



FRUIT GROWING

ALONG THE



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FRISCO SYSTEM.

BY

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UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION,
ST. LOUIS,
1904.

ISSUED BY THE

PASSENGER TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT,
FRISCO SYSTEM.

MAPS, COLOR PLATES AND PRINTING BY
BUXTON & SKINNER, ST. LOUIS.

SKETCHES AND COVER DESIGN BY
O. E. BERNINGHAUS, ST. LOUIS.



Unimproved
fruit lands



FRUIT GROWING.

"When God's good hand created these
Delightful hills, the glad Ozarks,
I think He dreamed of apple trees."



SO WRITES a poet whose imagination, being of a philosophic turn, goes back to the beginning of things. That is the poet's way of saying what the practical proser would have expressed in language like this:

"I believe that Nature intended the Ozark Mountain country for fruit growing."

Poet and proser, dreamer and doer, no matter what fine scorn the one may entertain for the other ordinarily, are fully agreed upon this point, that nowhere on earth is there a section of country more admirably adapted to the purpose of orcharding than is the famous "Ozark Uplift" in Missouri and Arkansas, lapping over into Indian Territory and the southeastern part of Kansas.

You have heard of the Ozark Mountains? If you never have visited the region, doubtless you imagine that these are towering, precipitous, craggy mountains, like the Alps or the Rockies, and that the face of the country is corrugated into fearful frowns of nature—peak and crag and precipice and gulch.

If that be your conception of the Ozarks, you owe it to yourself to make a trip into the heart of these happy hills. Properly, the Ozarks are not mountains; they are gentle hill-slopes,

plateaus and valleys or bottom-land. There is none of the waste land such as is found on mountain sides or in the gulches that divide altitudinous ranges. In the Ozarks we find Nature's smile instead of her frown—landscape mildly picturesque instead of awesomely sublime. In short, the Ozark country was made for human habitation, and not for the wild deer leaping from crag to crag above the clouds; this section was created to be the home of happy men, women and children, blessed with bright sunshine, abundant rains, mild seasons and the richest and rarest of diversified farming crops, with fruits as the special and particular delight and glory of the region.

When one speaks of the Ozarks one is supposed to refer to Southern Missouri; though these ranges of hills extend far down into Arkansas, including all of Southwestern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas.

In Missouri the Ozark country extends almost to St. Louis, thus covering the south central section of the state as well as the southwestern part, and in Arkansas also the Ozarks extend well into the north central portion of the state.

Nowhere else on earth, in the opinion of the expert horticulturists, is there a region of such wide extent so admirably adapted to the culture of fruits and berries. Verily, as the poet says, "God dreamed of apple trees" when his hand created these delightful hills and hollows, these wide plateaus and gentle slopes, for this is the world's greatest apple orchard, not to speak of the remarkable variety of other fruits that grow here in almost prodigal abundance. As the plains of the Dakotas were made for wheat-fields and the prairies of Kansas intended by Nature for "waving walls of corn," so this Ozark country seems to have been specially created for the growing of fruit trees, particularly the apple and the peach, and the production of unfailling crops of these highly marketable commodities.



Clearing off timber
for fruit farm



Peach Orchard
three years old

It is a beautiful country. One cannot go into it without becoming an enthusiast. Tourist after tourist visits the Ozark mountains, only to be with a lifelong yearning to own a farm and orchard in this wholesome, happy land. **FRISCO SYSTEM** Percentage of those who in time return to the Ozarks and settle down, thus achieving their desires, is remarkably large.

Many elements enter into the making of this section desirable for permanent homes. At the outset the climate should be mentioned. It appears to be the general habit of humanity to be ever and always on the outlook for "climate." All of us long for the ideal climate—the land where the summers are not too blisteringly hot and the winters are not too freezingly cold; where the rainfall is just enough, and not so scant as to cause drought and dry-rot, nor so abundant as to create a perpetual dampness; where the air is pure and invigorating, healthful and wholesome, and the water sparkling and clear.

Such a land is the Ozark country. The long, rigorous winters of more northerly climes are unknown; whilst the dreary, dragging summers of sulphurous heat from which one longs to flee never curse this equable climate. This is not to set forth the pretense that there are no hot days and no cold days in the Ozarks. **PICKING PEACHES.** In the Alaska wilds and cutting cold in Florida everglades—occasionally in the Ozark fruit growing country we find a mid-region of means instead of extremes, where the chances are as ninety to a hundred in favor of 365 pleasant days every year. Mark Twain once advised a person who was about to travel around the world making a collection of climates to go to New England, where in twenty-four hours he could collect all the different kinds of weather to be found on the globe. The great humorist, not even for the sake of a popular success, never would slander his own native state of Missouri in that way, particularly the southern section thereof, for he knows too well its agreeable climate.



PICKING PEACHES.
IN THE OZARK FRUIT GROWING COUNTRY.

FRISCO
SYSTEM

Plan No. 2.

From Special Photograph of Scene.

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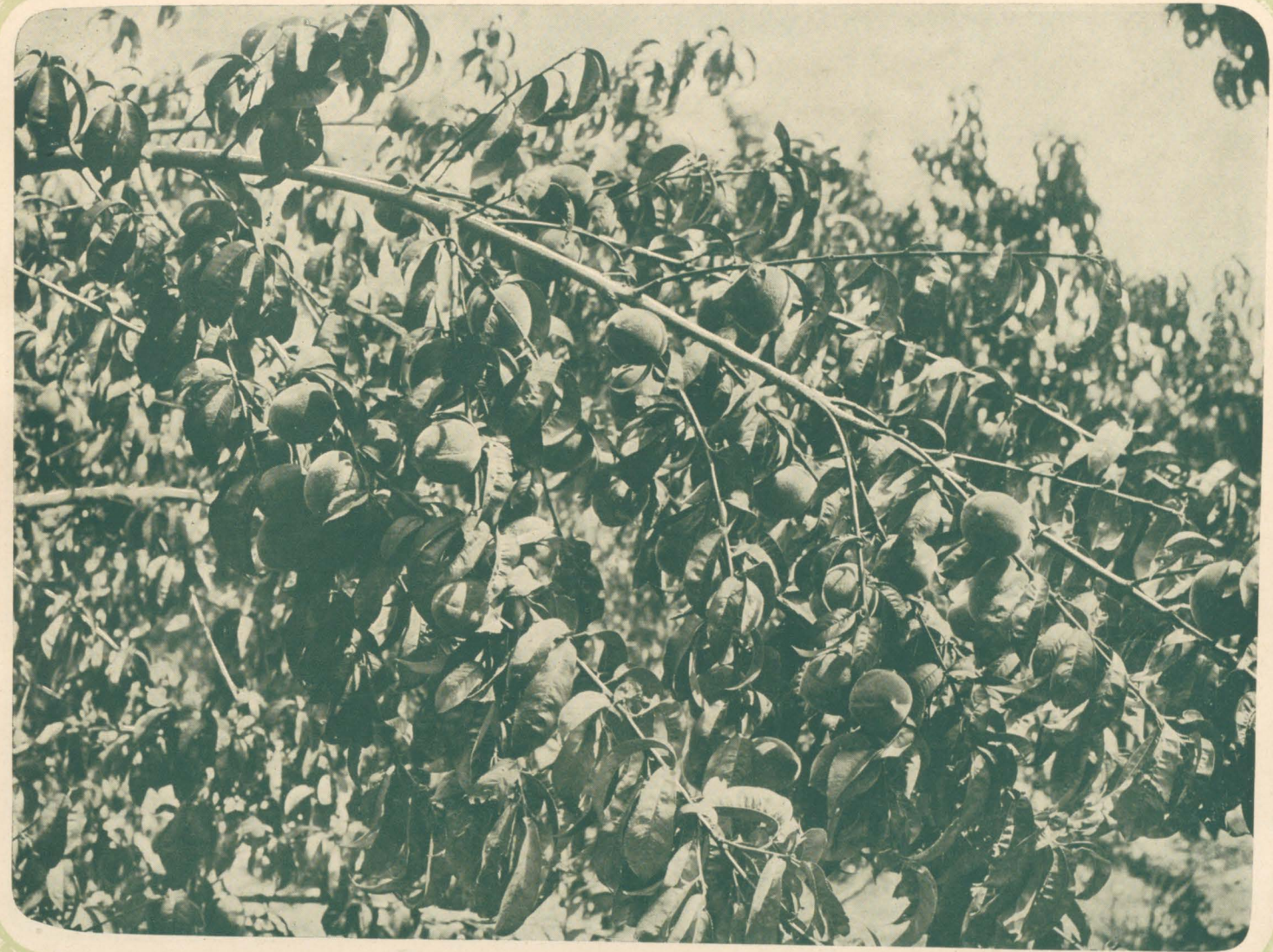
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Such a land is the Ozark country. The long, rigorous winters of more northerly climes are unknown; whilst the dreary, dragging summers of sulphurous heat from which one longs to flee never curse this equable climate. This is not to set forth the pretense that there are no hot days and no cold days in the Ozarks. You will find blistering heat in the Alaska wilds and cutting cold in Florida everglades—occasionally; but in this Ozark country we find a mid-region of means instead of extremes, where the chances are as ninety to a hundred in favor of 365 pleasant days every year. Mark Twain once advised a person who was about to travel around the world making a collection of climates to go to New England, where in twenty-four hours he could collect all the different kinds of weather to be found on the globe. The great humorist, not even for the sake of a popular success, never would slander his own native state of Missouri in that way, particularly the southern section thereof, for he knows too well its agreeable climate.

This is a land of glorious sunshine and gentle showers. Nature provides here all the watering that is required for human nature's daily needs and for the uses of agriculture and orcharding. Perhaps no other section in the United States is so plentifully supplied with streams and springs. Springfield, "Queen City of the Ozarks," takes its name from the abundance of springs in its neighborhood. Thousands of farms throughout this wide region are blessed with springs of sparkling water, almost ice-cool, at the very doors of the homestead; while rivers and creeks and rills flow down the hillsides and through the valleys in such numbers that in some localities there is a confusion of names owing to duplication. Irrigation, that expensive and tedious method of obtaining water necessary for the growing of crops in the western plains country, is a thing unneeded and unknown in the Ozarks.

There is still another factor in this favored land of which the wide western plains are destitute. Here we have the bountiful beauty and blessing of trees. The forests abound, such species as the oak, the hickory, the walnut, the elm and all other natural trees that grow in the great Middle West being found here. It is a well-wooded country, in many instances the purchaser of land being able to cut sufficient timber from his acres to pay for the original purchase, in railroad ties, cordwood or lumber.

Forty years ago contending armies marched and fought over this ground, then destitute of railroad transportation. It was a new and almost undiscovered country in war time, and the soldiers of the North and of the South, on their weary foot-marches, were amazed and delighted to find here a region so palpably fitted for homesteading and the creation of prosperous towns and farms. Many of these soldiers, when the war was over, settled in this section. But the development of the country was slow. Ravaged by the operations of the armies, the homes of



Branch of an
"Elberta" peach tree



Picking Peaches

the comparatively scant population required years to recover, and there was a period during which the Ozarks, like many sections farther south, felt the heavy finger of depression.

Then came a change, a wonderful change, as if some magic wand had been reached forth over the land, enchanting it into effulgent bloom. The magician was the railroad. Cutting the great Ozark country in twain, diagonally from northeast to southwest, the Frisco Railroad was extended from Rolla, its war-time terminus, down through Springfield and beyond into Kansas, Arkansas and Indian Territory, its various branches from time to time covering new regions and carrying aloft the torch of progress into lands benighted, but eager for the dawn of development.

The story of the awakening of the Ozarks is one of marvelous romance. It would furnish to the novelist themes and plots for various volumes. For the chronicler of commercial development it is bristling with facts that are woven of the fiber of doughty deeds. Into this country, with the locomotive's advent, came a race of heroic husbandmen to neighbor with the patient pioneers who had waited long and hopefully for the coming of the great developer—the railroad. Rapidly the counties were settled, towns sprang up amongst the hills, new farms were cleared, and in place of the woodland there arose those beautiful babes of the nursery—the apple tree, the peach tree, the grapevine and the berry bush.

It was not many years after the building of the railroads making up the great Frisco System until the Ozark country became known as the "Land of the Big Red Apple." Orchardmen from various other sections of the country began to discover that this region was most admirably adapted to horticulture, with the apple as the prime minister of progress. Rolling acres where from prehistoric days the forest had flourished were turned into symmetrical orchards,

the flourishing trees burdened with plump fruit, and every railway station during the autumnal season became a shipping point for the fruit. The cooper shop, for supplying barrels to the apple grower, became a prosperous enterprise in every town. The Ben Davis, the rich Grimes Golden, the ruddy Jonathan, the Winesap, the Gano, the Ingram and other varieties flourished, and the Land of the Big Red Apple was heralded far and wide as the land of goodly abundance for the apple industry.

With the apple came the peach. The luscious Elberta was found to be peculiarly adapted to this region, while other varieties produced abundantly. Pears, plums, grapes, the strawberry, the watermelon, the cantaloupe and various other small fruits and berries, the settlers discovered, could be grown here with excellent profit, and the land burgeoned with such fruits.

There is nothing accidental in all this. As indicated, Nature designed the Ozarks for a fruit country. There are geological and atmospheric conditions which are requisite to the successful production of fruits, and these exist in the Ozark mountain region as nowhere else on the globe. Geologists tell us that the soil of the Ozarks was formed by the sedimentary deposits from the most ancient lands upon the earth's surface, when this future orchard land was the bottom of a vast sea. Oldest of all lands to rise above the surface of the waters, so science says, were the Laurentian hills that stretch from Eastern Canada to the Upper Mississippi. Thousands of years later appeared the Alleghanies. Ages afterward the Rockies reared their summits above the waters. After cycles and eons of time the Ozarks slowly emerged from beneath the vast seas, their surface rich with the sedimentary deposits from those most ancient mountains against which the waves of that mighty ocean had beaten for unnumbered ages.




Picking Peaches





Peach Pickers
going to work

But the Ozarks did not uprear themselves mountain high. Their altitude is not more than 2,000 feet above sea-level, thus ensuring an even ; and the surface of the land is made up of ridges and slopes, with but few neighbors where the land is too rough for cultivation.

Not less than 30,000,000 acres of land lie within this vast region, endowed by Nature with the characteristics of soil and atmospheric conditions necessary to successful horticulture. The length of the Ozark range is about 500 miles, and its width averages 200 miles. The range extends from a point a few miles west of St. Louis, the great metropolis of the Southwest, down to Indian Territory.

So much for the picturesque and poetic; now for the practical.

A fruit-growing territory as rich as the Ozarks would not amount to much from a commercial standpoint if it were located in the heart of Darkest Africa. Why? Because the lack of markets and of transportation facilities would discourage production and development. But this section, happily, is situated in close proximity to excellent markets and is provided with facilities of transportation which annihilate the distance between the orchard and the markets across the continent.

BASKETS OF PEACHES.
IN THE OZARK FRUIT GROWING COUNTRY.

The Ozark country is traversed, crossed and criss-crossed by the lines of railway belonging to the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad Company—the Frisco System. The main line of the system extends southwestwardly from St. Louis along the crest of the Ozark range, passing through Rolla, Lebanon, Marshfield, Springfield, Monett and other thriving cities, to the extreme southwestern corner of Missouri. It continues on to Paris, Texas, thus piercing to the very heart and center of that Greater Southwest which awaited but the advent of the artisan and



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the husbandmen to blossom into teeming towns and fruitful farms. This main line goes through Northwest Arkansas, while two lines branch off at Monett, going through Indian Territory and Oklahoma to Ft. Worth, Texas, passing through many rich fruit sections. At Springfield still other important branches extend north to Kansas City through a splendid farming and orchard country, and to Memphis, Tenn., piercing the famous peach country of South Missouri and extending on to Birmingham, Ala., thus reaching a desirable southern outlet; and still another line, reaching from St. Louis to Memphis, Tenn., along the west side of the Mississippi River, runs through a section, a part of which is admirably adapted to vegetable growing.

As a matter of fact, it is amazing to contemplate the comparatively small population of the lands through which the various branches of the Frisco pass, in view of their wonderful natural resources. While in no wise a wild and uninhabited country, these well-organized and highly law-abiding counties are yet capable of supporting millions of inhabitants, in constantly increasing prosperity. The price of the farming lands in all these sections is for the most part absurdly low, while there are millions of acres of government land yet available to the homesteader, who has but to settle thereon and fulfill the simple requirements of the Interior Department to become master of his 160 acres.

There are thousands of renting farmers plodding along, drudging out their lives, in northern and eastern localities, where the land is so poor that its ribs stick through the surface. These tenants might become landed proprietors if they would but enter this splendid country and pre-empt their domain; and as a matter of fact, thousands of them are coming every year to take up or purchase land and settle in the Ozarks, though there yet remains in this vast territory enough unoccupied land for all who may arrive for many years to come.



Peach Pickers
in Orchard



Water Boys

Geologists call this "the Ozark uplift." That term is scientific, but the overworked and underpaid farmer and horticulturist of less favored sections who settles in this region soon experiences an "Ozark uplift" that may not be so scientific, but certainly is soul-satisfying, introducing new blood of enthusiasm into his veins and giving him a forward and upward impetus such as he never can receive upon his worn-out acres elsewhere.

In reply to an inquiry from a friend who wanted to know where he might go to make a home and render himself and his little family comfortable and independent, Col. J. C. Evans, who was President of the Missouri State Horticultural Society for more than twenty years, recently wrote as follows:

"I know of no section of country now, where a man with limited or moderate means can go and get a home and become independent, contented and happy as easily and as quickly as in the Ozark region.

"The country is healthy and the climate mild, seldom too cold or too warm. Fuel is plenty and water the best. The lands, as a rule, are not classed as strictly agricultural, yet the valleys, creek and river bottoms produce as well as the lands in the corn belt of Missouri and Iowa. Wheat does not make a large yield, but the quality is superior. Timothy, clover, orchard grass, Kaffir corn and the canes are all at home in the 'red lands'.

"Were I a young man with a small family and limited means I would surely go to the Ozark region in Missouri or Arkansas to look for a home. Energy and industry will make it."

Another authority on fruits, recognized the world over, is L. A. Goodman, who for more than twenty years has been Secretary of the Missouri State Horticultural Society. Mr. Goodman says:

"The Ozark Mountains are to be the vast field for the orchardist. Here we have the mild climate, the height above the sea, the best of water, the best of soils, the best of fruits, and, consequently, the best of health. Good small fruit plantations will pay from \$50 to \$75 per acre. These 'red lands' give such a quality and flavor to the peach, as well as quantity, that this region is certain to rival the peach sections of Delaware, Maryland

and Michigan. Will you think I am visionary if I say that the peach belt of the United States is on the southern slope of the Ozark Mountains? Good varieties, well cultivated, will pay \$100 to \$150 per acre. Apple orchards of the best market varieties, cultivated every year, well cared for, well fed and well protected, will be gold mines to owners.

"The Ozark hills are full of minerals, but the best money to be had out of them will be for the fruits they will produce. Although lying about latitude 37°, yet the altitude of 1500 feet gives a climate cool enough for the best maturing of the apple; and the soil has iron and lime enough to give the best of color to our fruits, as well as the best quality. The pears and peaches are so far ahead of the California fruits that one has only to taste to be satisfied. The peculiar location of this country, its elevation, freedom from heavy winds, abundance of rainfall, protection by the highest peaks and pine timber, peculiar red lands (always fruit lands), the many streams and springs, nearness to market, quick communication, low price of land, growth of timber, all prove to me that this is one of the most favored locations for fruit growing."

NATURE'S ORCHARD LAND.

G. A. Atwood, Secretary of the Ozark Fruit Growers' Association, always has a good word to say about the Ozark country and he speaks with authority, for he has traveled over much of the Ozarks. Mr. Atwood writes:

"When the word orchard is used, apple trees are brought to mind and pleasant memories are awakened of the old orchard dear to every one country-bred, of Red June and Summer Sweeting trees that were visited by the boy or girl regardless of dew or rain at ripening time to get the falling apples. There were no commercial orchards in those days. Most of the apples were seedlings. Cider apples we called them in the East. Those days there were no evaporators for drying apples, but instead the Apple Paring Bees, when the young people filled the house and pared and cored the perfect fruit and strung it with long needles, made for the purpose, on strong twine to be hung up to dry.



Picking Peaches





Loading wagon
with peaches

From Special Photograph of Scene.

Plate No. 4.

"Times have changed, and now we have the commercial orchardist, big evaporators and cider plants. Orcharding is now a 'business', thousands of families relying entirely upon their trees for their yearly income. The family can not now harvest the one-hundred-acre apple crop and the Apple Paring Parties are among the cherished customs of anti-railroad days. Hired help, specialists on picking, packing and evaporating do the work. This transformation is strictly in accordance with the evolution—with the fitness of things.

"The Ozark plateau is nature's orchard land. Its uplift comprises an area as large as the State of Indiana. The soil is just the combination of minerals required to make fruit. The high altitude, the sunshine, and the pure water, furnish the requisites for the production of fruit of highest quality and perfect coloring, and the low price of land invites the homeseeker. The pure air and water, the abundance of timber and streams, the great diversity of products and the remarkable responsiveness of the soil and good treatment make this the ideal home land.

"Bear in mind that the Ozark country includes as large a portion of Arkansas as of Missouri. There are 40,000,000 apple and peach trees in this territory and the annual planting reaches 2,000,000 trees. Here are millions of acres, that have not been disturbed by the spade or plow, specially adapted to fruit growing, that will some time be planted to trees and vines.

"Greene County has for many years stood first in Missouri in the number of barrels of apples produced. When Hon. Ira Haseltine planted his first commercial orchard near Springdale some twenty-five years ago, his neighbors laughed at him. In 1901 his sons received for their apple crops the total sum of \$54,000. There are numbers of large orchards in Greene County that produce equally as well. In Greene County strawberries are also grown extensively and with profit. Another county in Missouri that is attracting attention not only as an apple-producing county, but for peaches as well, is Webster. In this county there are a number of large orchards in the neighborhood of Marshfield and Seymore."



SUCCESSFUL PEACH GROWING.

W. B. Browning, of Springdale, Ark., came from Chicago to Springdale some years ago and engaged in peach growing. He is pleased to add his testimony in favor of fruit growing:

"In 1898, I planted a fourteen-acre peach orchard. There were 1924 trees. The planting was done the last of November and the first of December. The following spring I planted strawberries between the rows of trees. The next spring I gathered eight hundred crates of strawberries and plowed up the plants to give the trees more room. I gathered also 3000 six-basket crates of peaches, which I sold on the trees, to Messrs. Wing and Oakley, of Rogers, Ark., for \$1600. The trees were three years old from planting.

"The fourth year I sold the peaches on the trees to Messrs. Wing and Oakley for \$1000. These commission men made a good profit on the deal. My strawberries paid for the land and also the improvements on the fourteen acres.

"Mr. Powell, of Springdale, Ark., sold from a seven-acre orchard of trees three years old, \$500 worth of fruit. The fourth year the crop sold on the trees for \$800.

"Mr. Foust has 270 trees from which, at two years old, he picked 345 six-basket crates, and at three years old, 1000 four-basket crates and 900 six-basket crates. Others might be mentioned who have done equally as well.

"For every acre of peaches planted in 1898 there are now being planted twenty, forty and seventy-acre blocks. In Washington County, by a conservative estimate, there are now 175,140 peach trees, and more are being planted at a rapid rate. The day of small acreages has gone by. There is nothing attractive in a cart-load of peaches; but car-loads, if the quality is good and the fruit is well placed in the crate, will bring buyers from across the continent.

"One must know a few essentials in selecting a location. He must know that elevation means everything to the peach orchard under trying conditions. He must understand the effect of temperature upon plant life, and upon peach buds particularly. He must know that cold air runs down hill as rapidly as water. If he ascends a high elevation some frosty morning he will reach a point where the frost is succeeded by dew, and as he ascends still higher the dew itself will disappear; or, if he descends from the warm elevation into the adjacent valley, he will find himself plunging into a lake of cold air. The radiation of heat from the soil of valleys is usually much more rapid than from that of the uplands, as in the Ozark mountains.



Loading wagon
with Peaches





Hauling Peaches
to packing house

"Climate is one of the first considerations in the selection of a place for the planting of a commercial orchard. The old notion that the peach is a tropical tree is not well founded. It is a tree of middle latitude and does not like extreme cold nor extreme heat. The climate of China, which is probably its native home, is in many respects like that of our country.

"An excellent location may be worthless, owing to lack of transportation. Sprindgale has the Frisco Railroad, and with refrigerator cars and proper handling of fruit, our peaches reach the market in good condition. The fruit is shipped to the northern cities and also to the far East, and at a season when the market will pay a good price.

"In Georgia the crop ripens in July. It is out of the market the first of August. The shipment from Northwest Arkansas begins from the first to the fifth of August, a time when the market is bare of fruit. In other words, Northwest Arkansas just feeds the gap between Georgia and Southern Illinois and Missouri, these two states coming in to the market after the crop from our section is gathered.

"A Chicago commission man who buys all kinds of fruit from the extreme South, New York and California, stated to me that if Michigan could produce the fruit at the time shipments are made from Washington County peach growers there would become rich.

"Many farmers in the East and North who are now raising corn, should they investigate the fruit and peach growing possibilities of our locality, would decide to come and engage in the business. I know of no business in the cultivation of the soil that pays better than peach-growing."



A GREAT FUTURE PREDICTED.

Dr. Paul Evans, Director of the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station at Mountain Grove, Mo., which is located in the heart of the Ozarks, writes as follows on the adaptability of the Ozark country as a fruit section:

"The conditions demanded by the different fruits are so varied that it would be difficult to find a country that would be called a perfect fruit country. While different fruits require different soils and climates, there are some general conditions common to all, sufficient to make the distinction of a fruit section.

"In the cultivation of fruit, especially peaches, it is desired that the tree make the necessary growth and form its fruit buds in time for the wood and buds to become thoroughly matured before cold weather. With a soil that the grain farmer would call rich, and with the rainfall distributed throughout the entire growing season, it would be difficult to bring about such conditions. The tree would keep on growing until frost, so that when cold weather came it would find the tree with an immense growth of tender wood and a scanty set of immature fruit buds, which in all probability would winter kill.

"What is desired, then, is a soil not too rich in vegetable matter, but amply supplied with the mineral constituents, with the physical conditions such that it will retain moisture sufficient to carry the tree through the drought periods without making too much growth toward the latter part of the season.

"Here in the Ozarks we have just such a soil, and our rainfall is usually at the season and in the quantity desired. We not only have the conditions necessary for the tree growth described, but also that combination of soil and climate that gives our fruit color and flavor that cannot be surpassed anywhere. Although scarcely twenty years since the first commercial peach orchards were planted in this section, our Elberta has introduced itself into New York society, and in fact it is admired and sought in all the markets of our country, while in the showing it wears the blue wherever it goes. Our Ben Davis apple is not only known at home, but is quoted in the markets abroad.



Receiving Peaches
at packing house





Packing house
in Peach Orchard

"Judging from the past, we predict a great future for the fruit industry in the Ozarks. We might say that thus far, it has been simply an experiment. The country was new, there was no knowledge as to the adaptability of the different fruits or of the different varieties to the soil and climate, we had had no experience in packing and marketing fruit in such quantities, the transportation and refrigeration companies were inexperienced and could not give us satisfactory service. All these things had to be studied and the difficulties overcome. When we look back then and see the results obtained, and consider the difficulties labored under and compare them with our present knowledge and improved methods, we can but see a great future."



TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES GOOD.

The views of a man thoroughly acquainted with the conditions and resources of the Ozarks are thus expressed by W. T. Flournoy, a leading apple grower of Missouri, at Marionville:

"In the earlier settlement of this region there was little inducement to the settler to grow fruits for other purposes than to supply his own needs. The region was remote from the centers of population, and fruit was perishable. But time has developed this fruit region, and has brought great transportation companies into it, which recognize the value of these fruits and by their co-operation with the producers are building up modes of distribution unequaled, making it possible to place the fruit in good condition in the great centers of population, where fruit eating has changed from a luxury to a necessity.

"From this Ozark region the most perishable products can now be sent to any part of the United States, and the hardier kinds to any part of the globe. But it is the natural conditions so favorable to fruit growing in this section to which we want to call attention. This peculiar soil, made up of the rock and mineral formations found here, together with good climate conditions, is no doubt responsible for the superior quality and great quantity of fruit grown here.

"Trees and vines grown in this soil show a hardiness in withstanding the late frosts, and other unfavorable conditions that have caused great loss elsewhere while this region has good crops. The small number of crop failures in this vicinity is demonstrated in the almost continuous crops grown on most of the orchards while the strawberry grower knows of no failure in his crops, for he has learned the best methods of culture."



Interior of
packing house





Making Peach boxes

THE HOME OF THE SUN-KISSED PEACH.

The Ozark country is the home of the sun-kissed peach. Nowhere else is this favorite fruit grown in such abundance and of so delicious a flavor. Peaches and profits are synonymous terms in this section. The commercial peach orchard has brought and continues to bring wealth to many a small land owner who, until he planted his acres to peaches, never dreamed of making more than a living out of the soil. Now hundreds of peach-growers in those parts of Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory and Texas where the fruit is grown have large bank accounts to which they add every year.

The Ozark peach is a dream of delight. The big Elberta, with its velvet blush, is the variety mostly grown here. It has been discovered that this peach produces the most abundantly, is the most popular because of its beauty and rich flavor, and gets into the market in better condition than any other variety.

The Elberta used to be associated chiefly with the state of Georgia. Now when the knowing market man speaks of the Elberta he thinks of the Ozarks. The change has come about within twenty years. It was only about that long ago when peach-growing in this Ozark country became a profitable business because of the land owners' discovery of its great commercial possibilities. Up to that time the little seedling and other sorts of peaches had been grown, more or less, for home consumption and for hauling to the local markets in the small towns.

When a few enterprising orchardmen in the vicinity of Van Buren, Ark., set out peach trees with a view of shipping the product to the greater markets, their neighbors watched the

experiment somewhat dubiously. But it was not long before the neighbors themselves emulated the example, and began to share the rich rewards of the pioneers. The world appeared to have been waiting for peaches grown from the soil of the Ozarks, and the reception of the finely-flavored, rosy-blushing fruit was prompt and hearty. The markets, when once they learned the superior quality of the Arkansas Elberta, called for more and more, and thus the peach-growing industry spread from Van Buren northward into Missouri, and westward into Kansas, and southwestward into the Indian Territory; and when the new territory of Oklahoma was created, the pioneer settlers were not long in availing themselves of this opportunity to turn their virgin acres to profitable account.

At first the commercial peach orchardists of Van Buren grew a number of varieties of peaches, but when the Elberta was tried and found not wanting it became the prime favorite—a position which it has maintained ever since. The reason is not far to seek; there is more money in growing the Elberta than in growing the other varieties, though the others produce abundantly and with profit.

From Van Buren the Elberta fever spread to the country around Rogers, and thence to Springdale, Fayetteville, Mammoth Springs and other Arkansas towns. Each of these towns became important shipping points for peaches, and in the picking and shipping season there are busy scenes about the railroad tracks. Ere long the Elberta supplanted the seedling and other varieties at Missouri shipping points in the Ozarks, and now there are dozens of important towns that thrive on the peach industry. Experts pronounce Ozark-grown peaches superior to any produced elsewhere.

According to the census of 1900 there were in Crawford County, Ark., 175,729 peach trees in bearing, and in Benton County there were 141,241 trees. Washington County also



Packing select
Elbertas



Sorting Peaches



showed a very large acreage. In Missouri the leading county in peach-growing is Howell, with more than half a million trees in 1900, and now more than a million trees. In Oregon County there has been a rapid development of the industry since 1900, and there are probably a million or more peach trees in that county at present; while Douglas County also has come to be one of the leaders. Many other counties have hundreds of thousands of trees.

The advantage of growing the Elberta, aside from its intrinsic value as a luscious and delectable fruit, lies in the fact that here in the Ozarks it ripens just at the proper time to make it most marketable. The crop is marketed just after the Texas and Georgia crops are exhausted, and just before the Michigan and Delaware orchards are ready for picking. Thus the Ozark peach fits into its own peculiar niche—a very large niche, by the way, as the shipments and the receipts show. The markets are all over the world, but in this country St. Louis, Boston, St. Paul, Minneapolis and New York probably are among the greatest.

One of the chief advantages in growing peaches is that new land can be utilized. Rough, stony land, unsuited for anything else, gives excellent results when set to peach trees. The well-timbered land of the Ozarks furnishes enough wood to pay for the clearing and the planting of the peach trees. In many instances a three-year-old peach orchard, by its first crop, pays for all that has been expended upon it up to that time. All subsequent crops are practically all profit, excepting of course the expense of picking and packing for the markets. This work is worth traveling hundreds of miles to see.

When the peach crop is being gathered, there are many lively scenes throughout the Ozarks. Large numbers of "hands" are required. These hands include all the members of the family, and many families make a practice of traveling to the peach belt each season, in covered wagons,

and camping out during the picking and packing season. The men and boys work in the orchards, gathering the fruit. The women and girls, for the most part, work under the packing sheds, though many of them prefer to work at picking peaches from the trees.

Every morning, in the early hours, gangs of men may be seen making for the great peach orchards, each carrying his lunch bucket or basket; and each man is happy in the knowledge that he may supplement his lunch with as many rosy ripe Elbertas as he can eat. All day long the gatherers work in the orchards, filling baskets with the sun-kissed beauties; and other men haul the fruit to the packing sheds by the wagon load, where men and women and children "sort" and pack in crates. The material for these crates is shipped into the territory loose, or "knocked down" in the local phrase, and the crates are put together by skilled men on the spot.

In pioneer days it was the practice to gather the fruit before it ripened, owing to the slow transportation facilities, but now the big Elberta is picked just before it begins to turn soft, and the refrigerator cars hurry it to the distant markets, and when it is placed on sale at the retail stands and stores it is blushing like a bashful maiden's cheek and as mellow as music—just ready to melt in the mouth.

The packers are not required to take a four-years course in their business, but there are two or three simple though important things which they must know. One of those is to judge the fitness of a peach for packing not by its rosy side, but by the side without the blush. Peaches with any defect whatever are thrown aside as culls, and only the perfect beauties are packed into the crates. Another thing the packers must know is that the peach must be laid in the crate with the blush uppermost, in order to create a favorable first impression when the box is opened by the hungry buyer many miles away. Favorable first impressions, even in the



Packing Peaches



Shipping
Peaches



matter of fruits, are highly important, and no one can say that the method is not legitimate if the blushes continue down to the bottom of the box.

Shipping associations are formed in these towns, and the shippers of one point work in harmony with those of another, to the end that a certain market shall not be glutted on a certain day while another market is crying for Elbertas. By this wise co-operation the peach-growers obtain the best results from the market.

Peach trees in the Ozarks yield, on the average, about \$1 a tree each year. When it is remembered that over 100 trees to the acre are planted, one gains an idea of the profit to be made on peaches in this section; and the enormous increase in the acreage of trees in recent years, it seems, has not served to keep the supply of the fruit up to the demand, which is constantly increasing.

Verily, peach-growing in the Ozarks has a great future. As the Irishman said, "No use talkin', but the Elberta is a peach."

It was not until the year of the Columbian Exposition at Chicago that the Ozark-grown peach became generally known. The exhibits at that exposition attracted wide attention to this section as a peach country, and the argument was clinched at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, just eleven years later, when the State of Missouri received the Grand Prize for fruit—a victory that was largely brought about by the blooming, blushing, elegant Elberta.



FRUIT CULTURE IN TEXAS.

Hon. T. V. Munson, of Denison, Texas, who is considered one of the best authorities on grape culture in this country, has this to say concerning the opportunities for fruit culture in Texas:

"In Texas from Red River, through Denison to near Sherman, in Grayson County, the famous sandy fruit and truck lands have astonished northern people at the World's Fair with their numerous fine products. There are yet many excellent opportunities in this region for opening up truck and fruit farms.

"South of these fruit lands lie the rich black grass, grain and cotton lands through Grayson County to near Hebron, in Denton County, when the lower cross timbers set in and continue most of the way to Ft. Worth.

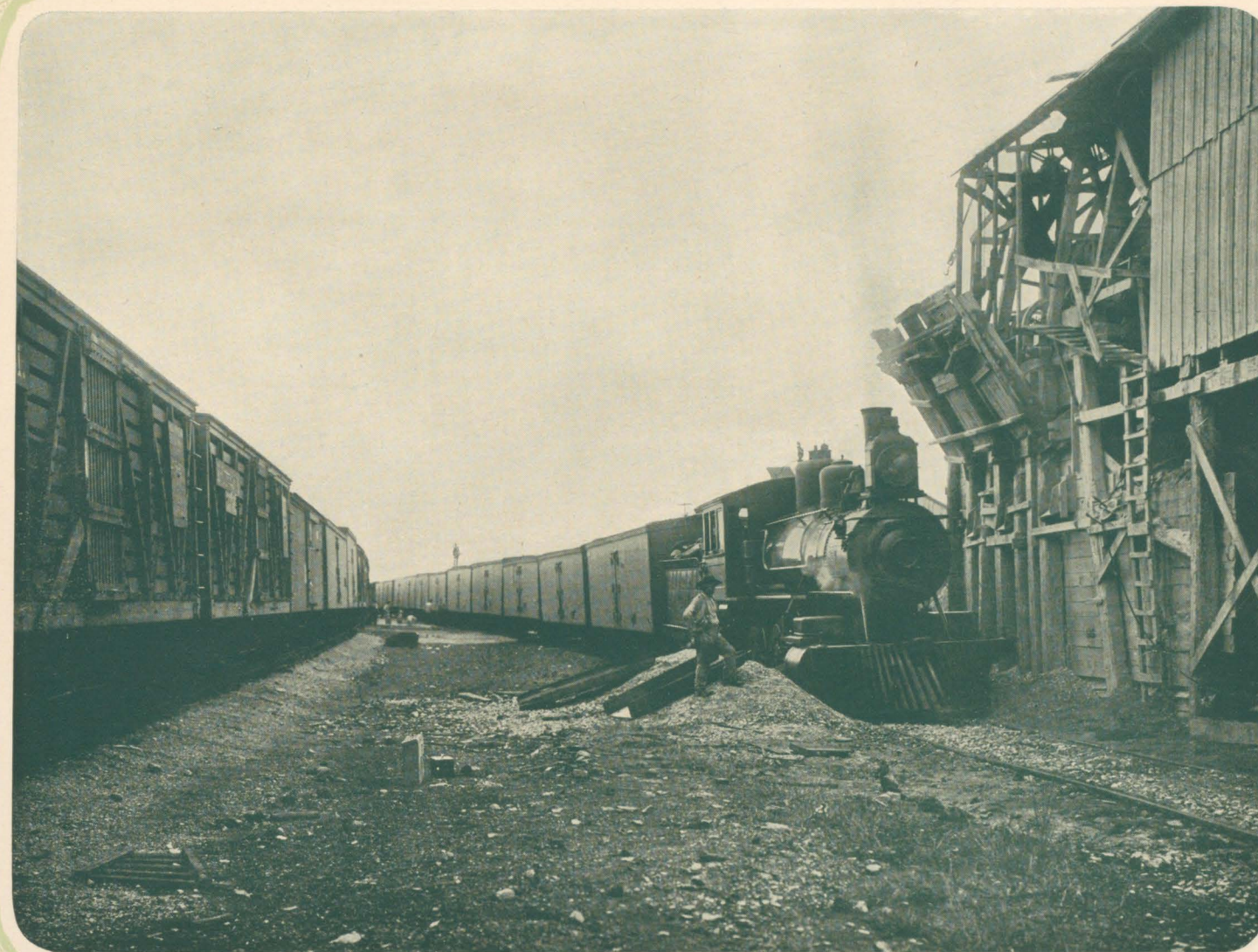
"These cross timber lands are sandy on clay base, of very similar character to the lands about Denison, excellent for peaches, plums, berries, early apples, pears, grapes and truck of all kinds, and being continuous to Dallas, Ft. Worth, McKinney and Sherman, have excellent local markets as well as the convenience of speedy shipment to northern markets over the Frisco Road.

"About and beyond Ft. Worth the road runs through the black sandy prairies, which are excellent for grass, grain, cotton and peaches, plums, grapes and blackberries. Southwest of Tarrant County, the Upper Cross Timber belts are reached in Erath County, where peaches, grapes, plums, and even apples flourish. The county about Dublin, county seat of Erath County, and on to Brownwood, county seat of Brown County is well adapted to diversified agriculture, fruit growing and trucking. The county southwest of Brownwood, on to Brady and McCullough County is somewhat more arid; yet it is a good country, very healthful, and many fruits do well. Here many little streams, by damming, will afford water that can be very profitably applied in irrigation. This is within the region where the fine California grapes, such as Tokay and Muscat, grow as finely as in California, if irrigated, and ripen in July.

"On the branch of the Frisco Road from Red River to Paris, Texas, some fifteen miles, the soil is mostly sandy, timbered highly, and adapted to fruits, truck and cotton.

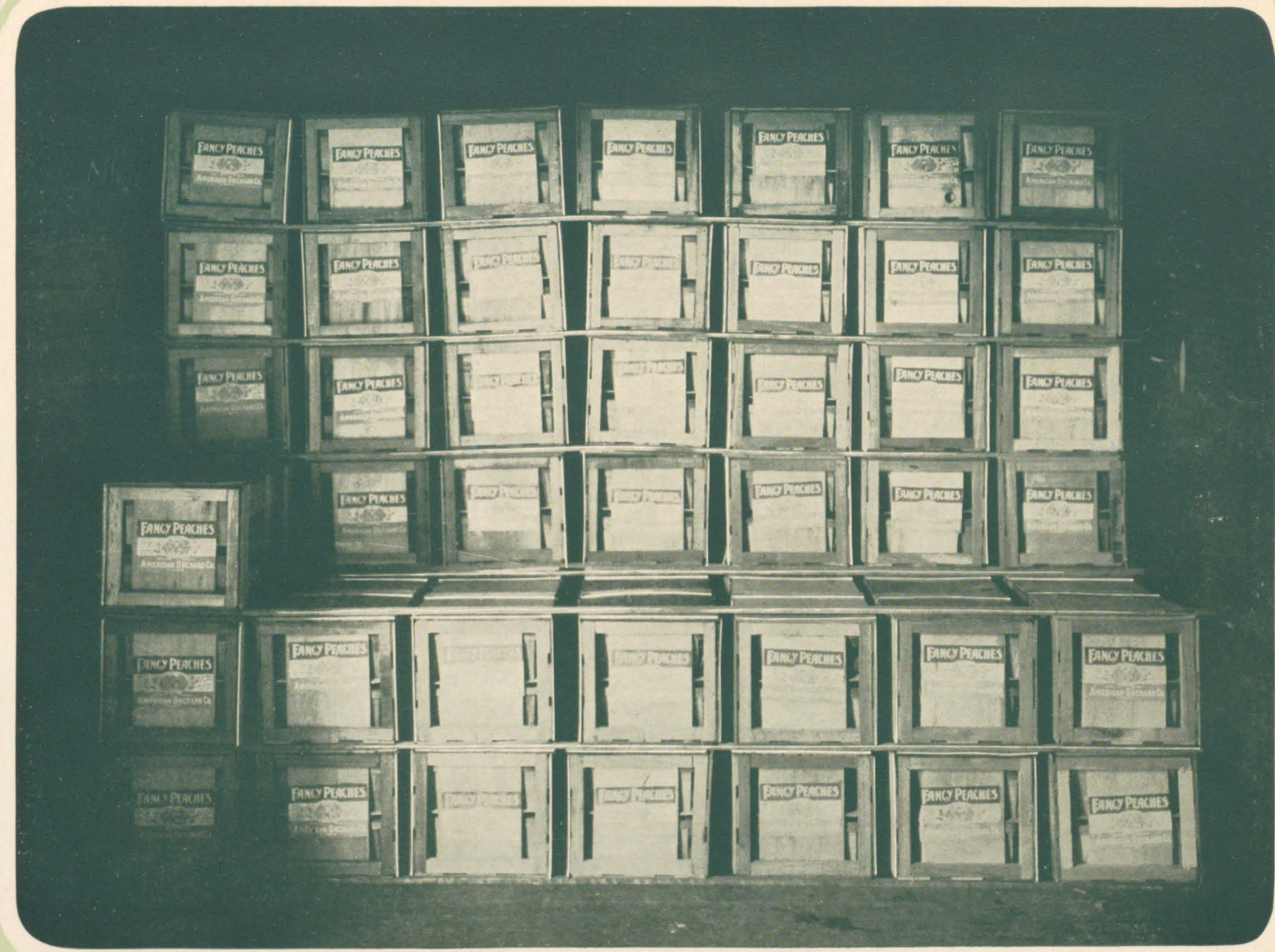
"The east and west line of the Frisco extending from Hope to Ardmore, Indian Territory, lies generally in the famous Red River fruit belt, which is also well adapted to general farming. This section of the road has main lines of the Frisco System leading from it north, at Hugo and Durant, and these main lines from Red River north pass through most excellent fruit and farming lands.

"On the whole, great Agricultural and Horticultural developments, which have been so speedily and well begun in Texas and the Indian Territory, are bound to continue, to develop to a magnificent degree in the future. The climate, the soil, the products and the people are of the best, and offer unsurpassed opportunities for beginners to secure and make most desirable homes."



Train of 15 cars
of Peaches.





Interior of
fruit car



THE LAND OF THE BIG RED APPLE.

BY ROBERT **FRISCO** SYSTEM

The land of the Big Red Apple
Is the land where I was born,
The land likewise of sunny skies
And wondrous walls of corn
That border billowed seas of wheat
Where yellow nuggets gleam:
Not Midas gold, but good to eat,
And glorious as a dream!

The land of the Big Red Apple
Lies fair beneath her skies
As halcyon isles where summer smiles
In seas of Paradise.
The lowly homestead nestles there,
With daisies at the door,
While bloomy clover scents the air—
I smell it as of yore!

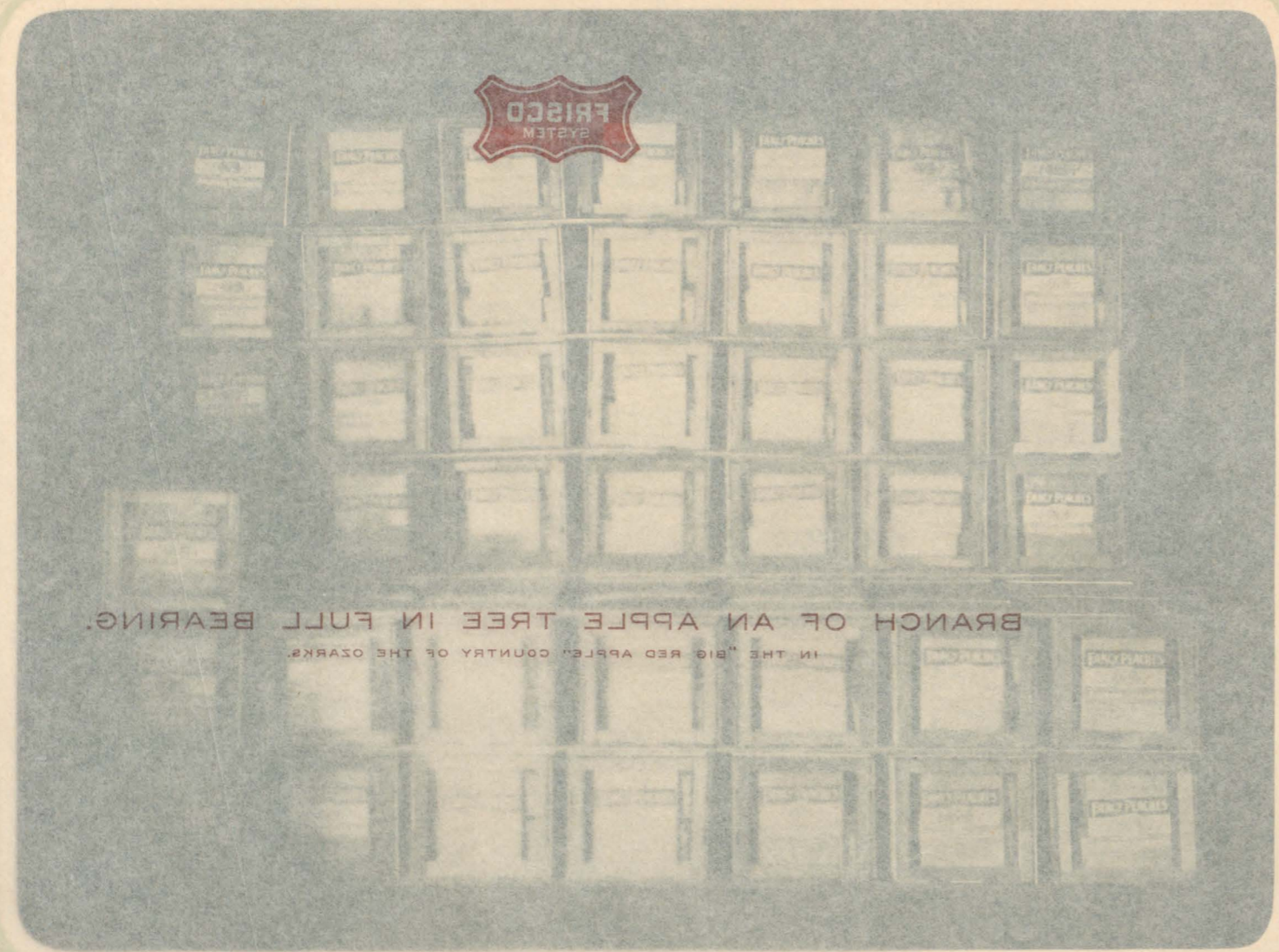
The land of the Big Red Apple
Is the home of hardy men
Who sow and reap, and work and sleep,
And wake to work again.
They go their ways with heads erect;
And women walk beside,
Serene and sweet and circumspect
And true and tender-eyed.

The land of the Big Red Apple
Is the realm of a lordly race
Who do and dare, come ease or care,
Look fortune in the face;
They plant their orchards, plow their corn,
Garner and plant and plow.

BRANCH OF AN APPLE TREE IN FULL BEARING.
IN THE "BIG RED APPLE" COUNTRY OF THE OZARKS.

O land of the Big Red Apple—
To thee this ruddy health
In cider tart with Winesaps' heart
And rich Ben Davis' wealth!
And this one boon of thee I crave:
When death's dark sea I cross
Thy apple blossoms to my grave
May April breezes toss.

From
"Poems All the Way from Pike,"
Published by
THE PAN-AMERICAN PRESS,
St. Louis.



BRANCH OF AN APPLE TREE IN FULL BEARING.
IN THE "BIG RED APPLE" COUNTRY OF THE OZARKS.

Interior of
Pullman Car
From Special Photograph of Scene.

Plate No. 2.

THE LAND OF THE BIG RED APPLE.

BY ROBERTUS LOVE,

The land of the Big Red Apple
Is the land where I was born,
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And wondrous walls of corn
That border billowed seas of wheat
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Not Midas gold, but good to eat,
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The land of the Big Red Apple
Is the realm of a lordly race
Who do and dare, come ease or care,
Look fortune in the face;
They plant their orchards, plow their corn,
Garner and plant and plow.
I thank my God that I was born
In such a land as thou!

From
"Poems All the Way from Pike."
Published by
THE PAN-AMERICAN PRESS,
ST. LOUIS.

THE ARKANSAS FRUIT BELT.

John P. Logan, President of the Arkansas State Horticultural Society, says:

"Speaking of the horticultural possibilities and development in the State of Arkansas, I desire to state that since my actual connection with the horticultural interests and fruit business of the State, which embrace a period covering from twelve to fifteen years, and after traveling and visiting the fruit growing sections of almost every other state in the Union, I can safely say, without the fear of successful contradiction, that there is no state that can compete with Northwest Arkansas in fruit growing. Other states raise fruit that in appearance seems to equal that of ours, but no state, no soil, no country gives to the fruit that fine flavor that is imparted to it by the soil of Arkansas. Not only does this apply to apples, but to peaches, strawberries, small fruits of all kinds, grapes, in fact, everything known to the fruit industry.

"Arkansas has been termed by the highest authorities of the United States as the natural home of the apple. In any state of the Union you might plant a bushel of apple seed and from it get perhaps one or two varieties of merit; while in Arkansas, by actual test, by the planting of one quart of seed you can develop from twenty to fifty varieties of merit.

"The great development of the fruit industry of Benton and Washington counties is something wonderful. A few years ago the entire crops of these counties were marketed in Texas and Southern Arkansas in wagons, while to-day it requires thousands of cars to carry this product to market. Benton and Washington counties are the two largest apple growing counties in the world, Benton County alone has six hundred thousand more apple trees than any other county in the world, and yet in these counties the fruit industry is but in its infancy. Thousands of acres of land adapted to fruit growing of all kinds are yet undeveloped.

"The fruit belt is not confined alone to Benton and Washington counties, but the counties of Carroll, Madison and other counties east of it possess the same soil and can no doubt produce as fine fruit as the others. The



Six year old
apple orchard
in Ozark Mts.

Apple Orchard
in
Ozark Mts.



only reason that the fruit industry is not developed in these counties has been for the want of transportation, but since the railroads are building in the section the time is not far distant when they too will be sending out hundreds and thousands of bushels of luscious fruit.

"The strawberries and peaches of North Arkansas are sought for everywhere and command better prices on the market than fruit from any other section."

A GOVERNMENT EXPERT'S OPINION.

H. P. Gould, Assistant Pomologist, United States Department of Agriculture, has traveled over the Ozark country during the past two years studying the fruit growing conditions, and he says:

"New fruit growing areas are constantly being developed, but during the past few years none of these areas has been more frequently referred to by the horticultural press or more often talked about by fruit growers than the Ozark region of Southwestern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas. The reputation which has been given this region is doubtless sustained in the natural advantages which exist here. 'The big red apple' is a fact, and in some portions of the area, peaches seem to be equally as much at home. While these natural advantages are great and large quantities of most excellent fruit are produced, it is equally true that the advantages are not being made as much of as they might be."

OZARK FRUITS EXCEL IN FLAVOR.

The following statement from Louis Erb, of Cedar Gap, Mo., illustrates what a successful orchardist thinks of the Ozark Country—Mr. Erb has more than eight hundred acres in orchard at Cedar Gap.

"I don't know of any section in the southwest that is better suited for fruit growing than the Ozark range of Missouri and Arkansas. For apples it requires a good clay subsoil, and where they are planted on land that produces a good crop of corn the best results may be expected. For peaches and pears the lighter soils, containing more or less sand and gravel, are best adapted.

"The fruits grown in the Ozark range are more highly colored and better in flavor than the same varieties from elsewhere. I attribute this largely to the mineral ingredients contained in the soil and the altitude of that section.

"Southwest Missouri as a peach growing section is fast coming to the front. The fact that the fruit ripens later there than in Georgia and Texas will make the industry more profitable, as the demand and prices are generally better during the late than early summer months.

"The rocky hillsides along the Frisco from Springfield to Memphis seem to be peculiarly adapted for the perfect growth and development of the famous Elberta peach. Cheap land can be made to pay handsomely if planted in that queen of all fruits."

With all this expert testimony before one, what further facts are necessary for the preparation of a brief to place before that great tribunal, the American public, in the interest of this wonderful fruit country? Perhaps some actual facts and figures may be useful. Figures



Den Davis apples



Picking
Apples



tell the truth, and are scientifically reliable. If there be any Doubting Thomases, who imagine that all this array of authority is but as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, let them read these few facts full of figures, culled from United States census reports and from other reliable statistical authorities, and be convinced.

Missouri has more apple trees than any other state in the Union. It is in Missouri that the main part of the Ozark region lies.

According to the census of 1900, Missouri had 20,040,399 growing apple trees. This was an increase of 11,889,957 trees over the figures shown by the census of 1890. Since 1900 the planting of orchards has been going forward in the state much more rapidly than in the preceding decade, and it is estimated that there are at least 25,000,000 apple trees now growing in the orchards of the state.

Arkansas, according to the census of 1900, had 7,486,145 apple trees. Experts figure that by this time that state has 10,000,000 or more apple trees. The orchard business as a commercial industry is really in its infancy in Arkansas, despite the enormous number of apple trees.

Benton County, Ark., has more apple trees than any other county in the United States. By the census of 1900 that county had 1,613,396 apple trees, which number has been largely increased during the past four years.

Washington County, Ark., was not far behind Benton in the number of apple trees reported by the census of 1900, having 1,555,146 trees at that time. This gives Washington County second place in the United States as an apple tree county.

Both these counties are traversed by the Frisco Railroad, with several shipping points and important towns in each county.

The five Missouri counties containing the largest number of apple trees of any counties in the state, according to the census of 1900, are Howell, with 101,668 trees; Webster, 575,539; Greene, 539,692; Texas, 501,709; and Wright, 449,570.

All of these counties are traversed by Frisco Railroad lines, with plenty of shipping points.

Other figures of interest, taken from the same census, show that Indian Territory had 677,068 apple trees in 1900; that Oklahoma had 2,054,894, only 265 trees having been reported in 1890; and that Kansas had 11,848,070 trees.

Much of the apple country in Kansas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory is traversed by Frisco lines. The recent marvelous development of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, and the approaching augmentation of immigration to those lands in view of their taking on the dignity and the privileges of a state in the near future, must be taken into consideration in estimating the present and the probable future number of apple trees.

In Arkansas, along the Frisco lines, many other counties are developing into great apple-growing sections, notably Carroll and Boone; while in Missouri there are dozens of counties in Frisco territory where the apple is king.

It is a curious and interesting fact that the Frisco Railroad System, taking the main line from St. Louis as the parent stock, forms on the map the shape of a tree, the lines radiating from Springfield and Monett being the branches. In view of the grand orchard country which these lines serve, this is eminently fitting and appropriate.



Sorting and packing
apples for market





Hauling Apples
to railroad

WHERE APPLES ARE OF GOLD.

Near Marionville, Mo., a ten-acre apple orchard produced and sold during the five years from 1895 to 1899, inclusive, a little more than \$5,000 worth of apples, at a cost of about \$600 for all cultivation and care during that time. Since that time the tract has been a part of a ninety-acre orchard whose sales in 1900 were \$6,000 and in 1901 were \$8,000. The crop for 1902 was a good money-maker, and that for 1903, the poorest ever known, paid all cost of maintaining the orchard.

Elliott farm of 119 acres near Marionville, with thirty-five acres in bearing orchard and fifty acres set to trees not yet bearing, was sold in 1903 to a Wisconsin man for \$10,400.

Gill Cherry, who recently came to Benton County, Ark., from Texas, picked 365 barrels of apples from a ten-acre orchard and sold the culls for \$100. This was equal to \$80 an acre. He has fifty acres in a young orchard.

On thirty-five acres of orchard near Centerview, Ark., Perry Kiser raised apples two years ago which he sold for \$2,100.

R. Bolton, of Logan, Mo., received a check from a St. Louis commission house for his 1901 apple crop for \$1,700. He raised 1515 barrels, clearing \$1,330.

A peach orchard at Rudy, at the age of three years, made a net profit of \$1,050.

GREAT RECORDS FOR SINGLE TREES.

Mrs. S. E. Wood, of Crawford County, Mo., in 1900 sold nineteen bushels of pears from one tree and getting \$1 a bushel. In 1901 the same tree earned \$12. This was clear profit, as the tree had no fertilizer or cultivation.

In 1902 W. T. Williamson, of Webster County, sold the fruit grown on his one Kieffer pear tree for \$10.

The same year a Peirce City woman sold the fruit from one cherry tree, eight years old, for \$8.50, and a citizen of Siloam Springs, Ark., received \$15 for the fruit grown on one tree.

An Elberta peach tree at Van Buren brought in twelve silver dollars.

PROFITABLE PEARS AND GRAPES.

Milton Brown, of Rago, Ark., in 1903 picked from 95 six-year-old Kieffer pear trees 275 bushels. The land is rough and stony, such as can be bought for \$10 per acre.

On similar land Mr. Brown planted seven years ago, one and one-fourth acres to 830 grape vines. Last year he gathered 3,500 pounds of grapes, which were made into wine and sold for \$1,950. Grapes and cuttings sold made the increase from this one and one-fourth acres for the five years of fruiting \$2,360, or \$377.66 per acre. His total expense on the vineyard was \$250.00.

STRAWBERRIES IN THE OZARKS.

A long time ago some one made a remark concerning strawberries, which is still quotable: "God might have made a better berry than the strawberry," said this devotee, "but He didn't."

The remark might be revised now to read: "God might have made a better berry than the strawberry grown in the Ozarks, but He didn't."




Apples barreled
for shipment.





Sample Apples

The strawberry of the Ozarks, like the Elberta peach, is a commercial product of but a few years' standing. The first commercial peach  were in the neighborhood of Van Buren, Ark., and it was there that strawberries were raised in that state on a large scale for the distant markets. The strawberry pioneers began their successful experiments shortly after the peach men began. In fact, some of the peach-growers utilized the space between the trees for strawberries, and thus produced two crops on the same land. The first strawberries grown around Van Buren were of the Michel variety. It was not long until strawberry culture spread to Fayetteville and farther northward, the Michel, the Crescent, the Warfield, the Bubach and the Gandy being grown in large quantities.

At Sarcoxie, Mo., however, the strawberry became a commercial fruit several years before Arkansas Ozarkers took up its culture. That was about fifteen or twenty years ago—when the Van Buren farmers first began their experiments with peaches on a large scale. At Sarcoxie the Warfield and Crescent varieties were grown at first, but larger berries were introduced later, such as the Bubach, the Haviland, the Gandy, the Aroma and the Clyde. As many as 232 carloads of these berries have been shipped from Sarcoxie in one season. **GROWING WATERMELONS AND CANTALOUPES.** Van Buren has shipped IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI AND NORTHWEST ARKANSAS. as high as 275 cars in a season. Fayetteville, Rogers, Springdale, and other Arkansas towns are large shipping points. In Missouri, among the towns that ship 100 or more carloads each season, are Peirce City, Monett, Marionville, Neosho and Republic.

Strawberry growers have formed shipping associations in order to get the best results from the markets. By co-operation made possible through these associations, the shipments are so distributed that all the markets get their proper share of the product and no market is glutted.



GROWING WATERMELONS AND CANTALOUPES
IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI AND NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Sample Apples

Plan No. 6.

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New land is best for strawberries. The land may be cleared in the winter and set to berries in the spring, and the next year there will be an abundant crop. Thus the strawberry gives quicker yield than the tree fruits, and many orchardists plant their tree land to berries for several seasons, while waiting for the trees to mature.

The Ozark-grown strawberries come into market at a time when the prices are good, the berries from other sections ripening earlier or later, as the case may be, thus leaving an open market for the Ozarks.

While strawberries may be grown, and are grown, extensively in dozens of Arkansas and Missouri counties, the leading counties in this profitable industry are as follows: In Missouri: Barry, Lawrence, Newton, Jasper, Greene, Howell, Wright, Webster and Laclede; in Arkansas: Crawford, Washington, Benton and Fulton.

Here are a few instances of good profits made in strawberry culture in Arkansas and Missouri, though one might compile a similar list that would cover scores of pages:

In 1901 C. Ruhl, of Republic, Mo., received \$1,500 for his apples and \$1,100 for his berries. How many farms of 160 acres in the North return an income of \$2,600?

Dennis McNalley, of Sarcoxie, Mo., picked 400 crates of Haviland strawberries from one acre of land one season.

G. E. Logan, of Logan Station, Lawrence County, Mo., made net sales from five acres of Gandy strawberries one season amounting to \$2,000.

Adam Smith, of Neosho, Mo., from one and one-third acres, sold berries that brought him \$960. These berries were grown on high, stony land that cost \$7 per acre.



Gathering Watermelons





Cantaloupe growing

Henry Schuler, of Fort Worth, Ark., received net returns from three acres of strawberries in 1903 of \$1,800.



R. L. Wallace, of Logan, Mo., had an even acre of Frisco strawberries which produced in one season 270 crates and the following season 385 crates.

In 1902 J. J. Jones, of Republic, Mo., made \$127 per acre on three acres of strawberries; G. A. Gregory made \$153 on one acre, and Dr. E. L. Beal made \$6,000 on twenty-two acres.



GROWING GRAPES,

IN THE GREAT FRUIT GROWING COUNTRY OF THE OZARKS.



Cantaloupe growing

Henry Schuler, of Fort Worth, Ark., received net returns from three acres of strawberries in 1903 of \$1,800.

R. L. Wallace, of Logan, Mo., had an even acre of Clyde strawberries which produced in one season 270 crates and the following season 385 crates.

In 1902 J. J. Jones, of Republic, Mo., made \$127 per acre on three acres of strawberries; G. A. Gregory made \$153 on one acre, and Dr. E. L. Beal made \$6,000 on twenty-two acres.

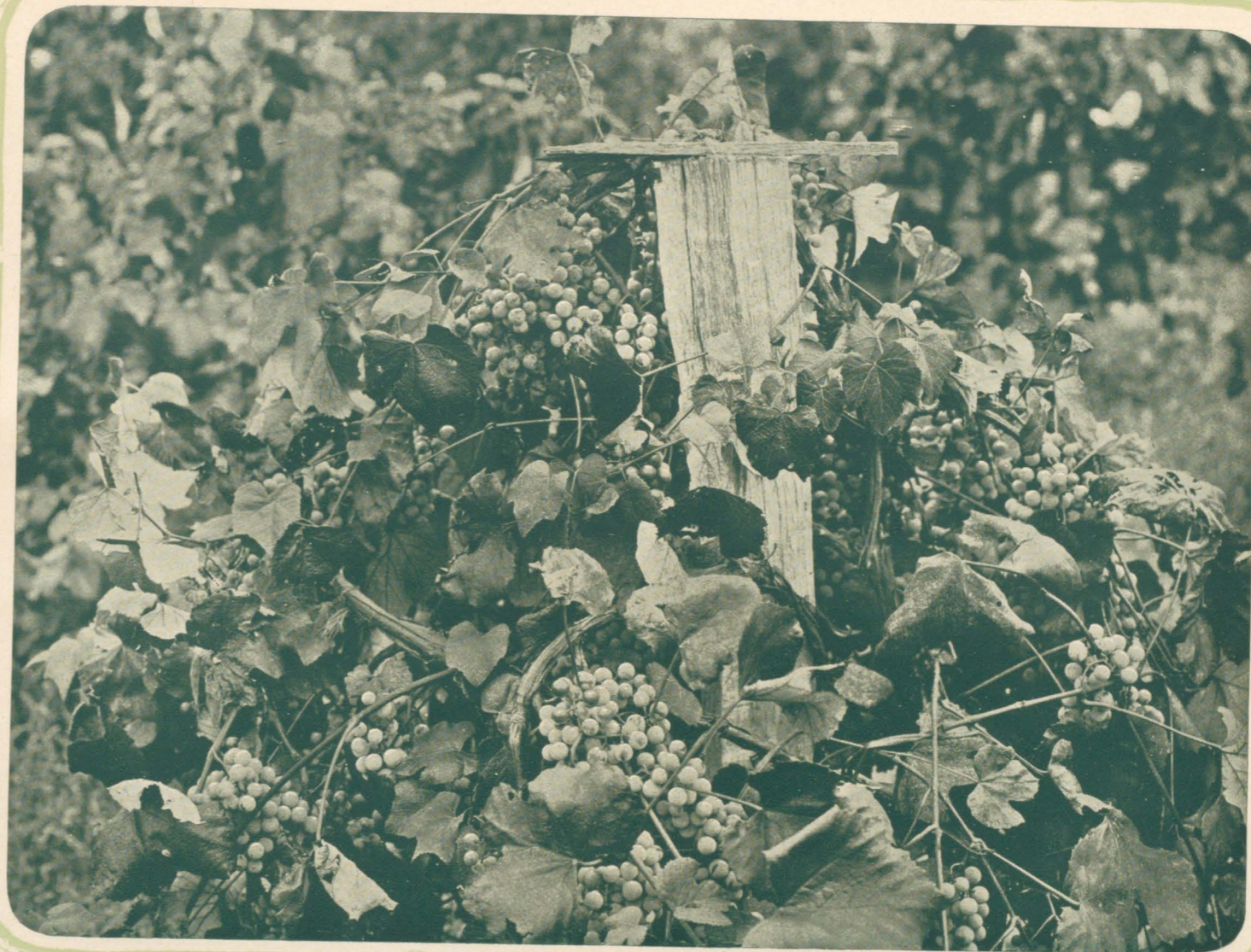


OZARK FRUITS AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The State of Missouri spent a large sum of money on its horticultural exhibit at the World's Fair in St. Louis. The finest installation ever erected for a horticultural exhibit was shown, and every effort was made to collect the best fruits grown in all sections of the state. This exhibit was a great credit to the State of Missouri and to the Exposition. It is gratifying to the people of the Ozarks to know that they contributed in large measure to the success of this wonderful exhibit. Ozark-grown apples such as Grimes Golden, Jonathan, Gano, Winesap, Arkansas Black and other leading varieties were kept on the tables during the entire exposition period, while peaches, the splendid Elberta and other varieties, were shown in their season. Apples of the crop of 1903, from the Ozark country, were exhibited continuously during almost the entire seven months, thus proving their fine lasting qualities.

Strawberries were shown during the entire strawberry season in large quantities. The exhibit of peaches made from the Ozarks attracted a great deal of attention, especially when the Missouri Commission decided to give away two carloads of peaches to visitors at the Palace of Horticulture. This was known as Peach Day. The fruit came from Howell County, on the Frisco System.

The Arkansas fruit exhibit was an attraction throughout the entire period of the Exposition. A large amount of fruit was shown continuously, and cold storage fruit was shown during



Vineyard in the
Ozark Mts.





Picking Grapes

the early part of the Exposition in connection with strawberries, which arrived a few days after the opening; in fact, the cold storage fruit was kept up in the Arkansas exhibit throughout the entire period, demonstrating that fruit grown in No. **FRISCO SYSTEM** Arkansas will keep well. The peach exhibit from the counties of Crawford, Benton and Boone attracted a great deal of attention because of the large size of the fruit.

Most of the fruit in the Arkansas exhibit was from along the Frisco System. Northwest Arkansas is the fruit-growing section of the state, and here the exhibits were obtained. An interesting fact that developed in the exhibit was that Arkansas Black and Mammoth Black Twig apples, varieties that originated in Arkansas, one in Benton County and the other in Washington County, were two of the varieties that kept best on the tables. The Arkansas Black were exhibited during the entire Exposition from the crop of 1903.

The peaches from Indian Territory were some of the finest shown in the building at any time. The leading variety was the Elberta, and these were exceptionally large.

Many visitors were surprised to learn that Oklahoma and Indian Territory have advanced so far in the matter of fruit growing. The apples and other fruits from these two territories made a most creditable showing. **STRAWBERRY FARM.**

IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI ON THE FRISCO.

From the very large list of prizes and honors awarded to fruits grown in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, which it was not possible in the limited space to publish in full, the following list has been compiled, showing the awards to fruit growers in territory immediately tributary to the Frisco System in the states and territory named. You will note that the Jury of Awards held the products of the Ozark Mountain Orchards in very high esteem.



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Licking strawberries.



STATE OF ARKANSAS

Counties.

STATE OF ARKANSAS, Exhibit of Fruit, GRAND PRIZE
 BENTON COUNTY, Exhibit of Fruit, GOLD MEDAL
 BOONE COUNTY, Exhibit of Fruit, GOLD MEDAL
 CRAWFORD COUNTY, Exhibit of Fruit, SILVER MEDAL
 WASHINGTON COUNTY, Apples and Peaches, GOLD MEDAL
 ALLEN & EDMONDSON, Van Buren, Peaches, SILVER MEDAL
 A. J. ANDERSON, Bentonville, Exhibit of Fruit, SILVER MEDAL
 BENTON COUNTY FRUIT FARM ASSOCIATION, Bentonville, Apples and Pears, SILVER MEDAL
 F. M. CAMPBELL, Staunton, Washington County, Exhibit of Fruit, GOLD MEDAL
 CAPP'S FRUIT COMPANY, Capps, Boone County, Apples and Peaches, GOLD MEDAL
 ELI CLOUSE, Rhea, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 R. L. COFFELT, Mason Valley, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 HELVERN & SON, Mammoth, Apples, SILVER MEDAL

ARKANSAS STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, Siloam Springs, Apples, GOLD MEDAL
 S. M. OAKLEY, Rogers, Apples, Peaches and Pears, SILVER MEDAL
 R. H. PATTERSON, Pea Ridge, Apples and Peaches, SILVER MEDAL
 JACOB POST, Altus, Grapes, SILVER MEDAL
 J. L. REA, Van Buren, Peaches, SILVER MEDAL
 SADLER THAYER, Boonville, Peaches, SILVER MEDAL
 A. K. SAWYER, West Fork, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 T. F. SHORT, Bentonville, Cherries and Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 S. W. STEWART, Van Buren, Peaches and Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 JOE WEST, Rhea, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 E. WALKER, Fayetteville, Exhibit of Fruit, SILVER MEDAL
 WILSON BROS., Staunton, Apples, SILVER MEDAL

OKLAHOMA.

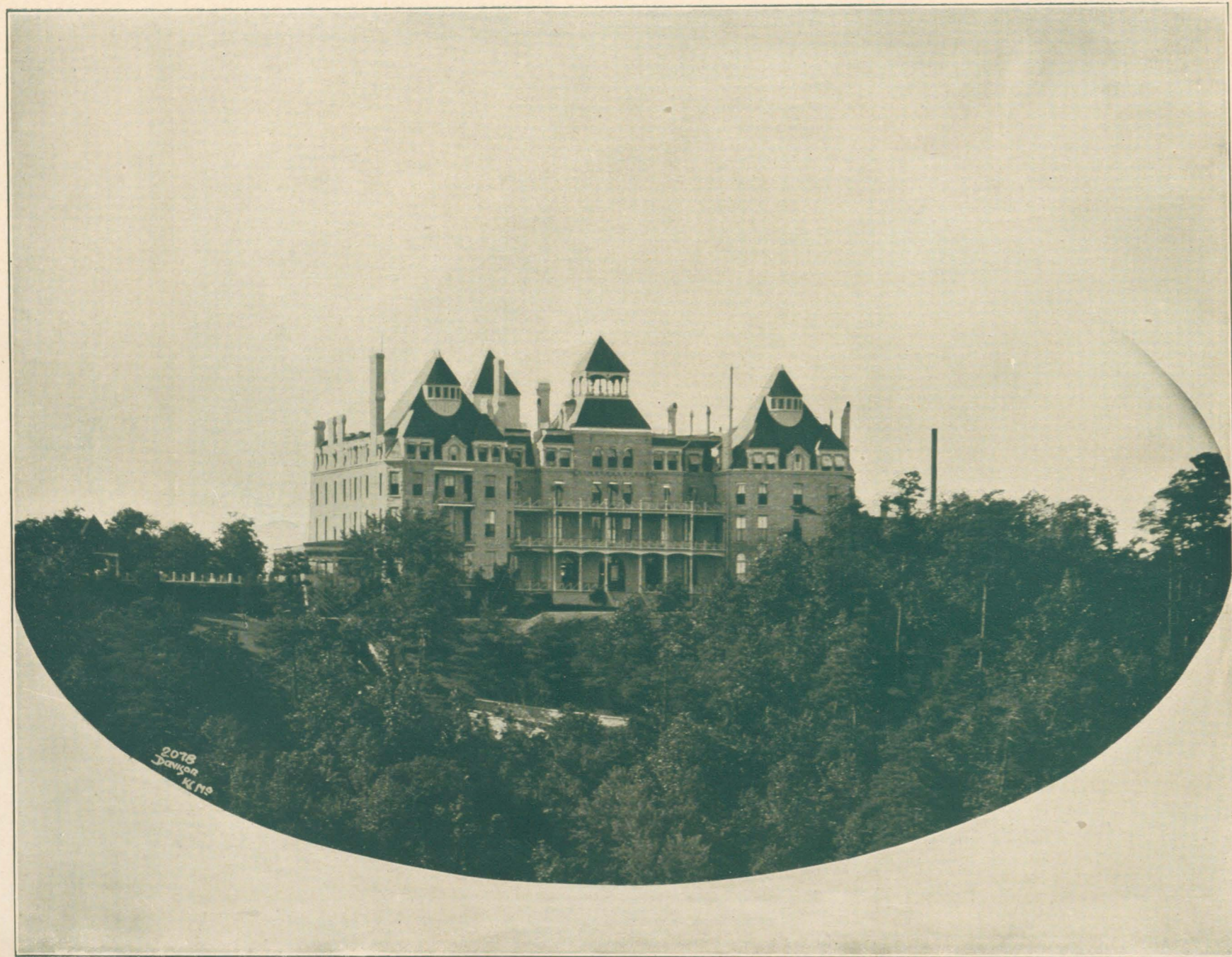
OKLAHOMA TERRITORIAL COMMISSION, Exhibit of Fruit, GOLD MEDAL
 L. L. BROWN, Chandler, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 FAIRCHILD, E. B., Oklahoma City, Grapes, SILVER MEDAL

FOUQUET, L. C., Chandler, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 KLEINER, R., Wheatland, Apples and Grapes, SILVER MEDAL
 TROY, JOHN, Oklahoma City, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 WILLIS, N. P., Eason, Apples, SILVER MEDAL

STATE OF TEXAS.

STATE OF TEXAS, Exhibit of Fruit, GRAND PRIZE
 GRAYSON COUNTY WORLD'S FAIR COMMISSION, Sherman, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 L. W. CLARK, Denison, Exhibit of Fruit, SILVER MEDAL
 W. R. COLE, Dallas, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 J. A. FOSTER, Denison, Grapes, SILVER MEDAL
 D. GROMAN, Denison, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 J. S. KERR, Sherman, Exhibit of Fruit, GOLD MEDAL
 J. W. KIRKPATRICK, Whitesboro, Exhibit of Fruit, SILVER MEDAL

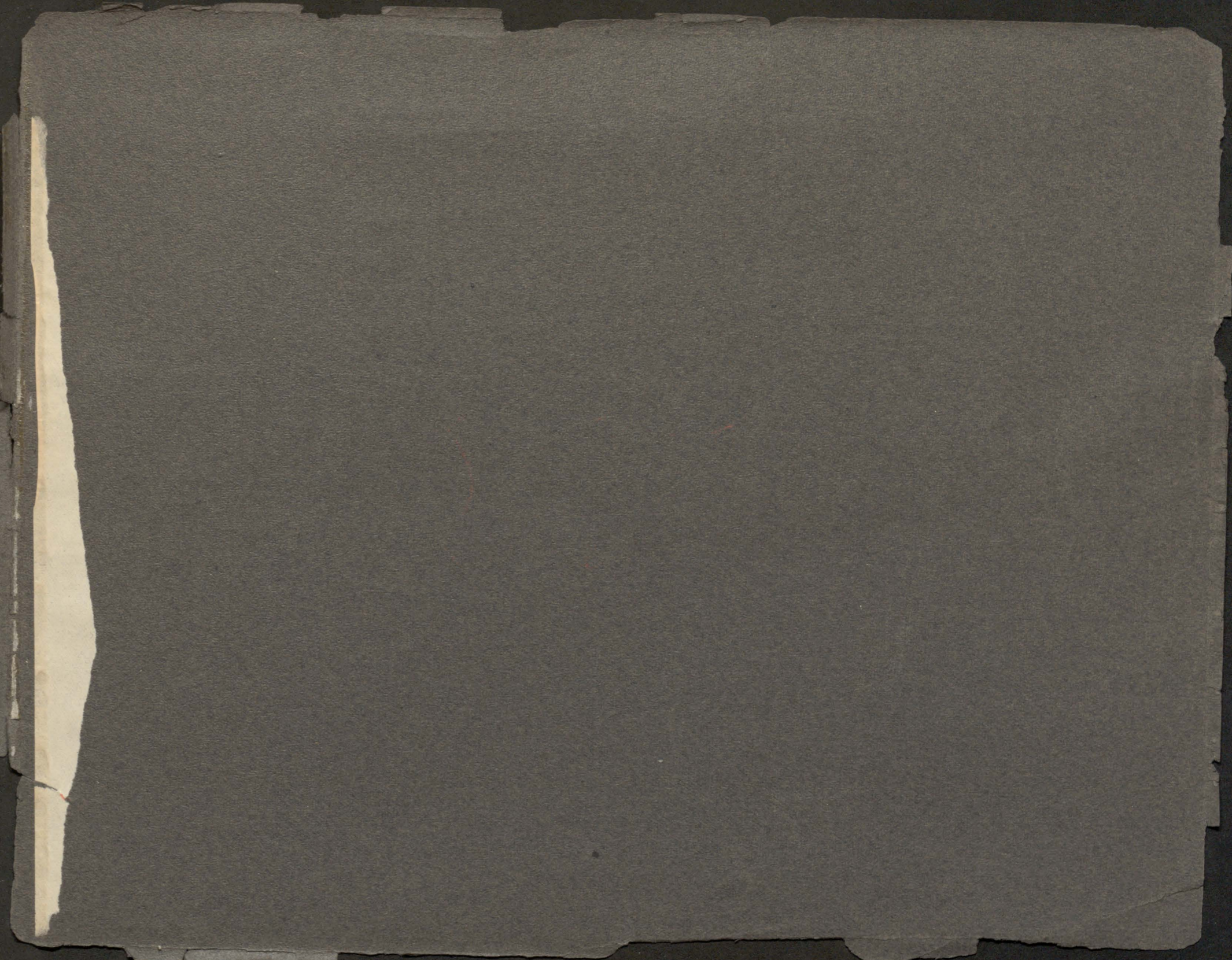
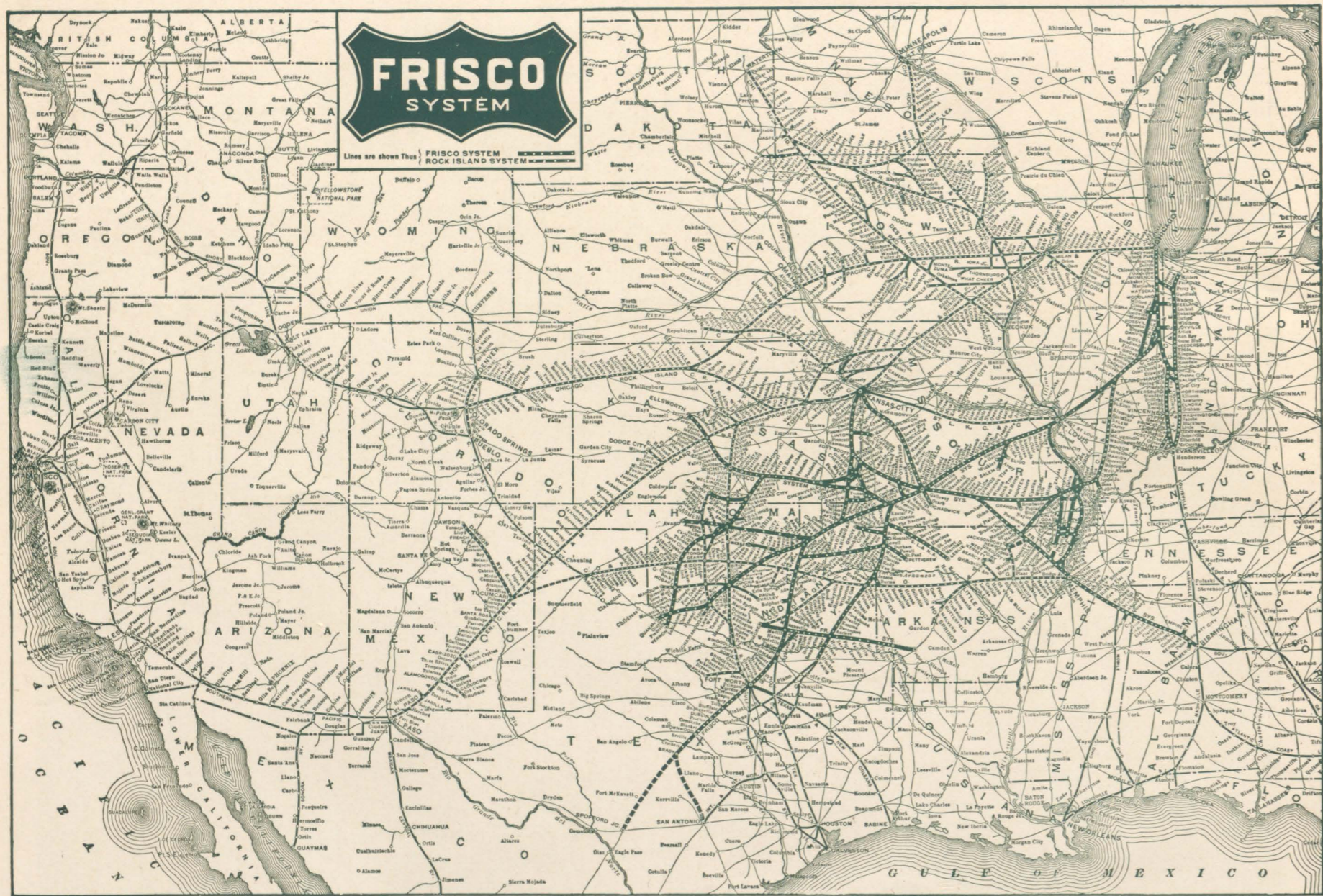
FRANK JENNINGS, Denison, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 GEORGE LARENZO, Denison, Grapes, SILVER MEDAL
 C. C. MAYHEW, Sherman, Exhibit of Fruit, SILVER MEDAL
 T. V. MUNSON & SON, Denison, Exhibit of Fruit, SILVER MEDAL
 JAS. NIMON, Denison, Apples, SILVER MEDAL
 W. E. STANFORD, Denison, Peaches, SILVER MEDAL
 WHITESBORO FRUIT COMPANY, Whitesboro, Apples and Cantaloupes, SILVER MEDAL



THE CRESCENT HOTEL, EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.



CRESCENT HOTEL GROUNDS, EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.





FRISCO
SYSTEM