

National Potato Letter . . . Survey Indicates Late Spud Scarcity; Shipping Falls Off; Demand Good

Two late crop potato markets still reporting, plus information from other areas, indicate that late potatoes are pretty scarce, scarcer than we thought possible. Possibly the indications point to a greater scarcity than really exists. With prices running up to a dollar-plus over floor, potatoes will come out of hiding places rapidly. We think of it as a mild scarcity, but not a shortage.

In the early sections, the news is mixed. The Hastings area of Florida frozen back on three occasions, now is plagued by floods. April 11-17 rainfall ranged from 6 to 12 inches, and that is a lot of water. Some rotting in the ground is reported but no reports of extensive blight. Harvesting will be general after May 1. Texas Lower Valley is hitting its peak with generally good quality, and will taper off soon after May 1. California continues to have excellent weather, with prospects of exceeding last year's high yields. Earliest digging were for immature, but good acceptable. Better quality is prevailing now, and still better in prospect for May. Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi caught the rains which missed Florida but are too wet to cultivate, although no very serious damage is reported, except in Louisiana, where blight has made some headway. Georgia and South Carolina have had too much cold, wet weather, but no serious troubles other than delay are reported. North Carolina reports conditions below normal and uneven stands, with first digging due about June 1. This is about normal date for first harvesting. Planting is about finished in Virginia and all the way up to Long Island.

Prices and Price Support
It is no part of our job to be the conscience of the spud industry, but sometimes we can't help thinking. You're saying what we think. The industry has been criticized all season long for waste of land, manpower, and tax money. Raising potatoes for surplus disposal is something John Q. Public cannot understand, and when it is explained to him, he still does not like it. What he has disliked most has been widespread dumping, paid for with his money. Now, after all of that, he sees prices reaching for the roof. He knows there are unfilled export orders. He is likely to be about fed up. He is likely to write a letter to his congressman, and this could mean no more price support. Or, if there is, there may be rigid production control along with it. We sincerely hope this tail-end upsurge of late crop prices will have no tendency to excite growers to the point of raising their acreage intentions. Another 1946 could be fatal to needed programs.

Movement
Shipments last week continued to fall off. Total was 5677 cars, a drop of 320 cars from the previous week. However, the government took only 280 cars compared with 634 the preceding week, so commercial shipments gained 24 cars. Maine dropped sharply from 2593 to 1863 cars. Idaho still shows few signs of being finished, with 966 cars for the week. Michigan moved 357, North Dakota 213, and Minnesota 170. Northern California, Colorado, Nebraska, New York, Oregon and Washington all show signs of being finished. California central district moved 1254 cars last week for a daily average of 209. They will hit 800 cars a day before long, have done and can do 1000 daily. Florida is about through until Hastings begins in a week or so, and movement from that area will not be large. Texas Lower Valley is about at its peak with 409 cars for the week but will taper off soon. Early shipments for the week were nearly 30 per cent of the total, but equality due about May 10.

Demand and Markets
Market news is sketchy these days, with only five stations reporting. Maine has had a good demand with the market strong every day, and prices up considerably at 65 to 70 cents over floor for Green Mountains and 75 to 85 cents over floor for Katahdin type. Upstate New York demand has ruled improving to good, the market steadily stronger, and prices up to 55 cents over the floor. Florida had too few sales to quote. Just guessing, we'd say Florida shipments may have been largely clean-up of odds and ends rolled on consignment. Waco, Texas, demand is reported fair to moderate, the market steady and prices unchanged at 65 cents over floor for washed stock. Texas really has had no competition for the red market, and has not changed its price for U. S. No. 1 pack, 1 1/2-inch minimum. California early demand started good, turned slow, and then improved with the market unsettled and weaker, and prices down sharply, moving down in two days from 40 above to 15 cents over floor.

Terminals show Chicago generally

The Bull Wins Decision



Bullfighter Lulu Eyraud is tossed out of the arena at Arles, France, by a bull that definitely was the winner of the torreador. —AP wirephoto.

Boyle's Column

Vet Students Run Own Cooperative To Cut Cost

By HAL BOYLE
BLOOMINGTON, Ind., May 6 (AP)—Student veterans who learned the value of cooperation in wartime have teamed together on the Indiana university campus to protect their peacetime pocketbooks.

Leaders of a trailer community of more than 1000 ex-servicemen and their wives have set up their own cooperative commissary to cut down food prices.

Gene Phillips of Terre Haute, Ind., a 27-year-old former navy pharmacist's mate, who is mayor of the trailer community, said the move was forced on the veterans, whose government allowance is only \$90 a month.

"The tremendous grocery prices we were paying were making it impossible for us to go on," he said. "They weren't only making windfall profits from us—they were taking us through the cleaners."

\$90,000 Outgo
Phillips and other ex-servicemen got together a year ago and figured that the family grocery bill of \$90 to \$90 a month was compelling many veterans to dip into their savings and would cause others to give up their education. They estimated that some 1500 student veterans at IU were paying out at least \$90,000 a month for food alone.

By pooling this buying power they decided they could cut prices and provide more and better food for their families.

"Some grocers had been treating us with contempt in addition to overcharging us," said Phillips. "They had the idea we were living off the fat of the land. A lot of people have that idea. They seem to resent veterans. We don't mind that. But we're going to take care of ourselves. And we're going to get along, too."

Phillips said some grocers tried to block the cooperative venture by asking wholesalers to boycott it, but the wholesalers had declined this request.

"The commissary did \$2000 business the first week," said the young mayor. "We sell all items for babies and most staple foods at cost. There is a slight markup on other goods to cover our operating expenses. Our only dividends are lower prices. We used to pay 55 cents a pound for

hot dogs. Now they will cost us only 30 cents."

Vets Do Work
Most of the work of running the commissary is done by the veterans on a purely voluntary basis. The only present paid employee is the wife of one vet who serves as clerk. There are more than 200 children in the trailer camp and more arrive at the rate of four or five a week.

"It may not be an ideal time to have children," smiled Phillips, who has one son, "but most of us feel that if we are ever going to have a family we have to start now."

A friendly, likeable young man with incredible energy, the mayor spends much of his spare time scooting around the community in his official vehicle—a bicycle. He said he and the 16 councilmen who govern the community have little trouble in obtaining cooperation.

"We have no police problem at all," he added.

"We live so close together everybody realizes we just have to get along together and nobody resents what few restrictions we have."

He and the councilmen get salaries running into four figures.

"The figures are zero, zero, zero, zero," said Phillips grinning.

STRAWBERRIES
PORTLAND, May 6 (AP)—The season's first Willamette valley strawberries were sold on the Portland market today, bringing \$4 a crate to Carl Schaarschmidt of Canby.

The price was expected to be reflected in a retail tag of 35 cents a hallock.

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Nip Emperor, MacArthur Talk Today

TOKYO, May 6 (AP)—Emperor Hirohito conferred with General MacArthur today for the fourth time, presumably on the new constitution, and anxious Japanese immediately began to speculate on whether they discussed a question which is paramount here: Will the United States undertake the defense of Japan?

This has been a big question mark since announcement of the constitution last year, with its revolutionary clause renouncing war and the maintenance of armed forces.

No details of today's conference were announced, but Japanese sources said it was a courtesy call to thank MacArthur for inauguration of the new charter which strips Hirohito of his political powers. The two talked privately for an hour and 14 minutes.

The Japanese government was known to be increasingly worried over the practicality of the "anti-war" constitution, particularly since MacArthur proposed that allied military forces be withdrawn after an "early" peace. It would be logical to assume Hirohito might be primed to ask America's intentions in this connection.

The people generally believe the United States would protect Japan against an aggressor. But in the absence of specific guarantees, they have become increasingly nervous.

Courthouse Records
Complaints Filed
Bernice I. Radcliffe vs. Thomas H. Radcliffe, suit for divorce. Charge: cruel and inhuman treatment. Plaintiff asks custody of two minor children. Cause set for trial, Dec. 20, 1946 at Portland, Ore. J. H. Carnahan, attorney for plaintiff.

Credit Reference Bureau vs. Ervin Grayson, suit for payment. J. P. Rubie, attorney for defendant.

Justice Court
Wade Thomas Althuser, no PUC permit. Fine, \$10.
Charles Edward Rice, overpaid. Fine, \$5.
Arthur Heimer Patterson Jr., overpaid. Fine, \$31.45.
Olive Olin Youngblood, overpaid. Fine, \$9.70.
Richard Crovether Nelson, overpaid. Fine, \$14.40.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that by virtue of Decree of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, made and entered on the 1st day of May, A.D. 1947, my former name of Victor Herbert Powell, Jr., has been changed to that of David Eugene Powell.

Dated at Klamath Falls, Oregon, this 1st day of May, 1947.
THELMA RUTH PALMER, Petitioner and Guardian ad Litem of David Eugene Powell.
M.S. No. 711

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Victim



Douglas Martin Collman, 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Obil Collman of the Old Fort road, lost his life Sunday morning when he fell into a swimming pool at the Earl Newby home in Ashland. Final rites for the child will be held at 3 p. m. Wednesday, tomorrow, from the chapel of the Earl Whitlock funeral home. Interment will take place in Linkville cemetery.

Demonstration Week Named

National Home Demonstration week will be celebrated in the United States and the territories May 4 to 11. Siskiyou county homemakers will have four district meetings in different parts of the county. Thursday, May 8, is the first of these, at Dorris city hall from 2 p. m. until 4 p. m. All interested homemakers in Butte valley are cordially invited.

Women of Tulelake, Maedoe and Dorris home demonstration groups will exhibit articles they have made during the past year. Miss Muriel Mitchell, Siskiyou county librarian, will speak on some of the outstanding recent books. Clarice Cookingham, home demonstration agent will discuss easier wash days. The Dorris group will serve refreshments.

Similar zone meetings will be held May 21, in Etna Federated church for Scott Valley, May 22, in Oak, Klamath River women and May 26, in Gazelle grange hall for Shasta valley.

May 15, will be an all day county-wide meeting for five women of each organized home demonstration group. Four specialists from the University of California will be present to assist with program planning for the next eighteen months. Representatives of groups will attend separate sessions as the plan for clothing and textiles, home management, home furnishing and food nutrition.

Sedgely Nelson, assistant farm advisor, will speak at the morning session. The women of the WSCS of the

Montgomery Ward Sales Hit Peak

CHICAGO, May 6 (AP)—Montgomery Ward & Co. announced all time record gross sales of \$99,623,310 for the month of April today as compared with \$80,673,261 for April of 1946.

For the three month period ending April 30, another all time record for a like period was established by a 25.6 per cent increase. Sales for the first quarter of this year were \$268,380,453, against \$213,757,849 in 1946.

Welfare Payments Mailed Out

PORTLAND, May 6 (AP)—Most of the 30,000 Oregon aged, blind and dependent children whose welfare checks for May were delayed, received them by today, the state welfare commission reported.

Miss Lou Howard, administrator, said the checks were mailed Sunday when the federal social security check for the allotments was received by air mail.

Methodist church will put on the luncheon.

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Report To Telephone Users

We're doing our best to get the strike settled fairly . . . both to employees and to telephone users who pay the cost of service.

We've negotiated now for more than two months. But the strike situation is, at best, confusing. There are seventeen telephone unions on the coast. It's difficult to reconcile the widely differing demands of several unions and reach a basis for a settlement that is fair to all concerned.

More than 18,000 of our employees are working strenuous shifts, night and day, to keep service going. We appreciate, deeply, their recognition of the public interest. And we believe telephone users appreciate it, too.

Fairness must be the foundation of any settlement. The final agreement must be fair to telephone employees whose skill and energy make service possible . . . and it must be fair to telephone customers who, in the last analysis, pay the costs of service.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company