

# **EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 50**

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## **Dominion of Canada**

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

#### **EXPERIMENTAL FARMS**

##### **Experimental Farm, Nappan, N.S.**

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## **Potato Growing in the Maritime Provinces**

BY

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The importance of the potato growing industry to the farmers of the Maritime Provinces cannot be over-estimated. As a crop it is very easily grown and can be readily disposed of on available markets, giving profitable returns. The popularity of the potato as a food product, due to the cheapness of its production, its nourishing properties and availability throughout the year, insures a steady demand for all seasons. In addition to this, it is invaluable to the starch industries and has many other commercial uses. The demand is steadily increasing year by year, yet up to the present the production has fallen far short. The consequent future of this industry is, therefore, very promising.

Yet, notwithstanding the many years of experience agriculturalists have had in potato growing, there is still considerable room for improvement in the methods employed. The following suggestions, based on the many experiments conducted at this and other stations, are therefore given in an endeavour to correct some of the evils of the present day practices and thereby appreciably increase the total yield of this, the largest potato-producing section of the Dominion.

#### **SELECTION OF VARIETIES**

Undoubtedly the primary consideration of those engaged in the industry is the question of which varieties will prove most suitable to their particular conditions. Probably the quickest and most satisfactory way to decide this question is to find out what varieties have given the best results at the Experimental Station in their province and then to discover by experimentation which of these is best suited to the grower's needs. At the Nappan Station, Irish Cobbler, Carman No. 1 and Rawlings' Kidney are the most promising varieties of those tested during the last number of years. A free distribution of samples of potatoes is made every spring by these stations to those requesting same.

#### **SOIL**

The soil on which the potatoes are to be grown will influence the size of the to a greater or less extent. While potatoes give good returns on a wide

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