Another cultural factor that is required in the certification work is that both the field listed for inspection and the seed plot, be kept free from weeds and grass. Not only is there a possibility of some weeds carrying the mosaic disease, which might be transmitted to the potatoes, but it is important for the morale of the work that the fields look the part of certified fields.

Methods of Selection

The seed plot is harvested usually before the main field so that ample time can be taken to make a careful selection.

The more general system is the mass hill selection method, though a few growers plant several bushels of seed by the tuber unit method. It is believed that there will be an increase in the number of growers who adopt the latter system.

The method most generally used is to dig the seed plot by hand, keeping the hills separate. After several rows are dug the grower observes each hill carefully and selects for his next year's seed plot those hills that average six or more tubers true to type and of uniform shape and size, and which have other desirable seed qualities.

The next selection is made to remove from the seed plot all hills showing tubers of abnormal growth or very low yields. The remainder of the hills are then saved to plant the main certified field the following season. This method is somewhat more practicable for the grower than staking the hills during the season that will later be saved for seed. A few growers, however, do follow it.

It is thought that the seed plot selection method aids materially this method in a limited way along with their seed plot work, in eliminating disease, particularly such troubles as spindle tuber and giant hill which usually manifest themselves in the tubers and oftentimes cannot be readily detected in the growing plants. The results so far secured in seed plot work are sufficiently satisfactory to warrant a continuance of this method of selection for the general improvement of Michigan certified seed.

SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

S. G. Peppin, District Inspector

The province of Prince Edward Island is situated in the lower stretches of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, just off the coast of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It was called by the Indians “Abegweit”, cradled in the waves. It is now commonly known as the “Garden of the Gulf” being approximately 1,000,000 acres in area and practically all tillable. The soil, which is of a red sandstone
APEX STRAIN OF
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loam, is naturally acid and well adapted to the growing of seed
potatoes. Climatic conditions are favourable. Drouth and crop
failure are almost unknown. Rainfall during the growing season
is plentiful, the average for the past fifty years being 17 inches for
the months of June, July and August. This ensures quite sufficient
moisture from the time the crop is planted in late May or early
June until vine growth is complete. The Northumberland Straits
separate "The Island" from the Mainland. This body of water
assists very materially in reducing the possibility of early frosts,
thus enabling the potato vines to mature naturally.

Today this province is known not only all along the Atlantic
Seaboard States, but also in many other States and in all the prov-
inces of Canada as the source of some of the best seed stock on
the Continent. This has been brought about since 1918 when the
first carload of certified seed to leave this province was shipped to
southern Ontario. It was not until the following year, however,
that our stock was introduced to the southern grower. At that
time we were privileged to enter three samples of Green Mountains
in the annual seed strain test on Long Island. Samples have been
sent there each year since that date. Similarly small lots were sent
to other States, particularly Virginia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.
These successive and successful samples served as a nucleus of
carload lots and later of steamer loads. An idea of such rapid
growth may be gathered from the fact that from one carload
shipped out in 1918 the business increased in 1926 to over 600 car-
loads.

The work of inspection and certification is carried out by officials
of the Dominion Department of Agriculture under the direction
of the Dominion Botanist at Ottawa and is at present rendered
free to all growers who make the necessary yearly application. The
system and standards are uniform throughout the entire Dominion.
In order to come within the regulations governing certification,
the seed planted must be taken from stock which passed field in-
spection the previous year. Inspectors are thoroughly trained in
every province at the experiment Station where the Plant Pathologi-