

Hatfield Plant Handling 200 Tons Of Basin Spuds Daily In Making Starch

By RUTH KING
TULELAKE, March 27—The Hatfield plant, which is now in operation, is handling 200 tons of potatoes per day for processing into starch, foundation for glucose, farmers and others are learning that the lowly spud may turn Cinderella and become the sweetening in your bottle of pop, the topping on your bakery bun or even a base for the medicine that cures your aches and pains.

Interest in diverting cul potatoes from the dump heap into usable products started here during the war years and farmers of the basin bought stock in the Northwest Chemurgy cooperative totaling more than \$100,000.

Machinery was shipped here from a government starch plant in Mississippi, abandoned after being used one week. Other equipment came from other parts of the country and engineers from the mother cooperative at Wenatchee, Wash., went to work to build the nucleus of a new business enterprise in this area in a potato cellar at Hatfield bought from G. W. Osborn and Sons, Tulelake.

Remodeling of the cellar for the manufacture of starch was followed by construction of a large two-story, tile and concrete building that will house the equipment for processing glucose next season.

The plant here is the only one in either California or Oregon. Two are operating in Washington at Wenatchee and Ellensburg.

Starch only is being produced here this year. This product, still moist enough to mould in the hand, is shipped by special trucks to the plant at Wenatchee to be converted into glucose. Speed is essential in moving the damp starch and transportation by rail is not satisfactory. Fifteen tons of starch leaves here daily.

The production of starch is similar to the refining of sugar from beets. The operation was introduced by J. Liszye from Poland and the exclusive rights to the process in the United States are now owned by the Northwest Chemurgy Co. Mr. Liszye is still consultant for the company.

There is approximately one ton of starch in eight tons of potatoes and the volume of tubers handled to produce 15 tons of the finished product is little short of mountainous.

While the trip through the factory is a bit odorous, it is an interesting experience, especially to growers who during the life of the potato industry in this basin, have seen truck loads of inferior grades of potatoes rotting after paying out cold cash to grow them. Now the discards bring the grower \$10 per ton.

Even frozen potatoes can be utilized if they reach the factory at the thawing point.

The potatoes, dumped into an outside hopper from trucks are floated into the building through a cement trough filled with water for the first of numerous baths.

From this stage on the operation is a lengthy one of grinding, shaking, washing, settling and purification, involving two floors of heavy machinery, huge metal vats, spinners that work on the same principle as the spin dry washing machine in your kitchen and endless moving belts and conveyors.

Thousands of gallons of the potato liquid which have passed through crushers is stirred in huge churn like vats. Sulphuric acid is added to facilitate settling of the starch and the acid smell of the chemical hangs over the plant.

The finished starch is not pure white but has a grayish tinge and contains 35 per cent moisture.

Operations in the glucose factory which will be ready in time for next year's crop will be still more complicated because here the liquid starch molecules will be broken down into dextrose, the sugar in glucose, under terrific steam pressure. Starch produced here next year will not be spun dry but will be pumped

to the second unit of the factory for immediate conversion.

This action is the same as "dame nature's" work when stomach fluids break down starches into easily digested sugars. The process is only a jump or two behind the actual production of sugar from potatoes, a system that is yet too costly for commercializing.

Glucose produced from potatoes is comparable to well known syrups and is said to be better than that produced from corn.

Demand for the sweetening which has only been manufactured in this country for a few years far exceeds the output. None is as yet being exported.

This plant will be able to handle 320 tons of potatoes per day at peak capacity and will operate the clock around with three shifts of 33 men being employed. When finished it will be one of the best on the west coast.

Officials expect the total cost to reach \$600,000.

On full year's operation can return the initial cost of the plant to this area through salvage of potatoes.

Thirty-three board members drawn from all the Northwest Chemurgy cooperatives elect five or seven directors who are responsible for working out problems of the business. Representing this basin are Bryant Williams, Klamath Falls; E. C. Lemler, Merrill; Chester J. Main and Chester Stonecypher, Tulelake.

C. E. Rice is manager of the local plant; Ronald Smith is field man; Carl Leskinen, plant superintendent; Otis Thompson, plant manager; R. P. Miller, chief chemist and Buford Sparks is second chemist.

Officials here expect to utilize all of the cul potatoes in the basin this year.

Herald and News FARM PAGE Tulelake Growers Discuss Summer Wages, Irrigation

TULELAKE, March 27—The 1947 early season farm wage scale, irrigation, the problem of obtaining better seed barley and better potato marketing practices were issues brought up at the March meeting of the Tulelake Growers held Monday night in the Sportsman's hotel. Out-of-town speakers were A. E. Webb of Annhauser-Busch and Cris P. Bemis, secretary of the potato division of the U. S. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable association. The meeting followed a 6:30 o'clock dinner.

The growers recommended a spring and summer wage scale identical with the 1946 scale for farm labor, 75 cents per hour to be paid for weeding, hoeing, thinning and other hand work and \$1 per hour for irrigating and for truck and tractor drivers. Scale for the harvest season will be recommended later.

Water will be made available this spring by the reclamation service as soon as operation and maintenance costs have been paid by farmers, and water will probably be in the canals by April 1. The unseasonal warm weather with little moisture makes early irrigation imperative for legume crops. Some pre-irrigation before cropping is also anticipated, growers announced.

E. A. Webb of Annhauser-Busch stressed the importance of better barley seed grading and inspection for the protection of both grower and buyer. No decision was reached on the grading of seed here this fall but growers will buy an improved seed stock from Oregon State college next fall.

Research into the future of the potato industry, the per capita consumption of vegetables other than potatoes following an intensive advertising program on the merits of tomatoes, spinach, celery and citrus fruits and the fact that the Klamath basin rates among the 10 top potato producing areas in the U. S. were all discussed by Cris P. Bemis, secretary of the potato division of the U. S. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable association.

Bemis stated that the U. S. department of agriculture is carrying on a research program

GI home loan. Am I entitled to readjustment allowance provided by the GI bill?

A. Your home loan has no bearing on your right to unemployment compensation. Apply at your state unemployment service for a readjustment allowance.

Q. May I arrange for the veterans administration to deduct my national service life insurance premiums from the disability compensation check I receive each month?

A. Yes. You may go to your VA regional office or contact office and fill out a form which will authorize the veterans administration to make the deduction from your compensation check.

Benefits to World War II Veterans and Their Dependents

Domiciliary Care. Description: Full care, including medical treatment in a VA home. Requirements: Active service during war period, discharge other than dishonorable. Veterans must be unable to earn a living because of disability and must be without adequate means of support. Disability may be either

HERALD & NEWS, Klamath Falls, Ore., THURSDAY, March 27, 1947, Pg. Thirteen

service-connected or non-service-connected.

Prosthetic Appliances. Description: VA furnishes artificial limbs, orthopedic and prosthetic appliances and provides for repairs. Transportation furnished to place of fitting. Training given in use of appliances. Requirements: Service-connected disability requiring a prosthetic appliance.

Note: This is the eighth of a series of brief summaries of benefits administered by the VA under various laws for World War II veterans, their dependents and beneficiaries. We suggest that it may be useful to clip this portion of the column for future reference. Next week: Assistance to the blind and vehicles for handicapped.

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Vet's Mail Bag

As a service to veterans in the community this newspaper will publish a weekly column of news briefs from the veterans administration. For further information, veterans should contact or write their nearest VA contact office at Klamath Falls.

Northwest Vets Reverse National GI Loan Trend

Reversing a national trend in which requests for GI loans have hit the lowest level since last April, northwest veterans received 2124 guaranteed or insured loans during February, compared to 1883 approved during January, the veterans administration reports.

By the end of February, 23,566 northwest veterans had received loans totaling \$108,210,891.

Veterans wanting GI loans should go directly to a bank, savings and loan association or other lending agency, the VA says. The VA is responsible only for certifying the veteran's eligibility and for guaranteeing or insuring payment to lending agencies, in case of default, up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the total.

Questions Of The Week

Q. I recently lost my job and can't meet the payments on my

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Handball Meet Opens In North; Titlist Tops

SPOKANE, March 27 (AP)—Singles Titlist Al Stubbs of the Washington Athletic club and the doubles team of John Cebula and Bill Beatty of Multnomah Athletic club, Portland, were given top seedings in the three-day Pacific northwest amateur invitational handball tournament which opened here today.

Other seedings: Singles—Walter Pearson, Oregon State college, No. 2, and Dick McKay, University of Washington, No. 3.

Doubles—Bruce Lamken and Bob Labow, WAC, No. 2, and John Wanner and John Metcalfe, Portland fire department, No. 3.

Last Of Stored Grain Shipped Out

TULELAKE, March 27—All grains stored last fall in local elevators and in warehouses at the former Japanese center at Newell have been moved to market, according to Clifford Wood, manager of the Tulelake Growers.

Little of the grain crop was moved out at harvest time last fall due to the shortage of cars.

Hans Norland Fire Insurance, Phone 5080.

Welding School
8 p. m. Friday
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