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Thursday, February 23rd

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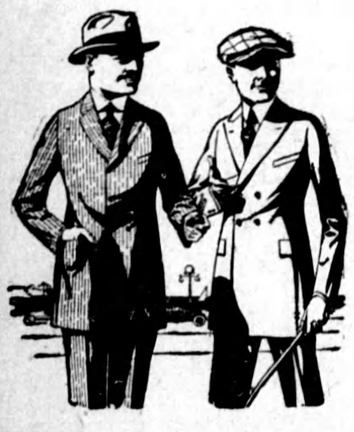

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The Irish Potato.

The name Irish potato is a misnomer, for the potato is really a native of America. It was discovered here in 1588 by Europeans and first used by them as an article of food. It is found growing wild in various parts of South America. It is used as food all over the world. The reason it was called the Irish potato is because it was adopted as one of the chief articles of food by the Irish people, and is one of the principal food products of Ireland. The potato famine in Ireland in 1845-46 resulted in many deaths from starvation and caused many of the Irish to emigrate to America. The population of Ireland has decreased from 8,000,000 in 1845 to less than 4,500,000 in 1921.

A New Service.

Southampton, which will become familiar to traveling Canadians as the new base for the Canadian Pacific and Cunard steamship services, has decided to improve its port at a cost of thousands of pounds. Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of the world's largest floating dock, and a dredging scheme has been approved which will allow the largest Cunard and White Star liners to approach and leave the docks without difficulty. Furness, Withy & Co. Limited, according to the London press, are inaugurating a new service to the Pacific coast of Canada.

You can brag about your garden all winter if you have your canned evidence on the dinner table.

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THE Flesherton Advance

An independent newspaper published every Thursday at the office, Collingwood Street, Flesherton. Subscription price $1 50 per annum when paid in advance; $2.00 when not so paid. $2.00 to United States. Advertising rates on application. Circulation over 1100 weekly.

W. H. THURSTON Editor

HYDRO ESTIMATES AND METHODS

The hydro development at Chippewa has opened the eyes of the country to the erroneous estimating qualities of the Hydro engineers in a manner that could never have been accomplished by the many minor Hydro activities throughout the country. From the inception of hydro power it has been a general complaint that in nearly every case an under estimate of actual cost has been discovered. The Chippewa development is the one big undertaking that was necessary to open the eyes of the government to this weakness in the big scheme. The smaller places have suffered in silence and paid the bills.

We have in mind one small development where the engineers estimated the cost at $5000. When completed it cost the municipality $7000. There is something wrong when a trained engineer cannot estimate within $2000 on a $5000 investment. The Chippewa plant is said to have exceeded the original estimate by something like seventy-five million dollars.

We believe, however, that much of this excess can be charged to inefficiency. Time and money is wasted in many ways owing to carelessness and dilatory orders from headquarters, resulting in delay of transportation and delivery of material.

Another very just complaint against hydro is its extreme discrimination in favor of the larger centres of population, where power is delivered at half, or less than half, of what it is supplied to outlying districts, causing a centralization of all industry at the expense of smaller places. If this is allowed to continue the result will be disastrous to the country as a whole. There will be little urban life left outside the cities. This manipulation of hydro will prove the greatest of disasters that could befall our country. "Power at cost" means little now to the small towns and nothing to the farming community. It means everything to the cities. If hydro means what it claims to mean, it has got to get out to the country highways and byways and cease selling power to the cities at a nominal portion of what is charged to the rural area under its jurisdiction.

The Farmers' Sun points out that Uxbridge and Port Perry are offered power at $116.75, while Toronto pays only $14.50 per horsepower. The time will come when the people will stand this sort of thing no longer, and Mr. Drury is wise if he calls a showdown and checks this mad discrimination.

SEED POTATO STORING

Practical Advice Regarding Their Winter Placing and Keep.

The Stored Tubers Require Oxygen—Importance of Ventilation—Influence of Temperature—Look Over Seed at Planting—Danger to Hogs In Feeding Salt.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The potato is a living organism and if not kept under conditions favorable to continued life will die. Seed potatoes frequently fail to produce plants. The cause may be due to the death of the buds before planting.

Oxygen a Necessity.

All living plants require oxygen, and with the potato in storage this is obtained directly from the air. Potatoes in storage take in oxygen and also give off carbon dioxide and heat. The carbon dioxide and heat are harmful, and will destroy the tubers for seed purposes. Potatoes stored in dead air for 100 days rarely sprout and grow when planted. Potatoes stored in a moisture saturated air generally mold, soften and rot. Potatoes for seed purposes should be dry, clean and cool when placed in the storage bin or cellar—a dry earth floor is to be preferred.

Ventilation Important.

The ventilation should be arranged so that air is admitted at the bottom of the bins, move upwards very slowly and out at the ceiling or roof through ventilators designed to carry away water vapor and heat. Small bins separated by an air space or some arrangement such as an air box or double slatted gate that will prevent dead or warm air accumulations are to be preferred to large bin storage where the temperatures may run too high or the air become moist and dead.

Influence of Temperature.

Potatoes stored in cellars when the temperature is kept at 55 degrees will sprout in about 75 days. If the temperature is kept at 45 degrees the sprouting will be slower, usually about 125 days. A 40 degree temperature will delay the sprouting still further, holding up the maturing process so that the buds do not start while in storage until about 200 days from the time of entering the storage. Temperatures of 50 degrees and upward, together with light generally give considerable trouble through inducing sprouting. Cellars that can be kept under 50 degrees and given sufficient ventilation to prevent dead air or moisture accumulations are generally satisfactory.

Examine Seed at Planting Time.

At planting time the seed may be firm and look all right. If it fails to send up good strong sprouts in reasonable time after planting you are advised to investigate the conditions under which the seed potatoes had been stored as one of the possible causes of failure. Plant live seed and get a one hundred per cent. stand of vigorous plants. In buying seed potatoes get them early, examine the buds and if in doubt about their vitality plant a few early and watch developments before planting the main crop.—L. Stevenson, Secretary Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

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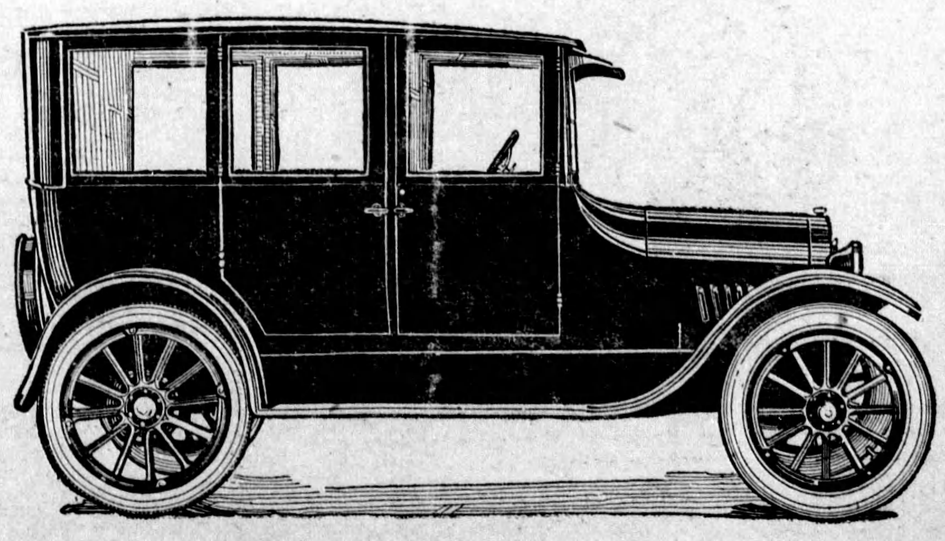

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