BEARISH SENTIMENT IS FURTHER SPREAD

Wheat Irregular and Unsettled, NearBy Deliveries Being Firm, but Distant Deliveries Weaker. Few Changes in Corn.

New York, November 23.—Initial strength in domestic markets was caused largely by encouraging cables, European markets being higher, influenced chiefly by the receipt of further reports of damage in Argentina. The rising tendency was arrested, however, by larger world's shipments than anticipated. The subsequent recession was partly attributed to an unexpectedly heavy increase in the visible supply and a large addition to the world's supply. Because of these facts, there was a further spread of bearish sentiment, many small holders for the rise becoming anxious to unload. Selling was partly by better reports from Argentina, the storms in the North having ceased.

Primary receipts in spring wheat territory were abundant, although somewhat smaller than a year ago, while the movement in winter wheat territory continues small. The downward tendency was checked partly by reports of fairly large export buying, chiefly of Manitoba wheat to arrive, although two lots of 100,000 bushels each of No. 2 hard winter were sold in Chicago for export via Baltimore.

Bearish Sentiment Prevails.

There was much unsettlement in wheat markets toward the close. As a rule, speculative markets were wholly dominated by bearish sentiment. This latter was largely attributed to the impression prevailing in many quarters. As a result, the distant contracts were decidedly weak. Indeed, the cash and nearby deliveries were comparatively firm, and hence the premium on May over December lessened. The greater steadiness in December was attributed partly to reports of lighter deliveries at country stations, and the resultant advance in cash premiums, brought by an excellent milling and export demand, including a fairly large quantity of Manitoba wheat. The buying also embraced fairly large lots of durum and hard winter, the latter partly via Baltimore and Gulf ports, suggesting that we are close to an export parity on spring wheat. This latter was brought about by the greater strength in Winnipeg, consequent upon the huge export purchases in the recent past. This buying was, of course, partly based on the injury to the crops in Indian and Argentina, although late in the week reports from Argentina were more optimistic, the weather having turned fine in the North, and in some quarters it is alleged that the damage there was exaggerated. In addition, light though beneficial rain has fallen in some parts of India. Receipts of spring wheat at primary points continue moderately large, although slightly smaller than a year ago. Private reports respecting the growing crop have been favorable, and were afterwards confirmed by the "Modern Miller" report, although it is the consensus of opinion that the weather has been unseasonably mild, which has doubtless promoted the growth of insect life, and some reports have alluded to the appearance of Hessian fly in larger numbers.

Unsettled Market in Corn.

Corn was also decidedly irregular and unsettled, there being many erratic fluctuations because of the numerous conflicting influences. At times there was rather more firmness, which was attributed chiefly to unfavorable weather West, the temperature being exceedingly high for the season, with too much moisture, light or moderate rain having fallen over a fairly large area, which would no doubt hinder marketing and grading. Consequently it is feared that an exceedingly small quantity of new corn will be fit to grade No. 2 in Chicago in December. This naturally caused uneasiness among short sellers. Nervousness was also caused by a further advance in cash prices at Western points, where supplies have been inadequate. In the local market, however, there has been practically no demand for native corn, partly because Argentine corn has been much cheaper. Almost no domestic corn arrived in this market during the week, but one steamer arrived from Argentina, with 257,100 bushels. Late in the week there was a slightly weaker feeling. Demand became poor, and offerings fairly large, partly in sympathy with the weakness in wheat and in other quarters.

DULL AND DRAGGING TRADING CONDITIONS

Sharp Break in Cotton on Friday on General Selling, Following Bearish Ginning Report of the Census Bureau.

New York, November 22.—Scattered selling by local and Southern traders and liquidation by some old bulls was the feature of the dull and dragging trading conditions which prevailed from the opening of the week until the last session, when there was a sharp break in cotton prices, following the bearish ginning report of the Census Bureau. In this ginning report the Census Bureau reported ginning from the crop of this year from October 1 to November 13, inclusive, 4,000,000 bales, as against 4,000,000 bales last year and 4,000,000 bales the year before, and 4,000,000 bales two years ago. The report was a surprise to the cotton trade, coming as it did after the bearish report of the Census Bureau on November 8, which showed a decrease in the cotton crop since October 25 of 1,000,000 bales. The low prices reached in the opening yesterday by a strange coincidence just equaled the lowest levels reached on a similar break, following the heavy selling movement, which developed when the last Census Bureau ginning report, covering the period to November 1, was announced just a fortnight ago. Then December contracts went down to 13.15 and January to 13.08. There was a rally from these prices of over 50 points up to last Friday's closing. Strong bull support and covering of shorts developed after the break at the opening yesterday, which rallied the market just 20 points from the lowest, so that on the week the net decline from last Saturday's closing to the final prices of last night ranges from 29 to 39 points, with December ending yesterday at 13.30, January and March 13.05, and May 13.06.

Conflict of Expert Views.

Trade sentiment on the crop and the market's position is now extremely mixed. Some are predicting a decline to 12 cents, while others are equally as sure that it will not be long before the market will get back to the 14-cent level. This is chiefly the result of the great conflict of opinions on the size of the crop. The large number of traders and operators here and in Europe who were induced to take a bullish position on the market by the crop estimates of 13,500,000 bales put out then by Neill Bros., of Liverpool, and several other trade authorities at Liverpool, as well as the crop experts here and local statisticians, still refuse to believe the crop is over 14,000,000 bales, including linters, notwithstanding two larger ginning reports in succession from the Census Bureau than had been expected. On the other hand, the optimists on the crop throughout the summer and fall, who believed the total yield would be upwards of 15,000,000 bales, have had their opinions as to the correctness of such ideas strengthened by yesterday's ginning report, and the way those who had predicted recently the crop would be over 15,000,000 bales have clung to their estimates.

This difference of 1,000,000 bales in the crop estimates of the best authorities of the cotton trade here, in the South, and in England, therefore, easily explains the great conflict of opinions in the trade on the market's position. The bear faction with the spinning interests see no good reason why cotton should not slump to the 12-cent basis. The bull interests are being encouraged to look for higher prices from the way the spot markets have been holding better than futures lately. The belief also exists that neither the American or foreign spinners have as yet fully protected themselves on their requirements for consumptions up to spring deliveries. Claims are also made that the recent ginning reports are not a safe basis for crop calculation.

It is a fact, however, that those whose judgment is usually free from bias and who have been regarding the crop as likely to turn out less than 14,000,000 bales, including linters, are not fully sure now of the correctness of such views. On the other hand, no one of any experience in the cotton trade believes the world's spinners consumption will come anywhere near equaling the 14,000,000 bales of last year. The exports and spinners takings to date are nearly on that basis, but it is believed there will be a big falling-off in both shortly, as both the export movement and the shipments to domestic milling centers have been largely on old business transacted one to two months ago, and it is known that the actual buying for both accounts the past three weeks has really been on a very light basis. Since then the reaction in business in all lines has become so much more pronounced, especially as evidenced in the steel and iron and copper trades, that it will require the inducement of lower prices for cotton to broaden this buying for export and by domestic spinners' agents.

The Outlook.

Therefore, unless the next ginning report of the Census Bureau, due December 8, covering the period to December 1, shows a heavy falling off compared with the ginning of the crops in previous years from November 14 to December 1, 13-cent cotton will be regarded as a full price for the staple under the existing trade conditions and the unsettled political and general business outlook. American manufacturers are too heavily handicapped by increased competition with foreign manufacturers from the new tariff, and also the high price of cotton since last July, as compared with the prices for cotton goods generally, to regard the present situation and outlook with any degree of enthusiasm.

In the meantime, there is no inducement for the public to buy cotton contracts at over 13 cents for either speculative or investment purposes, with all the uncertainties contained in the present situation, especially as regards the financial and political conditions and the spread of the reaction in general business.

TOBACCO GROWERS GIVE TESTIMONY

Furnish Facts Which Will Be Used in Congressional Investigation.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Amherst, Va., November 23.—H. D. Flood has concluded the taking of depositions to be used as evidence in the congressional probe of the tobacco question. On Thursday twenty witnesses were examined and on Friday eighteen, making thirty-eight in all. They were in the main farmers from every section of the county. One witness testified that from a crop of 15,000 tobacco hills he only cleared $50 for himself and team. At the conclusion of the testimony Mr. Flood stated that an effort would be made to effect an arrangement with foreign countries whereby the farmers can bring their tobacco together in warehouses and obtain better prices for it. It was shown that the Italian government without any competitor, purchases most of the tobacco sold on the Lynchburg market. The fact was also brought out that the average price obtained this year for dark tobacco was from $6 to $7 a hundred, and that obtained last year from $7 to $8.

The springlike weather of the past week has been very beneficial to wheat, and that which was sown early is looking well. This warm spell has also enabled farmers to finish housing their corn and to round up their customary fall work.

Sportsmen are not getting many birds, but rabbits are unusually plentiful. This is largely due to the fact that for several years past many minks, foxes and other small animals that prey on the rabbit have been trapped.

Bank Cashier Ends Life.

Fort Lawn, S. C., November 23.—H. B. Shields, cashier of the Bank of Fort Lawn, committed suicide yesterday morning by shooting himself through the heart. The Bank of Fort Lawn remained closed all day. It is announced that the State Bank Examiner has been summoned to make an investigation of the affairs of the institution. So far as is known here there was no trouble in connection with the bank's accounts.

COTTON MARKET WILL BE TAME THIS WEEK

New Orleans, November 23.—The cotton market probably will be rather tame this week, and will be broken up by holiday Thursday. It hardly is to be expected that a great amount of business will be done either the week or in the next ten days because of the pending annual government crop estimate. This is the most important influence now overshadowing the market. The figures will be issued at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon, December 12, according to announcement yesterday from Washington. It has been all along has been under the impression that the estimate would come out on December 8, which is the date of the next Census Bureau report on ginning. This next report on ginning is considered highly important because it will be the basis for the crop estimate. It will carry the crop down to November 30, and it is probable that private estimates on ginning may have some influence on the market this week, although such estimates hardly can be of a hard and fast nature. Weather conditions will be closely followed this week because of the effect on the winding up of picking and ginning. Continued favorable weather would lead to bearish estimates of ginning. At the same time weather conditions hardly can have much effect on the size of the crop. Many of the more important crop estimates from trade sources already are in, but there are some yet to come, and this week may see them. With the trade so thoroughly interested in the government's guess, private figures will be of great interest.

Think This Over

The fact that one does one's best does not necessarily mean satisfaction.

Practically any bank will give you the best that is in them. But that is not enough unless that best comes up to requirements.

We offer you not only the best we have but the best you can get.

First National Bank

The Big Building. Ninth and Main

Capital and Surplus $3,000,000

A Blind Man

will never read this ad!

And yet there are people with eyes wide open who are so blind as not to make their wills and appoint this strong company as executor!

Virginia Trust Co.

"The Safe Executor,"
RICHMOND, Va.

Our Own Resources $2,500,000.00
Investments Held in Trust 3,700,000.00

Established 1892.

The Broadway National Bank

Welcomes your account, regardless of the amount.

OPEN AN ACCOUNT WITH
THE UNION BANK OF RICHMOND
1104 EAST MAIN STREET.
$1.00 MAKES A START. 3 PER CENT INTEREST.

LESS BY $26 A MILE THAN ONE YEAR AGO

Six Per Cent Decrease in Net Operating Revenues of Steam Railroads of United States.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Washington, November 23.—Net operating revenue of steam railroads in the United States for last September was less by $26 per mile, or 6 per cent, than for September, 1912, according to a summary of revenues and expenses of railroads, prepared by the bureau of railway economies, maintained here by the roads.

The statistics are based on reports from 224,438 miles of railroad line, about 90 per cent of the steam railway mileage in the United States.

The operating revenues for September amounted to $277,555,806, an increase over September, 1912, of $9,143,738. The average operating revenue per mile was $1,237 last September, compared with $1,205 in September, 1912. Freight revenue per mile increased 2.4 per cent and passenger revenue 2.6 per cent.

Operating expenses for September amount to $186,711,085, or $14,139,569 more than for September, 1912. The average operating expenses per mile was $832 last September, and $775 in September, 1912, an increase of $157 per mile, or 7.3 per cent.

The operating revenues less the operating expenses for September were $90,847,721, or $4,995,831 less than for September, 1912.

The railways of the Eastern district show an increase in total operating revenues per mile last September over September, 1912, of 3.3 per cent; Southern district, an increase of 7.5 per cent; Western district, an increase of one-half of 1 per cent. Operating expenses also increased—Eastern district, 10.3 per cent; Southern district, 8.3 per cent; Western district, 3.9 per cent.

RAILROADS SEEK TO RAISE RATES

Hearing Before Interstate Commerce Commission Will Begin To-Day.

Washington, November 23.—The Interstate Commerce Commission to-morrow will begin a hearing which probably will extend over several months on the proposed freight rate increases of approximately 5 per cent filed October 15 last by railroads in the territory of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers.

Though only the railroads in the classification territory included within the boundaries specified are directly involved in the hearing, every railroad in the country actually is concerned. Should the commission permit the roads to increase rates the same authority might be extended to other carriers to increase rates on all classes of freight on an average of 5 per cent.

The railroads two years ago asked for an increase of about 10 per cent. After an inquiry the commission refused the request. When the tariffs provided for the present proposed increases were filed to become effective November 15 they were suspended by the commission pending investigation until March 12, 1914. In May, 1913, the railroads filed a petition for rehearing of the former freight rate case, and the commission on June 21 last issued an order directing that inquiry be instituted as to whether the present rates yield adequate revenues to common carriers operating in official classification territory, and if not what general course carriers might pursue to meet the situation.

To-morrow Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and chairman of the committee of railroad presidents chosen by the Eastern railroads to appear for them; Frederick A. Delano, of Chicago, president of the Wabash Railroad, and representing the Central Freight Association lines, and George Stuart Patterson, general solicitor of the Pennsylvania Railroad, will present arguments in support of the proposed increases.

It was reported to-night that the actual taking of general testimony might be postponed to a later date, owing to the recent death of John H. Marble, member of the commission, and because the term of Commissioner Clements, of Alabama, expires in December, and Commissioner Charles A. Prouty has been selected to head the physical valuation bureau.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Miss Lucy Hoke Smith to Wed Ensign A. R. Simpson, U. S. N.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Washington, November 23.—The announcement was made to-day of the engagement of Miss Lucy Hoke Smith, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Hoke Smith, to Ensign Alston R. Simpson, United States Navy. The announcement was made to-day at the home of Miss Smith's sister, Mrs. Ronald Ramson, in Atlanta.

The marriage will take place some time in December.

Both Miss Smith and Ensign Simpson will be guests at the White House wedding on Tuesday.

TO SPEND WINTER IN SOUTH

Rockefeller Wants Clime Where Outdoor Recreation is Possible.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Cleveland, Ohio, November 23.—John D. Rockefeller is planning to spend the winter and spring in the South, instead of Tarrytown, N. Y. He declared to-day he was eager to live in a clime where storms are rare, and outdoor recreation possible.

Mr. Rockefeller said he probably would be able to leave Cleveland this week, since Mrs. Rockefeller had recovered from her illness.

POINCARE AS ARBITRATOR

Bulgaria and Greece May Submit Differences to Him.

Sofia, November 23.—Minister of Foreign Affairs Guenadieff has proposed to the French charge d'affaires here that the difference between Bulgaria and Greece concerning prisoners of war be submitted to arbitration by President Poincare. M. Guenadieff said Burgaria would accept M. Poincare's decision unreservedly.

Bulgaria complains that Greece still holds, and refuses to release Bulgarian prisoners of war contrary to international law.

DANIELS FATTENS POSSUM.

To Be Feature of Dinner He Will Give New England Friends.

Washington, November 23.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels proposed to give a persimmon-beer-possum dinner to New England friends. He received at the Navy Department yesterday one of the victims for the dinner. It is a fine specimen of possum. It was sent up to-night to the secretary's home, "Single Oak," to be fattened.

Possums are usually fattened in the wild state by a chicken diet, and Mr. Daniels also has a poultry yard.

The correct menu for a possum dinner is the possum baked, sweet potatoes, baked rice, and persimmon beer. The beer is more intoxicating than grape juice.

END LIVES RATHER THAN FACE TORTURE

British Foreign Office Notified of Fearful Atrocities in South America.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

London, November 23.—The British Foreign Office was notified to-day by the Anti-Slavery Society that atrocities, declared to be far worse than those which occurred at Putumayo, have been practiced by representatives of British rubber companies in South America. The direct information was furnished by an Englishman who has had wide experience in the tropics and in whom the Foreign Office has great confidence.

It is asserted that an extensive peonage system is being operated in the Beni and Acre territories along the Brazilian and Bolivian borders, and the destruction of human life is said to have been greater and the punishments more cruel, than under the old slave system. The informant states that hundreds of women have been flogged, there have been numerous murders of Indian rubber workers, and many of the natives commit suicide rather than face the torture of the white men. He said that a number of Englishmen, representatives of British rubber syndicates, have been unknowingly involved in the exploitation of the Indians, and then the leaders of the slave system have prevented these men from leaving the country.

It is said that the same men implicated in the Putumayo affair have been partially responsible for the horrors in this district, and to one of these men is laid the responsibility of introducing the torture of semi-drowning, which frequently proves fatal. Forty-five women and young girls are reported to have been stolen from Putumayo, while many others have been sold into slavery.

The informant said that many of the high government officials of Brazil, Peru and Bolivia are cognizant of the atrocities and know the headquarters of the slave-traders.

CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD

Philippine People Not to Abandon Spectacular Event.

Washington, November 23.—The Philippine people are making ready to hold their annual carnival in Manila at a date in February soon to be fixed. The apprehension felt in some quarters that there was any intention of abandoning this popular feature of insular life has been dissipated by the receipt at the insular bureau of a cablegram from Manila stating that the preparations for the event already were well advanced, and the most brilliant and successful carnival and exposition in the history of the islands was certain to be held.

This carnival originated with the American army, which in 1907 was more numerous than at present in the Philippines. Major-General Wood and Captain George Langhorne, his chief aide, conceived the idea of a great, spectacular show, to last a week or more.

The street parades, balls and games and other amusements peculiar to the islands, have been supplemented by many attractive features of the American Wild West and of the great New Orleans and St. Louis carnivals. An exposition, including exhibits illustrative of the material development of the Philippines, draws thousands of visitors, not only from the islands, but also from the mainland of Asia.

CARNEGIE IS DENOUNCED

Bishops Condemn Effort to Secularize Church Colleges.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Atlanta, Ga., November 23.—Bishop A. Candler, of the Southern Methodist Church, and Bishop Albion Knight, of the Episcopal Church, in sermons to-day, denounced Andrew Carnegie and his associates for attempting to secularize the church colleges of the United States.

"The skulfully devised scheme of Mr. Carnegie and those who act with him to secularize education in the United States is something worse than a blunder," said Bishop Candler. "It is a crime against civilization, or it would be if the efforts could be successful; but it is absolutely certain that the efforts of these gentlemen will never succeed. Carnegie will find he cannot bribe religion out of the church colleges. Moreover, the schools of the churches are going to be more pronouncedly religious than ever in their history.

"The antics of a few pert professors, who talk of broadness and liberalism, will be stopped."

Bishop Knight's sermon was on the same lines, and he bitterly criticized Trinity, Hobart and other Episcopal colleges which have accepted Carnegie's money.

LYTTLE LAKE DAM BREAKS

Six Hundred Million Gallons of Water Released.

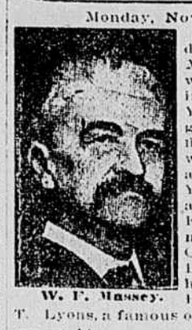
Abilene, Tex., November 23.—Six hundred million gallons of water were released near here to-day by the breaking of the Lyttle Lake dam of the Abilene Water Company, but though a torrent twelve feet high was precipitated on the surrounding country, it soon spread over the plains, and so far there has been no reported loss of life. A Texas and Pacific pumphouse was destroyed by the flood, and there was heavy damage to telephone and telegraph wires.

Work was begun a few hours after the accident on a temporary dam, for there is but a few weeks' supply for the city in the auxiliary lake. Recent heavy rains are thought to have caused the break in the dam. The loss is estimated at $10,000. The dam was built in 1898. The lake was one of the largest bodies of water in Texas.

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Monday, November 24, 1913.



W. F. Massey.

It thrives wonderfully well on the Maryland-Delaware-Virginia Peninsula. Then the York Imperial is a good apple and a fine keeper. If you want some summer apples, plant the Yellow Transparent and Red Astrakan. For fall plant Bonum, the North Carolina Magnum Bonum, which they have shortened to Bonum. The late T. T. Lyons, a famous orchardist of Michigan, told me some years ago that he thought North Carolina Bonum the best fall apple in this country. Fall Cheese too, is good. Then the Grimes Golden is a good late fall and early winter apple, and will thrive there, as it does over here and everywhere from its home in West Virginia eastward. It is an apple of high quality, but under ordinary conditions does not keep, when grown here, later than Christmas, though in the mountain country it keeps later. It is not good for cold storage, as it rapidly turns brown there. Stayman Winesap and York Imperial keeps well in cold storage, and the growers on this peninsula always store theirs in Philadelphia, and sell from cold storage. Virginia Beauty will also do well there. Summer apples have been very profitable here, and are largely planted. But in setting an orchard for profit I would not plant too many varieties, but make a reputation for the best of those that do well. The Stayman Winesap is not so bright colored as the old Winesap, but when people find its high quality it sells rapidly for a good price. The Delaware growers seldom get less than $5 a barrel in winter. Of peaches there is a wonderful variety. Greensboro is about the earliest good peach, Champion is also good, and for quality there is none better than the Oldmixon Free. Lady Ingold is good, and Elberta is large, showy and popular, though not of the highest quality. But it is a great bearer and fine looking. Ray is an excellent later peach, and Chair's Choice about the latest good peach. Salway is an old late peach, and good, and also is Crawford Late. You can plant any time up to Christmas with safety.

Yesterday the expressman left a box at my office, charges prepaid, all the way from Colorado. I also had a letter from the man who sent the box, saying that as I had told him how to grow onions, he wanted me to see some of his product. The box contained six Giant Gibraltar onions and a few smaller ones of other varieties. The heaviest onion weighed one pound fifteen ounces, or only a fraction short of two pounds, and the lightest one weighed a pound and nine ounces. These were grown under irrigation, and from seed sown in a frame and transplanted later.

I have had fine specimens of the Denia and Prizetaker sent that weighed a fraction over a pound, but these Gibraltar onions are the largest I have ever seen, and it shows how they thrive in the cool climate of Colorado, with plenty of water. But we can grow them to an immense size here if we are ready to water them as they are in Colorado, and it is coming to be necessary here for the market gardener, who wishes to grow the best crops, to have some kind of irrigation to ward off the effects of the summer droughts that now seem sure to occur. Of course, with a low-lying piece of land, where a stream can be turned and used for irrigation there is little difficulty, but on our high lands we will have to depend on the hose or install the overhead sprinkling system. This I intend to install in my garden the coming spring. It will often make all the difference between failure and success to have means for watering the truck crops.

A Word to the Ladies.

Many ladies are very fond of pot plants, and some of them are very skilful in handling them. I was once walking down a street in Baltimore with one of the leading florists. We passed a window that was gay with blooming plants, and my friend said: "Massey, you and I can grow those things in the greenhouse, but the women can beat us badly when it comes to a window only." And it is often true. But there are many flower-loving women who fail with their plants, and are not satisfied with what they grow. One of the greatest hindrances in the culture of house plants is the putting of a little plant in too large a pot, with the notion that the large pot will enable it to grow better. Another reason is that many women do not water their plants properly. They sprinkle the surface of the pot daily, and it looks wet, but if it is turned out and examined it will be found that only the surface is wet and the soil below dry. Now a florist changes his plants from a small to a larger pot gradually, putting them only in a size larger as they grow, for he knows that if shifted at once to a big pot the soil will get sour before the roots can use it, and the roots will be damaged. Then, too, the florist does not sprinkle his pots until they are getting on the dry order, and then he gives water enough to go clear through the pot, and gives no more till the pot is dry again. A good plan to see if the pots need water is to thump on them, and if it sounds hollow, water it well, but if it sounds solid it shows that water is not yet needed. Sometimes earthworms get in the pots and make the soil sour and clammy. The best thing for these is to pour some clear lime-water into the pot and the worms will come to the top and can be gotten out. When little white maggots get into the soil it is best to turn the plant out and wash the soil off and repot in fresh soil.

Early Irish Potatoes.

"I suppose that you have already replied to these questions, but I am a new-comer and would like to start to growing Irish potatoes for market and am without experience in this, and would like to be informed as to what fertilizer and amount should be used on gray, sandy soil that will make about thirty bushels of corn an acre. What variety is best for the early market and how much seed an acre? By following your instructions, how many bushels could I reasonably expect to make per acre?"

It is very evident that you are inexperienced in potato-growing. Gray, sandy soil that will make thirty bushels of corn an acre should make a moderately fair crop of potatoes if fertilized and cultivated properly. For a fertilizer, mix 200 pounds of acid phosphate 16 per cent, 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, 600 pounds of cottonseed meal or fish scrap and 400 pounds of muriate of potash to make a ton. Of this use 1,000 to 1,500 pounds an acre in the furrows, making the furrows three feet apart. Then bed on this with a furrow from each side, and then run through with a two-horse plow and reopen the furrows so that the fertilizer will be well mixed in the soil. Cut the potatoes to two eyes and drop them fifteen inches apart in the rows. Turn a furrow over them from each side. Just before they come up harrow the ridges level, and when they are up, go over both ways with a weeder, and then use the cultivator till the potatoes show signs of blooming and then lay by with a furrow to each side. The number of bushels for planting an acre will depend on the size of the seed to a great extent. Usually about three and a half barrels will be enough. The Irish Cobbler is now planted in Virginia trucking section almost exclusively, and is good if you get pure stock, but there are many mixed lots on the market. How many bushels you can make an acre is more than I can predict. In the Norfolk section and in Eastern North Carolina many growers on highly-improved truck land will market from 75 to 100 barrels an acre. Starting on land such as you describe, you will be fortunate to get 150 bushels an acre.

Fertilizing Strawberries.

"Will you please tell me what fertilizer to use, commercial fertilizer, for strawberries? We wish to set plants in ground that was unbroken till last spring, and from which a good crop of sweet potatoes has just been harvested."

Here we find that November and early December are the best time to set strawberry plants. But in setting plants I would use less fertilizer than I would apply in summer after the fruiting season, for then is the time to encourage a strong growth of crowns. For a good strawberry fertilizer I would mix 1,000 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate, 600 pounds of cottonseed meal or fish scrap, whichever is most convenient, and 200 pounds high-grade sulphate of potash. Of this at planting time I would use 400 pounds in the furrows, and bed on it and slightly flatten the beds and set the plants in four-foot rows, fifteen inches apart. Then after the fruiting season I would apply, all down the rows, 600 pounds of the same mixture and cultivate clean, training the runners in the meantime along the rows. A light dressing in the early spring is useful, but the heaviest fertilization should always be made after the fruiting season, so that there will be a strong growth of crowns for the next season's crop. Then, do not keep a plantation of strawberries more than two crops. It is far better to plant a new bed every fall than to keep the old one clean.

S. H. Hawes and Company

Richmond, Va.

Phone Madison 57.

Lime, Cement,
Plaster,
Sewer Pipe,
Tile, Coal,
Land Plaster,
Agricultural Lime.

We make a specialty of Right Prices, Prompt Shipments and only one grade of goods: "THE BEST."

CHRISTMAS NUTS

Actual Size

Finest Variety Pecans

Paper Shells

Description

Large and with Splendid Flavor

Two lbs. $2; Six lbs. $5; Extra Fancy $1.25 the pound.
Direct from Grove.

R. H. BRINKLEY, Ellenton, S. C.