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W. R. PARVIN COMPANY

CARLOT DISTRIBUTORS FRUITS & VEGETABLES

OGDEN, UTAH

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THE HISTORY of the famous MARK SHAWVER SEED

*Distributed By Us in the interest of the GROWERS
and the hope that you will benefit by the use of clean seed*

W. R. PARVIN COMPANY

BLACKFOOT, IDAHO

June 18, 1923.

W. R. PARVIN COMPANY

OGDEN, UTAH

Dear Sirs:

In looking over my past work in the potato game, I find that we have been slowly progressing in the production of better and cleaner seed. Each year we learn a little more about growing seed, and consequently, are a little more particular in what we select.

In 1911, I came to the conclusion that the best seed available was none too good, so looked about for a high yielding strain of potatoes and bought what I considered the best, from a man by the name of Mr. Roberghon, who is now dead. At this time, it was a common practice to plant culls or what was left after the crop was sold, and I was no exception to the rule.

In 1916, I decided that the common run of culls were not good enough to plant so I worked over the culls and picked out the large smooth tubers to plant. Following this practice for three or four years, I could see that I was increasing the yield somewhat, and had less waste in storage. During these years, I was troubled more or less with such diseases as Blackleg, Rhizoctonia, dwarfed plants, and a few bull vines. Some diseases I did not have because I never brought other potatoes on the farm. We were doing the best we knew how, to produce a good crop, but had not learned what could be accomplished by keeping seed plots and hill selecting.

In 1920, the County Agent of Bingham County held a meeting in our district and advised us to select the larger potatoes of good type out of our commercial stock and plant them on new alfalfa ground, away from other potatoes. I did this and pulled out all vines that showed disease or were off type in any way. Before the vines died down, we went through the plot and staked out hills that had large uniform spreading vines, which we desired to keep for next year's seed plot, and dug these hills by hand before the general harvest. The remainder of the plot was used for general planting, the following year. The entire acreage that we grew for seed the following year, came out of this plot.

I have been following this plan ever since and find that I am practically eliminating all diseased and undesirable plants from my fields, besides building up the type and increasing the yield per acre. Each year, I am rotating my crops, so as to break up alfalfa land for seed potatoes or renting new land for this purpose.

I cut the stem ends off my seed and cut the seed to one eye, leaving large blocky pieces that do not dry out quickly. I find that dipping in the Corrosive Sublimate solution is very desirable. Last year, I greened part of my seed before planting, and believe that it gave them a little better start than the rest.

Last year several parties from Utah and other places visited my fields, and were very much pleased to find the vines so uniform and healthy. The vines covered the rows and were indeed beautiful to the eye of a potato grower.

My fields are inspected every year by the County Agent, and certifying authorities, and I hope to build up a permanent seed trade by producing a superior product.

Sincerely yours,

M. C. SHAWVER.



