

Mechanical Bean Pickers Due For Valley Crops Before Long

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Just as picker problems brought on mechanical pickers in the hop yards, somewhat the same difficulty is making headway with mechanical bean picking machinery.

Bean processors here in the Willamette Valley say that the mechanical pickers have not entered the valley bean fields yet, but that reports from localities on the east seaboard, where mechanical devices are being tried out, indicate that they will eventually be practical. Should the mechanical bean pickers reach the Willamette Valley, the picture of the valley bean-field would change. The pickers work on bush beans. Here in the valley almost the entire crop is pole bean varieties.

Bean men indicate that the pole beans have been favored on two counts: 1. So long as human pickers are used, it is less difficult to get pickers for the pole bean; 2. Quality of the pole bean has been better than of the bush bean for green bean processing.

The latter problem is on the way to being remedied, however. Oregon State College has, for some time, been making experiments and is developing types of bush beans which it hopes will have as good quality as the pole bean. A little more work in hybridization may yet be needed to perfect this better-type bush bean, one Salem processor, who preferred not to be quoted directly, said Thursday.

Two valley packers are this year doing considerable work with the snap bush bean. One of these is the Alderman Farms at Dayton, where U. S. Alderman not only grows his beans but processes them as well. The other is PictSweet processors at Albany.

Ronald Beglau, field man for PictSweet, said Thursday that because the fact that the bush beans can be grown at less cost because of poles, wires and twines needed for the tallbean, there is still another reason for their use.

"They come on earlier. We started our bush bean harvest Wednesday. We will practically be through with them before the pole beans come on. It is really an added project which fills in between seasons," Beglau explained. He did not, he added, expect the bush bean to take the place of the pole bean for quite some time, if ever. More work will have to be done on improvement of the quality, he admitted. However, the quality of the bush bean is good — good enough, he said, that his company is harvesting 170 acres of them this year, the first year tried by PictSweet. Beglau said that growers of the bush beans were expecting about 5 tons to the acre as against 7½ ton average for the pole bean. While both Blue Lake Packers, Inc., and Paulus Brothers Packing Company at Salem said they had made heavy cuts in acreage this year, PictSweet is increasing about the same acreage of pole beans as last.

John Johnson, field supervisor for Blue Lake, said his company was down from 10 to 12 per cent under last year, and Miss Vada Hill of Paulus Brothers, believed that her company had dropped about 25 per cent. An over-all 10 per cent drop in bean acreage in the Pacific Northwest is being reported.

Growers report little or no noticeable damage from the heat of the past few days. Blossoms were not far enough along to have brought about blossoms drop in the pole beans, and the bush beans were too far along to suffer from this.

However, a closer check for damage will be made this week in both bush and pole bean fields.

Overland Greyhound Seeks Rate Increase

Application for an increase in rates was filed in the Public Utilities Commission here Thursday by the Union Pacific Stages, also known as the Overland Greyhound Stages.

These stages operate between Portland and Ontario and farther eastern points, and are owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Officials estimated the proposed increase at 25 per cent.

Cautious Stock Market Drops

NEW YORK (AP)—Another of the familiar quietly cautious sessions was completed Thursday by the stock market with a slight sell-off in the final hour. Volume totaled 1,010,000 shares.

Considerable resistance to any decline was shown by the market, but there was a question whether it was resistance or sheer apathy. The Associated Press average of 60 stocks lost only 10 cents at \$106.10. The decline Wednesday was 60 cents.

The industrial component of the average lost 20 cents, and the rails lost 20 cents, while utilities held unchanged.

Business

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Consolidated net sales of Gould-National Batteries, Inc., for the fiscal year ended April 30, rose to a record high of \$56,886,246 from \$52,065,480 in the preceding year. Net profit after taxes was \$2,866,483 compared with \$3,055,320 the preceding year, Albert H. Daggert, president, said in the annual report. The company has a plant in Salem, Oregon.

Net earnings after taxes and preferred dividends were equal to \$8.23 a share on the 337,200 common shares outstanding, compared with \$9.12 a share on the 335,000 shares outstanding a year ago. Working capital was increased to \$16,720,037 from \$12,288,312 in fiscal 1951.

Span Approach Contract Goes To Kennard Co.

The contract for construction of the embankment on the west approach to the new Willamette River bridge system was awarded Thursday by the state highway commission to the E. L. Kennard Co. of Enumclaw, Wash.

The firm's low estimate on the work was \$58,816. The contract calls for construction of 37 mile of embankment along the west approaches to the two bridges.

The contract was included in \$1,223,561 in highway construction awarded to low bidders by the commission.

Included in bids which will be opened by the commission today is one for construction of the east approaches to the Center Street bridge over the Willamette River. The east approach will have an electric heating system embedded in the concrete to eliminate hazardous icy conditions during freezing weather.

Another contract awarded by the commission Thursday was one for \$153,885 for construction of viaducts over the West Portland-Hubbard highway between Tualatin and Wilsonville which went to Birkmeier and Saremal of Portland.

Largest of the jobs up for bid—grading and paving section of the Columbia River highway in Wasco County—was referred to the commission's engineer for further study.

The commission, in other action, voted to consider improvements of the Dayton-Arnity cutoff and Three Mile Lane, between Dayton Junction and the new Yamhill bridge.

The commission told the Multnomah County commissioners it would withhold construction of the proposed Benfield Expressway at Portland unless the commissioners withdrew their demand for an underpass.

They also discussed joining other groups interested in acquiring land in the Columbia River Gorge to preserve its scenic attractions.

Wheat Moves Lower; Sales Activity Slow

CHICAGO (AP)—Wheat futures moved lower Thursday on hedging sales in rather dull trading.

Corn featured the market, however, moving upward around a cent and then backing down.

Oats were mixed and soybeans dipped after moving ahead around 2 cents at times.

Corn buying was influenced partly by reports of the sale of three cargoes of domestic corn to Austria.

Receipts were lighter, also, at 54 cars. Cash corn prices were about a cent higher.

Wheat closed ½ to 1¼ cents lower than the previous finish, corn ¼ higher to ¼ lower, oats ¼ higher to ¼ lower, rye unchanged to 2½ lower, soybeans 1¼ lower to ¼ higher, and lard 7 to 15 cents a hundred pounds lower.

Many traders stayed out of the market pending the government's monthly crop report, which was issued after the close of trading.

CHICAGO — The women-folk with the Oregon GOP Delegates would be "wholly thrilled if we weren't half petrified" with fear when their police-escorted bus screeches through Chicago traffic at 60-or-more-per.

That was the comment of one of them—who said she didn't dare be quoted because she wasn't actually a delegate and therefore didn't want to "steal the publicity."

The police-escorted bus was arranged, at \$5 per head for the week, by Delegates Gordon Orput and Jess Gard.

The same informant told The Oregon Statesman that the Beaver State's delegation was "all and still for Eisenhower" even after Lowell Paget of Portland, a Taft leader, entertained an Oregon group at the swank Illinois Athletic Club.

She also said that those without credentials allowing them a seat are learning to be "quite nonchalant" when they appropriate a gallery seat belonging to someone else only to be "firmly removed" by official ushers.

"Jura" is the name of a department of France, a European range of mountains and an island near Scotland.

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