

Robert M. Teague - IN MEMORIAM

Robert M. Teague, pioneer fruit grower and nurseryman of California, passed away on September 20, 1938, at Claremont near San Dimas. Mr. Teague, affectionately known as "Bob" by thousands of friends, is survived by one brother, D. C. Teague of San Dimas, and several nephews and nieces.

Occupying a distinctive place in the history of the citrus industry of Southern California, Robert M. Teague has made an invaluable contribution to fruit growing throughout the State through his many years of painstaking and skillful work in the propagation and improvement of nursery stock. He was born in Davis County, Iowa, on May 6, 1863, the son of Crawford Pinckney and Amanda (May) Teague. He was brought to California by his parents across the great plains in a wagon drawn by horses, being six months en route.

Robert grew up at Santa Rosa and there attended school. As a lad he learned farming in Sonoma County as practiced in those days, driving the big teams in the grain fields. When seventeen years of age he removed to San Dimas and in 1880 with his father and brothers engaged in the raising of grain on the Rancho San Jose.

In 1889 when came the "boom" in citrus culture, Mr. Teague started the business of growing citrus nursery stock in which he continued until the day of his death. Through his ownership and capable management the San Dimas Citrus Nursery grew in public esteem until it was favorably known throughout the world. In this business Mr. Teague won and lost several fortunes in succession. In 1912 the volume of sales of citrus trees reached 286,000. In 1892 he was married to Minnie E. Cowan, daughter of E. A. Cowan, a pioneer citizen of Pomona.

AVOCADO ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR FOR MANY YEARS

Mr. Teague was one of the organizers of the California Association of Nurserymen in which he took an active part. He early recognized the value of bud selection for the improvement of nursery stock and standardization of varieties. The quality of his nursery stock was excellent, and he was universally appreciated personally on account of his fair and square business methods.

At various times Mr. Teague held memberships in the Pacific Coast Association of Nurserymen, San Dimas Orange Growers Association, San Dimas Lemon Association, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Pomona B.P.O.E., the Los Angeles Athletic Club, and the California Avocado Association. He served on the board of directors of this Association for six years from 1920 to 1926. Outstanding citations for Mr. Teague included that from the Pan American Exposition held in Buffalo in 1901, the Lewis and Clark Centennial at Portland, Oregon, in 1905, and the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle in 1909.

Robert M. Teague was an honest man, a hard worker and a great optimist. His manner was always jovial with never a sour word or a bit of reproach toward others. His contagious smile, buoyant greeting, ever-ready quips and witty jests for his friends did much to tone up the lives of others. The passing on of cheery Bob Teague will surely leave a grievous vacancy in Southern California.

J. E. C.