

America. Thunder Bay district alone has 40,000 acres of the very best potato soil, a considerable part of which is already under cultivation. Many thousands of acres of good soil of a heavier nature will be available for potato growing in the future. As an example of how the industry is developing, it may not be amiss to state that four years ago the cities of Port William and Port Arthur in Thunder Bay district were importing potatoes, whereas the district immediately adjacent now supplies those cities and exports to Old Ontario in the neighborhood of 140 car loads a year.

It grows in Old Ontario become more convinced of the advisability of planting Northern grown seed and are willing, by their orders, to encourage seed production in the North. New Ontario can be organized very easily to supply all that the older portions of the Province will require.

In order to encourage the development of a strong potato industry in Northern Ontario and to encourage also the planting of Northern grown seed by growers in Old Ontario, the Ontario Department of Agriculture has made certain definite plans to be of assistance this spring. All seed potatoes to be used for departmental purposes are being purchased either from Northern Ontario or from New Brunswick—a total in the neighborhood of 1,700 hags. Seed grown in Northern Ontario is preferred, but at the present time it is not possible to secure the quantity we wish of a guaranteed quality. With this seed bought by the Department some thousand farmers will be given small lots under the auspices of the Experimental Union. Some 10,000 school children who are taking part in Rural School Fairs will also receive small quantities. In every county in Old Ontario the district representative will conduct demonstrations showing the relative value of seed grown in New Brunswick, in Northern Ontario, and in Old Ontario. Besides this, some 40 acres of potatoes will be planted by the Ontario Department of Agriculture on Government owned farms in Northern Ontario in order to produce foundation stock of A1 quality for Northern growers.

Good Seed for Ontario Farmers.

Besides this, it is planned to assist to some extent farmers in securing Northern grown seed. A few car loads of seed potatoes from New Brunswick of the Irish Cobbler and Green Mountain varieties, certified as to freedom of disease by the Dominion Government, are to be secured for the growers in Northern Ontario. This seed will be distributed at cost to farmers in three or four of the best potato producing sections in the North.

So far as Old Ontario is concerned it has been arranged to put farmers who wish to buy seed of high-class quality of the Green Mountain and Irish Cobbler varieties in touch with New Brunswick sellers of the same. This seed was inspected last summer in the growing condition by Dominion inspectors, was inspected last December in the bin and will be inspected in the spring before being loaded. Farmers and farmers' associations, therefore, who wish to purchase seed potatoes in car load lots may do so at a reasonable price and with a minimum of work on their part.

Next summer the Department of Agriculture has made arrangements to have a staff of inspectors who will make a survey of Old Ontario to determine the exact disease conditions as they exist. Other inspectors will work in the North, reporting the crops which result from first-class seed being shipped in this year and reporting also other fields of first-class varieties reasonably free from disease and true to variety. By the fall of 1918 it should be definitely proven just how badly Old Ontario growers need a change of seed and by that time provision will have been made for an ample supply of first-class seed grown in New Ontario to very largely meet this demand.



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