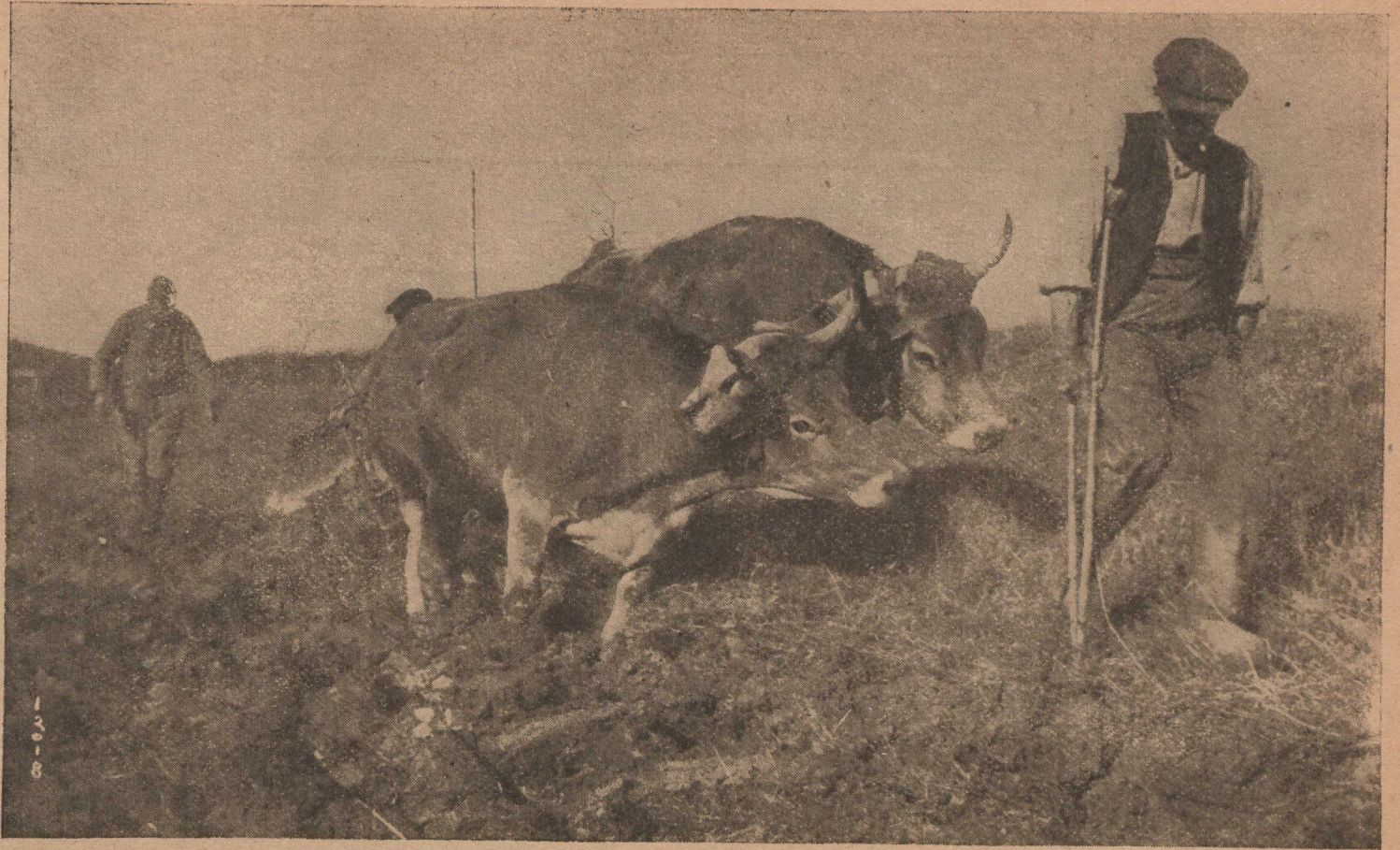


# FARM!



*This French War  
Cripple loved the land  
so much that he led  
the oxen ploughing  
among the dead men*



OUR striking potato photograph below bears this very naive comment by the camera-man who took the picture—presumably in France.

"A detachment of Canadian bushmen sowing potatoes. (Note—"sowing"). Furrows are made by the machine shown (it is a plough), the men follow on, dropping in the seed. The furrows are lined with potatoes and on the return journey the machine works between the furrows covering up the potatoes. The Canadians have a very economical way of using the seed potato. They cut the seed into several pieces. Many cuttings are made out of a good-sized potato.

In other words, a potato has many eyes. Each eye is good for a sprout. In a peck of potatoes costing anywhere from 75 cents to \$1.25, it is important to see that each eye becomes a sprout with enough of the parent potato left round the eye to give it a good start. Hence cutting potatoes for seed is a very expert business unless you want to plant money that never comes back.

The cost of growing an acre or a 20 x 30 plot of potatoes is a very important item to consider before you start raising potatoes. Of course potatoes may be cheap next year, because everybody's doing it. Never mind. Potatoes are good food. Our business is to increase the production of good food.

On the cost and revenue of growing potatoes we are referred to the Province of New Brunswick. This is our greatest potato province, the Ireland of Canada. A monument to Sir Walter Raleigh should stand in the city of St. John. If N. B. could only be made portable the rest of the country might get more potatoes. The trouble is, most of the surplus potatoes of N. B. drift down to the Bermudas. Water carriage is cheaper. As a U. S. farm bulletin curtly remarks:

"There is considerable risk of unprofitable production of potatoes when they are grown at great distances from the consuming markets."

The reason is that a bag of potatoes, for instance, weighs only 90 lbs., while a bag of wheat the same size weighs 120 lbs. It's the bulk, not the weight, that makes long haulage of potatoes a losing game. So potato-culture must

## Speaking of Potatoes

*Our Potato Province on the Atlantic sends along some useful calculations on the cost and profit of growing tubers*

By THE "AG." EDITOR

be carried on as near Consumption-Centre as possible.

But hear N. B. on the cost and profit of potatoes. Dominion Experimental Station at Fredericton sends this message to humanity:

"In 1915 an acre was planted with three varieties—Green Mountain, Irish Cobbler and Empire State. The seed and the labour cost \$67.93. Result—80 bbls. of 765 lbs. each. S. P. per bbl., \$1.75. Net profit, 90c a bbl. Seven bbls. culls sold for, \$3.50. Gross profit from acre, \$75.50.

Notes: Low land, often flooded, grew buckwheat in 1914 after a 30-

years of back-crop, spruce, birch and alder.

Last year a different acre was planted with Green Mountain seed. Result—120 bbls., which at a much higher price brought a total profit of \$190.20. This land was an old hay meadow, was given 750 lbs. patent fertilizer in 1913, and cropped with potatoes; in 1914 got 18 tons barn manure and was cropped to corn; 1915 oats without manure.

These are cold calculations that may be of use to those who intend to grow potatoes. Clearly, the average profit on these two acres for two different

years was \$190.20 and \$75.50, divided by 2, which gives about \$132 an acre.

Now, if you have a plot, say 40 x 60, what profit do you get?

Now for arithmetic. An acre, as you know, contains 43,560 sq. ft. Your plot 40 x 60 is 2,400 sq. ft. Divide 2,400 into 43,560—get the boys busy—and you have just about 1-18 of an acre. Therefore, if your experience is like unto the Experimental Station at Fredericton, N.B., you will have a profit of \$132 divided by 18, which is about \$7.50.

Is it worth it? Well, if you reckon on top of that all the physical benefit you get from wheeling manure, digging, raking, hoeing, etc. Yes.

Anyway, try it. But look out lest the bugs, two of which can propagate millions of buglets in a season, do not rob you of your \$7.50. And, of course, even the price of Paris Green has gone up.

