

## HISTORY OF OUR FIVE YEARS IN CANNING CLUB WORK.

By

Margaret and May Belle Brown, two sisters of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, who planted one-fifth of an acre in vegetables and marketed their produce--canned and fresh.

We joined the Tomato Club in the year of 1912 and have worked and harvested our fifth year's crop this the fall of 1916.

The first year we gained \$45.00 from our tomato crop. It was just a late crop; plants were set out after the oats were cut in June; and we sold all fresh, canning none that year. We did not have any trouble with diseases.

The second year, 1913, we had a different patch from 1912, and this was the year that we made a pretty good profit on our work. We sold \$183.29 worth of fresh tomatoes, \$50.00 worth of canned tomatoes, and used \$8.12 worth at home. In all, we made \$242.01 and our expenses were \$29.74; so our gain was \$212.27. We did not have any vegetable except tomatoes on the patch this year. We had some trouble with blight and four pigs got in after the vines were full of tomatoes and tried to break the vines all up. We find that the fancy grocery stores are the best places to get top-of-the-market prices for our tomatoes and we never peddle them out to the houses as some people do. We grade as to size and quality and pack in boxes and get good prices for each size. The merchant always knows he will find the fruit the same size throughout the pack.

The third year, 1914, we had lettuce and tomatoes both on our patch. The lettuce was the fall crop and then we put tomatoes on in the spring. We sold \$126.64 worth of fresh tomatoes, \$27.46 worth we used at home, \$20.90 we cleared on our lettuce crop, and \$3.00 on our tomato ketchup. In all, \$178.00 was our year's receipts from our fifth acre and our expenses were \$7.70. Our profit was \$170.30. We put up two hundred jars of fruit from the farm averaging about 25¢ per jar and six hundred cans of tomatoes worth 10¢ per can, averaging in all \$50.00 for fruit and \$60.00 for tomatoes. The cost of cans and sugar was \$17.50. The profit was \$92.50.

Profit from farm.....	\$ 92.50
Profit from one-fifth acre garden.....	170.30
Total profit for 1914.....	<u>\$262.80</u>

Our fourth year, 1915, we had several kinds of vegetables on our plot. We had cabbage and onions for fall crops and then our tomatoes for spring. We sold \$21.30 worth of cabbage, \$54.70 worth of onions, and \$117.20 worth of tomatoes. All added up, this gives us \$195.20. Our expenses were \$50.00 even; so we gained \$145.20 from our one-fifth acre. We had some trouble with the blight and cut worms. From the farm we put up 90 quart jars of preserves valued at \$54.00, 125 jars of canned fruit valued at \$31.25, 157 cans part of string beans and part tomatoes valued at \$15.70. The cost of cans and sugar was \$10.00. We had the jars already and the cost of new rubbers was very small. The total receipts for 1915 were \$294.15. The cost was \$60.00. The profit was \$234.15.

Our fifth and last year that we have worked, 1916, we had beans, spinach, cress, mustard, corn and tomatoes. But we have a crop

of spinach sown on our patch and beans started in rows for our fall crop. We made \$21.55 off of our last fall beans, \$42.55 on spinach, 80¢ on mustard. We made \$6.00 on seed corn of this year's raising. We used at home off of our fall crops, all put together, \$11.55 worth and from this summer's crop of tomatoes \$20.00 worth. We made \$102.15 and our expenses were \$15.90. Our total gain from one-fifth acre garden was \$86.55. From the farm we canned in 1916 two hundred quart jars of fruit valued at \$50.00, 150 cans--part of beans and part of tomatoes--at 10¢ per can, making \$15.00. Our expenses were \$16.40. Our profit from the farm was \$49.30. The total receipts from our one-fifth acre and from the farm were \$167.85. The expenses were \$22.30. The profit was \$35.55. This year of 1916 our county was badly hurt by the July floods and our garden crops were not good.

The total profit of our five years' Canning Club work is \$889.77. We have received several nice prizes which we have to be proud of, and one to think of and be proud of our thoughts, is that trip to Washington which we won as a prize in 1913.