

OREGON BEHIND IN POTATOES GROWN

Grading Law Has Helped Quotations on Tubers in California.

C. E. Spence, Market Agent.

In a lengthy review of the potato season of the Pacific coast states, R. L. Ringer of the federal service, of Portland, gives many interesting facts. He states that Oregon is considerably behind Idaho, Washington, and California in production per acre. During the past three years Idaho has averaged 182 bushels to the acre; Washington 145; California 140 and Oregon 97. Irrigation has much to do with the difference in yields, and Oregon's late crop matures later. Mr. Ringer states that Oregon has a distinct place in the potato industry, but that growers must get higher prices for the products to offset lower production per acre, and that this must be done by virile seed, better product and high grading standards.

The review states that State Market Agent Spence solved a large part of the difficulties by securing federal co-operation, and that because of grading, standardization and compulsory inspection Oregon's well graded stock soon advanced from the bottom to the top of the markets in California; that dealers early found little difficulty in enforcing acceptance of cars bearing a Federal-State certificate, while many cars rolling in from Clark county, Wash., without such certificates, were a loss to the owners when the market broke.

The New Hampshire Division of Markets is showing its section of the country what really is the matter with agriculture, or at least one of the things. It takes for illustration the potato crop of Minnesota, and shows that the growers' portion of the retail price is 20 per cent, the country buyers' part 15 per cent, freight 15 per cent, city distribution 50 per cent and retail price 100 per cent. Commenting on this condition Commissioner Folkner says: "Can any fair-minded person consider our distribution system efficient or just when the farmer who furnishes land, seed, fertilizer, labor and other necessary overhead, receives but one-fifth of the price paid by the consumer for his commodity."

Co-operation in the east and middle west is taking big strides. A federation of all the dairy interests of the New England states is under way with consumer ownership of the factories for the manufacture of butter, cheese and by-products. Minnesota and Wisconsin are federating their creameries and cheese factories and propose to bottle and sell their milk, sell their cream, butter and cottage cheese.

"The farmer who sees his market broken year after year by promiscuous crop dumping and speculative marketing, and who sees the middle men receive approximately four times as much per capita as the producer, is fast coming to learn that the principles of co-operative marketing must be substituted for unrestrained competition if the farmer is to exist in

this day of organization."—Washington State Grange News.

How fast the farmers are learning is illustrated by a report from the Department of Agriculture of Washington, D. C., which states that up to April 1 of this year 10, 160 co-operative associations had made reports to that department. Doubtless hundreds of others did not report. Out of this vast movement results are coming. Co-operators are learning. They are federating and taking over the field where others have profited from re-selling their products, and when they learn to carry their products from the field to the retailer, then will they be running their own business as the manufacturing industries run theirs.

The co-operative Associated Grange Warehouse Co. of Seattle is the wholesaler for 65 retail stores of the state. The movement is fast going ahead in our sister state, because the producers do less talking and more organizing than in Oregon. Sixty-five retail stores in a state, controlled by co-operators, are bound to help both producers and consumers by market regulation.

PUBLIC HEALTH IS IMPORTANT

From State Board of Health.

Public Health is the well being of the community. "Health is more than absence of disease. It includes comfort, vigor, and ability to work efficiently and ability to enjoy life. Modern public health has changed the emphasis from 'control' to 'prevention' and from 'cure' to 'keeping well.'" Public Health Work is carried out by the federal, state, county and city health departments, and by voluntary unofficial agencies. The federal health agency is the U. S. Public Health Service, a division of the Treasury Department. Interstate health regulations are promulgated and enforced by this department. The state public health agency in Oregon is the Oregon State Board of Health, which has been operating since 1903. Every state in the Union has an official organization to protect its people from disease. The Oregon



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State Board of Health is directed by an Executive Secretary and State Health Officer, who is elected by the State Board of Health and also serves as a member of that Board. The State Board of Health consists of six members who are appointed, three every two years, by the Governor. They serve without salary for a term of four years. The work of the department is coordinated under six divisions, each headed by a director. The six divisions are the Division of Laboratories, Division of County Health Administration, Division of Vital Statistics, Division of Child Hygiene, Division of Public Health Nursing, and Division of Communicable Diseases.

The Executive Secretary and State Health Officer has general charge and supervision of the enforcement of the health laws in the State of Oregon. The State Board of Health has direct supervision of all matters relating to the preservation of life and the health of the people of the state. The State Board of Health keeps the vital statistics of the state and makes sanitary surveys and investigations, and inquires into the causes and prevention of epidemics. It makes rules and regulations for the control of communicable diseases. It is the duty of all executive officers, including police officers, sheriffs, constables and all county officers and employees of the state to enforce such regulations subject to the authority of the State Health Officer. The Oregon State Board of Health

does not carry on local health measures. It is not within the province of the Board to function in strictly local matters. It advises and assists local health authorities and individuals when requested or where the need arises.

The local health authority in Oregon is the county or city board of health, with a health officer as executive officer. There is, or should be, a board of health in every county and incorporated city in this state. The personnel of this board in counties consists of the county judge and two commissioners; and in cities it consists of the mayor and council. It is the duty of these boards to elect a health officer for the term of two years.

The duties of the local boards of health are to abate and prevent all nuisances, sources of filth, and causes of sickness; to use all possible care to prevent the spread of any disease dangerous to public health. It is the duty of the health officer to immediately investigate all causes of communicable diseases and to order the prompt and thorough isolation of those sick or infected so long as there is danger of their communicating the disease to other persons; to order the prompt vaccination of persons who have been exposed to smallpox; to give notice of infected places by placard on the premises or otherwise if necessary; to notify teachers and superintendents of schools concerning families in which there are communicable diseases; to direct the

disinfection of rooms, clothes and premises and all such articles likely to be infected before allowing their use by persons other than those isolated; to keep the local board of health and the State Health Officer constantly informed to every outbreak of disease dangerous to the public health. It shall be the duty of every local health officer to comply with and enforce the regulations and the health laws of the state of Oregon.

Varied Uses for Oregon Prune Shown in Recipes

Fruit Valuable Source of Energy and Iron, Says Mrs. Jessamine Williams in Extension Bulletin.

Twelve ways of preparing prunes and 27 suggestions for using the Oregon dried prune are given in a

new state college extension bulletin written by Mrs. Jessamine G. Williams, professor of household science. "Nutritious, wholesome and economical," says Mrs. Williams of the dried prune. "It supplies energy and minerals essential to health and growth, particularly iron, supplements milk in child diet, is a desirable fruit for all children, and a mild laxative. It deserves a larger place in the diet than it now holds."

Four to five prunes contain as much energy as a very large orange or banana, and as much iron, good blood and muscle builders, as three large oranges. As sources of energy and iron, prunes at 20 cents a pound are cheaper than apples at 4 cents or oranges at lowest market price. Stewed as a breakfast fruit for children prunes are in the front rank.

Wider use of prunes by the people of Oregon would have a beneficial effect also on the industry. If they would increase their average consumption to 10 or 12 pounds of dried prunes a year they would eat a 7 million pound hole in the state's annual 58 million pound crop.

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