

Early Spring Spud Crop Estimated At 3 Million Bushels; Shipments Off

Supply
April 1 potato estimates put the early spring crop at just under 3 million bushels. This is only slightly below the 10-year average and about 60 per cent of last year's production. Yields are forecast as 14 bushels below last year, or down about 10 per cent, but still are 14 bushels over average despite unfavorable growing weather. Late spring acreage is about 21 per cent under last year and a little over 7 per cent under average. Weather in this group of states has been mixed; mostly fine in California, but wet and cold in much of the Gulf and Southwestern area. Crop may be delayed somewhat, but most stands are satisfactory and

we hear little of any damage to yields. Acreage in the summer group is down 20 per cent from 1946 and about 9 per cent under average. Weather has been backward enough to delay a considerable part of the planting for this group but has not affected yields as yet.

Late crop stocks are fairly well under control in the areas west of Pennsylvania, and not too bad in much of the Northwest. Lateness of the heavy movement of early potatoes has given late sellers more confidence, and lack of anxiety has stiffened markets more than the supply actually warrants. Some feel that too many were dumped, but that seems doubtful. California is about on time and current high prices probably will call out enough to reduce them some before long. We see no prospect of a potato shortage.

Movement
Shipments dropped off sharply last week, amounting to only 6198 cars compared with 6988 cars the preceding week. Of these, 902 cars were for the government, leaving 5296 for commercial markets, 119 less than the week before. Decline

is due largely to tapering off of the export movement, now ended in Red River valley and Michigan. Even Maine's movement to ports declined by 400 cars. Total movement from Maine stayed above the 3000 mark with 3044 cars for the week, followed by Idaho with 1011 cars, Michigan shipped 292, Minnesota 90, and North Dakota 235. Each of these still made some export shipments early in the week. Nebraska and Colorado moved 143 and 156 cars, respectively, but are so nearly through that they are no longer important market factors. Florida dropped off to 58 cars, but Texas moved up to 390 cars from the previous week's 241.

Demand and Markets
Only four important late crop areas are still reporting. Maine has had a moderate demand turning slow with the market firm to about steady, and prices up a nickel at 15 to 20 cents over the floor. This strong price has made the filling of export orders very difficult. Upstate New York reports demand slow to moderate, the market firm after strengthening, and prices up 15 cents at floor to a nickel under floor. North Dakota Red River valley demand has been slow, the market dull, and not enough trading to establish prices. Idaho demand has ruled fair, the market unsettled, and prices 55 to 60 cents over the floor, washed basis. This is the last official report for Idaho, although there must be between 3 and 4 thousand cars remaining in Idaho. Dade county, Florida, reporting for the last time this season has had a good demand, a firm market, and prices \$1.40 over the floor, washed basis. Texas reports a fair to moderate demand, the

market steady, prices 65 cents over the floor, washed basis, for 1 1/2 minimum stock. California, reporting for the first time has had a fairly good demand, the market steady on B's, barely steady on others, and prices a dollar over the floor. These sales were the very first, with prices likely to slip when digging becomes more general. In Chicago the demand has been irregular for old stock, fair to good for new with the market mixed, ending slightly weaker for old and steady for new. New York has ruled mostly steady to firm for old stock, about steady after the mid-week strength for new.

Atlanta has held mostly steady; Boston weak to firm to about steady for old, dull for new; Detroit, steady to firm for old, about steady after week-end losses for new; Minneapolis dull all around; Philadelphia about steady for old, dull after a mixed week for new. San Francisco has held steady for old, slightly weaker for new. Little change is reported this week in track holdings.

We have read everything we can find, listened to all available comments. Consensus is that prices are too high for the supply, too high for consumers, too high for distribution. Spuds are not alone, of course. Most commodities have reached what should be the peak of the peak, with no place to go but down. President's economic advisors think so. Most businessmen agree, talk of price-cutting now to avoid worse recessions later. A few have done something about it, all adds up to lower price prospects for middle-future, look-atep, few at a time, general by fall. Role of farm prices is not clear, but they

HIGH SCHOOL News Notes and Comment

By MARY O'BRIEN
Track Queen candidates were feted again today at another luncheon—that of the Lions club. But

the biggest news of the week for the four girls will be announced about 10:30 this Friday night at the Coronation dance. The dance floor will be divided into two parts—sports dance and formal dance—with each part having a dance band. A console radio will be given as a special prize; balloons filled with money will be suspended from the ceiling and dropped on the dancers during the celebration. Coronation proceedings will be broadcast over KPLW.



Mary O'Brien

Tickets for the big Coronation dance are now on sale at school by all Pep Peppers. Admission is 75 cents per person. Proceeds of the dance will go to the 20-30 milk fund.

are about the most important single item in cost-of-living; will come in for close scrutiny by buyers. Consumers are more price conscious daily, and while they have to eat, their resistance to out-of-line prices will be felt. This is especially true of early potatoes which have to move into consumption fast and cannot stand against any even moderate consumer slow-down. Right and wrong of industry's price ideas probably is none of our business, but we hope potato folks will look at things with an eye to their long time best interests.

checkroom profits will be the Air Scouts' money.

GAA was sponsor of the matinee dance today beginning at 2:55. In charge of the decorations committee was Lois Hibbert; signs and posters were made by Doretha Miller, Roma Willingham and Dolores Moon were committee chairman for the refreshments and clean-up committees respectively.

Tonight the Girls Athletic association will hold a potluck supper at the home of Belle Doris Russell. Adviser of the group is Lois Ann Scott and her assistant is Marie Bond.

Pep Peppers are now accepting petitions from sophomore and junior girls who have a grade average of 2.7 or above. The petitions may be obtained in School Nurse Margaret Strode's office. After filling out the petitions the girls will be judged by the junior Pep Peppers on the basis of ten factors such as scholar-

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ship, personal appearance, dependability, sportsmanship, etc.

vanced to second class upon graduation.

TRACK QUEEN STANDINGS

Senior Helen Eckert	5340
Junior Pat McMillan	4170
Sophomore Beverly Youngs	2820
Freshman Sandra Moore	3150

Upon completion of 27 weeks in the navy school of electronics you may be advanced to electronics technician third class, and ad-

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LOOK OUT FOR PIN-WORMS

Recent medical reports reveal that an amazing number of children (and grown-ups too) may be victims of Pin-Worms—often without suspecting what is wrong! And these pests, living inside the human body, can cause real distress.

So watch out for the warning signs that may mean Pin-Worms—especially the irritating rectal itch. Get JAYNE'S P-W and follow the directions.

P-W is the Pin-Worm treatment developed in the laboratories of Dr. D. Jayne & Son, after years of patient research. The small, easy-to-take P-W tablets act in a special way to remove Pin-Worms.

Ask your druggist: P-W for Pin-Worms!

BUCKHORN MINERAL SPRINGS SANITARIUM
Hot Mineral and Mud Baths
Carbon Dioxide Vapor Baths
are suggested and recommended for Asthma — Eczema — Colds — Stomach — Bronchitis — High and Low Blood Pressure.

- Buckhorn Mineral Springs are located 11 miles south of Ashland, Ore., on Emigrant Creek.
- X-Ray and Fluoroscopic Examinations.
- Complete, Physio-Therapy Clinic.
- Doctor and Nurse are in attendance.
- Banquet Halls—According to treatment required.
- Completely furnished sleeping and lounge cabins with all modern facilities.
- For reservations or detailed information, address Buckhorn Mineral Springs Sanitarium, Rt. 1, Ashland, Ore., or phone Long Distance.

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For Sunny Morning Flavor!
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Blended Whiskey 86 proof. 65% grain neutral spirits.
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Where Does The Telephone Strike Stand Today?

Because you, as a telephone user, have an important stake in the issues, we'd like to give some straight answers to questions you may have about the strike situation up to date.

- 1. Why Is There a Telephone Strike?**
The unions made large demands. We could not agree to these demands but offered to extend our contracts while bargaining continued. But the unions refused. We then offered to arbitrate the basic issue, wages. The unions again refused and went out on strike.
- 2. What Are the Unions Demanding?**
They are demanding scores of changes in contracts which, if granted, amount to an increase of more than \$100,000,000 a year in the cost of telephone service.

This amount is five times our 1946 earnings. It would make our payroll alone larger than all the money we took in last year.

- 3. What Do These Demands Mean to Telephone Users?**
The union demands equal \$45 per year added to each telephone bill . . . a 40 per cent increase in all telephone rates.
- 4. How Well Are Telephone Employees Paid Now?**
Studies show telephone wages are in line with those paid for other jobs on the coast requiring skill and training . . . Telephone wage rates now average 58 per cent above the 1941 level. Here are typical examples:

OPERATORS: Even a girl right out of school starts at a basic rate of \$30 a week while learning—in small towns, \$28 to \$29. Actual earnings are higher due to overtime and premium pay. There are frequent pay raises, too. At the end of the first year the new operator can be earning over \$1900 a year. A supervising operator can earn over \$2700 per year working a 5-day week.

PLANT MAINTENANCE MEN: Actual earnings of many experienced men last year were more than \$5000.

The basic rate for inexperienced men is \$34 at the start and scales up to \$72. Overtime and premium pay are in addition.

- 5. What Other Benefits Do Employees Get?**
Among other extra advantages are paid vacations up to three weeks depending on length of service . . . Holidays with pay . . . Sickness and death benefits . . . Pensions . . . Good working conditions.
- 6. Why Can't the Company Agree to Union Demands?**
Wages and other costs of service are paid by the people who use the telephone. We can't give blanket agreement to the unions' huge demands because we cannot justify them to our customers who pay the bill.
- 7. How Has the Company Tried To End the Strike?**
We wanted to extend the liberal working contracts while bargaining continued. But the unions refused. We repeatedly offered to submit the wage question . . . the basic issue . . . to arbitration. But the unions continue to refuse.
- 8. When Will The Strike Be Over?**
. . . We don't know. But we believe that no matter how long the strike lasts, it is in the public interest to face it rather than to capitulate to the unions' huge demands which would require large increases in telephone rates.

Meanwhile we will continue to do our best to handle our calls.

Calls from dial to dial telephones, which make up the bulk of calls in many cities, are completed without interruption. Many calls which require the service of an operator are also being completed.

Many telephone company people are working days and nights on strenuous shifts to keep service going. They have been joined by many others who put the public interest first. We appreciate this loyalty.

We wish to thank the public for their helpful cooperation during this troublesome period.

The Public Interest Must Come First

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company

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This is the slack suit that's become a fashion legend with our in-and-out-of-town customers. Notice the fabric . . . America's own summer cloth . . . cool, crisp, wrinkle-resistant Palm-Beach. Notice the famous Saony tailoring . . . a silver-hipped line . . . a smooth-fitting back. Now, note the price . . . it's a wonderful buy at **22.50**

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