

National Potato Letter . . . Final Spud Crop Report To Show Little Change, Belief

This is the time of year when literally nothing can be said about supply. We are right between crop reports, and since the growing season is ended, there is no basis for conjecture. We cannot believe that the December final report will be greatly different from November, although crop history shows that August has been a better indicator of final figures than any intervening month. But this was a freak year, with killing frosts in most of the country about as late as they come, so we are stuck with about the November estimate, possibly with some acreage revision. If acreage is revised we would expect changes in the yield also, but not much change in total production.

Movement
Total shipments slid off again last week to 4822 cars, of which 208 were for the government, leaving 4614 for commercial markets. Market-wise, this represents little change, since shipments in the preceding week were only 4686 for commercial markets and 600 for the government. Decline in government cars was anticipated due to close of Belgian export deal. Maine leads again with 1335, closely pressed by Idaho with 1288. No other state touched 300, but six states were closely bunched at 298 for Oregon, 286 for Colorado, 275 for Nebraska, 273 for Long Island, 271 for the two-state Red River valley area, and 232 for all of California. Comparison of total to date for the 18 late surplus states with the nearest comparable date last year shows a shortfall of 8904 in spite of unprecedented DOA purchases amounting to about 40 million bushels. There is not much point in reiterating this point—the season just simply has an ailment, and the thing to do now is to ease the pain as much as possible and apply enough prevent-

ive medicine so it never happens again.
Maine has had consistently slow demand, with dull market showing slightly firmer undertone, prices 40-50 cents under floor; apparently the very heavy holdings of emergency stored stocks are influencing the Maine price, although we still cannot understand why, with a loan program to carry the burden. New York (upstate) demand slow, market dull, prices 50 cents under floor; this price is no help to Maine's distribution. Michigan demand has been slow, market turning dull and unsettled, with prices 55 cents under floor, apparently for few sales. Wisconsin demand mostly light, market dull to about steady, with prices not quoted because of too few sales. North Dakota, Red River valley demand is very dull, and prices as low as 45 cents under floor for Cobblers to 25 cents under floor for Blisses; Nebraska demand is fair, turning light with market dull, turning firm for No. 1's, dull for No. 2's, prices at floor to nickel over for No. 1's washed stock. Colorado San Luis valley demand has been fair, turning slow, market dull with weakness at mid-week, and prices nickel to dime lower than preceding week but nickel over

floor on washed basis. Idaho demand has been fair, turning moderate, market steady after week-end strength, and prices up 10-15 cents to 15-20 cents over floor on washed basis. Washington demand moderate, turning fair, market steady, prices up a nickel at 18-20 cents over floor at Yakima, 30-35 over at Ellensburg, both on washed basis.
Chicago reports show demand for Idaho fair turning good with prices steady to firm; demand for others mostly slow and market mostly dull and weak. New York has been steady, turning dull for Idaho, dull after strengthening for eastern stock. Atlanta has been steady; Boston about steady turning dull. Detroit, about steady after weakness at mid-week. Minneapolis steady after a day of weakness on the 21st; Philadelphia dull; San Francisco about steady, with Klamath Russets unchanged at \$2.75 to \$3.00 for LCL lots of U. S. No. 1 A's at wholesale. Truck-holdings stay high, with not much change from preceding week.
We do not know how to dope markets for the immediate future. The coal strike is not expected to affect food movement, but we would expect schedules to be more uncertain then ever.

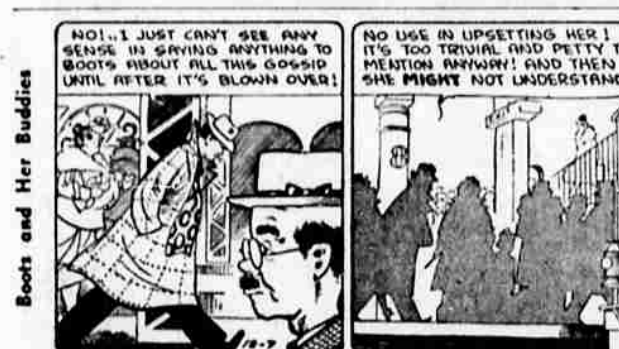
This automatically would lead to mild or serious trouble with distribution, return of empties, processing, etc. Anything as far reaching as a coal strike cannot help affecting nearly everything which happens, but how and how much remain to be seen. Terminal supplies are such that markets could react rather quickly if movement is retarded. Department of agriculture's headache will zoom if movement of law grades to processors and feeders is affected, but price support still will be good if spuds are under loan.
Miscellany
We believe we said it before, but DOA says there have been relatively few objections to 1946 acreage goals; evidently the objecting areas had their say before the final goal figures were announced. . . . Many rumors about more expert business—we have tried to run them down and know that DOA is trying and may succeed. We hear that Klamath basin is having a little trouble with some sort of necrosis and that DOA hopes a way can be found to help through diversion program. Emergency stored stocks in some sections are endangering good potatoes in permanent storage; DOA is moving to authorize such disposal as is necessary to protect spuds in permanent storage. Maine's "5-Star" marketing scheme beamed at the consumer package trade strikes our eye—this looks like what was testified against at the recent hearing on consumer grades. It is too bad there was not general agreement on this program because if the whole industry should get behind the idea, declining per capita consumption might be reversed.

Newsprint Losses Show Slow Recovery
SEATTLE, Dec. 9 (AP)—Recent losses in newsprint production will not be made up until late in 1947, Philip M. Crawford, acting regional director of the U. S. department of commerce, said today.
"Our most recent nation-wide survey indicates that increased British use of Canadian newsprint and the switch of 168,000 tons capacity in this country from manufacture of newsprint to other types of paper are the two main factors responsible," Crawford said.
Butler was used many centuries before the Christian era as a medicine and anointment after the bath.
WRONG CUSTOMER
ROCKFORD, Ill., Dec. 9 (AP)—Bartender Robert McCarthy said it was bad enough when someone stole his \$20 green topcoat from the tavern where he works, but he felt worse when Frank Jennings tried to sell it back to him for \$1.50 a few hours later. Jennings denied he stole the coat but was held on a larceny charge.
LOTS OF TIME
CHICAGO, Dec. 9 (AP)—Someone with time on his hands, broke into the car of Robert Ellsworth last night.
Now the man with the time on his hands can keep track of it—he got 135 electric clocks.

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MAIN FLOOR

Niemoller Gives Surprise Service
PORTLAND, Dec. 9 (AP)—Pastor Martin Niemoller surprised the congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran church here Sunday morning when he arrived unannounced for services.
The German Lutheran church leader who opposed Hitler was greeted by Louis K. Post, Austrian-born Portland engineer, who was a fellow prisoner with Niemoller at Dachau concentration camp.
The German pastor, here on a speaking tour, delivered the benediction.
Insure with Hans Norland and be sure. 123 N. 6th St.

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ALAN LADD says:
"Coffee Noel's a cinch if you'll remember . . .
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And here's how to give guests Coffee Noel for Christmas

COFFEE NOEL
1 square unsweetened chocolate
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 tsp salt
1 1/4 cups boiling water
1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup cream
1 tsp vanilla
2 cups freshly made M.J.B.

Melt chocolate in top of double boiler. Add sugar, salt, boiling water. Stir, cook 5 minutes. Add milk and cream. Re-beat but do not boil. Add vanilla and hot coffee. Beat with rotary egg beater until foamy. Serve piping hot, topped with dash of cinnamon or nutmeg if you like.

US: It takes more than a chef's chapeau to make a man at home on the range. So before we sample your Coffee Noel, we'd like to ask you a few questions. Do you agree, chum, that there's no coffee to equal M.J.B. for downright goodness, for richness, for refreshment?
ALAN LADD: Sure, Pal. Take this recipe for Coffee Noel (I'll take it anytime!), why even spice and vanilla can't put a damper on that M.J.B. flavor. Make it strong or weak, or make it Coffee Noel. . . that wonderful M.J.B. flavor always shines through.
US: True, Alan. And before you whip up more Coffee Noel, may we say that M.J.B. is a blend of the world's finest coffees; that we roast it gently and just enough to coax out all the fragrant oils that put flavor in your cup? We can? Thanks.

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• That's why we say there is no finer coffee on the market.

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