

the quality of the tubers for cooking purposes. Insect damage is generally negligible, and but few diseases with the exception of scab are very prevalent. Freedom from disease is a condition that we should appreciate and do what we can while the soil is clean to keep it so. None of these difficulties should, however, be considered serious since they seldom affect the yield to a very great extent.

SUITABLE SOILS.

For potatoes a deep, rich, well-drained loam is generally the most productive. The medium to light types of loam soils often produce the best quality and the earliest crops. Potatoes will, however, do well on all normal soils. On those inclined to alkalinity more scab will develop. On the sandy loams the cleanest tubers will be found.

CLIMATIC PREFERENCES.

The potato prefers a moist, cool climate and a fairly long growing season. The eastern and northern portions of the province enjoy the former but the period between spring and fall frosts is shorter in that area than in the south and west. The high temperatures of July and August, particularly when they occur in protracted spells of dry weather, are conducive to a second growth or a growth from the newly formed tubers. Hot dry spells of long duration are not favorable to good yields.

PREPARATION OF THE LAND.

Generally speaking a good fallow is the best preparation for potatoes. Corn ground is perhaps the next best. Breaking done the year previous is also a good preparation. Stubble land, either fall or spring plowed, is sometimes used but is very much less productive and, in dry years, produces very small returns. If the fallow or corn ground or breaking is firm, the condition desired for wheat, it is better to plow the land or plow in the potatoes. Potato ground should be fairly loose to a good depth for the reason that in hard soils misshapen tubers usually develop. Of course, potato ground should not be prepared so loosely that it will dry out. But, a very firm fallow, unless the potatoes are plowed in, is sometimes too firm for best results.

FERTILIZERS.

In Saskatchewan commercial fertilizers are seldom or never used for farm crops. It is questionable whether under normal soil conditions any of them would pay their way. Barnyard manure applied to the fallow and plowed under, or applied before corn when the latter precedes potatoes, is an excellent practice. Fresh horse manure, particularly if it is applied in large quantities or in close contact with the tubers, encourages potato scab. If it is to be applied immediately before the potato crop, well rotted manure is much to be preferred.