National Potato Letter

Spud Surplus Possibility Said Least Of Any Year; Shipping Picks Up

Supply

North Florida's potato deal has passed the seasonal peak and will taper off rapidly from now on. Alabama is about half through. California is hitting its peak but will stay strong through June. South Carolina has begun, but not in any volume, and will have much less than last year. Louisiana has less than half a crop and will be relatively unimportant in the deal this year. Mississippi's crop is small and late, as are crops in south central territory generally. North Carolina and Virginia are late and need rain to make the crops. Some rain has fallen, but not enough. Our estimate is that there will be spot surpluses from place to place and time to time but no national surplus like last year. Government buying this year should be less than any year during Steagall price support. Good thing, because outlets are mighty scarce.

Movement

Shipments last week picked up sharply from 4497 to 5448 cars. Government took only 43 cars, so commercial movement gained 536 for a daily average of 901, which is about right for small cars and hot weather. California jumped more than a thousand cars to 3142, averaging 524 daily. Alabama moved 765 cars, Florida 640, Maine 365, and Idaho 211. All other states together accounted for only 327 cars. Total late shipments were only 775 cars, about 14 per cent of the total for the week. Nine early states accounted for all the remainder.

Demand and Markets

Maine reported for the last time last week, with moderate demand, stronger market, and prices 70 to 75 cents over the floor. This is the last report on late crop f.o.b.'s until the 1947 harvest begins in September. Florida (Hastings) reports a good demand, the market firm to stronger, prices up 13 cents at 70 cents over the floor on a washed basis. This market strength has resulted in at least temporary cessation of price support activity in the Hastings area. Alabama demand is reported as good turning slow, with the market firm to weaker to about steady for Bliss; demand slow market and about steady for Sebagoes; prices go up a nickel at a dollar over the floor, washed for Bliss, up a quarter at 45 to 50 cents over the floor for Sebagoes. Alabama delivered 32 cars to the government last week. Wonder why? Also, wonder how long DOA will continue to take low grades when No. 1's are drawing so much more than support? South Carolina (first report), says demand is very good to good, the market firm, and prices 65 cents over the floor. Arizona (first report) demand good, market firm, prices $1.55 over floor on a washed basis. Who said there is a surplus? California, demand is reported as very good turning slow and then active, with the market firm to stronger, and prices up 20 cents at 20 to 25 cents over floor. Surplus must be a bad dream. Who ever heard of an early area as heavy as California enjoying a strengthening market right at the peak of the harvest?

In the terminals (reporting new crop only), Chicago had rather slow demand turning fair and then good, with the market consistently steady to slightly stronger. New York ruled generally stronger; Atlanta, some weakening after early strength; Boston, stronger after earlier slump; Detroit, firm to stronger on westerns, firm to weaker on Bliss; Minneapolis, unreported all week; Philadelphia, slightly stronger after a mixed start; San Francisco, steady after strengthening. Track holdings are dropping off, especially on old stock, and should be in better shape soon.

Potato Flour

Recently several sources, one a congressman, have hailed potato flour as the panacea for all potato surplus ills. Build factories, buy up the surplus, turn it into flour. Presto! No surplus! Sounds wonderful, but the idea has bugs if the flour doesn't. Who builds the plants? Private capital? At ordinary peacetime price levels, private operators can pay about 15 cents a hundred for raw potatoes, and in most past years couldn't sell all they could make in existing facilities. So the government builds facilities, and then what? Government is solidly in the potato flour business, to the possible detriment of existing manufacturers, who won't like it for the very reason that sales were hard to make before the war. Educate the bakers, they say. Good. We're for it, but we see it as a long pull and not some kind of quick magic. Further, we think that blending at the flour mill will be an essential, since many bakers will resist buying from two sources and making their own mix. Let's get on with it, but crawl before we run.

Appropriations

Most important issue for potato growers and all of agriculture right now is what happens to agricultural programs of long standing under contemplated cuts in federal appropriations. Biggest item is cut of 117.5 million dollars in what are best known as "AAA payments." Next most important is complete elimination of "section 32," amounting to 148 million dollars. This fund was used for surplus removal activities, such as purchases for direct welfare distribution, school lunches, demonstrations of new uses, starch diversion, feed diversion, and the like. Fact that it is larger than the AAA payment cut isn't too important, because there is no certainty that all of it would be needed. But the cut is important, because it will change the pattern of price support. Just how is not clear yet. Personal cuts will be very important to all who deal with DOA. Current gossip has it that pruning within DOA will require major changes in procedures, may even extend to complete realignment. Wonder if payment time will be lengthened and if quick and accurate responses to marketing conditions will suffer.

Staples Fatal To Seventeen Eagles

SEATTLE, June 2 (AP)—Seventeen bald eagles, secured in Alaska and donated to the Woodland park zoo several years ago, died last week from eating wire staples thrown into their cages, Dr. Gus Knudson, zoo director, reported today.

Knudson, who said he blamed children and unthinking adults, added:

"If the people were as well-behaved as the animals we wouldn't have so much trouble."

I Sell Booze

SO DO YOU—My own liquor stores will be glad to supply you with beer and whiskey in most cities of any size in Oregon. State ownership puts us all into the business here in the N-W whether we like it or not.

Of the drinkers who claim they can take it or leave it alone, a vast number go down to the drunkard's grave. On the way down we give them rags, poverty, family breakup, crime, the penitentiary and often the state asylum for the insane.

GOD NOT ASLEEP—God is not now setting up the kingdom of heaven here on earth. That awaits Christ's promised coming in power and glory. Now, in this present age, God is calling out a redeemed people who live to do His holy will and on whom He is to spend His love for ever. GOD'S TERMS — God so loved you as to give His only-born Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for your sins. Make Him your Saviour and God gives you eternal life.

VICTORY—"Come pay up your rum bill of $4.80." Keegan, the engineman, paid, and across the receipt, he penned—"BOYS. COME LOOK. VICTORY. PRAISE THE LORD." This he pinned up where all the train crews could see. And so, Christ the Carpenter, who was God, died for Keegan the engineer and saved him from the pit and rum.

Dan Taylor.

McChesney Rd., Portland-1-Ore. This space paid for by an Oregon family. (PAID ADV.)

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CARNIVAL By Dick Turner

"Come on, Herkimer! How in the world will we ever get to Aunt Martha's if you keep stopping every few miles to look at the countryside?"

May Is Merry Month With Every Kind Of Weather

CHICAGO, June 2 (AP)—It was a merry month of May—for the weatherman.

Just name it; the weatherman had it, somewhere in the nation.

There were drought conditions in some areas, with serious forest fire dangers. In other areas it rained almost every day.

There were record high temperatures and record lows—some regions had both in the same month.

There were tornadoes, cloudbursts, floods, fogs, frosts and snow.

Snow, ranging up to 12 inches fell in Midwest states this week.

In some areas crops were damaged by lack of rainfall. In others they were delayed by too much rain. In some regions they were hit by cold.

A trip across the weather map presented this picture:

Pacific Northwest—May was one of the hottest and driest on record. Temperature hit 90 or above three days at Portland, and was in middle 80's four days at Seattle. Dried forests offered a critical fire danger. Large wheat and pea crops in Eastern Washington were damaged.

California—Southern California had fog and frequent drizzles, but rainfall was slightly below normal. Northern California rainfall was less than half of normal, and temperatures were above normal. Oakland had a high of 90 degrees; San Francisco 89.

Rocky Mountains—Montana rainfall considerably below normal, approaching serious drought conditions in extreme Southwest and Central. Utah and Wyoming had normal rainfall. Utah had the warmest May since 1940, while Wyoming temperatures were slightly below normal and the state had snow at the end of the month. Colorado precipitation ranged from above normal in the Eastern plains to near normal in the West.

CIO Warehousemen Reach Agreement

SAN FRANCISCO, June 2 (AP)—Union and employer representatives reached a basis early today for settlement of a strike by 12,000 CIO warehousemen in the San Francisco bay area. The tie-up continued, however, pending membership ratification of the agreement.

Terms were not disclosed.

The association earlier had offered a pay increase of one cent an hour plus three additional paid holidays. The union turned it down. It sought an increase of six and one-half cents to an hourly base of $1.30.

Flights To Orient To Start Soon

SEATTLE, June 2 (AP)—Northwest Airlines' flights to the orient via the Great Circle route from both Minneapolis and the Pacific Northwest will begin July 15, the company said.

The orient route, already flown 10 times in preparation for the regular service, includes Anchorage, Alaska, Shanghai and Manila, with a side line with Seoul, Korea.

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HIGH SCHOOL

News Notes and Comment

By MARY O'BRIEN

Through the cooperation of the Klamath churches and the school officials baccalaureate service for the graduating class of '47 was held in the KUHS auditorium last night. The 222 seniors in their royal blue caps and gowns marched alphabetically in the service. The platform was arrayed in the class colors, white and green, with potted palms and white glads and daisies.

Mary O'Brien

Rev. Godfrey Matthews delivered the message to the graduates. KU's music department took care of the musical part of the program when the orchestra, girls' glee club, and boys' octet participated. Torch Honor society members and a limited number of juniors shared ushering duties for the service.

* * *

Last Thursday before the holiday and in the Script and Mike meeting Jim Kennett was rewarded for outstanding service. For his valuable work he was presented with the president's gavel with his name engraved on the plate. Jim has just completed the past year as president of Script and Mike society. During the year he originated, wrote, and broadcast the weekly "Sports Album" program, too.

* * *

Marked by the absence of the senior class, final exams for the rest of the student body started on a special schedule basis. Periods one through six were scheduled to proceed two a day—in a morning session (8:30 to 10) and an afternoon session (1 to 2:30). Extension of the time limit can be required by individual teachers.

Other regulations students and teachers must abide by are as follows: no exemptions will be granted; buses will run on regular schedules; tardy students are not allowed to start final exams late; students absent automatically incur f ing grades; home room periods will not be held and students need not report during the corresponding time of their study hall.

SPEECH CONTEST

SPOKANE, June 2 (AP)—Edward F. Harris of Spokane will represent the Pacific Northwest in the national finals of the Toastmasters Internation speech contest in Minneapolis August 12.

Harris won the Northwest title Saturday night with Dr. M. E. Gadwa, Salem, Ore., finishing second and named as alternate for the nationals.

Classified Ads Bring Results.

Uncle Sam says:

"...cash sugar stamps #11 and #12 NOW!"

Later on, shipping shortages may make sugar hard to get!

Be sure it's PURE CANE SUGAR ...insist on C and H

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"YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD DRUGGIST"

Boeing Signs New Contract

WICHITA, Kas., June 2 (AP)—Boeing Airplane company announced today the signing of contracts for $10,000,000 worth of spare parts for servicing of army air force B-29 bombers, and for construction of 10 YL-15 liaison planes for the air forces.

Two experimental liaison planes, identical to the YL-15, now are nearing completion at the Boeing-Wichita plant. The first, designated the XL-15, is scheduled for delivery to the army July 21.

Originally ordered by the army air forces, the liaison plane is intended for use by the army ground forces for observation, communication and photographic work.

The all-metal, high wing monoplane carries a pilot and an observer in its underslung gondola-like fuselage. A twin tail is supported by a single conical boom extending from the gondola.

Capable of taking off and clearing a 50-foot obstacle in a 600-foot run, and of climbing 628 feet per minute, it has a cruising speed of 101 miles per hour yet can hover at speeds of less than 50 miles. Disassembled, it can be carried on a standard 2½ ton army cargo truck.

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In striking styles . . . to set off summer costumes beautifully.

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