THE INTERVIEWER.

Potatoes, Onions, Carrots—Experience of J. W. Young, One of Arid Empire's Most Successful Growers—Preparation of Ground, Planting, Cultivating, Harvesting and Storing—Crops for an Alkali Soil, Etc.

J. W. Young has a "forty" south of town and adjoining the school section on the east. His specialty is potatoes, though he grows quite an acreage of onions, cabbages, carrots and other truck. THE INTERVIEWER corraled the gentleman at THE RANCH office yesterday and he yielded up a large store of information without the least symptom of bucking or kicking. Mr. Young has the name among North Yakima dealers of marketing the very best of everything he turns his hand to.

Your land is to some extent sub-irrigated, I believe, said THE INTERVIEWER. It is, hence it needs very little irrigation, but I have had considerable experience on an irrigated farm.

I have been informed that you make a specialty of potato-growing; will you tell me something about your methods? With pleasure; go ahead with your questions.

Do you grow early or late varieties? I have found the most profit in late potatoes, hence have confined myself to them.

What varieties? I grow only the Burbank now, save a few Early Rose for home consumption. The Burbank is the best seller of any potato I have ever put upon the market.

How do you prepare the ground for the crop? I plow eight or nine inches deep early in spring. If the soil is not moist, I turn in the water a few days before plowing. I have the seed dropped as I plow, putting in every third row and covering with the furrow.

Whole potatoes or cut, small or large? My preference is whole seed, averaging about as large as a hen's egg. Put them in about eighteen inches apart, and harrow the ground moderately. When the plants appear above ground harrow again. In my experience I have found this the boss implement in potato culture.

What is the after culture? If the ground is free of weeds no other cultivation is required except such as is given by the shovel plow in running the small irrigation ditches between the rows.

You need a little water upon your land? No, not now. But I like to prepare for it and I use it when needed, and that is when the potato tops begin turning a dark green. A light pea green indicates that they are not thirsty.

How early do you prefer getting in your main crop? As soon as the first of April in ordinary seasons. This gives ample time for maturing. The Burbank needs a long season. I can begin digging about the first of November, or as soon as the tubers will not peel in handling, if the market is good.

What is your method of harvesting? We have always done the work by hand, using the potato fork, but this year have about concluded to try the Hoover digger. It looks to me as though it may do good work.

Do you pit the potatoes at once? No, let them dry off well. Begin simply by leveling off the surface nicely and heap on the potatoes, covering with four or five inches of straw, then a layer of dirt sufficient to hold the straw in place. When freezing weather comes, put on a foot or so of earth. In this way the potatoes keep finely.

What do you consider a fair crop on your place? An average of 300 bushels per acre is about what I get; some acres will yield more, but that is a good average.

Did you get a good price for your last crop? Well, it gave me $12 per ton, f. o. b., which was pretty good, considering the times.

You have more or less alkali in the soil over there, I have understood? We have, but alkali is good potato soil. There are a few things that do well in alkali land. I have found these to be the potato, alfalfa and cabbage. If one plows deep and keeps that soil loose, it is all right, but compact the soil with a roller or too much harrowing, and the effect is bad.

You use a good deal of seed in your way of planting, don't you? It requires about 15 bushels per acre. If smaller seed was used, less bushels would be required, but I do not believe in doing it for fear of deterioration in the crop. Large potatoes would require still more.

Where do you market? Last year principally in Seattle. I found there a commission man who treats me honestly and fairly, and I propose to tie to him as long as he continues to do so. I also sell quite a quantity to our grocers here.

How many acres have you growing this year? Eighteen.

And you grow

ONIONS, TOO?

Yes, I have a couple of acres; some years have three times that acreage.

What variety pleases you best? The Yellow Globe Danvers. It sells best and yields well, say 300 bushels to the acre. The Wethersfield might give more, but would probably bring me no more money.

What is your preparation for the onion crop? Make the surface soil fine and roll. I do not like to roll an alkali soil, as I have said, but the onion must have a firm bed.

Do you drill in the seed? Yes, in drills 14 inches apart, using about three pounds per acre.

Do you have to thin them a great deal? I do not thin them at all. They will all find a place to grow. Keep clean and give level cultivation. Never throw dirt toward the onion row.

What is your manner of weeding? Use the ordinary hoe, or better the scuffle hoe; an admirable little implement for the work.

Does the onion need a great deal of water? I do not so find it. Moisten the land well before plowing, if on land needing irrigation. Let it dry off somewhat and put in the seed. Do not give late irrigation. Would not wet the land after the bulbs begin to form.

How do you store onions? That is an important question. Some years I have lost quite heavily because improperly stored. I have adopted the cribbing system as a very sure way and not very expensive. Have the bottom of the crib about 12 inches from the ground. Make it four feet wide and partition lengthwise through the middle, giving two spaces two feet wide each. Make sides and partition of four or six inch strips, with space between. Make roof tight, with eaves projecting about 12 inches. The crib may be seven to eight feet high. Now pull the onions when the tops have fallen over and dried out, leaving them on the ground until dry, haul and shovel into the crib. When the weather is cold enough to freeze the outside layer of onions a little, bank up with hay four feet thick to the top all around, and make a little framework to keep the hay in place. In this way, the onions will keep until March without loss. Put the onions in crib when cool; well-ventilated they will keep cool.

Do you find onions as profitable as potatoes? Not in the long run. Some years they pay well; this spring I received good prices, $40 to $50 per ton at Seattle, but some years they are very low. Once I shipped to Butte and lost money. The market for onions is somewhat uncertain. I would not recommend any one to plant very largely. But

CARROTS PAY WELL.

How do you grow carrots? Preparation of soil, planting and cultivation practically the same as onions.

You say they pay well; how well? Better than hay, for instance. Last year I grew 25 tons per acre.

Where did you sell them? Right at home. Men came after them for feed for horses, cows and hogs, and I sold at $5 per ton, and no trouble or expense