

BETTER PRICES FOR KAW VALLEY POTATOES NOW

SOUTHERN CROP IS PRACTICALLY SOLD AND DEMAND IS GOOD.

Kansas Wheat Harvest and Potato Gathering Conflict and Help is Scarce.

The potato markets this week show an upward trend and since the southern crop is practically all on the markets and due to the fact that labor can hardly be secured it would seem that western growers may feel confident of a substantial market for their raisings. The Packer, of Kansas City, which carries the latest available dope on the condition of the spud crops and markets, has the following to say:

LAWRENCE, Kan.—Kaw Valley potato growers are all smiles this week for prices which seemed two weeks ago to be improbable are now a reality. Not that \$2.75@3 per cwt., the price to the growers for No. 1 stock this week, is unreasonably high, but as one local grower said this week, "It certainly does look good in comparison with \$2, the price which early last week seemed destined to take the entire crop."

The first loads went out of the valley around \$2.25 per cwt. delivered to the cars and one or two sales during the early movement were made as high as \$2.50, but the market soon receded until it looked as if \$5 would take the crop. Several cars of strictly No. 1 stock were loaded at that figure and it is said that one or two growers made contracts with Kansas City houses at \$1.50 per cwt. loaded on the cars this week.

But the situation has changed. Unexpected competition has developed and demand is keen from all quarters. Buyers are covering the valley thoroughly all the way from Kansas City to Topeka and practically everyone is armed with waiting orders. Practically everything is being bought outright.

Several factors have combined to cause the advance. In the first place, the crop of Southern Triumphs is about out of the way, leaving the field in this territory open for the Kaw Valley Ohios and Cobblers. This alone is quite important for as long as Triumphs are to be had they seem to be taken at a premium over Ohios and Cobblers. With the Southern stock out of the way, it now seems only good fortune that the local crop was late this year, thereby coming on the market practically alone.

Another factor far in the East is thought to be of considerable importance to the local situation. The teamsters' strike and other labor disturbances have been settled with the result that Eastern Shore potatoes are finding a good market right along the Atlantic and are not coming West to compete with the Kansas production. Another thing of no small consequence is the light dig-

ging this week. There has been considerable conflict between the wheat harvest and the potato harvest, much to the disadvantage of potato digging since the wheat need is of more immediate importance. Labor is insufficient to properly handle the wheat crop and no one is going to leave the wheat fields to dig potatoes. Loading has been much lighter than anticipated last week and the summit will not come now before next week.

Quality is showing up better than expected and it is now generally conceded that the blight and rot scare of two weeks ago was of little consequence. A few fields are running as high as 200 bushels to the acre, but the most down around 100 bushels. Some of the men who have covered the Valley from end to end since the digging began say the average yield will be less than 100 bushels, but others maintain that this is unduly bullish.

New York Spud Market Higher.
NEW YORK—South Jersey potatoes have begun to come into the market but the receipts are not very heavy and it will be perhaps a week or so before they get started in fairly good shape. The quality, however, is improving every day and Jersey stock in bags this week was selling around \$4.50@4.75.

The bulk of the potatoes, of course, are coming from Virginia. A few Floridas are around and Georgia and South Carolina are winding up. Eastern Shore and Norfolk potatoes are bringing the top prices on account of quality. The receipts, however, are heavy both by rail and boat. Monday there were about 85 cars in from the South on the Pennsylvania pier and 12,000 barrels by Old Dominion steamer. The price on No. 1 ranged from \$4 to \$5 and this covered everything that would grade up. On Virginia and Eastern Shore stock, which would grade as seconds, the range was from \$2 to \$2.75. North Carolinas, South Carolinas and Georgias generally brought 50c per barrel below Eastern Shore and Norfolk potatoes.

The market was stronger Tuesday and about 50c per barrel higher, No. 1 reaching \$5.50. This was followed by another advance of 50c per barrel on Eastern Shore stock Wednesday. The outside quotation on No. 1 stock from that section was \$6. However,

\$5.40 was top on Norfolks and Fancy Carolinas brought \$5.50.

Last week the market was very firm. The market on old potatoes is finished for the season. The few cars lying around are selling for whatever receivers can get for them, generally under a range of \$1@2 per 180 pounds bulk or bag.

Demand Strong in Frisco.
SAN FRANCISCO—New stock river potatoes took a decided brace the first of the week both in price and demand. Buyers on the wharf were burning up shoe leather in their eagerness to get supplies to fill their requirements. Trading has opened up well under small receipts of this stock and with a spirited demand, prices advanced to \$3 for boxes and sacked stock brought \$2.85 per cwt., while inferior grades brought a little lower price. Street sales on Garnets show very little change over last week with the market steady and prices around 3 1/4 @ 3 1/2 per pound for the best.

Ice house stocks of old potatoes are reported to be moving out in good shape and it looks as though the crop will clean up better than was expected. The market is steady with the price ranging around \$2.25 per cwt. as the job. No outside shipping is recorded of any great extent with the principal business transacted being confined to local areas. Receipts since last Wednesday have amounted to 7,850 sacks.

New York Crop in Good Shape.
ROCHESTER, N. Y.—The weather for the last fortnight has been rather hot for potatoes in Western New York to do their best. The crop is up in good shape and cultivating is now in order. Insect pests, including flea beetles and the regulation potato bug, have been rather plentiful.

The Monroe county farm bureau is organizing potato growers who desire inspection of the growing crop preliminary to offering the tubers for seed another season. This work has been carried on here regularly for the last two years and fields which passed the tests including the two growing inspections and the inspection of the tubers after digging, have netted a substantial return through the higher prices obtainable for seed purposes. The work is under the

direction of the New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, and heretofore has been free of charge. This season, however, a charge of \$3 an acre will be made for the inspection.

In addition to this service, the bureau is organizing a special service for growers to assist in controlling disease. A specialist will be obtained and he will spend his time with the growers directing the fight against wilt, leaf-roll, rhizoctonia, blight and other diseases. General letters will also be sent out to growers. A nominal charge will be made for this service.

The Steuben County Growers' Association, Inc., has just checked up on its activities for the potato season now closed. There were 197 cars handled. The board of directors for this year are Clarence G. Gray, North Cohocton; Lucien Wright, Prattsburg; Fred Hopkins, Wallace; W. Christian Miller, Cohocton; Murray Thompson, Assoc.; B. C. Wood, Wheeler; George Mehlenbacher, Wayland. Fred Hopkins is executive secretary and treasurer.

Moving Freely from Louisville.
LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The carlot movement of potatoes out of this district is now well under way, and will be at its height by next week. The crop is up to normal and of very fine quality. Shippers early in the week were quoting \$3.25 per cwt., sacked on board cars.

A few cabbage shipments are still going forward, but the bulk of the crop has been shipped. A few small lots are still moving out around \$1@1.10 per 100-pound crate in cartons.

Onions are in excellent demand and have dried out nicely. Shipments early in the week moving out at around \$4.25 per cwt.

Indications are that potato and onion shipments will be moving steadily for several weeks to come. A recent report on onions shows that a total of 142 cars have been moved out of the county. Onion sets are looking fine and promise a good crop.

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