

Agriculture Products

LAGE VEGETABLES.—The San Andreas Independent of Nov. 6, gives the following creditable news from that district; we hope by another year to report a large list of vegetables and splendid fruit from the same source. It says: On Saturday last a sugar-beet weighing twenty-five pounds and measuring over two feet in length, was exhibited at this office. It was grown within a mile of San Andreas, on the ranch of Mr. Joseph Kearns, Murrey Creek. On Monday last we received from Mr. John Wildermuth, of Campo Seco, a sample of his present year's crop of sweet potatoes. The one sent us measured twenty-five inches longitudinally, sixteen inches latitudinally, and weighed exactly five pounds. He informs us that he has raised and sold several this season much larger than this one. Ranch situate one mile and a half from Campo Seco.

Several citizens were being recognized for the crops they grew in their home gardens. Saloon keeper Charles Faville was growing gooseberries and other fruits. James Finney grew peaches and Jack O'Connell grew super large strawberries. In 1858 James Kerns grew a beet that weighed about 25 pounds and was over 2 foot in length.³

FRUIT TREES.—We would call the attention of those desirous of purchasing Fruit Trees, to the advertisement of Mr. H. G. Pittman, to be found in another column. Mr. P. is receiving fresh supplies every week, from the Nursery of Mr. Sanderson, San Jose, by whom the trees were first selected from the best Nurseries in the Eastern States. He warrants all trees that he sells.

GOOSEBERRIES.—On Tuesday last Mr. Chas. Faville procured from his garden, over Jordan Bridge, a basket two-thirds full of fine, large luscious gooseberries. The bushes yet remain full of ungathered fruit. We have never seen fruit of a better quality, or more prolific than produced on the trees and shrubs in Mr. F.'s garden. Peaches, almonds, gooseberries and strawberries are now in full bearing.

The early arrivals in California often brought plant cuttings with them so they could get a garden started and it did not take long before businesses started up where fruit trees and other plants could be purchased. One of them in San Andreas was ran by Mr. Pittman¹ and another by Joseph Kerns at his Murray Creek Ranch where he sold not only fruit trees but also roses, berry bushes, gooseberries and grape vines.²

FRUIT TREES!

.....AT THE.....

Murray Creek Nursery!

One mile and a half from San Andreas,
Near the Stage Road running from
San Andreas to Mokelumne Hill.

THE SUBSCRIBER would respectfully invite the attention of all those wishing to plant Fruit Trees, to his stock, which embraces all the

CHOICEST VARIETIES OF FRUIT!

congenial to our climate, comprising

Apple, Pear, Peach,
Nectarine, Apricot,
Plum, Cherry, Almond,
Quince and Fig Trees.

Gooseberry, Currant
and
Raspberry Bushes.

Monthly and Climbing Roses,
together with a lot of
Strawberry and Grape Vines.

The Fruit Trees offered for sale are all Budded and Grafted from the best varieties, and can be relied on.

All Trees warranted true to their labels.

JOSEPH KERNS.

San Andreas, Calaveras co., Nov. 27th, '58.

It Is a Big One.

Jack O'Connell of San Andreas has broken the record for raising large strawberries. Last week he picked a berry from the patch in his yard which is almost as large as an ordinary sized potato. Not only is the size remarkable but the ripening of the berry at such an early date is also extraordinary.

By 1877 a machine to dry fruit was installed in a building in San Andreas and was highly successful.⁴ In the first year of operation, 200,000 lbs of dried fruit was shipped to England from the plant⁵. By 1879 the Alden Fruit Drying company had increased their output to 300,000 lbs of dried fruit shipped to England⁶ and there was talk of expanding into Tuolumne County⁷.

CALIFORNIA FRUIT IN OLD ENGLAND.—Here is what the little town of San Andreas, Calaveras county, accomplished this season with its little orchards and fruit dryers. She has sent to England 93,423 pounds of apples; peaches, 23,280 pounds; tomatoes, 7,033 pounds; onions, 2,525 pounds; figs, 747 pounds; plums, 746 pounds; total, 202,369. If every town in California had sent 200,000 pounds of dried fruit to England this year the market would not have been glutted.

THE proprietors of the Alden Fruit Dryer, at San Andreas, advertise that they will pay the following prices per ton for fruit delivered at their factory, in good condition, and picked before getting too ripe:—Plums \$40; raisin grapes \$30; figs \$25; peaches, pears and nectarines \$20; apples \$15.

Our friends of the Alden fruit drying persuasion assure us that the outlook for their products are very flattering. The agents for the Alden goods in this city say that they have orders which they cannot fill. It will be six months before the new goods can reach the market. The demand is constantly increasing, and there is no difficulty in maintaining list prices for choice articles. Several years ago Gen. Wilson, U. S. A., was detailed to investigate all the various processes of food preservation. He visited Europe, and has large volumes of reports upon the subject. His conclusions are in favor of the Alden method, and Alden goods are now on the list of regular army and navy supplies. In advertising for sealed proposals for dried fruits and vegetables they always stipulate—"Alden's."

We are told that the proprietors of the Alden factory, at San Andreas, erected last year, are so well pleased with their investment that they have recently bought the exclusive right of the patent for Calaveras and Tuolumne counties, and propose to start two or more factories in those counties during the ensuing season.

We have received for examination a box of Alden raisins, which are better than any we have seen before. They are made from the Uva Larga grape. They are of amber color and almost transparent, and are therefore quite handsome. This is, of course, a departure from the standard appearance of raisins, and whether consumers will take to the style is yet to be determined. The popular demand now is for a rich-colored raisin, well covered with "bloom." The sample which we have before us is of excellent favor and consistency, the tender skin being filled with a finely jellied pulp. The application of the Alden process to the making of raisins has heretofore been hampered by the use of grapes not best adapted to the purpose, and the makers believe that by using the Muscatel grapes they can show as great success in raisin making as in the preserving of other fruits and vegetables.

1. Stockton Daily Independent 12/26/1857: Pittman's fruit trees
2. Stockton Daily Independent 1/15/1859: Murray Creek Nursery
3. California Farmer 12/3/1858: Giant sugar beet.
4. Tuolumne Independent 9/29/1877: Fruit needed
5. Grass Valley Union 10/19/1877: 200,000 lbs of dried fruit
6. Placer Herald 10/25/1879: 300,000 lbs of dried fruit
7. Pacific Rural Press 4/20/1878: Aldens to expand