

Tests indicate that when loading by machine, more sacks per man per minute were loaded than when loading by hand. Crews that were used for loading by machine were regular loading crews and were not specially trained for the machine method of loading.

Some potato growers were quite enthusiastic about the

machine, others felt that a machine should be developed that allows sacked potatoes to be loaded from both sides of the truck and still others felt that a mechanical harvester must be developed that will eliminate the sacking operation and will allow potatoes to be handled in bulk.

TREE RING STUDIES IN NORTH DAKOTA

"Tree Ring Studies in North Dakota" is the title of North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 338 issued in April 1946. The author is Mr. Geo. F. Will, a business man of Bismarck, N. Dak. Mr. Will was led into a study of the growth rings on old trees, principally burr oaks and cedar, by a desire to determine the date of the existence of old Indian villages in this State.

He was fortunate in locating a burr oak tree some 373 years old, some six miles northwest of Bismarck, N. Dak. The tree was cut in 1940 and its rings counted and measured as to relative widths of rings, narrow rings being indicative of relatively dry years, and wider rings indicative of relatively wet years. This extended a weather calendar back to about 1567. Buried logs from old Indian village sites were then examined as to their growth rings. It was soon noted that their groups of wide and narrow rings could be matched with similar groups of rings developed in the earlier years of growth of the 373 year old tree. Following up this plan with still other logs a calendar of the seasons has been extended back to 1406 A.D. The longest relatively wet period, some 39 years, occurred in the period 1663 to 1702. The longest relatively dry period, some 16 years, occurred in 1633 to 1649. The study reveals no evidence of cycles or rhythm in the alternation of wet and dry periods. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained free upon request to the Information Department, State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak. Ask for Bulletin 338. (Reviewed by H. L. W.)