ball going wide. Wyndham, the snappy little half, gathered in, "ducked" behind the pack and passed to Collins who attempted to screw punt, but was tackled. A rake ensued, but the referee blew his whistle and cautioned Wyndham for "foul," "play and Collins for 'whipping in the leather' too freely. Both players remonstrated but a voice from one of the Officer's was heard to say: "What rot, when the referee speaks you must suspect something is wrong. Biddle's been here for 23 years and he ought to know."

From the pack the ball went quickly from Collins, to Cobb, to Barlow, to Goodchild, who made a "free line" for the posts but cut in and passed to Pratt, "who was stemmed at the corner." He was carried off and Helsham suggested that he be put on the sick list.

From the line-out, Reid, "the white hope," got a mark. Potts took the kick. Reid, by a succession of digs of his heel, made almost a fresh in which to place the ball. Potts observed the angle to be about 30 degrees.

Changes of addresses should be communicated to the Editor without delay, otherwise he cannot be held responsible for the non-acceptance of the paper.
FOR PRACTICAL WORK.

HAWKESBURY COLLEGE. PRAISE FROM AN AMERICAN VISITOR.

Dr. Snowden, of the American Trade Commission, National Association of Manufacturers, visited the Hawkesbury Agricultural College yesterday as a guest of the Ministry for Railways, Mr. Hope, in company with his colleagues, Mr. Jow, Kirby, jun., and Captain David Parry, and was especially struck with the great work in the science of farming which is being done at the institution under Mr. H. W. Potts.

Dr. Snowden was for some time European Commissioner for the Carnegie Foundation Society for the Advancement of Teaching, and in this capacity he visited the principal schools and colleges of every kind in Great Britain and on the Continent.

"I am quite certain," he said to a Daily Telegraph representative, "that there is no other agricultural college in the world that is doing more practical work than is being done at your magnificent institution. The science of agriculture and that which pertains to the land in all its forms has a tremendous bearing on the prosperity of the country. To prove that statement, I shall merely cite, as an example, Iowa, where simply the selection of maize corn has so increased its productiveness that the State is now benefiting $5,000,000 more per annum than it did before the selection took place. The same thing follows, of course, with everything which comes from the earth and the stock, and I am quite satisfied from what I saw that Mr. Potts is working along on these same practical lines."

Dr. Snowden added that he did not know how fully New South Wales appreciated Mr. Potts' efforts, but there was no doubt that he was deserving of every support. The party included Mr. F. Tate, M.A., Under-Secretary, Department of Public Instruction, Sydney; Miss Board; and Mr. J. H. Whitt, Under-Secretary for Public Instruction.

Under Secretary, Department of Public Instruction, Sydney; Miss Board; and Mr. J. H. Whitt, Under-Secretary for Public Instruction.
THE HAWAIIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE JOURNAL.

The soil is exceedingly rich, being volcanic in origin, and all the conditions needed to create wealth of growth, colour and fertility exist here in the maximum degree. All the public buildings, colleges and churches exhibit great taste and commendable architectural skill in their erection. The beauty of the scenery in each instance is enhanced by the well laid out grounds and gorgeous display of flowering shrubs, balanced by a variety of palms.

On getting on to our training ship, the heat sufficed the passengers. A strong current was formed. A busy program of sports, dances, concerts, etc. was prepared and carried out in a systematic manner. The aim was to keep everyone busy, and this was accomplished.

On reaching Honolulu we began to realise the rich charms and rare beauty of the Island of Oahu. After residing there for four days we heartily and well pleased with Hawaii, expressed by the famous American writer, Mark Twain.

No alien land can ever be the equal of that one; no other land could longingly and beseechingly mould me sleeping and waking through half a lifetime, that one has done. Other things leave me, but it abides; other things change, but it remains the same.

The Maui Islands were taken over from native control only 15 years ago. The official statistics set out in unsuitable terms the vast progress made in production and trade in that period. The climate and soil are ideal for coffee, sugar, coffee, rice, fibre, fruits, and spices. The climate and scenery are notable, the former being remarkably equal and the latter of unusual attractiveness. The annual average temperature is 72 degrees F., the minimum 51 degrees F., and the maximum 88 degrees F. The latter is the exceptional heat. Situated at the protected aspect of the Island of Oahu, the trade winds are modified by the Korean mountain range. The average rainfall is as high as 120 inches.

The charm of the scenery lies in the picturesque setting of the city, flanked by wide-sloping valleys, the intervening ridges acting as a coyer batiste to the mountain range. The topographical soidage on a side, prominent among which is that formed by the Royal Hawaiian palms growing 40 feet high, add a distinctive aspect to the whole scene. The suburbs and city are furnished with an electric car system in point of speed and equipment ahead of Sydney.

A journey to every height is a delightful experience. All the busy city men live in the suburbs in tumbling-shaped houses of special design to suit the temperate climate, and choice and quaint forms of architecture are evidenced on all sides. These pretty and attractive houses appear in the midst of well-groomed gardens and suburbs, well-stocked with palms, cedars, flowering shrubs and trees, with here and there a hedge of hibiscus or well covered with magnificent flowering earth. A notable feature is the abundance of flowers. Any person starting from the gravel road pathway into the garden surrounding the private house. The only sign of life for the prettiness is the footpath or marginal stone ridget a few inches above ground.

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enterprise of the Americans. The striking element from my point of view is the confidence and reliance Americans have in the value of science to their investments.

I was fortunate to visit the well-equipped and staffed experiment station provided by the United States Government and the Board of Agriculture of the Americas. It is located at the station for sugar experiments conducted by the sugar planters for the study of the effects of climate, entomology and animal industry. The laboratories, with qualified chemists, entomologists, vegetable pathologists, sugar technologists, are kept fully equipped with modern apparatus and scientific intelligence to guide him in his work of commercial agriculture.

There is an excellent agricultural college for training students to take the skilled positions in the various primary industries. The teachers are nearly all Hawaiians. They take the cases without acknowledging the kindly confidence and fact on which we have settled there under such genial and vigorous natural conditions.

I left Honolulu with the abiding impression that the Hawaiian Islands are going to be centralised through the Panama Canal. I cannot leave without acknowledging the kindness and confidence of the Americans, their warmth of welcome, and the unstinted assistance in which they always profuse assistance. They are doing work noble in the Hawaiian Islands, and have to their guidance a school that is the result of the work of the Teachers, the highest we could get.

The soils are of different kinds, in various states of productiveness. The leafy, straw-colored or green prunes to the acre. The State of California is very productive. It has 5,492,800

One finds orchards planted on all kinds of soils, and in various states of productiveness. Prunes are planted 22 by 28 feet apart, and in most cases by the square system.

As soon as the trees get properly moulded into shape, the growers only prune every second year, and others only keep the dead wood cleared out. There seems to be a great diversity of opinion on pruning, and I know most successful prune growers that allow intervals of two and three years between pruning. At the same time more growers admit that methodical pruning each year will give better and larger fruit, and it is the big prune that pays.

Irrigation, though not always essential, in many cases means a considerable increase in dollars to the grower. Generally speaking, Santa Clara Valley does not depend on irrigation for its crop. The past summer has been dry and hot, and as a consequence many of the orchards have suffered. Six miles from San Jose I was on two orchards, side by side. On the one, by a system of wells they had been able to water to the greatest part of the orchard. They also ploughed and worked up their land early in the spring, and by continuous cultivation preserved the moisture put into the winter rains. On the other, first they had a fair crop. The adjoining place ploughed late and were unable to get the water. Consequently, the trees died and the others got a bad set-back. The rainfall for the past two seasons has been considerably below normal. At 15 inches, the growers a fair crop. The rainfall for the past two seasons has been considerably below normal. At 15 inches, the growers had the prune crop to practically nil in this valley. But wherever the grower had access to water, he was able to harvest what prunes the frost left. On the Hecke Ranch, in the Santa Clara Valley, which escaped the frost, we irrigated by the check system, three times between spring and harvest, getting a 20 per cent. crop. The feature about the orchards in the Santa Clara Valley is the absence of fences between orchards and on the road boundaries. The

GAINING EXPERIENCE IN AMERICAN FRUIT CENTRES.

BY EX-STUDENT F. OWEN FRENNICH (Orchard Certificate, 1910).

(CONTINUED FROM PAGc 135.)

HOOD RIVER apples are known the world over and foreign agents speak of them as the "famous Hood River apples." Yet Hood River produces an infinitesimal part of the apples produced in America. New York State, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Missouri and Iowa, in the order named, are the leading apple-producing States in this country. And Iowa, fifth on the list, produces more apples than the combined output of Oregon and Washington.

The secret of this great fame is not so much the quality of the fruit, but the quality of the grading and the standardised pack. This is the great point in the industry that Australian and growers should get and universally adopt. Then it will be only a short time before they, too, can enjoy a similar fame in the great markets of the world.

Prunes were first introduced to California in 1849 from a French sail, and were planted in Trinity County. There is no meeting with success there he finally moved to San Jose, in the Santa Clara Valley. It was not until 1885. the attention was paid to the prune as a commercial product, but since then it has made rapid progress until to-day the State of California with normal crops of the world produces between 50 and 70 per cent. of the entire world's output.

Santa Clara Valley is the best prune-producing section in the State. It has 5,492,800

Pineapple Lard

Pineapple Bacon
ordinary observer cannot tell where one orchard ends and the other commences. In many cases one could pick prunes from the electric cars which run all through the valley.

Where fertilisers are used, it is principally stable manure from the cities, which, instead of being dumped in the ocean, is sold at reasonable rates. Some growers use the commercial fertilisers and a very great many don't use any fertilisers at all.

The trees blossom in the later part of March and the fruit ripens during the later part of August and September.

The early spring ploughing and constant summer cultivation, besides conserving the moisture makes a smooth and level surface for the pickers. As a general rule the prunes are never picked but are allowed to fall. The trees are gone over three or four times, each time giving a little assistance by a gentle jarring of the branches. The last time the trees are shaken hard so that all the fruit is cleaned right off. Intervals of seven days or more are allowed between each picking. Sheets are no more used and the fruit just falls right on to the ground. Pickers are paid from five cents per box, according to the size of the log box, or $1.75 and $2 a day. They pick the prunes up in buckets and dump them into the picking boxes. The fruit is then hauled to the dipping house and passed through a solution of lye. About 5 or 6 lb. of concentrated lye or caustic soda are used to 100 gallons of water, though there are many variations to the quantity used. The water is brought to and kept at boiling point. If the solution is weak they will have to remain in it longer; if on the other hand it is strong, a few seconds will be sufficient to cut the skin, which is the object of the dipping so that the fruit will dry quicker, without fermentation and with a clear dry meat. From the lye they are rinsed in clean fresh water and spread on to eight-feet trays, which are placed on to a low wagggon and hauled to the drying yard and cured by the sun. Under normal conditions the fruit dries in from ten days to two weeks. When the fruit is about three parts dry, the trays are stacked leaving an air space at each alternate end. Here they are allowed to finish curing. They are then sorted over and any that are too wet are put back in the sun for a short time, sunburnt and any that show the seed are thrown out and generally used for hog feed. When sorted they are dumped from the trays into log boxes and carted to the packing house.

(To be continued.)

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