



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(HORTICULTURAL BRANCH).

POTATO-DISEASES.

FOR convenience we may classify potato-diseases into: (1) Diseases of the tuber; (2) diseases of the "vines."

TUBER-DISEASES.

Since these are of most direct importance, we will consider them first.

Common Scab.

This is found practically wherever potatoes are grown. It appears as round or oval, raised corky spots on the surface, or simply as a thick, irregular roughening of the skin. It may only form occasional small spots on the tubers, or it may almost cover the entire surface. Severe infestation often results in pits or cavities, which not only blemish and make much extra labour in preparing potatoes for the table, but also expose the interior of the tuber to various rot-fungi. Scabby potatoes are just as good for food, except that there may be more waste in preparing them, but are not desirable for seed purposes if the scab is at all severe.

Control.—Scab is due primarily to a bacterial organism or "germ," but there are also a number of factors which favour it. Control lies in disinfecting the seed and in avoiding the favouring causes, as follows:—

- (1.) Do not use alkaline fertilizer— g., wood-ashes, lime, marl, etc.—with, or just before, the potato-crop. On the other hand, acid fertilizers, like acid phosphate, tend to reduce scab.
- (2.) Do not plant the seed in contact with manure.
- (3.) Avoid heavy, wet, undrained soil.