

FARMING AND INDUSTRIAL MAGAZINE SECTION OF THE OREGON STATESMAN

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SALEM SHOULD BE POTATO INDUSTRY CENTER

Salem should become one of the world centers of the potato industry—

Can be if her people will pay the price, and they should pay it; the people on the land and the people in the city, and the surrounding cities and towns. There are many natural conditions favoring such a consummation—

Among them these:

The potato growing districts to the south of us, especially in California, need our seed potatoes. They want a seed potato not grown on irrigated land. We are growing such a potato for them on a considerable and increasing scale, and we can expand that line to much larger proportions.

Salem should have potato and starch and dextrine factories. The by-products of such factories are important in commerce; there are scores of them. The very best face powders, for one thing, come from potato starch. Many of the articles used in textile and other factories come from potato starch and dextrine and flour. Potato starch and flour and dextrine of the highest qualities need potatoes grown on land not irrigated. We can grow the right kind of potato stock for such factories—and use the cull potatoes and export the shipping stock—

And such a factory is now actually projected for Salem. Can be had here.

A six year rotation should be followed by the potato growers of the Salem district, and sugar beets and flax should be two of the six crops.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that the Salem district, and the Willamette valley from Marion county to the Columbia river, may become the leading potato growing section of the United States, if our growers will pay the price, as some of our leading growers are now doing, and as all of our well posted growers now understand—

And the price is intelligent care in the selection of the seed and in the growing of the crop, with the right soils and the proper rotation; with the few varieties most in demand by consumers; with storage facilities, and with careful grading and proper packing—in short, with complete standardization.

We are not likely to glut the markets with such potatoes, for this will mean the making of a regular business of potato growing, by men with only the proper potato soils, used in rotation—

Dates of Slogans in Oregon Statesman

- (With a few possible changes) Loganberries, October 6, 1927 Prunes, October 13 Dairying, October 20 Flax, October 27 Filberts, November 3 Walnuts, November 10 Strawberries, November 17 Apples, Figs, Etc., Nov. 24 Raspberries, December 1 Mint, December 8 Beans, Etc., December 15 Blackberries, December 22 Cherries, December 29 Pears, January 5, 1928 Gooseberries, January 12 Corn, January 19 Celery, January 23 Spinach, Etc., February 5 Onions, Etc., February 12 Potatoes, Etc., February 19 Bees, February 26 Poultry and Pet Stock, Mar. 4 City Beautiful, Etc., March 11 Great Cows, March 18 Paved Highways, March 25 Head Lettuce, April 1 Silos, Etc., April 8 Legumes, April 15 Asparagus, Etc., April 22

It will stabilize potato growing. It will not be a hit-and-miss crop. There will be no failures.

This will establish a regular demand, for potatoes of quality fed into the markets as they are needed, in sacks branded and the brands made true as to quality—

And this will establish remunerative prices, taking one year after another.

In these ways there will be built up such a reputation that there will be a constantly increasing demand, in order to make room for more acreage and more growers.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars a year can thus be added to the value of our potato crop, and there will be pride, profit and pleasure in potato planting and production in this district. Our growers will get above the dead line of mere competition in the potato markets. They will have and supply a special and expanding market of their own.

PRODUCTION TREND SHOWN IN REPORT

The Economic-Outlook Agricultural Report of the College Is Issued

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Feb. 18 — Agricultural income in Oregon for 1928 will be equal or slightly above that of 1927 if present indications for the leading farm enterprises are not radically changed according to the annual economic-outlook report just issued here. The state report embodies pertinent excerpts from the federal outlook report combined with local information gathered by extension and experiment station specialists and 26 county agents.

Gradual improvement in the agricultural situation is shown though many suggestions are made for adjustment of production to changing market demands. The complete report, covering general conditions, farm crops, livestock, dairying, poultry, and horticulture is being prepared for general distribution after the middle of February. A skeleton summary follows:

The general agricultural situation in Oregon is improved, the gross farm income being higher than at any other time since the peak in 1919-20. There is increased activity in farm lands and an increase in number of farms. With increased efficiency and adjustment of production to market demands, gradual increase of farm income is indicated for some time.

Local markets on Pacific coast, where population is increasing twice as rapidly as in the nation as a whole, will probably tend to improve. Domestic markets generally are expected to continue about as in 1927, while foreign markets appear a little less favorable than a year ago. Credit conditions are favorable for the farmer now, and although labor rates are still 70 per cent greater than for the pre-war period 1910-14, a better supply is likely to be available.

Commercial potato acreage in Oregon is likely to remain about the same as in 1927 but it appears that material increases are intended in all states from Nebraska to Maine. Regions of high acre yields and low freight will suffer least from overplanting.

A world expansion in wheat areas is in prospect. A three per

cent increase in winter wheat is in sight for Pacific coast states. Justification for spring planting exists in the blue mountain region and parts of the Willamette valley, though in the latter flax, barley or oats may be more profitable. Increase in general barley acreage is warranted because of local and export demand. Increase in corn is justified.

Cattle prices are expected to remain fairly high for several years, but new operators are cautioned in starting at present high prices for breeding stock. Sheep are increasing throughout the world, but market demand is expected to be good except in occasional years. Efficient production is essential to continued profit. Only 249 stallions were in public service in Oregon as compared to 1051 in 1912. Hogs are still produced below state requirements but probably to the capacity of waste feed available is the economic basis here.

Dairy situation is favorable with increasing demands for products, without corresponding national increase in production, though high quality of butter must be produced. Little alarm need be felt over shipment of cows from state, as they are being fully replaced with better ones.

Surplus eggs of this state comprise but a small percentage of the total production. National volume will be little affected if Oregon production is doubled or trebled. The poultry business in this state is fundamentally sound but depends as much on safe management as on current egg prices.

Apple production has about reached its peak in the northwest. Larger unit production at low cost is vital to profits. Little if any increase in Bartlett pear acreage is warranted. Peach production

can be improved in quality and grading with profit, though no great acreage expansion is warranted except under exceptional growing and marketing conditions.

No increase in acreage of brambles can be recommended except in localities of exceptional cultural conditions and market facilities. Vegetable growing for canneries is on the increase in Oregon, having expanded more than 300 per cent since 1920. Walnut markets are being affected somewhat by fluctuating production in competing areas. Filberts are remaining more stable.

The complete report contains detailed figures and trends on which recommendations are based.

BUILDING UP THE SOIL OF THE GARDEN

(Continued from page 1.)

perennials and shrubbery a coating at this time and it is particularly valuable as a dressing for the lawn distributed lightly to be washed down to the roots of the grass by the spring thaws. It may be used much more advantageously than stable manure as it is comparatively free of weed seeds.

The pulverized sheep manure is the stronger fertilizer of the two, but as it has less substance it is better to save it until the plants have started into growth. Pulverized poultry manure is now available at times. It is the most powerful fertilizer of all and must be used sparingly when plants are in growth as it may burn them. It may be sprinkled on the garden now to good advantage so that its strength will be diluted and distributed.

If the soil is inclined to be acid or is of heavy clay texture, it may be limed at any time now. Lime is useful in helping to break up the heavy texture of clay soils.

Spread manure on the garden any time you can get it. The spring rains will fill the soil with fertilizer.

Order seed liberally. It is the cheapest commodity on the market. It is better to have too much than not enough.

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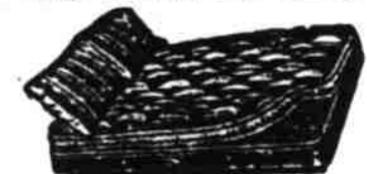
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