

EARLY SPUDS BRINGING GOOD PRICES IN EAST

KANSAS CROP READY FOR HARVESTING BUT HELP IS SCARCE.

Old Potatoes Climb as Supply Diminishes With Demand Still Strong.

With a bumper spud crop now practically assured Box Butte county growers will be interested in the market as affects the sale of the tubers. From every important market there comes the gratifying news, through the medium of The Packer of Kansas City, that prices at this early stage of the season promise good returns to the growers. The following account of the Kansas harvest condition and of the early marketing by growers of the Jayhawk state will be of particular interest in that conditions there are vastly similar to those existing here:

Kansas Crop Report.

POTATOES—The state's acreage in potatoes is probably about 15,000 acres less than that of last year, when it amounted to 68,358 acres. The general condition of the crop is given as 90.1 per cent. as compared to 91.4 per cent in May.

LAWRENCE, Kan.—Two harvests are conflicting this year in the Kaw Valley. Wheat and potatoes are both demanding attention at the same time, and while the acreage of the former is by far the larger, the harvest of the latter is causing about equal worry. The potatoes are ready to dig all along the river although the immediate need is less around Topeka. Digging has been started this week, but many of the growers are waiting to get the wheat harvest out of the way and the heavy movement will not begin until about Monday or Tuesday.

A heavy rain in this section Monday afternoon stopped digging for a day, but increased vigor was evident when the tubers began to roll again and the last two days have seen pretty heavy loading. The total movement from the Valley thus far is estimated from 15 to 20 cars. Practically every point in the Valley will be loading cars tomorrow and all of next week.

Estimates on the production and condition of this year's crop have varied greatly and this wide range of ideas is evidence of the fact that the crop is irregular. Reports covering the entire Valley indicate that this has been a very unfavorable year generally, but individual questioning of the growers finds that this depends entirely on the location. Those with low fields were hit hard by the early rains and high waters of the Kaw, others show considerable rot damage, others blight damage and still others lay their poor crop to the use of inferior seed. All in all, the year has been poor and most growers will tell you that the man with a small acreage was the lucky man this time, but you occasionally find a man who claims to have a crop as good as his best, absolutely free from blight and rot damage and extraordinary in yield. The digging of the last two days has revealed yields ranging all the way from 100 to 225 bushels per acre.

The blight scare which began two weeks ago is now generally considered of little consequence because of the late date of attack. However, some are still estimating their loss from blight as high as 25 per cent. Rot is being found in many of the fields around Topeka, but shippers say the potatoes will go into the cars with good quality and condition because of the advanced stage of the rot and careful sorting.

Beginning prices to the growers ranged from \$2 to \$2.50 per cwt., according to grade, but the last two days have displayed a lowered tendency. Growers in this immediate section are now offering No. 1 Ohios for Monday and Tuesday loading at \$2.10@2.20 per cwt. The first car out of the Valley last Thursday was bought at Weaver for \$2.25.

It was hoped by growers that the Texas and Oklahoma crop of Triumphs would be out of the way for the Kaw Valley Ohios and Cobblers because of the general preference for the Triumphs, but the Southern stock is still supplying a big demand which otherwise would be left to the Kaw Valley crop.

Heavy Rain in Texas Prevent Spud Digging.

EAGLE LAKE, Tex.—On account of the continued rains, fully 500 acres of potatoes in the Eagle Lake section still remain in the ground undug. As just as soon as the fields begin to get tidy enough for planters to begin digging, more rain falls, and these have been the conditions for several weeks. Many of the potatoes have rotted in the ground, and the potato farmers will lose a great deal this season on account of not being able to market their potatoes. The farmers are still waiting for a dry spell in order to get out what spuds do not rot in the ground.

Further rains fell in the Eagle Lake-Wharton district this week. Even the rice growers, who produce crops under water, are complaining of too much rain. At this time it prevents planting rice.

Gotham Markets Lower.

NEW YORK—The Southern potato market started off with a fine trade this week, and outside of a few cars that were off in quality on account of being held on track because of the strike last week, prices were good and the offerings cleaned up well. The Old Dominion steamer is now bringing 5,000 to 6,000 barrels on each boat, and at the opening

Monday there were about 90 cars in by rail. The market on all fancy stock from Norfolk and the Eastern Shore was at times as high as \$7. No. 1, however, generally sold at \$5.50@6.50, with some sales as low as \$4.50. No. 2 brought \$2.50@4 and other stock down, according to quality. North and South Carolina stock, however, did not bring more than \$6 for the fanciest offerings.

Florida is winding up closely and a good deal of the stock now coming is beginning to show the clean-up of the patches. The range on Florida potatoes was \$2@5.50 for the marketable offerings.

Tuesday and Wednesday offerings were very heavy and the market was about 25c lower Tuesday with another decline of 50c per barrel Wednesday at which time fancy No. 1 stock was selling at \$4.50@5.50 and No. 2 at \$3 down to \$2.

While the market showed no quotable change Thursday, prices were exceptionally firm and under heavy rail receipts the market cleaned up in great shape. There were also 12,000 barrels on the Old Dominion steamer Thursday and 3,800 barrels were due to arrive Friday morning.

There is still considerable accumulation of old potatoes in the market. The yards, however, are dead. There is very little doing and receivers are peddling them out as fast as they can at all the way from \$1 to \$2.50 per 180 pounds bulk and from \$1.50 down per 165-pound bag.

New Stock Strong in Boston.

BOSTON—The new potato market was firmer and higher at the opening this week as supplies were not so heavy. Prices ranged from \$6.50 to \$6.75 per barrel on branded stock and other ordinary marks from North Carolina and Norfolk sold at \$5 1/2@5.75 with slack-packed stock

down to \$4.75. There is not much improvement in the old potato market. The best lots sold at \$1@1.26 on Monday and the soft, badly decayed stock sold from 25c up with much selling for less than freight.

New potatoes were easy at the close at \$4.50@5.50 for Norfolks with Eastern Shore \$5.50@6 mainly.

Rains Help Southern Crops.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Copious rains which fell throughout this district the past week assure a bountiful potato yield of good quality Cobblers and helped the onion crop, which is now moving wonderfully.

The potato movement started in a limited way the latter part of the week but will not get under full headway before the early part of next week. The crop promises to be of exceptionally fine quality and local shippers are anticipating a very fine season's deal.

Demand Strong at Portland.

PORTLAND, Ore.—The market for old potatoes continues to gain in strength locally with some advances noted in values. Offerings of old stock are limited and of small lots and very little is of fancy quality.

New potatoes are coming forward from local places in small volume, with greater offerings and lower prices in California, values here are declining. Sales of best stock were generally made around 4@5c a pound during the past week.

Work for Explorers.

Vast expanses of grazing land and immense forests await exploration in the northwestern part of Paraguay, known as the Gran Chaco, which is inhabited mostly by nomadic tribes of Indians. It is estimated that Paraguay has a population of 1,000,000.

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