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BERRY GROWING IS GIVEN BIG BOOST IN SKAGIT COUNTY

MOUNT VERNON HOUSE TO CONTRACT FOR PLANTING OF 500 ACRES TO BERRIES AND TAKE CROP FOR FIVE YEARS

The berry-growing industry in Skagit County will be given a big boost as the result of an arrangement made by the Q.A.Q. Warehouse Company of Mount Vernon with one of the largest canning companies in the state. The Mount Vernon company is authorized to enter into contracts for the planting of 500 acres of land in Skagit County to berries of various sorts, and to contract for the crop of berries for five years at a minimum price that will net the grower from \$250 to \$500 per acre, the price to be subject to increase whenever justified by market conditions. The berries are to be received and paid for as they are delivered to Mount Vernon, or other receiving stations that may be established throughout the county.

The land in the Skagit Valley is said to be particularly suitable for the growing of berries and small fruits, and the nation-wide market that has been built up during the past few years confers upon this valley an opportunity that at present is realized by very few people. A large cannery in Bellingham makes the statement that it was compelled to turn down orders for more than a million dollars worth of business last year because it was unable to get the berries to fill orders.

The company which is contracting for the 500 acres of berries in Skagit County has stated that as soon as enough fruit is available a cannery will be started in this county. The varieties particularly wanted, and which are in greatest demand, are strawberry, raspberry, loganberry and blackberry. The Mount

Vernon concern has arranged to supply berry plants to all who will contract to plant them. It is expected that a large part of the logged-off lands of the county will be planted to berries during the next few years.