

Spud Crop Outlook Good Despite Poor Weather And Late Planting Over Nation

Supply
We have heard more comment and conjecture about the probable final size of the 1947 potato crop since the July report than after any report we can remember. There is general understanding that the July estimate always is made on the basis of rather tentative acreage information and an assumption of normal growing weather from then on. This year there was much bad weather at and following normal planting dates, and much of the crop was planted so late that a normal growing season appears impossible for more than a small part of it. Even so, the yield estimate, if attained, would be the second highest on record. Right now the thoughtful folks are wringing brows over the almost ideal weather since July 1, and wondering just how much catching up the crop has managed in four weeks. We don't pretend to know, but will be surprised if the August estimate doesn't show an appreciable increase over July, maybe between 5 and 10 million bushels.

Movement
Potato shipments dropped another 490 cars last week. Government cars fell off only 19 cars, so the commercial movement was down to 3306 cars. That is a 6-day average of only 551 cars per day, which is very light. Washington was in the spotlight with 983 cars, followed by Virginia with 829, Maryland 565, Idaho 374, Oregon 263, and Long Island 212. Note that 1790 cars originated in areas generally thought of as "late." These cars account for more than half of the commercial movement for the week. Note also that none of these states contributed to the 970 government cars, of which Virginia furnished 568 cars and Maryland 260. This makes us wonder what the line-up will show when New Jersey and Long Island really get going. Although we expected homegrowers to make themselves felt much later than usual, market conditions in the face of light shipments convince us that local potatoes are moving in considerable volume.

Demand and Markets
Market reports for the week show significant difference between the East and the West. Eastern and Central markets generally are reported drab and weak. The Western markets show strength despite too much immature stock in recent weeks. Virginia reports the demand moderate to practically nil the market about steady to dull, and fob prices unchanged at floor or 20 cents over floor for delivered sales. New Jersey's first report for last Friday and Monday only shows the demand slow, the market dull to dull and weaker, and prices 10 to 15 cents over the floor for rail sales and down five to 10 cents at a nickel to a dime under the floor for truck lots. Kaw valley's last report shows the demand improved to good, but with too few sales to quote. The Kaw reports have been very unsatisfactory as every report but one since July 10 has shown too few sales to quote and heavy sales to DoA. Shipping records, however, show a total of 582 rail cars shipped in the past two weeks of which only 15 cars were for DoA. This indicates that much of the Kaw valley cars rolled unsold with prices unreported except at terminals. Washington state demand is reported fair to good, the market about steady to slightly stronger the past several days, and prices up 45 cents at 75 cents over the floor, washed basis, for Long Whites. Colorado's first report shows Triumphs moving under a demand moderate with the market steady and prices 55 to 60 cents over the floor for washed; for Cobblers, demand has ruled very good, the market firm and prices five to 10 over the floor for washed. Terminals have shown a mixed trend. Chicago reports demand good to fair, the market consistently stronger to Tuesday, then turning unsettled and weaker. At New York, Eastern offerings ruled mostly about steady, turning weaker, with others weaker after early strength. Atlanta held about steady; Boston, mixed strength and weakness, ending weaker for Easterns, steady for others; Detroit, Bliss mostly weaker but ended about steady; others about steady; Philadelphia, slightly weaker to about steady; San Francisco, steady to slightly stronger. Both arrivals and trackholdings (report for 16 cities) have declined considerably; another indication that locals must be taking some of the market.

Price Support
Total purchases by DoA now amount to nearly 1.9 million sacks, or about 3.1 million bushels from the 1947 crop. Losses to date are about 15 per cent of purchases, a considerable reduction from a week ago. However, substantial quantities have gone to storage and the outcome will not be known until these finally are disposed of. Virginia is the biggest single contributor, with about 46 per cent of total. North Carolina is next with 21 per cent. These two states account for two-thirds of the purchases to date in spite of California's early clean-up. Public reaction to price support activities in the face of high retail prices is becoming stronger and more bitter. Offerings in excess of outlets, requiring anything that even smells of dumping, would cause a very explosive situation.

Farm Prices
Parity has held at the June peak, according to BAE's monthly report

of farm prices. Index of prices paid by farmers remained unchanged. Potato parity still is \$1.70 per bushel. Average price received by farmers was \$1.69 per bushel, or 99 per cent of parity for the country. Prices received in July were 26 cents higher than a year ago, 16 cents above May, and 13 cents over June.

AMG To Open Europe Market

BERLIN, Aug. 4 (AP)—In a bold attempt to open European markets to free trade, the American military government will spend millions of dollars in Europe buying goods from Germany's neighbors, authoritative sources declared today.

The dollars will come from the sale of Germany's exports under the American-British bi-zonal, import-export plan, according to these sources. Goods will be bought wherever they can be found, whether in Western European countries or those dominated by Russia.

This program has been initiated already in the signing and negotiating of trade agreements with Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Italy. It is intended to refute frequent Soviet charges that America is trying to drain Europe of dollars.

Canadian Officer To Review Cavalry
TOKYO, Aug. 4 (AP)—A 17-gun salute will welcome Gen. H. D. G. Crerar, Canada's senior officer, when he arrives at the Imperial Plaza Wednesday to review the U. S. first cavalry division.

An honor guard of 200 men of the 65th Australian infantry battalion will line the entrance to the reviewing stand. Maj. Gen. William C. Chase, first cavalry commander, and his staff will be mounted on horses from the former imperial Japanese general staff stables.

Fighter planes and attack bombers of the Far East air force will fly in mass formation over the plaza.

HOTTEST MONTH
PORTLAND, Aug. 4 (AP)—Last month was the hottest July in 24 years at Portland, the weather bureau said today.

Rainfall totaled 1.36 inches, double the normal amount. The previous high for the month was 2.17 inches in 1921.

The year's total, however, remained 3.16 inches below the normal 23.06 inches.

Our Home Town
The Boys Who Fell—Over There

By EARL WHITLOCK
There is a growing amount of discussion among families whose loved ones died in the war and whose bodies now lie in some distant cemetery, as to whether or not they should be returned to America for interment at home and among known and loved surroundings. The government is willing to aid those families who wish this done.

I have no opinion to offer in the matter. It is a thing for each individual family to decide for itself, taking its own desires and its knowledge of the nature of him who died into consideration.

But if you have been thinking of doing anything of the sort, I feel I can be of great help to you in acquainting you with all the details of the many sided operation. I have the latest authoritative information on the subject from Washington and shall be glad to give you the benefit of my knowledge. It being understood, of course, that you place yourself under no slightest obligation when you consult me.

"Memory Garden is for your Comfort."

Next Monday Mr. Whitlock of the Earl Whitlock Funeral Home will comment on "Salute to the Courageous Young."

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Includes linens, gabardines, sheers and crepes.

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GROUP ONE **6.95** Val. to 14.95
GROUP TWO **9.95** Val. to 19.95

SLACK SUITS

Long and short sleeves, two-tone and plain colors. Includes Graff, Hollywood Premiere, Koret of California and Hobbies.

VALUES TO 19.95

7⁹⁵

PLAY DRESSES

Includes Cole of California, Jantzen, Hobbies, Fiesta. Two and three-piece.

Group One—Values to 8.95 **4.98**
Group Two—Values to 14.95 **7.95**
Group Three—Values to 22.95 **12.95**

PEDAL PUSHERS

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3⁹⁸

Pedal Pusher Sets

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1⁴⁹

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Values

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Long sleeve pullovers in all Fall colors.

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Plain colors, plaids, pleats, flares, wools, gabardines, strutter cloth and Trik-Skirts.

Values to 13.95. Specially grouped at

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SCHOOL BAGS

Zipper closings, small sizes and underarm styles.

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Sheers, crepes, in black, brown, white and colors.

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