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THE OLDEST AND BEST ADVERTISING
MEDIUM IN NOTHERN CROOK COUNTY

SHOP of ORIGINALITY

VALUE IS ATTACHED TO POTATO CROPS

Crook County Recognized as Pro-
ducer of Finest Grade for
Seeds

Commenting on potato crops and conditions in general, and placing especial emphasis on the value of the Crook County crops, the Rural Spirit, a weekly farming paper published in Portland, has a large picture on the front cover, of Crook County potatoes exhibited at Redmond last fall. The following extract gives the Rural Spirit's understanding of the value of the potato crop to this county:

"In the region around Laidlaw, Oregon, or from Bend to Redmond, including the Laidlaw region it is estimated that over 1000 acres have been planted in potatoes this spring and other large areas in Crook County are planted to the tubers. That country raises the very finest of potatoes, whether dry farmed or irrigated, the best profit being made by saving and selling the seed, as the potatoes in this high altitude and dry climate will keep perfectly sound without sprouting if properly cared for until later than the first of May.

"The potato crop of the Pacific Northwest is growing in quantity and importance every year. Most of the land west of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington adapted to its culture, the more sandy soils yielding big crops while in Eastern Oregon and Washington and Idaho all the irrigated country as well as the dry farmed, including the semi-arid regions, produce potatoes of a high quality and in quantities that make it a very profitable crop.

"Like any other crop it must be cultivated properly and failure

will result. The method of growing potatoes on irrigated and non-irrigated lands is necessarily somewhat different, but the general principles are the same the world over. Since the potato is a deep rooted crop and forms its tubers beneath the soil it stands to reason that it needs a good, deep, well-pulverized seed bed, whether in an irrigated or humid region. Where practical the ground should be plowed to a good depth in the fall. Alfalfa or clover turned under in the fall make a good preparatory crop. They supply organic matter in abundance and at the same time provide the necessary amount of nitrogen for the potato crop. Or a moderate spreading of manure may be turned under unless the ground is very rich or warm natured. If ground is not plowed until spring it should be stirred early and then let stand a few days to warm up. After a few days give the ground a thorough harrowing to level and pulverize it. Then lay off the rows with a stirring plow. This second working with the harrow, beside putting the ground in prime shape for seeding destroys the crop of small weeds that has sprung up in the meantime. If the ground has been fall plowed it should be disked and then harrowed.

"Only first class seeds should be used. No greater mistake can be made than to use the small, inferior potatoes that are not marketable. Feed them to the hogs and they are of some use, especially if first cooked, but to use them for seed is false economy and will result in much greater loss than the amount saved by not buying or saving first class seed. Good, sound, smooth, medium-sized potatoes should be used.

"Whether the potatoes are planted by hand or covered with the plow, early harrowing and frequent cultivation are necessary. Keep ahead of the weeds and keep the ground stirred lightly to provide the necessary

dust-mulch that retains the moisture in the soil.

"The potatoes may be planted on a level field and may be first harrowed, but as soon as plants appear, begin turning the ground toward the plants, thus leaving furrows through which the water may run. Let the rows be wide enough apart to allow throwing up of broad high ridges, with deep narrow furrows between, so that the water can be let in a small stream for a long period rather than by means of a large stream flowing only a short time.

"The object of this article is not to say anything about harvesting the crop, but it is in order to advise that after the crop is harvested the vines be raked and all refuse matter burned. Vines allowed to decay on the land tend to perpetuate any disease that may have been present upon the crop during the growing season. There is little fertility in the vines and the danger of contaminating the following season's crop by harbouring disease is greater than the value of the vines for manurial purposes.

Missed His Customer.

"When I was a cub reporter, struggling along on a minute salary," said George Ade, "I had just one asset in life which enabled me to 'tide over' that period in every week when poverty seemed to be staring me in the face. This consisted of a handsome gold watch, keepsake of college days in Indiana. Tuesday was payday at the newspaper office. By Friday I would be 'broke,' and I would tote the watch over to the pawnshop of a man who now conducts a handsome jewelry shop in State street. On the watch I obtained \$5, and by administering my affairs carefully I managed to worry through until payday. Then when I had received my small salary I would hurry to the pawnbroker's and release my watch.

"Finally, after this had gone along for many months, I received a raise in pay. It was enough to release me from the necessity of pawning my watch regularly. So I visited the pawnshop no longer.

"One afternoon about ten years afterward I was accosted in State street by a man. I recognized my old pawnbroker friend, now the prosperous jeweler.

"What's the matter, George? were his first words. 'Did you lose that watch?'"

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