

CALIFORNIA'S FOOD CROP SHOWS LARGE INCREASE

Banks of Twelfth Federal Reserve District Record Gain in Clearings

(By Associated Press)
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Oct. 2.—General business conditions in the twelfth federal reserve district are summarized in a report given out today as follows:

The crops of the twelfth federal reserve district in 1917 will record a materially greater total than that of a year ago. Wheat, however, shows a decreased yield of 18 per cent, 64,796,000 bushels against 78,448,000 in 1916, according to the government estimate September last. In Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada the barley crop is estimated at 18 per cent less than that of a year ago, but in California the estimate is for 40,000,000 bushels, compared with 23,000,000 a year ago.

The production of rice in California is rapidly developing. The approximate acreage in 1912 was 1400, in 1916, 70,000, and in 1917, 90,000. The increase in value has been from \$75,000 in 1912 to \$8,000,000 or \$10,000,000 in 1917, better yield and higher prices both being important factors.

California shipments of deciduous fruits to points outside the state will total 20,000 carloads, exceeding previous records by more than 2200 carloads. Last season 17,891 carloads were shipped. According to government estimates, the apple crop in the state of Washington will equal last year's yield of over 10,000,000 bushels, but in Oregon and California the production will be slightly less than a year ago.

Approximately 200,000,000 pounds of prunes will be dried in California this season compared with 130,000,000 pounds last year and 170,000,000 pounds in 1915. The production in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, however, will be much below normal. California's production of peaches this year is estimated at 10,190,000 bushels, increase of more than 1,000,000 bushels over 1916. With a ten-year average of 87 for both oranges and lemons in California, the September 1 government report estimates oranges at 50 and lemons at 55.

The 1917 raisin crop in California is estimated at 150,000 tons, about 28,000 tons more than last year's production. About 30,000 tons will be of the Thompson seedless variety, 20,000 tons, Sultanas, and 100,000 tons, Muscates.

About the middle of July, hops were being contracted in this district at 10 cents per pound. Two months later, 42 cents was paid, sales in important volume being made at prices above 32 cents. These are the highest prices since 1911 when 42 cents was reached, and are due both to a greatly decreased acreage and to the conviction that Congress will not immediately stop the brewing of beer. The 1917 hop crop of the coast is estimated at 125,000 bales as compared with about 230,000 in 1916.

In one of the "dry" states on this coast, one important concern brews beer in the usual manner, then extracts all alcohol by a centrifugal process, denaturizing the alcohol and disposing of it as a by-product. The taste of the beer is said not to be changed, and the brewery, previously shut down, is now said to be operating at capacity.

Due to an increase in acreage of about 20 per cent over last year and to favorable weather conditions, it is thought that the sugar beet crop of California will reach a new high record this year. The September 1st forecast of the government places the crop at 1,770,000 tons, as against 1,465,000 tons a year ago. Utah's production will also reach a new high record.

Reports from 147 lumber mills of the Pacific Northwest indicate an average production during the month of August of 50 per cent below normal with shipments averaging 17 per cent above actual production.

California's sardine pack for this year is estimated at 1,000,000 cases and it is stated that at the present rate of increase the sardine pack for the state will in two years total over 2,500,000 cases, which is the present pack of Maine.

Petroleum production in California in August averaged 271,755 barrels daily, compared with 259,266 barrels in July. Shipments averaged 289,943 barrels daily, curtailing stored stocks 53,840 barrels.

Utah has record yields of hay and potatoes as well as of sugar beets and in its mining output. The state is generally prosperous, as shown by its subscription for \$9,700,000 Liberty bonds, with a quota of only \$6,500,000; and a Red Cross contribution of \$240,000, with an original quota of \$240,000, later increased to \$350,000.

August bank clearings for 20 principal cities of this district increased 38 per cent over the corresponding month a year ago. Ogden showing the greatest gain with 60 per cent, followed by Seattle with 58 per cent and San Francisco with 50 per cent. Building permits for the same 20 cities declined 22 per cent.

The following are the income taxes of corporations and individuals in the seven states of this district. Among all the states of the country, California stands seventh in the amount of corporation income taxes, and eighth in the amount of individual income taxes, while standing twelfth in population (1910 census).

State	Corporation Income Tax	Individual Income Tax
Arizona	\$ 637,933.92	\$ 209,333.72
California	6,147,289.14	3,870,314.24
Idaho	217,479.58	176,711.97
Nevada	75,423.06	15,425.53
Oregon	406,931.70	413,684.24
Utah	1,148,676.94	181,344.05
Wash'tn	1,187,702.79	856,286.77

\$9,821,497.13 \$5,713,097.53

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EAT POTATOES DURING WEEK NOV. 25 TO 26, URGE U. S. FOOD HEADS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Three purposes will be accomplished by a nation-wide potato week in which every one will make a special effort to eat potatoes during the week from November 5 to 26, according to United States Department of Agriculture. The first of these purposes is to encourage the eating of the tubers because at that time it is expected that potatoes will be the most available and economical starchy food; the second is to save wheat during this period; and the third is to encourage the general use of potatoes as a wheat substitute by the American householder.

It is proposed that consumers make a special effort to eat potatoes prepared in different ways, recipes for which can be obtained from the home economics departments of the various State colleges of agriculture, or from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is not supposed that this potato week will of itself have much effect on the potato situation, but it should call the attention of the people to the fact that there is a plentiful supply which should be used in domestic commerce, leaving the more readily transportable grains for export trade. In shipping potatoes about four-fifths of the weight is water; in shipping wheat only one-eighth is moisture.

The department does not claim any originality for the idea of a potato week. The same plan has been in effect for a number of years in respect to raisins, for which there is a national advertising campaign through extensive advertising by the raisin industry of California. The same thing has been done in respect to oranges by the citrus-fruit association. The purpose of the days is to increase the general consumption of these products by acquainting the people with their food value.

It is said that potatoes may be cooked in more ways than any other vegetable, and a score or more variations are within the knowledge of any good hotel chef. Seven ways, one for each day in the week, beginning with Monday's, Tuesday's, and Wednesday's dinner, through Thursday's lunch, and Friday's dinner, Saturday's lunch, and Sunday's supper are here given.

Stuffed potatoes: (Monday) Cut baked potatoes in half, remove the pulp, mash it, add enough milk for the usual consistency of mashed potatoes, and season with butter, salt, and pepper. Fill the baked skins with this mixture, dot the tops with butter and bake for eight or ten minutes in a hot oven. To vary this add to the mashed potatoes, before the skins are filled, any one of the following: beat white of egg (1 egg to 3 medium-sized potatoes); grated cheese (1/2 cupful to 3 medium-sized potatoes); chopped meat (1/2 cupful to 3 medium-sized potatoes); chopped parsley (1 tablespoonful to 3 medium-sized potatoes).

Scalloped potatoes: (Tuesday) Use raw, thinly sliced potatoes in layers, each layer to be sprinkled with flour, butter, pepper, salt, lard, just enough milk to be seen through the top layer, and then bake for about an hour, or until the potatoes are tender. This may be varied by adding, in layers, hard-boiled eggs, sliced; grated cheese; or minced ham.

Boiled potatoes: (Wednesday) Select potatoes of uniform size; wash them with a brush; and plunge them into boiling salted water (1 teaspoonful salt to 1 quart water). Cook them with the cover of the kettle ajar, until tender, from 20 to 30 minutes. Drain the potatoes; remove the skins; dress the potatoes with butter if desired; and serve them immediately. If it is necessary for the potatoes to stand a few minutes before being served, cover them with a cloth, not a lid, in order that the steam as it condenses may be absorbed by the cloth and not return to the potatoes to make them soggy. This is the reason for serving potatoes in an uncovered dish. The potatoes may be sprinkled with chopped parsley.

Potato salad: (Thursday from Wednesday's left-overs)—6 boiled potatoes, 4 tablespoonfuls salad oil or melted butter, 2 tablespoonfuls vinegar, 1/2 tablespoonful salt, Cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoonfuls chopped parsley, Few drops onion juice. Cut the potatoes in one-half inch cubes. Make a dressing by mixing thoroughly the other ingredients. Pour this dressing on the potatoes, and allow them to stand for 15 minutes. Drain off any dressing that may not have been absorbed by the potatoes. Garnish the salad with sprigs of parsley, and serve with cream dressing of mayonnaise. To the salad may be added any of the following: 1 cupful chopped celery; 2 cucumbers, chopped; or 2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped, or, as a garnish, sliced.

Mashed potatoes: (Friday)—Thoroughly mash cooked potatoes. Add four tablespoonfuls of hot milk, one tablespoonful of butter, and a little salt and pepper, to each pint of potatoes. Beat the mixture with a fork until light, and pile it lightly in a hot serving dish. Mashed potatoes may be shaped in to small cakes. Brown them in a frying pan in a small amount of hot fat.

Mix with boiled codfish, or canned salmon for fish cakes.
Potato soup: (Saturday, from Friday's left-overs)—2 cupfuls hot rice or mashed potatoes, 1 quart milk, 2 slices onion, 3 tablespoonfuls butter, 2 tablespoonfuls flour, 1 1/2 teaspoonfuls salt, Celery salt, Pepper, Cayenne, 1 teaspoonful chopped parsley.

Scald the milk with the onion; remove the onion; add the milk slowly to the potatoes. Melt the butter; add to it the dry ingredients; stir the mixture slowly until it is well blended. Add this to the liquid mixture, stirring constantly, and boil the soup for one minute. Strain it, if necessary, add the parsley and serve.

Potato biscuit: (Sunday, from Friday or Saturday's left-overs)—1 cupful mashed potatoes, 1 cupful flour, 4 teaspoonfuls baking powder, 1/2 teaspoonful salt, 1 tablespoonful butter, 1 tablespoonful lard, Milk, about 1/2 cupful.

Sift the dry ingredients. Add these to the potatoes, mixing with a knife. Work the fat into this mixture lightly. Add gradually enough milk to make a soft dough. Toss the dough onto a floured board, pat and roll it lightly to one-half inch in thickness. Cut it into shapes with a biscuit cutter. Place the biscuits on greased pans and bake 12 to 15 minutes in a hot oven.

GROWERS WARNED PRICES FOR WHEAT WILL STAY FIXED
OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—Discontented wheat growers of the West were warned at a public meeting here by Julius H. Barnes, president of the Federal Grain Corporation, that prices fixed recently will stay despite any protest that can be made. Millers, grain dealers and farmers were told they might as well release wheat because no higher price will be offered. He warned that if peace should be declared within sixty days the nations of the world would rush into the American market and the bottom would fall out of prices.

LACK OF DATA ON WAR PROFITS TAX HALTS INVESTING

Public Not Inclined to Dabble in Sugar Until Definite Information is at Hand

Charles G. Heiser, Jr., treasurer of the Trent Trust Company, has answered the question so many Honolulu people are asking as to why there is not more interest shown in sugar stocks since such a high price—it may be 6.90—has been assured for next year's product by the government. Mr. Heiser says:

"Until the investing public has accurate information as to what effect the new war revenue bill, which includes the excess profit tax, will have on the sugar plantations there will be an apathetic feeling in financial circles. The average citizen is not informed as to whether the particular plantation in which he may be interested will be called upon to pay \$100,000 or \$500,000 as excess profit taxes. There is a great deal of ignorance in this connection. In fact, many of the plantations are themselves uninformed as to the commitments they will be called upon to make for this purpose, and are calling upon revenue experts to help them solve the problem."

"Take Iowa, for example. It has been stated that the excess profit taxes for the local taxes, will amount to close to a million dollars. Until the plantation interests know definitely how severe these taxes will be they will be very conservative in their estimates as regards possible dividends."

"Furthermore," continued Mr. Heiser, "the uncertainty over the shipping of our next crop of sugar is exerting an adverse effect on sugar stocks. While it is generally understood that the U. S. shipping board will provide facilities for moving the 1918 crop, the average Honolulu investor, knowing the great demand now being made for ships, is waiting for some definite announcement to give him assurance that the crop will be moved with dispatch. By the first of the year most of these uncertainties should be adjusted, and the directors of the various plantation companies should be in a position to decide on dividend payments for next year."

The possible effect of the draft upon the labor supply, Mr. Heiser believes, adds to the general feeling of uncertainty about future stocks. "Nobody can feel sure just now that there will be labor sufficient to harvest the 1918 crop," said Mr. Heiser. "And in addition to all these other reasons why sugar stocks are low while the price of the commodity itself is high is the fact that a great deal of money has been put into Liberty Bonds that might, in other times, have gone into sugar stocks. This, however, is a very healthy thing for Hawaii, as it may be the means of encouraging many investors to follow a

more conservative course in their investments in future. Heretofore Hawaii has been a fruitful field for speculative investments, many of which have gone into oblivion, causing a great hardship to people who could ill afford the loss.

"However," concluded Mr. Heiser, "all these things have to be taken into consideration to find a complete answer to why sugar stocks are now selling at such a low price, and with very little demand for them even at their present low price."

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