

National Potato Letter--

Maine, Red River Potato Crops Nearly Cleaned Up

Maine potato shipments have gone into the usual seasonal decline and although still of substantial volume indicate fairly small holdings. No satisfactory figures are available on size of remaining stocks but disappearance to date indicates that Maine should be cleaned up a little earlier than usual. Red River Valley movement was slowed by floods, but indications are that remaining stocks are not too heavy. Early crop indications are not much changed, but are beginning to shape up better than in earlier reports. Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas are light and late. Alabama is earlier, although probably damaged by rains, and now appears to have a good crop both as to size and quality, with very few flaws. Hastings has fair to good quality with a wide range in size. Growing conditions all the way from South Carolina to Long Island have been good and crop progress has been average or better. However, this condition will not offset the acreage abandoned because of rot in South Carolina and Georgia. Earliest yields in California have been smaller than were expected. Information on later harvesting will come along soon, with later yields bound to improve over early harvested acreage although growers still do not know if rains have affected quality.

Movement Last week's shipments dropped by 750 cars from the previous week. The big drop in Maine, amounting to 904 cars, was about made up by an increase in the Red River Valley. Valley shipments still are below tonnage moving before the flood, but are about what they should be for this late in the season. California finally topped the 100-car a day mark, but Texas is tapering off and after another week or so will not budge again until West Texas movement begins in July. Total early movement has worked up by nearly 100 cars but still is only 31 per cent of all shipments.

Demand And Markets Strong prices, expected everywhere by this time because of the rapid out-movement in Maine, short supplies in the Northwest, and lateness of the early crop everywhere but in California, have not yet materialized. Price advances still can develop but if so will be of short duration and will not benefit many growers. One thing to remember is that the support price level is high, and anything like a real spurt would involve some really fancy prices.

In the early deal, Hastings has slipped at about the half-way point; recovered some for a day or two and then slipped again. Texas has had almost the same experience on almost identical days. However, both areas still are comfortably above the lower May support levels. California apparently resisted a natural urge to boost prices during a week or more of demand in excess of supplies, then did raise them, and over the week-end dropped to new lows for the year at mostly around \$4.00. This still is \$1.25 over the floor and stacks up better comparatively than prices in Florida and Texas. Maine also declined after a few days of better prices, and started this week at about a dime over the floor for size A. Terminal reports generally are dull and weak except on the West Coast. Track-holdings do not look too big after watching them during the winter, but are too big for warm weather. Terminals are not in a good position to stand pressure.

MISCELLANY Don't forget to watch the bills introduced in Congress affecting potato price support. Three bills are now involved. One would extend present supports through 1952. One would extend support on a modified basis for 18 months. The other is a long-range bill and at last reports contains nothing special for potatoes. The industry could suffer if it doesn't speak up. . . . We hear very officially that New Jersey's congressional delegation is something less than appreciative of California's disregard of acreage goals. You can read about

Kerns Kernels We have added another service for the people of the Klamath Basin. J. D. Vertrees, formerly entomologist with Stauffer Chemical Company, will be in charge of field service on insecticides and weed killers. If you have a problem in insect pests or weed control, see either Mr. O'Donahue or Mr. Vertrees for expert advice on their control. We now have an display the new No. 10 International Side Delivery Rake. This rake is of very heavy construction and has a hydraulic lift. It is ideal for large acreages. We have a special this week on a new Overland Scraper for a Ford tractor. The regular price is \$502.00—the special price \$425.00. The time is approaching to be thinking about grasshopper outbreaks again. Indications are that control can be had this year for the lowest cost in history. For large area control, an airplane treatment promises outstanding results for low cost. Keep in touch with Kerns for latest information on methods and costs. Crown Egg Mash is now available in the new "Pretty Print" cotton bags. These bags are fast colors in varied patterns, and serve many purposes in the home.

ELECT John HALL Present Governor The OREGON PRESS Says: "His appointments to date have been outstanding men." "His record as governor to date has been good." "Governor Hall has made a good start as the State's chief executive during his short time in office." "found the new Oregon executive, first of all, a very human sort of person, interested in the things in which they were interested, meeting them naturally, unaffectedly, understandingly." "He is a forceful speaker — one who is inclined to call a spade a spade. . . . Those who have had personal contact with him believe he is a man's man." "Governor Hall meets an issue squarely." "Governor Hall made a good impression by his talk here." "Hall brings to the Governor's chair a broad knowledge of problems which are Oregon's. . . member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, he faces problems for which, by training and experience, he is eminently qualified." "One of the shrewdest law makers that ever sat in a state legislative session." "shows sound judgment in his appraisal of men." "Has ample ability. . . is eminently qualified to carry on the administration of the state's affairs." "Governor John H. Hall will give Oregon a vigorous administration. He is alert, quick, decisive." "He has tackled with courage and determination the important duties of the office of Governor." "Governor John H. Hall's activities. . . indicate a real desire to provide Oregon with an able administration." "The new governor comes well recommended as an able parliamentarian." "Governor Hall has made an excellent impression as successor to the late Earl Snell, conducting affairs with dignity and admirable decisiveness. Previously he had served regularly in the house and risen by ability to the speakership."

J.W. Kerns 734 South 6th Street Klamath Falls, Oregon

Gypsum Plant To Open Up Soon

SPOKANE, May 13 (AP) — The Northwest Gypsum company soon will start producing gypsum fertilizer near Weiser, Idaho, for sale at low cost in the Northwest. William T. Smith, Colfax, secretary-treasurer, said today. Smith said lower freight rates would enable the company to sell the fertilizer for about half the cost farmers have been paying to firms operating outside the Northwest. A bulldozer is stripping the surface of a gypsum bed 60 to 140 feet wide and one-half mile long on the Snake river 18 miles from Weiser, Smith said.

Spittle Bugs Hit Berries

If you've got strawberry plants on your farm or in your garden, here's an important word from an entomologist. Bob Every, Oregon State college extension entomologist, says it's spittle bug season. And, spittle bugs can make the difference between strawberry shortcake next summer or just—cake. Here's why. The spittle bug is a nasty little nuisance that sucks juice from the strawberry plant. It also works on developing strawberry fruit stems. The result is fewer and deformed berries. But Entomologist Every tells how to get the best of spittle bugs. Here's the way. Check the underside of the strawberry leaves and down in the crown of the plant. The spittle bug leaves a white, frothy secretion. It's easy to see. The spittle bug itself is yellowish green. So, if you find signs of spittle bugs, here's what to do about it. Rotenone dust is the recommended control. One-half of one per cent rotenone or 75 of one per cent rotenone may be used. On large acreages where a hood, row type power duster is used, the dust should be applied at the rate of 50 pounds per acre. In the backyard garden where a hand duster is used, Every says a light film covering the berry leaves will be enough. The first internal combustion engines, designed about 1689, were made to operate on gunpowder.

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Soil Saving Necessary

Speaking recently about soils and soil conservation, F. L. Ballard, associate director of the extension service, had this to say: "Maintaining the producing capacity of our soils is a vital factor in guaranteeing the future prosperity of Oregon. Many things affect the soil condition—the crops grown, the sequence in the rotation of those crops, the implement and tillage methods used, the amount of irrigation water applied and the manner of its application, and the balance between crops and livestock in the farm operation. Knowledge of farm

practices that will maintain soil productivity and protect the land against washing and blowing is constantly increasing. Adoption of improved practices has been widespread. It is appropriate that we take stock of our position; evaluate the job to be done; and concentrate attention on those items upon which further progress is most needed. That is the purpose of Soil Conservation Week."

VOTE FOR Fenton Mahrt Republican Candidate for SHERIFF Young, civic-minded, 8 years' practical experience. Fair and impartial. World War II vet. F. L. Adv.—Fenton Mahrt



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