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  - Trimmed PORK CHOPS, lb. .... 59c
  - Shoulder ROAST PORK, lb. .... 49c
  - OLD CHEESE, lb. .... 49c

- FRUITS and VEGETABLES**
- Head LETTUCE, each ..... 27c
  - CELERY, head ..... 25c
  - Firm TOMATOES, lb. .... 35c
  - 288 Count ORANGES, doz. .... 35c
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## Activities Of Potato Growers Ass'n Reviewed

The following reports were presented at yesterday's annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Potato Growers' Association:

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Hon. Horace M. Wright

Today in reporting to you for the year ending June 30, 1948, it would be well first to review the production and prices of that year. The crop of 1947 was reduced in acreage due to the discouragement of previous years' prices and within the Canadian production only slightly in excess of the nation's demand, and with an outlet at a good price in the States, the marketing of that year's crop was not a great problem.

However during the fall of 1947 the age-old problem of transportation came to light. During late November when the farmers always wish to dispose of their surplus, the shortage of refrigerator cars was acute. It was not uncommon for Island shippers to load box cars to capacity in November as late as the 20th and ship to Upper Canadian points—this is a situation extremely dangerous to the shippers and would prove eventually costly to the growers.

To add to transportation problems, a railway freight rate boost of 21 per cent was permitted on April 8th. This organization fought against, and will continue the battle against any straight percentage rate of increase which places us under a severe handicap when we must market our products over great distances involving long railway hauls.

Another matter of importance during the year was the raising of the Potato Seed Quota under the Geneva Agreement of November 1947 to 2 1/2 million bushels. This increase of one million bushels under the low duty of 37 1/2 cents was a very worthwhile concession, as up to this year the increased figure would take care of all our exports of seed to the U. S. A. It can be stated here that your Manager, the late J. W. Boulter was prominently connected with negotiations leading to the above satisfactory conclusion.

The year 1947-1948 was not so profitable to us, as an Association, from a purely financial point of view. However, our high volume business was maintained and with a keen market at all times the margin of profit was naturally smaller than usual. This year your directors decided to add the profits to the Reserve Account. This was done and we hope it has the approval of all our patrons. The previous year it will be recalled we dispersed all our profits in the form of debentures. The total debentures issued on a 10-year term amounted to over \$50,000 and provision is now being made to place \$3,000 plus interest, in reserve every year as a sinking fund to take care of these debentures on maturity.

Since the last year ended, this organization has had serious losses in personnel. Early in August, 1948, this Province, and particularly agriculture lost a great stalwart in the passing of J. W. Boulter. Mr. Boulter had given long and faithful service to this organization, becoming its first Manager, and from a small beginning expanded it to make it one of the largest businesses in the Province. During the early years it was largely through Mr. Boulter's efforts that our Seed potatoes were introduced to various parts of the States.

To replace Mr. Boulter, your directors appointed E. D. Reid as Manager in August, 1948. Mr. Reid had the advantage of service as assistant to Mr. Boulter for three years, and with a rural background and military experience we felt was qualified for the position.

To bring our members up-to-date, we might say that during the fall of 1948 your Association on realizing the situation facing the potato producers of this province put forth every effort to ensure that a floor was established to support the 1948 crop and prevent our growers from suffering great financial loss. In this connection, we find it invaluable to be able to present to Government authorities at Ottawa the grower's viewpoint and this can only be done through a growers' organization. We can definitely assure you that with our affiliation with the Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Horticultural Council this organization is well fitted to serve and our opinion at Ottawa is still held in high regard.

In conclusion, we trust that this meeting will be of great value to you today. For we have not reached the stage yet where we as producers may rest on our "laurels". We must be always alert to improve our methods and efficiency of production and marketing, and today the problem of maintaining and improving the quality of our product in a highly competitive world market must be faced.

We shall appreciate any comments or constructive suggestions you may make today towards the improvement of your organization. Respectfully submitted.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

By E. D. Reid

In presenting the annual report of the P. E. I. Potato Growers' Association for the year ending June 30, 1948, it is desired first of all to review the financial statement which has already been submitted. In summing up the business of the year it is found that our total turn-over was \$1,915,338 or almost the two million dollar mark. This represents a higher dollar volume of business than previous due to the increased value of the products, but actual phy-

sical volume of business was slightly less than that of 1946, as the crop was somewhat smaller. However, your Association handled its usual percentage of the total crop. The profits of the Association were not as great as previous year and this year were added to the Reserve Fund rather than dispersed as patronage dividends. With this year's additions the total surplus account now stands almost \$78,000 after all outstanding debentures and Government loans have been paid.

The crop year 1947 was one of the most profitable to the growers in the history of potato growing in the Province. The price of Seed in the fall of 1947 started at \$1.00 a bushel and before the season finished for seed reached the \$2.00 level while at the same time Tablestock, starting at 80c per bushel rose to the great height of \$2.50 per bushel in late May, 1948. In fact the spring price was the highest during the last quarter of a century. Such prices quickly indicate that finding outlets for the 1947 crop was not a difficult problem. Our good customer to the south, the United States, accepted its full quota of Seed, enlarged under the Geneva Agreement to 2 1/2 million bushels, which was filled by April 15, 1948, at the same time the States bought slightly more than their full quota of one million bushels. Of the above the greater part of the Seed came from this Province. Island seed was also marketed in the West Indies, South America and Palestine.

### Shipment to Palestine

Your Association participated in the Argentinian business and reports received indicated that Island Sebagoes were highly satisfactory. For the first time on record this Province shipped seed to Palestine or Israel. About 40,000 bushels were included in this order which included Katahdin and Green Mountain Seed, principally smalls. All reports indicate that the potatoes proved very satisfactory but only currency difficulties prevented a larger repeat order this year.

For the 1947 year Canada's production was 72 million bushels which after deducting the heavy exports of Seed and Table potatoes as indicated above left a volume of potatoes equal to or slightly less than that required for domestic consumption and a healthy market in Canada was a natural result reaching an extremely high level as soon as the consuming public felt a shortage was imminent.

During this year under review, your Association tried at all times to reflect every rise in price on the major markets of Canada immediately in increased prices to the grower. At some times prices may have varied here from day to

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 Irregular bleeding or discharge from any natural body opening. Do not wait for pain. Go to the doctor.  
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 Persistent indigestion. Do not wait for loss of weight. Go to the doctor.  
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 Any change in normal bowel habits. Don't attempt to diagnose yourself. Go to the doctor.

Remember  
**Early Cancer Is Curable**

day which is as it should be when dealing with a product that fluctuates in price on the world markets as do other commodities.

### Fertilizer

During the year 1947-48 this Association handled approximately the same volume of fertilizers as the previous year. Farmers with experience of scarcity during war years accepted their supplies throughout the winter months and final deliveries were completed in May or early June without any great congestion. In the spring of 1948 it was found that 5-10-10 was the big seller for potatoes, while 3-16-6 was the most popular mixture for grain. However, there was still a large percentage of farmers using low strength mixtures, such as 4-8-10 and 2-12-6.

If I may divert your attention from the year under review for a few months, I think this is an opportune time to bring you up-to-date on the fertilizer situation of today. Last summer the Maritime Fertilizer Council agreed to recommend the manufacture of higher analysis fertilizers for 1949. Accordingly 5-10-13 is being manufactured at all Maritime plants and it is hoped that farmers will quickly get away from the practice of ordering weak strength mixtures and order the new mixture which is considerably cheaper and avoids the futility of the farmer hauling useless filler. We used to think this filler was necessary but

the actual reason for not introducing stronger mixture sooner was the limited supply of the basic elements which make up the fertilizer mixtures.

Regarding supplies of fertilizer this year it is found that for various reasons farmers have not accepted deliveries to any extent as yet and unless the month of April shows great improvement over previous months in deliveries from the fertilizer plants it will be practically impossible for all our farmers to secure their requirements at the desired time. However it is not yet too late to take action.

### Pesticides

Your Association, during the year 1947, maintained its usual services to growers in the supplying of Insecticides and Fungicides. We carried supplies for Bordeaux Mixture and sold considerable but the trend is quite strong towards fixed Copper-prepared mixtures. This Association handled the greater portion of its pesticides on a consignment deal with Canadian Industries Limited (C.I.L.). This assures our growers of an adequate supply of pesticides at all times and furthermore avoids the possibility of any great loss to your Association due to depreciation in value of stock held over from year to year. In studying our pesticide sales it is evident that during the past few years the farmer with his high purchasing power has not been forced to consider the cost factor, in this connection it is

pointed out that those complete sprays so easy to apply also are mostly costly to the farmer and it is suggested that the time is not far distant when the farmer must necessarily be more price conscious.

Now, Mr. President, if it is in order, it is desired to bring our members up to date on some of the matters occurring since the end of the last fiscal year on June 30, 1948.

First of all it is fitting here to pay our respects to personalities which have been an essential part of the Association since its inception almost thirty years ago. We refer first to the great loss to this Association on the passing of J. W. Boulter on August 1, 1948. The late Mr. Boulter gave to this Association unstintingly of his services since its formation, and largely through his efforts in the early days the value of the Island Seed Potatoes was made known to many States of the United States and other countries of the world. His reputation for integrity was universal and he has left a record of service to agriculture in Prince Edward Island that will probably not be equalled or excelled during the first half of this twentieth century.

In the same month of August, 1948 the Association received another solar plexus blow in the death of Mr. T. A. Butler who served many years in charge of the warehouse in Charlottetown

(Continued on Page 6)

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