

DEHYDRATED SPUDS BEING TURNED OUT

Seven hundred sacks of dehydrated Klamath county potatoes are being turned out daily by J. C. Tracy's crew of 120 men at Dallas, now working on lend-lease department of agriculture contracts.

The industry was begun during the war with production going to the armed forces.

Since cancellation of dehydration contracts for the army and navy, the Klamath Potato Growers association has been in daily contact with senators and congressmen in Washington D. C., asking that the government take over army and navy contracts, and dehydrate the potatoes as planned.

KPGA and other grower groups have pointed out the need of these potatoes in feeding the people of foreign lands who are starving in war-devastated areas. Dehydrated potatoes lend themselves to shipping much better than other produce, grower state, and are a condensed and highly concentrated food product.

At the present time, while the army is proceeding to make good on contracts with dehydrators and growers to take potatoes contracted for, they are not being dehydrated but apparently used for filling army and navy needs. There is a possibility that some potatoes will be thrown back on the market to compete with other potatoes.

It is expected that this procedure could have a disastrous effect on an already strained marketing situation. The least it would do would be to cause the quartermaster market center to withdraw from the open market in purchase of potatoes for current army and navy needs, thereby decreasing buying competition to this extent. It is estimated that the army has contracted for 8000 cars of potatoes in the western states for dehydration purposes.

Wires received by the county agent's office today indicate that Senators Cordon and Morse are still active on trying to procure dehydration on contracted potatoes.

YOUNG MEN OFFERED JOBS IN FORESTS

Jobs for many thousands—particularly jobs for thousands of the young men who will come out of the armed services and the war industries in the full of their physical powers and can find opportunities for employment in the nation's forests—is one theme in a little pocket-sized pamphlet issued by the U. S. department of agriculture. "What Are We Aiming At?" outlines a three-point forest conservation program recommended by the forest service and gives the why's and wherefore's. The three points are: (1) public regulation; (2) public aid to forest owners; and (3) more public forests.

Useful and needed work in forest restoration and development includes: (1) improvement and expansion of facilities for forest protection and management; (2) fire hazard reduction; (3) measures to improve timber growth; (4) reforestation—planting; (5) range improvement, including the revegetation of depleted ranges; (6) watershed improvement and flood control; (7) development of forest research and administrative facilities; (8) new forest recreation facilities; and (9) the improvement of fishing streams and of wildlife habitat.

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No Serious Losses Seen In October Spud Harvest

(Editor's Note: Herewith is the first of a regular series of articles on the national potato situation to be presented by The Herald and News on a weekly basis.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 25 Nothing is reported during the week to upset the October potato crop forecast. Maine, Wisconsin and the Red River Valley have had sub-freezing weather, but so far report no serious losses. Maine, New York, Michigan and Colorado have had rain enough to delay digging from 1 to 6 days during the past week. But the harvest is well along and fair weather this week will see most of it finished. Important exceptions are Idaho, Colorado, Nebraska which probably are 75 per cent through. Red River Valley has had nearly two weeks of fine weather and the bad situation there has been nearly corrected.

Movement Continues Heavy Shipments continue heavy, daily, slightly above last year. Maine shipments are light, account use of labor to push harvest and because of market pressure from New Jersey and Long Island. Maine shipments will not increase much until the crop is housed and stocks coming from other eastern states now shipping are reduced. Idaho and Colorado both are moving slowly account of car shortages. Demand for Western stock is strong and shipments will pick up if and when cars are easier.

Prices and Markets Price situation is about the same as a week ago. Few markets are above floors—mainly Colorado and Idaho—Idaho about steady at slightly above ex-celling price. Red River Valley is selling mostly 10 to 15 cents under floor on No. 1's but floor to dime over on Commercial. Wisconsin reports 15 to 20 cents below floor, some rolling unsold.

Chicago showed weakness during mid-week trading on all but best stock. New York was stronger for best Eastern Mountains, dull for other stock. Demand generally is dull, slow, but Colorado shows improvement. Better feeling in New Jersey following actual shipments to alcohol plants. Trade there had not been convinced that USDA meant what it said when it promised help. Looks like a long pull from the price standpoint, as sudden freezes now assume less importance daily.

Tight Car Situation Reefers are tight, especially in North Dakota and west. Probably car supply will be short all season. Military demands on transportation have eased but this doesn't help reefers much. Also, many cars are in bad order and shop labor still is too scarce to put them back on the rails quickly. Best bunch is there will be enough reefers but the situation will be tight at times and in spots. Shippers probably will get cars but not always when needed. More on this subject AFTER conferences now rumored for the near future.

Price Ceilings Action by OPA on Monday extended suspension of potato price ceiling from October 25 to December 5. Reestablishment would be pointless in view of an apparent 50-million bushel surplus. But some individuals in OPA and some trade elements want ceilings; OPA because retail prices of high quality, especially Idahoes in eastern markets, have not followed the general downward trend of country.

Prices; trade because removal of ceilings destroyed magnet that tended to draw prices to ceiling at wholesale and retail, and because removal voided contracts made "at ceiling" without naming specific price. Effect on growers is mixed. Voiding of contracts "at ceiling" means some must take less for quantities contracted. Reverse is that high retail prices following "at ceiling" contracts would restrict demand, intensify surplus, and tend to depress further the value of stock not under contract. Best opinion is that most growers are better off without ceilings because: (a) growers would not necessarily benefit from contracts held by speculators; (b) free play of competition would squeeze water from distributors' margins; (c) competitive selling by distributors with growers protected by price support would encourage maximum consumption.

With our necks out a mile, we predict price suspension eventually will be extended to the end of the season.

Disposition of Surplus — Price Support Several surplus disposal matters are boiling. Dehydrators are putting heavy pressure on USDA, UNRRA, army, to reactivate army contracts. USDA has resisted on ground other methods are cheaper. UNRRA has indicated not too much need for this product abroad, most foreigners don't know how to use it, and much would be wasted. Some dehydrators are beginning to back down on high wartime price ideas (average 40c dry pound, about twice the value of the spuds). Consequently dehydration is not dead, but the whole question rests with high policy-makers — OWMH's Snyder and the president. Considerable criticism of the dehydrators is heard on grounds they were financially protected by army contract termination procedure, and that pressure in the name of price support is off-base because other and cheaper methods are available.

Canada has a short crop — 29 per cent under last year, 14 per cent under normal requirements. Probably will need several thousand cars of U. S. potatoes. But trading there is complicated by prices. U. S. floor is above Canadian ceiling at most times and places. If Canada lowers grade requirements, raises ceilings, or subsidizes imports, shipments could begin now. U. S. could subsidize exports but move probably would be unpopular here because it would use public funds to hold foreign prices of U. S. spuds below domestic levels. Look for a solution of some kind soon. Failure to utilize Canadian markets this year just wouldn't make sense.

Belgium and France are subject to recurrent rumors involving shipment of fresh potatoes. Could be done in cool weather. IF transport is available on ocean and at other end; IF weather protection is certain enroute to consumer; and IF price differences are not too great. Progress should be watched.

U. S. diversion outlets are expanding. Starch outlets already are available in Maine, Idaho; flour in Michigan, Idaho; alcohol in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania; glucose in Iowa, Washington. Except for starch, most plants needed some conversion, but are beginning now to develop increased capacity in alcohol and glucose. Ability of

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Potato production this year in the 30 late states is expected to be 13 per cent above last year and 14 per cent above average. The total potato crop of the United States is around 435 million bushels this year. That is 15 per cent more than was produced in 1944 and 16 per cent above average.

In the Pacific northwest, prospective production exceeds the September 1, indications in Oregon and Washington. Production in Idaho is the same as indicated a month ago, but 19 per cent above last year and 50 per cent above average. The total potato crop in Oregon, estimated at more than 11 million bushels, is around 12 per cent above last year and about equal to the record crop of 1943.

Potatoes now being harvested in Oregon are grading out well and quality is good. A very good crop is expected in the Crook-Deschutes area of Oregon. Yield per acre in the Klamath basin area is not expected to be as high as the very good yields of 1944. The early crop in Malheur county produced good yields.

USDA to make good on price support, never very doubtful, now is improving. But—these operations are expensive and much money will be spent. Apparently the industry, all taxpayers as they are, and congress, want it that way.

Ignore recurrent rumors USDA will buy late potatoes. Secretary Anderson has said "No," and in a loud voice. Only late crop purchase plans are for established welfare outlets, school lunch, etc., which are not extensive. If you need or want price protection on your holdings of late spuds, get them under loan whether you need money or not. If you lack frost-proof storage, there is a special loan for potatoes in emergency field storage. Official attitude seems to be "We have discharged our obligation by affording to protect itself. If it fails to utilize that opportunity, it does so at its own risk." Sounds like a tough attitude, but not unreasonable. A support mechanism is available, and government feels it is not obliged to play with industry to benefit by it.

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OREGON POTATO HARVEST SHOWS SIZABLE GAIN

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Carload Potato Shipments (Figures from State-Federal Inspector Ross Aubrey)

Day of Month	Season 1945-46			Season 1944-45		
	Daily	Oct. to Date	Season to Date	Daily	Oct. to Date	Season to Date
October						
1	77	77	1450	25	25	1478
2	56	133	1508	92	117	1510
3	69	202	1575	44	161	1534
4	54	256	1629	94	255	1618
5	52	308	1681	61	306	1679
6	75	383	1756	59	365	1738
7	6	389	1762	66	431	1804
8	70	459	1832	11	442	1815
9	58	517	1890	69	511	1884
10	68	585	1958	78	589	1962
11	64	649	2022	65	654	2025
12	69	718	2111	63	717	2088
13	69	787	2180	40	757	2128
14				32	789	2160
15	46	833	2226	31	798	2191
16	63	896	2289	33	831	2224
17	77	973	2366	48	879	2272
18	53	1026	2419	38	917	2310
19	63	1111	2482	55	972	2365
20	53	1164	2535	42	1015	2408
21				40	1055	2448
22	54	1220	2589	5	1060	2453
23	66	1286	2655	45	1105	2498
24				49	1154	2547
25				52	1206	2599
26				44	1250	2643
27				41	1291	2684
28				40	1331	2724
29				0	1331	2724
30				27	1358	2751
31					1378	2771

Weekly Market Trend

(Editor's Note: The following market information is supplied from material obtained over the government leased wire in the office of the extension economist at Oregon State college. The material is in the form of a weekly summary of trends in the livestock market. It is intended to replace day by day market reports.)

There was little change in the unsettled market situation during the week ending October 17, but prices of chickens declined rather sharply. Former midwestern and eastern egg markets gave strength to Pacific coast egg markets. Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles all reported a stronger tone largely because of firmness in the east. Also, the filling of some government orders resulted in rather short supplies of top quality eggs.

At Portland, prices to retailers were unchanged with grade AA large eggs 50 cents and grade A 47 cents. Medium A's were 32 and smalls 43 cents. These prices are the same as those established in early September.

New York reported an extremely firm market, especially for top quality eggs with prices mostly at ceilings. Supplies were short of demands. At Chicago, supplies were more nearly adequate, but with production declining, the market was firm.

At Portland, growers were offered 25 cents, liveweight, for broilers, roasters and fryers, which was 3 cents less than a week earlier.

The turkey market continued unsettled at Portland with paying prices for loose, dressed young hens quoted at 38 cents, the same as a week ago, and toms at 35 cents, down one cent. Actually, growers do not receive these prices for their turkeys as a charge of 2 1/2 cents a pound is deducted to cover the cost of hauling, killing, and dressing.

San Francisco reports a noticeable change in consumer demand for poultry which has occurred during the war. This

HONEY BEES NOT HARMED BY DDT

Additional evidence that use of DDT at normal strengths in pest control will not cause any serious damage to honey bees is seen in a preliminary report prepared by H. A. Scullen, associate entomologist at the OSC experiment station, on his observations this past season.

Dr. Scullen carried out planned observations on the effect of DDT on honey bees in connection with the extensive tests of this new insecticide for the control of vetch weevil in the Willamette valley. These tests were made jointly by the U. S. bureau of entomology and plant quarantine and the agricultural experiment station.

Where DDT was applied to a field, one or more colonies of bees were put in or near the field where their activities could be observed.

Reports from Pacific coast producing areas indicate a slight upward trend in egg production recently, but output is still sharply less than a year earlier.

Egg ceiling prices at Pacific coast markets are scheduled to advance one cent on October 18, and another cent on October 25. No further changes in ceilings are scheduled until mid-December when the seasonal price reductions are to begin.

Vets Apply Direct For Surplus Property

Veterans wanting to buy surplus war property to equip farms now will apply direct to the Portland office of the Small War Plants corporation. Instead of to their local county AAA office. An amendment to surplus property regulation 7 has eliminated the previously required AAA committee certifications on veterans' applications to purchase surplus property for agricultural use. Other provisions are unchanged, in that a veteran can buy direct from government agencies up to \$2500 worth of tractors, trucks, pumps and other articles useful to an agricultural enterprise in which the veteran has a reasonable chance of success.

ALFALFA MARKET REPORTED STEADY

The alfalfa hay market was about steady at Portland the past week. Carlot receipts were light and quotations unchanged. Good alfalfa hay advanced in California about 50 cents, while prices for rain-damaged hay were lower. At Kansas City, the alfalfa market was more active and demand was good for green alfalfa hay. Lower grades were harder to move.

An unusually large United States hay crop is reported this year. Estimated at 104 million tons, the supply is high in relation to animals to be fed. The hay crop in the Pacific northwest approximated 6,491,000 tons—8 per cent above last year and 9 per cent above average.

Making up somewhat for the smaller crop of feed grains, Oregon's all hay crop, estimated at 2,010,000 tons, is the largest in some years, being about 8 per cent above both last year and the average.

Men On Terminal Leave Eligible

SALEM, Oct. 25 (AP)—A man on terminal leave from the armed forces is eligible to receive educational and farm and home loans from the state. Attorney General George Neuner ruled today for the state department of veterans' affairs.

Terminal leaves are granted to men at the end of their military or naval service to make up for leaves they were not given while on active service.

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POTATO SEED SAMPLES BEING GATHERED HERE

Samples of certified potato seed from the entire state of Oregon are now being assembled in Klamath county, R. C. McCumbridge, assistant county agent, announced today.

There will be about 14,000 pounds of samples going to Oceanside nursery, Oceanside, Calif., that will be stored and gassed to break the dormancy. The seed will be planted in the nursery test beds about the last of November.

Improved Seed The object of this program is to obtain improved seed and to assure buyers of Oregon certified seed better and more disease-free sources. Any lot of seed in the nursery that shows a too-high disease content will not be eligible for tagging as certified seed.

It is expected that readings will be made on lots at this test station in February and a report will be made to growers who have seed represented, immediately thereafter.

C. E. Otis, assistant extension farm crop specialist and McCumbridge will personally supervise the planting of the potato seed next month in Oceanside.

Inter-American Center Discussed

PORTLAND, Oct. 25 (AP)—A proposal to organize an Inter-American center in the Pacific northwest was being considered today by Portland civic leaders.

Philip H. Collins, associate director of the council for Inter-American Cooperation, Inc., told businessmen yesterday growth of trade between the region and Central and South America warranted such an organization in Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

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2 eggs
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3/4 cup milk

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