FLASH: POTATOES

Mountains of potatoes are rotting in the open in the State of Maine. The record crop of last year, eighty five million bushels, glutted the market at home and abroad. Storage space was exhausted very soon. Huge cargoes were sent to France, Italy and Spain. Rundreds of tons were converted into starch;

Germany, as a practical measure for getting that country basis

But thousands of tons his rotting on the dumps. In a world crying out for food, food is going bad.



March 24, 1947

- 1. TITLE: POTATO SURPLUS -- 12 MILLION BUSHELS DUMPED!
- 2. A mountain of potatoes goes to waste. Here in Fort Fairfield, Maine, are part of the 12 million bushels of potatoes left over in Maine's record crop of last year 85 million bushels. Unable to keep the surplus through the winter, farmers have sumped them under a Federal order. Government efforts to dispose of the vast stockpile have resulted in big sales to the Army, and to such countries as France, Spain, Italy and Portugal. Here, some of the potatoes are converted into starch. Alcohol has also been distilled from the crop.
- 11. Meanwhile, seed potatoes are loaded for shipment to Germany -- the first of 85 thousand tons. The seed potatoes are expected to replant thousands of German ecres, ravaged by the war. The possibility of dehydrating potatoes for shipment abroad is ruled out because of cost.

 Millions of potatoes rot in the open -- a strange, ironic but unavoidable chapter in today's world crisis in food.