

Potato Situation In Eastern Canada Commented Is On

The Cuban and United States Markets Have Fallen Off Considerably.

Press and Publicity Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario.

Owing to the large potato crop in 1934 in the United States, and the resulting low prices obtaining there, the tariff of 75 cents per hundredweight against Canadian potatoes has shut off this market to a very large extent. The Cuban market for seed has been well maintained, but for Canadian table stock it has dwindled, leaving only the comparatively small market available in the West Indies, and the strongly competitive markets of Quebec and Ontario. These, says "The Potato Situation in Eastern Canada" bulletin, just issued as a supplement to the "Agricultural Situation and Outlook" conjointly by the Dominion Departments of Agriculture and of Trade and Commerce, markets have proved to be incapable of absorbing the quantity available which was expected to be largely exported.

The statement has been made that if the Maritimes would reduce their acreage, it would automatically reduce the Canadian surplus in future, but this is not necessarily the case, for a small percentage increase on the part of potato growers in Quebec and Ontario might easily result in just as large a crop and just as low prices as at present. It must be borne in mind that the Maritime growers are large purchasers of supplies, such as bags, machinery, fertilizers, and spray materials from the areas in Central Canada to which they ship their products, and also their high quality products are in definite demand by consumers. Under these circumstances it is impossible to deal with the Maritime Provinces alone or to suggest that they accept full responsibility for any necessary re-adjustment of production to demand, seasonal changes in acreage have had significant effects on prices. Even under present conditions, favorable or unfavorable weather may be an important factor in determining prices that will prevail for the next crop.

But with the 1934 acreage and average yields coupled with restricted outlets in export channels, the prospects for profitable prices do not appear to be very

AGRICULTURE

PIONEERS FIND THEIR WAY TO NEW ALASKA HOME



Tent cities spring up in the Matanuska Valley of Alaska as pioneers arrive from the United States to settle on government lands. Top—the new city of Palmer, with snowy mountains in the background. Below—settlers arrive—and find plenty of automobiles to meet them.

bright. It would appear, therefore, that the indicated reduction in acreage is justified, particularly in view of the probability of more satisfactory moisture conditions and the possibility of better than average seed being planted on a large percentage of the potato acreage of 1935. Two varieties of onions were sown in hotbeds in early April and transplanted into the field, directly from the seed bed in late May. These will be compared with the same varieties sown directly in the open. In conjunction with these growing tests, a storage experiment will also be conducted.

The handling and curing of the onions at harvest time will be investigated with the view of determining suitable methods for local conditions. Variations in the ability of varieties to withstand storage conditions will also be noted.

Potato Acreage In Carleton County Is Reduced By Half

Estimate Shows Only 50 to 60 Per Cent. of Last Year.

Woodstock.—The acreage sown in potatoes in Carleton County this spring will be between 50 and 60 per cent. of the acreage planted last year, according to estimates of potato men here. As last year's yield per acre was abnormally large, it is expected the potato crop dug here will be about half that of 1934. Fertilizer sales so far are estimated at 50 per cent. as large as those of last year.

Planting was started last week, and a considerable number of the farmers are getting their seed into the ground, although cold, backward weather has prevented the seeding from becoming general as yet. It is expected to be in full swing within the next few days.

In the meantime, the market here continues dull, with little demand and prices very weak. Since the removal of the pegged price, New Brunswick shipments have increased somewhat but the movement to Upper Canada is still below normal, it was said.

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL STATION, FREDERICTON, N. B.

Onion Growing In New Brunswick

Among the many problems facing New Brunswick agriculture at the present time, is the necessity of finding suitable cash crops, which may be substituted to a limited extent for the potato crop, which has long been the most important cash crop in the province.

Toward this end, a number of possibilities have been investigated by the Experimental Station, Fredericton, N.B. In this connection, the onion crop is receiving special attention at the present time. The bulk of the available evidence is against the possibility of New Brunswick producing onions in sufficient quantities to replace the important product. However, there is a possibility that a change in present systems of growing the crop or the adop-

tion of a new variety might partially solve the difficulty.

For this reason, the Fredericton Experimental Station is investigating the problem from various angles. A variety test of the various types of onions is being conducted with the object of determining if any particular variety is especially adapted to local conditions. The factors of yield and the ability to stand up in storage will largely determine the suitability of any particular variety.

The failure of onions to mature sufficiently is responsible for heavy losses of local onions in storage. In order to offset the shortness of our growing season, the feasibility of starting onions under glass and later transplanting into the field is being studied.

Difficulty In Hay Marketing Comes As A Big Surprise

Failure of Demand in Eastern Canada Unexpected.

Press and Publicity Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario

The failure of a strong hay market to materialize in Eastern Canada since the beginning of the year has been one of the big surprises of the season.

In the fall of 1934 the estimate of hay production and supply of market hay for commerce indicated barely sufficient for domestic needs, based on normal consumption of hay on Canadian farms and in the towns and cities. Moreover, reports from adjacent areas in the United States indicated a serious hay shortage, so that observers naturally believed that the hay market would become increasingly strong as spring approached and that there would be very little carryover remaining.

Events, however, have proven contrary to expectations. Demand for Canadian hay in the United States did not materialize as anticipated and the demand in southwestern Ontario, where shortage was reported last year, was also much less than had been looked for, probably because the farmers were unable or unwilling to pay out unusual amounts for rough fodder, although unexpectedly large supplies of market hay were offered in the Province of Quebec and in Eastern Ontario. Undoubtedly, thousands of farmers who ordinarily do not sell hay rather than feed it at home, with the result that since the commencement of the year more hay has been offered for sale than the trade could absorb.

As a result of this situation there will be some carryover of hay in Quebec and Eastern Ontario, in spite of the backwardness of the present season and the probably later than usual development of pastures.

and the American cockroach, were reported for the first time in Quebec and Ontario, respectively, during 1934.

CARPENTER BEES

Three different reports of carpenter bees boring holes in verandah timbers in southwestern Ontario during 1934 were received by the Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

CHEESE SALES

Canadian cheese is well established in the Scottish market and regularly commands a substantial premium over that of the other countries.

TOBACCO EXPORTS

For the first two months of 1935, the export of Canadian tobacco to Great Britain amounted to 3,351,939 pounds, as against 4,939,549 pounds from all the other Empire countries.

NEW SPECIES

Two comparatively uncommon species of cockroaches in Canada, namely the English black beetle

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