

National Potato Letter— Spring Clean-Up Situation For Spuds Appears Better

danger of bad spring clean-up situation for stored potatoes appears to be lessening. The main areas do not have too many potatoes; the central areas have too many but are fortunate in having outlets limited by physical ability to ship; west appears to have too many potatoes, but not if the armed services, but what they appear to do, and the USDA acts to clean up the left-overs.

The new crop is still not far along to provide more than an "informed guess" as to what it may do later markets. Early indications in early south of Virginia show a crop of 13 per cent over recon-structed acreage, capable of producing as much as 25 per cent more potatoes than will be needed for trade gossip indicates actions farther north may get planting over last year. If whole early and intermediate crops should follow the pattern of the May-June-July the south, the May-June-July crop may be an oversize early trouble with volume alone, but it is not volume and hot weather, which prevent speculation and rapid marketing without much for market conditions. To date, the early planting season has been spotty. Conditions generally have been good in Alabama but not so good in southern sections. California had enough good planting but not so good for germination and growth, the results which may show up in the crop condition of the California crop.

Movement
Shipments last week increased by 825 cars to a total 5488 a daily average of 914 cars. It is the best run of shipments since late January, due to a slight gain through small increase in cars from northern California, a 158 car increase from Ohio, and a really big increase of 382 cars in the Maine loadings compared with the previous week. Red River about held its own with a drop of only 32 cars, while the bitter cold weather of almost daily blizzards. Oregon did not share in California's increase, gaining only 3 cars for the week. Government shipments dropped from 214 cars the previous week to 138 cars last week, with about half of them from Colorado. Most of the government cars went to Beaumont in the French boats. If we can manage to move 900 cars daily, the government, heavy trucks will pretty well move crop. This depends, of course, on cars which have been easy, except in Maine, but will be tight for some time.

Demand and Markets
It's not so fooled by the shipment rate, however. If all of the commercial markets could have taken them without a sort of break. With a daily sell of 21 cars for the government, plus Canadian purchases, markets have barely held their own, except in Maine, where steady to firm markets maintained all week with demand to be good and price ranging from excellent to 15 cents below

In the terminals, Chicago reports a slow demand for old stock, with the market slightly weaker for Russets and about steady for best other stock. Demand has been slow for new with no sales reported. In New York, old eastern stock is reported steady to firm with western dull and weak and the market on new offerings about steady. Atlanta has held steady for all offerings. Boston, steady for old, no new supplies. Detroit, about steady for old. Minneapolis, steady for old, dull for new. Philadelphia, old Maine's slightly weaker, other old dull, new about steady. San Francisco, dull for old stock, with local wholesale price of Klamath Russets mostly \$3.35 to \$3.60 for U. S. No. 1, size A.

No change in starch diversion operations is reported—still slow. Canada has taken over 4000 cars, the heavy end from Maine and Michigan. The latter state is a surprise, having furnished only about 300 cars less than Maine. Of the total, only about 650 cars have originated in other states, mostly the Red River valley. The U. S. supply now is out of position for most of the Canadian shortage areas, since Maine is down to manageable stocks and the same is true of Michigan. If this outlet is to amount to anything from now on, somebody is going to have to pay more subsidy or raise the Canadian ceiling.

About three boatloads have now been acquired for the French—not all shipped but on the dock or rolling, with one boat at sea. Our hope is that this is an almost limitless outlet if we can get the potatoes to ship. Weather and cars will have to cooperate. So will shippers, if rumors are true. We hear roundabout that some cars have arrived in bad shape from field frost not visible at shipping point. If so, we would expect the French to get jittery about paying for goods and freight across the water. We doubt they will like the prospect of unloading with a pump.

General
Most significant development for a long pull is almost unlimited strength of consumer packs. Prices for carry-home packages of good stuff have held up far better than for any other stock, and shippers can't keep up with orders. People like the better quality, lack of dirt, convenience, more uniform sizing, and greater dependability, and to heck with the cost. If they feel that way now, they always will so far as their incomes will allow. Growers, shippers and areas failing to heed this indicator now will have to fall in line some time. Meanwhile, those who were ready are skimming the cream.

February 28 is scheduled for a hearing in Washington on new consumer grades for potatoes, designed to permit retail buyers to select by grade instead of grubbing through a dirty bin to get the best of someone else's leftovers. This is a new idea to many growers and shippers, but we believe many big distributors will be interested in a big way.

New Plymouth Goes On Display Saturday

The new Plymouth for 1946 goes on display Saturday, March 2, in local dealer showrooms. Said to have new performance, better lines and richer interiors than ever before, the Plymouth has many more improvements than appeared between annual models in pre-war years, according to advance publicity.

The new car will be shown simultaneously by Dimsat Motor company, Burness Motor company and Lombard Motors.

Michigan demand is reported slow with the market unimpaired all at \$1 to 10 cents under floor for very few sales. State New York demand has continued slow with the market slightly weaker for the first time since January 22 and price 10 to 25 cents over floor. Florida, Fort Myers section reports demand moderate and the market weaker after showing length earlier in week. Price ruled \$2.26 to \$2.66 for 50's, 50's. Dade county reporting the first time this year a moderate demand and market, at \$2.40 for 50's.



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HIGH SCHOOL News Notes and Comment

By JOAN O'NEILL
KUIHS was "honored" with a fire drill yesterday which was a five-minute relief from studies. The drill was a surprise one held about 2:30 in the afternoon.

Ten girls from the Home Economics club are attending the district meeting of the Future Home-makers of America which is being held in Grants Pass. They are leaving tomorrow. Official delegates to the conference are Caryl Vandervall, Peggy Weybrant, Sharon Williams and Shirley Robinson. These girls will have half their expenses paid by the club.

Margaret Wedel, Betty Lowman, Lois Milligan, Gailya Eichendorf, Helen Collins and Gloria Dalmer will also be representatives at the meeting from Klamath. The girls are leaving tomorrow. On Saturday the meeting will be held in the Grants Pass high school with a luncheon, entertainment and discussion making up the day. The girls attending will be guests in the homes of the girls over there. They will be accompanied by Mrs. McMann, home economics teacher.

Krater Formal Rumbles For Future
It is time to be getting your date for the Krater formal which is set for March 8. This dance will be held in the boys' gym with Baldy's band playing for the occasion. Dancing will begin at 9 and end at 12. The dance is open to the whole school, but before the dance a banquet will be held for members of the Quill and Scroll, El Rodeo and Krater staffs. Clifford Rowe, former Krater advisor and journalism instructor, now teaching at Pacific university, will be guest speaker for the evening.

And Incidentally
The seniors filled out a survey form as to how they would like their name to appear on their diploma. The name was, of course, supposed to be the same as that on their birth certificate. Juniors who expect to graduate this spring were asked to fill out those forms, also.

The Spanish club is making plans to give another kid party as they did last year.

Man has cultivated the date as a food for 5000 years.

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always use it—best proof it's
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To Promptly Relieve Coughs and Aching Muscles of Chest Colds!
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MUSTEROLE

Crews Work To Clear 2 State Roads

SALEM, Feb. 28 (AP)—The Columbia River and Oregon Coast highways, closed by slides yesterday, probably will be reopened early Friday morning, State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock said today.

Baldock said the 90-foot log bridge near Multnomah falls, which was built to bridge the gap left after the huge slide closed the road for 10 days earlier this month, is undamaged. Yesterday's slide was in the same location as the earlier one, but amounted to only 5000 cubic yards, compared with the 300,000-yard previous slide.

Baldock said there probably would be more slides in the same spot if there is more rain, but in a few weeks highway crews will have dug a hole so that small slides, such as yesterday's may be stopped before they reach the road.

Track Cleared
The Union Pacific railroad was cleared last night, with trains running over the stretch under flag. The railroad was undamaged.

Workmen today had almost repaired the section of the Coast highway near Manzanita, where the road started sliding toward the sea. The road had settled about three feet but apparently now is stable. A similar slide closed the highway for three weeks earlier this month.

Detours are available for both closures, Columbia highway traffic being diverted at Portland and Cascade Locks via the Evergreen highway on the Washington side of the river, and Coast highway traffic detouring via the Sunset and Necanicum highways.

New snow in the mountains today made travel through the passes hazardous.

Report
The road report: Government Camp—Snowing lightly, 7 inches new snow, 29 degrees, total snow 97 inches. Packed snow from Rhododendron to milepost 21 on Wapinitia highway.

Santiam junction—Snowing lightly, 32 degrees, 6 inches new snow. Packed snow on road. Chains advised. Total snow at summit 132 inches, at junction 72 inches.

Odell lake—Snowing lightly, 23 degrees, 140 inches of snow at summit, 2 inches new snow. Grants Pass—Foggy. Medford—Foggy.

Astoria—Lower Columbia still closed at east city limits of Tongue Point naval base. Still one-way traffic at slide on Mist-Clatskanie highway.

Meacham—One inch new snow, snow and ice on pavement between La Grande and Pendleton.

La Grande—Snow at higher elevations.

Baker—Trace of snow last night.

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Thursday, Feb. 28, 1946

Bakery Finds Answer To Sugar Shortage
GRESHAM, Feb. 28 (AP)—A Gresham bakery has found an answer to its dwindling stocks of sugar. It will bake elaborate wedding

or birthday cakes—but custom-ers placing those special orders will have to supply their own sugar.

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HERALD AND NEWS—NINE

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