

PROBLEMS OF THE COLUMBIA FARMER

Potato Growers do Not Produce Quality to Compete with Other Districts — Need Organization to Meet Competition.

By E. H. Taylor

Columbia county potato growers need organization. They need a good fight one that will force them to do the right thing. They need an organization that will teach them that today is a day of competition, and in order to survive they must accept and meet this competition. They ignore market conditions.

Portland today is consuming two sacks more each of Washington and Idaho potatoes than of local stock. At first glance and this would appear to be rank discrimination against the local product, but such is not the case. It is simply another of those conditions which arise. Oregon growers will not accept market conditions, while other growers will.

A strong organization of potato growers would do much good in elevating the industry here. This should not be construed to mean that the sole purpose of such an organization would be to advance prices. Such organizations would not be successful. A successful organization would study market conditions. No one would be able to compete with others regarding price, but it would likewise have the quality to offer.

Columbia county potato growers have ruined their best markets by not only their unwillingness to accept current market values, but they no longer, as a unit, produce the quality to compete with other districts. This latter condition is nothing but pure carelessness because climatic and soil conditions are such that the best potatoes can be produced. The one great difficulty is that Columbia county growers will not plant proper seed.

While potato growing in Columbia has been decreasing in importance year by year because growers have been unwilling to keep abreast of the times, those of Eastern Oregon, Central Oregon, Eastern Washington and Idaho have been forging straight ahead. Markets that were practically exclusive buyers of Columbia county potatoes 10 years or so ago are today scarcely willing to purchase them except when unable to secure offerings elsewhere. Years ago Columbia county potatoes stood alongside of the Salinas stock in the California sections. Now even the former low priced "River" stock of California is outselling the supplies from this territory.

They continue to plant their poor seed and thereby secure poor stock. Other sections plant first-class seed and grab the available markets.

While the bulk of Columbia county's crop is put in old worn-out bags those from the other sections of the northwest are marketed in new bags upon which are printed the names of the organizations doing the marketing. The potato trade is today purchasing its potatoes by brand just as buyers of other commodities have done for years. The printed brand must of necessity be of good quality.

One of the chief difficulties in marketing Columbia county vegetables has been the unwillingness of growers and shippers to get together and decide upon a uniform package. Such package is necessary, because buyers in other markets want to know exactly what quantity they are going to obtain. At this time vegetables are packed in all sorts of packages, every grower and shipper having a favorite of his own. Generally speaking, the package consists of second-hand boxes which have been gathered wherever possible at the least expense.

It is not only necessary for Columbia county vegetable interests to grow their product more extensively and decide upon a standard size

package, but it is just as necessary that quality be standardized.

The public realizes this, and is buying potatoes by the name of the brand. Unbranded potatoes must therefore be sold at lower prices, if at all.

Years ago the Columbia county potato had the markets and Eastern Oregon and central Oregon stock was looked upon as inferior.

At present Columbia county has practically lost its best and nearest potato and farm product market and the farmers are going to realize this before the year is out.

Unless they organize and put up a standard pack they are going to have a harder time than in years past to dispose of their crop.

PACIFIC LIVESTOCK PREMIUM LIST OUT

The Mist has just received a copy of the Preliminary Classification (Premium List) of the Pacific International Live Stock exposition, to be held in Portland, November 4 to 11, inclusive, this year. It is impossible to speak exhaustively of all the good things which the book contains, but the following are of particular interest:

The closing dates for entries are noon, October 19, for all breeding classes, and noon, October 20, for fa classes.

The same beef classes are offered: liberal premiums, amounting to \$15,850, for Shorthorns, Herefords, Aberdeen-Angus, Milking Shorthorns and Red Polled cattle.

In the dairy cattle division a new class has been added to the Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernseys and Ayrshires, for a goodly amount of money is offered this year for Brown Swiss cattle, said to be the oldest breed of purebred cattle in the world.

The sheep and hog divisions are as large and strong as ever. Heavy horses are represented by the four great draft breeds, with more money for each than last year. The fat cattle, sheep and hogs are well supplied with cash premiums.

There has never been such a showing as that of the boys' and girls' club classes, \$3524 being offered for awards. The breed associations have been generous with the boys and the girls this year. E. A. Stuart, president of the Pacific International Live Stock exposition, has offered trips to Carnation Stock Farm, Seattle, Washington, for the 20 boys and girls making the finest display of dairy cattle. The cost of these trips will approximate \$500.

Probably more people are interested in the night horse show than in any other event. The premium list says that \$15,000 in cash premiums is offered. Later information is that the cash premiums will run over \$16,000, with seven \$1000 stakes, a greater number of stakes of this size than has ever been offered by any horse show in the United States so far as is known, and the only \$1000 stake for driving heavy horses six-in-hand ever offered in any horse show in the world, it is believed. Last year there were over 400 show horses at the exposition, including the drafters, and this year will probably have over 500.

The Western Winter Poultry show, held at the Pacific International last year for the first time, will be on again with a larger and more beautiful exhibition of poultry and rabbits than ever.

The Manufacturers' and Land Products show will occupy a prominent place in the Exhibits building, and is expected to be particularly fine in exhibits of fruits, grasses, grains and root crops.

The Dairy products show promises to be not only very attractive, but of untold value to both the dairy manufacturing industry and the consuming public.

Those interested in this great exposition, representing the entire Pacific Slope, may see a copy of the premium list, which is on file in this office for the benefit of our readers.

Read the Classified ads in the Mist

"SIZZLER" ONE OF THE LEADING SWATSMITHS



Baseball experts are of the opinion that George Sisler, crack first-baseman of the St. Louis Americans is more valuable than ever this season. With his mighty bludgeon hitting the ball at a lively clip he has boosted the morale of his team which is still clinging tenaciously to first place.

THE PORTUGUESE AVIATORS

Captains Saadura and Coutinho, who recently completed a flight from Lisbon to Brazil, propose to repeat the feat, and have ordered a triple motor Savoie seaplane, capable of flying 3600 miles without landing, says a dispatch to the London Times, from Rome. The machine is expected to be ready by January.

The Best to Be Hoped For.

"You appear to be universally popular in your district." "There's no such thing as universal popularity," answered Senator Sorghum. "But I do pride myself on the fact that I have been able to limit my unpopularity to an influential minority." — Washington Star.

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The St. Helens Garage has the equipment and expert mechanics to do your repair work as it should be done. All work absolutely guaranteed. It may be done left-handed but it is done Reiten. Get that? If you know Reiten you know that all work leaving this garage goes out properly executed.

We handle accessories of all kinds and in tires we carry the PENNSYLVANIA VACUUM CUP UNITED STATES OLDFIELD

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ST. HELENS GARAGE
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NOTE—The Red Top tin contains Velvet that has recently been delivered from the factory. It is in fresh condition—cool and smooth in a pipe.

Each tin of
Velvet
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contains freshly made tobacco. Just right for your pipe.

And the mild smoothness you enjoy is the result of Velvet's two long year's ageing in wooden hogs-heads. Patient ageing in Nature's way—the right way of removing raw harshness and bite.

You'll say that Velvet is cool, smooth and "sweet as a nut" in your pipe.

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St. Helens and All the County

VERNONIA GIVES HER BIG CELEBRATION AND JUBILEE

SATURDAY
 September 9th

10,000 Visitors Are Expected

Vernonia wants all the county seat city to be on hand to help in this big event. Splendid program.

EVERYBODY IN COLUMBIA COUNTY IS INVITED

VERNONIA, SEPTEMBER 9TH