

Outlook Poor for Fruit, Setup Harmful Abroad

BY OTTIS PETERSON
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 9—
Agencies within the department of agriculture are joining forces in an effort to revive the export market for agricultural products including the Pacific Northwest's big fruit crop, but results thus far are not too promising.

F. A. Motz of the office of foreign agricultural relations, who has just returned from Europe, summed it up with: "No dollars, no dice."

"I was in Europe for the organization meeting of the plan for 'European recovery,'" he said, "and the delegates were told very specifically to husband their dollars and buy as much as possible where there is a trade balance. It isn't that the people in Europe don't want our products and they certainly need them. But until currency is stabilized and some medium of exchange arranged, it doesn't look too hopeful."

Motz and other members of the office of foreign agricultural relations and workers under the research and marketing act, are fully aware that before the war fruit ranked ninth in

importance among all United States exports and was exceeded in agricultural commodities only by cotton and tobacco. He says as much in a recently published study, "The Market for United States Fruit in Post-war Europe."

Apples, Pears to Suffer

"The apple and pear industries particularly," he wrote, "have a definite historical dependence upon foreign markets. These and other industries have been and will continue to be unfavorably affected by the loss of such markets."

"In most countries throughout the world today, imports are restricted largely because of the lack, or shortage of acceptable foreign exchange. The limited dollar balance is being reserved for the importation of goods classified as essential. Fruit, while desired, is given a luxury rating. Therefore, imports from hard currency countries are largely excluded from the list."

Experts Now Agree on Columbus Birth Date; Other Disputes Continue

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 (AP)—Probably nobody will argue with you if you say "Tuesday is Columbus day, the anniversary of Columbus' first landing in the western hemisphere."

Without fear of contradiction, you probably can even go so far as to repeat the old rhyme: "In fourteen hundred and ninety-two Columbus sailed the ocean blue."

But if you say another word about Columbus somebody might pick a fight. Hardly an item in the Columbus story has not aroused controversy among scholars.

According to most well informed college professors, Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451.

On the other hand, a lot of learned men say: "Ah, no! His name was Cristobal Colon, and he was born of Jewish parents in Pontevedra, in the province of Galicia, Spain."

This theory was first announced in 1898 by a Spanish scholar, Don Garcia de la Riega. Dr. Charles C. Tansill, pro-

ponent of American history at Georgetown university here, says that the great majority of reputable scholars find the theory flimsy. It's based chiefly on the fact that in Pontevedra there were a lot of Colon—Spanish translation of Columbus.

Riega pointed out that Columbus was fond of quoting the old Jewish prophets and for his signature used a peculiar mystical symbol which to Riega seemed to recall some Jewish doctrine.

Birth Date Settled

Riega reasoned that Columbus covered up his Jewish ancestry for fear of the inquisition. As for the date of the discoverer's birth, scholars used to argue about it, placing it anywhere from 1436 to 1456. Neither Columbus nor any of his early biographers mentioned the date. The guess is he didn't want people to know how young he was when he was drumming up interest in his big enterprise.

The whole date question, however, Dr. Tansill says, was settled to the satisfaction of

practically all scholars when a document was discovered by Henry Vignaud in the Genoa archives saying he was born in 1451.

Well, to go on: It's generally believed Columbus came from a family of lower middle class wool weavers and had very little formal education.

Friendly biographers who wrote shortly after the great man's death, described Columbus' folks as nobility, but modern scholars, practically all agree that the early biographers were just trying to be nice.

Pilot Tale Fits

Another big argument is over Columbus' purpose in making his great voyage: To find a western route to the Indies, according to many high academic sources.

"No! No! No!" said Vignaud, one of the most eminent Columbian scholars. Vignaud was an American who lived in France, wrote in French and died in the 1920s.

Vignaud said that apparently after Columbus returned he sus-

pected he had reached Asia and tried to give the impression that that was what he had planned to do all along.

The record shows, said Vignaud, that his proposal was merely to search for undiscovered islands.

The tale of the unknown pilot fits in here—how Columbus supposedly befriended a pilot who had been blown off his course until he landed on unknown islands far to the west. The pilot was said to have died after giving Columbus the directions.

Oviedo, an early writer, said the story was a common rumor but that he believed it false. Vignaud, however, thought it possible "that the real initiator of the discovery of the new world may have been... the poor mariner who died in obscurity."

Jewels Never Pawned

Now about the money for the voyage—many textbooks say the king and queen of Spain provided the money.

But Prof. Charles H. McCarthy of Catholic university

here says the truth is that much of the money was put up by the Santa Hermandad (Holy Brotherhood), a Spanish society formed to suppress brigandage. As for Queen Isabella's pawn-

ing her jewels, she actually did offer to do so, but it was never necessary. Such is the conclusion of Prof. Samuel Eliot Morison of Harvard, one of the best known American Columbians.

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Potato Trade Under Study

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 (AP)—An agreement may be reached between Canada and the United States to curtail imports of Canadian potatoes it was indicated Saturday.

Representative August H. Andresen, Republican, Minnesota, has charged that the U. S. government was, in effect, supporting the price of Canadian potatoes in the face of a huge domestic surplus which may cost it up to \$100,000,000 under the support program.

Andresen said President Truman has power to stop the imports but has failed to act.

An agriculture department official told a reporter that representatives of the state and agriculture departments met recently with officials of the Canadian government to discuss the situation.

Inquiry to Continue

"It was agreed at this conference that it would be desirable if a mutually satisfactory arrangement could be worked out to cut down on the imports of potatoes from Canada," the official said.

"Further studies will be made, however, before any final decision or agreement is arrived at."

He said that, while the president has the power to embargo imports, it would take time since a hearing would be necessary first. In addition, he said, it would be preferable if an agreement to curtail imports could be reached instead of using drastic action.

Duty Scale Flexible

Under the international trade agreements act, Canada may ship 4,000,000 bushels of potatoes here at a duty of 37 1/2 cents a hundred pounds. The duty will increase to 75 cents for any above that.

Even with a 75 cent tariff, Canadian potatoes can be sold in this country at a lower price than the support level which now is around \$2.75 to \$2.85 a hundred pounds in the New England area.

In 1947 about 3,500,000 bushels of Canadian potatoes were imported. Shipments to date indicate total for 1948 will be far above last year's unless imports are cut.

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Coats—Third Floor

4. "LoBalbo" full-back classic with Beaver collar. Green or wine. Misses' size... \$129.95
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