

National Potato Letter

General Crop Report To Be Released July 11; Spud Shipments Decline In US

By A. L. FITZSIMMONDS
Lacking any new official crop reports, supply information right now is strictly gossip. On July 11 bureau of agricultural economics will release its first general crop report giving crop prospect for the entire crop. As of the present time, the crop is made in the gulf area, Arizona, California and as far north as Maryland in the east. Central sections were very dry until recently and the northeast as far south as New Jersey has been in the middle of a real dry spell. The effect on yields probably was small in the Midwest, where planting normally is later.

In the northeast the story may be different. It seems certain that there is little likelihood of any large volume ready by early July, as is usual, even if rains come at once. It takes time to receive and put on sale. This will give Virginia and Maryland a little more time to get out of the way. Recent behavior of the market would indicate that more time would be decidedly helpful.

Movement And Markets

Shipments declined sharply last week, largely accounted for by the digging holiday in California but aided by seasonal tapering off in North Carolina. The decline is all to the good, since markets simply could not stand the impact of the very heavy shipments of early June. Total was 8169 cars, down 1546 from the preceding week. Department of agriculture cars stepped up 104 cars to 389, making a drop in commercial shipments of 1650 cars to 4780. That is about what markets can handle ordinarily in hot weather, but it still may be too many in view of the very heavy truck movement.

FOB markets were very shaky most of last week. California's digging holiday did not prevent an additional 30-cent drop, but demand has been improving and the market regained a quarter of its losses. There has been an unusually wide range of prices, depending on quality. Arizona apparently was caught in the California drop, having lost 7 cents since the opening on June 26, of which 65 cents occurred last week. The market has steadied at 33.15 and may hold there as long as reds are moving. A further decline will be in order when the deal shifts to long whites. North Carolina was up and down last week and presently is 30 cents under a week ago but still 40 cents over floor on unwashed stock. Washed stock shows an extremely wide range, \$2.25 to \$2.75 for size A's. Virginia is looking better after softening at mid-week, quoting Monday at 85-90 cents over floor.

Agricultural Legislation

Views on what Congress may do with current farm proposals differ widely. Whatever it is, one can find an expert opinion to back his own. By numbers, the majority of observers seem to doubt that anything important will be done at this session. But a few very competent people cling to the notion that significant parts of the administration's proposals will be accepted. As far as potatoes are concerned, it is certain that there will be no production payments on the 1949 crop regardless of what may develop later. Even Secretary Brannan opposes a mid-stream switch. For the long run, the house favors high-level support and therefore is opposed to the Aiken act. Senate opinion is less clear, but can be counted upon to favor whatever promises least cost. The potato industry opinion, as stated by representatives appearing before the house committee, appears weak. For all practical purposes, they recommended merely that the Aiken act be given a chance, on the ground that 60 percent of partly in disaster insurance and by no means a production inducement. Such a recommendation is all right, as far as it goes. It leaves untouched, however, the matter of how to carry out price support—whether by the ordinary means or by production payments—and ducks the issue of marketing quotas and stiff penalties. They were told by the committee, in the strongest kind of terms, that their proposal had to adjust production and had to have penalties for failure to cooperate. Just how dodging this issue may affect potato price support remains to be seen.

Miscellaneous

This is the season of farmer field days, with affairs scheduled by many organizations in several states. They run mostly to production matters, such as variety tests, fertilizer and placement, spray programs, etc. Very little on marketing. It is regrettable that these meetings cannot be a meeting place for farmers and city distributors to cooperate on plans for selling the product of their know-how on production. Distributors should be on the programs, so should consumers. Department of agriculture purchases of 1949 crop spuds now total

15 million bushels. Not a lot, and not as much as was anticipated for June. Perhaps we may get by the time without a "potato scandal." Marketing agreement activity is warming up. Committees have been named for all the old agreements, and most of them have met or will meet soon to set plans for the season. California is voting now on a new program for all of the state except Modoc and Siskiyou counties which already are covered. Washington will have a referendum soon. New Jersey is looking over a draft of an agreement. Few people are aware of it, but the department of agriculture loaned potato growers nearly 30 million dollars last year. Over 90 per cent has been repaid and the balance is being collected.

Hoover Sees Danger In New Post

WASHINGTON, June 30 (AP)—Herbert Hoover said Wednesday it would be "dangerous to the country" to create a chairman for the joint chiefs of staff of the armed services as proposed by the Truman administration.

Such an office, the former president declared, would "place too much power in any military officer." Hoover testified before the house armed services committee on legislation to amend the armed services unification law of 1947. Generally, the measure is aimed to give more power to the secretary of defense and iron out "bugs" in the two-year-old law.

Backers have contended the proposed revisions will permit savings of many millions of dollars. The senate passed the legislation May 26.

Hoover endorsed the general purposes of the bill but strongly opposed a section which would create a chairman for the joint chiefs of staff.

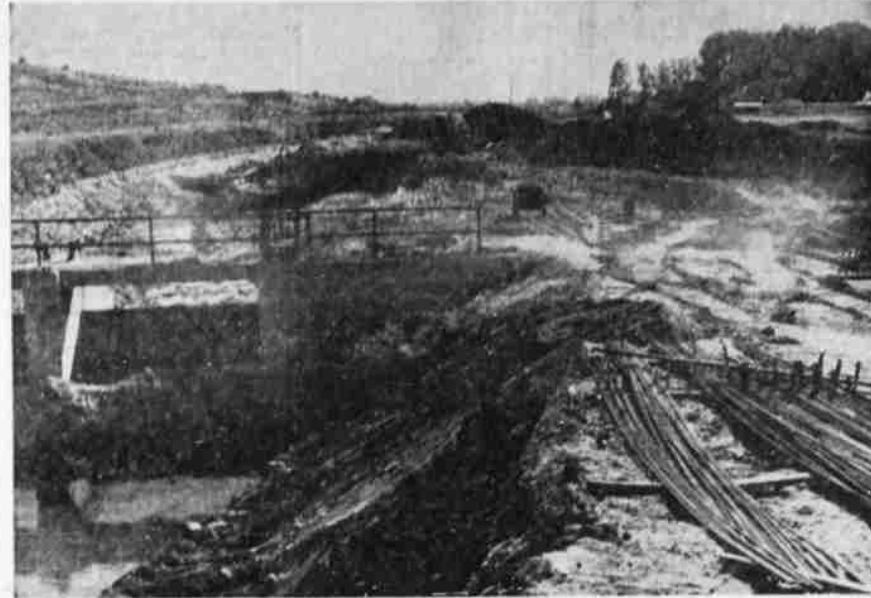
Each of the armed services is represented on the joint chiefs by its chief of staff. Under the present arrangement, each is equal in theory and they try to reach their decisions by mutual agreement.

The proposal to create a chairman was endorsed by the late Secretary of Defense Forrestal and has the specific endorsement of President Truman. Under the plan, the chairman would act as chief military advisor to the president and the secretary of defense.

Chairman Vinson (D-Ohio) said he agreed with Hoover that the proposed chairman of the joint chiefs of staff might become, in effect, a single chief of staff for all the armed forces. Vinson added: "I want to put something in this bill so that it can't happen."

Rep. Short (R-Mo.) said he is "a little alarmed about the tremendous powers" proposed in the bill for the secretary of defense.

Asia is a land of extremes. Mount Everest, its highest peak, stands approximately 29,000 feet above sea level, while the Dead Sea lies 1292 feet below the level of the sea.



CONSTRUCTION STARTED MAY 1—Enlargement of the Lost river diversion channel is well under way at Horseshoe dam. This project is to enlarge the channel which cuts across from Lost to Klamath river, so that in the event of flood, water may be diverted from Lost river into the channel, sending it down the Klamath river to the ocean, thus saving Tulelake lands from being inundated. Formerly 22 feet wide at the bottom, the eight-mile channel is being enlarged to 60 feet wide. It has a fall of less than four feet.



EXCESS WATER—What would be overflow from irrigation ditches when they are running at capacity, is let out through a spillway. This spillway lets the water out into Lost river, thus acting as a safety valve and saving banks from caving under the tremendous pressure of water. The spillway is located just below the big flume at the Poe valley cutoff from Olene.

NEW TRANSMITTER

ASTORIA, June 30 (AP)—The new 1,000 watt transmitter for radio station KAST will start going up July 1. Officials hope to have the \$20,000 transmitter in operation by mid-August.

CHANGE

PRINEVILLE, June 30 (AP)—The Women's Christian Temperance Union state convention, originally

scheduled for Sept. 20-23 in Prineville, will be held Sept. 27-30 instead.

\$120,000 Cherry Crop Forecast

LA GRANDE, June 30 (AP)—A \$120,000 cherry crop in Union county was predicted today, after surveys indicated the cherry fruit fly had not made many inroads this year.

Little fly damage was discovered—thanks to concentrated spraying operations early this year. Larva which has damaged some of The Dalles area crop apparently has skipped Union county, too.

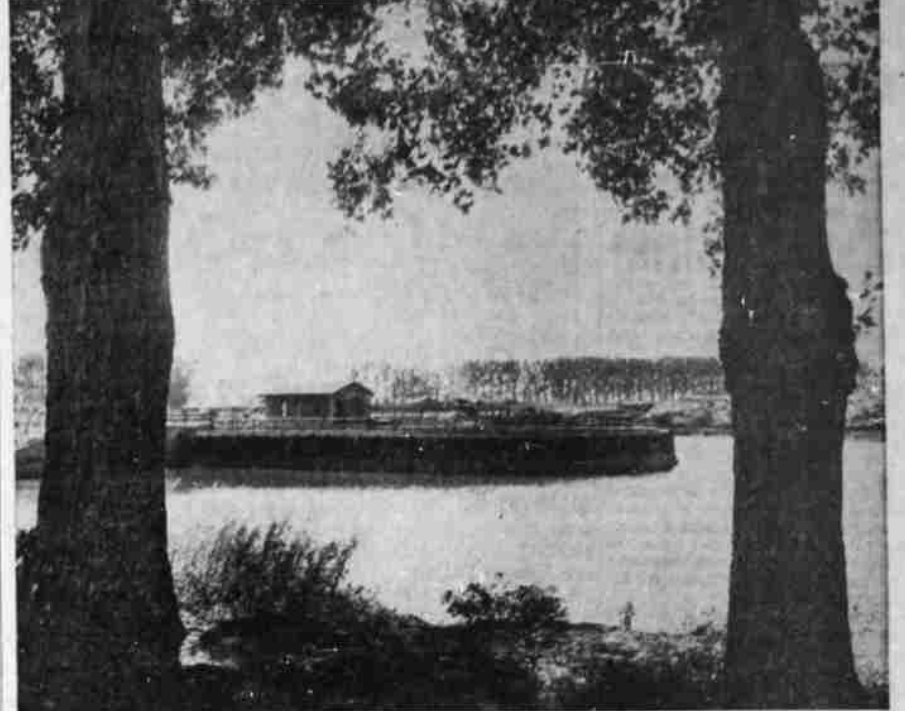
The cherry harvest will begin about July 6, with pickers receiving 2 1/2 cents a pound.

Plane Lands OK On Alaska Peak

JUNEAU, Alaska, June 30 (AP)—A plane landing has been made at the 6000-foot level on the slopes of Mount Vancouver, the Arctic Expedition radioed from Yakutat Wednesday. A laboratory built at that point last year was found intact, with its contents safe.

Maurice King, veteran Alaska flier, has made four landings and takeoffs from snowfields at that elevation.

Almost half of Spain's productive land consists of pastures and mountains.



LIFEBLOOD OF AGRICULTURE—Water can be as destructive as it is life-giving to crop-lands. Horseshoe dam was built to control the wild tendencies of water and tame it to farm use as needed. Picturesque views like this may be obtained from vantage points anywhere around the dam.

Anthropologists To Study Social Structure Of Tule

Two anthropologists from the University of California, Alan Beals and Tom McCorkle, plan to spend the summer here continuing the study of the social structure of the Tulelake community which was started last summer by John Goins and Harry Nelson.

Reasons given for continuation of the research project were the helpful and friendly attitudes of the people of Tulelake, and the wealth of information gathered last summer concerning the way individuals adjust to new situations.

Tulelake is of particular interest to social scientists since, during the course of its development, the community has been faced with the problem of absorbing large groups of new settlers who have moved in as fresh lands were opened for homesteading by the bureau of reclamation.

The techniques of community building used by the people of Tulelake may have considerable practical value if social scientists are

successful in applying similar methods in advising communities which have been less successful in solving problems similar to those of Tulelake.

Beals and McCorkle plan to use techniques similar to those used last summer. This will consist of interviewing as many local residents as possible and "talking things over" with those who seem to be key figures in the community.

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