

Expert Eyes Spud Growers Problems; Urges Solution

A strongly worded plea to potato growers to hold down their potato acreage, to organize nationally, and to make every effort possible to encourage the public to eat more potatoes, was made by W. M. (Bill) Case, executive director of the National Potato Council in a meeting held at Klamath Falls last night.

Delving into the history of the potato industry since 1940, Case stated that undoubtedly, these changes were influenced by the wartime programs of government price support and the high prices of other agricultural crops. Since these conditions seem to be definitely past history, it would appear sensible to study present production trends and probable results based on a period of free operation of the law of supply and demand.

In order to do this, Case said, let's take a look at conditions in the potato industry prior to World War II when the industry was entirely on its own as it is today. There appears to be no other way to judge the future than by the past when conditions were similar, and, if this is true, then potato men must make the decision of whether they prefer to work together to improve their lot or to let nature take its course in a boom-and-bust economy.

Taking acreage and total value figures back to 1924 and 1925, Case proved to his audience that per capita consumption of potatoes had decreased 50 per cent—that acreage plantings had been decreased 50 per cent, but that per acre yields had more than doubled through the use of fertilizers, insecticides, modern equipment and farming methods.

In each year, figures proved, that a grower received a good price for his potato crop, the following year he invariably increased his acreage. In some instances these increases amounted to as little as 10 per cent, but it was increased enough that it cut the income from spuds to the grower by 50 per cent or more.

To bring the matter closer to home, take a look at the past two seasons. In 1952, we planted approximately 1.5 million acres and produced a crop of 347 million bushels. Government statistics are not available on the average price, but any farmer well remembers a year ago and can set his own price. In 1953, the acreage was increased slightly from 1.5 million acres to 1.6 million acres, but the yield per acre jumped from 245 to 255 bushels and the total production was about 378 million bushels. Each potato grower can set his own price as of today, but I am sure it is probably less than half what he was receiving a year ago, and this change is brought about by approximately a 10 per cent increase in the total quantity of potatoes.

At the conclusion of his talk, Case stressed three points where growers can help put the potato industry on solid ground:

1. It is the potato producers job to straighten out the potato industry, and it is certain that the job will never be done unless he does it.

2. The problems of regulating marketing are as much the growers job as producing. Attention to marketing problems in bad years will be of much greater value for the limited amount of the cost than a similar amount spent on production.

3. Allotting some funds to straighten out the price situation is as much a legitimate cost as buying fertilizer, insecticide, or anything else. Farmers do find the money to pay production costs; they can also find the money to pay the costs of marketing.

Answering questions from the floor, Case stated he did not feel that the use of Section 32 funds for the purchase of 1953 crop potatoes could do much toward strengthening the market at this late date.

Health Group Sponsors Talks

"The Heart of America," a radio program on the various aspects of heart disease, sponsored by the Klamath County Medical Society and station KPLW, is being presented in a series of 13 talks each Tuesday evening at 8:15.

The disk recordings are prepared and approved by the American Medical Association and the American Heart Association. Various medical authorities are cooperating on the program, presenting individual reports of case histories with commentaries.



THE FOUR HOUSE Brothers, "vocal darlings" of the Klamath Basin, will sing at the annual barbershop roundup and Minstrel-Ade, at the Pelican Theater, April 10. Two other vocalists, well-known to Klamath Falls audiences, but new in the realm of SPEBSQSA, Carl Hagel, tenor, and Sherman Carter, bass, will appear with the songsters. Tickets will be on sale for the show Saturday, March 27, at Derby's Music Store. The House Brothers, left to right, Bill, bass; Tom, lead; Dan, tenor and Dave, baritone.

Kidnap Trial Motion Denied

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Moskowitz kidnap trial almost was stopped before getting well started when one of the defendants was accused of threatening to kill the other.

Judge Twain Michelson turned down a motion for a new trial and warned sharply against continuing the subject.

The defendants—Harold Jackson, 33, and Joseph Lear, 42—are charged with kidnapping Leonard Moskowitz, 36, a San Francisco real estate broker. They could be given death if convicted.

Moskowitz was freed unharmed Jan. 19 after being held 2 1/2 days while demands were made for \$500,000 ransom and then cut to \$300,000. Police rescued Moskowitz. No money was paid.

In Wednesday's second day of jury selection, Lear's attorney, Robert K. Winters, asked that the prospective jurors be excused. He then told the court Jackson had threatened Lear with death when the two were together at the previous day's noon recess.

"It was the first time they were together since their arrest," Winters said.

Jackson's attorney, Valentine Hammack, asked for a new trial but he was denied.

Winters said he brought up the subject because he feels Lear's life is in danger unless the defendants are kept apart.

The two customarily are kept in separate cells.

Eagles to Hold Food Sale

The Eagles Auxiliary is sponsoring a cooked food sale at Sears Roebuck, Saturday, March 27, to raise funds for the muscular dystrophy program, sponsored by the auxiliary. This is an annual program. No other assistance is received for this ailment from the community.

SCHOOL BILL
TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida Thursday picked up sufficient Diet strength to assure passage of two bills banning political activity by school teachers.

BOMB PERIL
LONDON (AP) — The Laborite Daily Herald asked the United States Thursday to put a stop to further Bikini H-bomb tests before it turns the Pacific Ocean into "a source of peril."

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Senator Urges Conserving Western Water and Lands

NEW YORK—The United States may become a food-importing nation within the next few decades unless we make our western lands arable through irrigation, Sen. Edwin C. Johnson, (D. Colo.) warns in the current issue of Look magazine. He claims that we are overworking our present agricultural acreage, and the only way to develop new acres is by controlling the water supplies of the west.

Irrigation of the arid west is a national, not strictly a western problem, Sen. Johnson claims. He declares that it may make the difference between defeat and victory in war, or malnutrition and plenty in peace.

"Our national population increased by about 50 million between 1915 and 1950," he writes in the Look article. "In order to feed those new mouths, we had to put into cultivation over 100 million new acres of land. We got these new tillable acres by switching over 25 million acres from cotton to food production, by gaining nearly 60 million acres through a two-thirds reduction in horses and mules so that their former pasture areas could be turned to the plow, and by breaking over 35 million acres of western grasslands."

He points out that a good part of the grasslands need to be put back into grass as a conservation measure: that there are not enough horses and mules left to gain many more acres; and that unless we are to become a haven for the world's population, we can't get much more there.

"Yet our population is growing by 2 million a year, and . . . at

the same time, our commitments to feed more of the world's population are growing," he adds.

In addition to irrigation, the Senator points out that development of water in the western states will open up new frontiers for vital industries. The uranium de-

posits of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona cannot be fully worked without water for the personal use of the miners, he says. In the same way, water and water-power are needed for the growing industries of California, Washington and Texas.

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11

FPC Chairman Gives Figures

CHICAGO (AP) — The chairman of the Federal Power Commission Thursday said only 21 per cent of the nation's potential hydro-electric power capacity has been developed.

Chairman Jerome K. Kuykendall reported that half of this water-based power development has been accomplished through privately financed projects and the other half through public projects.

Speaking of the future, in a talk at the American Power Conference, he said:

"I would like to stress the ample opportunity within the framework of the Federal Power Act for the kind of partnership development of our water resources advocated by President Eisenhower."

"The act clearly provides for participation by independent of non-federal interests and by joint federal-non-federal partnership."

"Present policy affirms that the federal government should undertake construction of only those water resource development projects, or parts of projects, which cannot be built by local interests or which have a national significance. The other projects are to be left to non-federal public or private interests."

Students Tour San Francisco

The Henley High School chemistry class went to San Francisco during the spring vacation, accompanied by Earl Graham, adviser. The group left March 14 and returned March 20.

Making the trip were Elaine Kendall, Ruth Roenicke, Shariene Kirkpatrick, Pat O'Donahue, Louie Zarosinski, Tom Wright, Henry Williams, Dick Baisiger and Myron Harburt.

The group stayed at the YMCA. Trips were made to the Fleishhaker Zoo, Golden Gate Park, the museums, the Ford assembly plant, and the Bethlehem steel plant. At Bethlehem, the Henley group met the KUHS chemistry class and watched the making of nuts, bolts, concrete reinforcing bars, the pouring of ingots and steel bars.

Included in the trips of interest, were tours around the bay, under the bay bridge, to the C & H Sugar Refinery, and through the research laboratories of Standard Oil, where the students viewed the electron microscope glass blowing machinery, chassis dynamometer and other equipment. They investigated the refinery and loading operations for oil at the docks, saw the production of the Del Courtney show on television, visited the Presidio and the art exhibits at the California Legion of Honor Hall.

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