

Independence on a Fruit Farm



Gathering Raspberries.

In the heart of the small-fruit country on the north side of the Fraser River in British Columbia, there every landowner has his commercial patch of raspberries, small or large, one of the best examples of what a perfectly developed, well-run fruit farm on a small acreage can be, is the Maple Crest Farm and its fruit-gathering business, which is being conducted by Mr. A. E. Dann, of the same name.

Mr. Dann is an Old Country gardener and was brought up on his father's fruit farm of 200 acres in Kent, as the conditions for fruit-growing are much the same in British Columbia as in England, his experience in his greatest asset out here. He believes that there is far more profit in the careful and thorough cultivation of the small patch than in the big patch carelessly looked after.

The soil in this district is naturally rich, well-drained and therefore particularly well-adapted for small-fruit but Mr. Dann uses farm-yard manure when possible and plenty of chemical fertilizers as well.

He has an acre in strawberries, the "Magnum" variety, which are best suited to the district, and in a good year realizes \$1,200 on those; half of this must be allowed for expenses of picking, packing, crating, cartage, etc., so that he clears a profit of \$600.

He has over an acre of gooseberries, mostly grown from cuttings which he struck himself. "Pearl" which are the earliest, "Oregon Champion," the main crop and "Jocelyn," the late ones. There are 1,100 bushes in full bearing which average a gross return of \$1 per bush, more than half of which is clear profit.

Gooseberries, of course, are far cheaper to grow than strawberries, because like all bush fruit they last for a long term of years without needing renewal.

Mr. Dann has over an acre of raspberries, "Cuthberts" and an unknown variety much grown in the district that surpasses even the "Cuthberts" for earliness and heavy yields. Three tons to the acre is an average crop, or 300 crates for which the lowest price is \$4 per crate, so it will be seen that the profit is not much less than the same as for strawberries, and raspberries, mostly a million dollars—H. C. W.

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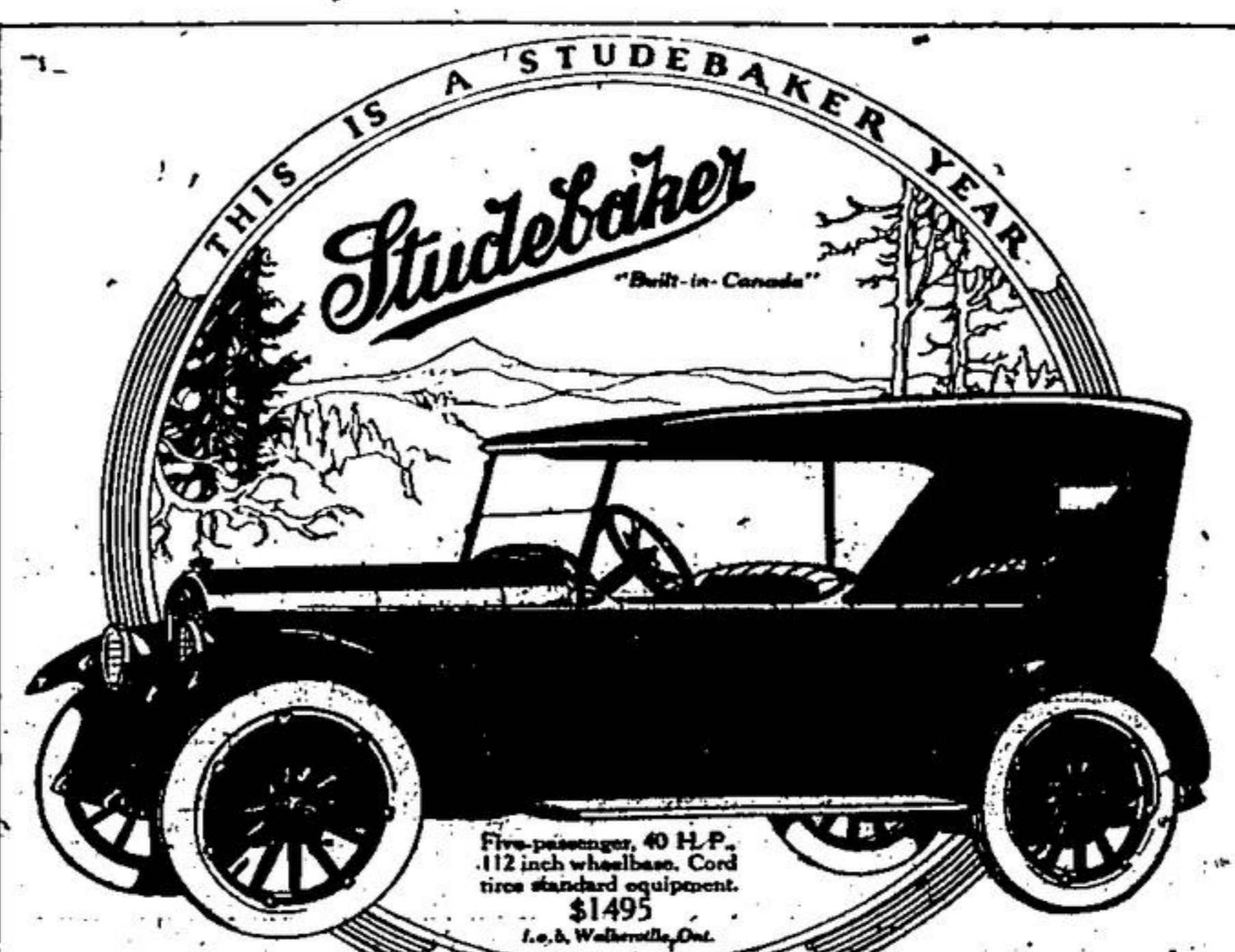
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THE SMOKE NUISANCE

Liverpool suffers more from smoke than London.

The "smoke nuisance" is found by Dr. S. J. Owen to have abated in London from a very early time, and in 1273 the use of coal was prohibited as harmful to health, while in 1597 a man was executed for burning it.

The soot deposited on London last year averaged 400 tons per square mile. Smokeless coal, produced by partial carbonisation, is regarded as a remedy, and a fuel that would promote health and cleanliness.

It would appear, nevertheless, that London is far from being the worst place in England, and the records of the Meteorological Office place the distinction on Liverpool, where, it is stated, during January alone, there were 26.03 tons of dirt deposited on every square kilometre. Kingston-upon-Hull came next, with 20.21, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne showed a deposit of 18.35 tons.

Comparisons with London may be made when it is shown that the dirtiest neighborhood round Southwark Park totals 16 tons a square kilometre. Some of the "lungs" of the metropolis were astonishingly clean, and Pinbury Park was only one-third as dirty as Southwark. Golden Lane and Wandsworth Common showed 14 and 12 tons deposit respectively.

March winds had a good effect upon most of the dirty air spaces outside of London, but the unsavory reputation which the town has gained seems again to be largely due to the heavy fall in the Southwark neighborhood.

Glasgow is a much cleaner place than London, but Birmingham is distinctly bad, and, with the inevitable exception of Southwark Park, showed a much higher percentage of "sootiness" than London.

Britain Retains Lead.

Recently there was inaugurated in London the institution of rubber industry, with the object of promoting the interests of rubber growers, manufacturers and distributors and of advancing the standard of the rubber industry. It is a curious fact that the inauguration took place almost exactly 100 years after Thomas Hancock began to manufacture rubber in Great Britain. Twenty years later this pioneer took on his part for vulcanization, that is, for the hardening of rubber by combining it with sulphur.

Another interesting item of rubber history is that it was an Englishman, who, in 1876, brought the first seed of the rubber plant out of Brazil. These seeds were brought to Kew Gardens, London, England, where no fewer than 7,000 rubber plants were raised and were transferred to Ceylon, thus establishing the rubber growing industry in the East. The familiar misconception is also a British invention, having been devised in 1843, by C. Mackintosh, who devised the first waterproof rubber solution. It is expected that the new institution will assist in maintaining the pre-eminence which Great Britain holds in the manufacture and utilization of rubber.

Find Roman Road.

About 1,970 years ago Julius Caesar invaded Britain, and Roman cohorts took their compulsory duty about 450 years later, yet much has to be ascertained concerning their campaigns in England, and fresh discoveries disclose relics of their skill and industry under Claudius Hadrian, Severus and Constantine. Not many years since a ploughman turned up a tattered Roman coin, but on what is Peterborough, on the site of what is believed to have been a Roman city (the floor being on view in the dairy of Fitzwilliam Hall), and, according to the Referee, at Huntingdon, it having been determined to provide work for the unemployed of the district, the laborers excavating a new sewer suddenly happened upon an old Roman road, built of flint and concrete of great thickness. The site of their discovery stood on the old Roman road known as "Ermin street," and close by were unearthed several moulded stones apparently belonging to some old monastic establishment.

A Costly Fire.

The news that Britain's blast furnaces are being rekindled is encouraging. For months they have been cold owing to the prohibitive cost of setting them going.

The blast furnace, which looks like a gigantic beehive, is used for smelting iron. Its roaring crown of flames is a familiar sight in the Midlands.

Few people realize what it costs to set one going. Many tons of wood are needed, and once this has ignited, load after load of coke is poured into the furnace, the heat is intense, but it is not nearly sufficient to melt iron ore.

For three weeks the furnace must roar night and day to bring the clay lining to a temperature great enough for the purpose. All this time the furnace is producing nothing, whilst it consumes coke worth about \$3,000.

As there are about 300 of these miniature volcanoes in the country, the cost of setting all of them going runs into something like \$1,000,000.

World's Cotton Spinners.

One of Britain's most important industries is cotton spinning, and of the 152,000,000 spindles at present at work in the world, over one-third are in this country.

The raw cotton used during the first half of 1921 amounted roughly to 1,600,000 tons, or 7,257,212 bales. Of this Great Britain used 630,230 bales; the United States, 2,640,000; Japan, 871,654; India, 94,151; Germany, 457,257; and France, 251,935.

A bale varies from 400 lbs. to 500 lbs. in weight.

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