

The Salem District Should Raise a Great Many More Bushels of Potatoes Annually, and Her Potatoes Should Be of a Much Higher Grade, Bringing Better Prices

THE BIG FUTURE OF OUR POTATO INDUSTRY IS IN CERTIFIED STOCK

California, Washington and Idaho Are Not Able to Grow Their Own Seed and Oregon Potato Growers Can Make Big Profits and Build Up Sure Markets By Giving Especial Attention to This Phase of the Industry—Certified Potato Stock as Important as Pure Bred and Pedigreed Live Stock.

(The following article, written for the Salem columns of the Statesman last year, by George R. Hyslop, professor of farm crops at the Oregon Agricultural college, deserves the careful reading of every one in the Salem district who is interested in potato growing. It suggests ways to stabilize our potato industry—absolutely, will send buyers to this district year after year, buyers anxious to take at remunerative prices all the potatoes we can spare, for seed purposes and for the best trade. Our growers can build up a reputation that will allow them to establish a standard of quality, commensurate with Sunkist oranges or Mistletoe prunes. Following is the article.)

Why is the average yield of Oregon potatoes only a little over 100 bushels an acre? Why do so many people object to the potatoes grown in the state? Why is it hard to get good seed potatoes in many districts? These are live questions in Marion county and in the Willamette valley, and there is a solution for them.

The low yields are due to two things: (1) poor stands; (2) low yields from the hill because of poor seed. Plant potatoes in rows 3 1/2 feet apart and 1 1/2 feet in the row and it makes a stand of nearly 11,000 plants an acre. On this basis hills weighing the amounts given below will yield the return in the right hand column:

Weight of Hill. Yield per acre
19.9 oz. 129 bu.
1 1/2 lb. 174 bu.
3 pound 554 bu.
5 pound 890 bu.

Remarks: Better than our 4-year average, 1916-19. In other words, two potatoes of small market size is the average hill if we get a stand of 11,000 plants and one pound give us what we consider a good crop. Three pounds per hill represent a bumper crop, yet the writer has seen 15-pound hills, and there is a RECORDED YIELD IN SCOTLAND OF 2700 POUNDS PER ACRE.

Do our potato hills actually average 10.9 ounces? I think they do a little better than that, but there are not 11,000 plants an acre or a full stand. Why is there only from 50 to 85 per cent of a stand in so many fields?

There are several reasons. (1) Too small a seed piece; (2) diseased seed; (3) poorly prepared seed bed; (4) improper planting, especially with the "picker" type of planter when not properly adjusted and watched; (5) careless cultivation. The small seed piece is often without an eye, and so fails to make a strong plant. Often the small pieces dry out and do not sprout at all. Seed pieces for average soil should weigh 1 1/2 to 2 ounces and carry at least two eyes.

The blossom or seed end piece should not be split, but should be cut off from the potato so it will weigh 1 1/2 to 2 ounces and be planted with the rest of the pieces. This small blossom end piece is the best piece, and special mention is made of this since nearly every one splits it and damages it.

Some even cut off this end and discard it. The Oregon experiment station at Corvallis has shown as the result of experiments, that it is the highest yielding piece of the potato for seed purposes.

Diseased seed results in the early death of many plants and even in a complete failure to sprout. This makes many a thin stand. Planting is responsible for many poor stands. Many growers get better stands with the "two-man" or "pocket" type of the planter than they do

NEEDS, and don't seem to be able to do so. The Oregon Agricultural college will gladly undertake to inspect from 100 to 250 potato fields in Marion county, and other counties this year, even though the field may be only half an acre. This is in order that there may be a start at least of good seed for another crop. Certified seed will increase our yields, and put our potatoes in the market at a premium. —Geo. R. Hyslop.

ARTHUR GIROD, DOWN ON ROUTE 8, MAKES POTATOES PAY WELL

He Uses a Fordson Tractor and He Subscribes For The Statesman and He Has Some Pointers That All the Farmers in This Section Will Do Well to Heed For the Good of Themselves and the Country.

Editor Statesman: I will try and help you for your potato slogan in Thursday's Statesman. I have raised potatoes for market for many years, and as a rule have been lucky; it has always been a paying crop for me. In the year 1920 I had eleven acres, all Burbank variety. Some I planted about April 1. The yield was about 100 bushels per acre. I had a good stand, but on account of the severe frost, they only made a little over 100 bushels per acre, but received 3 1/2 cents a pound for the crop. The balance I planted between May 15 and 25. They yielded about 170 bushels per acre for market, plus the culls. There were very few culls. I began digging late potatoes by September 1, and completed by November 1. Sold as I dug, and so received from 2 1/2 cents a pound to 1 1/4 cents a pound. I did not peddle, but sold wagon lots. I pick my seed very carefully and prepare my ground in fine shape. If you don't spare your work before planting it will not require very much cultivation. P. S.—Thanks to my Fordson tractor for the splendid condition of the soil at the time of planting, and also in the fall on account of the very great abundance of rain I could never have had all my grain sown before December 1, and my potatoes dug and sold and received the highest market price. I believe in tractors. If you want to keep your boys on the farm, and raise big crops, I hope the above may help some of your readers. By the way, I have been a subscriber of The Statesman for 30 years. Yours respectfully, —ARTHUR GIROD, Salem, Or., route 8 box 123.

NEED OF STANDARDIZATION IN PRODUCING POTATOES IS URGENT

The "Last in the Bin Method of Seed Selection Must Be Tabu; Absolutely; and the Burbank Type Only Is Now Wanted For the Table and the Nette Gem Is Best of These; and No Round Potatoes Are Wanted At All; Make a Uniform Standard of Production of High Quality, and You Will Have No Trouble in Marketing.

Editor Statesman: There is an old saying, "Have something that the world wants and though you may dwell in the heart of the forest there will be a beaten path to your door." Today the greatest problem facing the fruit and vegetable growing industry is that of marketing, and the standardization of these products is acknowledged to be one of the most important phases of that problem, but while standardization is generally taken to mean the establishment of suitable standards of quality which will include such regulations concerning the digging, handling, sorting, sizing and picking as will insure a uniform standard of high quality, it is equally important, however, that standardization be applied to the production of this crop. The diversity in varieties and shapes and the difference between the early and late crop must be recognized, but an endeavor should be made to plant only varieties for which there is a demand, and then to plant only the seed true to type and of varieties locally and well known. The result of such method is to standardize these few varieties of pure strains and eventually make the section widely known as a high degree of perfection, and in large quantities—then you will have the buyers coming to you, and you will never lack a market. Today Oregon is producing 29 or 30 different varieties, when the demand is for only five or six. For table purposes the demand is for the Burbank type; that is,

the long, white varieties. The Nette Gem is the best of these and it runs truer to type than the Burbank. The Burbank is always good if you get pure seed, and the Pride of Multnomah is a good shipper. For seed purposes the demand is for Garnets, Red Rose, White Rose or British Queen and American Wonders. There is no demand for the round varieties, such as Gold Coin, Rivalis, Bliss, Irish Cobblers, etc., and it is a waste of time and money to produce them. It is far better, and you will be money ahead if you feed what you have on hand or dump them out in the spring and buy other seed. On account of the shortage of seed last year, and the unusual demand, growers were forced to resort to the "last in the bin" method of seed selection, and the result is about 20 different varieties, and of a quality that will not sell; and that is what we must guard against this year, as it is useless to produce varieties there is no market for. It cannot be said that market demands are unreasonable. The standards demanded by the wholesale dealer are not to be feared. It is his business to study the market, and he knows what the consumer wants. The great class of buyers ask only for a grade of potatoes which is sound, free from culls or waste stock, and of good average size, and when this is realized it will give the buyer and seller a foundation on which to deal with a better understanding and mutual confidence. —F. E. MANGIS, Of Mangis Bros. Salem, Or., Feb. 15, 1921.

THE EPIC OF THE LOWLY SPUD AS TOLD OF IN EDITORIAL LAST YEAR

The Wide World Knew Nothing of the Potato a Little Over a Hundred Years Ago, and They Were Only Emerging Into Great Popularity in Lincoln's Time, While Now They Are the Great and Outstanding Vegetable Crop of the Entire Earth.

(The following was part of the editorial on potatoes in the Salem slogan issue of The Statesman of last year.) The Bible does not mention potatoes. Julius Caesar never saw a potato. Probably George Washington never ate one. Abraham Lincoln no doubt ate potatoes; but they were in his time only emerging into great popular use as an excellent food for horses and cattle. Johnson's Cyclopaedia says the potato is a native of the elevated tropical valleys of Mexico, Chili and Peru. They were brought to Spain from Peru in the sixteenth century; they had been grown there in the wonderful ancient gardens that would by comparison have made the hanging gardens of Babylon look like 30 cents; before the Incas rose to power. Potatoes were introduced into Virginia from Florida by Spanish explorers, and into Great Britain from Virginia, by Sir John Hawkins, in 1565, though credit is usually assigned to Sir Walter Raleigh, who was never in Virginia. They were brought to New England from Ireland in the 18th century—hence the "Irish" potato. The "Complete Gardener," a work published in America in 1719, did not mention potatoes. In 1771 only two varieties were mentioned in the most important English work on gardening, and they were considered chiefly as food for swine and cattle. There are hundreds of varieties, there might easily be thousands—for a single seed ball may produce many varieties—and a particular variety may only be propagated from the tubers. The potato (Solanum tuberosum) is allied to several powerful narcotics, such as tobacco, henbane and belladonna, as well as to other esculents, such as tomato, egg plant and capsicum. The English people use potatoes in more ways, perhaps, than the Americans, though they do not respect quite so much the Italians in their use of corn—for Charles A. Dana said the cooks of Rome knew 1000 different ways to cook and serve corn. The English raise potatoes in hot houses extensively, and contrive to have them fresh all the year through. The gold of the Indies was the attraction that led Columbus to sail westward, that carried Cortez to Mexico and Pizarro to Peru. The Incas had large stores of the precious metal, representing, no doubt, Peruvian potatoes, the many centuries. The capture of such a booty resounded throughout Europe. Spain became for a time the wealthiest nation of Europe, and this was ascribed to the gold of Peru. But Peru held another treasure much more valuable for the nations of Europe than the golden booty of Pizarro. Carrying the potato to Europe was an event of much more profound significance in relation to the subsequent history of the world than sending the Inca gold to the coffers of Spain. But nobody understood the value of the potato, and its Peruvian origin was generally forgotten before the plant became well known. Instead of Peruvian potatoes, we call them Irish potatoes. The potatoes was the basis of

the ancient Peruvian nation and has attained almost the same importance in other parts of the world within the last hundred years. The instinctive prejudice against new seed plants prevented any general utilization of the potato in Europe for over two centuries, and it did not begin to be grown as a crop until the period of the French revolution. Even then it had to be forced on the public by persistent efforts of the French philanthropist, Parmentier, who demonstrated its food possibilities by establishing a large number of soup kitchens for the poor in Paris. Potato soup still bears the name of Parmentier—a homely memorial, but one that might not be ungrateful to a philanthropist. It is now one of the most important general utilizations of the potato is still relatively recent. Less than a century ago it was still considered something of a novelty among the farmers of the United States. Thus, in 1816, we find in the American Agriculturist the following statement: "I have worked a farm over 50 years, and have cultivated potatoes more or less every year. Fifty years ago little was thought of this root. A row or two were planted on the outside of corn fields, or in some corner of a lot unfit for anything else. Ten to 15 bushels was an ample supply for a family. There is a great difference between then and now as regards this crop, for potatoes are now one of the most important branches of agriculture." In 1816 about 400,000,000 bushels of potatoes were being produced annually in the United States, and the world's crop of potatoes was estimated at more than 6,000,000 bushels—which means that if the potato crop of the world had been divided equally, there would have been enough to give each inhabitant of the earth about four bushels of potatoes. By the same sign, the annual crop now around 8,000,000,000 bushels. The value of a single potato crop which exceeds that of all the gold that the conquerors took from the Incas, is estimated at more than \$100,000,000. The potato: or shall we call it the epic of the lowly spud?

Almost anyone can plant seeds, and if he does not treat them too cruelly, they will grow, but to be a successful gardener, requires skill, knowledge and experience. It must be remembered that plants are living things, that they breathe, drink and eat, that if their surroundings are congenial, they will thrive, but if uncongenial, they will struggle along between life and death, and although they may finally reach maturity, they will never reach the state of perfection which will make the gardener proud of his achievement. Plants are almost human, and it is sometimes surprising that they thrive as well as they do under adverse conditions. Be sure to have good seed. There is little danger of getting poor seed from reliable seedsmen who test all seeds sold. Never buy cheap seed. The little that you save is insignificant compared with a crop failure. Many persons seem to think that seed must grow regardless of how, where or when planted. Life in seed is wonderfully persistent, but there are some obstacles that it cannot overcome. In nearly every case of failure, the fault is attributed to poor seed, but in fact it is in every 100 the cause is carelessness in planting or unfavorable conditions of soil or water. Of course some poor seed is sold, but if you purchase tested seed from a reliable seedsmen, you will never have a failure on that account. Frequent causes of failure, are planting too early, too deep, or too late. The thorough preparation of the soil is of the greatest importance. Do not slight it, expecting to remedy it by cultivation after the seed is planted. Do not have the surface lumpy beneath. The spaces between the lumps for the air to circulate in waste and moisture, for there is the home of the delicate little root of the plant, and a soft bed must be prepared for them. By all means, have the ground thoroughly pulverized, granulated, and smooth, make the rows straight. If the ground is wet, beds may be raised by cutting paths a few inches deep around them for drainage, but otherwise the garden should be left flat. Do not plant too early. A few vegetables, such as radishes, onions, spinach and peas, may be planted as soon as the ground is in proper condition to work, but most other seeds should not be planted until the weather is settled and the ground is warm, so that the plants will start to grow properly and keep on growing. Often a few real cold days will give them a set back that they will never recover from. Do not plant too deep. An old rule is to plant to a depth of five times the diameter of the seed. The earth should

be packed firmly over the seed, especially when the soil is light. Do not plant too thickly, then as soon as the plants are large enough to get hold of them, thin them severely, leaving plenty of room for them to grow in. It may seem heartless to pull so many good plants, but it is better to have one good plant than several weak spindly ones. Commence cultivating as soon as the plants are large enough, so that you can follow the row, and pay to have a weeded cultivator, for you can do better work with a very small percentage of labor, than you can with a hand hoe. Always cultivate as soon as the ground is dry enough to work, after each rain, or each time that you have irrigated. Shallow cultivation is best, not more than an inch deep if the soil has been properly prepared before planting. This will keep the soil beneath the dust mark, mellow and moist during the entire season. Bear in mind that the main purpose of cultivation is the conservation of moisture and cultivate so frequently and thoroughly that weeds will not have a chance to start. Another important thing, is to gather your vegetables while they are crisp and fresh. One of the most common errors is that they are allowed to become old or over ripe before being used. Vegetables gathered during the day of the day are usually as good in the morning, nor can wilted vegetables be refreshed by ordinary methods. Radishes become woody and pithy, lettuce becomes bitter, peas are hard and a poor flavor when they get old. Never plant more vegetables of any one kind than can be used up while they are still fresh and in their prime. The Onion For young onions, sets are generally planted in rows about 12 or 14 inches apart and about one and a half inches apart in the row. This will give very early green onions. For dried onions, seed is sown, and it requires a rich, well-drained loam. No other soil should be used, as it can possibly be avoided. The land should be very rich and it is absolutely necessary that it should have raised a hoed crop the previous season. It is a mistake to attempt to grow onions on weedy or rounded heavy soil. To get the best results get old, dry dressing of well rotted barnyard manure should be well worked into the soil. After this a complete commercial fertilizer containing a large proportion of potash should be used. This should be sown broadcast at the rate of 1,000 pounds per acre. If the land has been in a high state of cultivation the commercial fertilizer may replace the barnyard manure. Onion soil, however, must be very rich. The most successful growers use, in addition

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN AND SOME VERY IMPORTANT RULES OF SUCCESS

It Must Be Remembered That Plants Are Living Things And That They Must Breathe, Drink and Eat; Some Good Advice to Onion Growers, Submitted by The Chas. H. Lilly Co., of Seattle.

As much as you can plant seeds, and if he does not treat them too cruelly, they will grow, but to be a successful gardener, requires skill, knowledge and experience. It must be remembered that plants are living things, that they breathe, drink and eat, that if their surroundings are congenial, they will thrive, but if uncongenial, they will struggle along between life and death, and although they may finally reach maturity, they will never reach the state of perfection which will make the gardener proud of his achievement. Plants are almost human, and it is sometimes surprising that they thrive as well as they do under adverse conditions. Be sure to have good seed. There is little danger of getting poor seed from reliable seedsmen who test all seeds sold. Never buy cheap seed. The little that you save is insignificant compared with a crop failure. Many persons seem to think that seed must grow regardless of how, where or when planted. Life in seed is wonderfully persistent, but there are some obstacles that it cannot overcome. In nearly every case of failure, the fault is attributed to poor seed, but in fact it is in every 100 the cause is carelessness in planting or unfavorable conditions of soil or water. Of course some poor seed is sold, but if you purchase tested seed from a reliable seedsmen, you will never have a failure on that account. Frequent causes of failure, are planting too early, too deep, or too late. The thorough preparation of the soil is of the greatest importance. Do not slight it, expecting to remedy it by cultivation after the seed is planted. Do not have the surface lumpy beneath. The spaces between the lumps for the air to circulate in waste and moisture, for there is the home of the delicate little root of the plant, and a soft bed must be prepared for them. By all means, have the ground thoroughly pulverized, granulated, and smooth, make the rows straight. If the ground is wet, beds may be raised by cutting paths a few inches deep around them for drainage, but otherwise the garden should be left flat. Do not plant too early. A few vegetables, such as radishes, onions, spinach and peas, may be planted as soon as the ground is in proper condition to work, but most other seeds should not be planted until the weather is settled and the ground is warm, so that the plants will start to grow properly and keep on growing. Often a few real cold days will give them a set back that they will never recover from. Do not plant too deep. An old rule is to plant to a depth of five times the diameter of the seed. The earth should

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with a favorable change in weather the young spuds will commence to grow and seed out knobs and damage the grade of the crop. Every weed allowed to grow in the field lessens the crop. Destroy all weeds as the spuds can have all the moisture all for their own use. Be very careful that you plant good clean seed in clean ground clean of potato diseases. The market varies some in demand for the different kinds of spuds but Nette Gems and Burbanks are always at the top of the list for table stock, and seed, while most other kinds are hard to market in other years like this one. The Nette Gem does the best for us of any kind that we have planted. Your truly, —B. S. THURSTON, Jefferson, Or., Feb. 12, 1921.

Editor Statesman: Gentlemen: Yours of the 5th came in a busy time for us. Will try to answer now and be as brief as possible. If any one is interested and has any questions to ask we will try and answer later. First is to have a good rich loam soil that never gets too wet and that by frequent cultivations from the time the ground is first plowed in early spring until the young potatoes are of a size to make a crop without further work and so it will hold moisture enough to keep the vines in a thrifty condition; one very important thing is to have a shower in summer like last summer to stir the ground quick and not let a crust form. If the crop commences to turn dark green on top and yellow next to the ground too early in summer, then the crop will be short or

NETTED GEMS HAVE DONE THE BEST FOR B. S. THURSTON OF JEFFERSON

And the Reader Should be Informed That Mr. Thurston Is One of the Most Successful Growers of Fine Potatoes in This Entire District and Has Made a Fortune In the Industry and Expects to Continue in That Line.

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to the above, about 500 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda, applied broadcast, in three or four light applications early in the season. It must not be used later, as it will retard maturity. The cost of growing and cultivating onions is very high, and it must be borne in mind that it costs no more to cultivate a crop that yields 800 bushels per acre than it does to cultivate a crop that yields only 300 bushels. When land is in good condition onions may be grown on it from year to year. Seed should be sown as early in the spring as the land can be worked. If intended for hand cultivation, sow in rows 12 to 14 inches apart, and if for horse cultivation about 30 inches apart. It requires from three to six pounds of seed per acre. For those who intend raising many onions it will be money spent to get one of the many good books published in reference to the production of this crop. It will pay to buy the best seed and from reliable sources, as onion seed loses its vitality after the first year. (The above is submitted to The Statesman by The Chas. H. Lilly Co., Seattle. Anyone desiring seed or information is invited to write them.)

Women jurors soon will be called to decide libel actions, breach of promise suits, others for false imprisonment, and assault in the London law courts, and also will make their first appearance as jurors in the district court. They have been sitting as jurors in some of the counties in England for some months.

ENGLISH WOMEN SERVE ON JURY

As Much Anxiety Displayed By Women As By Men To Avoid Service

LONDON, Feb. 7.—Excuses offered by women who for the first time have just been called to sit as jurors in Old Bailey, the world's most famous criminal court, excited a good deal of laughter in that usually sedate place. Twenty-four women were summoned for jury service in criminal cases and mixed juries were formed with, in at least one case, a woman serving as forewoman. The charges included murder, arson and manslaughter. The women appeared quite as anxious as men to avoid service on the juries. "I'm too nervous," was the plea of one. "I'm not strong minded enough," said another. She was excused. Others pleaded inability to leave household, shopping, business, care of babies or sought to evade service on the ground of their own illness or that of members of their families. "I know one thing we women will do," said one jurymen sitting in the court for a half hour. "We will make the lawyers wear clean wigs and have better manners." Others, after their first appearance

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Filberts, Nov. 4.	Poultry and Pet Stock, June 2.
Walnuts, Nov. 11.	Land, June 9.
Strawberries, Nov. 18.	Dehydration, June 16.
Apples, Nov. 25.	Hops, June 23.
Raspberries, Dec. 2.	Wholesale and Jobbing, June 30.
Milk, Dec. 9.	
Great cows, Dec. 16.	Cucumbers, July 7.
Blackberries, Dec. 23.	Hogs, July 14.
Beans, Jan. 6, 1921.	City Beautiful, flowers and bulbs, July 21.
Gooseberries and Currants, Jan. 13.	Schools, Aug. 4.
Corn, Jan. 20.	National Advertising, Aug. 11.
Onions, Jan. 27.	Seeds, Aug. 18.
Spinach, Feb. 3.	Livestock, Aug. 25.
Onions, Feb. 10.	Automotive Industry, Sept. 1.
Potatoes, Feb. 17.	Grain and Grain Products, Sept. 8.
Beets, Feb. 24.	Manufacturing, Sept. 15.
Miner, March 2.	Woodworking and other things, Sept. 22.
Goats, March 9.	Paper Mill, Sept. 29.
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Paved highways, March 24.	
Broccoli, Mar. 31.	
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Asparagus, April 21.	
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