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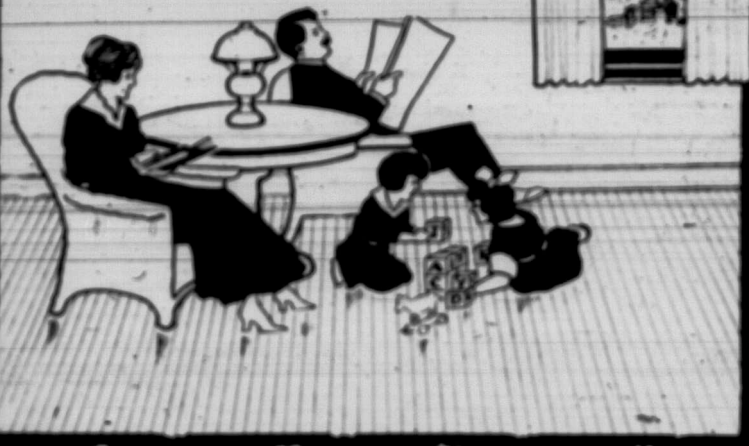
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Providing Proper Potato Storage

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Door—The door for taking out the potatoes should be about four feet wide and seven feet high. It should be made of two thicknesses of matched sheathing with tar paper between. Inside the door, an entry space four feet square must be boarded up to permit the door to be opened, see figures 3 and 4. The outer door is located as shown in figures 1 and 3. It should also be made of two thicknesses of lumber.

Kids—The rear end and gable, which can be covered up all winter, is simply boarded up with matched sheathing. However, the front gable should be boarded both inside and outside of the studding with paper between.

Filling in the Soil—The ground is thrown up on both sides, the rear end and on both sides of the passageway down to the door at the front end, as high as the plate or the base of the roof, to a depth of two feet and extending out from the building at least six feet. It is important to bank up the dirt enough so as to close up any openings between the rafters.

In a rolling country the material necessary for constructing a potato cellar can be greatly reduced, as the cellar can be dug the full depth into a hillside and the

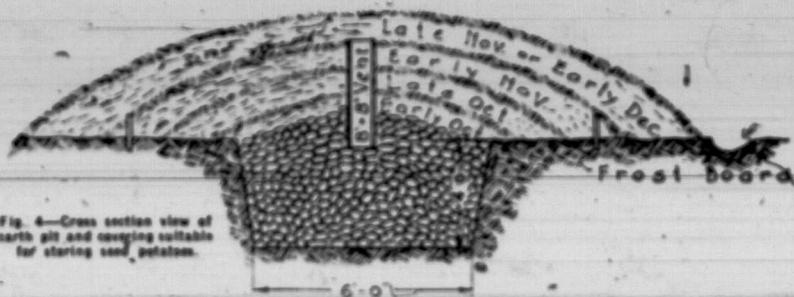


Fig. 4—Cross section view of earth pit and covering suitable for storing seed potatoes.

only lumber needed is that for the roof and front end. The roof is constructed in the same way as for the level land cellar. The entire front end and the gable should be triple boarded with tar paper between. It should also have double doors of double thickness of lumber. The depth and slope of the sides depends largely upon the soil.

Making Potato Pits

An ordinary earth pit furnishes a good place for storing seed potatoes (figure 6). These pits should be located on well drained land where there is no danger of the pit filling up with water during the early part of the spring. In North Dakota they should generally be about four feet deep and five or six feet wide. A pit four feet deep and six feet wide will hold 100 bushels of potatoes for every five feet of its length. A ventilator eight by eight inches and three feet long should be put into the top of the filled pit extending down into the potatoes to the depth of about one foot. There should be one of these ventilators about every eight feet.

Cover the potatoes with a thin layer of straw till there is danger of frost. Put on successive layers of straw and dirt as needed, approximately at the dates indicated in figure 4. When finally covered for the winter, stuff the ventilator full of straw. Straw horse manure is good material to use for the last covering. The layers of straw and dirt should extend out at least six feet from the sides of the pit and should be at least four feet deep when packed. Insert a frost board about three feet from the edge of the pit on each side as indicated in figure 4. A ditch should be dug on each side at the edge of the straw covering to drain off any excess water.

Full specifications are given in the bulletin mentioned, which may be obtained on request from the Extension Department of the North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, N.D.

ALBERTA CATTLE FOR CHICAGO

One of the largest single cattle deals in Canada has just been closed in Edmonton, Alberta, by a local firm of commission agents acting on behalf of a large Chicago packing plant. It consists of 2,500 head of choice Alberta beef steers, weighing not less than 1,350 each. The sum involved in the transaction, it is understood, runs between \$300,000 and \$325,000. One hundred and forty cars will be required to transport the cattle to Chicago, and the whole will be forwarded in train loads by the shipping October 1.

The Guide Crop Report

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drought! Summerfallow has increased 10 per cent, but new breaking has decreased. Hay appears to have been generally good. Potatoes vary from 40 per cent. poorer to 80 per cent. better than last year with little general improvement.

Portage la Prairie—Wheat runs from 10 to 25 bushels, oats 25 to 40, and barley 20 to 35. Drought did most of the damage. Labor is scarce here. About the same area is being prepared for next year. Hay was poor on high land. Potatoes poorer than last year.

Saskatoon—Wheat from 25 to 30 bushels, oats 35 to 40, barley 30 to 35. Practically no damage. Farmers worrying through alright. Hay is fair. Potatoes late.

Springfield—Grain conditions about the same as in Saskatoon. Hay a light crop.

Brandon—Crops very spotted here. Eight farmers say wheat will run 10 to 18 bushels with the average 14; oats 16 to 35, average 24; barley 12 to 25, average 18. Serious drought did great damage. Woodworth, Elkhorn and Reston correspondents also blame a heavy

frost on June 21. The area in summerfallow generally average with some decreases. Labor problem serious, everything running short-handed. Upland hay varied from a failure to 75 per cent. of normal, generally half a crop. All but one say potatoes fair, but poorer than last year.

Souris—Sixteen farmers sent reports. From 10 to 20 per cent. in many parts will not be cut at all. Wheat runs from a failure up to 12 bushels, averaging 9 to 10; oats up to 30 bushels, averaging 20 and barley about 16 to 18. The weather man, handed Souris an awful drought, sent serious frosts and some hail. Everywhere was drought and all but two mention frost, presumably they forgot. Eight mention insect damage, especially saw fly. There was some hail, in fact all the elements conspired to rob this southwestern district of its just recompense. The area summerfallow is about normal with some reporting decreases. Everywhere the damage from weeds is on the increase. Some seed oats will probably be needed. Wheat will grade well. Hay was away below normal, from 50 to 70 per cent. of usual crop. Potatoes seem about the same as last year.

Macdonald—Seven said Macdonald fell heir to the same plagues as Souris but especially drought. There was some rust, also a little hail. Wheat will go 8 to 15 and average about 12, oats about 22 and barley 17 bushels. Women and boys, as in Souris, are doing much of the harvest work. About the same area as usual has been prepared for next season. No one reports hay over a 50 per cent. crop and many much poorer. The potatoes will be light.

Lisgar—Lisgar was in the same hard luck belt as Souris and Macdonald. From 8 to 20 bushels of wheat, 10 to 35 of oats and 10 to 25 of barley represents the maximum, but not all the minimum yields. Drought generally did the damage. Hay is very poor. Potatoes are fair.

Provencher—Wheat will run about 20 bushels, oats 35, and barley 27 according to five correspondents. One Pinesy farmer says 20 per cent. of all the surrounding grain was hailed. Drought and hail are worst with some rust. Weed damage is bad. Labor serious, but crop will all be saved by changing works. Summerfallow is normal. Hay is estimated by no one to exceed 60 per cent. of a normal crop and by some much less. Potatoes are