

12-14-16- Phila Record

GLORIFIED HUCKLEBERRY LIFTED FROM OBSCURITY

Scientific Training Brings Wild
Fruit Into Dignity of Profit-
able Crop.

WOMAN'S TAMING PROCESS

Jersey Horticulturists Fascinat-
ed by Report on Years of
Patient Research.

Special to "The Record."

Burlington, N. J., Dec. 13.—The common swamp huckleberry, converted by new methods of cultivation into the large and luscious "blueberry," soon to become a staple commercial crop, will give the pine barrens and the swamps of central New Jersey a product as important and profitable as its botanical relative the cranberry, according to reports brought to the State Horticultural Society at today's session of the annual convention here.

The romantic story of the taming of the huckleberry after 50 years of failures was brought to the fruit-growers by Professor Frederick V. Coville, botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture, and Miss Elizabeth C. White, of New Lisbon, Burlington county, leaders in the study of the huckleberry and its development into the blueberry, and who are co-operating in conducting the Government's experiment at Blueberry plantation at Whitesbog, near Brown's Mills. Both passed on part of the praise for the success accomplished to the "Pineys," who, by finding and marking and later digging out the best-fruited bushes among millions growing in almost inaccessible swamps, gave the experimenters the foundation for their hybridizing and cultivating tests.

Judging from present results a blueberry of commerce will be fruit an inch in diameter and delicious in taste. It will be produced on bushes as large as plum trees, grown in orchard formation. Berries on some of the experimental tracts have nearly reached this size.

of the South Jersey "potato kings," gave an interesting talk on the results of numerous experiments in the use of potash as fertilizer in potato fields. Professor M. A. Blake, State horticulturist, made an address on "Practical and Scientific Points in Peach Culture," and led the general discussion of this subject.

That the State is rendering valuable assistance to farmers in the work of protecting insect-eating birds was the decision of the convention in a discussion of the game laws. John H. Barclay, the "apple king," declared the farmer could find no criticism of the present game laws, and that the abundance of game gave both the farmer and his friends opportunity for several days of fine sport each fall. In several sections the farmers are said to favor protecting quail for three years or more in order to give these birds an opportunity to increase.

How South Jersey farmers are adding thousands of tons of tomatoes to their production at a good profit to supply the constantly increasing demands of the canning houses was related to the convention this morning by H. F. Hall, of Moorestown, purchasing agent for one of the world's largest canning establishments.

IN ALL PARTS OF JERSEY

From "The Record's" Correspondents.

—Falling over a chair, Mrs. J. Milton Ebert, of Grenloch, severely sprained an ankle.

—The Sewell Dramatic Club will present "The Spy of Gettysburg," a four-act drama, next month.

—The fall of snow has held up work in Thorofare, where concrete sidewalks and gutters are being laid.

—The Ladies' Aid Society of the Blackwood M. E. Church cleared \$120 from the annual Christmas bazaar.

—Farmers who stored sweet potatoes for a rise in price are now shipping at \$5 the barrel, the highest in years.

—The National Park Fire Company will entertain the Gloucester County Firemen's Association next Thursday night.

—After 23 years' continuous service, C. G. Hagerman has resigned as secretary of the Blackwood Fire Company.

—Woodbury church people are preparing for a big revival next month, and are holding group prayer meetings daily.

—The Woodbury Council has under consideration a building and fire zone ordinance, designed to reduce fire hazards.

—Company G, Third Regiment, of Ocean City, is now recruited to its full peace strength of 65 men and three officers.

—Mr. and Mrs. Orme Armstrong, of Richwood, entertained the Sunshine Sewing Circle yesterday at a 6 o'clock dinner.

—The Westville Home Post Associa-

county, leaders in the study of the huckleberry and its development into the blueberry, and who are co-operating in conducting the Government's experiment at Blueberry plantation at Whitesbog, near Brown's Mills. Both passed on part of the praise for the success accomplished to the "Pineys," who, by finding and marking and later digging out the best-fruited bushes among millions growing in almost inaccessible swamps, gave the experimenters the foundation for their hybridizing and cultivating tests.

Judging from present results a blueberry of commerce will be fruit an inch in diameter and delicious in taste. It will be produced on bushes as large as plum trees, grown in orchard formation. Berries on some of the experimental tracts have nearly reached this size, and the discovery during the last summer by "Sam" Lemon, a native picker, of a bush on which the natural fruit was three-quarters of an inch in diameter and of fine flavor, Miss White said, has given the blueberry experiments an added interest and value. Miss White predicted that within a few years varieties of the blueberry will be standardized as are apples and peaches today.

Strangely enough, the investigators have found that the blueberry can be cultivated successfully only on what is known as "Savanna ground," the land on the edge of the swamps, too dry for cedars and too wet for pines and forming thousands of acres of the present barrens. Attempts to cultivate the berry in open fields failed for years until Professor Coville discovered that such cultivation killed a root fungus necessary for the successful growth of the plant, and that an additional requirement is the acid soil found only in the barrens.

The sessions of the convention today were the largest in the 40 years' history of the society, and a movement was started among leading members to make this city a permanent place for the convention and fruit show because of its accessibility to both North and South Jersey. Burlington county's official welcome was extended to the convention this afternoon by State Senator Harold B. Wells, who lauded the society for its accomplishments and promised his aid in getting the organization an increase over the skinny appropriation of \$2000 on which it is now compelled to finance its great work in fruit and vegetable development.

Senate President George W. F. Gaunt declared that no department in the State has been able to accomplish such results on so little financial aid as has the Horticultural Society. "Ten years ago a man who would have predicted the growing of apples in New Jersey, such as I see before me here, would have been considered a foolish dreamer," said the Senator. "Men then said it was necessary to go to the Pacific Northwest for the best in apples. I'm proud that this year New Jersey apples have carried off the world's honors against all competitors and that they are not only nice to look at, but that when you put your teeth into them, you find something worth while."

Senator Gaunt urged the convention to go in for newspaper and magazine advertising to let the public outside the State know of the surpassing quality of New Jersey apples.

Walter L. Minch, of Bridgeton, one

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—The Westville Power Boat Association has invited all the children of the three adjoining towns to meet at the clubhouse on December 30.

—Volunteer firemen will open a three-day fair at Paulsboro tonight. Saturday night a chicken potpie supper will be served.

—The Vineland Poultry Association has been given charge of the farmers' institute to be held here on December 19 and 20.

—The fourth case of diphtheria, all first grade pupils in the public school, has been reported to the Board of Health of Westmont.

—Thirteen pupils of the Collingswood High School will present the Irish play, "The Twig of Thorne," Thursday night before Christmas.

—The Township Committee has passed an ordinance prohibiting the tacking of advertising matter on trees and electric poles in Westmont.

—Invitations are out to a roast pig lunch on Christmas morning at the home of Township Committeeman Alfred M. Matthews, at Westmont.

—The Ocean City Commissioners have awarded Edward S. Graham, of Philadelphia, the contract for the removal of garbage for 1917, on his bid at \$6878.72.

—Men and women of the Sewell Baptist Sunday School have taken sides in a contest to enroll new members. The losers will furnish a supper to the winners.

—The Excursion Committee of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce has completed arrangements for the advertising excursion to Florida, starting February 7.

—The Reliance Fire Company, of Ocean City, has asked that Chief Charles H. Watson and Assistant Chiefs William H. Smith and Luther L. Wallace be retained for another term.

—Samuel B. Leeds, president of the Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce, will address the meeting of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, at Sea Isle City, Tuesday evening.

—By the accidental discharge of his revolver, Policeman Samuel Naylor, of No. 338 North Tenth street, Camden, was shot in the left hand yesterday. He was attended at Cooper Hospital.

—H. R. Lippincott, president of the Collingswood Public Library Association, will address citizens of Westville at a meeting tonight to effect permanent organization for managing the local free library.

—A demonstration of a home-made fireless cooker was made by Miss Fannie Cooper, a cooking expert from the State Experiment Station, before the Shiloh Girls' Club and their mothers, yesterday afternoon.

—A 50-cent social, held yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. John Hutchinson, Pitman, by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Baptist Church, provided part of the funds needed for purchasing new carpet