

WEATHER FORECAST.
 TORONTO, Noon. — Moderate N. W. to N. winds, fine to-day and on Saturday; stationary or little higher temperature.

The Evening Telegram.

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A WARNING!

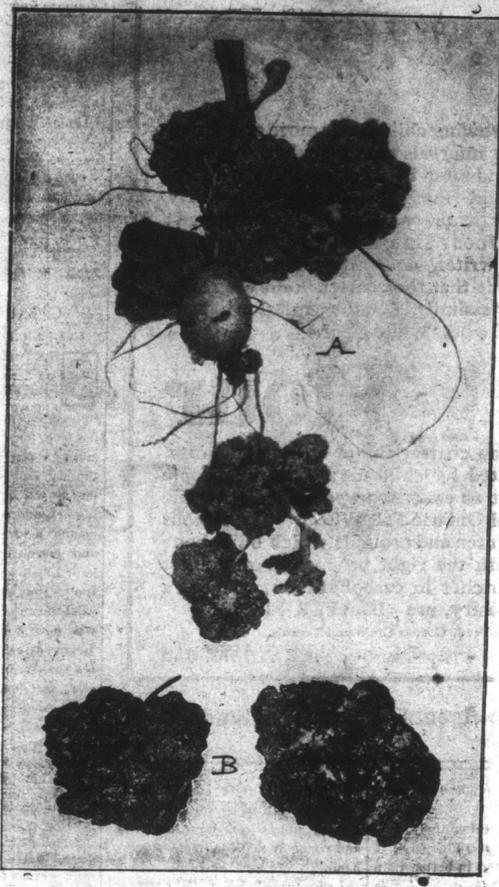


FIG. 2.—POTATO CANCER.
 A. A plant of diseased potatoes as it appears when dug; showing in the centre a partially sound tuber covered with excrescences caused by the fungus at the base; also showing six malformed tubers adhering to the plant.
 B. Two tubers natural size badly diseased.

Look Out for the Potato Canker.

The attention of Newfoundland Farmers, especially Potato Growers, is directed to the outbreak of a Serious Potato Disease, which will, if care is not exercised, render the cultivation of this important crop a practical impossibility. Farmers are requested to carefully study the description of this trouble and to strictly follow the directions given for the prevention of the disease. It is hoped that every farmer will aid the Department of Agriculture and Mines to arrest the spread of this serious malady and thus protect his own interests and also safeguard the interests of his fellow countrymen.

APPEARANCE OF THE DISEASE.
 (See illustration).
 When a diseased crop of potatoes is harvested the tubers (potatoes) saved, will not appear smooth and round, but they will be covered with more or less large warty excrescences or wrinkled outgrowths. Sometimes a tuber will show only a few small markish knobs or wrinkles situated near and around the so called "eyes" of the tuber; sometimes more or less than half of the tuber will be changed into such a wrinkled warty mass or the tuber may be covered all over by this mass. If the latter stage is present, the potatoes have lost their form and shape and almost look like lumps of earth or coke. Many tubers will be found to be wholly decayed, being soft and brownish inside and giving off a very unpleasant odour, when broken.

CAUSE OF THE DISEASE.
 It is not desirable to burden the minds of the growers with a technical description of the cause of this disease, but a few remarks are necessary to explain how the disease comes about, so as to make the farmer understand the nature of the trouble and to enable him to protect his future crops. We all know the dreadful disease known as cancer from which many unfortunate men and women suffer. This disease is caused by a germ which may affect any part of the human body. Where this germ is present it greatly irritates the affected parts and more or less large tumor swellings are produced. Now the disease in the potatoes is very much like a cancer for which reason it is known as Potato Canker. It is also caused by a germ which irritates the affected parts of the potato tuber and produces "tumors" in the form of the warty wrinkly excrescences already described and represented in the accompanying illustrations. It must, however, not be concluded that the germ causing potato canker may cause human cancer—this is not possible under any circumstance.

PREVENTION OF THE DISEASE IN POTATOES.
 The germ that causes the disease lives almost exclusively in the potato tubers, and when a diseased crop has been grown on a field, it will become contaminated with the germs of the disease. Now we can at once understand that firsts when a diseased tuber is planted, the disease will appear, because the germ in it will develop, and secondly: when potatoes are planted on a field which has borne a diseased crop, they will be attacked by the germs left in the soil.

In consequence the prevention of the disease is very simple and when the directions are carefully observed the disease will disappear as suddenly as it made its appearance. A crop once attacked cannot be cured and is doomed.

(1) Always examine every tuber that is to be planted and do under no condition plant any other than perfectly smooth tubers, firm, crisp and sound and reject any that are covered even with the slightest sign of a wart or excrescence. You will never get a healthy crop unless you plant healthy tubers to begin with. (Make this practice a golden rule, as this remark applies equally to any blight or disease of potatoes, propagated by unsound tubers).

(2) A field that has borne a diseased crop of potatoes should not be used again for the cultivation of this crop unless it is thoroughly disinfected. Turnips, cabbage, oats, carrots, onions or any other crop but potatoes of any kind may safely be grown on such land, without fear of their becoming diseased in the same way. To

disinfect fields that have produced a diseased crop, apply to its surface three tons of fresh or crushed stone lime per acre and then plough it and grow in rotation any of the crops mentioned above, until after six years the ground becomes again fit for potatoes.

(3) Diseased tubers are unfit for human consumption even if ever so slightly affected. Neither should they be allowed to remain on or in the ground, as the writer has found in the general practice, for stock to feed upon them, because the germ is very long lived and will pass through the animal's body unharmed and contaminate any land upon which the droppings of animals will fall. It is best to collect carefully every diseased tuber or portion thereof and to bury them, applying a good quantity of fresh lime, as is practised where cattle die of anthrax. This "pit" containing the diseased potatoes should be left undisturbed for at least six years.

(4) Every farmer will now be able to realize why under no circumstances diseased tubers should be sold, or given away, or exported; for diseased tubers will introduce the disease into new localities. Any one offering for sale tubers affected by this disease makes himself guilty of a serious offence; not only would he be responsible for causing a severe loss to his client, but also for the actual spreading of so serious a disease. And against this spread all Newfoundland farmers should fight to make it impossible for any body to sell any other but sound and good potatoes. Any farmer knowing of the presence of this disease would render a very useful service to his fellow countrymen by immediately reporting the outbreak to the Department of Agriculture and Mines, and by doing all to caution his neighbours from using potatoes coming from infected areas.

(5) In conclusion it must be pointed out that where doubt exists as to the identity of the disease, suspected tubers should be sent at once to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines, St. John's, who will have them carefully examined and reported on whether they are fit to be used or not.

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