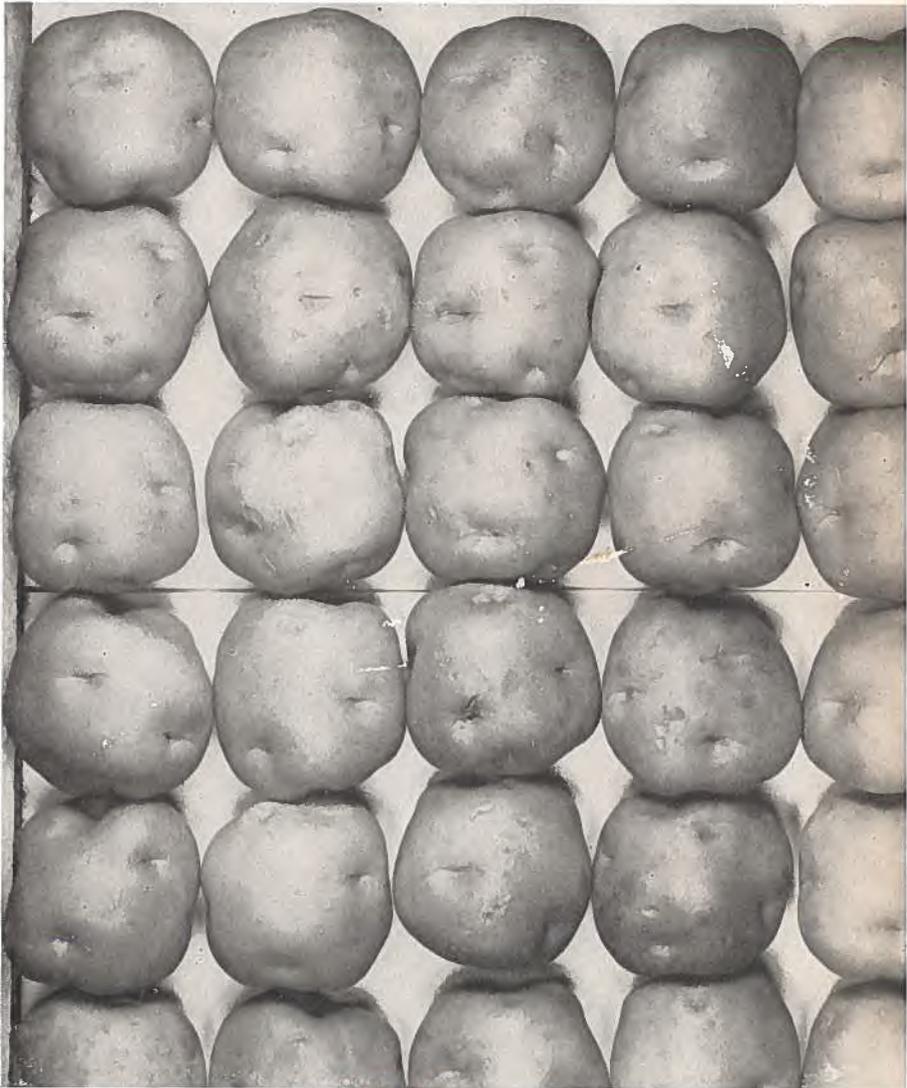




foreign

trade

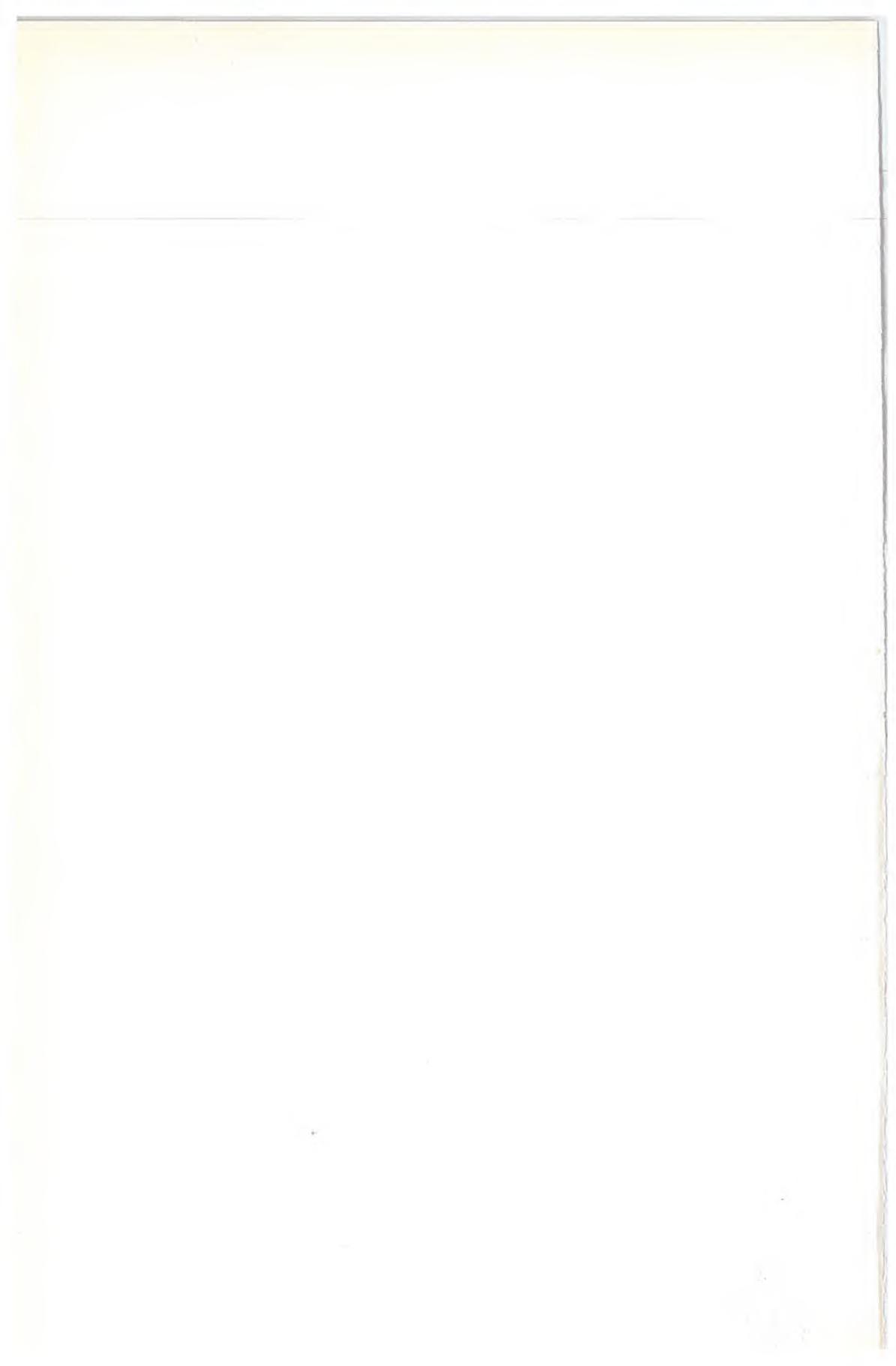
AUGUST 2, 1952



OTTAWA
CANADA



Bank of Canada
LIBRARY
Canadian Certified Seed Potatoes.....
A Market Report





foreign trade

VOL. 12

OTTAWA, AUGUST 2, 1952.

NO. 292

Planning This Issue	2
Canadian Certified Seed Potatoes	3
The Seed Potato Industry	4
Seed Potato Markets	
The United States	6
Cuba	9
Uruguay	10
Venezuela	12
Bermuda	13
Jamaica	14
Argentina	14
Brazil	16
Peru	17
Chile	17
Mexico	18
Central America	18
Other Markets	18
Belgian Congo and Angola	19
Union of South Africa	19
Israel	20
Exporting Seed Potatoes	21
COMMODITY NOTES	
Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Israel, Scotland	24
South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United States	25
TRADE AND TARIFF REGULATIONS	26
FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS	28

COVER . . . These home-grown potatoes are not intended for Canadian dinner tables. Certified for seed, after passing rigid inspections they will go to one of the 16 countries which buy our seed potatoes. This issue features the seed potato industry and its widespread markets:

Published weekly by the Foreign Trade Service,
 Department of Trade and Commerce,
 Under the authority of
 The Right Hon. C. D. HOWE, Minister, and
 WM. FREDERICK BULL, Deputy Minister.

Subscription: \$2.00 a year in Canada; \$3.50 abroad.
 Single copies: 10 cents each.

Please forward all subscriptions and orders to:
 The Queen's Printer, Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa.
 Material appearing in this magazine may be freely

PLANNING THIS ISSUE . . .

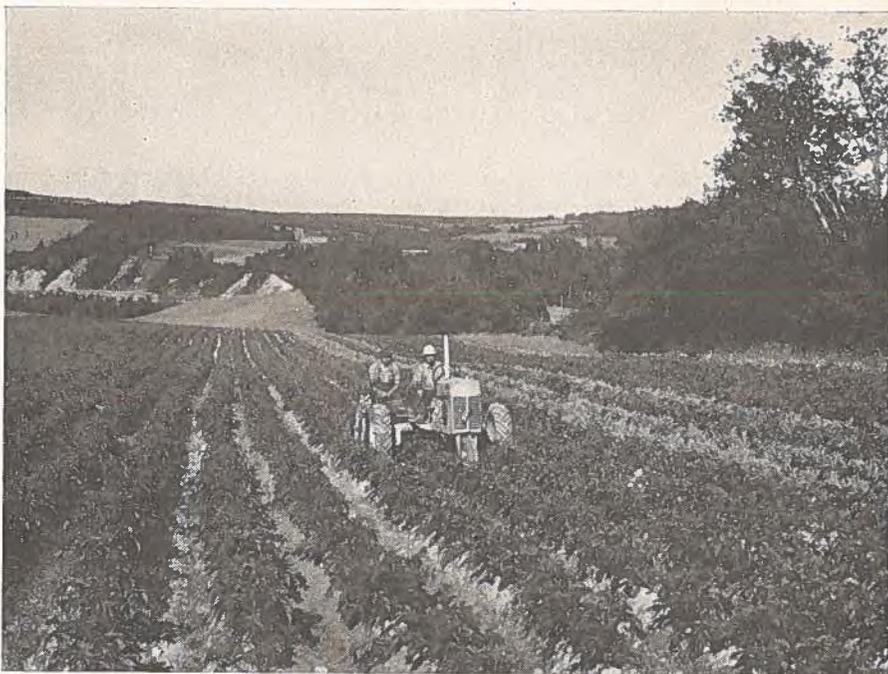
This special issue on seed potatoes was designed when the snow lay deep on the ground and planting time here in Canada was weeks away. It represents the work of many hands and of Trade Commissioner offices in 13 different countries—as far apart as Chile, Bermuda, and the Belgian Congo.

Before us on the desk lies a bulky file labelled “Feature Articles for Foreign Trade—Seed Potatoes”. The first letter in it, outlining our plans for the issue, bears the date February 19th; the last, July 18th. In those five months, letters passed back and forth between the Agriculture and Fisheries Branch here and the Trade Commissioners in the 16 countries where our seed potatoes find a market. By early summer, the reports requested began to come in; they continued to arrive until well on into July.

The next step was the reviewing and co-ordinating of these reports and occasionally adding new statistics. The office of the Agricultural Counsellor in Washington gathered up information from five United States’ areas and incorporated it into one report. Here in Ottawa, the Commodity Officer for Plants and Plant Products shaped this mass of material into a clear, well-rounded outline of the trade in seed potatoes—its beginnings, the opportunities today, and the outlook for the future.

We are publishing this special issue with two distinct objects in mind. The first is to give the Canadian seed potato exporter up-to-the-minute information on how to retain or expand his markets, and to let him know how the Department and its representatives can help him. The second is to give businessmen generally a picture of a trade that has made the name of Canada known to potato growers on four continents.

—The Editor.



CANADIAN CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES

- **The Industry**
- **The Markets**
- **Assistance to Exporters**

THE SEED POTATO INDUSTRY

by G. F. Clingan
Agriculture and Fisheries Branch

CANADA'S export trade in certified seed potatoes, which first began early in this century, is centered in the Maritime Provinces. Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick take the spotlight as producers, though British Columbia and Nova Scotia are also active in certain markets.

Exports of seed potatoes from Canada were made, in a small way, before the First World War; by 1914, they were in good demand in the United States. Bermuda has been buying them consistently since 1915. In 1931 exports reached 1½ million bushels; about 90 per cent went to the United States and Cuba and the remainder to the British West Indies and Newfoundland. Venezuela has purchased substantial quantities practically every year since 1935; Uruguay and Argentina have, since 1936, depended upon Canada almost exclusively for supplies of seed. Other smaller but valuable markets have been added from time to time. In annual volume of purchases, Cuba is second only to the United States which has been, throughout the years, the main market for Canadian seed potatoes. (Table I summarizes exports for the past five seasons.)

TABLE I
Exports of Certified Seed Potatoes by Destination
Crop Year July 1-June 30
(DBS figures, in bushels)

	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52 (to April 30)
United States...	2,569,335	7,286,139	5,927,515	3,094,708	1,039,980
Cuba	325,592	371,049	415,298	341,446	324,501
Uruguay	218,513	208,150	294,176	334,866	246,353
Venezuela	90,461	101,819	96,807	165,701	164,547
Argentina	1,178,110	136,666	....	155,901	....
British West Indies	33,096	32,661	28,186	30,718	25,295
Israel	63,593	12,832	42,617	24,739	....
South Africa ...	5,332	50,772	1,155	21,307	375
Bermuda	7,071	8,950	8,038	7,747	11,001
Mexico	19,004	3,332	....	....	....
Brazil	4,950	1,235	3,732	367	607
Chile .....	....	....	....	35,858	....
Others	23,482	33,504	26,913	24,039	5,974
Total ...	4,538,539	8,247,109	6,844,437	4,237,397	1,818,633 (to April 30)

In recent years the Katahdin and Sebago varieties have taken the lead over such former favourites as Green Mountain and Irish Cobbler. Bliss Triumph is in strong demand in some countries, but others insist on White Rose, Pontiac or Netted Gem.

Two new varieties developed in Canada by the Federal Department of Agriculture have proved highly resistant to late blight and, moreover, have eating qualities second to none. These two, Canso and Keswick, are coming into commercial bearing and should increase rapidly.

Total certified seed potato production in 1951 was, for a number of reasons, considerably below the average of recent years but it is expected that production this coming season will again total about 12 million bushels. Production figures for the past four years are shown in Table II.

TABLE II
Production of Canadian Certified Seed Potatoes

Source: Dept. of Agriculture.

Variety	1948	1949	1950	1951 (est.)
Katahdin	5,396,700	8,447,336	7,048,330	3,933,900
Sebago	1,388,650	2,655,978	2,859,090	2,058,050
Green Mountain	2,673,500	3,847,692	2,129,295	1,223,700
Irish Cobbler	2,117,000	2,449,758	1,893,820	1,040,550
Bliss Triumph	294,550	370,958	429,715	533,150
Netted Gem	422,450	550,504	600,375	521,200
Pontiac	51,900	157,480	248,440	410,380
Canso .....	.....	.....	8,860	79,450
White Rose	154,050	107,275	89,250	62,750
Keswick .....	.....	.....	2,755	28,230
Others	228,900	214,055	274,370	278,740
Total	12,727,700	18,801,036	15,584,300	10,170,100
Total Production 1947—11,747,000 bushels				
1946—10,855,400 bushels				

Maintaining Standards

The continuing demand for Canadian certified seed potatoes can be largely credited to the high quality maintained by rigid adherence to standards demanded by inspectors of the Federal Department of Agriculture. The tolerances for virus diseases and pests are extremely low and, with the regulations covering purity of variety, are rigorously enforced. Officials carry out two field inspections, a third at the time of harvest, and a fourth at the time of shipment.

Although only two sizes of seed potatoes are specified in the regulations, A-(3 to 12 oz.) and B-(1½ to 3 oz.) inspection can be secured for a specific size range called for in a contract. The emphasis on smaller size is to meet demands in those countries where whole tubers are planted.

All certified seed must be packed in new containers to which official tags are attached. These tags show the variety, the size, the date of issue and the certificate number of the crop. Through this number, the name and address of the grower and the specific crop can be traced in records maintained by the Inspection Service of the Division of Plant Protection of the Department of Agriculture. The Agriculture and Fisheries Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce maintains close liaison with officials doing the certification.

Over the years the trade has, naturally, shown some variation but most of the markets have continued to buy substantial quantities. Last season production went down slightly. The 1952 crop will probably equal that of 1951 although the acreage planted is slightly smaller. With good growing weather and freedom from virus diseases, there should be no shortage of certified seed to fill export demands.

MARKETS

THE UNITED STATES

CANADA has been exporting potatoes to the United States since World War I. However, it was not until after 1936, when the duty was reduced from 75 cents to 60 cents per 100 lbs. on a quota of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million bushels, that seed potatoes were exported in sufficient numbers to be separated statistically. Since that time seed exports, although they have fluctuated considerably from year to year, have been increasing. A decrease in the quota rate of duty to the present figure of 37½ cents per 100 pounds and two increases in the size of the quota—in 1939 to 1.5 million and in 1948 to 2.5 million bushels—have helped in this rise. In 1948 exports of seed potatoes reached a peak of over seven million bushels.

It is impossible to learn the final destination of all shipments of Canadian seed potatoes. However, perusal of customs returns plus discussion with persons close to the trade indicate that a large majority of Canadian seed potatoes enter states on the eastern seaboard, from Maine to Florida. Of those entered at northern ports a large percentage is transshipped south; of those entering southern ports, many are sent inland as far as Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee. In the past two years the percentage entering through southern ports has increased markedly, possibly because of better shipping facilities to that area. Substantial shipments are also made through north central states and on the West Coast.

Buying Season

Irish potatoes (as distinct from sweet potatoes) are grown in every state in the United States. In fact, they are growing during almost every month of the year in some section of the country. It is therefore difficult to describe briefly the production pattern and characteristics of the growing areas or the individual requirements of the many markets which interest Canadian seed potato exporters. As a rough guide, potato-producing areas in the United States fall into three groups: early, intermediate and late producing states.

The early states are those directly south of and including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina, plus the southern part of California. Although they produce only approximately 10 per cent by value of the total U.S. crop they are of particular interest because they grow practically no seed. Planting dates in this area begin in September in the far south of Texas and continue until March. Harvesting is done from December to May.

New Jersey and Virginia are the most important of the intermediate states, where planting is done from February to April and harvesting from June to August. The production pattern of the late states resembles that in Canada and it is in this area that almost all the seed potatoes are grown. Trade practices vary even within areas but seed is sometimes ordered six or eight months before planting begins.

Production of 46 different varieties of seed potatoes in the United States in 1951 totalled almost 37 million bushels. Katahdin was still by far the most popular, followed by Irish Cobbler, Triumph, Netted Gem, White Rose, Kennebec (introduced only two years before), Green Mountain, Red Pontiac, Chippewa, Pontiac, and Sebago.

The variety preferences of all markets are difficult to obtain in detail. Preferences of some of the areas most important to Canadian exporters are:

States	Varieties Preferred
New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania	Katahdin, Irish Cobbler, Green Mountain, Chippewa.
Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina	Irish Cobbler, Sebago (in north), Bliss Triumph (in south).
South Carolina, southeastern Georgia, northern Florida	Sebago, Kennebec (in Hastings' area of Florida).
Southern Florida	Bliss Triumph, Pontiac (double red)
Alabama	Bliss Triumph, Sebago (south), Bliss Triumph (north).
Northern Georgia, central Tennessee	Irish Cobbler, some Sebago, Katahdin, Bliss Triumph.
Texas	Bliss Triumph, Irish Cobbler, Red Pontiac, White Rose.
California	White Rose, Netted Gem.

Size, Quality, Packing

There is a strong preference for size A potatoes in most U.S. markets, although there are exceptions, such as central Tennessee, where demand is good for size B.

Most markets offer little or no premium for Foundation or Foundation A seed. High yield, freedom from disease, good storage characteristics, physical toughness, good appearance are all important factors in marketing seed potatoes in the United States. Naturally, the potatoes should be packed in clean new containers, usually 100-lb. sacks. The exporter should ensure that the product leaves Canada and also arrives at its destination in good condition.

Competition

Strict U.S. import regulations limit severely competition from countries other than Canada for the U.S. seed potato market. Domestic producers, however, provide active and efficient competition, mostly in northern states. This competition can be expected to become more severe because, under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, research is in progress or planned on the production, quality control, handling, storing, testing, and marketing of seed potatoes and foundation seed stock.

Price supports and ceilings, customs duties, and transportation costs all are or have been important factors in the competitive situation. Price supports and ceilings have been legislated against for the present and though there is some pressure to have them replaced, action is not expected in the near future. Customs duties on potatoes are specific and their importance in the competitive picture thus fluctuates with changes in price levels. Without government intervention, price levels will probably vary more than they did when supports were in effect. However, except in years when the price falls very low, the quota rate of duty should not prove an effective bar to Canadian imports.



From these New Brunswick fields will come seed potatoes for the U.S. market. Here the tractor-drawn planter is filled with seed potatoes and fertilizer, as a first step towards the planting of the season's crop.

Transportation charges, like customs duties, fluctuate in importance with changes in potato prices. Unlike customs duties, however, transportation charges have been increasing steadily since the end of the war. These increases have applied to shipments by rail, road and sea alike. However, the generally lower sea rates per mile and the proximity to the ocean of both Canadian surplus-producing areas and major U.S. consuming areas are and will be significant factors in the seed potato trade.

Future Prospects

Forecasting future trends is hazardous at best. Prediction of the future market for seed potatoes in the United States is further complicated because, in the recent period when the U.S. potato industry was free of government controls, Canadian seed potato production was much below recent averages. However, if potatoes remain free of control in the United States, if Canadian seed potato production is sufficient to take advantage of any U.S. demand, and if the Canadian dollar remains at or near parity with the U.S. dollar, it seems reasonable to predict that the United States will continue to provide an annual market for substantial quantities (at least the quota) of Canadian seed potatoes.

To make this prediction come true, it will of course be necessary for the Canadian product to equal or to excel its American counterpart in grade, size, quality, disease resistance, packaging, condition, suitability to local conditions and all other physical and cultural characteristics. The Canadian exporter will have to provide all the marketing information and services that his American competitor gives. His landed price will have to be competitive. Finally, there is no better way for the exporter to understand fully the needs of any specific market than by making periodic visits to these markets himself.

—W. F. HILLHOUSE

Assistant Agricultural Secretary, Washington.

CUBA

BECAUSE Cuba relies on a single crop, sugar, and because of the high humidity during the greater part of the year, there is little possibility that the country will ever produce seed potatoes for its own use. Cuba is one of the oldest and most valued markets for Canadian certified seed; for the past five years, shipments have averaged over 355 thousand bushels a year. The principal potato-producing areas are in the Province of Havana, with lesser acreage throughout the Island, principally in the central provinces of Matanzas and Camaguey. Hand cultivation, especially on the smaller farms, is still widely employed, and mechanization lags behind.

There are two crops a year—the “red” or first crop and the “white” or second crop. The red crop (Red Bliss Triumph and Pontiac varieties) is the more important; it is planted in October and harvested through January. The white crop (principally Sebago, Katahdin and Green Mountain, with some Pontiac) is planted in January and harvested through July. Although the terms “red” and “white” refer in general to the types of seed planted, they are admittedly not inclusive. The first crop is the better risk because it usually enjoys better growing conditions. Frequent spring rains damage planting and mean losses in production.

Of the 1950-51 imports, Canada provided 65 per cent of the red varieties and 90 per cent of the white. Most commonly imported are Red Bliss Triumph, Pontiac, Sebago and Katahdin. All these varieties have proved particularly suited to the local climate and soil. Red Bliss Triumph is the dominant variety in the first planting although Pontiac is increasing rapidly. Sebago has largely replaced other white-skinned varieties in the second planting. There is normally no specific stipulation about size but small tubers are preferred because whole seed must be planted.

Containers

In the past, the barrel was the most common container, principally because it later proved useful on the farm. However, the standard slatted crate is the best container in ventilated stowage, the usual transportation service. There is little refrigerated movement. Jute bags are generally used for second planting shipments. For the October planting, Canadian seed is normally moved direct from the field to the dock for export and it is essential that only stock from disease-free fields be used.

Methods of Purchase

The trade imports all seed potatoes and the Government merely limits the time during which seed can be imported. The Cuban tariff provides for free entry of seed potatoes during a certain period and specifies the varieties of potatoes covered by the exemption. The original decree authorized such imports from September 1st to January 1st. There have been several amendments in recent years, but for the past two seasons the Government has reverted to the original dates.

The use of qualified commission agents has proved the only practical method of selling certified seed potatoes in Cuba. Only in this way can shipments of substantial size be ordered in one lot rather than placing a multitude of smaller orders.

Outlook

Despite keen competition from certain areas of the United States, imports of Canadian certified seed have been well maintained. The quarter-century of close association may be expected to continue as long as the Canadian exporter provides clean, healthy stock at competitive prices.

—W. R. VAN

Assistant Commercial Secretary, Havana

URUGUAY

URUGUAY has developed into an important and steady market for Canadian certified seed potatoes in the last ten years. The annual purchases have been between 150 thousand and 200 thousand one-hundred-pound sacks, the total requirements of imported seed for the summer planting in January.

The potato production areas in Uruguay are on about the same latitude as the Rosario zone of Argentina, and produce two crops per year. However, only under exceptionally good growing conditions does production meet home requirements and table potatoes are normally imported in October and November. In some years imports are needed over longer periods.

Before the war, Uruguay purchased both seed and table potatoes from Argentina. Because Argentina ran short of supplies during the war and seed from that country was cut off, Uruguay increased its plantings and imported larger quantities of Canadian seed potatoes. These were planted in January, with a view to supplying their own seed for the August planting, formerly obtained from Argentina. This practice works satisfactorily and in recent years Uruguay has come to rely on Canadian rather than Argentinian supplies.

Requirements of Market

The Katahdin is the popular variety in Uruguay but in recent years the Pontiac has given good results in the northern districts of the country. Lately the purchases have been about two-thirds Katahdin and one-third Pontiac.

Imported seed is planted in January-February, which is midsummer in Uruguay, when temperatures are high, rainfall less frequent and the soil is hot and dry. Planting whole seed therefore affords more protection; for this reason the demand in Uruguay is for the small-size grade, or as high a percentage of it as possible. Over the past few years, Uruguay has

imported seed potatoes in sacks and transported them in refrigerated chambers. This saves the extra cost of the crates and, by using several ships, arrivals at Montevideo are staggered.

Methods of Purchase

The Servicio Oficial de Distribucion de Semillas (Official Seed Service), an entity of the Ministry of Agriculture, is the sole Uruguayan importer of seed potatoes. During the war and for some years following, purchases were made on a government-to-government basis. Because of the peculiarities of the trade, this method was abandoned in 1948. Since then, the Official Seed Service purchases on a call for tenders, usually during the first week of September. As this is a public tender, all offers must be legally in order. They must include a deposit representing five per cent of the value of the tender with the Banco de la Republica, or an unconditional guarantee from a recognized bank in Uruguay that such deposit will be made on instructions from the Official Seed Service. Any tender not legally in order and accompanied by the required deposit will not and cannot be admitted. In awarding the contracts, the Official Seed Service will give preference to offers containing the highest percentage of the small-size grade in relation to the price quoted.

Submitting Tenders

An exporter may quote direct to the Service by cable or letter but such offers will only be admitted if the five per cent deposit has been previously established. Each year several tenders are not admitted because they lack the necessary guarantee or deposit. In the past, nearly all exporters have submitted their offers through their agents. This method is recommended, particularly for handling the detail once the contract is awarded.

For years the province of New Brunswick has supplied Uruguay's requirements of seed potatoes and as its reputation for quality is firmly established, seed from that area receives preference. However, because the demand is for the small-size grade, should another country offer their requirements in this size the offer would be considered. This possibility must be remembered.

Outlook

Uruguay will require about the same quantity of seed potatoes as it did last year, about 150 thousand sacks. Because of the poor export demand for wool (on which the country depends for over 50 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings) Uruguay has been forced to tighten up on dollar imports. It is expected that Uruguay will continue to make available the necessary exchange for essential imports, but this could be a factor in reducing the quantity of seed potatoes imported this season.

—W. B. McCULLOUGH
Agricultural Secretary, Buenos Aires

VENEZUELA

VENEZUELAN imports of seed potatoes during 1951 amounted to 103 thousand 50-kilo crates, or more than 5,100 metric tons. This was three times the quantity imported in 1946, and the increase stems largely from the government policy of importing seed potatoes and distributing them to accredited growers.

Since 1948 Canada has supplied almost 100 per cent of the Government's annual seed potato imports; the remainder have come from the United States and the Netherlands. The quantity of each year's domestic crop retained for seed is very small.

Production Areas

The principal Venezuelan producing states, in order of importance, are Aragua, Carabobo, Miranda and the Federal District. In recent years, however, the Government has shipped seed to producers in 12 of the 20 Venezuelan states who are cropping an estimated 18 thousand acres a year.

The planting, usually of small whole potatoes, begins with the end of the rainy season in November and December and the harvest is in February and March. To ensure the complete sale of the local crop, the Government has customarily prohibited potato imports from February to June inclusive. This system has been altered for the current year and a prior import licence is now required. This permits closer control and should prevent shortages in the period when the domestic crop nears exhaustion.

Market Requirements

The Banco Agricola y Pecuario and the Instituto Agrario Nacional (Agriculture and Livestock Bank and the National Agrarian Institute) are the two organizations which import for the Government and control over 90 per cent of Venezuela's total seed imports. Their requirements in recent years have consisted entirely of the varieties Bliss Triumph (Red Bliss) and Sebago, the former constituting about 75 per cent of the total. In August or September of each year, these agencies provide Venezuelan agents with a list of their seed potato requirements and they request cabled quotations within approximately ten days. Usually the greater part of the contracts go to the lowest bidder and the remainder is shared among two or three others, to ensure that more than one supplier is kept in the market. Payment is made when goods are received, but allowing for time in transit and local administration, it is usually six to eight weeks before the funds reach Canada.

As the Venezuelan Government is a shareholder in the Flota Gran-colombiana shipping line, which has scheduled sailings from Canada to Venezuela, the use of this line is sometimes a feature of the supply contract. The documents accompanying the shipments must be visaed by a Venezuelan consular official resident in the country of origin. The potatoes must be shipped in 50-kilo crates with a central division. Each crate must indicate that the contents are certified seed potatoes which have been

inspected by competent officials and found free of harmful disease and insects (within certain stated tolerances). The markings identify the producer as well as the place and country of origin.

One government regulation which has caused some difficulty to Canadian shippers specifies: "Each tuber must weigh between 40 and 100 grams (1.4 to 3.5 ounces) allowing a tolerance of five per cent by weight to be smaller than the minimum". It has been explained to Venezuelan officials that the provision for such small seed cannot be met completely for large shipments unless a firm contract is made well in advance of harvest. Accordingly, certain leeway has been allowed in past years. However, the regulation remains and with the ever-present possibility of strict interpretation, it behooves the Canadian supplier to select most carefully for Venezuelan government shipments.

Market Outlook

Market prospects for Canadian certified seed potatoes in Venezuela appear good. The need for vigorous, disease-free seed from northern areas is constant and demand should remain at the present level and possibly increase. No change in the Government's bulk purchase program is expected and there is no shortage of hard currency.

The reputation of Canadian seed potatoes for quality, coupled with the widespread recognition of the inspection standards behind them, has established Canada as Venezuela's principal supplier. If prices remain competitive, Canadian shippers should maintain their dominant position in this market.

—D. B. LAUGHTON

*Vice-Consul and Acting Agricultural Trade
Commissioner, Caracas*

BERMUDA

IN 1951 Bermuda imported nearly 10 thousand bushels of seed potatoes, about 1,000 bushels more than in 1950. All the seed came from the three Maritime Provinces. Two crops are grown, the first planting in early September. This is approximately half as large as the second planting in November-January. The popular varieties are Bliss Triumph and Sebago. The seed must be certified and the size required is 1½ inches and larger.

The wooden barrel is the preferred container and movement is in ventilated stowage. All seed potatoes are normally purchased by import houses under import permits issued by the Director of Agriculture. Retailers or growers may also make purchases provided they have the required import licence. The shipper who offers the best service at lowest prices is the one who obtains the business.

—A. E. BRYAN

*Deputy Consul General and Trade
Commissioner, New York*

JAMAICA

JAMAICA'S import trade in seed potatoes dates from December 1927, when import duties on table potatoes were heavily increased to protect the local potato-growing industry. Seed potato imports now total each year about 10 thousand barrels of 165 lbs. each, or 16,500 crates of 100 lbs. (both net). The total area planted is about 1,000 acres, and the majority of the growers are small farmers, planting an acre or less.

Seed potatoes customarily arrive in November, are planted from December to February, and the crop harvested about three months after planting. There is also a mid-year planting using seed produced from the preceding crop. For many years, most of the imported seed has come from Canada but last year England supplied 850 crates. Ordinary stowage aboard ship is customary. The popular varieties are Irish Cobbler, Green Mountain and Sebago, and it is important that the tubers do not exceed 1½ to 3 ounces in size. Imports must be covered by a certificate of health issued by the proper authority in the country of origin.

The sole importer is the Jamaican Department of Commerce and Industries, which resells to farmers. Seed potatoes are imported free of duty and there is a government subsidy on the price to growers. In the latter part of each year the Department of Commerce and Industries calls for tenders. These are submitted by local agents of suppliers in Canada and elsewhere, and the lowest bidder usually gets the business. Local demand for seed should increase moderately in the future.

—M. B. PALMER

*Canadian Government Trade Commissioner,
Kingston*

ARGENTINA

FOR over fifteen years Argentina has been an important market for Canadian certified seed potatoes and the term "imported seed potatoes" has become closely associated with Canada. The first large export, in 1937, consisted of about 475 thousand crates, representing nearly 50 per cent of the seed imports in that year. Exports dropped off during the war but reached 689,461 crates in 1947—87 per cent of the imports of seed that season. These were almost entirely supplied by the province of New Brunswick and its reputation for quality is firmly established. Since the North American varieties of seed potatoes have become established, Argentina has not (with the exception of one or two years) had to import table potatoes, but usually has a surplus for export.

The 1937 and 1947 imports were greater than normal because of virtual crop failures in Argentina in those years. Recent exchange difficulties have curtailed imports of seed potatoes from the dollar area. Under normal conditions, however, annual requirements of imported seed are up to 200 thousand crates.

Favoured with a wide variation in climate, ranging from semi-tropical in the north to temperate in the south, Argentina has four crops of potatoes a year. Only the Rosario district has two crops.

Early potatoes are produced in the northern provinces of Salta, Jujuy and Tucuman and are harvested in November-December. The semi-early is produced in Rosario and harvested in December and the semi-late—Argentina's main crop, centered around Balcarce and including the irrigated districts of Mendoza and Rio Negro—is harvested in February-April. The late crop is again in Rosario, harvested in May and June.

The semi-late crop accounts for 70 to 80 per cent of the entire production, depending on growing conditions throughout the year. This is centered around Mar del Plate-Balcarce. It is of most interest to the Canadian exporter because it is the only recognized seed zone, where imports of certified seed are planted to supply seed for the other zones. Planting begins in September and continues to early December. Imports of seed should arrive as early as possible in October but not later than the end of November.

Requirements of Market

The Katahdin continues to be the popular variety in Argentina, accounting for about 90 per cent of the entire production. Its resistance to certain virus diseases, adaptability to a considerable range of growing conditions and pleasing market appearance are the main reasons for its success. The only other important variety is the White Rose which is popular in the northern provinces producing the early crop. Imports of White Rose seed are planted in the Balcarce zone to produce seed for the northern zone. For this reason, imports of this variety should arrive early in October.

At the National Potato Market in Buenos Aires, in 1951 the Katahdin accounted for 87.7 per cent of the entries, White Rose 8.8 per cent and all other varieties only 3.5 per cent, reflecting the predominance of the Katahdin.

In the seed zone it is the practice to cut seed so there is no distinct preference for the small-size grade. The Argentine producer prefers to have one grade, as to size, from 1½ to 12 ounces. Seed potatoes are imported in crates of 50 kilos net, without refrigeration but with forced ventilation. It is important that shippers pay particular attention to proper stowage and that adequate provision be made for ventilation en route. Seed potatoes cannot be imported in sacks unless they are transported in refrigerated chambers.

In recent years, seed potatoes from the dollar area have been purchased by the Argentina Trade Promotion Institute (I.A.P.I.), a government department. The Institute calls for tenders on specified amounts, varieties, etc., and the contracts are awarded accordingly. Tenders must be submitted through a resident agent who has documentary proof that he is acting on behalf of his principal. A five per cent deposit must accompany each tender and once the contract is awarded, the conditions must be strictly observed.

Under normal trading conditions, Canada has little competition in this seed potato market. Exchange difficulties in recent years have led to the importing of seed potatoes from Europe, principally Denmark, but the

preference is still for the Katahdin. However, should there be a substantial price differential on European seed as against North American, then imports would likely come from Europe.

Outlook

There were no imports of seed potatoes from any source for the 1951-52 crop year. As imports have been reduced in the last three years because of the exchange shortage, Argentina requires seed potatoes this year. It is understood that the Ministry of Agriculture has calculated the requirements at around 130 thousand crates, of which at least 90 thousand will be Katahdin and the rest White Rose, Sebago and Sequoia. However, because of Argentina's critical shortage of dollar exchange, the quantity purchased will depend on the amount of exchange the Central Bank can authorize to purchase them.

—W. B. McCULLOUGH
Agricultural Secretary, Buenos Aires

BRAZIL

ONE shipment of seed potatoes arrived in Brazil from Canada in 1938. Since that time imports have been intermittent; the highest figure was 4,950 bushels in 1948.

In order of importance, the principal potato-producing states in Brazil are São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul, Parana, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro. Two periods of planting are the rule, with a "drought period" about February-March and a "rain period" August-September. The harvest for each is some three months after planting.

Brazilians prefer small, flat tubers producing large-sized potatoes with yellow flesh, but experimental shipments have proved that Katahdin and Green Mountain potatoes are suitable. Ventilated crates and ventilated stowage is the preferred shipping method. European suppliers use crates of 30 kilos, though the market also accepts crates of 50 kilos. Shipment in barrels is to be avoided.

The Brazilian Government controls the import of seed potatoes but it usually is handled through regular commercial channels. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Department of some state governments are occasional buyers. The seed enters free of duty and seed potatoes can only be imported from countries whose standards and inspection services are considered adequate by the Brazilian authorities.

European countries supplied this market prewar and they are making a strong bid for it again, with most pressure coming from Holland, Germany, Sweden and Denmark. There is a growing tendency to produce seed potatoes locally.

The immediate prospects for Canadian exporters are not encouraging because Brazil will not permit imports from dollar sources until there is a decided improvement in exchange reserves.

—C. R. GALLOW
Commercial Secretary, Rio de Janeiro

PERU

GENERALLY speaking, Peru imports seed potatoes only when, at rare intervals, domestic production falls short. In 1946, about 1,200 bushels were required. Peru is commonly accepted as the original home of the potato and there are still many types and colours grown, particularly in the Andean zone farmed by Indians. Some districts prefer yellow flesh potatoes and some white flesh; still others have a local preference for blue.

There are ten potato-growing provinces in the high altitudes of eastern Peru—where 75 per cent of the annual crop is produced—and eight in the coastal zone. Seed for this latter zone comes from the Andean region. There rigorous growing conditions produce seed giving high yields when it is planted in the warmer climate of the irrigated coastal region. Under the circumstances, it is unlikely that Peru will provide a market for Canadian seed potatoes, although test lots of White Rose from British Columbia proved well suited to local growing conditions.

—J. S. BRUCE

Office of the Commercial Secretary, Lima

CHILE

CHILE is generally regarded as self-sufficient in potatoes and in past years has had a small surplus for export. Potatoes are grown in many areas but the principal crop is in the central zone. This is planted in August-September and harvested in December-January. In the southern zone, where rainfall is heavier and temperatures lower, potatoes are planted about November and harvested in March.

Production in the southern zone supplies seed for the other areas. Throughout Chile it is the practice to plant small whole seed. The popular variety is a native yellow flesh known as the "Corahila".

In 1950, late blight appeared in the potato areas, apparently for the first time. Because the local varieties are highly susceptible to this disease and the growers, mostly small operators, are not accustomed to spraying, the outbreak caused a virtual crop failure.

For many years the import of all potatoes has been strictly prohibited but, by a special decree, the import of specified quantities of both seed and table potatoes was allowed in 1951. Chile is now interested in a variety which resists late blight and preferably one with yellow flesh. A government body would do the purchasing under special permit. The market would be limited in quantity and would disappear when domestic production of seed was restored. It would, therefore, appear that Chile cannot be counted on as a long-term market for seed potatoes.

—M. R. M. DALE

Commercial Secretary, Santiago

MEXICO

MEXICO imports comparatively small quantities of potatoes—in 1949 only 4,872 metric tons, in 1950, 1,299 and in 1951, 3,688. Denmark, the Netherlands and the United States supply the bulk of the seed potato imports and only in one year, 1949, did Canada sell seed potatoes to Mexico—some 90 tons.

Mexican growers prefer the small size because they do not cut the seed. They favour yellow flesh varieties over the white. Danish and Dutch suppliers have followed the practice of giving some seed stock to farmers for the first year and in this way have built up a continuing business.

The Rockefeller Foundation in Mexico is currently carrying out extensive tests on a large number of varieties of seed potatoes from different countries to discover the most suitable types for the various growing areas in Mexico. The Canadian varieties being tested are Keswick, Canso, Sebago, Bliss Triumph, White Rose, Katahdin, Green Mountain, Pontiac and Irish Cobbler; they were planted in test plots at Toluca in May of this year and at Chapingo in June. It is hoped that, as a result of these experiments, a few varieties of Canadian seed potatoes will be found well suited to growing conditions in Mexico.

—M. T. STEWART

Commercial Secretary, Mexico City

CENTRAL AMERICA

IMPORTED seed potatoes have been of little interest to the majority of farm owners in these regions, and the authorities have shown small concern in the past about research and experiments. However, the Instituto Agropecuario Nacional de Guatemala is now giving some time to the study of seed potatoes and their performance but, with few facilities at its disposal, progress is slow. The Instituto and the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, are both prepared to carry out experiments with blight-resistant potatoes during the rains (May-October) provided sound tubers are available in the planting zones in mid-May.

—J. C. DEPOCAS

*Canadian Government Trade Commissioner,
Guatemala City*

OTHER MARKETS

THERE are several smaller but fairly consistent buyers of seed potatoes in the Caribbean area. Included in this group are Panama, the Netherlands Antilles, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Bahamas and the Windward and Leeward Islands.

BELGIAN CONGO AND ANGOLA

POTATOES are produced in the Belgian Congo mainly in the high regions in the east of the colony, with some plantings in the Thysville district of Low-Congo. They are planted at the beginning of the rainy season and harvested at the beginning of the dry season, a period of about four to six months, depending on the area. In some districts there are two plantings, in September and March.

Imports have increased from 1,200 tons in 1947 to over 4,000 tons in 1951. There are no import restrictions and the industry is in the hands of the trade. Supplies come largely from Europe, although the Union of South Africa provides certain quantities.

Angola imports seed for experimental purposes only. When suitable varieties are finally selected there should be an opening for a moderate quantity of imports.

—L. A. CAMPEAU

*Acting Canadian Government Trade
Commissioner, Leopoldville*

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

POTATOES are grown throughout the Union and supplies of domestic seed are adequate during most of the year. Imports—about 4,500 tons—are restricted to the October-November quarter. Because of currency difficulties and the return of the United Kingdom to this trade, purchases of Canadian seed have fallen drastically from the 1946 figure of 110 thousand bushels. In 1948 Canada supplied approximately 48 thousand bushels, or 26 per cent of imports, in 1949, three per cent, and in 1950, 13 per cent. During 1951 imports from Canada were negligible.

Natal and Cape Province grow two crops a year, the other two provinces, one crop. Plantings are made from July to September when first generation seed is used, and October-December or July-December for second generation seed. About 75 per cent of all seed planted is of the Up-to-Date variety.

Requirements of the Market

The practice of planting whole tubers means a marked preference for small-size seed. The premium size "Walnut" runs five to 16 to the pound; the slightly cheaper "Egg" size ranges three to five to the pound. The standard container for imported seed is the slatted crate with octagonal ends; stowage in transit should be in cool, ventilated chambers.

The Canadian varieties favoured in South Africa are Sebago, Green Mountain, Katahdin and Irish Cobbler. Some buyers are showing interest in White Rose and the newer blight-resistant varieties.

Imports from dollar sources are limited by setting up dollar quotas which are allocated to authorized importers. The 1952 quota is about ten per cent of the total value of imports in 1948. The services of a local representative are essential in circulating quotations to the Stock Seed Growers Federation and in canvassing wholesalers and growers who have

quotas. South Africans prefer c.i.f. quotations though f.o.b. quotations may be accepted. On no account will quotations f.a.s. Canadian port be considered.

The dominant position of the United Kingdom in the trade is clearly demonstrated by 1951 figures, which show that 93 per cent of seed potato imports originated there. Denmark and the Netherlands also supply small quantities.

Domestic production of seed potatoes is being encouraged by the Department of Agriculture and, although the project is still in an early stage, imports will be affected to some degree. However, despite this and despite European competition, there is a place for high quality, small-size, disease-resistant Canadian certified seed. With a monthly shipping service from the east coast direct to South African ports, Canadian exporters should be able to secure whatever orders the quotas allow.

—KENNETH NOBLE

*Canadian Government Trade Commissioner,
Cape Town*

ISRAEL

SINCE the formation of the state in mid-1948, Israel has imported between 6,000 and 8,000 tons of seed potatoes a year from Ireland and Scotland. During the 1949-50 season, approximately 1,000 tons of Sebago seed were obtained from Canada.

Production areas in Israel are located on irrigated land throughout the whole country but the main concentrations are in the plain of Sharon, between Tel Aviv and Haifa. The planting season is February-March and the harvest in June-July.

Israeli growers prefer white flesh varieties but have no decided taste for any one type. The seed from Europe is packed in 50-kilo sacks and shipped in ventilated stowage. The exporting country must furnish a health certificate.

The trade makes the purchases, under government supervision, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and the many agricultural settlements. Availability and allocation of foreign exchange determines where the potatoes are bought rather than restrictions such as quotas.

There is no specific procedure for purchasing, such as tender specifications. Quality, price and terms of payment are the deciding factors. After purchase and before shipments from the country of origin, an Israeli agricultural specialist inspects the potatoes.

Exporters should appoint a local agent to follow developments and report on business prospects.

Both officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and private traders representing the interests of the agricultural community have expressed interest from time to time in Canadian seed potatoes. However, because dollars are scarce, imports are obtained from European sources whenever possible. For the crop year 1953 it is planned to purchase about 1,000 tons of Sebago seed from Canada, subject to the usual certificate of freedom from disease.

—T. J. MONTY

Commercial Secretary, Athens

EXPORTING SEED POTATOES

THE Department of Trade and Commerce, through the Agriculture and Fisheries Branch in Ottawa and trade representatives throughout the world, stands ready to assist certified seed potato exporters in many ways.

The Commodity Officer in Ottawa acts as the liaison between the Trade Commissioner in the field and the exporter and, in many cases, between other branches of the Department and the exporter. The Trade Commissioner, whether he is an agricultural specialist or not, is the connection with the foreign importer.

The Trade Commissioner puts the Canadian exporter in touch with a suitable representative in his territory and negotiates agency arrangements. In countries where purchasing is done through government channels, he provides information on tender requirements and tries to see that Canadian tenders are properly presented. If disputes or difficulties arise, he is ready to assist in every way possible.

Trade Commissioners provide agricultural and trade reports on the marketing outlook, trade practices, restrictions, port facilities, packaging, planting periods, size required and other pertinent matters. This information from foreign countries is passed along to the industry in articles in *Foreign Trade*, in mimeographed reports to exporters, through advice to individual firms and by means of trade tours and visits by Trade Commissioners and the Commodity Officer.

To make certain that our long-term markets are supplied with the varieties of potatoes best suited to their needs and to assist in expanding our markets, sample lots are forwarded from time to time to the agricul-

These potatoes, dug by machinery, must be picked up and packed in barrels the hard way—by hand. Later they will be graded, inspected, and prepared for shipment abroad, as Canadian certified seed potatoes.



tural authorities in various countries for testing. The Trade Commissioner normally makes the necessary arrangements for this service in his territory, and the federal and provincial Departments of Agriculture co-operate in providing the seed. In many cases, provincial Departments of Agriculture and individual exporters have shipped test lots of seed to markets in which they were particularly interested.

The Information Branch, which publishes *Foreign Trade*, will have ready within the next few weeks a brochure in Spanish on Canadian certified seed potatoes. Copies will go to our Trade Commissioners in all Spanish-speaking countries, to distribute to prospective importers. The Information Branch also circulates the film *Certified for Seed*, and has copies of it with sound track in Spanish, French and Portuguese, as well as English.

Sometimes, in shipping seed potatoes, difficulties arise because the exporter fails to look after some matters of vital concern.

Almost every year there is some instance of Canadian seed potatoes arriving at their destination in bad condition. Perhaps the trouble is disease inherent in the stock but not apparent at the time of shipment. Perhaps it is lack of proper stowage or proper attention in transit. This matter of suitable shipping conditions for the journey involved is one to which Canadian exporters must pay more attention if they are to maintain their high standing in export markets. This is not a question of certification but of the condition of the tubers—and that is the primary concern of the exporter himself.

Port Facilities

Winter shipments of certified seed potatoes, apart from rail movement, are channelled mainly through the ports of Saint John and Halifax, where port officials have long experience in handling the product. However, it is the exporter's responsibility to see that his goods are adequately protected in transit to seaboard, on the dock, and in the movement from the shed to the ship's hold. In this phase, very considerable frost damage can occur in cold weather without visibly affecting the appearance of the tubers at the time. The need for utmost attention to the handling of winter shipments at seaboard cannot be over-emphasized.

In foreign countries, port facilities are sometimes inadequate for the volume of business now moving through them. In some cases Canadian seed potatoes have been held aboard ship in southern ports so long that they were ruined for seed purposes. This is primarily the concern of the buyer and not of the exporter, but such facilities should be examined before shipment is actually made.

There are three standard containers for use in shipping certified seed potatoes—the barrel, the crate, and the jute sack. The barrel, formerly very popular in many markets, is still used for certain countries. It does not permit adequate ventilation but does protect the potatoes against damage in open deck stowage. It is sometimes preferred by the foreign grower who finally receives the seed stock but has been almost entirely superseded by the 50-kilo slatted crate.

For movement to southern markets when the potatoes are moving in ventilated stowage the crate is essential. When potatoes are purchased by

a call for tenders the slatted crate is almost always specified. For shipment to domestic and United States markets the jute bag is used almost entirely and has proved adequate. The jute bag has also been found satisfactory for shipments to southern markets in refrigerated space and the difference in cost between the bag and the crate practically compensates for the extra charges.

In the country reports, the need of providing small-size seed for certain markets has been emphasized. Competing European suppliers will provide the small sizes as specified and Canadian exporters may find it expedient to do the same, because more and more buyers express a distinct preference for them.

Seed potatoes are harvested in Canada in September-October. The normal method of storing potatoes is in sheds or pits and by April-May they have just about completed the period of dormancy. Movement after April should only be to the nearer markets and under adequate shipping service. Any shipment passing through warm, humid air will immediately sprout and the potatoes will be unacceptable for seeding purposes. Therefore seed should be held in cool storage if it is intended for shipment to southern markets in April-May and then move only in refrigerated space.

The Outlook

The main problem facing Canadian exporters of seed potatoes is the dollar shortage in many markets. South American countries which want to use larger quantities of Canadian seed find themselves limited by their exchange restrictions. In other countries, such as the Union of South Africa, imports are on a quota.

Although Canada has varieties of seed potatoes registered in several European countries, it is next to impossible to export to the Continent because of restrictive regulations. Just as Canada prohibits the import of potatoes from Europe, these countries prohibit imports from Canada because of the expressed fear of the introduction of certain diseases and insects. The same holds true of the United Kingdom. Canadian potatoes were only admitted on one occasion and from one province, and the movement was carefully supervised by United Kingdom officials.

For the present, foreign markets for certified seed potatoes appear to be confined almost entirely to the United States, the Caribbean area and South America, with probable small shipments to South Africa.

Cuba and Uruguay have shown no desire to change to other suppliers and may be expected to make their customary purchases. If the dollar position permits, Argentina will buy supplies needed to maintain her seed stock at a reasonable level. Venezuela appears well satisfied with Canadian varieties and the hardiness of Canadian seed. Jamaica and Bermuda have shown a continued preference for certified seed from Canada.

The big drop in exports to the United States this past season should be only temporary and, provided there are no trade restrictions, the movement across the border can be expected to be maintained at a figure well over the 2.5 million bushel half-duty quota.

The Canadian exporter has developed the seed potato trade to its present position. Now he must make every effort to retain present markets and build up new ones. To this end, he must work to keep the confidence of the foreign buyer in the quality of the product and the integrity of the exporter himself.

Commodity Notes

AUSTRALIA

Cardboard—A cardboard manufacturing mill, built at a cost of £A2 million, began production in Melbourne at the end of June. A new machine installed in the plant will produce 15 to 20 thousand tons of cardboard a year, with a glazed surface suitable for first-quality printing. Australia imports this type of cardboard at present—Melbourne, July 4.

BRAZIL

Agricultural Machinery—Brazilian imports of agricultural machinery during the last 15 years have increased from 5,896 tons, valued at Cr.\$31.9 million in 1937, to 50,699 tons valued at Cr.\$926.9 million in 1951. Tractors represented 61.8 per cent of the total tonnage and 10.4 per cent of the value, and ploughs accounted for 24 per cent and 14.1 per cent respectively. The United States has been the chief supplier—furnishing 79.4 per cent of the total number of tractors imported and 70.2 per cent of the ploughs—Rio de Janeiro, July 15.

EGYPT

Rice—An area of 356,232 feddans (1 feddan=approx. an acre) is to be cultivated in the 1952-53 rice season, about half the previous year's acreage. Under normal conditions, the average yield per feddan is 1.70 daribas of Paddy Rice (1 dariba=945 kilos). This will produce 572,286 metric tons of paddy, or 393,636 metric tons of white rice, nearly all of which will be required for domestic purposes. Export of rice is now prohibited—Cairo, July 10.

ISRAEL

Soil and Pressure Pipes—Construction of the Israel Asbestos-Cement Industries Limited pipe manufacturing plant has begun. Production of soil pipes is scheduled to start at the end of 1952 and of pressure pipes next spring. The plant will also make asbestos-cement flat and corrugated sheets and containers for industrial and agricultural purposes. Projected output is 25 thousand tons a year—Athens, June 25.

SCOTLAND

Herring—Herring fishermen operating from Scottish ports this season have netted 38 million more fish than they did at the same date a year ago. Their gross earnings are up by £96,360. These improved returns have been achieved despite the fact that 57,700 crans this year have gone to factories for reduction into meal and oil, compared with 19,700 crans last year. The total catch for Scottish ports this year is 120,124 crans valued at £440,421—London, June 16.

SOUTH AFRICA

Maize—According to the latest estimate the Union's 1951-52 maize crop is likely to be 18,021 thousand bags, an increase of 712 thousand bags over the March estimate of 17,309 thousand bags. The improved prospect is mainly the result of the lateness of seasonal frosts in important maize-growing areas. Losses of late-planted maize during the ripening stage have consequently been relatively light. Latest estimate shows increases of 388 thousand bags and 281 thousand bags in the yields expected in the Orange Free State and Transvaal, respectively. To meet the Union's requirements of maize during the coming year, estimated at 24-25 million bags, arrangements are being made for imports of about one million bags from the United States—Johannesburg, June 18.

SPAIN

Chemicals—The Spanish company "Solvay" is planning to increase production of sodium carbonate to 108 thousand metric tons and of caustic soda to 70 thousand metric tons a year. Present output is 100 thousand tons of sodium carbonate and 62 thousand tons of caustic soda. Annual domestic requirements of caustic soda are estimated at 120 thousand metric tons. Requirements of sodium carbonate are somewhat higher—Madrid, June 24.

SWEDEN

Fine Paper—A new mill has been opened to make finer grades of paper. It is the first of its kind in North Sweden and the most up-to-date in the country. Run by the Mo & Domsjo Group, the mill has an annual capacity of 10 thousand tons, a large part of which will be earmarked for export. The four-story factory houses 28 drying cylinders and a 75-metre Swedish-built paper machine with a capacity of 200 metres of fine-grade paper a minute—Stockholm, June 20.

UNITED STATES

Flavour and Perfume Materials—The total output of flavour and perfume materials in the United States in 1951, according to a report just issued by the United States Tariff Commission, was 29 million lbs., an increase of 3.6 per cent from the 28 million lbs. produced in 1950. Sales in 1951 amounted to 25 million lbs. valued at \$40 million, compared with 25 million lbs. valued at \$38 million in 1950, an increase of 5.3 per cent.

Production in 1951 of cyclic flavour and perfume materials amounted to 19 million lbs., about the same quantity as reported for 1950. Sales of all cyclic products in 1951 were 15 million lbs. valued at \$23 million, compared with 16 million lbs. valued at \$24 million in 1950.

Production in 1951 of acyclic flavour and perfume materials amounted to 11 million lbs., ten per cent greater than the 10 million lbs. reported for 1950. Sales of all acyclic materials in 1951 amounted to 11 million lbs. valued at \$17 million, compared with 10 million lbs. valued at \$15 million in 1950—Washington, June 12.

Trade and Tariff Regulations

Eggs Enter Cuba Duty-Free

Havana, July 21—FTS—The period of duty-free entry into Cuba for eggs in the shell, which expired June 30, has been renewed to January 15, 1953.

Dominican Republic Protects Local Agents

Havana, July 18—FTS—The Dominican Republic has enacted a new law, promulgated April 29 and effective May 10, 1952, which is intended to give protection to local agents of foreign firms by guaranteeing compensation if they are unjustly dismissed or replaced. This indemnity will be on the basis of one month's salary for each year's service, but not less than one month's or more than one year's salary. In calculating service, fractions of over six months are considered as one year, and those of less than six months will be ignored. If the agent is not paid a salary, the indemnity will be based on average monthly earnings of the preceding year. Proof of the existence of a just cause for dismissal must be produced by the foreign firm. The new agent replacing the dismissed person will be held jointly responsible with the foreign firm for the payment of this indemnity.

Irish Regulations for Canadian Meat Imports

Dublin, July 14—FTS—The Minister for Health in the Republic of Ireland, in consultation with the Minister for Agriculture, has issued an order, Food Hygiene (Official Certificate No. 2) Order, 1952, dated May 29 which applies to meat and meat products imported from Canada. Under this legislation, an official certificate in the form of a label or stamp with the words "Canada Approved" and the number of the establishment on it will be recognized as indicating that the meat or meat product bearing it was prepared in accordance with criteria satisfactory to the Minister for Health.

Italy Removes Import Controls on Certain Goods

Rome, July 2—FTS—Italy has revised, effective May 16, 1952, the list of goods (list "A") which may be imported without licences when originating in countries with which no commodity trading agreements are in effect, including Canada and the United States. The revision exempts 37 tariff items or sub-items from import controls, and removes seven items from the free list. Among the commodities freed from import control are some of commercial significance. On the other hand, none of the goods made subject to import licences are of any concern to Canada.

The revised free list includes the following commodities which may be of interest to Canadian exporters: wood pulp for papermaking; asbestos in lumps, fibres or powder; textile fibres; cotton waste; hair and bristles; Douglas fir logs; carbon black; petroleum coke; mineral wax; books, newspapers and magazines; iron and steel scrap; scrap of aluminum, copper, nickel, zinc and their alloys; and non-ferrous metal ashes, dross and residue.

While import licences are no longer required for these commodities, their importation is subject to a bank permit attesting that the importer is in possession of foreign exchange derived from export sales.

(Information regarding the status of specified goods in relation to the revised list "A" may be obtained on application to the Foreign Tariffs Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa—Editor.)

Jamaica Issues Import Licensing Notice

Kingston, July 17—FTS—The Jamaican authorities have advised importers that licences for imports from non-sterling countries will not be automatically extended. Where goods will not arrive within the period of validity of the licence, extension should be sought before expiry date. The grant of an extension of the period of the licence, or the approval of a new licence, will depend on the merits of the case, against the background of current import control requirements.

Trinidad Announces Foreign Exchange Rates

Port of Spain, July 16—FTS—Importers in Trinidad have been advised that, in pursuance of the Customs (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance of May 22, 1952, the rate of exchange at which the selling price of goods shall be converted from foreign currency to sterling shall be the rate authorized from time to time by notice published in the *Royal Gazette*. Such notices will normally be published every fortnight, the rate notified being based on the average of the previous fortnight. This will only be reviewed in the case of an appreciable fluctuation. Previously, invoice values have been converted at a rate of exchange representing the selling price for sight drafts at the principal port of the Colony first quoted on or after the date of importation.

United States Reimposes Tariff on Zinc

Washington, July 23—FTS—The President today signed a proclamation reinstating the tariff on zinc. The reimposed rates of duty, which have been suspended since February 12, 1952, are $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per pound on zinc content of zinc-bearing ores under Tariff Paragraph 393; and $\frac{7}{10}$ cents per pound on zinc in blocks, pigs, and slabs under Tariff Paragraph 394.

This action was taken in accordance with Public Law 258 which provided that the suspension of the duties on zinc shall be terminated when the average market price for slab zinc for any one month has been below 18 cents per pound.

Nominal Foreign Exchange Quotations

The following nominal quotations may prove useful in checking prices or considering statistics.

Importers and exporters are, however, urged to check with their banks before making any financial arrangements for the purchase and sale of commodities.

Country	Monetary Unit	—	Nominal Quotations Sept. 17*	Nominal Quotations July 21	Nominal Quotations July 28
Argentina.....	Peso.....	Basic Ex.	-2077	-1942	-1937
		Free	-2085	-0699	-0697
Austria.....	Schilling.....	Export	3-2240	2-1660	2-1600
Australia.....	Pound.....		-0228	-0192	-0192
Belgium and Belgian Congo.....	Franc.....		-0238	-0162	-0161
Bolivia.....	Boliviano.....		-8396	-5641	-5625
British West Indies (except Jamaica).....	Dollar.....		-0544	-0525	-0523
Brazil.....	Cruzeiro.....		-3022		
Burma.....	Rupee.....		-3022	-2039	-2034
Ceylon.....	Rupee.....		-0253	-0078	-0078
Chile.....	Peso.....		-5128	-3884	-3874
Colombia.....	Peso.....		-1800	-1733	-1729
Costa Rica.....	Colon.....		1-0000	-9700	-9684
Cuba.....	Peso.....		0-2000	-0194	-0194
Czechoslovakia.....	Koruna.....		-2084	-1406	-1402
Denmark.....	Krone.....		1-0000	-9709	-9684
Dominican Republic.....	Peso.....		-0740	-0647	-0646
Ecuador.....	Sucre.....	Off. Free	-0581	-0559	-0559
Egypt.....	Pound.....		4-1330	2-7881	2-7809
El Salvador.....	Colon.....		-4000	-3884	-3874
Fiji.....	Pound.....		3-6306	2-4392	2-4324
Finland.....	Markka.....		-0082	-0042	-0042
France, Monaco and French North Africa.....	Franc.....		-0037	-0027	-0028
French Empire—African.....	Franc.....		-0073	-0055	-0055
French Pacific Possessions.....	Franc.....		-0201	-0153	-0153
Germany.....	Deutsche Mark		-3000	-2312	-2306
Guatemala.....	Quetzal.....		1-0000	-9700	-9684
Haiti.....	Gourde.....		-2000	-1942	-1937
Honduras.....	Lempira.....		-5000	-4855	-4842
Hong Kong.....	Dollar.....		-2519	-1692	-1687
Iceland.....	Krona.....		-1541	-0596	-0595
India.....	Rupee.....		-3022	-2039	-2034
Iran.....	Rial.....		-0212		
Iraq.....	Dinar.....		4-0300	2-7075	2-7000
Ireland.....	Pound.....		4-0300	2-7075	2-7000
Israel.....	Pound.....		3-0000	2-7075	2-7000
Italy.....	Lira.....		-0017	-0015	-0015
Jamaica.....	Pound.....		4-0300	2-7075	2-7000
Japan.....	Yen.....		-0028	-0027	-0027
Lebanon.....	Piastre.....		-4561		
Mexico.....	Peso.....		-1157	-1122	-1120
Netherlands.....	Florin.....		-3789	-2555	-2549
Netherlands Antilles.....	Florin.....		-3308	-5148	-5135
New Zealand.....	Pound.....		4-0150	2-7075	2-7000
Nicaragua.....	Cordoba.....		-2000	-1942	-1937
Norway.....	Krone.....		-2015	-1359	-1356
Pakistan.....	Rupee.....		-3022	-2935	-2927
Panama.....	Balboa.....		1-0000	-9700	-9684
Paraguay.....	Guarani.....		-3200		
Peru.....	Sol.....		-1538	-0621	-0619
Philippines.....	Peso.....		-4975	-4855	-4842
Portugal and Colonies.....	Escudo.....		-0400	-0337	-03368
Singapore.....	Straits Dollar.....		-4702	-3159	-3150
Spain and Colonies.....	Peseta.....	Off. Free Mkt. Ex.	-0916	-0252	-0244
Sweden.....	Krona.....		-2783	-1877	-1872
Switzerland.....	Franc.....		-2336	-2258	-2253
Thailand.....	Baht.....		-1000		
Turkey.....	Lira.....		-3571	-3468	-3459
Union of South Africa.....	Pound.....		4-0300	2-7075	2-7000
United Kingdom.....	Pound.....		4-0300	2-7075	2-7000
United States.....	Dollar.....		1-0000	-9709	-9684
Uruguay.....	Peso.....		-6583	-6392	-6375
Venezuela.....	Bolivar.....		-2985	-2898	-2891
Yugoslavia.....	Dinar.....		-0200	-0032	-0032

* September 17, 1949.

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.
 QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
 OTTAWA, 1952



THE LIBRARY,
BANK OF CANADA,
OTTAWA, ONT.

W.F.

