

## OREGON CROP GAINS

## Potato Yield Will Be Larger Than Estimated.

## FARMERS REPORT INCREASE

## Shipping Facilities in Northwest Are Being Gradually Improved; Eastern Situation Is Better Than Week Ago.

According to information brought in by farmers, the Oregon potato crop is turning out larger than expected, and in some quarters it is thought the yield of last year will nearly be equalled. Shipments are slightly larger, and they are being double loaded. Buyers are paying \$1.25 for ordinary stock and \$1.50 for fancy. The crop is a limited way, but there is not much of the latter class available, as a good part of the crop appears to be of the large, rough sort. Private advices from the East indicate no likelihood to buy.

Reviewing the general potato market, the Bureau of Markets says: "The potato market has just passed through one of the most critical weeks of its season so far this year, and seems to be emerging as strongly interested as before. Prices have been steady, and in the middle of the week but stand up now about on a par with a week ago. Last Friday there were 668 cars on the tracks in Chicago loaded with partly damaged potatoes in all varieties of condition. With that necessarily cheap stock to be worked off and a full knowledge of the immense crop in the country yet to be marketed, many of the dealers considered it a good time to hold back and see if the market would ever recover.

"That it has recovered, the present conditions show. Yesterday there were only 537 cars on the tracks in Chicago, 65 at Minneapolis, 52 at Kansas City and 18 at Omaha. Denver with 57 on the tracks is the only market reported still dragging from the exceedingly heavy shipments of a couple of weeks ago. Carlots, selling at Minneapolis a week ago for \$2.25 to \$2.50, are now going for \$2.00 to \$2.25. In Chicago, Wisconsin Round Whites brought \$2.25 to \$2.50, bulk per cwt., last week and now the best go at \$2.10. Kansas City reports its home-grown stock, the only stuff undamaged by the water, at a price from a week ago to \$1.40 per bushel. The Fort Worth market, which was higher than the others, records a drop of 10 cents per bushel for Northern stock. In the producing sections the prices have varied but slightly with a depression of from 5 to 10¢ per cwt. through Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, but an advance in Maine of similar amount, due to a decrease of the visible supply on the tracks in the big Eastern cities.

"The real day of reckoning with the 1917 crop of potatoes is yet to come. The November 1 crop estimate places it at 439,000,000 bushels, as compared with 285,487,000 bushels harvested in 1916. Many who were looking for high prices this year were expecting this estimate to be below 400,000,000 bushels. They have been counting on increased consumption of potatoes and on the figures give them small comfort there. Up to about November 1 last year Maine, Colorado, Michigan, Long Island and New York had shipped 17,700 cars. To the west responding date this year they had shipped 13,104 cars. Figures are not available for a complete comparison in that line, but no greatly increased consumption is evident yet."

Potato shipments from the Northwest are reported as follows:

| Previous T. to | Nov. 2-8, week date |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Oregon         | 11                  |
| Washington     | 31                  |
| Idaho          | 70                  |
| Montana        | 13                  |
| Utah           | 13                  |
| California     | 13                  |
| Arizona        | 13                  |
| Colorado       | 13                  |
| New Mexico     | 13                  |
| Wyoming        | 13                  |
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