

Late Fall Will Up Spud Crop; Increased Shipments Last Week

By A. L. FITZSIMMONS

Final potato production figures still are in the hands of the weather man. The Midwest needs rain to complete its crop and hold yields at present estimates. Many observers feel that the Midwest surplus states will drop slightly from the August estimate.

In the West, it is more than ever clear that a late fall will be needed to improve yields. The June frosts in some western areas caused considerable damage.

In the East, irrigated potatoes in New Jersey and Long Island may make close to normal yields and probably better than have been expected. Some improvement also is indicated in the late crops which did not sprout after the recent rains, but it is doubtful that the improvement will be enough to materially change the official estimate.

As to the prospect in Maine, old time growers tell us that the vines are still green except for a few Cobblers fields. Many growers are boasting that they can dig 200 barrels right now, with ten days to two weeks before the normal killing frost date and plenty of moisture to keep the vines growing.

The Maine prospect is that not only will size be good, but unusually uniform because of close spacing. Maine forecast might go up in the next estimate, even though the present 400 bushel yield is an all-time record there by 20 bushels.

Shipments increased somewhat last week, probably because of cooler weather. Total for the week was 3079 cars, of which 2697 cars were for commercial outlets, a gain of 463 cars over the previous week.

Total commercial shipments for the season to date have been 67,534 cars. This is an increase of 143 cars, or slightly more than one per cent over movement to the same date last year.

The larger movement may indicate some recovery in the consumption rate which many have expected because of the lower support price. Careful analysis of market large volume of sales this season prices will show, however, that a has been at materially higher than 1949 support and very close to last year's much higher support level.

Markets in the East weakened during the week but have shown a tendency to steady, possibly because of wet fields and light haulings.

Colorado advanced a dime and has held steady since. Washington gained 15 to 20 cents, holding steady although demand is reported slightly less active.

All areas are holding well above support on U. S. No. 1, size A. Offerings and all but New Jersey and Long Island are well above support on straight U. S. No. 1 stock. Washington is a 14 1/2 cents over floor and even the weakest Eastern markets are 20 to 25 cents over the support levels.

Legislation
Senate now has its farm price support bill in its "untenable" edition but the outcome still is more uncertain than the weather. A quick glance at the current version shows 75 to 90 per cent of parity support for basic crops, 60 to 90 per cent on potatoes and several other non-basics. It also proposes the modernized parity slightly higher than the Aiken act by about six per cent; no direct subsidy production payments; and continued wide au-

thority in decisions by the secretary of agriculture, as now.

Chairman Thomas of the senate agriculture committee has now proposed dropping mandatory support on potatoes, not as an amendment to the price support bill, but as a separate piece of legislation. There appears no chance that this bill will be enacted into law but it is a "straw in the wind" and may influence some thinking in the senate.

Miscellaneous

The bureau of agriculture economics said Tuesday that prices for all farm products have declined to a point closer to parity than any time since 1941, with the ratio of prices to cost down to 101. Farm production costs average about the same as a month ago, but living costs have declined.

Potato parity dropped another cent to \$1.78 per bushel, and average prices received by producers also declined another cent to \$1.54, maintaining the same 87 per cent of parity as in July.

Price support purchases this season now total 6.1 million bushels compared with 23.6 million to this time last year. The ratio of support purchases now is nearly 20 per cent, a considerable gain over the 20 per cent of recent weeks.

Klamath basin soon will vote in a referendum on modernizing amendments to its marketing order. Inclusion of Jefferson and Lake counties is proposed, along with changes aimed at greater flexibility.

A group of Long Island packers has decided voluntarily to hold size up to a two-inch minimum. With a 45 cent premium over straight U. S. No. 1 stock, this decision should prove profitable.

Department of agriculture has completed its shift from non-certified purple dye for stockfeed potatoes to a certified blue which shows as green when applied to yellow potato skins.

The potato situation is dynamic with a short fuse so far as Maine is concerned. Every bushel of imported potatoes will be money out of the pocket of Maine growers.

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ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME while on the road are enjoyed by Dr. H. J. Sealey of Dumont, N. J., as evidenced by this fancy bus which stopped in Klamath Falls Wednesday. Dr. Sealey, his wife, secretary, nurse and chauffeur are living in this traveling home while touring the United States. On this trip they have visited the Black Hills, Yellowstone park, Mt. Rainier, Portland, Crater lake, and are now heading south to continue the eastward swing home. The bus contains a kitchen, staterooms, showers and a good-sized parlor. On top of the bus is a cupola arrangement to view the scenery from a high vantage point.

Which Way For Business? Some Say Up, Others Down

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (AP)—Business observers differ widely in their guesses as to what lies ahead in the fall months—a little boom, or a further slow decline.

Some say business hit the bottom of the cycle and is starting up again. They point to a pick-up in orders which has increased output at many mills and factories, and to advancing prices in some raw materials and finished products.

Others say the shake-down of prices from the inflation peak has not gone far enough yet to furnish a sound foundation for a general business upturn. They say the pick-up in orders is in part seasonal, the customary preparation for fall and

Christmas retail business, and in part refilling of inventories which went too low when some businessmen got too panicky and bought too sparingly.

This re-ordering has led to the factory pick-up and to the stiffening of prices, but these observers contend that the ordering has not been in anything like the volume of 1948 ordering and should be viewed merely as a passing phase and not as a sure-fire indication that the slump is over.

There is still a third point of view, widely held. This is the cautious wait-and-see one which thinks neither of the others has proved its point and that business

can jump either way. Bolstering this point of view are the major uncertainties that lie in the present labor negotiations approaching the decision point, and in the general world trade uneasiness as the British lay bare their money troubles.

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Wood River Valley Gets Modern Telephone System

By MYRTLE WIMER

PORT KIAMATH—Things have changed in Wood River valley with the dial telephone becoming a reality here this week. The system went into operation Wednesday night, August 21, when the local switchboard was taken out and the office closed, after a period of 42 years of service by telephone operators at the Port Klamath switchboard.

Established in 1907 by John Hensig, the office was first located in the general store operated by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. "Ben" Loosley, who also handled the telephone switchboard, in the building which is now the Port Klamath garage, and which at that time housed the post office and telephone office as well as a general merchandise store, all run by Mr. and Mrs. Loosley.

Several years later, Hensig built the present telephone office, and in 1928, when he sold out his local private telephone line to the West Coast Telephone company, of Everett, Wash., the office was continued in the same location as formerly in the Hensig building.

During the years, telephone operators came and went, and at the time of closing this week, the personnel included the chief operator, Mrs. Harry Engle, who has worked continuously for the past 15 years at the local board. She now has three weeks' vacation with pay,

and has no immediate plans at this time beyond enjoying a well-earned rest at her home here.

Mrs. Edna E. Orth has been operator intermittently during the past 10 years, and is now enjoying her final vacation of two weeks with pay, after which she is planning a trip to the Oregon coast and California to visit relatives, when she will be accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Viola Leeter, who makes her home here with Mrs. Orth.

Relief operator for the past year has been Mrs. Elmer Zumbrun, following a succession of relief operators coming and going through the years. No doubt she has plenty to keep her busy at her home at the William Zumbrun ranch, where she, her husband and son, Billie, live.

A veteran of 39 years continuous service with the West Coast Telephone company is Allen Bell, local trouble shooter and general maintenance man for the past several years. He is due to retire on pension from the company on December 28 of this year, at the age of 78.

For the past three months a crew of men has been busy setting poles and putting up lines in the vicinity, preparatory to installing the modern dial system.

In charge of the work was W. C. Oates Jr., of Chillicothe, construc-

tion foreman for this district, while S. Maers, engineer from Everett, Wash., has been here for some time in connection with the work, accompanied by his wife and three children. Here and small been William Combs, line man for the company, and it is understood he will be here for some time yet, as final details of installation of the dial system have not yet been completed.

A. M. Dennie, district manager of the company with his headquarters and home at Lakeview, has been a frequent visitor here during the past three months in connection with the "new deal" in telephones.

As a result of the installation of the new dial system, 24-hour service is now available, all calls, both local and long distance, being handled through the Chillicothe switchboard and office of the telephone company.

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