

EFFORT MADE TO SPEED UP POTATO GROWING IN STATE

Lincoln, Neb., May 17.—With planting season near, and with growers discouraged, members of the federal potato committee of Nebraska and off-

cers of the Nebraska Potato Growers' association are trying to bring the western Nebraska potato industry out of its chaotic condition. Government regulations establishing high grades and the licensing of buyers to compel them to conform to these grading regulations, together with low price to growers, have given a blow to Nebraska potato raisers. Thousands of bushels of potatoes are still in storage cellars in western Ne-

braska, and growers are hesitating to plant the usual number of acres this year, fearing they will be unable to find a market next year. Scores of telegrams have been sent to the officers of the state national food administrators, asking for information on the situation, and asking what the government intends to do this year. From Brown county, L. E. Smith, representing the potato men, tele-

graphed Administrator Wattles as follows: "Potato growers of the east half of Brown county, representing shipments of 150 cars last fall, are planning to give up potato raising unless more grades are established which are fair to the farmer. Something must be done and that quick if you want spuds from Brown county." The food administration replied that there is nothing in the government

regulations to prevent farmers shipping potatoes not graded, or graded lower than No. 2, but that Nebraska potatoes should be graded to compete with other states. Prof. R. E. Howard, secretary of the state potato committee and of the Nebraska Potato Growers' association, has sent out letters to 1,300 western growers explaining the situation to them. It is not the object of the government to discourage Ne-

braska potato growers, according to Prof. Howard. It is the government's object, however, to discourage the production and sale of poor quality potatoes. Nebraska growers must improve the quality of their potatoes in order that they will pass government inspection—that is, come within grades one and two, and also in order that they can compete with other states. The rulings of the government that

potatoes shall be graded so as to prevent shipment of potatoes unfit for human consumption are fair and just, Prof. Howard believes. **Berry Gets Commission.** J. Howard Berry, former Penna athlete in the third officer's training school at Camp Dix, has been notified that he will be granted a commission.

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