

POTATO PRICES LIMITED.

Food Controller Warns Dealers they must not go Higher.

Higher prices for potatoes than those now prevailing will not be permitted. The Food Controller has sent notification to this effect to all wholesale handlers, stating that any attempt to secure higher prices will be dealt with promptly. If retail dealers should attempt to charge an unreasonable profit on potatoes the Food Controller is prepared to fix the margin of profit and, if necessary, to set maximum prices.

A recent survey of the potato situation by the Food Controller's Office indicates that there is still a large supply of potatoes in the hands of growers and dealers to meet a continuous and heavy demand until the 1918 crop will be available. A special effort to keep the public plentifully supplied at reasonable prices is necessary in order that no part of the large crop of the past season be wasted. Nothing can be gained by withholding supplies from the market because the Food Controller's announcement makes it impossible for farmers to secure higher prices later in the season.

Even at the present time the trend of the market is towards lower prices, notwithstanding the recent severe weather which has made the movement of potatoes difficult. In order to prevent possible loss later in the season, the winter movement of potatoes must, therefore, be stimulated by every possible means. No effort should be spared to bring within easy reach of every family in the Dominion all the potatoes which they can eat.

Surplus of Six Million Bushels.

At the present time there is a total surplus in Canada over normal consumption of about 6,000,000 bushels of potatoes made up as follows:

Nova Scotia surplus.....	2,000,000
Prince Edward Island surplus..	2,500,000
New Brunswick surplus.....	2,500,000
Western Provinces surplus.....	1,000,000
Total.....	8,000,000
Quebec shortage	2,000,000

leaving a balance of 6,000,000 bushels as total surplus for Canada.

Danger of Glut in the Spring.

Ontario is just about self supporting. It will thus be seen that every Province except Quebec has sufficient potatoes to ensure supplies during the winter if they are not

held for increased prices. If they are withheld from the market it would necessarily mean a glut in the spring and consequent waste of a considerable part of the surplus. It is for this reason that the Food Controller has decided that the prices will not be allowed to advance beyond those now obtaining.

By a steady and abundant supply of potatoes being placed on the market from the present time until the 1918 crop is available, the best interests of both consumers and producers will be served and the waste of any large part of the crop will be prevented.

FOR SEED POTATOES.

Far-reaching policy for Ontario has been outlined.

The Advisory Potato Council of Ontario has prepared plans looking to the development in Northern Ontario of a great seed-producing industry and educational propaganda to promote the use in older Ontario of Northern-grown seed. Steps are said to have been taken already to secure from New Brunswick several carloads of high-class seed for distribution among growers.

The salient features of the plan as outlined in newspaper reports are:

Potato growing by the Ontario Government of a large scale on the provincial farms at Fort William and Burwash, New Liskeard and Monteith, to secure high-class seed for distribution among Northern farmers as a foundation for great seed-potato industry.

Distribution in the North at cost, less freight of high-class standard seed potatoes from New Brunswick.

Distribution to 1,000 farmers in older Ontario of seed grown in New Brunswick, Northern Ontario and older Ontario, for experimental purposes.

Co-ordination of all experimental work with staff of inspectors to ensure production only of disease-free seed potatoes.

FEED FOR CANADIAN FARMERS.

As a result of measures initiated by the Food Controller applications for licenses for the exportation to the United States of 6,640 tons of bran and shorts have been refused and this amount of feed has been diverted to help to meet the requirements of Canadian farmers.