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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ORCHARD-HEATER SMOKE

Last December a severe and unusually prolonged cold spell occurred in the citrus-growing districts of California. Orchard-heaters again proved their value in saving the fruit from the ravages of Jack Frost but also spread a blanket of oily soot far beyond the limits of the citrus groves, causing even more than the usual amount of damage and irritation in the neighboring communities.

The problem of orchard-heater smoke is a perplexing one in California. The citrus fruit industry is the most important one in the state with the exception of the petroleum industry, and has an annual revenue running into the hundred millions. The growers have invested more than \$8,000,000 in orchard-heating equipment, without the aid of which the losses during severe frosts would have disastrous effects upon business conditions in general.

A mass meeting was recently held in Los Angeles to consider what should be done, in the way of legislation and otherwise, to diminish the smoke nuisance without crippling the citrus industry, and a committee was appointed to conduct appropriate investigations.

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