

National Potato Letter--

Guesses Were Wrong On Maine's Potato Statistics

Current potato supply information indicates that so far as old stock is concerned, Maine may have about 1200 to 1800 cars left, although Maine shipments already appear to have exceeded the reported holdings of May 1. Looks now as though everyone has been wrong about Maine from the start, including the Maine growers and shippers. To our knowledge, as recently as mid-April, the best estimates of total Maine shipments were about 60,000 cars. That figure was reached on May 10, and about 800 have been moved since with 1000-plus to go. Red River valley seems to have about 1200 cars, many in the area that was flooded recently. In the area that was flooded recently, there are marketable potatoes there. No other late areas have any supplies of consequence, and even these will move out in dribbles as field work claims the attention of growers.

In the early crop, the Florida spring areas of Texas and Florida produced slightly more than last year but a little less than average. This portion of the crop now is nearly finished and should not be an important factor after a few more days. The late spring crop looks about 13 per cent above 1947, and 42 per cent above average, but 16 per cent below the record of 1946. California's acreage, up 27 per cent, is the biggest factor in the gain over last year. However North Carolina, earlier thought delayed by unfavorable weather, has caught up fully and will begin digging about on time. Also, very high yields are expected officially, and unofficial estimates put yields high enough for a new record for the state. Other good to exceptional yield areas are California, Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Arkansas, but South Carolina may have the worst season on record.

In the summer crop, acreage is barely above last year but 10 per cent below average. No production estimate for this group will be available until June 10, but weather generally has favored potato growth, especially in the East, and there is no reason, yet in sight, why yields should not be equal to those of recent years. Putting it all together, we add it up to a considerable heavier supply than was available last year from May to September, and correspondingly heavier DoA purchases. Only a major weather setback would reduce supplies to marketable proportions. Most significant development in the potato movement is the sharp decline in Maine shipments, from 558 cars daily average two weeks ago to 147 cars daily last week. If 1200 cars remain, Maine will clean up in two weeks at 100 cars daily. Decline is due chiefly to good weather and the beginning of planting operations. We doubt the validity of the explanation that growers prefer to decline starch factories because of declining quality and equal price. Factories have been taking potatoes at capacity rate for weeks and could not account for the sudden reduction in shipments. Terminal markets generally have been drab, dull or weaker for the past week. The heavy shipments in anticipation of a rail strike left terminal tracks overloaded, and this was bound to soften markets, especially with the weather generally warmer. Holdings have been worked down to more reasonable figures but city markets still show few signs of strength. In the country, FOB markets have held steady in Maine and Florida for the past two weeks; at floor in Maine and well over floor in Florida. In California, prices have eased to the support level under the pressure of very heavy shipments (340 cars daily last week). First DoA purchases there were made on May 14. Alabams has weakened from the opening level of \$4.00 down to \$3.20 for washed stock, but still is 15 cents

over the floor. If Maine and North Dakota have good weather for a couple of weeks, growers will get busy planting and both Alabama and California may get some faster action. If things work out just right, Alabama may get by with no help except for low grades. California is bound to meet marketing trouble in June, with bumper crops due from North Carolina and Virginia and a much larger part of the Eastern stock due to be washed and iced.

Miscellaneous Much interest in whether DoA will invoke sub-floor sales plan which was written into the 1948 support program. DoA won't tell and we can't guess. Excess acreage in California will produce over 10 million bushels at 400 bushels per acre. Simple arithmetic can lead to the conclusion that this may be the quantity by which summer purchases this year will exceed those of last year. We hear that some industry people in late areas are in doubt about late crop support this year. Probability is that extension in some form will be voted by congress, but in the meantime DoA was obliged to proceed as though support will end December 31. In any event, it appears reasonably certain that the intended loan program will furnish a cash advance, probably payable in the spring and probably settled at December support prices if potatoes are delivered in lieu of cash payment. We cannot vouch for this future action but it looks reasonable.

Give a Fountain Pen for Graduation! Complete Stock Sheaffer, Parker and Waterman, Pioneer Printing & Stationery Co., 122-124 S. 9th.

Four Hurt When Car Smashes Bridge

MAPLE CREEK, Sask., May 27 (CP)—Four persons from Havre, Mont., were injured, one seriously, when their automobile smashed into a steel bridge over the Milk river here Tuesday. John Johnson, 30, driver, is in hospital here with internal injuries. Six persons were returning in the car to Havre after an international celebration in Medicine Hat, Alta., over the week-end. Hospitalized for superficial injuries and shock were Elijah Cash, Mrs. Lorraine Cash and Don Rathbone, 20. Bill Fitzgerald, 18, and Bud Sinnatt, 18, escaped injury.

Famous Dog Trainer Dies

LADNER, B. C., May 27 (CP)—Internationally known and heralded as "the most outstanding dog trainer on this continent," Charles Hayes Murray, 73, died of a heart attack here Saturday. He was a recognized figure at dog trials throughout the western United States, British Columbia and Manitoba. He had eight national coast championships to his credit, a record believed to be the highest held by one trainer.

Bikes - Tricycles Wagons and Taylorlotts (Baby Walkers) POOLE'S Bicycles and Sporting Goods 222 So. 7th

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HERALD AND NEWS COMICS

BLONDIE IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD TO REST THESE TIRED OLD BONES ZZ ZZ ZZ

Red Ryder DIGGING OUT! TAKE TOO LONG, LITTLE BEANER! WE'VE GOT TO FIND A QUICKER WAY! WE DON'T AIM TO HURT YOU SHERIFF, BUT WE DON'T WANT NO BUTTIN' IN WHILE WE DEAL WITH BUCKSKIN! HUMP! RED RYDER MAY BE AT THE LUCAN EPITAPH MINE. THAT'S WHERE HE WENT, BUT HE'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG. SOMETHING HAPPENED! THEY'VE MADE UP THEIR MINDS TO LYNCH BUCKSKIN, MADE A NOTHING STOP 'EM NOW!

Alley Oop THEY HIT US WITH STONES THAT STINK AND RETURN TO THEM AGAIN! THEY GOT TO GO TO DO SOMETHING! THEM SCRAWNY RATS BEAT UP MY WARRIORS! ARE THEY DAFT? WERE THEY NOT WARNED OF OUR WEALTH? I NEVER HEARD OF SUCH GALL! COULD BE THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TUGH WE ARE, CHIEF! EVERY DAY THEY'LL GROW STRONGER ON THE FOOD OF OUR LAND! WE'RE DOOMED IF WE DON'T SWEEP THEM OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH! AYE, AND ON THE MORROW WE SHALL SWEEP THEM OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH! I NOW RETIRE TO MY BATTLE!

Boots and Her Buddies I HAVEN'T MENTIONED A VACATION, BOOTS, BECAUSE WE FELX SURE YOU'D JET TO THE IDEA! I JUST HATE TO DO THIS... DARN IT, TO LIVE TO GO ON A VACATION TOO! BUT THE SMART GUY SUGGESTS IS IN, WE COULDN'T AFFORD A ONE-WAY TICKET—HIKE TO THE CITY LIMITS! I SIMPLY CAN'T GET OVER YOUR GOING FOR THE IDEA! WHY, BOO! I THINK A VACATION WOULD BE DUCKY! JUST THE FAMILY! YOU AND I, BOG DANKY! AND THE PUP OF COURSE, WE'D BE A LITTLE CRAMPED IN OUR COUPLE, BUT WE WOULDN'T MIND ONE BIT!

Wash Tubbs YOU NEED YOUR HEAD EXAMINED, LUCIFER! FIRING A MAN LIKE EASY WHILE MY BACK IS TURNED IN WASHINGTON! BUT HIS SLIPSHOD INEFFICIENCY, J.P.! AND WHEN HE SNEAKED OFF TO HOLLYWOOD WITHOUT PERMISSION, I LOST MY TEMPER! BUT HE HAS A KNACK FOR INSPIRING THE CONFIDENCE OF DIFFICULT CHARACTERS LIKE CROONE! HARD AS IT IS TO BELIEVE, I SEEM TO RUB THAT ADDE-BRAINED GENIUS THE WRONG WAY! WE'VE SENT SOME OF OUR BEST MEN DOWN THERE TO REASON WITH HIM, BUT—BAH! AND NOW WE HAVE A PLANT STANDING IDLE WHILE CROONE SULK IN HAWAII! I HAVE A HUNCH EASY MIGHT BE MADE HIM LISTEN TO REASON, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM!

Freckles and His Friends QUIT IT! TURN A LIGHT OFF! WHA—WHY—FRECK! ANDY! WAKE UP! LA-A-ARDSY!! I TELL YOU, THERE WAS A LIGHT! AND I HEARD HILDA'S VOICE! I DO, SO HELP ME! YOU'RE DREAMING! GO BACK TO SLEEP! SHE BURNED OUT, SIR! WE'LL BREAK OUT ANOTHER SEARCHLIGHT! LA-A-ARDSY! WHERE ARE YOU? NOW TELL ME DREAMING!

Little Orphan Annie WHY, MELISSA—HOW NICE YOU LOOK THIS MORNING—COME IN— GOOD MORNING, MR. DIDDLE— MR. DIDDLE, THIS IS ANNE—SHE CHASED A BIG THUG WHO WAS TRYING TO ROB MY GAMMY—SHE'S AWFUL NICE—CAN SHE STAY OVER THE GARAGE WITH US—CAN SHE? ANNE, EH? WELL, NOW—I MUST HEAR ABOUT ALL THIS—AND OF COURSE, MELISSA, WE MUST CONSIDER CESSIE'S SIDE OF THE CASE—WHAT ABOUT HER PEOPLE?

PENNEY'S MONTH-END FEATURE! LOVELY CHENILLE BEDSPREADS 85"x105" APPROXIMATE SIZE LAUNDERED AND PRESHRUNK LOVELY FLORAL DESIGN \$5.00 These chenille spreads are lovely, easy to care for, and refuse to wear out! White with multicolor floral designs or plain white. No ironing necessary. Preshrunk and laundered. They'll make very attractive additions to any bedroom. PENNEY'S MAIN FLOOR