

National Potato Letter—

Maine Getting Out From Under Heavy Spud Supply; Loadings Down To Trickle

Late crop potato supply estimates continue a matter of watching shipments and guessing reserves from the way growers act. Late crop shipments continue downward, but the trouble area, Maine, has regained its April 1 level and should fast be getting out from under its heavy supplies. With March 1 stocks at 264 million bushels and shipments of nearly 22,000 cars since, there cannot be too many left.

Hottest news of the week is from the Red River valley, where floods temporarily put much of the area out of business. Damage is still not measured accurately, but the end result is likely to be one of two extremes—either such thorough damage that the potatoes cannot be shipped, with consequent upward market pressure—or no particular damage except in the minds of buyers, in which case offerings would be taken only at cut prices. There could be a middle ground if fewer potatoes were in underground storage than has been believed. A little time will tell. Late stocks west of the Dakotas are about gone for all practical purposes, and opening of field work will further slow hauling until planting is finished.

In early areas, there are no highly significant developments. Blight at Hastings is less than was estimated earlier, and the Alabama crop now looks pretty fair. No improvement is noted in South Carolina and Georgia. Texas yields continue light, running to small size. California still is an open question as to yield, but doubling in shipments indicates better satisfaction. Virginia planting is finished and many fields are up to good stands with prospects of a good crop and earlier maturity than last year. Planting in New Jersey and Long Island is well along and should be completed soon unless weather interferes.

Considering both early and late potatoes, we do not look for any serious over-supply before May 15, possibly even a little later. However, if early growers persist in shipping too green, the early market could go bad in a hurry regardless of the available supply.

Shipping figures are marked by the almost complete disappearance of carloads from Northern California, Upstate New York and Long Island, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington. Nebraska has slowed to a trickle, as have Montana, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Idaho has slipped to less than half of the figure of two weeks ago but Maine stays up. In fact, Maine has not fallen below 2500 cars per week since mid-February, and averaged 464 cars daily last week for a total of 2786, including 386 cars for the government. The week's early movement increased to 1387 cars. With Alabama showing up with its first

two cars. California averaged 85 cars per day but may gain more slowly than usual because of unsatisfactory yields. Total early movement last week was nearly 26 per cent of all shipments.

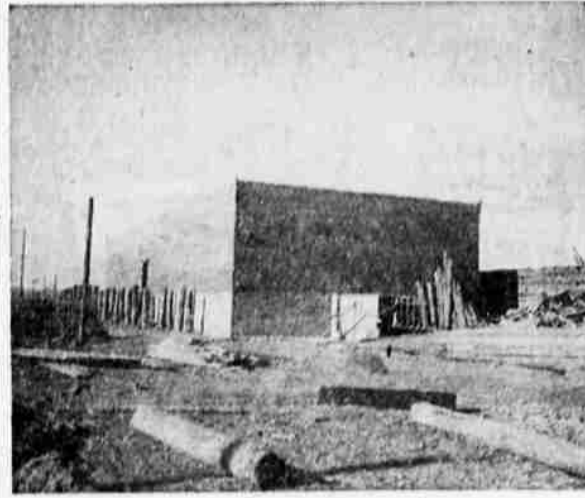
DEMAND AND MARKETS Market reports show late potatoes better off than early stock. Maine has a firm market with a nickel advance. Upstate New York is up another dime for few carlot sales. North Dakota has reported officially for the last time with the market the effects of the flood were not apparent marketwise at shipping points, and have not shown up since at the terminals. Early markets have skidded. Hastings weakened by 75 cents but still is \$1.85 over the floor. Texas dropped from a range of \$5.90 to \$6.90 to \$4.50 to \$5.50, evidently because of size. A U. S. number one pack is ordinary enough without dropping size to a 1 1/2-inch minimum. California took its market drop earlier (April 13-19), and since then has enjoyed a strong demand and firm markets at \$4.50 for washed. That is down \$1.50 from the opening of the deal, but still is \$1.65 over the floor. Keri county stock still is running fairly small and immature. Stock with better maturity and size is bringing a 25-cent or larger premium.

MISCELLANY H. R. 6248 is the Hope bill for continuation of price support. We guess it is about the shape of things to come unless a long-range program is shaped at this session, which we do not expect. The bill provides for variable support level at 60 to 90 per cent of parity, and gives the secretary of agriculture authority to impose production and marketing restrictions. Studying the bill now will be time well spent. Results of the North Carolina-Virginia referendum on marketing agreement should be available soon.

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Big Grain Elevator Under Way



Construction of cribbing on the big Archer-Daniels-Midland grain elevators being built on the Great Northern railroad five miles south of Tulelake is about half completed. The 24 grain bins will be 75 feet high, and the 40-man crew is averaging about three feet of timber work a day. W. E. Melena of The Dalles, is contractor. When completed the structure will have storage space for 300,000 bushels of grain. The bins are built on several hundred wood pilings driven 80 feet into the earth. This foundation is topped by 18 inches of steel reinforced concrete.

Voting was last week. Understand there was some strong opposition, but people do not always vote the way they talk. Hearing was held Tuesday on the proposed agreement for Maine. Proponents worked hard to develop a sound program suited to marketing in both pecks and 100s, and outstanding opponents of the earlier proposals (1937 and 1938) were not in evidence. Why don't potato growers do something about increasing use of potato flour in their own local bakeries? Potatoes are grown in every part of the country and growers could be a powerful

influence toward creating a real outlet for low grades. Potato flour improves most baked goods, but bakeries generally will not use it much until there is a real demand.

WASHINGTON, May 6 (AP)—"Mr. Speaker, I hope somebody will save this country from some of the people in it who are trying to save the world." That was the text of a speech to the house Wednesday by Rep. Matthews.

Court Finds Writer Guilty On Red Count

WASHINGTON, May 6 (AP)—A federal court jury Wednesday convicted Movie Writer Dalton Trumbo of contempt of congress.

The jury took two hours to reach its verdict of guilty on these two charges: that the Hollywood writer refused to tell the house committee on un-American activities if he was, or ever had been, a communist, that he refused to tell the committee if he was a member of the Screen Writers Guild.

Both questions were asked during a committee investigation last fall into communist influences in movie land.

Trumbo is the second of ten Hollywood figures to be convicted of contempt.

John Howard Lawson, another film writer, was convicted on one count two weeks ago. He has not been sentenced.

A third Hollywood writer, Albert Maltz, is due to go on trial tomorrow on a similar contempt charge. All ten are accused of failing to tell the committee if they were communists.

Trumbo can be sentenced to a year in jail and \$1000 fine on each of the two counts of which he was convicted.

Lawson is appealing his conviction and Trumbo is also expected to appeal.

Trumbo wrote the film stories for such pictures as "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes" and "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo."

Alaska Trucking Possibility Eyed

EDMONTON, Alta., May 6 (AP)—Paul Seddicum, United States consul in Edmonton, Wednesday said the possibility of commercial trucking to Alaska through here would be investigated this summer. Mr. Seddicum said his office had been contacted by a firm of Texas truckers for information on road

conditions and other factors influencing such a project. A test truck will leave Houston, Texas, July 15 carrying a party of five. It will travel through Denver, Billings, Edmonton, Dawson creek and on along the highway.

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For Mother's Day... Menu By MARY MARGARET McBRIDE Author, Special Consultant to Owens-Illinois Glass Co. Tuna Fish and Egg Sandwiches on White Bread Tongue and Chopped Olive Crescents Pineapple Cheese Date-Bread Hearts Chocolate Icebox Roll Coffee. Everybody likes Hills Bros Coffee. The friends you like most deserve the coffee so many people like best—Hills Bros. Coffee. It's a blend of the finest coffees grown. Every coffee bean is roasted evenly to a uniform flavor peak by the exclusive Hills Bros. process—CONTROLLED ROASTING. And fragrant freshness is assured when you buy Hills Bros. Coffee because it is vacuum-packed in cans and Ultra-Vac jars. So, for party-pleasure at every meal, serve Hills Bros. Coffee.