

## Basin Spud Planting May Be Delayed

Potato planting is starting from five to 10 days later this year than usual, due to weather conditions. Usually, May 5 finds planting pretty generally under way but farmers said today that it will be about May 10 before planting is in full swing. If good weather prevails, that is the forecast—whereas, more unfavorable weather might delay planting still later into May.

Some potatoes have already been planted in the Malin district. Some farmers in the closer areas are cutting seed.

The forecast for planted potato acreage this year is 21,000, although there is some opinion the acreage might drop under that. Seed is scarce and high, land rental is high, and fertilizer is high—all factors that might cause a decrease from the predicted acreage.

The county agent's office today estimated that 1948 grain planting is about half completed. Grain farmers have complained bitterly about the protracted cold, wet weather, but with the arrival of mid-week sunshine, planting hit a fast pace.

## Portland Warehouse Destroyed By Fire

PORTLAND, May 6 (AP)—A warehouse fire caused an estimated \$100,000 damage here early Wednesday.

Firemen on arrival found flames roaring from one end to the other of the two-block-long sheet steel structure.

The building, property of the Zidell Machinery and Supply company, contained machinery, pipe, hardware, cables, hoses and other items.

Fireboats joined land crews in pumping water on the building, located near the west end of Ross Island bridge.

## Water Pours Into Canals

Canals of the Klamath reclamation project continued to fill up with water today in preparation for the intensive irrigation season.

Because of wet weather, actual irrigation has not yet reached heavy volume. The bureau is filling the canals and looking for holes and small breaks, preparing for capacity operations soon to get under way.

Water is moving for the first time through the new canals and ditches on the new Coppock bay homestead land.

Grain farmers have completed most of their pre-irrigation work preparatory to planting. Because of favorable moisture conditions, not so much pre-irrigation as usual is expected this year on potato land.

Intake into the government's A canal here yesterday was 115 second feet.

## Gypsum Plant To Start Operations

NELSON, B. C., May 6 (AP)—Thomas H. Palmer of Lewiston, Idaho, is in Nelson making preparations for beginning operations of the Columbia Gypsum Products Inc. quarries near Windermere, in east Kootenay.

Mr. Palmer said he is purchasing machinery for the project and for the road from the quarries to the Canadian Pacific Railway, about 6 1/2 miles.

"Raw gypsum will be shipped from Windermere to various Canadian industries and the remainder will go to the United States for further processing."

## Frost Injures Apricot Orchards

LA GRANDE, May 6 (AP)—Union county apricot orchards and asparagus beds suffered extensive frost damage last week-end, County Agent R. W. Schaad reported Wednesday.

He said the cherry crop was not seriously damaged as buds had not opened.

Economic loss will be slight from the apricot and asparagus damage, Schaad said, since the crops are grown mostly for home consumption.

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## Government Supporting Egg Prices

WASHINGTON, May 6 (AP)—The government is re-entering the egg market to support producer prices.

Announcing this action, the agriculture department said Tuesday producer prices in some midwestern markets have dropped below the level at which they must be supported under the law.

The wartime price support program directs the department to assure producers a price of not less than 90 per cent of the parity price.

(Parity is the name given a legal standard for measuring actual market prices. This standard is declared by farm law to be equally fair to consumers and farmers.)

This is the first time the department has bought eggs this year for the purpose of supporting prices. So far in 1948, prices have averaged 90 per cent or more of parity.

The only other farm product being bought by the government to support prices is potatoes.

## Elephant Is Araument Cause

NEW YORK, May 6 (AP)—The question of how hard a trainer can whack an elephant without being sued proved too much for a city magistrate yesterday.

"How am I to gauge the extent of the blows?" asked Magistrate William E. Rindel as he dismissed the case against Hugo Schmidt, 45, a master trainer of 37 elephants for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey circus.

Schmidt, who had been haled into court by an agent for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, was admonished by the judge "to be more gentle in the future with animals."

Defending his treatment of the elephant, Schmidt said the animal was struck for punishment "as you punish a child if he doesn't obey you."

## Wocus Hens Produce Jumbo Eggs



Mrs. James Marshall of Wocus is shown looking admiringly at this dozen jumbo eggs from her flock of New Hampshire hens. This dozen eggs weighed 2 1/2 pounds and the eggs, laid end to end, measured 33 inches.

## Pacific Northwest Plan Probed By Departments

WASHINGTON, May 6 (AP)—A program for the Pacific Northwest's development in the "next six to 12 years" was being taken apart Wednesday by the interior department.

The program was assembled by the department's Pacific Northwest coordinating committee, composed of regional chiefs of interior department bureaus in the area. It represents a year's work.

C. Girard Davidson, assistant interior secretary, said the tentative program summarized the Northwest's needs in dams, land use and mineral development in the light of population trends.

As one example of the committee's purpose, Davidson cited need for industrial carbon, which he termed "a bottleneck item in the Pacific Northwest." It is used in the production of aluminum.

"Raw gypsum will be shipped from Windermere to various Canadian industries and the remainder will go to the United States for further processing."

Committee members include: From Portland—Roy F. Bessey, executive director; E. C. Hannum, Bonneville power administration; Leo L. Laxie, fish and wildlife service; Arthur M. Piper, geological survey; E. Morgan Pryse, Indian bureau; Walter H. Horning, land management bureau.

J. Lyle Cunningham, reclamation bureau, Boise; S. H. Lorraine, bureau of mines, Albany, Ore.; and O. A. Tomlinson, national park service, San Francisco.

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## Bond Issue Gets PUC Blessing

SALEM, May 6 (AP)—Public Utilities Commissioner John H. Carkin gave the Idaho Power company permission Wednesday to issue \$10,000,000 worth of first mortgage bonds and 150,000 shares of common stock worth \$3,600,000.

The money from the sale of the bonds and stock would be used for improvement of the company's power system.

The company operates in eastern Oregon, Idaho and Nevada. The stock and bond issue already has been approved by the federal power commission, and also must be approved by the Idaho and Nevada public utilities commissions.

## FARM NEWS

### Farm Price Decline Seen Coming In Near Future

PHILADELPHIA, May 6 (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Anderson said Wednesday that farm prices probably will decline a third in the next few years even under favorable conditions.

He said they still would be at a fair level after such a decline.

If conditions are unfavorable, he said, farmers might experience at worst a repetition of 1920-21 when farm prices dropped 50 per cent in 12 months.

"However, we do not need to go through the wringer again," the cabinet officer said. "We must maintain both domestic and foreign policies that will prevent it."

Anderson gave his price prospect views in a talk prepared for delivery at the University of Pennsylvania.

He said three things are needed to prevent another farm depression.

World economic recovery, domestic farm programs, and an active domestic industry maintaining a high level of food consumption.

Anderson said there already are some unfavorable signs in agriculture.

He listed them as an upward trend in farm debts, threats of surpluses in the present high level of production, a recent downward trend in buying power of farm products, and an abnormal pattern of production based on wartime demands.

#### 4-H Trip

The four top Oregon 4-H club youths will get a trip to Washington, D. C., to attend the national 4-H club camp June 16 to 23.

They are Bonnie Klein, 18, Aumsville, Marion county; Barbara Bloom, 17, Crow, Lane county; Richard Larkin, 18, Monroe, Benton county, and Barrie Gassett, 17, Cove, Union county.

A trip to the national meeting is the highest award a 4-H club boy or girl can receive.

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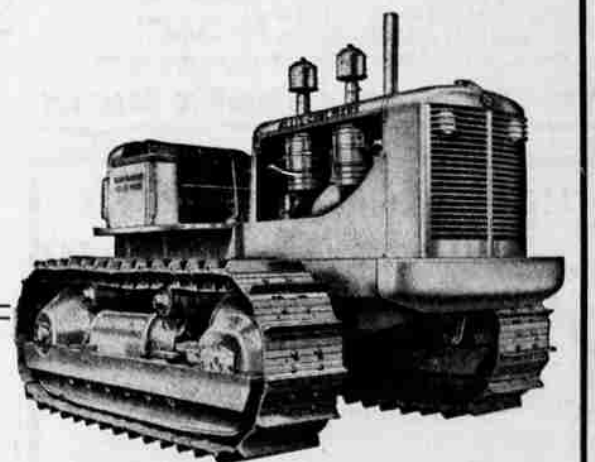
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