



KING SIZE FACE SAVING

Engineers go to great effort to save the face of Ramses III, Egyptian king who ruled more than 3000 years ago. The great stone head from the ancient Abu Simbel temples are being moved to higher ground in a massive international operation to preserve the shrine from the huge man-made lake which is forming behind the Aswan dam, in Egypt. The face slab weighs 30 tons. (AP Wirephoto)

THIS FARMING INDUSTRY

Raymond Vesseys Of York Producing Top Potatoes

By NEIL A. MATHESON
I have often wondered just how the Raymond Vesseys of York manage to win so many prizes in potato competitions. They excel in tablestock competitions, but they've also won some top honors in seed potatoes.

For example, Raymond Vessey had the grand championship and the reserve grand championship in tablestock potatoes at Halifax this year. I know, for I was hanging around close to the judging table for about one-half hour, as I waited for the final award to be made.

But the Vesseys have won even greater honors. Back in 1960 it was the world championship in table potatoes at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto. In 1962 the Vesseys had the reserve world title at the Royal. This year their 11-year-old son, Allison, had the reserve table potato grand championship at Toronto.

I counted the championship rosettes at their home in York a few days ago and find they have won more than two dozen of them since they started to show in 1956.

They got one fourth place and one 16th place in tablestock at the old Maritime Winter Fair in their first attempt. That was back in 1956, but they won the grand championship in 1957 — and they had many strong placings in the classes — these people learn fast. They've been winning ever since.

The first year of the Atlantic Winter Fair at Halifax was in 1963. They had the grand championship in table studs, and the reserve championship in seed. They had the reserve championship in table potatoes last year.

They've had five championships in table and two in seed here on the Island. I didn't check into the reserves.

In addition the Raymond Vesseys have had so many top placings in various places, I didn't even try to count them. They had six firsts at the Royal in the various varieties last year. "I keep saying 'The Vesseys' and I mean just that. Last week this paper carried a picture of the husband and wife team that has been responsible for this long string of victories. Also carried was the picture of Allison Vessey, who has started on the championship trail.

ready for a show, and Evelyn Vessey does that part of the job. You've seen the name 'Evelyn Vessey' in the prize lists, as some are entered under her name. But the husband-wife team co-operate on the preparation of the sample of 30 potatoes that are required.

Evelyn follows the digger, or rides the picker, and selects the likely looking tubers. This is a demanding job, though she has trained her eye to it; for often she doesn't take a single potato from a drill of 10 chains in length — that's 220 yards.

If you get eight to 10 good potatoes in a drill of that length, you're really lucky, both Raymond and Evelyn Vessey told me. "You go for several rows at a time without spotting a single potato you'd bother with," Raymond added.

As Mrs. Vessey selects the special tubers she puts them under a tree to dry — the tree protects them from the sun — for the dampness has to be removed. Then the husband-wife team will go to the field in the evening and perhaps discard one-half of the tubers.

In some of the varieties, where the acreage is large, "we'd have five or six hamper picked," Evelyn told me. A hamper holds one bushel. So, you see, there's a tremendous amount of work involved.

CLEANED WITH BRUSH
Later, when they're getting ready for an exhibition, like the AWF or the Royal, the tubers are cleaned carefully with a brush, and Raymond examines them closely. Mr. Vessey makes the final selection. This is done carefully, with the final selection made on trays where the tubers can be examined minutely and compared.

A soft brush is needed to clean the potatoes — the new nylon brushes are too severe — and the one they've been using is getting worn down pretty well.

The present brush has polished many a top place winner and more than two dozen championship samples. I found it is a hair brush that is part of a set Raymond gave to Evelyn some years ago.

There are 30 potatoes in a sample for show purposes and the perfect sample has potatoes as alike as possible with each and every tuber meeting the requirements of the variety so far as size shape and conformation is concerned.

But Raymond Vessey has never yet sent a sample to a show with which he was completely happy. On one occasion he had made his selection of 30 tubers for a show at the Royal

VICTORY WITH COBBLERS
Before I leave the championship part of the story, I want to point once again to the variety that won the world title in able studs at the Royal in 1960. It was the good old Irish Cobblers. And it's rare to see the Cobblers up in such a lofty position. Smoothness counts a lot in the section of granite champions, and the Cobblers are not noted for their smoothness, though they are good eaters.

But the Vesseys have had more firsts at the Royal in Cobblers, than in any other variety. They've won with many varieties. Their reserve at the Royal in 1962 was with Fundy. Their championship at the AWF in 1963 was with Netted Gems. This year their championship at Halifax was with Katahdins. The reserve championship sample was Kennebec.

Mr. Vessey is the former Evelyn MacCallum of Brackley Point and she plays a large and important part in the victories.

The selection of the potatoes comes first in getting a sample

Upgrading Of Facilities Is Cement Co. Policy

By ALLEN SACKMANN
WINNIPEG (CP)—Two years of intensive planning preceded construction of Inland Cement Company's \$16,000,000 Winnipeg plant but modifications were already under way before it was officially opened.

To a point, this receptive attitude toward change typified Inland's success story that started, 10 years ago with a modest 900,000-barrel capacity plant in Edmonton.

"To us, upgrading is a living thing—we've always been ready to change if it will mean a better product or more efficiency," says Production Manager Bruce Price who helped plan the construction of Inland's first plant in Regina—and played an active role from design to construction of the new facility.

The modification in the plant, which was officially opened this month, involved its truck loading facilities. It was altered to permit alternative loading

should the main facility become inoperative.

The new plant, located on the western outskirts of Winnipeg, is one of the most modern in Western Canada with a capacity of 2,000,000 barrels of cement a year. It's the company's third plant—Inland also has a plant in Regina—and brings its overall capacity to 6,500,000 barrels a year.

CITE TWO FEATURES
Two features set it apart from other western cement plants, one readily apparent to the eye and the other less obvious.

Mr. Price says its first plant in the industry which was designed with an eye to the architectural features in addition to the practical aspects.

"We tried to build a plant attractive to the eye, including an architectural character that never existed before."

The other plays an integral role in production. The plant has transistorized control panels, closed-circuit television and x-ray spectrograph analyzing equipment—all designed to provide the best in quality control.

Inland experimented with the spectrograph to determine its effectiveness before installing it in Winnipeg, says Mr. Price.

Its job is to provide rapid analysis of materials used in production—10 minutes against four hours with the manual method—to enable Inland to reduce strength variations in the finished product.

Plans now call for installation of similar equipment in the Regina plant.

Inland's choice of Winnipeg as its third location in Canada was a natural one. Mr. Price says it was the last major centre in Canada where one firm had a virtual monopoly.

In addition, demands for cement in Manitoba have been rising rapidly, although Mr. Price was unable to give statistics on total usage.

However, Manitoba uses concrete roads more extensively than other western provinces major building boom in commercial enterprises. The use of pre-cast and pre-stressed concrete has recently developed in and Winnipeg is undergoing a parts of the west and this has pushed concrete consumption up proportionately.

BEAUTY FILLS RIVERS

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