

# Certified Potatoes Are Key to Success of That Crop

## H. A. Hyde Firm's Show How Good Product Win

Low Prices on Uncertified Grades Prevail; Hope of Valley Lies in the Quality

THE concern represented in Salem that contributes most to the building up of the potato industry along the lines that it must follow to be stabilized and therefore successful in a commercial way is H. A. Hyde Co., 2698 Portland road, that is, on the Pacific highway, where that company has an assembling and shipping plant and warehouse building of its own.

The home office of H. A. Hyde company at Watsonville, California, where it has large nursery operations. Portland is the northwest headquarters of the concern. In some lines, like strawberry plants, Salem is the place of its largest operations. L. I. Pearmain and W. H. Weeks are the managers of the Salem business. These men started growing and contracting for strawberry plants here 18 years ago. They added later asparagus plants.

They joined with the Hyde company several years ago. **Busy Times Ahead** As soon as weather will permit, they will commence shipping strawberry plants, largely to California, and they must send 4,000,000 of these plants, or 12 to 14 cars of them, to the growers of that state by the first of May. This is an increase of a half million plants over last year. This will make busy times for them. The strawberry plants shipped to California are mostly of the Nick Ohmer, Marshall and Oregon varieties. There are a half dozen other varieties for which they have a small demand.

They also ship all the standard varieties of bush fruit plants, and they furnish certified seed oats, etc., etc. in car lot orders, going all over the country. They sell some strawberry and bush fruit plants to local growers. They also buy spagnum moss for the drug trade, and green moss for the nursery trade; about 12 to 14 cars a year.

**Certified Seed Potatoes** They send from Portland about 75 cars and from Salem 25 to 30 cars a year of certified seed potatoes; mostly to California growers, and principally of the Garnet Chili, Burbank, Earliest of All, Queen and American Wonder varieties, with several others. Their Garnet Chilis nearly all go to one district in California. While the quality of this variety was high last year, running around 85 per cent U. S. No. 1, the quantity was not up to expectations, owing to a long period of dry weather in the late summer season.

The Hyde concern specializes also on veneers for hallocks, berry boxes and canneries.

**More Than Certified** The seed potatoes the Hyde people send out are more than certified. They are tuber indexed, at the Oregon State Agricultural college. They have worked long on the problem of the producing of high quality seed potatoes, and they get results. Some of the high-

### The Potato Industry

The central and lower Willamette valley counties, including Marion and Polk, are adapted to the production of a good marketable potato in sufficient per acre tonnage to make the industry a remunerative one in ordinary years.

If our growers will pay the price of seed selection, rotation, proper cultural practices, the use of the right soils, grading, marketing and packing, which they must do in order to stabilize this branch of agriculture, for they have strong competition from the irrigated districts of Idaho and from eastern Washington and Oregon and other districts.

Salem should and in time will have starch and dextrin factories, using the culls, manufacturing 100 or more commercial products for which there will be a permanent demand.

We grow here a certified seed product that is wanted by California potato growing sections; one not grown on irrigated lands. We are doing this now, to the extent of 300 cars a year, and the outlet in the California demand alone is double that tonnage.

Potatoes are a good rotation crop. A six year rotation should be followed here, with flax and sugar beet among the six.

Some growers in this district are making a business of potato production, year in and year out, and they always have a market; some years they realize good profits. In poor market years, like the one of last year and this year, they at least "break even," or more.

But there is no certain prospect of profit for the careless or the hit-and-miss potato grower here, in one year after a period of high prices, and out the next with low prices.

There will always be potatoes. They make up the world's largest vegetable crop. Potatoes are used more universally than any other vegetable.

The only way to cure the sick patient of the potato industry is to follow the rules adhered to by the successful growers.

est record yields in the world have been made with their Oregon seed potatoes, on the reclaimed delta lands of California.

The Salem district produces a fine quality of seed potatoes, under natural conditions. It is a steady and regular industry, carried on under proper conditions. This concern is now contracting for Garnet Chili seed potatoes for this year's growth.

**For Standard Variety** What about the future of the commercial potato growing industry of this district? The managers of the Hyde concern believe our growers must confine themselves to the Burbank variety, and that they must standardize their business in every particular. For their marketing output, they are in competition with the eastern Washington and Oregon districts, and the Klamath Falls product, where the standard requirements are fully met.

Outside standard grown and selected and packed and marked potatoes are coming constantly to the local market, and the consumers demand the best; especially in low price potato years, like this one.

The growers are getting only 90 cents to \$1 a 100 pounds for their potatoes now, and they are not salable at that price unless the dealers can recommend their quality, or stand the losses in case they do not satisfy their customers.

## 50,000 ACRES IN POTATOES

Quality of Seed Makes Every Difference in Success of Crop

Oregon grows annually about 50,000 acres of potatoes which yield roughly 5,000,000 bushels or 100 bushels per acre, estimates the experiment station. These figures vary largely from year to year. Of these 5,000,000 bushels, about one-fourth are sent out of the state and the other three-fourths are used at home for table use and for seed. The state every year uses about 320,000 bushels of seed.

With no other crop does the quality of seed vary so much as in the case with potatoes, says the experiment station. With wheat seed, for example, there is usually a difference of not more than five bushels at the most between the yield from two lots of wheat of the same variety. Thus when a man is looking for wheat seed, he is less likely to ruin his chances for success even if he does not buy the best seed. With potatoes, however, the seed often makes the difference between a big crop or one so small that it does not pay to dig.

Dozens of cases could be cited where men had two quantities of seed growing side by side, planted and cared for in the same way, where one lot made a paying crop and the other practically no

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This is a stone wall condition that must be met. Some outstanding growers here now meet it. All must meet it, in order to fully stabilize our potato industry here.

There will always be potatoes. People will eat them, one to three times a day. They make up the world's greatest vegetable crop. There is no good reason why any one in the local field should have to depend on outside growers to furnish their potatoes. This is well proven by the experience of the managers of the Hyde concern in getting grown here a large part of the California supply for seed purposes.

A three year survey of egg production in Oregon has been completed by the experiment station. On 154 farms there were produced 1,356,764 dozen eggs. The average cost per dozen was 25.1c. The survey was mainly in the Willamette valley

yield at all—the entire difference being in the quality of the seed. One year, for example, the largest grower in the Grande Ronde valley bought certified seed which yielded at the rate of 300 sacks per acre on 29 acres. He planted one acre of home grown seed and cared for it in the same way, and it yielded 85 sacks per acre. Similar cases occur in every county in the state. So it is important that the grower know the quality of his seed.

**How Can Grower Know?** But how can he know the quality of seed? It is impossible, says the experiment station, for any man to look at potatoes in the bin and be sure that a certain lot is good seed.

For example, one of the best looking lots of potatoes ever exhibited was shown several years ago in the potato exhibit section of the land products show in connection with the Pacific International Livestock exposition at Portland. This particular lot was so smooth and uniform that every potato in the bushel was exactly like every other potato, and every one was the right size. The exhibit was so outstanding that many people asked for seed from it and several fields were planted. None of them was worth digging. The plants grown from this lot of seed were 100 per cent diseased.

Many of the most serious potato diseases give no evidence of their presence in the tubers. Their only effect is to reduce the yield of the diseased plants. The potatoes which these plants do pro-

duce are as sound in every way and are as well shaped as the healthy potatoes. If used as seed, however, they again make sickly, low yielding plants. Because of these diseases which can be seen only when the plants are growing, it is folly to try to pick out good seed merely by looking at it in the bin, believes the experiment station.

**Bin Selection Not Good** Sometimes fields with a high percentage of disease produce a low yield, but the few sacks which they do produce are of fine quality, finds the experiment station, while on the other hand, the finest seed in the state might be planted at the wrong time or on poor ground, so that the tubers produced would be rough and ill shaped. They might be of the

highest seed value, but anyone looking at them would hesitate to use them for seed at all. Therefore, it is believed, bin selection of seed is of little value, and since there is no way of judging the value of seed by looking at the tubers, a chance is given anyone to sell, as seed, potatoes of little value. The buyer has no way of checking upon the quality until his crop is partly grown.

**Have Seed Certification** Because of the above conditions, a demand arose some years ago from large commercial growers all over the United States for some sort of supervision of seed potatoes—in other words, a guarantee of some unprejudiced person which could give some protection to the buyers. Similar-

ly, growers of really good seed wanted a guarantee of this kind, so as to put them on a higher plane as seed growers than people who were taking no pains with their seed.

So the present system of seed certification was developed. Under this system the fields are inspected twice by a representative of the extension service of Oregon State Agricultural college, and if the fields come up to the high standards set, the potatoes are inspected again in the bin. If they still are within the requirements, they are classed as certified or standard seed. The standard seed is a second grade which is not quite so good as the certified seed, but which is reliable stock for the use of commercial



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**Dates of Slogans in Oregon Statesman**

(With a few possible changes)

Loganberries, October 7, 1928.	Grapes, etc., April 28.
Prunes, October 14.	Drug Garden, May 5.
Dairying, October 21.	Sugar Industry, May 12.
Flax, October 28.	Water Power, May 19.
Filberts, November 4.	Irrigation, May 26.
Walnuts, November 11.	Mining, June 2.
Strawberries, November 18.	Land, Irrigation, etc., June 9.
Apples, Figs, etc., Nov. 25.	Floriculture, June 16.
Raspberries, December 2.	Hops, Cabbage, etc., June 23.
Mint, December 9.	Wholesaling, Jobbing, June 30.
Beans, etc., December 16.	Cucumbers, etc., July 7.
Blackberries, December 23.	Hogs, July 14.
Cherries, December 30.	Goats, July 21.
Pears, January 6, 1929.	Schools, July 28.
Gooseberries, January 13.	Sheep, August 4.
Corn, January 20.	Seeds, August 11.
Celery, January 27.	National Advertising, Aug. 18.
Spinach, etc., February 3.	Livestock, August 25.
Onions, etc., February 10.	Grain & Grain Products, Sept. 1.
Potatoes, etc., February 17.	Manufacturing, Sept. 8.
Bees, February 24.	Woolworking, etc., Sept. 15.
Poultry and Pet Stock, March 3.	Automotive Industries Sept. 22.
City Beautiful, etc., March 10.	Paper Mills, Sept. 29.
Great Cows, March 17.	(Back copies of the Sunday edition of The Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 10 cents each, mailed to any address. Current topics, 5 cents.
Paved Highways, March 24.	
Head Lettuce, March 31.	
Silos, etc., April 7.	
Legumes, April 14.	
Asparagus, etc., April 21.	

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