

WESTERN NEBRASKA POTATOES IN DEMAND

Werner and Howard are in Western Nebraska to Begin Intensive Experiments in Seed Potatoes.

H. O. Werner, secretary of the Nebraska potato growers' improvement association, and R. F. Howard, state horticulturist, are in western Nebraska to begin intensive experiments in an effort to make Nebraska one of the large seed potato producing states. This will be the third year for these experiments. Much attention has been directed to western Nebraska potatoes since Box Butte county in 1918 took all prizes at potato contests throughout the middle west, in competition with the great potato growing states, including Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Ten varieties will be grown at thirteen places in the western part of the state this year either under dry land or irrigated conditions. In addition there will be experimental work in Kimball, Scotts Bluff, Box Butte, Dawes and Sheridan counties to determine factors that influence the production of potatoes. The variety seed tests will be conducted at Kearney, Sidney, Kimball, Bushnell, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Baynard, Lisco, Angora, Alliance, Chadron, Rushville, Gordon and Lincoln.

In cooperation with the United States department of agriculture the state university is conducting trials in southern states with seed potatoes obtained from Maine, Michigan, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the dry lands and irrigated lands of western Nebraska. These trials will determine what Nebraska seed can do in competition with northern seed when grown in the south.

A comparison of the yielding qualities has been made the last two years of seed produced under dry-land conditions of western Nebraska with seed from various other states. This comparison has been made in eastern Nebraska, central Missouri and southern Texas. These tests indicate that seed stock produced in the high altitudes of western Nebraska without irrigation will yield favorably with seed produced in the northern states.

It is the belief of members of the potato improvement association that Nebraska should take a high place among the potato states, not only in the production of potatoes for table use but also in the production of seed. If experiments conducted by the Nebraska experiment station and the United States department of agriculture show that Nebraska potatoes have the proper quality an effort

will be made to place them in active competition with more northern production.

Under the direction of Dr. G. E. Coudra, head of the university department of geography and conservation, moving pictures will be taken of the Nebraska potato industry. The potato association also plans to use various methods of advertising for the purpose of making the world acquainted with Nebraska potatoes.

Speaking of the Nebraska potato industry, R. F. Howard, who has been in charge of the experiments, said: "There are almost unlimited possibilities for extending the potato industry in western Nebraska. Over one-third or four-year crop rotation with potatoes as one of the crops makes it possible to grow potatoes indefinitely.

"The total output of potatoes in Nebraska is approximately 12,000,000 bushels. This places the state about tenth among the larger potato producing states of the union. A

large per cent of the total yield is grown in the counties, including Scotts Bluff, Box Butte, Sheridan, Dawes, Kimball, Banner, Morrill, Sioux and Brown. Approximately 2,000,000 bushels are grown with irrigation in Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Sioux and Kimball counties.

"On account of the climate and soil conditions in these counties it may be said that the potato will probably always be one of the principal agricultural crops. The high altitude insures a relatively low mean temperature. The season is short. The soil possesses sufficient plant food. The conditions are all favorable for the production of potatoes. "It is not uncommon to get a yield of 150 bushels without irrigation."

Every great war, almost every great battle, in fact, has had its boy hero, and the Marne was no exception. In this instance, according to returning doughboys, it was a young bugler. The lad was captured by the Germans and was brought before the

general staff with the view to obtaining some information from him. The lad protested that he had none, that he was only a bugler. The German officers were skeptical, so they commandeered a bugle and proceeded to test the boy. "Sound taps," was the order, and the lad promptly obeyed. "Now reveille." Again the mellow notes blared forth. "Now retreat." "Gee whiz, but that's a new one on me. Guess they knew it would be wasting time to learn it."

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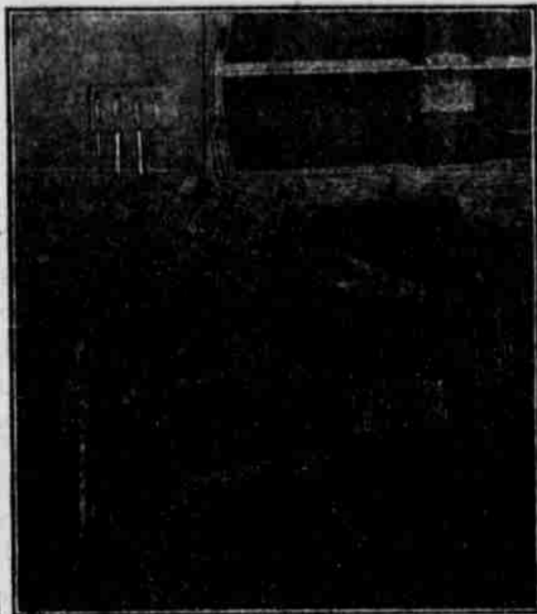
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