

Source 7a

Extracts from the Worthing Diamond Jubilee Souvenir book, 1897; and the Sussex Daily News, 1906.

Worthing Souvenir, Diamond Jubilee, 1897

A NEW INDUSTRY - CULTURE OF FRUIT AND FLOWERS

Facility of transmission to the London and other markets has brought ...an industry of which no one seemed to have any thought twenty-five years ago. In the cultivation of grapes, tomatoes, cucumbers, and flowers, a large number of persons are employed, and the glass houses in which the produce is reared and brought to perfection are estimated to extend, if placed end to end, fully fourteen miles.

Tons of fruit are sent daily to Covent Garden and to the markets of Birmingham, Manchester, and even Glasgow and Edinburgh. The fertility of the soil and the salubrity of the climate are proved by the fact that fruit can be ripened three weeks earlier in Worthing than in the neighbourhood of London...The industry is one in which the inhabitants of the borough may justly feel pride, ...as it has done, and is doing, a great deal in furtherance of the prosperity of the town.

Sussex Daily News, February 26 1906

The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company caters for two special Sussex industries, the chicken fattening of Heathfield and Uckfield, and the Worthing fruit industry...

In the fruit traffic, rapidity is as great a necessity as economy, so these products are sent by passenger train and are delivered at Covent Garden within a few hours of being picked at Worthing or Lancing...Mushrooms, grapes, strawberries, cucumbers, and cut flowers vie with tomatoes in the traffic...

In 1892 the tonnage on this Worthing traffic amounted to 492 tons during the year; in 1895 it had grown to 920 tons to London and 174 tons to towns beyond London.....