

Strawberry Time

By G. A. CARDWELL
Agricultural and Industrial Agent At-
lantic Coast Line Railroad Co.

Springtime—Strawberry time is here again. It is an inspiring experience to take a trip through the strawberry belt to see the tightening up, the increased activity and new life springing into existence with the opening of the strawberry shipping season.

The berry patches are things of beauty, the soft dark green of the leaves making an effective setting for the lovely white blossoms, and the brilliant red fruit.

The pickers, mostly darkies, women and children, are in the fields by the hundreds, happy in having their light and profitable task to perform, and safe in the thought that winter is gone, and spring with its joyous mildness and freedom from discomfort, is in the open, is here.

At the packing sheds there are scenes of activity, here the berries are received by an experienced workman who carefully grades and packs the fruit so as to pass the inspection, later on, of the buyers, and to uphold the standard of the Carolina berry district in the markets of the north.

A visit to the buying and loading platform discloses a continuation of the feverish activity previously noticed in connection with the handling of this golden crop. Here the close observer will see an interesting game in progress. Note the apparently careless interest of the buyers, as the fruit in 32 quart crates is brought in for sale. And note the anxiety of the grower until the sale is made. Now the trade has been made, a satisfactory price having been offered. The grower has the buyers check in his pocket, and is on his way to the bank in a happy frame of mind, after having delivered his load of berries to the caretaker of the iced car, standing ready

and some others to a less extent. Many of the men and women of today, living in these thriving places were sent to college on strawberry money. Their homes were built, or painted and otherwise improved, automobiles and other necessities and luxuries were bought with money derived from this crop. In fact, it has been often stated that strawberry money has done more to raise the standard of living in our section than has any other crop.

A partial analysis of this industry during the past 15 seasons may be interesting to some. In 1908, there were shipped by freight 1095 cars. In 1909, 1316 cars; in 1910, 1870 cars. Following the 1910 season, there was a steady decline in production each season, with two exceptions, when there was a slight upward tendency, possibly due to favorable growing seasons. The lowest ebb of the industry was in 1920, when only 420 cars were moved to the markets.

The chief factors entering into the decline of this industry, during the period mentioned, were the strawberry weevil, shortage of labor, higher prices received for cotton and tobacco, and in some instances lack of success in marketing.

As a general thing, those farmers who continued to grow berries made money out of the crop. Having convinced himself of this fact, the writer concluded that conditions did not justify the abandonment of this formerly highly profitable crop, and that it could be made to again yield large returns. A movement was therefore started to revive the industry. It took about three years work to put the idea across, and for the rehabilitation to commence; but in 1921, the records show the shipment of cars more than in 1920, or a movement of 480 cars.

During 1920, and 1921, much additional acreage was planted to strawberries, and in 1922, the carload shipments jumped to 1018 cars, an increase of 538 cars over the previous year. This increased production meant a gain in wealth produced, of very nearly or quite a half-million dollars.

It was estimated that the shipments this season would probably be 10 per cent greater than last year, but the recent cold weather has damaged prospects, just how much no one knows, possibly 15 percent, more or less.

The first carload of berries shipped this year from the Carolinas, was shipped from Chadbourne on Saturday April the 14th, this being only four days later than last year, although weather conditions have been somewhat unfavorable for the ripening of the fruit.

No one can accurately forecast the seasons market condition, but the writer is hopeful that the present season will yield the growers a fair average price in return for their investment and labor.

The Louisiana shipping season opened on the 27th, factory prices being paid for the fruit, and the market has continued strong, the present prices being paid to the growers ranging from \$10.00 to \$11.50, based on a 32 quart container.

While Florida is still shipping berries in carloads, and Alabama has commenced to ship, the prices paid in the market centers continue strong for the best varieties, in good condition.

The North Carolina season has opened at about \$10.00 to \$10.50 per 32 quart crate paid to growers at points of shipment. However, Government Market News Service, a few days ago, made the following comment regarding Carolina berries on the Washington market: "North Carolina 32 quart crates, various varieties, wide range quality, best 25-30 cents, poorer 15 cents per quart."

Of course these berries were not up to the proper standard, and they represent the first picking, after unfavorable weather conditions, and the quotation contains a most wholesome lesson or warning to each and every grower, and to the buyers as well. The market wants good fruit of uniform kind, and quality. We should bear this in mind in fixing the North Carolina standard. Freshness, honest and careful grading and packing, and a well built clean container will pay handsome profits, while a lowering of the standard by careless, indifferent growers, and buyers, will reflect unfavorably upon the industry as a whole.

Let us raise the North Carolina standard high, and fight, if necessary, to see that it is not lowered.

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Indianapolis, Indiana.—"Now I want to tell you just what induced me to take your medicine. It seemed that I had some kind of weakness so that I could not carry a child its full time. The last time I was troubled this way I had a nervous breakdown and was a complete wreck. The doctor thought I would not live, and if I did that I would never be well and strong again. But I told them I was going to get well, that I was not going to die just then. My husband got me Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and I took six bottles of it. I soon got strong again and had three more children. I have recommended the Vegetable Compound ever since, and if you could see me now you would think I had always been well."—Mrs. MARY F. HERRICK, 224 Detroit St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is an excellent medicine for expectant mothers and should be taken during the entire period. It has a general effect to strengthen and tone up the entire reproductive system, so that it may work in every respect effectually as nature intends.

Crippled by Corns? Use "Gets-It"

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AMERICAN PUBLIC INVITED TO ENJOY PARKS OF NATION

Interior Department Has Sent Invitations to the American People—Opening Dates

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Preparations to handle a million and half visitors in the national parks this year have been made by the national park service.

Public camp grounds for the motor camper are being extended, hotels and permanent camps are increasing facilities for handling motorists, and the transportation lines are adding much new equipment. In announcing the



Need Building Up? If You Have a Cough or Cold at This Time Take This Advice

Ft. Thomas, Ky.—"I have successfully used Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for colds and La Grippe and as a general tonic. My mother also has used it as a family medicine for a long time. We both think it should be kept on hand at all times in every home."—Mrs. C. W. Craft, 121 Ft. Thomas Ave.

As soon as you start to take this "Discovery" you begin to feel its bracing, appetizing effect. Buy at your neighborhood drug store, in tablets and liquid, or send 10c to Dr. Pierce, President Invalids' Hotel in Buffalo, N. Y., for a trial pkg.

opening and closing dates for the parks, Secretary Work of the Interior department sends the following invitation to the American people:

"With a lavish hand nature has moulded throughout our land the most magnificent and awe-inspiring scenery, surpassing in beauty and grandeur that offered by any foreign country. These spots—our national parks—have been set aside by the American government to be maintained untouched by the inroads of civilization so that you and your children may enjoy them."

"Roads have been built through deep-out canyons, across towering mountain ranges, beside rippling streams filled with fishing trout, and into primal forests. Hotels and camps have been erected to provide comfortable accommodations in the most distant and inaccessible places. Free camp grounds have been provided for those who wish to bring their own equipment and camp out. These unspoiled bits of native America are for you. The rare the playgrounds and the recreation parks of the people. To visit them and see them is to inspire pride and make more real your love for America. In the name of the Government I invite you to be its guest."

The opening and closing dates of the park seasons are:

Park	Opening Date	Closing Date
Crater Lake, Ore.	July 1	Sept. 30
General Grant, Cal.	May 24	Oct. 10
Glacier, Mont.	June 15	Sept. 15
Hawaii, H. I.	Open all the year	
Grand Canyon, Ariz.	Open all the year	
Hot Springs, Ark.	Open all the year	
Lafayette, Me.	Open all the year	
Lassen Volcanic, Cal.	June 1	Sept. 15
Mesa Verde, Col.	May 15	Nov. 1
Mt. McKinley, Al.	July 1	Sept. 15
Mt. Rainier, Wash.	June 15	Sept. 15
Platt, Okla.	Open all the year	
Rocky Mt., Col.	Open all the year	
Sequoia, Cal.	May 24	Oct. 10
Sully's Hill, N. D.	June 1	Sept. 30
Wind Cave, S. D.	June 1	Sept. 30
Yellowstone, Wyo.	June 20	Sept. 20
Zion, La.	Open all the year	
Yosemite, Cal.	May 15	Oct. 15

Planting and restocking of waters in national parks promise one of the big features of the year. The department officials. The streams and lakes are expected to be teeming with trout and other game fish. The season opens and apris are thrown open to anglers.

Abulletin issued by the Interior Department which is available for the asking, describing the nature of the fishing, the limitations on catch, fees and other data, has been compiled for the national park visitor.

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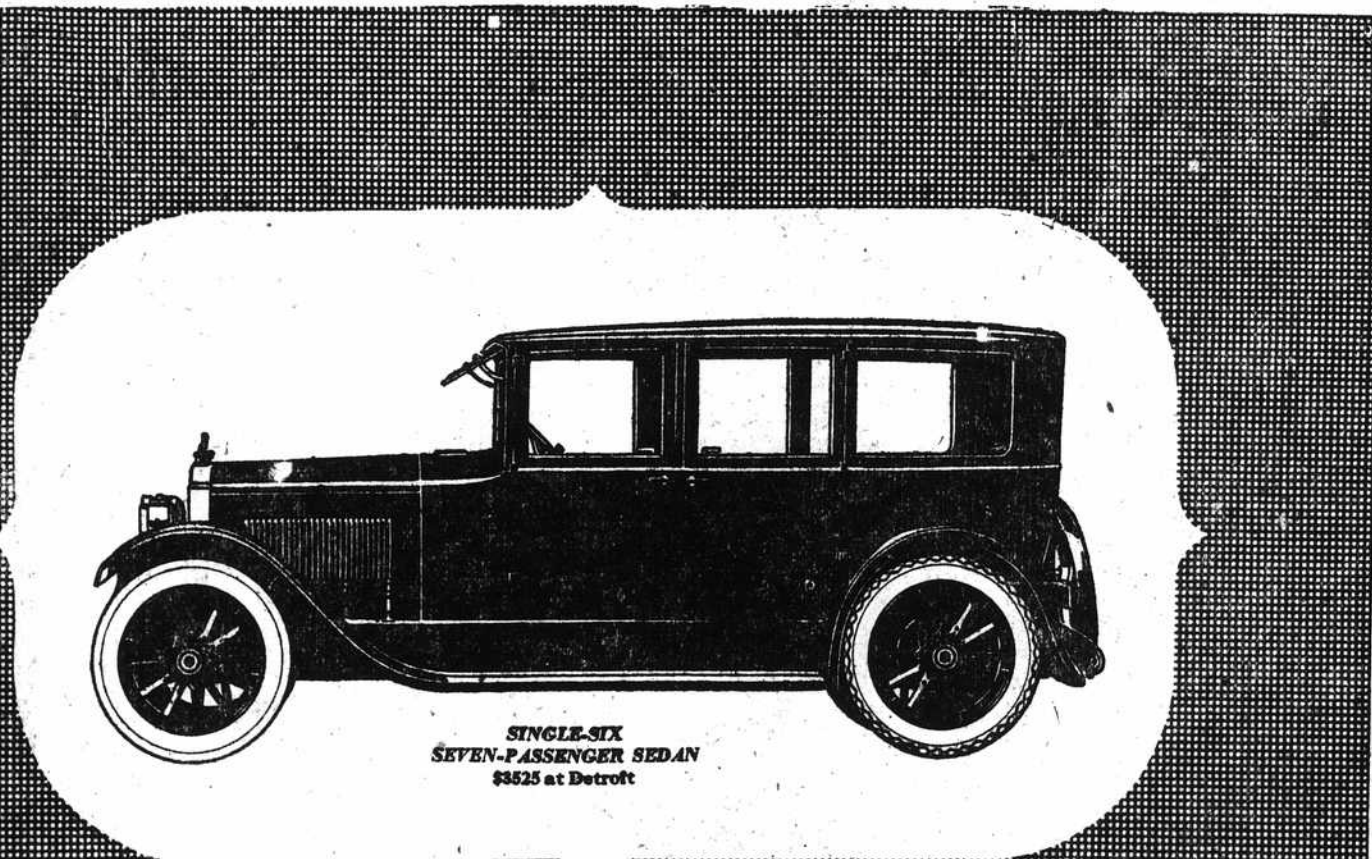
KINSTON, N. C., April 21.—Dr. Frank McCallum, of this city, a former British army captain, has been apprized of the death at Kollifer, Sask., of Lieut. Peter F. Fleming, for many years a close friend of the local man. Lieutenant Fleming was a retired officer. He had the distinction that cannot be

shared by many at a time, even the even the seventh son of a seventh son of aristocratic old Scotch lineage, as he was. In his youth he was an officer in the famous Scots Greys, pictures of which in action have been familiar to generations of people the world over. He was with the Greys, 25 years, retiring as a lieutenant. Promotion is rare in the famous old outfit. A son, Alec Fleming, was under Dr. McCall-

lum's command for a brief time. The young man won high honors for valor. Another former Grey, a minister in Northern Canada, conducted the funeral of Lieutenant Fleming.

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