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'Round Kent County

With The Rover

The Tomato; It's Packing And Popularity

Throughout Kent County those long, red rambling buildings which we know as "Canneries" are being cleansed, painted and repaired, in pregaration for the coming month, when the tomato ripens and the packing season opens. And, what with price-fixing codes, scarcity of contracts and stringency of Federal regulations, this year promises to offer more problems to the packer than he has ever had before.

In order to present a more or less sketchy outline of this industry which provides a hundred thousand dollars for Kent countians in an average year, we visited Howard Baldwin's packery one day last week and found that genial cosmopolitan on hand and preparing for business. When we drove upon the scene Howard was supervising the storage of tomato cans, into which this year's crop will be packed. A long roller chute extended from a freight car to a belt carriage in the building, and boys were keeping it filled with crates of cans.

Walking inside, and chatting with Howard along the way, we gathered a lot of interesting figures. In an average season 1,000,000 cans of tomatoes go out from this one cannery, and it requires 80,000 baskets of the ripe field fruit to fill those million cans. $8,000 is paid out in an average year for the laborers to pack the "tomatoes," and $15,000 is about an average output to the farmers for the crop.

Canning, or packing, tomatoes is a risky business, according to Howard Baldwin; and he should know for he's been in it long enough and has seen the ups and downs of many seasons of picking and packing. First of all, the season is short, and a bad spell of weather may wreck it before you get started. Then, it is a business which requires a tremendous outlay of cash even before you have an opportunity to sell any of the pack. Farmers must be paid cash for their crop, labor for canning require cash, and the manufacturer of tin cans insists upon getting his money at once.

Getting back to the actual canning process, it takes one tomato exactly thirty minutes to travel from the basket, in which it is brought to the cannery by the farmer, to the storage room where it is laid away in its tin-can coffin to await shipment; and throughout that thirty minutes it is constantly on the move. Seven minutes of preparation is required before the tomato is ready for the can, and then it is cooked twenty-three minutes in the steam-heated vat.

A stringent order this year compels all canners to provide new cleansing methods to take care of sour gnats, which settle in the bruised parts of tomatoes. Howard Baldwin is developing an ingenuout contraption—his own invention—to handle this. When the tomatoes come from the farmer's baskets, they are culled and then dumped in a conveyor which carries them to a tank. Here they are heated to 130 degrees, which is warm enough to bring the gnats to the surface. Then they come up out of the bath to be met by a forceful shower which knocks 'em cat-west. They are then chilled again in a steam tunnel, to scare out the more timid gnats, and finally arrive at another cold shower.

The cans in which the tomatoes are packed, in this plant at least, are never touched by human hands until they are sealed and ready to be crated. And the preliminary cleansing process, even before they are ready for the germ-killing twenty-three minutes in the steam vat, is enough to discourage most any form of bacteria.

With the growth and spread of the packing industry the markets for Maryland tomatoes have shifted considerably. Twenty years ago Chicago and the Middle West got most of our pack, but today New England is our chief outlet; though there is a large market in the south still for our small—or number one—cans. The popularity of the once-lowly tomato has risen by leaps and bounds. Once considered poisonous, it is now prescribed as an ideal baby food, a tonic for the sick, a pick-me-up for the morning after. In fact, tomato-juice cocktail rates head and shoulders with bacon-and-eggs on the American breakfast menu.

In any conversation about business the trend usually turns to "the good old days," and Howard Baldwin gave me a figure or two for a closing paragraph. In 1918, he says, his cannery paid out $100,000 to Kent county farmers for their tomato crop. In that season fifty cents a basket was the contract price for the crop, and as high as seventy-five was paid for additional baskets.

For this year's crop, said Mr. Baldwin, there are fewer acres under contract than ever before, which is due, he says, to the uncertainty of the code, the lack of stability in the market as a result of price-fixing. It is the first year that he has ever operated without contracts. He hopes, however, that the local farmers will get twenty cents a basket for their crop.

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Galena To Mark Tercentenary

ST. DENNIS' TO HOLD A MASS JULY 4TH

A celebration in honor of the Tercentenary of the settling of Maryland and the establishment of religious freedom will be held in the new St. Dennis' Church, Galena, on Wednesday morning, July 4th, at 10 o'clock, standard time.

St. Dennis' is one of the most fitting locations for a Tercentenary Celebration on the Eastern Shore. Being a part of the Old Bohemia Parish which was founded by The Jesuits in 1704, it is located near the spot where Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence and his brother John Carroll, the first Bishop of Baltimore, attended school.

A Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving for all the blessings which God has granted to Maryland, will be sung by The Rev. John M. Walsh, pastor of St. Dennis. The Rev. Charles Conway, pastor of the Sacred Heart Church, Chestertown, will be the Deacon, and The Rev. Andrew Tocik, pastor of St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Sub-Deacon. The sermon will be delivered by The Very Rev. J. Francis Tucker, D. D. O. S. F. S. The public is cordially invited to attend. The ladies of the parish will serve a moderate price luncheon after the services.

A COMMENDABLE MOVE

Leaders of the Catholic Church throughout the United States deserve praise for their action in heading a drive against indecent movies.

Local theatre operators should promptly be exonerated of all blame since the block booking system used in distributing pictures practically takes all preference away from the local man as to what pictures he shall show. To a large extent it is a case of take those pictures the higher-ups allot to certain classes of theatres, or go without.

Likewise national movie magnates are not entirely to blame for they have simply sponsored and sold the type of pictures which the public desired, and practically demanded. Knowing how fickle the public is, movie interests have drifted along with the demand and have produced pictures of both a most superior and a lowly nature.

In their present move Catholic leaders have found the real key to the situation. If they succeed in crystalizing sufficient public sentiment against indecent movies the production of degrading reels undoubtedly will cease, as the very lifeblood of this industry, like most others, is liberal patronage.

The blame rests squarely upon the public — not movie magnates. Despite all the censure that it heaped upon them, we have not the slightest doubt but that screen stars prefer making clean, entertaining, instructive pictures to playing the roles of degraded characters whose chief aim is to demoralize all with whom they come in contact.

Few things have such wide-spread possibilities for wholesome entertainment and spreading general education as to movies, which reach out all over the world and contact people from every strata of life. Appealing as they do to the very keen senses of sight and hearing, the context of movies is quickly comprehended by people of even sub-normal intelligence and the effect is both lasting and far-reaching.

By and large, movies are most entertaining and useful so that an entire industry should not be condemned for a few rare exceptions, particularly when these exceptions are the product of public demand.

The present situation is one which merits definite action, but one which can be cleared up in a few months without serious monetary loss to anyone. So soon as indecent movies become unprofitable they will cease, and be replaced by those of a more uplifting nature.

It is also commendable on the part of the Protestant Churches that they have joined in this move for cleaner pictures.

We don't want friends to be perfect. We want them to be like we are.

Deep characters prefer to keep their sorrows to themselves.

PARTY AFFILIATION CANNOT BE CHANGED BEFORE PRIMARY

The date of the primary election this year will be not earlier than September 8th and not later than September 15th. The two governing bodies of the two parties will settle the date. The impression seems to be that it will be on Tuesday, September 11th. Whatever the date there will be a pre-primary registration on the Tuesday preceding the primary election.

The impression exists that at this special registration a voter may change his or her party affiliation. This is an error. The election law states that "No person or voter after having had his affiliation registered shall be permitted to make any change in his party affiliation unless the same shall be made at least six months prior to the day of the primary election." Those who have declined to affiliate may change to an affiliation within this six months period.

This effectively disposes of the belief that party affiliations may be changed, because it is not possible now to make the change within the prescribed six months period.

The registration days for the general election will be on October 2 and 9 with a revision day on October 16.

REALIZING THE DUTY TO THE PUBLIC

In many ways the most hopeful thing about the present moment in American life is the fact that people generally are beginning to see the necessity of adopting a new ethical standard in their dealings with one another. This new standard can be expressed very simply It is the notion that a man's first duty is not to his pocketbook. but to the public at large. You can find a direct statement of it in a speech delivered recently in Chicago by Earle W. Evans, president of the American Bar Association. In this speech Mr. Evans urged that the lawyers take concerted action to drive crooks and shysters out of the legal profession.

"Let it be understood," he declared, "that our duty is first, last and always the public interest and not to the interests of the profession or of the lawyer. The public and the newspapers feel that we ought to be reponsible for the crooks. I don't know but what the public and the newspapers are right.

"Who else is there who can do it? Let's clean house. It is not enough for the ethical lawyer to be ethical himself and close his eyes to everything done by his brother. He should see that the public is protected, and no ties of kinship or man are more sacred."

Mother of Dione Quintuplets Saved By Electrolux Kerosene Refrigerator

In the fight to save the lives of the five Dionne babies, the famous quintuplets born in the Canadian north woods, the latest development in automatic refrigeration played its part, according to a report received here by Mr. Philip V. Kratzer, of the Shore Radio Service, local Electrolux distributor.

The courageous efforts of the doctor and his faitful nurses to save the lives of the babies were simplified and lightened by the arrival at the Dionne home of a Kerosene-operated refrigerator from the Electrolux Factories at Evansville, Ind., is was announced. The human milk provided every few hours to the tiny incubator babies, as well as food for the mother, was protected in the refrigerator, a model of which may be seen here.

"As a contribution to the scientific efforts to bring the five babies to maturity, the Electrolux company presented the Kerosene Refrigerator to the Dionne family and rushed it to the little farm house, Mr. Kratzer told local parents.

"In a place so isolated as the Dionne home, far away from power lines or gas mains, and with no ice available, the Refrigerator that is operated with kerosene was a particularly practicable gift.

Management Approved In Inter-State Milk Fight

ELECTS NEW DIRECTORS; TWO MARYLAND COUNTIES HAVE MEN ON THE BOARD

"The vote endorsing the organization candidates is a convincing expression from our membership," said Frederick Shangle, vice president of the Inter-State Milk Producers' Association in commenting on the results of the election of directors to that organization. The successful candidates were known as the "organization" ticket and they are known to approve the majority of the policies of the association.

Those elected are John H. Bennetch, Lebanon county; Fred, W. Bleiler, Lehigh county; E. M. Crowl Chester county; Chester Gross, York county; Oliver C. Landis, Bucks county; Ivo V. Otto, Cumberland county; R. I. Tussey, Blair county; A. R. Marvel, Talbot county, Md.; and Frederick Shangle, Mercer county, N. J., all for three-year terms. Of these all have previously served on the board except Crowl who replaces Charle F. Preston, resigned, and Landis who replaces F. M. Twining who was not a candidate.

Philip Price, of Chester county, was elected to serve the remainder of a term expiring in November, 1935, having served by appointment previous to the election. M. L. Stitt, Juniata county; John S. Reisler, of Cecil county, Md.; and C. H. Joyce, of Burlington county, N. J., were elected to serve the remainder of terms expiring in November, 1934. Stitt had served previously by appointment, filling a vacancy. Joyce fills the vacancy caused by the death of C. Craig Tallman and Reisler fills the directorship formerly held, through appointment, by Hoagland Gates who has allied himself with the opposition group.

With a united association they obviously believe their markets to be safe while a disrupted association could mean only uncertainty in their minds with strong possibilities of price cuts or transfer of their markets to manufacturing outlets.

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