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telery.

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1903.

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perity.

We intend to please all our old
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Our stock is complete and prices
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customers. No other
seed as reliable. We
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Chestertown for the
above seed. A full line
now on hand.

THE STAM DRUG CO.,

Chestertown, Md.

SHERIFF'S NOTICE

Delinquent Tax Payers.

THIS is to give notice to all delinquent tax-
payers, that the Tax Books for the county
have been placed in my hand for the col-
lection of taxes, which are now due and MUST
BE PAID AT ONCE. Don't ask me to wait.

The Law Allows no Delay.

Extract from Chapter 211, Section 68, C.
Public Local Laws of 1892, says:
All tax bills unpaid on the 1st of April in
each year shall be placed in the hands of the
Sheriff of the county, who shall forthwith
proceed to seize, levy upon, advertise and
sell the property of such delinquents, or so
much thereof as is necessary to pay said taxes,
interest charges and cost of sale, and for this
purpose the said Sheriff is hereby clothed
with all the powers possessed by collectors of
taxes under the Code of Public General Laws
and the Sheriff shall report and pay over to
the Treasurer before the 1st day of June in
each year all the taxes collected by him.

Don't wait for me to levy on your prop-
erty, and advertise it, but make prompt set-
tlement and avoid extra costs.
THOMAS J. FLETCHER, Sheriff.

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all Druggists. Chichester Chemical Co.,
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Chestertown, Md.

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R. H. COLLINS, T. D. BOWERS
EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1903.

Eastern Shore Tomato Crop.

It has Become an Important Item in That
Section of the State.

GROWERS BECOMING MORE INDEPENDENT AND MAKING DEMANDS OF THE CANNERS.

The tomato crop on the Eastern Shore
has taken the place of the peach crop as
a money maker, and in every section it
is now the absorbing topic to the farm-
ers, not to speak of the hundreds of
canners who, in the last two years, have
made fortunes, smaller or larger, out of
the business.

As a matter of fact, the canning indus-
try appears to offer the greatest returns
for capital and exertion in the whole
field of Eastern Shore commercial and
manufacturing activity, and in conse-
quence the established packers are ex-
tending their operations, and, judging
from the number of new enterprises
that are announced, the ranks of these
will be doubled this summer and fall.
In every county, from Somerset to Cecil,
the interest and stir in the packing trade
is almost uniform, and it is only a slight
exaggeration of the real situation to say
that every crossroads on the shore is
likely to have a cannery of its own within
the time comes to pull the red ripe fruit
from the vines in the fields and "patches"
of the nine counties.

For some weeks the contract season
has been on, and it is impossible to esti-
mate how many thousands of acres the
growers have bound themselves to plant.
These contracts were formerly religiously
regarded by the growers in the days
when they were chiefly dependent for
the sale of tomatoes upon the packers.
Some of the latter, however, as perhaps
was natural when they had everything
their own way, were not altogether as
considerate to the other parties to the
contract as they should have been, and
in many little ways annoyed them and
caused them loss of time and money.
One leading example of this was the
practice of delaying the unloading of the
growers' wagons at the canning
houses and preventing them from reap-
ing the full advantage of their product
by enabling them to promptly pick and
deliver tomatoes.

JUMPING CONTRACTS.

Two years ago, when the crop was
short and the demands for future deliv-
ery of canned goods enormous, many
growers in Dorchester, Caroline and
other peninsular counties "jumped"
their contracts and began coming money
by shipping their tomatoes to Baltimore
and other points, and selling them at
price double or treble that fixed by the
packers in their agreements, written and
paroled. It was generally supposed at
first that the packers had only the legal
remedy of suing for damages for breach
of contract, but the evil became so dan-
gerous to their financial interests—the
more so as most of the offending grow-
ers were of a class from whom the re-
covery of the pecuniary damages was a
matter of extreme uncertainty, and the
packers themselves were under contracts
of delivery of their output at prices
which left them little margin for making
up a deficiency in their consignments—
that relief was sought in equity. A test
case was made up and carried before
Chief Judge James Alfred Pearce of the
second judicial circuit, and, to the joy
of the petitioners, he decreed specific
performance, and held that the oft-de-
cided doctrine of "government by in-
junction" could be applied to the recalc-
itrant growers. This meant that the
courts could assume jurisdiction of
tomato crops and appoint receivers to
see that fruit grown under contract
reached the packers for whom it was
destined at the time of planting. This
practically ended the "jumping" for that
season and prevented any alarming de-
gree of it last year. Associate Judge
Lloyd in the Dorchester court, decided
a case in line with the views held by
Judge Pearce, so that the courts in both
the judicial circuits on the Eastern
Shore joined in applying the remedy by
injunction against "jumpers"—a novel
and important departure in Maryland
law.

FORM OF CONTRACT.

The approved form of contract now
in use recites that A. B. (grower) agrees
to plant so many acres of tomatoes on a
certain farm and to deliver the "ripened
product of the same in good merchant-
able condition at the packing house" of
C. D. (packer) at a fixed price; to sell
none of the product of the said acres to
other parties nor to grow on the said
farm tomatoes for sale to other parties.
The contract further minutely describes
all the conditions under which tomatoes

are to be delivered, and the making of
payment therefor, and releases the
packer from obligation in case his can-
nery is destroyed by fire. The ruling
price accepted by the growers is \$8 a
ton, an increase of \$2 over the prevail-
ing figure a few years ago. There are nu-
merous growers, however, who have de-
clined to sign contracts. Last year, in
many instances tomatoes the season
through brought from \$10 to \$16 a ton in
the city markets, and those growers who
were under contract became impressed
with the fact that they were losing
money. In consequence the ironclad
contracts offered them this year met
with but little favor. Most packers
modified them so as to remove the re-
strictions on acreage and outside sales.
Others acceded to the plan of paying by
the basket instead of the ton—a plan
which the growers much prefer. Many
of them stood out for fourteen and fif-
teen cents a basket, or about \$8.50 or
\$9 00 a ton, and got it. The spirit of
combination spread among them also,
and in different localities they organized
miniature "trusts" of their own to set
and maintain prices. Many growers
have preferred to take their chances in
the open market during the season.

THE CROP OUTLOOK.

Should the weather prove favorable,
the tomato production on the Eastern
Shore this year will be enormous. To
some students of the situation the de-
mand for canned fruits shows no signs
of lessening, and they predict a rich
harvest for both the grower and the
canner. But pessimists are not lacking
who say that the business is being over-
done, and that those engaged in it will
be lucky if they do not meet dire disas-
ter. They point to the well known fact
that for years some of the leading pack-
ers struggled along under a load of debt,
and think these would be wise not to
risk their rich gains of the past two or
three years in enlarged ventures. It is
a common, and of course, perfectly dis-
interested, comment of packers that the
growers have lost their heads in contem-
plating the reported "gold mine" in the
canning business, and that it may well
be the case, even this year, that the
market will be glutted, and those farm-
ers who have scorned the sure thing of
the contracts will be glad to have the
packers take their output at any old
price. Meantime, however, both sides
are going ahead with their preparations
on such a scale of magnitude as to leave
the impression that the golden eggs of
the tomato goose are not regarded by
them as being in any real danger of ceas-
ing from the untimely taking off of that
excellent agricultural and commercial
fowl.

GROWERS BECOMING INDEPENDENT.

It is apparent that the grower is be-
coming very independent, not only from
his attitude toward the tomato contract
and his evident determination in past
seasons to get all he could out of the crop,
but also from the study he is
giving the profits of the canner.
When tomatoes were \$8 a ton and the
packers wanted the price put
down to \$5—the grower says he was not
making any money. He says the same
of \$8 a ton, and is more than disposed
to go into the packing business himself.
There are several ingenious men on the
Eastern Shore who have stepped into
the breach between grower and packer
with inventions which they extol with
all the fervency of Col. Mulberry Sellers,
and with a hard-headed practicality
which was foreign to that enthusiast.
These inventions are "portable" canners'
outfit for packing on a scale that admits
of much extension. It is said that with
one of these outfits, costing \$50, a grow-
er-canner can make \$1000 in the season,
and these are some of the figures given:
A basket of tomatoes will make ten cans,
and this basket of raw stock, for which
the packer thinks fifteen cents is a high
price, is worth seventy-five cents in the
canned state; a ton of tomatoes thus
footing up at present prices for canned
goods, about \$55.

The adviser who furnishes this glimpse
at possibilities argues that there is no-
thing in growing tomatoes for the packing
houses; that the tenant's other work
suffers when he is engrossed in harvest-
ing this crop, and that his part of the
profits is more than offset by his labor;
that the landlord sinks his profit in fer-
tilizer for the crop and his loss in other
crops, and the same applies to the
grower who owns his own farm. On
the other hand, the grower who contracts
and gets cash will have something to
the good next fall, in view of the likelihood
of an "overdone" business. The holder
of these sentiments denies that the pack-
ers are making undue profits, and says
these purchasers of tomatoes and em-
ployers of labor are the chief factors in
county development, and offer the grow-
ers all that the market for canned goods
justifies for their crop. He figures that
it costs a packer, in raw stock, cans and
material, insurance, interest on invest-
ment and pay roll 7 1/2 cents to pack a
dozen cans of tomatoes, for which the
present market price of 95 cents, less
discount and commission, nets him 72 1/2
cents, while a farmer raises 200 baskets
an acre at a cost of \$25.00 and nets
\$1.63 2/3. If his acre produces 500 bas-
kets his profit is \$34.13 at \$8 a ton. From
both these standpoints the question is
now being discussed exhaustively, "Pro
Bono Publico" and other well known
and authoritative citizens having taken
up with ardor in the columns of the
Eastern Shore papers.

MA Y BE LIKE PEACH CROP.
A peculiar feature of the tomato crop
is that its behavior is giving good

grounds for believing that it will run
the course of the peach crop, and there
are not wanting agriculturists of ex-
perience and standing who assert that
within a short period, the tomato, like
the peach, will cease to be profitably
grown hereabouts, and that it will be
transferred from the Eastern Shore and
from Maryland to another locality, just
as the peach has been. Tomatoes soon
wear out the land, it is said, and cannot
be successfully raised even in rotation
on the same ground. Ten tons or 600
baskets, is now looked upon as an extra-
ordinary yield, and five tons is thought
to be a good average. However, the
"tomato liar" is classed with the old-
time "peach liar," and few of the grow-
ers and packers who are now hard at
work in expectation of a continuance of
the tomato boom are troubled about its
early end of tomato selling. While it
is yet day, so to speak, they are satisfied.

A Case of Precedence.

Senator George F. Hoar, the venerable
Senator from Massachusetts, who has
played so serious a part in the Upper
House, has moments of clever small
talk that make his wit as much appre-
ciated in the drawing-rooms as in de-
bate.

One of the delightful things he said
was at a large formal dinner at the
White House. As the guests were
leaving the receiving-room the Hon.
Charles Emory Smith was just in front
of Senator Hoar. The ex-Cabinet
Minister at once stepped aside and in-
sisted that the Senator from Massachu-
setts precede. There was a moment's
polite parleying while Mr. Smith argued
that a man in the Senate should precede
an ex-Cabinet Minister.

"Ah, no," said Senator Hoar, bowing.
"The X's precede the Y's" (wise.)

Who was Aesop?

Aesop, the celebrated Greek fabulist
of the sixth century, B. C., of whose
history little is known except that he
was originally a slave, manumitted by
Iadmon of Sosas, and put to death by
Dolphans, probably for some witticism
at their expense.

Not to be Contradicted.

"Honesty is the best policy," said
Senator Sorghum.
"But that little transaction" protested
the confidential associate.
"Well—er—the other man's honesty
turned out to be the best policy for me,
didn't it?"—Washington Star.

A freshly cut slice of pineapple laid
on beefsteak will, in a comparatively
short time, cause softening, swelling,
and partial digestion of the meat for
a considerable depth from the surface.

LUMBER.

LUMBER.

SHINGLES.

SHINGLES.

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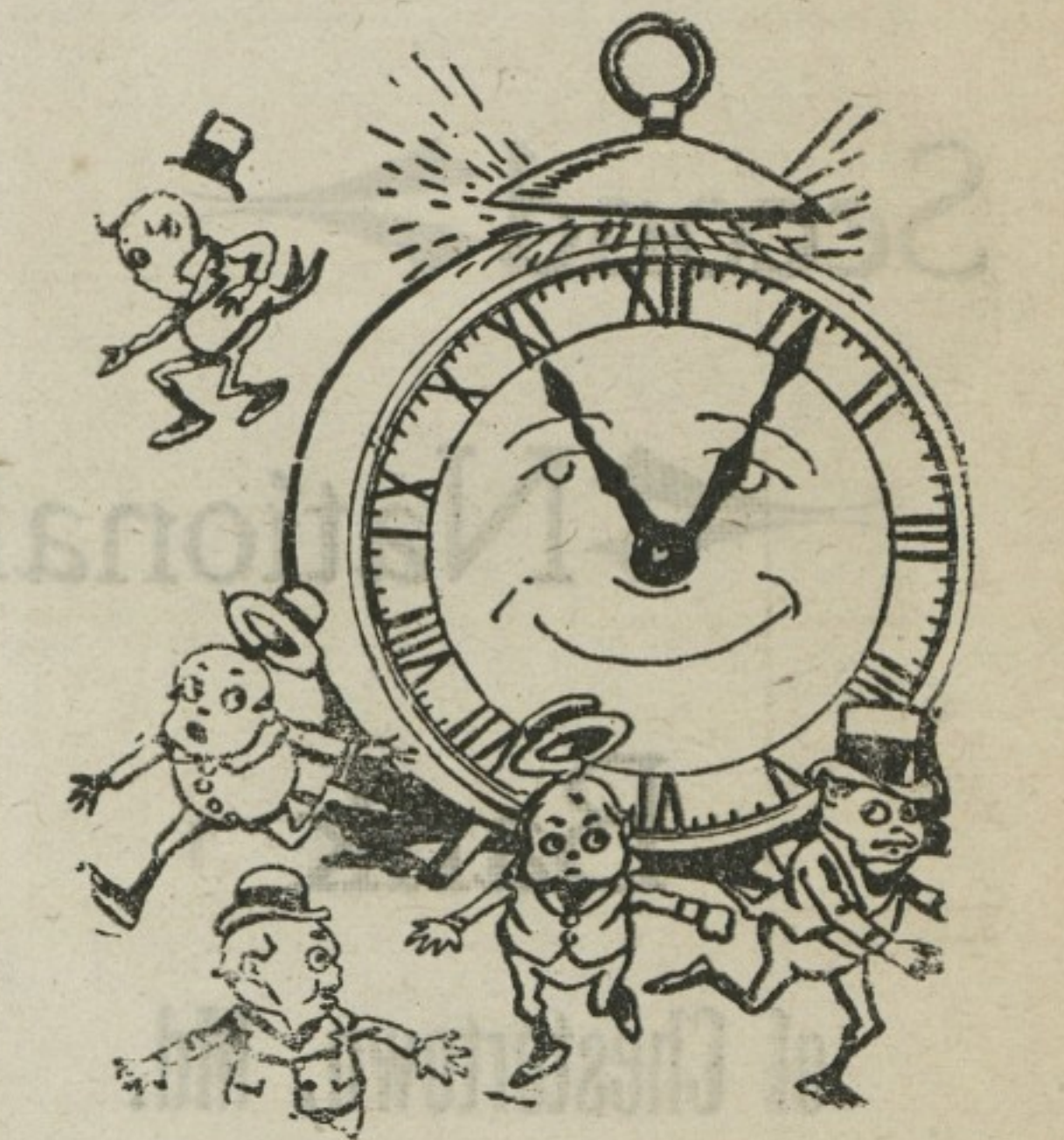
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and our prices are LOWER than others charge
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which we have made to our order, and it is
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We have sold hundreds of them, and a great
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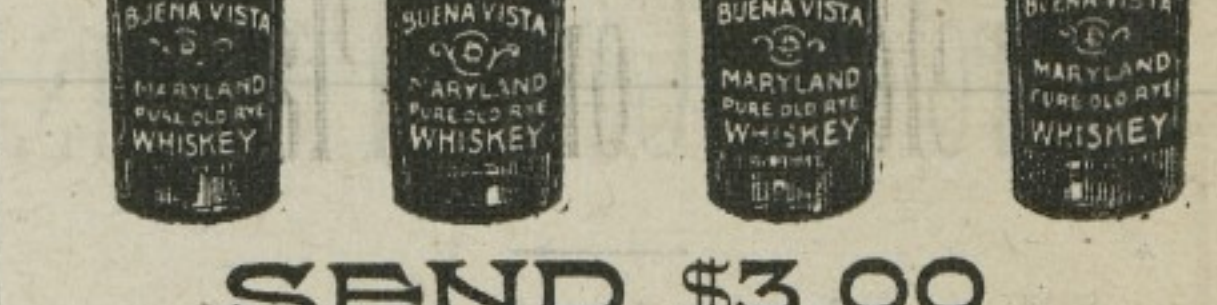
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