

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"

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How Shall American Agriculture Secure its Just Rewards?

By FORREST LORD

Who Should Take the Initiative?

The farmers believe that the economists and the legislative authorities should take the initiative in tearing down the elaborate and intricate system of distribution that has grown up almost invisibly between the producer and consumer, and establish in its place a broad level highway of commerce where there are no stiles to mount, no hills to climb, no rivers to ford, and no detours to make, each exacting a costly toll from those who

travel upon the road. This cannot be accomplished over-night, but it must be done eventually before agriculture can take its place with other legitimate industry and offer equal opportunities with them.

The economists and the legislative authorities believe that the solution of this and kindred problems lie within the hands of the farmers themselves. They are still preaching the old gospel of increased production that has been dinged into the farmer for the last fifty years. They are still talking about the inefficiency of the farmer, his backwardness in adopting modern methods of production and business. But they ignore the fact that as an individual the farmer is not his own free agent in the disposal of his products, as is almost every individual in other lines of business. On the contrary he is bound hand and foot by the red tape of a system that bids defiance to and boycotts every other method of placing the products of the farm before the ultimate consumer.

Both a State and Individual Duty

In one sense the solution of these problems devolves upon the legislative authorities; in another, they devolve solely upon the farmer. It should be, we believe, the duty of the state and federal governments, in co-operation, to so simplify the distribution of farm products and to so safeguard agriculture and lend encouragement to agricultural enterprises, that men of agricultural bent, would engage in farming as a business and in preference to industrial occupations. We do not have in mind here merely the welfare of the farmer. We have in mind the welfare of whole peoples, of nations, of the entire world, who must be assured of adequate food supplies. If there is danger of exhausting either the food or any commodity that is necessary to the well-being of the human race, it is a matter of self-preservation that steps be immediately taken to replenish the supply. Herbert Hoover and many other eminent food authorities declare that there is grave danger of world famine unless production is speeded up at once. Production will be speeded up, of course; farmers will do their best to produce maximum crops, but whether or not they will be able to produce sufficient under present conditions, to meet all needs remains to be seen.

So much for the responsibilities of the legislative authorities. Looking at the proposition wholly from the viewpoint of dollars and cents to the farmer, the burden of the solution rests upon his shoulders. As has already been pointed out, the farmer as an individual has been powerless to accomplish any reforms in the methods of distributing his products. But, thru organization, he has proven that he has strength. It is true, as many have charged that the farmer has been slow to use the only effective weapon he has at his command, organization, to force his way to the front line with other industry.

But now the time has come, and the farmer knows it, when he must turn his undivided attention to what we are pleased to call the economic end of his business, and with the assistance of his fellow (Continued on page 24)

PRESIDENT JAS. A. Garfield said: 'At the head of all sciences and arts, at the head of civilization and progress stands,—not militarism which kills; not commerce, the art which accumulates wealth,—but agriculture, the mother of all industry and the maintainer of human life.'

Agriculture, "the mother of all industry!" We can imagine no more placid picture than agriculture, thus maternally personified, beaming her smiles upon her numerous offsprings, and receiving in turn their gracious favors. Does it not convey an impression of domestic content, of mutual love and co-operation, of maternal pride and filial respect and obedience? But after all, it is only a picture. Agriculture is not the well-treated and contented matron she has been described.

For the breasts of this mother of industry have been sucked dry by the greedy parasites who first tasted life upon her bosom. Her limbs have grown weary and her back has become bent under the burdens she has had to carry. As a mother gives her all to her child only to be paid back in ingratitude, agriculture has given her all to the world and the world has spurned her. Agriculture is no longer the mild-mannered, motherly person the former president was gracious enough to depict her. She is an old woman, living from hand to mouth, and deserted by those to whom she gave birth. Moreover, she has a temper.

Agriculture Pays Least for Money and Labor Invested

TWO YEARS ago the assertion that food production was not keeping pace with consumption because the business of farming did not offer the same inducements to capital and labor as other industries, would have brought forth a laugh of derision from the nation's leading men. For up to that time, it was popularly supposed that farming was the most pleasant and profitable business on the face of the earth. But the war soon dissipated that theory. It brought the entire world face to face with the astounding fact that there wasn't enough food to go 'round, and that immediate steps must be taken by governments to encourage larger production of food and assist in a more equitable distribution of the scant supplies already on hand.

We still hear and read about the exorbitant profits farmers are making, but fortunately for the future comfort of the world's stomach, the majority of the people in whose hands the investigations and solutions of food problems largely lie do not share this perverted opinion.

Both farmers, on the one side, and food economists and governments on the other, admit that agriculture is in a bad way and must have a tonic. But they differ as to the kind of tonic to administer, and as to which should perform the ministrations. For some time now, the farmers have contented themselves with pointing out the symptoms and demanding an operation. The economists do not concur in the symptoms or the mode of treatment.

PROMINENT DAIRY AUTHORITY DISCUSSES NEEDS OF AGRICULTURE

A MOST encouraging sign of the changing spirit of the times toward the farming business, is the new attitude taken by such influential publications as the *Chicago Tribune*, which formerly was and still is occasionally, a deluded and bitter critic of the farmer. The *Tribune* is now sponsoring the "temple of agriculture" idea, but the *Tribune* would build this temple in Chicago, and make Chicago the food center of the world, which, perhaps, by virtue of its geographical location, it is destined to become. The *Tribune* presents in the following words what purports to be the opinion of Mr. W. E. Skinner, Sec. of the National Dairy Council, upon this matter:

"The food problems the war presented were not new and they will not be temporary. They were as old as the first baby's appetite and they will continue insistent until the last call for breakfast on the resurrection morn. The war only emphasized those problems. Fresh industrial and economic complexities, partly growing out of the war and partly due to mankind's sharper demand for better things, are going to double score the problems.

"You can't ignore them if you want to. The war pushed them at you with iron fingers. But you can ignore—for a while—and you can palter with the measures which wise men are beginning to formulate for a kind of permanent conservation which shall mean not restriction, but plenty. These men are asking: 'Shall all the troubles, the mistakes and the achievements of the last twenty months of governmental food administration be heeded and be made the basis of productive and permanent achievement, or shall the lesson be forgotten?'

* * * *

"Chambers of commerce we have.

"But where is the chamber of agriculture?

"Both practically and theoretically more is done for American agriculture in the sequestered laboratories and remote experimental farms of American universities than is done in an agricultural mart and capital compared with which Alexandria was a small town grain elevator on a side-track. The universities do good work, but it isn't big enough. The business community is out of it. The distributor is not going to school with the producer.

"Scientific agriculture is the answer to food shortages, but scientific agriculture includes in its deep and difficult problems scientific distribution. It demands co-ordination of effort, close and accurate interchange of ideas."



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL DIGEST



FINAL APPLE REPORT FOR 1918 GIVES MICHIGAN 1,124,000 BARRELS

The Bureau of Crop Estimates, U. S. Department of Agriculture through its fruit crop specialists issues the following estimate of the commercial apple crop for 1918.

The total crop for the United States is now estimated at 25,404,500 barrels as compared with 22,542,000 barrels in 1917, an increase of about 13 per cent. The production from barreled apple states is 18,301,500 barrels as compared with 13,979,000 in 1917, an increase of 31 per cent. The boxed apple crop is estimated at 21,309,000 boxes as compared with 25,689,000 boxes in 1917, or a decrease of 17 per cent.

The outstanding feature in the apple situation is the fact that the crop has moved early to market. The Bureau of Markets report on storage holdings released December 11 places storage holdings December 1 practically the same as last year.

	Commercial Crop Dec. 1918	Final 1917
Maine	225,000	400,000
New Hampshire	121,000	120,000
Vermont	114,000	135,000
Massachusetts	300,000	225,000
Rhode Island	12,500	11,000
Connecticut	120,000	100,000
New York	7,037,000	2,380,000
New Jersey	751,500	408,000
Pennsylvania	1,177,000	911,000
Delaware	99,000	105,000
Maryland	330,000	256,000
Virginia	1,766,000	1,650,000
West Virginia	1,145,000	702,000
North Carolina	184,000	200,000
Georgia	117,000	120,000
Ohio	954,000	532,000
Indiana	230,000	434,000
Illinois	754,000	1,554,000
Michigan	1,124,000	515,000
Wisconsin	105,000	124,000
Minnesota	33,000	50,000
Iowa	79,000	250,000
Missouri	600,000	1,128,000
South Dakota	3,000	5,000
Nebraska	59,000	225,000
Kansas	333,000	650,000
Kentucky	84,000	143,000
Tennessee	150,000	150,000
Alabama	26,000	24,000
Texas	11,000	23,000
Oklahoma	17,000	54,000
Arkansas	241,000	402,000
Montana	75,000	74,000
Colorado	527,000	701,000
New Mexico	117,000	175,000
Arizona	15,000	16,000
Utah	163,000	184,000
Idaho	112,000	906,000
Washington	4,296,000	4,620,000
Oregon	671,000	713,000
California	1,127,000	1,174,000
Total, United States	25,404,500	22,542,000

"BLOODED" GRAINS OUTYIELD THE COMMON, FIGURES SHOW

Improved varieties of rye and wheat yielded crops of grain more than 30 per cent larger on the average, than the harvests obtained from common grains in 1918, a report from the department of farm crops of M. A. C. declares. The average yield of common rye obtained in the state was 15.33 bushels, while the average yield of common winter wheat harvested last summer was only 14.04 bushels to the acre.

Farmers who planted their fields with pure, inspected and certified Rosen rye, however, obtained yields which averaged 22.3 bushels to the acre, while farmers who planted certified Red Rock wheat cut crops which averaged 19.4 bushels to the acre. In the light of the generally unfavorable conditions for rye and wheat which prevailed last season, these yields are said to be exceptional.

To farmers, according to J. W. Nicholson of M. A. C., the important thing about the report is that it demonstrates the value of using improved and pedigreed varieties of wheat and rye in place of the "scrub" seed still being planted in many districts.

MAINE FARMERS HAVING HARD SLEDDING SAYS M. B. F. REPORTER

West Paris, Me., Dec. 7.—The farmers in Maine are having the hardest time this fall for many

years. In the western part of the state many depend largely on apples which did not amount to much this year, and the few potatoes and beans they managed to raise sell for less than one-half the cost of production. Wheat which has been grown in quite a large way has proven to be a burden rather than a benefit, as it has been almost impossible to get help for threshing it and much has been spoiled in the fields by the hard storms. What there will be saved will cost farmers \$4 per bushel. Very few will sow any next year, and many have closed their buildings and have gone to work in the mills and in the woods and will not return in the spring, and few, if any farmers will plant very largely any crops next spring, or until the cost of production and selling price of farm produce compare more favorably. Beans were a semi-failure on most farms and farmers are having to borrow money to pay their season's expenses and taxes. Not a very pleasant outlook after having worked 16 hours a day all summer, while those in other callings have saved a goodly sum and had a much better living than the farmers and not worked but eight or nine hours a day.—R. L. Herrick.

BUREAU CROP ESTIMATES SAYS 1918 CROPS WORTH \$19,000,000,000

The December estimate of the crop production and value of crops on December 1st, shows that a total acreage of 355,895,722 acres were planted in 1918 to the various crops, and that the total value of these crops, based upon prices prevailing Dec. 1st, was \$12,272,412,000.

Below we reproduce some of the figures on the more important crops, and particularly those which are grown in Michigan:

CROP	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Total	Farm Value Dec. 1 Per Unit	Total
CORN—1918	107,494,000	24.0	2,582,814,000	136.6	\$ 3,528,313,000
—1917	116,730,000	26.3	3,065,233,000	127.9	3,920,228,000
—Average 1912-1916	105,566,000	26.2	2,761,252,000	64.7	1,787,605,000
WHEAT—1918	59,110,000	15.5	917,100,000	204.4	1,874,623,000
—1917	45,089,000	14.1	636,655,000	200.8	1,278,112,000
—Average 1912-1916	52,465,000	15.4	809,357,000	99.0	801,271,000
OATS—1918	44,400,000	34.6	1,538,359,000	71.0	1,092,423,000
—1917	43,553,000	36.6	1,592,740,000	66.6	1,061,474,000
—Average 1912-1916	39,456,000	32.3	1,296,406,000	40.2	521,386,000
BARLEY—1918	9,679,000	26.5	256,365,000	91.8	235,269,000
—1917	8,933,000	23.7	211,759,000	113.7	240,758,000
—Average 1912-1916	7,500,000	26.9	201,625,000	58.9	118,682,000
RYE—1918	6,185,000	14.4	89,103,000	151.5	134,947,000
—1917	4,317,000	14.6	62,933,000	166.0	104,447,000
—Average 1912-1916	2,711,000	16.4	44,547,000	86.0	38,327,000
BUCKWHEAT—1918	1,040,000	16.5	17,182,000	166.4	28,585,000
—1917	924,000	17.3	16,022,000	160.0	25,631,000
—Average 1912-1916	807,000	19.0	15,336,000	79.6	12,209,000
POTATOES—1918	4,201,000	94.7	397,676,000	119.6	475,731,000
—1917	4,374,000	100.3	438,618,000	123.0	539,598,000
—Average 1912-1916	3,678,000	98.4	361,753,000	70.8	256,248,000
HAY, tame—1918	55,971,000	1.35	75,459,000	\$20.18	1,522,473,000
—1917	55,203,000	1.51	83,308,000	\$17.09	1,423,766,000
—Average 1912-1916	50,892,000	1.51	76,798,000	\$11.38	873,883,000
HAY, wild—1918	15,283,000	.94	14,374,000	\$15.25	219,185,000
—1917	16,212,000	.93	15,131,000	\$13.49	204,086,000
—Average 1912-1916	16,790,000	1.11	18,573,000	\$7.91	146,940,000
SUGAR BEETS—1918	592,100	9.33	5,822,600	\$10.02	58,341,000
—1917	664,797	9.00	5,980,377	\$7.39	44,192,000
—Average 1912-1916	579,063	10.3	5,972,000	\$5.76	34,378,000
BEANS (6 states)—1918	1,754,000	10.1	17,733,000	\$5.28	93,639,000
—1917	1,769,000	8.6	15,283,000	\$6.59	100,692,000
ONIONS (14 states)—1918	35,830	375.1	13,438,200	121.1	16,268,000
—1917	39,500	311.6	12,308,900	167.0	20,554,000
CABBAGE (9 states)—1918	61,700	9.2	565,200	\$26.21	14,818,000
—1917	58,950	8.1	475,300	\$33.80	16,065,000
APPLES, total—1918			173,632,000	132.5	229,990,000
—1917			163,117,000	121.5	198,220,000
—Average 1912-1916			213,685,000	74.3	158,853,000

Please notice that the average price paid the farmer Dec. 1st for potatoes is estimated at \$1.196 per bushel. We can't help but wonder where the department got this figure, for the average price paid to Michigan farmers on that date was nearer 60 cents a bushel, and we know from reports from other potato sections, that very few of the farmers are receiving over \$1 per bushel.

In the majority of cases, it will be noted, Michigan farmers are receiving higher prices than the average for the entire country. In other cases they are receiving much less.

SEC. HOUSTON DECLINES TO GIVE SENATE WANTED INFORMATION

Secretary Houston has written a lengthy letter to the President of the Senate in which several interesting statements appear. The secretary

gently but firmly declines to furnish the Senate "dependable information" on the cost of producing wheat and other things because he has none of that kind of information in stock. He has information, secured and emitted by the Office of Farm Management of his Department, but it is not dependable. So thinks the secretary and a lot of other experts in economics, grain farming, agronomy and kindred subjects to whom he has submitted it. So much for the so-called government estimates which have been given considerable publicity thru the *Congressional Record* and other enterprising publications. But let us not be down-hearted. Further investigations will be made in the hope of corraling the elusive cost of wheat and getting it before the Senate of the United States. And by the time that is done the senate won't want it.—National Stockman and Farmer.

MICHIGAN CLOSE SECOND IN SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION

The production of beet sugar in the United States from the beet harvest of 1918 is estimated at 740,100 short tons. This estimate is based upon reports made before the close of the season and is subject to revision. The production in 1917 was 765,207 short tons. The area harvested in 1918 is estimated at 592,100 acres, or 72,697 acres less than in 1917. The area planted was 689,700 acres in 1918, and 806,600 acres in 1917. In 1918 there was 14 per cent of the planted acreage abandoned, and in 1917 25 per cent, which was the highest on record.

The beets worked in factories in 1918 are estimated at 5,822,600 short tons and were purchased at an average price to growers of \$10.02 per ton, as compared with \$7.39 in 1917.

The principal sugar-producing states with their output for 1918 are: Colorado, 182,700 short tons; Utah, 118,000; Michigan, 117,600; California, 109,300; Ohio, 43,100; Wisconsin, 14,300; and all other states, 111,000 short tons. Details concerning this report will be published in the Monthly Crop Report for December, 1918.

The acreage harvested in these states was: Colorado, 126,500; Michigan, 108,200; California, 102,400; Utah, 83,600; Ohio, 33,300; Idaho, 32,600; Wisconsin, 12,600; and all other states, 92,900 acres.

The beets worked in these states were: Colorado, 1,412,200 short tons; Utah, 1,012,900; Michigan, 873,700; California, 843,700; Idaho, 336,600; Ohio, 328,900; Wisconsin, 110,400; and all other states, 904,200 short tons.

DAIRYMEN MAY MAKE OWN FEEDS

Secretary Reed Negotiating with Firms for
Manufacturing Mixed Feeds Solely for
Members of Milk Producer's Ass'n

Accompanying the rapid increase in the cost of commercial feeds the past year, there has been a corresponding decrease in the quality. Apparently the scarcity of feed and the high prices have tempted certain manufacturers to mix anything and everything that bore any kind of resemblance to protein matter with their legitimately milled feeds and putting the product on the market as a pure article. This seeming adulteration finally reached such lengths that dairy interests the entire country over have arisen in arms against unscrupulous manufacturers, and petitioned congress for legislation that would prevent a continuation of the harmful practice.

R. C. Reed, secretary of the Milk Producers' Ass'n, has been conducting some independent investigations which led him into a plant where tin-ware was made. Engaging in conversation with one of the workmen, who did not know his identity, Mr. Reed discovered that bran was being used as a burnishing substance to give the tinware a bright appearance, instead of the sawdust formerly used which had become too expensive.

"The bran," obligingly explained the workman, "gives much better results and besides that it is cheaper, for after we use it in our machines, we sell it to dairy feed manufacturers, who pay us within \$1 per ton of what the bran has cost us. In the process of burnishing, the bran takes on weight from the little slivers of tin that come off the utensils."

"But, I should think that would be dangerous to cows eating the feed," said Mr. Reed.

"Well, it is," the other replied, "we have heard of cows getting those slivers of tin in their stomachs and dying. But that isn't up to us; that's up to the dairy feed manufacturers."

From a prominent miller in this state Mr. Reed learned that one of the largest sources of income the miller had was from sweepings, which he sold to dairy feed manufacturers.

"It is from these sweepings," explained Mr. Reed, that cattle diseases are spread. The ergot of rye is one of the most prolific causes of contagious abortion, and the sweepings from the average flour is quite certain to contain grain that is infected with ergot."

"The situation has become so bad," continued Mr. Reed, "that we finally decided we ought to do something about establishing a source of mixed feed which we could guarantee to our members was of high quality and free from disease-bearing substances. We are now considering a plan for manufacturing our own feeds, and are in negotiation with responsible parties who want to take the job. Some of the members seem to think that the price, \$56 a ton, is rather high, but after going thoroly into the matter, we do not know how a feed that is absolutely dependable can be put on the market for less, when all the ingredients are so high. We haven't yet closed any deal, but hope to do so in the near future."

Secretary Reed is in Chicago this week attending a meeting of the board of directors of the National Federation of Milk Producers of which he is a member. Upon his return he will have something to say to our readers regarding the national aspect of the dairy situation.

Cowological Philosophy

(Mrs. More Milk is the prized dairy queen of Mr. High Class Farmer. She is proud of belonging to such an up-to-date-farmer, but Mrs. More Milk is sure that Mr. Farmer is making a serious financial and patriotic mistake in fattening and slaughtering her daughters for veal instead of raising them to full-grown cows, so she refers the matter to the Annual Cow Mothers Convention, held on the State Fair Grounds.)

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

Honorable Sirs: We, the Cow Mothers of the United States of America, in our Annual Convention assembled, unanimously adopted the following resolutions and we devoutly and humbly pray that you will carefully consider them and put them into practice:

WHEREAS, the paramount issue is to produce more food, to make a living sure and as cheap as possible, and

WHEREAS, we are the machines, so to speak, that live on hay and grain and produce milk, cream, butter, cheese, and meat, all of which are eaten by human beings, and

WHEREAS, the tremendous increase in the number of farm tractors and trucks reducing the ne-

cessity of keeping so many horses, that eat more than we do, but produce no human-being food, makes it easily possible for you to grant our request, also profitable to you, and beneficial to all people, and

WHEREAS, we are aware of the ever increasing demand for our products, which is verified by a pamphlet issued by your association and read at our convention by our President, Mrs. More Milk, a portion of which we give here:

"During the twelve years, 1900-1912 inclusive, the population of the United States increased 19,000,000 people, while in the same time the cattle population decreased from 62,000,000 in 1900 to 58,000,000 in 1912,"

and no doubt but what the next census will show

Greatest Compliment Ever Paid to Us

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING comes next to the "Good Book" as our Sunday reading. We think it's the best paper for the farmer that ever was printed. One feels that it's a personal friend taking an interest in the farmer's welfare. Wishing you the best of success.—Wm. G. Bracebridge, Grand Traverse county.

a greater difference, thus making our products more scarce and costly, and

WHEREAS, there is hay enough in dingles and roadsides, which goes to waste every year—to feed our daughters and raise them to cowhood, and if cut would make the farms look more trim, and

WHEREAS, many of us wear ribbons at the state fair, given us on account of our remarkable and extraordinary production, and

WHEREAS, if you are to continue to slaughter our daughters for a few paltry dollars, you should allow us to wear crepe instead of ribbons when on exhibition, and

WHEREAS, if our daughters were raised to cowhood, being of the same breeds as we are, they would produce equally as well, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the faithful, profitable and beneficial Cow Mothers of the United States, in Annual Convention assembled, do most humbly and prayerfully petition you, our owners, to have mercy upon us and raise our daughters to full-grown cows for the everlasting benefit of humanity and cowmanity, and be it further

Resolved, that our president be hereby instructed to attend your next meeting and present these resolutions to you with all the grace of a humble cow mother, who has had her heart broken many times when her daughters have been torn from her and led away for slaughter when but mere children.

Signed and sealed in the presence of thousands of cow mothers, whose milk has raised many of your children, and whose other products go to dispel hunger and produce health and happiness of the people of the United States.

MRS. MORE MILK, President

MRS. YELLOW BUTTER, Secretary.

—By H. S. Earle, Federal State Director U. S. Boys' Working Reserve, Michigan Division.

"The Farmers are not Getting Cost for their Products" says "Jim" Helme in Defense of Farmers' Movement

(Continued from last week)

"What did the legislature do? It absolutely refused to carry out the expressed will of North Dakota. It told the farmers to 'go back home and slop the hogs.' Then the political revolution broke. The League came into existence. Bankers refused to cash checks given the League organizers. The League retaliated by starting co-operative banks. Retail merchants fought the League. Co-operative stores were established. Local newspapers poured out torrents of abuse. The League retorted by starting co-operative newspapers. This opposition solidified the farmers and result of such methods is seen in the election of League congressmen, state officers, supreme court and legislature. The commercial interests like the Czar and Kaiser, sat on the safety valve too long.

NOW AS TO MICHIGAN

"No man or set of men is big enough to start a Non-Partisan League in Michigan unless there is fuel to feed the flame. What wrongs, if any, exist in Michigan affecting the farmer and laboring class that will furnish the fuel for the league?

"Here are some that the League would grab at greedily: Draw a line across Michigan from Saginaw to Grand Rapids. North of that line the Federal Farm Loan Board says that the average rate of interest paid by farmers is 12 per cent; and in addition a system of bonuses for renewing loans and charges for 'making out the papers' prevails. Yet the maximum rate of interest in Michigan is 7 per cent.

"Our usury law has no teeth in it and every attempt to put teeth in it has been defeated by bankers. When League orators pillory the bankers of Northern Michigan as willful lawbreakers, what will be the answer? Tar and feathers for the organizers?

JAN. 27-FEB. 1ST ARE POULTRY SHOW DATES

Announcement Made that Detroit Poultry
Show will be Biggest and Best Held
in a Number of Years

The Detroit Poultry Show will be held January 27 to February 1, inclusive, at the Armory. The program has been prepared by Prof. C. H. Burgess, professor of Poultry Husbandry at the Michigan State Agricultural College. By general agreement among the various poultry associations in southeastern Michigan, none of the smaller shows will be held this year but efforts will be combined to make the Detroit show the greatest event of its kind ever held.

The premium list holds unusual attractions for the poultry and pigeon fancier. But the part of the program that is most appealing to all classes of breeders is the poultry school which will be held in connection with the show under the personal direction of Prof. Burgess. This school is the first concentrated effort to place the poultry industry among the principal industries of the state. The sessions will be open to all who attend the show.

The school program as outlined by Prof. Burgess will cover the following subjects:

1. Study of common breeds of fowls.
2. Selecting of a breed.
3. The test of a soft roaster at the killing age.
4. Cost of poultry flesh.
5. Poultry house construction.
6. Incubation and breeding.
7. Poultry Feeds and feeding for egg production.
8. Feeding for meat production.
9. The balanced ration.

Heretofore the small poultry breeder derived little or no practical knowledge from the average poultry show, and the Detroit show is the beginning of the broadening of its scope, which will not only benefit every poultry breeder, big and little, attending, but which also presents a precedent which should have a wholesome effect on future shows not only in Michigan but in other states.

The officers of the Detroit show are, President, Joseph Toynton, Pontiac; first vice president, Wm. F. Degan; second vice president, B. D. Collins; secretary, F. M. Crowe, Owosso; treasurer, Prof. C. H. Burgess.

Requests for premium lists and other information will be taken care of by F. M. Crowe, Owosso, Michigan.

"There is a growing feeling in the state that the mines in the upper peninsula are not paying their fair proportion of taxes. More fuel for the League fires. The present compensation law of Michigan is less liberal than any state in the union and the League can be depended on to call the attention of union labor to this fact. The high cost of living can be depended on to fan the flame in both city and country. The farmers are not getting cost for their products and the consumer is paying the highest price ever known. One must be increased, the other diminished. But how, you say? By reforming our present distributive system and cutting out a lot of useless middlemen who render no service.

"Last year in Northern Michigan thousands of bushels of potatoes were never marketed. Yet in Detroit potatoes retailed at 60c a peck. Elevators in Northern Michigan are now full of potatoes. If there were a state terminal warehouse in Detroit where potatoes could be stored by farmers' elevators before non-shipable weather sets in, Detroit could avoid last winter's experience and the Northern Michigan farmer would sell all his crop. The state game warden is now furnishing Detroit fish for 18c a pound instead of 30c, and is at the same time paying the fisherman more money for his fish than he ever got before. He does it by cutting out all but one middleman. State distribution of potatoes, beans and many other food stuffs could accomplish similar results. Shall we do these things ourselves or continue to sit on the safety valve and let a Non-Partisan League do it?

"I have enumerated a few evils that exist in Michigan on which the Non-Partisan League can flourish. There are many more. How can we keep the Non-Partisan League out of the state? The answer is easy. Beat 'em to it!"—J. W. Helme.

JACKSON PRISON REFORM NEEDED

**Important State Institution Should be Moved
From Present Environs if Reformative
Efforts are to be Successful.**

We heartily approve the suggestion made by Governor Sleeper this week, that the Jackson prison be removed from the environment of the city, and finally located upon a prison farm some distance from the congested districts. We regret, however, that the good governor did not put a little punch back of this suggestion, so that it would have taken the form of a recommendation, to the end that this much-needed improvement might be accomplished during the lifetime of the present generation. The state prison was located at Jackson soon after Michigan became one of the states of the union—way back in the time which closely followed the use of the rack and screw, the dungeon, the spiked yoke and iron cross of torture. Back in the days when prisons were considered as institutions where punishment was meted out to those who violated the law; on the "eye for an eye" and "a tooth for a tooth" theory. If you have any doubts as to this statement, make a visit to this old prison, look over the damp, dingy, illy-ventilated holes in the wall in the old cell-block; turn over the earth in the prison yard and you will uncover cess-pools, broken sewer pipes, old wells and cisterns, and buried debris of years long since numbered with the past.

And too, the city has grown around the prison. Everything is congested; the gray old walls, upon which sentinels walk night and day, and which hold within doors of iron and walls of stone more than one thousand humans, brothers of men, who have broken the laws of the land and are detained there for the protection of society and their redemption, that they may some day return again to mothers, fathers, wives and children, useful members of society. There is but one way to make Jackson prison a place where human beings should be confined, and that is to tear down walls and cell blocks, cover deep the disease-breeding soils within the enclosure, obliterate every vestige of the ancient citadel, and build Jackson prison anew, on a prison farm far removed from the city, where those in charge of the institution will have a chance to make good, and where the prisoners will at least have an opportunity to redeem themselves, in an environment which is conducive to reformation, and not a breeder of remorse and revenge.

The Minnesota state prison was similarly situated, and for years was a disgrace to that state. One day a man with a vision, Wolfer by name, was chosen warden of that penitentiary. He realized that neither himself or those in his keeping had a chance with the prison located in the wrong environment, and he asked the legislature to buy a farm and locate the prison in the country. The legislators made some figures, scratched their heads and said: "It will cost too much, the people will never stand it." Warden Wolfer abided his time and two years later promised the legislators that if they would make the appropriation for the farm, he would build the prison with prison labor, and within ten years would present both land and prison to the state free of charge, promising to pay back every penny expended.

Temporary quarters were arranged for half of the prisoners the next spring and work upon a model prison was commenced. Long before the time had expired Warden Wolfer had built and paid for both prison and farm, and today Minnesota has the model state prison of the United States. This and more can be accomplished right here in Michigan. Nathan F. Simpson, former warden, made Jackson prison self-sustaining, and with proper equipment and in the right environment he could have built and paid for both a model prison and a farm, without having cost the taxpayers a dollar.

Let us get a little closer view of Jackson prison and its surroundings. For years there has been a succession of troubles and investigations at Jackson. In fact, the newspaper reporters, ever eager to turn up something that will make a story, have for a decade, turned toward Jackson when they positively could not find a sensational story elsewhere—and they were always able to get a "bone" at least. The fight against the "dope gang" following the conviction of the warden on a graft charge, the breaking up of the "Jackson prison gang," the "muting of the prisoners, and the "four days' fight," "the calling of the militia," and countless other troubles will be quickly recalled. And these and other troubles of the past, the recent troubles, and the future difficulties, can all be traced to the

U. S. BUYS MICHIGAN HOLSTEINS

Last week the U. S. Government bought 23 head of registered Holsteins from Jas. Wilder and W. A. Cameron of Bay county, for shipment to Panama. An average price of \$225 was paid for the animals. Before the purchase was completed, each animal was carefully tested for tuberculosis. D. D. Aitken says everybody would come to Michigan for pure-bred Holsteins if the state could absolutely guarantee its cattle free from tuberculosis.

environment, physical conditions, which surround the prison of by-gone days.

When a prisoner finishes his term he is turned loose in the city of Jackson, acknowledged before the state went dry, to be the "Toledo of Michigan," and this is an appellation not to be desired. The percentage of discharged and paroled prisoners who go wrong before they ever get outside of the Jackson city limits is surprising, indeed. The citizens of Jackson deplore the fact that the prison is located within the confines of the city, and they have asked many times that the prison and all the grey prison walls inclosed be far removed from the limits of the city. Right here we have an element which is ever working against the discipline of the prisoners, the success of the warden's efforts and the redemption of the men. The friction is ever present, and the whole institution and all connected with it are constantly watched by a lot of jackals who are ever ready to spring, and they may tear and rend, but never willing to accord those in charge a fair chance to make a success of their undertakings.

Scottville Drying Plant Points Way to Profitable Disposal of Apples Unfit for Commercial Trade

There's a humorous skit that used to be sung about "dried apple pie." It's been a long time since I heard that pun, but if memory serves me right, I believe the author didn't have much use for dried apple pie. But probably he lived on a farm and whenever he wanted a piece of delicious, fresh apple pie all he had to do was to go out into the orchard and gather in enough apples to make all the pies that mother cared to bake. But people not so fortunately situated eat dried apple pie and don't know the difference.

If there's anybody that's got a grudge against dried apple pie, maybe they can get a little satisfaction by going over to Scottville, in Mason county, and "cleaning up" on Sebastian Bros. & Company, who last season turned 50,000 bushels of Michigan apples into a dried article that sooner or later will go into making of dried apple pies and "sass."

Sebastian Bros. & Co., started in a small way back in 1887 to dry apples. Their first plant, with a daily capacity of only five bushels was located at Odin, Illinois. Development of the industry has been gradual as the manufacturers not only had to make the product, but had to create a market as well to a large extent. At Scottville, they now have the largest and most modern apple drying plant in the United States. Last summer, for various causes, they did not begin operations until late, but already have dried some 50,000 bushels of apples this year. The capacity of their plant is estimated at 2,400 bushels daily.

The labor employed is largely female, women earning from \$2 to \$4 per day. One woman, we are told, can easily pare and core 125 bushels daily. Any apple, large or small, that is not rotten is used. The peelings and cores are dried out and made into jelly.

Before the war, Sebastian Bros.' principal market was Hamburg, Germany. This is the only in-

MAY SELL AMERICAN HORSES FOR MEAT

**Demand From Overseas for Horse Meat May
Help Canadian and American Own-
ers to Dispose of Scrub Stock**

American farmers who have been complaining of the lack of demand for horses may find an unexpected outlet for their scrub stock thru the European demand for horse meat. For a year or more horse meat has been sold in some of the biggest cities, and now that the meat shortage has been so grave, there is an active demand for equine flesh among the civilian populations of Europe.

Right now the Horse Breeders' Association of Canada is advertising for horses for this purpose. The advertisements read:

"The association desires information from all owners of horses for which they have no ready market and which they would undertake to supply to provide meat to relieve the shortage of meat supply in countries where the residents are accustomed to using horse flesh for food. Present indications justify the belief that a market for this class of horse may be provided if the owners in the west will undertake to supply the same in sufficient numbers. The possibilities of such a market depends upon the owners themselves. Five cents a pound is the price f.o.b. western points on the hoof paid to owners for all animals supplied."

"Shortage of fodder has (Continued on page 21)

stance that has ever come to our attention where American products have successfully competed with German products on German soil. In this case it is particularly surprising because of Germany's acknowledged leadership in agricultural production and in the fruit and vegetable drying industry. After the war started, Sebastian Bros., sought a new market and the bulk of their product has gone into the southern counties.

Sebastian Bros. advise us that their Scottville plant is for sale, as they are planning on the construction of a much larger plant either in southern Michigan or New York. They advise us that they would be willing to build a drying plant in any community that has a large enough number of orchards to warrant the investment. They are frequent carload buyers of apples and are usually able to pay as much as the local dealers.

The war's demand for food products that take up little shipping space are as high in dry edible matter has centered attention upon the drying of fruits and vegetables. The market for these products is naturally regulated to a large extent by the supply of the fresh article and the international shipping situation. With the present shortage of food products and the absolute need of conserving every possible cubic foot of shipping space, there can be no question but what there will be a profitable market for some years to come for dried fruits and vegetables, if indeed, they do not meet a natural and permanent demand in some quarters of the globe.

The annual waste of apples, because of lack of labor to harvest and pack them for market, is enormous. It seems to us that there are many communities in Michigan that could easily and profitably support factories for drying the off-grade product, and the fruit that in many seasons cannot be properly prepared for the commercial markets.



Apple Drying Plant of Sebastian Bros. & Co., Scottville, Michigan

COUNTY AGENT BARNUM PROVES THAT SHEEP PAY IN MICHIGAN

Although ideally equipped with lakes and rivers and forage lands, Michigan has never taken a very prominent place in the sheep raising industry. But it is safe to say that more interest has been manifested in sheep in this state the last two years than during the ten years prior to that time.

Sheep almost always pay good dividends in Michigan. A farmer once engaged in sheep raising seldom forsakes the business, and hundreds of farmers who a few years ago never thought of raising sheep, are now in the market for foundation flocks and all the information they can get on how to start a flock and care for it.

Among the most convincing figures we have seen in a long time on the profitability of sheep-raising were compiled by H. L. Barnum, agricultural agent of Missaukee county, who sends us the following summary of his observations:

Size of Flock	Val. of Flock	Total Expense	Returns		Net Ret'ns	% of Lambs		
			Wool	L'mbs	F'ck	Pr. Hd	Born	Saved
87	\$1044	\$ 398	\$ 336	\$ 240	\$178	\$ 2.00	75	60%
62	930	350	279	461	390	6.30	106%	81%
31	498	231	129	319	217	7.00	100%	96%
28	576	232	192	187	147	5.02	82%	59%
10	150	61	66	52	57	5.70	90%	60%
*218	\$2978	\$1272	\$1002	\$1259	\$989	\$26.03	453	356

* Totals.

Average flock, 43 head.

Average value, \$595; per head, \$13.83.

Average expense, \$254; per head, \$5.95.

Average returns, wool, \$200; lambs, \$2.52.

Average net returns on flock, \$198; per head, \$5.20.

Average per cent of profit on investment, 37%.

Average per cent of lambs dropped, 90%; saved, 71%.

In the above figures the value of the manure saved has not been included in the returns, altho it should be; but on account of the wide variation in actual savings, this item was omitted. This would make a serious reduction in the net returns; but since the flocks have not in all cases been charged with such items as depreciation, taxes, insurance, etc., the manure has simply been allowed to offset these overhead charges. As it stands, therefore, the per cent of profit is approximately correct.

Note the relation between the percent of lambs saved and the net returns per head. Proper winter care of the flock very largely influences the size of the wool crop and the number of lambs saved. —H. L. Barnum, County Agr'l Agent, Missaukee county.

FARMERS' CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION IN AMERICA

The Farmers' National Headquarters, with offices in the Bliss building, Washington, D. C., announces a conference to consider the various problems of reconstruction adopted by the different farm organizations and to work out a joint farmers' program for economic reconstruction in America and for international reconstruction, to be held under the auspices of the Farmers' National Headquarters in the National Hotel, Washington, D. C., Tuesday and Wednesday, January 7th and 8th, 1919. The announcement states that a number of farm organizations, including state Granges, farmers' Unions, The American Society of Equity, and the Gleaners have pledged their co-operation in this conference, which will be the most important meeting of farmers ever

held in this country because of the urgency and importance of the problems to be considered.

A tentative program for domestic and international reconstruction has been drafted by a special committee composed of members of the American Society of Equity, Farmers' Unions, Grange and Gleaners, which spent four days in session at the Farmers' National Headquarters the last of November for this particular purpose. This tentative draft will be sent in advance to representatives of the larger farm organizations of the country for careful consideration, and national, state and local branches of the chief farmer organizations are being invited to send delegates to the conference in January so that they may speak authoritatively for their organizations, and that a platform for domestic and international reconstruction adopted by the conference will have the full weight of formal approval by the organized farmers of America committed to the early carrying out of their program. The call for the conference is signed by Herbert F. Baker, Chairman Governing board of the Farmers' National Headquarters; George P. Hampton, managing director; and Benjamin C. Marsh, secretary and director of Legislation. For detailed information address the secretary, Bliss Building, Washington, D. C.

Your auto department is a valuable addition to your paper and it is one of vital interest to farmers, as we are living more and more in a mechanical age. I admire your attitude taken during the recent campaign and especially with regard to the senatorial election, and it clearly demonstrated that you do not belong to the list of spineless editors who lack the backbone to express their opinions regardless of whom it helps or hurts so long as the truth is made known.—F. W., Metamore, O.

Farmer Ebenezer Ezener Writes a Letter to the Department of Agriculture

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The U. S. department of agriculture was founded to advance the science of farming. During its fifty-odd years of existence it has made many invaluable contributions to agriculture, and the value of the service it has rendered cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Notwithstanding this, however, the department does many foolish things, based upon its misconception of the farmer's intelligence. One of its various bureaus will issue bulletins couched in language, so complex and academic that the average reader must needs study long and diligently over its phrases before the meaning becomes clear. Another bureau will issue bulletins, the phraseology of which is not dissimilar to that employed by the children in the grammar school, and giving one the impression that the person for whom it is intended must be either a fool or an ignoramus. Constant reminders are issued by the department of agriculture to the farmers that they ought to fix their fences, put their machinery under cover, repair and paint their buildings, use a sharp knife in butchering, and a million other admonitions that could only be addressed without insult to persons wholly devoid of intellect. We sometimes wonder what the people of the city must think of the farmer's brain capacity when they come across such idiotic advice as the department of agriculture is constantly handing out to the farmers. Complaint is made that the farmer doesn't co-operate with the splendid agricultural forces that are at his command. But this is not to be wondered at. Why should an intelligent farmer expect that a department which permits such balderdash as that reproduced on this page to be spread broadcast, could be of any practical help to him?)

One of our readers receiving a copy of this "bulletin" which came from the office of "information," U. S. department of agriculture, sends us a copy of his acknowledgement. As you can see, he is somewhat of a humorist, and altho he doesn't use the best grammar or English, you'll have to admit that he gets his idea "across." This reader has agreed to send us copies of all his letters to the department of agriculture, and they will be reproduced in future issues of M. B. F.)

DEAR UNCLE "Aggie." Your favor of recent date received in which you ask if I'm settin' my plans to have lots of ice next summer, an' reminding me that ice is a nice thing to have on a hot July day when your shirt's stickin' to your back and the sweat rolls off'n your nose from honest toll in pitchin' hay or mebbe crankin' the automobile. There han't never been a hot July day that I didn't wisht I was with Doc. Cook lookin' up the north pole, or could roll myself up in a snow-ball, or mebbe have an icicle to chew on. No, sir, you don't have to tickle my memory none about the joys of living in a ice palace when the mercury is gasping for breath around a hundred in the shade.

You ask if I am ready to put in my ice yet. You bet I am, but the ice ain't. You see, last

Build or Repair the Ice House

Of course you're planning to have plenty of ice next summer. It will be mighty helpful on those hot days in July—comfort in the home and saving in the dairy.

Are you ready? Is the ice house in good repair, or will you find, when a good freeze comes, that you have no fit place to store ice? It will be to your advantage to spend some of your spare time NOW in getting the ice house in shape. Repair the sides and see that the roof doesn't leak.

If you haven't built an ice house, this is the time to do so. Don't be without ice next summer. It's expensive and inconvenient to depend on neighbors or haul from town. You can build a good ice house. If you want to know how, write to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and ask for a free copy of Farmers' Bulletin 623. Do it now.

summer the pond back of the orchard dried up, and even if it hadn't dried up and was as full of water as ever which wasn't very full anyway, because the hole where the water was wouldn't be a hole at all if it was raised up about two or three feet and then there wouldn't be any water settle there. At least that's been my 'sperience. If you'n has been any different, please let me know and I'll enclose a stamp for your kind reply. But as I was saying even if it hadn't dried up, there wouldn't be no ice there yet anyway, because it hasn't been cold enough to freeze water. I allus supposd you had to have water and freezin' weather to get ice. If you know any other way to get ice to fill that ice house of mine, kindly let me know about it and I'll enclose another stamp for the informashun. Because living on a farm as I do away from centers of civilization, I aint as much up as I oughter be on some things like this.

You advise that I oughter use some of my spare time to gettin' the ice house in shape for the ice. That's a good suggeshun. If I only had any spare time to use. But for forty years I've been lookin' for some of that spare time I hear some farmers have; but I ain't been able to locate any of it yet. Mebbe you can tell me where to find some, if so, please advise on the postcard I will try to remember to put in this letter, and Mirandy'll be much obliged to you because for the last ten years she's been writing down a list of the odd jobs, she calls 'em, that she wants me to do when I get a little "spare" time, an' I'm afraid if you do tell me where to find this spare time, it will take me most of the winter to tend to them odd jobs and that won't help the ice house none, will it?

I am glad you remind me that when I'm fixing up that ice house, to repair the sides and see that the roof don't leak, cause when I fix any of my buildings I most allus don't pay any attenshun

to the roof and sides. Mirandy says I'm shiftless in this respect. She says I'll putter around all day stuffin' up the knot holes and the cracks in the floor with the wind blowin' my hat off thru the cracks in the sides, and the rain a comin' down thru the cracks in the roof. But my ice house ain't got no floor, so if I fix it atall the only things there is to fix is the sides and the roof. But mebbe my ice house is different than your'n and I would feel under obligashuns to you if you would tell me just what your ice house has got to fix that mine ain't. I don't caltate to have no ice house that ain't as good as the next one, and if my ice house lacks somethin' it oughter have, I want ter know it.

You bet I know it's spensive to call on the neighbors to haul your ice for you. I rec'lect well one time last summer after my ice had run out, you see I don't have a very large supply of ice on account of that hollow back of the orchard being not much of a hollow as I've already explained to you and I don't get enough ice to last as a rule more'n till the middle of August when some times in these parts you need ice the most, well, one time last summer after we'd used the last piece of ice, Mirandy had a party for the kids and we had to have some ice to make the ice cream, and as I couldn't get to town on account I had to fix the barn floor, I got a neighbor to bring it for us, and I give him a bag to put the ice in, and also a pail to bring back some nails and other odds and ends that I needed to fix that barn floor with, and he put the ice in the pail and the nails in the bag and by the time he got home you could have put that chunk of ice in your mouth and swallowed it without choking. That taught me a lesson I can tell you and I said to Mirandy then and there that she'd have to go easier on the ice next summer cause I wasn't going to have no more neighbors melting up my good money in no such a way as that, would you?

I'm mighty glad, Uncle Aggie, that you took the trouble to have writ me about this ice house business, 'cause I'd almost forgot about that ice 'sperience I had last summer and might have filled my ice house with half the boards off and then the ice would melt and I'd have to depend on my neighbor again, which I don't like to do cause how would any man like to fritter his money away on ice that was going to turn into water before he could use it when I've got all the water I want in the cistern. Wishing you to know that I feel that if I don't get my ice house fixed this winter, or there don't any water stay in that hollow back of the orchard, and the weather don't get cold enough to freeze it, and if I ain't got no ice next July, it would be no fault of your'n, I sign myself—Ebenezer Ezener, Jr.

P. S. When you answer this to tell me about that spare time, etc., don't forget to put in that "Jr." as this is a family name and I don't want you to think I'm my grandfather who used to live on this place.

FARMERS SERVICE BUREAU

(A clearing department for farmers' everyday troubles. Prompt and careful attention given to all complaints or requests for information addressed to this department. We are here to serve you. Call upon us.)

SOME METHODS OF TANNING HIDES WITH FUR ON THEM

Will you please tell me how to tan hides with the fur on?—B. M., Shepherd, Michigan.

We asked the U. S. Department of Agriculture to give us this information for you. In response to the request two bulletins, Farmers' Bulletin No. 832, "Trapping Moles," and Bulletin No. 869, "The Muskrat as a fur bearer," were sent. Referring to the second bulletin, we find the following information:

"Muskrats taken for the fur should be trapped—not shot or speared. If taken alive in a trap they should be killed by a sharp blow on the back of the head. Trappers usually carry a short club for this purpose.

"Muskrat skins intended for the market should be "cased," not opened along the belly. In skinning, begin at the heel and slit up the middle of the hind leg to the tail, around it, and then down the other leg to the heel in the same way. No other cuts are needed, though many trappers pass the knife around the feet, where the long fur ends. Then turn the skin back over the body, leaving the fur side inward. The skin peels off easily to the front feet. Cut closely around nose, ears, and lips, so as not to tear the pelt. If bits of flesh adhere to the skin about the head, they must be scraped off, but this is usually left to the fur dresser. The skin, inside out, is stretched over a thin board or a shingle of the proper shape and a tack or two is inserted to keep it in position to dry. Stretchers made of heavy galvanized wire are now extensively used by trappers and have advantages over the wooden kind. Skins should be dried in open air—not before a fire or in the sun. They should not be exposed to rain. Books on trapping usually give full directions for caring for raw furs.

"Formerly many muskrat skins were home-tanned and made into caps, collars, and other articles. At present the home utilization of skins is much less extensive, but knowledge of a good method of dressing fur is still desirable. Most of the methods employed by amateurs involve the use of alum to fix the hair; but satisfactory results, so far as pliability of the pelt goes, depend largely upon the labor bestowed on them.

"The directions here given, if followed, will give better results than the use of alum. Prepare a tanning liquid composed of a quart of salt and one-half ounce of sulphuric acid to each gallon of water. This mixture should not be kept in a metal container. Muskrat skins (not cased) are tanned in this mixture in a day, but they may remain in it longer without injury. When removed from the liquor, wash several times in soapy water, wring as dry as possible, and rub the flesh side with a cake of hard soap. Then fold them in the middle, lengthwise, over a line, hair side out, and leave to dry. When both surfaces are barely dry, and the interior is still moist, lay them over a smooth, rounded board and scrape on the flesh side with the edge of a worn flat file or a similar blunt tool. In this way an inner layer is removed and the skins become nearly white in color. They are then stretched, rubbed, and twisted until quite dry. If parts of a skin are still hard or stiff, the soaping, drying, and stretching process should be repeated until the entire skin is soft. Fresh butter, or other animal fat, worked into skins while they are warm and then worked out again in dry hardwood sawdust, or extracted by a hasty bath in gasoline, increases their softness."

Anyone desiring further information upon these subjects may secure copies of the bulletins above referred to by writing to the division of Publications, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. There are a number of good writers upon the subject of trapping and care of furs. We will be glad to advise where such books may be purchased, upon request.

SHALL I SELL MY YEARLINGS NOW OR WAIT TILL SPRING?

I am an interested reader of your paper and would like to have some personal advice in regards to a carload of yearling feeders that I have. They are steers and heifers and in fairly good shape. They are a mixed grade but mostly red. I am feeding them clover hay and corn silage, but will not have enough to put them through the winter. Would you advise me taking them to the Detroit market in about two weeks? If so,

please give me the names of some good responsible commission firms. I have never shipped a car of cattle before and would like to know just how to do it. If the Detroit market is not good could you tell me of any other market.—A. M., Alpena, Michigan.

No one who cares very much about their reputation likes to forecast the market on any product, let alone such a varying proposition as feeding steers. I wouldn't want anyone to take my judgment on a proposition of this sort because I do not know, yet it does seem too bad to sell a nice bunch of feeders with the market in such shape as it is at the present time. All markets seem to be glutted on this sort of stuff—and it is not bringing what it is worth. I can tell you frankly that if they were mine I would borrow the money if necessary and buy feed to winter them thru, especially if I had any pasture for them next summer, but for all I know they may be as cheap or cheaper next summer and yet I have faith that the market will be much better.

If you must sell them it doesn't make any particular difference as far as I know what livestock commission firm you send them to. I think they will all get as much for them as they can and you will get a remittance promptly and in a business-like manner. I suggest that you write to Hammond Standish & Company, Bishop, Bullen & Holness or the Detroit Packing Company at Detroit, or Clay, Robinson Co., Chicago or East Buffalo. Ask them their opinion about the market for such stuff and after you get all the information you can then act on your own judgment, but if you could winter these steers through even on roughage and had good pasture for them, I think it would be a good investment.—Colon C. Lillie.

P. O. DEPARTMENT EXPLAINS WHY RURAL SERVICE WAS DISCONTINUED

I enclose a copy of a letter I received last week. This change of service will put me to a great deal of inconvenience. I am not a young man and I have a great deal of work to do, and this walk of a mile every day over a bad road and this stormy weather, waiting for the mail to come, to get P. O. orders or post parcels is going to make it hard for me. Can you help me in this matter. If so, I will be very grateful.—T. G. H., Bailey.

T. G. H.—Effective Nov. 16, 1918, service will be withdrawn from the 1-2 mile running to your place and it will be necessary for you to put your letter box either at the corner 1-2 mile north, or 1-2 mile south. By order of the Fourth Assistant P. M. General.—H. Barnum, Postmaster, Bailey, Mich.

With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, inquiring as to the reasons for the withdrawal of delivery of mail from the residence of Mr. T. G. H., on rural route No. 1, Bailey, effective November 16, 1918, you are informed that inasmuch as it was developed in connection with a contemplated readjustment of the route that the carrier was traveling one-half mile and retrace, or one mile, serving but one family, the route was amended so as to eliminate this unprofitable travel, since there appeared to be no justification for its continuance. Mr. H. resides but one-half mile from the route as now operated, and is regarded as having reasonably convenient postal facilities.—Jas. S. B. Tarsley, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

FARMER HAS HALF SECTION AVAILABLE FOR SHEEP GRAZING

I have a half section of land in Newaygo county which is suitable for grazing purposes. Do you know of any way in which I can get into communication with someone who would buy the land or would care to go in on a share basis, and furnish the stock for a term of years. A small stream of water running thru one corner of it furnished water for stock. An excellent place for sheep raising. I shall be grateful for any information. If I sold I would take a small payment down.—L. N. C., Washtenaw county.

We are afraid you will have difficulty in interesting anyone in your land at the present time. The trouble is that there are hundreds of such parcels of land thruout northern Michigan to every prospective buyer, and altho there has been considerable agitation by the development bureaus tending to interest western sheep owners in Michigan's grazing facilities, these efforts have not borne much fruit as yet. We firmly believe that in the course of another two or three years a strong demand for these grazing lands will develop. The sheep raising idea seems to have taken firm root the past two years, and the present high cost of wool has turned the minds of many men to the possibilities of the industry. We expect to see considerable capital invested in this business, and believe that the state is on the verge of a great development along this line. The best we can do for you or any other farmer who has grazing land available, is to place the matter before the development bureaus and the agricultural agents of the various railroad companies, who have frequent inquiries for such land.

MUST A SUBSCRIBER PAY FOR A PAPER HE DOES NOT ORDER?

From time to time we have had a number of complaints referred to us by farmers who were being threatened with suit for alleged non-payment of subscription to magazines which had continued to come to them after their subscription had expired. It appears upon investigation that there is no postal ruling or state or federal law which releases a subscriber from the payment of subscription so long as he accepts the paper from the mails. A recent complaint of this nature received from a Huron county subscriber was referred to postoffice Dept. who replied as follows:

"You are informed that this office does not determine questions involving the liability of subscribers for the subscription price of a publication. These are personal matters between the publisher and his alleged subscribers."—A. M. Dockery, third assistant postmaster general.

Mr. W. E. Brown was also asked for an opinion upon the matter. His reply is as follows.

"I am unable to find any case in Michigan in which the question of liability of a subscriber for a publication after his subscription has expired where the newspaper was continued. The following is the statement of the law from decisions in other states:

"It has been held that although one has not ordered a newspaper or periodical to be sent to him, or his subscription has expired, yet if the paper is sent to him through the post and he takes it out and uses it, an acceptance by conduct of the offer would be inferred."—W. E. Brown, Legal Editor.

And there you are. As long as upheld by the courts unscrupulous publishers will continue to send their publications to careless people who will take them from the mail-box. This is the only way some publishers are able to maintain their circulation. We advise our readers now as we have many times before that when your subscription to a publication expires and you don't want it any longer, leave it in your mail box and tell the carrier to take it back to the postoffice. It is then the postmaster's duty to notify the publisher, and if the publisher continues to send the paper, he is obliged to pay the return postage.

WHY MY MILKING MACHINE IS A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT.

In your issue of Dec. 7, under Live Stock hints, you ask that some of your readers write you of their experience with milking machines. Owing to a shortage of farm labor we faced as many farmers did, the problem of either reducing our herd or purchasing a milking machine was investigated. After investigating several dairies where machines were in use, we decided to purchase a Sharples, it giving the most satisfaction on Holstein herds. We have now been using our machine for some time and find by its use that it saves us three hours a day; replaces one man. Cows let down their milk more easily and freely than by hand milking, and they resent forcibly the return to the hand milking, as we found out when the machine was disconnected owing to our having a pully enlarged.

Another feature of the machine is that hired men when in a hurry are careless and do not milk cows dry. A milking machine eliminates this. One man with a two-unit milker is able to milk twenty-four cows an hour.

Hoping this will help some fellow farmer in solving his labor problem, we are, yours very truly.—H. H. Mason & Son, per H. P. Mason, Washtenaw county.

CARP LAKE MERCHANT VIOLATES FEDERAL RULING, MIDLINGS SALE

A complaint referred to us by a Cecil subscriber that a Carp Lake merchant had charged him \$3 per cwt. for midlings was turned over to the Food Administrator with the request that an investigation be made. It was found that the midlings were purchased from Voigt Milling Company at Grand Rapids, and that the retail charge was higher than the merchant was entitled to. "Inasmuch, however," writes the Food Administrator, "as this was the first offense, we decided to take no further action other than to inform him of the rules and regulations and the proper profit he was entitled to."

In previous cases where it has been shown that merchants took a higher profit than they were entitled to, in willful violation of the rulings, they were fined from \$25 to \$100 which money was turned over to the Red Cross. In first offense cases, particularly where it was shown that merchants were for some reason or other in ignorance of the rulings, a reprimand was thought sufficient to prevent further over-charging. It appears to us that in cases like the above, the merchant should be required to return to his customer the excess amount charged, and we are so suggesting to the Food Administrator.

Discrimination Against Farmer Must End, Says Milo Campbell

THESE ARE DAYS when we are thinking and acting world thought in a world atmosphere. As farmers, we are just now beginning to see beyond the bend in the road, and to inquire the way to markets hitherto unknown. We are beginning to ask if there are not other buyers than the one who comes to our door and fixes his own price. We are just learning that we have some rights that will never be respected, until we touch elbows and show a stern "front face" with united purpose.

Belgium was over-run by the Huns and their rights disrespected as scraps of paper. France would have suffered a like fate but for England. England and France would have gone the way of Belgium but for the United States. It was not until the allies stood in line with one purpose that their common cause was respected.

It was autocracy that the allied world was fighting, and it is autocracy that has made the farmer the industrial serf of the world since the days of feudalism that calls for organization today.

Two years ago six millions of milk producers in the United States were either colonies independent of each other, or were wholly disorganized. Two years ago today at a National Farmers' Congress held at Chicago, the National Milk Producers' Federation was born. It started with a membership of fourteen states, from the great dairy sections of the country. It was the president of your association here in Michigan who helped to construct it, with some mistakes of judgment perhaps, that should not be excused. For it was his appointment of a man from Michigan as chairman of a committee that led to the choice of a Michigan man as president of the Federation.

Those fourteen colonies have now increased in number, until from the Atlantic to the three Pacific states, our Federation crosses the continent.

I am not at this hour going to recount our battles fought, nor the obstacles overcome. We have too many problems yet ahead in these reconstruction days to spend time in gloating or moaning. It may not be well, however, to forget the fact that two years ago in October you were getting \$1.90 and in November \$2.05 for your milk. It may not be well to forget that the war in Europe had then been on for more than two years; Europe was crying for your butterfats and food, and the farmers alone were left profitless in the sale of their commodities.

Within three months from the time of the National Federation and the touching of elbows, the milk producers of the country were receiving more than one dollar per hundred more for their milk than they had received the year before in the same months. America had not yet entered the war, but the milk producers had come to know through investigations widely conducted, that their milk was being sold at half its cost to the farmer and they collectively demanded an increase of price.

Eighty-four billion pounds of milk are produced annually in this country, and more than fifty billions of it sold from the farm. An increase of fifty cents per hundredweight means not less than \$250,000,000 per year. But we have been warned that to admit such an increase of price would but arm our adversaries against us.

The milk producers of the country have nothing to conceal, nor have they an unholy desire for inordinate profit. The challenge is again made to the world, as it has been made since the war began, that no industry in this country has shown itself as patriotic, nor has one been so maligned and ill-treated as that of the milk producers. We have asked but cost of production, plus such reasonable profit as the Government might think proper. Our business has been upon the table for dissection and investigation, open to the public as no other business in the Nation. When Nation-wide investigations have been made by experts, by disinterested investigators, covering tens of thousands of cows, of wide territories, the results have been thrown to the winds; while cheap politicians have scoured the law books for some weapon of torture, by which they could compel the farmer to continue his losses.

Three-fourths of all the milk produced and sold during the last year has been sold at a loss to the farmers who produced it. Unfortunately the sins of the fathers are often visited upon the generations that follow. So has it been in the milk business. Since the cow has been a member of the family, as she must be if the human race does not perish from the earth, so long has it been that the farmer has not known the cost of producing milk.

The average farmer, no, not one in a thousand can know the cost of milk production. It can

only be known by wide investigation. A neighbor of mine, milking fifty cows, lost every cow but seven with tuberculosis. It would take him twenty-five years to recoup that loss, though he could sell milk at a reasonable profit.

We now know that before the war, milk was sold at half its cost to the farmer at the time. The cow was kept, as it must be, on the farm for family use; the wife and kids did more than half the work of the dairy; their labor was not counted as a cost of production.

We now are confronted with the sins of our

Milk Cheap at Any Price, Says National Commission

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, the National Commission of Milk Standards which met recently in Chicago declared that milk was cheap at any price and would probably stay up. The *Tribune* gives a semi-satirical account of the meeting in the following fashion:

"Two rats are responsible for a resolution of weight and authority adopted at the annual meeting of the National Commission of Milk Standards at the Morrison hotel. Highbrow scientific gentlemen from all over the United States constitute this commission. They decided that milk is cheap at almost any price, that it is a necessary part of the human dietary, a great 'protective' food.

"One of the rats that squats in the back-ground is a lean and scrawny animal, half grown and refusing to grow any more, eyes red and bleary. This rat was pampered and fed everything except butterfat. Next to him was his brother, a rat of hale and hearty appearance, clear eyed, as fat as a guinea pig. This rat was fed on butterfat. Therefore the conclusion.

"Milk is necessary for children's growth. It corrects the deficiencies of cereal products. Not only these two rats but countless other rats that ran in cages of the laboratory of Johns Hopkins university support this theory, according to Prof. E. V. McCollum, who told the association of the results of his experiments in nutrition. There are two unknown quantities in milk, chicken livers, and leaves which are responsible for nutritive values. They are called vitamins.

"The commission also decided that the farmer is not getting any more than he is entitled to for keeping up the supply of milk in these times of labor scarcity.

"Another thing. The price of milk is not going down any. The farmers' organizations are going to see to that. Before 1914, according to Dr. Charles E. North of New York, the farmer lost money on milk production, but did not know it. Now he has a chance to make money, but can't get help and is working himself half to death.

"After receiving reports from various cities on milk prices the commission found that the price has increased about 100 per cent to the consumer since 1914, that the war has not interfered with the quantity, that the increase in prices has not checked downward tendency in infant mortality, that where there is evidence of undernourishment it is due to a lack of appreciation of the value of milk, that all other foods have increased in greater proportion in price, and that at present retail prices milk is the most economical animal food that can be produced.

TABLES ON PRICE AND COST

The following table of food prices was prepared by the commission:

Item	1914	1918	% Inc.
Eggs	\$.23	\$.85	269
Corn	.72	1.72	139
Sugar	8.32	9.35	181
Beef	.18	.48	166
Cheese	.14	.46	228
Butter	.27	.77	226
Milk	.19	.17	88

Following is a table of the cost of production of milk, prepared by the food administration:

Item	One hundred pounds of milk	1914	1918
Hay		3024	4295
Silage		2508	4137
Labor		6048	1,0087
Miscellaneous		4177	7192
Grain		513	1,0261

Totals	2,0888	3,5962
Per quart	.0454	.0782

"Prof. M. J. Rosenau of the chair of preventive medicine and hygiene, Harvard, president of the milk commission, said he did not think the price of milk would or should go down to the consumer."

fathers, or rather, the unconscious generosity of our fathers in giving to the consuming public milk and milk products at half their cost. Ours was the only industry that made no

accounting of the labor of women and children, nor of the hours between four and seven in the morning and six and nine in the evening.

These are called pre-war years now, by the men who would sit upon our business and judge its future.

We court investigation, and even yet, though the war be over and our boys may be coming home, we are willing to supply the starving millions of Europe with food at cost plus a reasonable profit. No other industry has offered this.

I read from the President's message on Monday last, that the moment the armistice was signed the harness was taken off of raw materials, and the great industries of the Nation that had been engaged in making munitions at fabulous profits, were set at liberty to enter the world markets. But that it was not possible to remove the regulation of foodstuffs as yet, owing to the fact that the world has still to be fed from our granaries.

While we feel the discrimination against the farmer, against the producer of milk, we shall not become Bolshevik.

We are denied the great law of supply and demand, that since man began to trade has prevailed. We know what our products would be worth were they to be allowed the freedom of world and home trade. The farmer is not only loyal in days of war but in days of peace. When the Nation called for men to go into the trenches the farmer sent a greater proportion than any other calling. When the Nation wanted money the farmers went over the top first in every state.

Farmers will never carry the red flag. But it should be remembered that imposition must not go too far, lest they arise to assert the dignity of their calling. There are more than fifty millions of our people living out in the open country, and they will not always suffer patiently the discrimination that becomes so easy against the unorganized.

A year and more ago the representatives of the Chicago Milk Producers' Association, farmers representing several hundred locals, met in their annual meeting, and at the meeting discussed informally what they thought would be a fair price to receive for milk. The price that most of them thought would be fair was far below the price being obtained for milk to supply the other great cities of the country.

In the City of Chicago there live politicians who must find some propaganda upon which they can ride into office. Upon the statute books of Illinois there was found an old and obsolete law, never invoked, that made it a crime for persons to conspire to fix the price of food. Although there are a thousand millions of dollars in combinations fixing the price of food, located in Chicago, men who are secretly conspiring daily to fix the price of not only what they sell but what they buy of the farmer, these politicians, like craven cowards, lie in wait until these unwary farmers come to town, and then with great noise and blare of trumpets they indict them with a grand jury.

This grand jury was impaneled from Cook county, the City of Chicago. They were all consumers and not producers. These farmers were from outside the city, from the states of Illinois and Wisconsin. Caught in the trap of these spiders of the law, they are now to be tried for violation of a law that was never intended for them, but for the arch criminals who are being given immunity by these same politicians.

They are to be tried, not by their neighbors, not by farmers, not by an unprejudiced jury, not by producers of food, not at home, but before a Chicago jury, composed of consumers who naturally want milk and other food as cheap as it can be bought.

Is this the democracy for which we have been fighting? Are these prosecuting officials, representing the great city of Chicago looking for real offenses, or are they seeking vain-glory?

The price of \$3.42 per hundred weight at the time of their indictment of the producers was below the price in other cities of the country. The price paid producers about Chicago for the month of December, 1918, is 49 cents lower per hundred weight than the price paid to producers at their stations 150 miles out of New York; and is 75 cents lower than paid to farmers for distribution in Boston.

There has been no crime committed, no crime or offense attempted. This (Cont. on page 24)

—for all the farmers of Michigan.

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Christmas

MERRY CHRISTMAS, dear M. B. F. folks, for this happiest of seasons is most here. And we are all glad when Christmas comes. The approach of Christmas means a counting up of the pennies, a lot of delicious worrying about the little gifts we are to buy for those we love, a pleasant anticipation of the little surprises that are in store for the children. Christmas is a time of gladness. Remember,—you who used to go to Sunday school and you who still read the old Bible, how the people rejoiced when Christ was born? And every year for nineteen hundred and eighteen years since that hallowed event the people have rejoiced at Christmas time. To be sure there are homes that the Christmas spirit does not enter; good things are not welcomed there. Then there are homes where the love of God may abide in abundance, but for some reason or other, old Santa Claus never finds his way down the chimney. Then there are sad hearts and tears of disappointment trickle down childish faces, and wistful eyes look all day out the window for the Santa who did not come. And mothers' hearts are as heavy as lead. Ah, pity the poor children who hug empty stockings to their breasts on Christmas morning! It's terribly annoying to live near a poor family that doesn't have any Christmas. You can't forget the faith of the children that Santa will come altho you are quite sure that he won't. You think about it so much that it almost robs you of your own Christmas joys. You almost make yourself believe that you ought to play Santa to those poor children and see that some little toy and a bag of candy is left for them. Of course, I suppose most of you are able to overcome that weakness. But if you can't may God bless you! So many beautiful thoughts have been expressed about the Christmas spirit and the love of the Savior it's hard to preach a Christmas sermon any more. But, mebbe, there's been too much preaching and not enough practicing. If we all practiced the Christmas spirit as much as we preach it, there would be more happy homes at Christmas time. And perhaps if we could make every day a Christmas day, we'd help God establish His kingdom here on earth in a very short time. Again, dear friends, a merry Christmas.

That Railroad Question

A FARMER had a colt he had tried repeatedly to break to harness but without success. Finally despairing of ever training the animal, he said to his neighbor, "Jim, this is one of the finest colts I ever raised, but I'm afraid I'll break his neck before I break him to harness. If you can tame that colt I'll sell him to you at your own price." Jim broke the colt and came around to dicker for him. "Wal," said the owner of the colt, "I been thinking it over and have jest about decided I won't sell that colt."

When Uncle Sam got into the war, he turned to the railroad companies for help in moving troops and war supplies. "Gosh," said the rail heads, "we can't do anything with these broken down systems of ours. Our rolling stock is about ready for the junk pile; our tracks are in need of repairs; our yards are congested with freight; we can't pay dividends on our watered stock. We're in an awful fix. If you want those troops and war supplies moved you'll have to give us a lift." So Uncle Sam "lifted." He took over the railroads; put in a little fresh capital, cut out the folderols; fired the animated office fixtures that were on the payroll; united all the lines together under a single head; and things MOVED.

But now that Uncle Sam has "trained" the railroads, and saved the companies from bankruptcy, they've changed their minds and have "jest about decided they won't relinquish control of their roads for a spell yet anyway."

Mr. McAdoo, the genius who "trained" the roads, would like to see government control continue for five years, at the end of which time he believes results will justify government ownership. He declares that the railroads were never in better condition than today; he acknowledges that it cost the government and the people something to restore them to a plane of efficiency; and he rightly believes that the public should benefit by the regeneration of the nation's transportation lines.

One year of government control, beneficial as it has been, does not justify an outright purchase of the transportation systems by the government. Perhaps the railroad administration has merely been fortunate that it has made no costly mistakes to discredit its work. Perhaps a second year would completely puncture the theories of the exponents of government ownership of public utilities. On the other hand, the contrary might be so. Who can tell? Anyway, having had a hand in training the "critter," the government ought to take its time in turning the animal back to the owner.

Shall Booze Come Back?

WAR IS A great waster of human life. So is alcohol. Place all the wars of history upon the scales and watch the pointer. Up, up, it goes,—a thousand lives, ten thousand lives, a hundred thousand lives, and still it goes; a million lives, ten million lives! Oh, what a price to pay for war! Place all the booze that has been drunk upon the scales and watch the pointer. Up, up it goes, to the crest of the circle and down the other side. In lives destroyed, in suffering caused, in homes ruined, booze sets almost as high a record as war. What an awful price to pay for booze!

Before the war, strangely enough, nations were willing to pay the price that booze exacted. But when the war began and it was seen that alcohol was interfering with national efficiency, nations began to realize that they could not longer afford to pay the price. So the great nations that used to countenance, some even to encourage the drinking of alcoholic beverages, banned them.

Fortunately it did not take a war to awaken the people of the United States to the evils of strong drink. Since 1900 the move to prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages has gradually spread until today prohibition laws are in force in thirty-two of the states of the union. But war taught its lessons even to us, and millions who before we entered the conflict, tolerated the liquor traffic as a "necessary evil," saw that the wasting of food, fuel, energy and men in the liquor industry was hampering our war efforts, and must be eliminated.

But the war is over. The pendulum swings back from self-denial to indulgence, from sacrifice to profligacy, from national expediency to "personal liberty." Thousands who voted for prohibition as a conservation measure, now don't care whether booze comes back or not. In their eyes, the objections to booze have largely been removed by the ending of the war. There is danger

ahead for the prohibition movement.

The erstwhile manufacturers and dispensers of booze are going to take every advantage possible of this changing sentiment to restore the liquor traffic to its former prestige. Already one attempt has been made to secure a vote upon an amendment to permit the sale of light wines and beer. This attempt was defeated before it ever got to the voters, but undaunted, the same crowd has filed another batch of petitions and will make a strenuous campaign to have their amendment adopted. If booze once gets his foot in the prohibition door by the adoption of this amendment, it will be only a short time before he'll push the door wide open, and the same old town drunks will be hanging around the same old corner saloon.

Shall booze come back to Michigan? It is the farmers and the farmers' wives who must answer this question by their votes when the light wine and beer amendment is submitted. The big cities will welcome the return of the lighter beverages; but the rural communities, if they value their present moral cleanliness and the sobriety of their sons, will vigorously oppose letting down the bars of prohibition.

The Bolshevik Fever

A READING of the daily papers convinces us that about one-half of the world's population is suffering from the "bolshviki" ague, and the other half is trying to maintain a quarantine.

The farmer, grown tired from working sixteen hours a day with practically nothing to show for his labor, who demands more rights, is a "bolshevik." The laborer, facing lower wages and higher living costs, who demands that present wage scales be continued, is a bolshevik. And their leaders are Lenines and Trotskys who are traitors to their country and ought to have their heads cut off. The strange thing about Bolshevism is that it attacks only those who work with their hands, whose backs are bent and whose faces are lined with worry and care. Those who live without working and are beautiful to look upon are very seldom troubled by this strange malady.

In the older countries this epidemic has become quite virulent. People afflicted with it do violent and unnatural things, such as overthrowing governments, robbing and shooting their neighbors, and even tearing at each other's throats. The disease in the United States is of a very mild form and if those who are trying to keep quarantine handle their patients intelligently, there is no reason to fear that the epidemic will become any worse. In this country, the disease manifests itself by a desire among its victims to hold public meetings, organize political parties, elect representatives to congress, and otherwise mess up the established order of things.

Every time during the next ten years that the farmers of the nation hold a meeting for the purpose of discussing their political affairs, the stand-pat politicians and the Wall street capitalists will yell, "bolsheviki." And the pampered press will take up the cry and try to make its readers believe that the farmers are leading the nation into the same chasm of anarchy in which Russia wallows helplessly today.

The people of the United States who have independent incomes, the representatives in Congress, the employers of capital and labor and the metropolitan press will make the mistake of their lives if they summarily dismiss the farmers' pleas with a contemptuous charge of "bolshevism."

The bankers want the teeth taken out of the huge tax bill that Congress is soon to vote upon. They say that a heavy tax burden is not conducive to business development. But pray, tell us, gentlemen, who will pay the taxes if big business doesn't?

A royal welcome, the equal of which not even the returning conqueror of ancient days commanded, awaited President Wilson upon his arrival in France. Strange, isn't it, a "royal" welcome for the world's greatest democrat.



Rev'ries an' Things

Now that the blessed Christmas season is approachin' an' the end of the year is so dum near that I can almost see it, I sort o' got into the notion of thinkin' a little mite, an' it kinda occurs to me that I am gittin' jest a little mite antiquated. Not old, y'understand, but certain things don't seem to appeal to me as they did in days of yore, as the poet sez. Young an' beautiful girls an' sauer kraut; old maids an' limberger cheese; tight pants an' a mustach; moonlight nights an' scarlet rash—all these things that at one time seemed the main reason for livin', have sort of passed away, so to speak, an' now I think of sterner things—Christmas an' plum puddin', Santa Claus an' unfortunate widows an' homeless children; empty pocket books an' Christmas trees, an' a lot of things like that that seem to be a sure sign that old age, which is sure a dread to a good many folks, is creepin' up onto me an' I sometimes worry jest a little bit for fear I won't be able to throw the old feller off, an' that he'll git me an' swaller me up, jest as he has so many others—some of 'em long before their time, too—cause we don't have to let old age git us as long as we can keep our hearts young an' our faces bright an' smilin'. An' I find that one of the best things to ward off this old feller—age—is the companionship of children. Mix with 'em, enjoy their games an' pastimes, trust 'em an' let 'em know that they can trust us; in fact, if we make ourselves companionable to the young an' not presume so much on their friendship as to interfere with their legitimate pleasures, then, by gum, we're goin' to hold our own, an' old age is goin' to have a purty darn hard time gittin' any sort of a foothold onto us, an' we're a goin' to git more enjoyment out of life than any long-faced old grouch can ever know anything about.

Christmas time is the grand old time of the year—the time when all petty grievances an' animosities should be forgotten, when love for our fellow bein's, an' forgiveness for their shortcomings should prevail.

Let not our faces be clouded during this yule tide time, an' if we will try an' make someone truly happy by some kind act—kind acts are often more acceptable than costly gifts, an' kind an' pleasant words to a heart that is sad an' lonely—why, there is nothin' in the world like it; they cheer the heart an' make the world look glad.

Of course, some are in trouble; some fancy trouble for themselves, an' some have trouble thrust upon them; but nevertheless an' notwithstanding, right now we should forget our own troubles an' seek to make life a little pleasanter for those who can not do things for themselves. Let us remember the sick an' afflicted; the homes where death may have entered, an' taken a loved one, an' last, but not least, those kiddies who never know Santa Claus except as some kind-hearted soul sees that the old man is posted an' gets onto the job for these unfortunate little lads an' lassies, who in the years to come may, in spite of the handicaps now confronting them, be of great value to this old world of ours.

Well, dear friends, don't you worry about your Uncle Rube. By gosh, we're not a goin' to git old till we have to, an' that time haint come yet, not by a darn sight. An' now I wish every reader of M. B. F. a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Cordially yours, *Uncle Rube*.

Brother Rube of the M. B. F. Family:—I am neither handsome, proud nor an old maid any more but I have got a flock of geese here, and from the clever way which you have of telling the sex of chickens, I thought it might be possible that you could tell me how to tell the sex of geese, as we have had a number of arguments here of late about it, and of course, would ask to have your version. Old boy, you are all right; keep right on, you are doing well. A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men.—A. K., *Ashley, Michigan*.

The Way of a Political Movement

American labor wants a national party all its own. Already the movement is on foot in New York, Chicago and Detroit.

Politicians of the older parties cannot be expected to greet the announcement with enthusiasm. Yet if they face the situation honestly they must conclude they have but themselves to thank.

The genius of our government is against class political grouping. But labor now declares it is no longer adequately represented by either of the great parties.

There can be but one reason. The declarations of party platforms have been made solely for the purpose of winning votes; they have not been held as binding upon the post-election perform-

ances of the winners. Bad faith has split many a party. The mishaps which recently befell certain European rulers illustrate this truth.

But there are illustrations nearer home. Why has the Non-Partisan League created such a ruction in the politics of northwestern states? Because the farmers who constitute a large part of the population of those districts believed the political cards were stacked against them. They found the regular political parties controlled by interests which had no ears for the farmers' grievances. And when the conviction became settled among them that they were being betrayed by the men who sought their votes, they undertook to play the political game themselves and in their own interests.

And recently in Michigan we have had the spectacle of a party organization putting over a Senatorial candidate little known and certainly not demanded by the people, through the simple expedient of a barrel of money. Small wonder many come to feel that they have little in common with the aims of such political organizations.

If the present political parties hope to retain the confidence of the people they must cast off those influences which dominate them for selfish ends and must adopt a policy of frankness and fairness toward all people and all interests. If once these greater parties convince the people that they are capable of serving the legitimate purposes of parties in the American scheme of government they will remove the causes which lead to class political movements in a country founded for the elimination of all class distinctions.—*Detroit News*.

Kent County Farmer Thinks Co-Operative Threshing Association is Good Thing

Please find enclosed \$1 for renewal of my subscription to M. B. F. for another year. You were making inquiries some time ago regarding the yield of navy beans per acre, also how many were being sold by the growers. I will gladly give you my accurate book account the same as was sent in to Lansing to the secretary of state. Beans

A "Business Farmer"

I noticed an article in your paper asking why not know the cost of raising food and farm products. I think it would be a good thing if every farmer would keep account of everything he buys and sells, and the cost of raising his crops. I keep a book for keeping track of my crops and the stock. I keep account of my plowing and fitting the ground and the seed I sow on each field, and the amount of grain I thresh, and I know just how much each field pays whether a profit or whether it runs me in the hole. I also raise a big acreage of potatoes and I keep the same account of each field so I know just how much it costs me to grow them and get them in the cellar. I have kept a book in this way for the last four years and some times I make a profit on a crop and sometimes I run behind.—*Daniel D. Smith, Presque Isle county*.

were an exceptionally poor crop in this vicinity this year, some hardly worth harvesting as many acres were frosted the 22nd of June; the replanting was nearly a failure and those that were not frosted were badly damaged by the drouth. I threshed 550 acres, which yielded 4,029 bushels, machine measure. These were all the white navy beans. I am positive more than half of these beans have been sold at the elevators.

The grower ought to receive at least ten cents a pound to make any money out of his beans this year. I also notice that you speak of the farmers forming a company to own and operate their own threshing outfit. I believe this plan would work out very successfully under good management. I know of a good outfit for sale that can be bought right. With best wishes to M. B. F., I remain, yours truly—*Geo. Hatch, Kent county*.

Why There is No Loan Association in Montcalm County

I notice in today's issue of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING that you print a map showing the Federal farm loan associations in Michigan. In your issue of Nov. 23rd appeared an inquiry from a man in Montcalm county in regard to the Federal Farm Loan.

For your information I should like to state that the reason that there are no Federal farm loan Associations in this county is that we cannot get abstracts which are acceptable to the Federal Farm Land Bank. Until we can get this matter straightened out I have been advised that it is useless to form loan associations in this county.

I am working on that at the present time and hope to get the matter straightened out so that the farmers can avail themselves of the loans offered by the Federal land banks.—*Gifford Patch, County Agricultural Agent, Montcalm county*.

Nearly 1,200 publications in the United States and Canada suspended publication during the past year.



SENSE AND NONSENSE

ON THE WAY

Plant the seed of kindness where you pass along, Keep the note of courage always in your song; Though the fates may drive you onward day by day, Spread the cheerful gospel as you go your way.

Plant the seeds of friendship everywhere you go, In the days that follow they will grow and grow; Preach the creed of good-will all along the way You may be returning from defeat some day.

—S. E. Kiser.

STRUCK IT RIGHT.

County School Teacher: "Now, Johnny, can you name a cape in Alaska?"

Johnny (stumped): "No'm."

Teacher: "Nome; that's right, Johnny. Now next boy name another."

DEXTEROUS

A negro was trying to saddle a mule, when a bystander asked: "Does that mule ever kick you?" "No, suh, but he kicks sometimes whar Ise jes been."

ANCIENT HISTORY

A traveling man, the story goes, one night found himself obliged to remain in a small town on account of a washout on the railroad.

The rain was still coming down in torrents. The traveling man turned to the waitress.

"This certainly looks like the Flood."

"The what? You've read about the Flood, and the Ark landing on Mount Ararat, surely."

"My! mister, I ain't seen a paper for three days."

BRIGHT BOY

At school one day a little girl who was chewing gum had put her feet out into the aisle, instead of keeping them under her desk. The teacher, whose strong point was propriety, said in a severe tone, "Jennie D—, take your gum out of your mouth, and put your feet in immediately."

QUITE IMPOSSIBLE

Little Thomas had spent his first day in school. "What did you learn?" he was asked on his return home. "Didn't learn nothin'." "Well, what did you do?" "Didn't do nothin'." A woman wanted to know how to spell 'cat' and I told her."

WHY SHE WATCHED

An old Scotch lady was noticed by her minister to fall asleep every time he preached, whereas, when young men from St. Andrew's University acted as substitutes, she remained awake and was most attentive.

The minister one day demanded an explanation of her conduct. She replied:

"Weel, meenister, I ken the Word of God is safe in your hands; but when the young fellows from St. Andrew's come along it takes me all my time to watch them."

WHAT SHE WAS DOING

Bessie was just finishing her breakfast as papa stopped to kiss her before going out. The little one gravely took up her napkin and wiped her cheek.

"What, Bessie!" said her father, "Wiping away papa's kiss?"

"Oh, no," said she, looking up with a smile, "I's wubbing it in."

POOR MISS LINN!

There was a young lady named Linn,

Who grew so exceedingly thin,

That when she essayed

To drink lemonade

She slipped thru the straw and fell in.

HE DIDN'T WASTE IT

A little boy went to Sunday school for the first time. His mother gave him a nickel to put in the collection box. When he returned he had a sack of candy.

"Where did you get that candy?" asked his mother.

"From the stand around the corner."

"But what did you buy it with?"

"With the nickel you gave me."

"But that was for Sunday school."

"Well," replied the boy, "I didn't need it. The minister met me at the door and got me in free."

A GOOD REASON

"Herbert," said a school teacher, turning to a bright youngster, "can you tell me what lightning is?"

"Yes ma'am," was the ready reply of the boy. "Lightning is streaks of electricity."

"Well, that may pass," said the teacher, encouragingly. "Now tell me why it is that lightning never strikes twice in the same place."

"Because," answered Herbert, "after it hits once, the same place ain't there any more."

A HEBREW DEFINITION

Ikey (to father): "Fadher, vat is, extravagan- gance?"

Father (to Ikey): "Extravagance, my son is wearing a tie ven you've got a beard."



MARKET FLASHES



PREDICT HUGE WHEAT LOSS

Prophets Profess to See Government Lose a Billion Dollars on Next Year's Record Wheat Crop.

"Unless something happens," so declare the wise ones, the United States government stands to lose anywhere from \$750,000,000 to an even billion dollars as a result of their guaranteed price on the 1919 wheat crop which now promises to be a record-breaker. The only thing that can happen, of course, is a crop failure, and the government might better stand a ten billion dollar loss than for the millions of patriotic farmers who have gone into the wheat business because the government asked them to suffer a failure of their crops.

The government has spent billions in war machinery that must now be junked. But that's all right. We're not blaming the munition manufacturers. What if all that money is lost. The war isn't, and it was for the winning of the war that we spent it. And so it is for wheat. It was purely a war measure the fixing of a price on wheat. If the government loses, what of it? The two cases are analogous. But all the same we expect to see some weeping and wailing because the government has got to make good its guarantee to the farmers.

The *Chicago Tribune* has repeatedly hinted that the government was going to stand a loss from the wheat guarantee, and the *Tribune* has felt very bad about it. It is from the columns of the *Tribune* that we take the following prediction of that billion dollar loss:

(By Charles D. Michaels.)

"It will be no surprise to those conversant with the grain trade and the conditions surrounding the fixing of the wheat price by the government at \$2.26 for the 1919 crop for it to lose \$500,000,000 and possibly \$750,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000.

"Unless something happens to the wheat crop next year the harvest may be 1,250,000,000 bu., or 225,000,000 bu. more than was raised in 1915, when the record for wheat production was set. The government has guaranteed the farmers the same price for the next crop as for the one recently harvested and largely marketed.

"It is understood that the guarantee was based on an understanding with the British, French, and Italian governments that they were to take a large percentage of the crop at the fixed price. Whether they will stand by their agreement remains to be seen. It was necessary to guarantee our farmers a high price for the 1919 crop because of the uncertainty as to the duration of the war and the necessity of preparing for supplies a year in advance.

"It is said by those who know that there will be practically no loss on the 1918 wheat crop, as the bulk of it has been placed at the fixed price and is being exported as fast as it can be loaded, more than 125,000,000 bu. of wheat and flour already having been exported.

"The official statement of the grain corporation, which handles the business for the food administration, shows that around 60,000,000 bu. of wheat was sold in October, while the purchases were close to 100,000,000 bu. Stocks on hand October 31 were 236,169,000 bu., of which 131,855,000 bu. were in terminal elevators and 76,934,000 bu. in country elevators, while the mills had 77,380,000 bu. Sales the last six weeks are said to be around 100,000,000 bu.

"That the 113,000,000 bu. of wheat in the visible supply in the United States, the largest known at this sea-

LAST MINUTE WIRES

DETROIT.—Wheat 2 cents higher, but not for the farmer. Oats going lower; rye down 4 cents; poultry steady; potatoes firm; hay demand picking up. Beans steady and inactive.

CHICAGO.—Potatoes easier; embargo on hogs due congestion, shippers urged to withhold shipments for time. All grains, exception of wheat, easy.

NEW YORK.—Potatoes irregular, with some advances. Apples very firm, with higher prices on many grades.

son, has practically all been sold for export is shown by the attitude of the grain corporation in refusing to sell wheat to millers even though they have contracts for flour with the government. Heads of the wheat divisions at various points say all the wheat has been sold for export, hence the millers are in an uncomfortable position.

"Another explanation is that the mills should have obtained the wheat early in the season for their normal requirements, and, having failed to do so, they cannot have the wheat now. It would be better, however, to let millers grind the wheat rather than export it.

"Unless many of the mills can get the wheat to grind within a short time they will have to shut down.

"A warning that it would be best to buy flour during the summer months was given out by some of the millers last July, and has been reiterated lately. This does not mean there will be a great scarcity of flour, but that conservation will be necessary. There may be some hoarding from now on.

"In an effort to keep the price of bread down in Great Britain the British government has already lost more than \$350,000,000 by buying wheat at one price and selling it at a heavy loss."



WHEAT

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Red	2.30	2.30 1-2	2.35
No. 3 Red	2.26	2.28	2.32
No. 2 White	2.26	2.27	2.34 1-2
No. 2 Mixed			2.33

Supplies of wheat for domestic consumption have suffered as a result of the enormous export. The price for No. 2 red on the Detroit market remains at \$2.28, which is three cents a bushel in excess of the government minimum.



OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Standard	75	73	82
No. 3 White	74 1-2	72	80
No. 4 White	73 1-2	71	79

Oats were in sympathy with the recent decline of corn, and the market is quoted at 1½ cents lower. Oats have followed the trend of corn for a number of months, and readers may expect that a weakness in the corn market will be reflected in the oat market. Inasmuch as many Michigan farmers have oats to sell, it will be well for them to watch this sympathy between corn and oats.

According to an Ottawa dispatch, there is such a grave shortage of good oats in Canada that the Seed Purchasing Commission has been authorized to buy from the United States free of import enough seed oats to supply the entire province of Alberta and southern Saskatchewan. It is estimated that at least 1,000,000 bushels of U. S. oats will be required to make up the shortage in Canada.



CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	1.55	1.48	1.66
No. 3 Yellow	1.50	1.40	1.62 1-2
No. 4 Yellow			1.63

Corn, which last week took a phenomenal jump of from 5 to 10 cents a bushel on the principal markets, due to the government's revised estimate of the crop, which showed a reduction of 166,000,000 bushels from the November estimate, and 483,000,000 short of last year's crop, is again lower, due largely to the government's estimate of a huge wheat acreage presaging a bumper crop next year. Selling is expected to be more or less free for the next few weeks, and it may take a month or more for the corn market to recover its former strength, if, indeed, it picks up at all.



RYE

The rye market is a conundrum. The government is the principal buy-

er and so long as the price remains steady the government stays in the field. As soon as the demand boosts the price up a cent or two, the government quits buying and the price declines. This week rye dropped to \$1.60, the lowest it has been for some time, and prospects for early advances are not any too bright.



HAY

Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	27 50 28 00	26 50 27 00	25 50 26 00
Chicago	30 00 32 00	29 00 29 00	28 00 29 00
Cincinnati	29 00 29 50	28 50 29 00	28 00 28 00
Pittsburgh	28 50 29 00	28 00 28 00	27 00 27 00
New York	35 00 37 00	34 00 35 00	33 00 34 00
Richmond			

The gradual decline in the hay market, which began about a month ago, and has continued, with more or less irregularity, up to the present time, has discouraged shipping, and as a result accumulations are rapidly being cleaned up. But at that supplies are still over-sufficient for a poor demand. Our readers will recall that we advised them the middle of October to get their hay to market as the supplies were very scant and the price was constantly mounting. Shortly thereafter the crest of the movement was reached and prices began to decline. Of course, we know that the majority of farmers were pretty busy about that time to move their hay. At present only a small amount of the crop remains in the growers' hands, especially in Michigan. It is believed. Dealers are thought to have quite a supply on hand which they bought just before the market began to go down, and which they refuse to sell at a loss. The hay market may pick up before spring, but not before the next thirty days at least.



BEANS

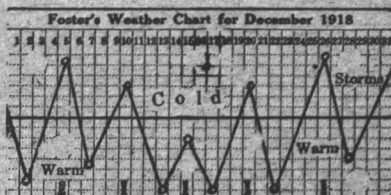
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	9.00	10.00	10.50
Prime	8.00	9.00	9.75
Red Kidneys	13.50	12.00	11.25

We have had a week of quiet in the bean market. Buyers have been looking around, sizing up the situation, and awaiting some information as to government demands. At country points extreme quiet explains the situation, and this may be accounted for by the fact that all buyers, members of the Michigan Bean Jobbers' Association, are working together on the proposition. Shipments from country points on stock sold previously have been quietly moving out, and there never was a time in the history of the industry when things were running more smoothly. The California beans are now coming on the market. The early price set by the growers' association did to the California growers just what the unwarranted action of the "chosen few" did to the 1917 bean market in Michigan. What was their gain at that time was Michigan's loss. The proposition has been reversed this year, and while our beans are seventy per cent cleaned up, our western brothers will now come upon the market at a reduced price and take their position as "tail-enders." You may think we are rather inconsistent, but we look for a slight advance in the price of navy beans within the next thirty days, not any big advance, mind you, but possibly \$5 to the grower. It's a ten to one shot that you will get present prices and a little bit better for all the good beans you have for sale. As to holding for better prices, that would spoil the game, unless you play your chances on both ends of the scales. You don't have to sell all of your beans at one time. Remember we are feeding the market and a well-selected ration will keep

(Continued on page 20)

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

As forecasted by W. T. Foster for MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER



WASHINGTON, D. C. Dec. 21, 1918. Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent Dec. 24 to 28, warm wave 23 to 27, cool wave, 26 to 30.

Next warm waves will reach Vancouver about Dec. 27 and Jan. 1, and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. They will cross crest of Rockies by close of Dec. 28 and Jan. 2, plains sections Dec. 29 and Jan. 3, meridian 90, great lakes, middle Gulf states and Ohio-Tennessee valleys Dec. 30 and Jan. 4, eastern sections Dec. 31 and Jan. 5, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland near Jan. 1 and 6. Storm waves will follow about one day behind warm waves and cool waves about one day behind storm waves.

These three disturbances will have much to do with the weather on all parts of the continent from Dec. 22 to Jan. 7. Low temperatures are expected near Dec. 22, going unusu-

ally high near 26, fluctuating downward till near Jan. 7, when very cold weather will prevail.

During this fall in temperatures, Dec. 26 to Jan. 7, more precipitation is expected, as a general average, than fell during the period Dec. 17 to 26. But we are now in a long, dry, crop-weather period that is expected to continue about 165 days as a general average. Some large sections will get about the usual precipitation and other large sections very little. Winter grain will be damaged in some sections.

Electric storms are expected not far from Dec. 31. Sometimes they culminate in earthquakes, other times earth tremors, disturbing electric wires. This will come from an electro-magnetic shock caused by the earth passing almost exactly between the sun and Jupiter on Jan. 1. The greatest electro-magnetic disturbance is expected Dec. 29 or 30, from Australia to South Africa and in Mexico, Central America and West Indies. This disturbance will cause severe weather on the continent of North America during the five days centering on Jan. 3, culminating in a severe cold wave.

W. T. Foster

The Story of A Farm Paper That's Different

And the Verdict of its 30,000 Readers

A YEAR AGO last August three men asked 5,000 farmers to pledge \$1 each to help found a farm paper that would serve the farmers first, last and all the time. Within 60 days, not 5,000 but 10,000 of the best farmers in Michigan responded and Michigan Business Farming was founded.

There was no special reason why these three men chose Michigan as the state in which to try their experiment of a paper that was to be different from any other farm paper ever published, except that Michigan was the native state of these men, and they knew more about the particular problems of Michigan farmers than they did about the problems of the farmers of any other state.

These three men had a theory that farming as a business was a losing venture. They could not understand why it was necessary for farmers to work sixteen hours a day and at the end of the year have less to show for their labor than the skilled mechanic who worked only eight hours a day. They could not understand why the percentage of mortgaged farms was on the increase. They could not understand why the wives and children of farmers had to work like men in the fields in order that the crops might be raised and the interest paid on the mortgage. They could not understand why, after the farmer had grown the products, it was necessary for him to turn the marketing of them over to other individuals at a price in the fixing of which he had no voice. Neither could they understand why the farmer had so little to say in the shaping of legislation that affected his interests, as a possible result of which his business was discriminated against in the laws of the nation and the respective states.

These men could see no reason why farming should not and could not be put upon the same business basis as other industries; to the end that the farmer might receive a fair profit from his labor and investment. They could see no reason why farmers, representing the most essential and the biggest industry in the world, should be slaves to the whims of market manipulators and year after year accept for their products what the world saw fit to pay for them regardless of whether it meant a profit or a loss to the producers.

For a long time, these three men pondered over these things, trying to reason them out. They went so far as to admit the possibility that because these conditions were as old as farming itself, and men had never before been able to change them, perhaps there was no remedy. But this explanation did not satisfy them. They KNEW these conditions were WRONG, and they refused to admit that there was no way in which they could be righted. They believed that farming representing an investment of both capital and labor, ought to be conducted as a business enterprise, with known costs of production and control over the marketing and the price of the finished product that a legitimate profit might be derived. They believed that in proper leadership, relentless publicity, organized effort and wise legislation, lay the solution of these mighty problems that obstructed the economic development of agriculture.

But other men had had the same vision and the same desire to raise agriculture to the same business level as other industries occupied. Why had they failed? In some cases, they had lost courage; in other cases they had made mistakes which had overcome all the good they had accomplished; in the great majority of cases they had placed personal interests before public welfare, and thus having lost the great incentive, they had abandoned their work for purely selfish pursuits.

But the failure of others to solve these problems did not daunt these three men. They resolved that they would profit by the mistakes others had made. They determined, in the first place, that they would never lose sight of the objects of their mission; that the interests of those that had volunteered to serve would ALWAYS come FIRST; that they would never compromise with anything that they knew to be detrimental to the farmers' interests. And with these resolutions fixed firmly in their minds, they founded Michigan Business Farming, and dedicated it to the farmers of this great agricultural state.

A year and four months have passed. The loyal "founders" who made Michigan Business Farming possible, and to whom we owe an everlasting debt of gratitude, were quick to spread the news among their neighbors that a new champion had arisen, and subscriptions began to literally pour in upon us, from every county in

the state. We were overwhelmed with letters of commendation for the stand we had taken for the farmers, and today there is scarcely a farmer in Michigan who does not read or has not heard about Michigan Business Farming.

Now, upon the beginning of a new year we look back over the past sixteen months and ask ourselves and our readers if we have accomplished anything. If during that time, we have not secured for the farmers better prices for their products; if we have not gained recognition for them that they would not otherwise have had; if we have not bettered farming conditions and laid some kind of a foundation upon which to build this new structure of "business farming," we have failed. All our efforts, our work, our anxiety have been in vain. But if we have succeeded in doing any one of these things, the experiment has been vindicated, the faith of the farmers in our venture has been justified, and our work has had its reward.

Time and space will not permit us to review the many agricultural activities in which Michigan Business Farming has taken a leading part since the day it was founded. Those who were with us at the starting point, and most of them are with us yet, have given us loyal and sympathetic support all along the way, and they can bear testimony better than we of what we have tried to do for the farmers. We have not always succeeded in these efforts; we have not always been right in our contentions, but despite our failures and despite our mistakes, we have never wavered in the performance of what we believed to be our duty. And we defy anyone to prove that we have in a single instance put business policy and personal interests before principle and the interests of the farmers. We defy anyone to prove that we have ever taken a stand on any issue for any other purpose than the advancement of the farming business.

We have no quarrel with our competitors. In one sense we have no competitors. There are many excellent agricultural publications which fill a certain need, and always will. With them we do not conflict. We appreciate the need of increased efficiency in production; some day, perhaps we will give more attention to production problems, but for the time being, we are concerned almost wholly with the more vital need, that of correcting present methods of marketing and distribution to the end that the farmer may secure a profit on what he already raises before he attempts to increase production to a very large extent. For no matter to what level production costs may be lowered, or how greatly production may be augmented, farming will continue to be an uncertain and unsatisfactory business until the farmer has some kind of control over the marketing and the prices of his products.

We firmly believe that the sentiments just expressed are the sentiments of the great majority of farmers. We know that our work has been appreciated; we know that those who have read our paper at all have endorsed almost unanimously the general principles by which we have been guided. We know this because they have told us so. And when we say "they" we do not mean a few here and there; we mean the rank and file of our readers. We do not even attempt to estimate the number of letters we have received from farmers since the first issue of Michigan Business Farming was put into the mails. We only know that they run up into the thousands; that our files are full of them; and that they continue to come at the rate of twenty to fifty almost every day of the year. These letters are among the most precious possessions we have, for they are the evidence that we have "made good."

On the following pages we are reproducing some of the more recent letters received. Our readers perhaps may not be interested in them, but those who are not regular readers of Michigan Business Farming should know what others think of this publication and what those who make up the great M. B. F. family are trying to do for the betterment of farming. It is our belief that these farmers should know of this constantly growing and rapidly organizing influence that they may, if they so desire, become affiliated with it and help to spread the gospel of "business farming."

We take this opportunity to thank the friends of Michigan Business Farming for their loyal support and their kind words. They do much to help us along on the journey upon which we have embarked.

The EDITORS.

Read What Michigan Business Farmers

Would not do without your paper if it cost twice as much for I look for it more than any other paper.—Mrs. Pierson, Bay County.

Let the good work go on.—J. E. Reiter, Emmet Co.

I am pleased with your paper and what you are trying to do for the farmers.—Charles J. Cook, Livingston Co.

I think M. B. F. is a fine paper for market reports.—Andrew Kallung, Houghton

This is the best farm paper printed in Michigan. It just hits the spot.—C. P. Lyons, Genesee county.

Am getting double worth out of M. B. F. and long may it survive.—D. D. Holcomb, Kent county.

I realize my dependence on the farmers; what interests them interests me. I think M. B. F. is the best paper of its kind there is. I enclose my check for two dollars.—J. W. Hovey, Tuscola Co.

I like the paper and I speak for it.—renew this fall.—Clifford C. Cloton, Lake county.

The M. B. F. is the best paper I have ever taken and I am going to continue a subscriber.—Geo. W. Jackson, Antrim county.

I think your market reports are good.—J. C. Shuster, Shiawassee county.

I do not want to miss a single copy.—W. N. Tompkins, Van Buren county.

I like your paper fine.—Jone Ricker, Huron Co.

We like your paper very much.—L. A. Bowen, Isabella Co.

I am well pleased with the paper.—Albert LaLonde, Alcona county.

I received those copies you sent me and thought there was no other paper like yours.—Henry Sehl, Otsego county.

I like the paper very much.—J. C. Wiltenburg, Ottawa county.

You have my loyal support of your paper.—Victor E. Jones, Eaton county.

Your paper is all right.—Joseph Champion, Van Buren county.

We enjoy M. B. F. very much and wish you prosperity.—Henry Sharrad, St. Clair county.

We like your paper fine and intend to take it right along.—Mrs. Peter Nalley, Chippewa county.

We all enjoy the paper and will want it for years to come—as long as we are on the farm.—Florence Burton, Gratiot county.

We think a lot of your paper and appreciate what you are trying to do with the bean situation.—Ludek Bros., Calhoun county.

I think a great deal of the paper and do not want to be without it.—Irwin Graybiel, St. Clair county.

I think the M. B. F. is a very good paper and will subscribe for it again when the time comes.—E. J. Kimmel, Jackson county.

I like your paper very much.—Orie C. Gillam, Saginaw county.

I like the paper and I speak of it.—Patrick O'Neill, Mecosta county.

We would not do without the M. B. F. for anything.—John D. Robinson, Isabella county.

I think M. B. F. is the best paper I ever read. Success to it.—Dennis Sutton, Alcona county.

I have come to believe that your paper is better than any other farm paper and I will take it for a year.—Wm. Lang, Clare county.

Your paper beats them all.—Geo. H. Selby, Osceola county.

I do not want to miss an issue. I think it the best farm paper printed, and some dealers do not like it because it tells the truth. Wishing you success.—Chas. W. Austin, Oakland Co.

We think your paper is all O.K.—A. J. Kirkum, Hillsdale county.

Find enclosed one dollar for my subscription. It is a dandy farm paper. I am a farmer and read it from the first word to the last.—J. C. Brown, Clare county.

I think your paper is all O.K. Would not know how to get along without it.—Adrian B. Carter, Jackson county.

Your paper is something radically new in farm papers and cannot help being a success.—Earl Dunbar, Berrien county.

The paper is O.K.—Mike Gatzke, Leelanau county.

T. T. NEWTON, PROP.
MAPLE RAPIDS, MICH.

FARM TELEPHONE NO. 83
3 PAGES

Hill Crest Farm

R. C. BLANK, Manager
R. F. D. No. 1, Box 34
Perinton, Mich.

Mich. Business Farming,
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Gentlemen:—Please change our ad. to read as follows.

Durocs. Spring boars and gilts.
Ten years experience. A few Black Top
Rams left. Newton & Blank, Hill Crest
Farm, Perinton, Mich. Farm 4 mi. S. of
Middletown.

Respectfully yours,
Newton & Blank
per R. C. B.

Enclosed please find ck. for seven dollars (\$7.00) to cover cost of advertising space for thirteen insertions.

I wish to congratulate you on the high morale of your paper. You have fought a good fight, but it will take years to go over the top. How you have escaped being internal I can't see.

I have been in the farm game for fifteen years and during all of that time have taken from six to ten farm and stock journals; and most of them have been trying to tell us how to make two blades of grass grow where one grew.

Now we have done it, and sold the two for the price of one. Your paper is the only one that has tried to impress upon us that we are raising those two blades of grass to sell. Whope her up. I can begin to see signs that some of your ideas are taking root in our county. We are really beginning to show signs of intellect, with great possibilities of development. Don't get discouraged. I sowed clover seed last spring that was so old and hard shelled that it never sprouted until the fall rains came and now I have fifty acres of the finest clover in the county. Stick.

Sincerely yours
R. C. Blank

I think your paper is all right, and will be glad to have it come to me.—Nelson J. Ranson, Allegan county.

We like your stand for the producer and the way we have to sell.—John Fenton, Midland county.

Your sentiments are mine, and may all farmers co-operate together for their own welfare.—W. E. Newcomb, Allegan county.

Your paper is good, just what the farmers need.—Simon Rager, Muskegon county.

I am sorry that I did not send for your valuable paper sooner.—Alfred Duddles, Wexford county.

I like your paper very much and am glad some one takes an interest in the farmers.—Geo. W. Pierce, Muskegon Co.

I have now received two copies of the M. B. F. I think it is just the kind of a paper the farmers of Michigan need.—Martin Simpson, Iosco county.

M. B. F. is sure some paper and it hits the mark. I hope it will remain the same.—Norman Bragg, Ogemaw county.

I would never be without the M. B. F. if it cost twice as much a year. A man can't farm and be without the M. B. F. It's the best farm paper I ever got hold of and I can't thank you enough for what you have done for the farmers of Michigan.—Fred Lenz, Manistee county.

As the farm home without the M. B. F. is out of the question, I am sending enough money for another year's subscription. I think the paper is worth more than a dollar a copy. It is sure great.—Ernest E. Ahlborn, Luce county.

I think your paper is the best farmers' paper there is and the best for others to see what the farmers are up against, as so many think the farmer has gotten rich in the last year.—Wm. Johnson, Roscommon county.

We like the paper and do not want to miss a copy. We have taken several farm papers but M. B. F. is our choice.—Wm. H. Mosher, Huron county.

Find enclosed \$1 for my subscription for Michigan Business Farming. I like your paper. It is the only paper that I have got hold of that stands for the farmer all of the time.—S. E. Osborne, Mecosta county.

I appreciate what you are trying to do for the Michigan farmers and would not want to be without the paper. Wishing you success, I am, sincerely—Paul F. Schiffer, Mecosta county.

The paper is a good one.—J. W. Norton, Gratiot county.

Best paper in U. S.—Harry Gibbons, Lapeer county.

It is a pleasure to me to renew my subscription for the ensuing year. I have received much valuable information and trust it will continue to do so. Here is good luck to M. B. F.—Geo. C. Anschuetz, Iosco county.

We like your paper better than any paper we have ever seen and hope you will have great luck with it. We will try and get some more farmers to take your paper. It is just what the farmers need.—George Penney, Midland county.

Am highly pleased with your paper. It is the best paper for farmers to take.—Ed. Dean, Midland county.

This is one more, let the good work go on.—L. A. Calhoun, Gladwin county.

The paper is a good one.—J. W. Morton, Gratiot county.

We cannot get along without M. B. F. It certainly is the best farm paper I have ever taken.—Wm. Swanson, Mecosta Co.

I like your paper very much.—Mrs. S. Livingston.

I think it is the only paper in Michigan today that is working in the interest of the farmer.

I have been speaking good words for your good farm paper.—Geo. F. Long, Berrien county.

We admire your stand for the farmer.—R. L. Ruedger, Montcalm county.

The M. B. F. is all that it is recommended to be. I don't want to miss it.—John S. Harris, Macomb county.

Your paper has proven a necessity in our home.—Henry A. Denton, Clare Co.

I am well pleased with your paper. I think it is a fine paper.—Wm. G. Lewis, Leelanau county.

Have quit the farm but want the M. B. F. Keep it coming.—R. Squire, Eaton county.

Everyone in this section takes the M. B. F. except the crabs who desire to stick to the rut.—A. J. Hamilton, Eaton county.

You will receive renewal before the time expires.—F. W. Noble, Isabella Co.

Think of "Michigan Business Farming"

I like the paper very much. I do not want to miss it.—M. O. Bentley, Lenawee county.

Enclosed you will find one dollar for your great little paper.—Hattie Carothers, Kalkaska county.

Here is a dollar for the paper. It is a dandy; keep it coming. Just the paper for the farmer.—W. H. Bishop, Lapeer county.

I do not want to miss a copy.—Mrs. Emma J. Clark, Cass county.

After reading your M. B. F. sample copy I decided that I would like to sign for one year.—William N. Kirkpatrick, Cass county.

I think I will like the M. B. F.; I like the plain way you have of telling things.—Marcus Chapman, Ionia county.

Think this is the best farm paper I ever read and us farmers should not be without it.—Boles Olech, Mason county.

I am very much delighted with the paper and think it is true to its name. Wish you success.—H. A. Decker, Calhoun county.

I think you are putting out a fine paper.—Albert Bennett, Wayne county.

It is just what the farmer needs. I wish you success.—Louis Haas, Washtenaw county.

Please find enclosed one dollar bill and keep M. B. F. coming. I do not want to miss a single copy. It is the greatest paper for the greatest man—the farmer. I keep a few farm papers but none as good as the M. B. F. It comes right to the point and fights for the farmers of Michigan. I especially like the fight you are putting up against the potato grading and farm labor problem.—John W. Stokenburg, Osceola county.

We have received several copies of your paper and like it very much.—John McGowen, Newaygo county.

It is the best farm paper printed.—E. G. Carey, Oakland county.

Your paper is surely doing all it can for the farmers.—Marvin A. Schade, Oceana county.

I do not want to miss a copy of your valuable paper.—Chas. Hively, Benzie county.

I think it the best farm paper out.—Louis Larsen, Mecosta county.

You are doing great work. We farmers surely appreciate it. Go after them!—Lyle Richards, Benzie county.

I think a great deal of M. B. F. and would not be without the paper.—J. R. Hock, Montcalm county.

We really need Business Farming and will try and have the money ready when our time expires.—Fred Freenfield, Eaton Co.

I would regret missing an issue, as you are publishing a good spicy farm paper, intended to materially assist the farmer.—Chas. B. Scully, Lapeer county.

We all think M. B. F. fine; don't want to be without it.—Clarence Hulbert, Leelanau county.

I like your paper fine, so keep it coming.—Elmer Tobin, St. Joseph county.

Enclosed find money order for two dollars for three years' subscription to your paper with which I am very much pleased.—S. J. Monahan, Washtenaw county.

Will sure give it a lift whenever I can. We think it is the best paper that ever came down the line.—Geo. Clause, St. Joseph county.

Am sending you my renewal for another year. We like your paper better than we do the "Farmer".—U. G. Stiff, Shiawassee county.

I think the M. B. F. is the paper for the man who wants a good farm paper.—Robt. C. Vroman, Cheboygan county.

Yes, I say, keep it coming, as a great many times one tip on the market from your valuable paper is worth many times the price of a subscription. I find it very convenient at times to carry the latest issue to market when going with produce, as I consider your quotations official above four other farm papers, and among them is the M. B. F. of Detroit. Your little paper is truly the farmers' God-send and friend. Go to it, and we are with you in your battle for just rights for the farmer.—Jacob Brudi, Kent county.

It gets better every week. We don't want to miss it.—H. M. McConnell, Berrien county.

We like your paper fine, as it gives us so much information we do not get in other farm papers.—Judd Phillips, Livingston county.

I like your paper. It's the best paper ever published for the farmer.—Dan Leonard, Sanilac county.

ROGERS CITY CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Box 57.

ROGERS CITY, MICHIGAN

11-17/18

Michigan Business Farming.

7th Avenue - Trich,

Dear Mr. Editor

I have been an observant reader of your paper for upwards of one year, together with eight other periodicals on Agriculture. Please find enclosed renewal of my subscription for a continuation of the same. I am satisfied that you edit the most practical, far reaching, sensible, Agricultural paper that money can buy, and no Michigan farmer especially can afford to be without it. Your keen scrutiny and foresight on market conditions, summarizing in display type and comment certainly puts the matter up to the minute. In all it is a business paper, with standards clean cut, right to the point. And best of all an editor behind that standard that has backbone enough to make it his business that nothing is allowed to pass unchallenged, that would in any way be a detriment to Agriculture and the emancipation of the American farmer. Upon the above experience I extend my congratulations, wishing you continued success.—Cordell J. Jure, R. H. Simons, Ocea

How Michigan Business Farming Made Money for this Saginaw Farmer

Dear Sir - Last year I had quite a lot of cabbage for which Saginaw buyers were paying \$14 per ton - one of my neighbors loaned me a M. B. F. magazine & found cabbage quoted at Chicago @ 40¢ at Detroit @ 35¢ - my next move was to ask 28¢ for the cabbage at the farm - The Commission men took hold of the idea & showed them the quotation & they gave me the 28¢ - score one - I ordered M. B. F. for year. This year seeing cabbage was low all around I left the cabbage & noting what you said about moving cabbage (because most farmers were too busy was keeping price up) I baled a load my lay - 30 days after I had the lay off my hands the price broke - it is now 7½¢ per ton cheaper here than what I sold for. I harvested some of the cabbage & have it in storage & am now getting 14¢ per lb. for it as against 6¢ per ton 2 weeks back (for which price I sold none). Score two for M. B. F. - Am wondering this year - Yours truly

Ed. H. Manning,
Saginaw, R. 3 Mich.

Dec. 7-1918

Your paper is the only real farm paper I ever saw.—E. L. Newell, Oceana Co.

Keep the ball rolling until we get our rights. Your paper is right to the mark.—Geo. Thomas, Montcalm county.

We like the paper very much. Cannot get along without it.—Archie Bare, Ingham county.

We like your paper. Don't like to miss a copy; it is a help.—A. B. Clark, Charlevoix county.

Will do all I can to get more subscribers. Best paper I take.—Leonard Baker, Grand Traverse county.

Like the stand you are taking for the farmer. Keep it up.—F. H. Bluemly, Ionia county.

You are as sound as a dollar.—A. R. Claggett, Macomb county.

The best paper ever published for the farmer.—Archie Levey, Clinton county.

Enclosed you will find one dollar for a new subscription. It would not be necessary for me to write but wish to say I am a new subscriber myself, but do not want to be without it again, as it certainly hits the spot of the farmer's problems every time.—Wm. Hensch Sr., Macomb county.

I am enclosing a check for five dollars for which please renew my subscription and send your paper to the four addresses enclosed. I think your paper deserves the backing of every Michigan farmer and have secured these subscriptions on that ground.—J. R. Lowell, Ingham county.

Will do all I can to get new subscribers to your excellent paper.—Mrs. Cynthia Winters, Otsego county.

If you have any extra copies of the M. B. F. would like to have you send me three or four. I would like to get my neighbors interested in the best farm paper in Michigan. Here's to keeping right on with the good work.—F. A. Dauer, Saginaw county.

Please send me M. B. F. for one year. It looks to me like a splendid paper for the farmer to have. So many papers are of no particular value.—Edward Saunders, Grand Traverse county.

The paper is all right and hits my ideas just right.—Wm. J. Carber, Alpena Co.

I would not be without the paper, for I think it can't be beat.—Wm. J. Brigham, Crawford county.

I like your paper very much and want to subscribe again for another year.—Samuel S. Shinn, Emmet county.

Your paper is splendid. Enclosed find one dollar. Please keep sending the M. B. F. I like it so much.—Alfred Mann, Genesee county.

Can't farm without M. B. F.—Delbert Pohlman, Gratiot county.

Please find enclosed \$1 for M. B. F. We have a few neighbors whom I think would take M. B. F. If you will kindly send half a dozen copies I will hand them out. It is the only paper that meets all the requirements of the farmer.—Mrs. J. L. Jacob, Clinton county.

I am pleased with your paper because it tells facts. We know what we read is true.—William Dean, Barry county.

With best wishes for the best farm paper.—Frank Campbell, Kalamazoo Co.

I received a sample copy of the M. B. F. and was well pleased with it. I am enclosing one dollar for which please send the paper for one year.—H. M. Welder, Kalamazoo county.

I feel a personal interest in your efforts to get a just recognition of the rights of farmers to secure a just return for their products without the consumer being robbed. Enclosed find one dollar for the best farm paper I ever read, and I have been taking from one to six for thirty years.—F. J. Lovell, Hillsdale county.

I think M. B. F. is a live paper, and should have the hearty co-operation of every enthusiastic farmer.—Arthur Grubbs, Wexford county.

Michigan Business Farming gives the farmer more good advice than any farm paper I ever read.—Wm. Gooch, Tuscola county.

I think your paper hits the nail right on the head.—Paul Lehmann, Newaygo county.

Don't bother to read the letter if you are busy—just send the paper.—F. W. Owens, Monroe county.

Enclosed you will find one dollar for which please send your paper to the following address. Have received one sample copy some time ago and am certainly well pleased.—E. A. Frell, Presque Isle county.

Every farmer in Michigan ought to take M. B. F. Success to you.—Frank Dovey, Branch county.

Your paper is one of the best for the farmers.—Ervin Willis, Gladwin county.



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



What Can I Do to Earn Money?

DEAR PENELOPE:—Husband, baby and I are going to leave the farm for the winter and possibly longer, he is going to the city to get work and baby and I expect to go home to my parents. Yet I am very anxious to help in paying for our farm but I won't leave our eight months' old baby with anyone and go out to work. There is such a great demand for women by the government that I feel it is my duty to do all I can to help while at the same time help to earn a home. I have taught school four years and took two years' training for a nurse. With that experience I would like to get work in some day nursery or in some private family you could recommend. Perhaps you could suggest some work I might do at home such as crocheting, knitting, etc., and where I could get a sale for same. Will you please consider my letter and any help will be greatly appreciated. Will you kindly tell me where I might be able to sell enough hair of light brown for about two switches, (my own hair). The M. B. F. is truly a wonderful paper.—Subscriber.

IT SEEMS a pity that a woman with so many excellent qualifications and such an eagerness to help should have any difficulty in disposing of her services. Of course, no matter how willing one is to work or how capable, if there is a baby the matter becomes a real problem. For baby must not, above all things, be neglected.

I have been doing my very best to help this subscriber, but I am truly sorry to say, with not a great deal of success. Before the war, thousands of positions were open in the city of Detroit for women, and even now the columns of the city papers are full of advertisements offering employment of almost every nature to women willing to work. But remember, in this case there is a baby.

I personally called on Healy's, Hudson's, Kerns, Elliott's and the Woman's Exchange in Detroit, to see if they still bought home and hand-made patterns, designs, and laces, and each advised that they had discontinued the practice for several reasons. One of them was that they were unable to sell the designs for as high prices as the makers thought they ought to have, or as they were undoubtedly worth. One merchant said that he frequently placed these designs on sale as a favor to a customer, and at certain seasons was able to dispose of them at fairly good prices, but he did not care to purchase them outright and take a chance of being able to sell them. I would suggest, dear subscriber, that you see if you cannot induce one of your local merchants to make a window display of your work which might attract a number of buyers.

As for your hair, I am creditably informed that the firm of Bertha Burkett, 22 West 39th St., New York City, is a responsible dealer in human hair and pays good prices. Or, if you could get into communication with someone who wanted to buy the switches for their own use, it would probably be to your advantage to do so.

Since you have taught school, why not do a little private tutoring among the children of the city where you expect to make your home this winter. Insert an advertisement in the local paper that you desire to do private tutoring in your home (for instance, evening classes, after baby is asleep for the night.) This would undoubtedly attract the attention of parents whose children have been obliged on account of illness to lose a great deal of time out of school, or children perhaps who find difficulty in keeping up with the regular classes. As you know, it is very difficult for a backward child or a child that has missed a part of the lessons to keep pace with the rest of his or her class, and I am very sure that there are parents in your city who would be very glad to avail themselves of your service in behalf of their children.

You say you have had two years' training in practical nursing. What a fortunate woman! I wish that every mother might have the benefit of at least a short course in this line. Since so very few mothers have a practical knowledge of modern hygiene and home nursing methods, why wouldn't it be a good idea for you to write a series of articles on home nursing, and offer them for publication. I would be glad to receive such articles and buy them if found suitable. Of course, this would not bring in a great deal of money, but "every little bit helps." If you would care to have me do so, I would be most glad to submit a list of publications that might be interested in your work.

Another suggestion: Watch the "Want Ad"

Communications for this page should be addressed to Penelope, Farm Home Department, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

columns of the Detroit Sunday papers. If they do not offer work that you can do at home, they will at least give you many valuable ideas that you might be able to carry out.

I wish very much that our other readers who could suggest from their own experiences, or their knowledge of other's experiences in similar situations, would please do so, as I know you are as anxious as I to help this subscriber who wants to be of greater service to humanity and to her family, but doesn't know how. With love, PENELOPE.

Sound Advice From a Sensible Mother

DEAR PENELOPE:—Several times I have thought I would write to you, but my life is a busy one and I have neglected it. The only improvement I could suggest is more space for the interesting letters. But the letter in the last paper 'roused me thoroughly.' It is a question I am interested in heart and soul. I have three sweet girls, no longer small children, and one dear boy who enlisted for service for his country as soon as he was old enough. The question of purity is paramount in my mind to the need of fine clothes or a good many other things. I believe in teaching children everything about themselves as fast as they can understand, and in keeping their confidence so you know their every thought. Never ridicule their ideas if you desire their confidence. If you do you won't get it. I do not believe in teaching sex hygiene to mixed

The Old Motto

WE found it in the attic where it long had lain away;
The dust had veiled the letters in a shroud of misty gray,
A spider's web was tangled in its odd fantastic weaves
Across the frame whose corners were hand carved in oaken leaves.
The old, discarded motto—it was worked in green and red
On perforated cardboard, and "God Bless Our Home" it said.
"God Bless Our Home"—And loving hands reach out from all the years,
The hands that always reached to help, that wiped away our tears;
And now we know full well that when this motto held its place
They meant the faded prayer that today we slowly trace;
That every morn of work to do, that every night of rest,
The good old home was by some mystic benediction blest.

classes. Get your family doctor to furnish you with literature on the subject. If he won't get another doctor. There are books for both boys and girls which cost little or may be borrowed from some doctors. Read them yourself before giving them to the child, then hold yourself in readiness to answer any and all questions asked. I do not think it a good plan as a rule, to force a fact onto a child's mind. Just be ready to give them when he is ready to receive. Answer his first question truthfully, do not tell him the baby came in the doctor's satchel or that you found it on the doorstep. It is in no wise necessary to tell all the truth to be truthful. Now, as to the indecent "shows," I will have to come down hard on father. If he did his duty by his son there would be no inclination to go to see them, in fact, there would be none to see. But as long as there are such "shows" and as long as boys must be taught purity by their mothers, begin when they are very small to train them to it. Do not imagine for one instant that ignorance and purity are the same thing. They almost never are. But I do maintain that a properly taught boy or girl will be much less likely to fall than one who gained their knowledge (?) any and everywhere but at home. I believe, with Samantha Allen, that what is good for my boy is also good for my girls. Immorality, liquor, tobacco and profanity should be just as unmanly as they are unwomanly. "One standard for all and special liberties for none" applies to more than politics. So far as I

know there were no questionable shows at our county fair, as the president and secretary of our association are christian gentlemen, I think there will be none. It is a delicate subject, but necessary to real happiness of our youth, so try to find some way to get rid of such blots on our social life.—Mrs. F. L. S., Traverse City.

I AM very glad, Mrs. S., to have your opinions upon this vital matter, and I only wish other mothers would take the time to tell M. B. F. readers what they, too, think. I cannot believe that any of our readers would sanction anything that may destroy the sanctity of our homes or the purity of our children. If we will stand firmly for our convictions in matters like these, and take an active part in discouraging these evil influences, I am sure that great good would come of it.

The Christmas Dinner

THE CHRISTMAS TREE and all the work and preparation of the day's festivities are so great in most homes that little time or energy is left for the dinner, but there are many little ideas which may be carried out easily with out much labor or expense, and truly the family dinner, with all the children home, and each filled with love and happiness, should be the crowning event of the day. It need not be elaborate, but let's save a few decorations for the dining room. Suspend a large bow, a holly wreath, festoon of evergreen, or a bell over the center of the table, and in this fasten four or six streamers which will extend to the four corners, or six places at the table. Tiny baby ribbons decorated with sprigs of evergreen or holly are very dainty, in fact, if one is able to get it, the whole plan of decorations would be most attractive if carried out in evergreen, with the red ribbon, or perhaps you may find some red berried shrub near home to add a touch of color and cheerfulness.

Wreaths made of evergreen and tied with red crepe paper bows may be hung in the doorways and windows, and a dainty sprig tied onto the back of each chair at the table, with father's and mother's chairs banked in green.

This is the day mother uses all the best linen, silver and china and how that table does glisten. The food is served in the daintiest, most attractive manner possible, and here a few suggestions might be helpful, as just a touch of garnishing green changes the most ordinary dish to a delicacy. One of mother's famous cream soups will no doubt be the first course, with crisp celery, the tender leaves of which may be dropped into each dish of soup.

The fowl, either turkey or goose, or whatever preferred, needs little trimmings. He is a service for a king, roasted a golden brown and brot to the table steaming on a large platter.

The large platter or bowl of fluffy white potatoes possesses a most appetizing appearance which can only be enriched by a few sprigs of parsley or served in combination with some highly colored vegetable; as using the potatoes for a high mound and filling in the base with mashed yellow turnips, garnishing all with parsley, and six tiny red beets, imbedded in the squash.

For a cream dish the combination of carrots and peas is excellent, or a bowl of cream cauliflower or escalloped cabbage.

A dainty, yet delicious, salad to accompany this dinner may be a gelatin foundation with tomatoes, peas and celery moulded in and served on a crisp celery leaf. Jello is made a beautiful salad either plain or with fruit or vegetables and served with whipped cream or cream mayonnaise.

And now the dessert. After so hearty a dinner I feel that a light dessert is by far more appropriate, however, many a mother works for days on the famous plum pudding and pies and who can say they don't fully enjoy them?

After removing all the dinner dishes and carefully crumbing the table, place three or four candle sticks, with red candles, down the center of the table, draw the shades and light the candles. If one is able to procure the dainty little shades and shade holders they would be lovely, but the candle light unshaded gives a cosy homey effect in the room, and is always a delight to children.

If the plum pudding is served a splendid effect is given by pouring a little alcohol over the pudding before serving and lighting with a match. The alcohol burns with a most brilliant blue flame, not injurin the pudding in the least. If this is not used a small sprig of holly may garnish the pudding mound.

LATEST STYLES and New York Patterns

No. 2680.—Ladies' dress. Cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust measure. Size 38 requires 7 yards of one material 40 inches wide. To make sleeves and over-blouse of contrasting material, as illustrated, will require 3½ yards of 27 inch material for size 38. The dress measures about 2 yards at the lower edge. A very clever means of remodeling a last year's gown. The combination of taffeta and velvet or wool are exceptionally good for such models and with a simple silk cord and perhaps a beaded or braided motif at the neck the dress is complete. Note the collarless neck which is a new feature of the mid-winter gowns and blouses; also the lengthened skirts.

No. 2679.—Misses' dress. Cut in sizes 16, 18 and 20 years. Width of skirt at lower edge 1½ yard. Size 16 requires 3½ yards of 54 inch material. Very dressy and chic are these semi-tailored dresses for young girls. In silk or velvet with white collars they are appropriate for most any occasion. The double-breasted effect is shown in the high empire waist with a straight line two-piece skirt. The pockets may well be omitted and those made which drop from the waistline like large bags on each hip. This gives the full hip line and will be an improvement in the style of the dress, particularly for a slender girl. This pattern is as suitable to use in making a spring or summer coat as for a dress. Many coats of advanced style are on these same lines, and make a girlish, attractive costume for street.

No. 2700.—Baby's first short clothes. Cut in sizes 6 months, 1, 2, 3 and 4 years. The many a mother makes the infant clothes large enough that the baby may

grow into them for short clothes, yet there are many who desire a full length of short clothes and here is all the pattern one will need until the child is four years old. The simple little baby dress, in full skirt set onto a round yoke and elbow length puff sleeves, from the baby dresses until three years this is without doubt the most becoming style particularly for baby girls, and for boys until they are old enough for suits or kilted dresses. The dress requires 2½ yards of 36-inch material, or exactly two lengths and a quarter of a yard for sleeves. The skirt section is straight around the bottom, enabling one to use the flouncing or hemstitched material. The Gertrude slip-on may easily be made large and lapped on each shoulder while babies, and used for a year or more for 2 year size. This slip requires 1½ yard of 27 inch material. This style of slip must be cut with bias seams, of course, making the bottom flaring, one prefers the straight line the straight ruffle may be set on about the waistline. In making flannel skirt I always make a yoke from this pattern of cotton and buy the flannel flouncing which I gather onto the yoke. As the yokes wear out they are easily taken off and new ones set on. For the drawers, ¾ of a yard is required for 2-year size. This is the popular knickerbocker style for children's drawers up to 12 years. The only seams are those from the hip to the leg, and they hang full in the seat, giving the appearance of bloomers. No elastic bands are necessary and if the legs are finished with a bias fold of the goods they will wear much longer than the usual ruffles.

No. 2678.—Child's rompers. Cut in sizes 2, 4, 6 and 8 years. Size 4 requires 2½ yards of 36-inch material.

Suitable for either boys or girls and a style easily converted into a dress by the addition of a kilted skirt buttoned on at the belt. The deep roll collar is crossed and extended to the belt where it fastens with large buttons. The opening is down the center back of the waist, with the bloomers buttoning at each side. With long sleeves these rompers will be as useful for winter housewears as summer. Made up in a pretty pattern of nip or boy blue cloth with white linen collar and cuffs these little suits may be made very dressy.

No. 2694.—Girls' dress. Cut in sizes 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Size 10 requires 3½ yards of 40-inch material. A strictly tailored school frock that is sure to find favor with every young girl. A Bolero jacket with long fitted sleeves make the waist and fit over the plaited skirt at the high empire waistline. A wide box plait forms a front panel and patch pockets are placed on each side. The skirt is perfectly straight with fullness about the waist, plaited in. The waist is double-breasted and the neck is finished with narrow roll collar of white. Navy blue serge or black and white shepherd plaid will make a durable appropriate dress for either street or school.

No. 2706.—Girls' dress. Cut in sizes 12, 14 and 16 years. Size 14 will require 4½ yards of 36-inch material. A jaunty, dressy model is here shown, made up in a large plaid wool or silk, which is one of the season's most attractive combinations. The skirt is plain two-gored, or may be cut straight and gathered onto a belt at normal waistline. The blouse and tunic effect in back are made all in one as a Norfolk blouse, hangs straight from the shoulders with fullness gather-

ed in at the waist. The collar is cut to fit the V-shaped neck with the roll following the surplice left side front and forming the closing of the blouse. The skirt or tunic extends only across the back and is gradually made shorter as it reaches each hip where it is held in place by the wide crush girde, which goes around the waist, crosses in front and buttons onto this tunic on the hip. A taffeta blending with the colors of the plaid would be very pretty in collar and cuffs.

No. 2697.—Work apron. Cut in sizes small, 32 and 34; medium, 36 and 38; large, 40 and 42; extra large, 44 and 46 inches bust measure. Medium size requires 4½ yards of 36 inch material. Just the simple bungalow style of work apron but especially cut for those who prefer them more fitted and opening in front on left side. These aprons will never cease to be popular and when one has once tried them they usually keep them to slip into on busy days thereafter.

No. 2675.—Ladies' house dress. Cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inch bust measure. Size 38 requires 6½ yards of 36-inch material. Width at lower edge is about 2 1-3 yards. The large arm-hole is a point of comfort added to this simple shirtwaist style in house dresses, and for that one idea is the pattern practical for one can use this sleeve for many a dress and blouse and make many dresses more comfortable. The little dutch cap with a turnback cuff is not only suitable for the ordinary dusting cap, but may be used to show the most elaborate boudoir cap, something all women love and with a little ingenuity may be made from odds and ends.



Herewith find cents for which send me the following patterns:

Pattern No. Size

Pattern No. Size

Be sure to give number and size. Send orders for patterns to Farm Home Department, Michigan Business Farming, Mt. Clemens, Mich. Be sure to sign your full name and address below.

M

Home Ties Most Precious

Those having the most money, the biggest house, the highest salary, or the best automobile, are not necessarily the richest nor the happiest.

Riches consist of more than material things, and happiness comes from within, not from without.

Real home ties cannot be bought nor sold; they are developed from close association; by sacrifice on the part of one for the pleasure of the other; by sharing one another's joys and sorrows; by actually living each for the other.

A good wife and mother is one of the precious blessings of life which money cannot buy, corrupt nor provide. She is the life of the home and shapes the destiny of the nation.

She is no slacker. Her thoughts are for the welfare of her husband and children and her country. To properly guide the footsteps of her loved ones, and to have them well clothed and properly nourished is always uppermost in her mind.

To such women we take pleasure in offering

Lily White "The Flour the best Cooks Use"

Because they will find in this flour the quality necessary to provide the kind of bread and pastries they take a delight in serving the family.

Nothing is too good for Dad and the Kiddies from a mother's standpoint and as this applies to what they eat as well as what they wear and have, Lily White Flour will be a most welcome visitor in the home.

We salute the good wife and mother; she is the life of the home, and the soul of the family circle. More honor and respect to her.

Our Domestic Science Department furnishes recipes and canning charts upon request and will aid you to solve any other kitchen problems you may have from time to time. Public demonstrations also arranged. Address your letters to our Domestic Science Department.

VALLEY CITY MILLING COMPANY
Grand Rapids, Mich.



An Hour With Our Boys and Girls

Address all Letters to Aunt Penelope, care Michigan Business Farming, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Merry Christmas

MY DEAR boys and girls: When I was a little girl, every year a week before Christmas I was "just as good as I could be." Of course I never was really very bad. Like most boys and girls I sometimes got into mischief and did things that my mother said were very, very naughty, like pulling the cat's tail, getting into the cookie jar when mother's back was turned, cutting up the magazines going out in to the rain and a few other little things like that which I have since learned, nearly every boy and girl does, except "just before Christmas, when they are as good as good can be."

Isn't Christmas just the happiest time of the year! My, how we children used to rub our eyes to keep awake the night before Christmas, so we could see Santa Claus come down the chimney. But we always went to sleep long before the old fellow's reindeer stopped at our place. The next morning we would hurry out of bed and tumble down the stairs as fast as we could, and there back of the stove we would see our stockings overflowing with toys and candy. Or sometimes we had a Christmas tree, and Santa would come in the night and cover the tree with beautiful tinsel and colored candles and toys. Was there ever a happier time than Christmas morning?

I wonder how many of my boys and girls have seen Santa Claus. I suppose all of the older ones have, but perhaps not many of the younger ones. For try as hard as you may to see the jolly old fellow, he always keeps out of your sight, and never comes until he knows you are sound asleep. But when you get to be big boys and girls, Santa isn't so particular about your

seeing him. In fact after I was ten years old, I used to see Santa every time he came.

Santa is a busy old fellow. He has so many stops to make that once in a while he misses some children, and then there are empty stockings and sad hearts. If any of you know of some little boy or girl whom Santa Claus missed last year, I hope you'll be sure to see that they aren't missed this year. You can easily do that by buying some little gift or a small box of candy and sending it to that little boy or girl. If Santa didn't have them down on his list last year, I am afraid he won't stop this year.

I am surprised and pleased at the large number of stories and drawings I have received, but sorry that I didn't have room to print them all. I have taken them in the order in which they came, and will announce the prize winners next week.

Aunt Penelope hopes that this Christmas will be a happy one for you all, and she wishes you a merry, merry Christmas.

The Christmas Bells

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I read your letter in the M. B. F. I thought I would try and earn a Thrift Stamp.

In a land far away was a beautiful church. Three bells hung in a high tower and everyone loved to hear the great bells ring. The great bell went clang, clang, clang. The middle-sized bell went clang, clang, clang; and the little bell went ring, ring, ring. These bells rang only on Christmas eve. No one knew who rang them. Some thought the wind, others thought fairies rang them. The people sat very still and waited very long, but the bells did not ring. Many years passed, but still the bells did not ring. Then people asked, "Did the bells ever ring?" One Christmas eve two little boys were playing together. They were called Pedro and Little Brother. Little Brother said, "Oh, Pedro, let us go to the church. Perhaps the bells will ring." "Yes, Little Brother, we will go," answered Pedro. They started off for the church. As

they were walking, they heard a low cry. What could it be? Little Brother was afraid. He asked, "What is that, Pedro?" "I will go and see," said Pedro. He ran across the road, and what do you think he found? In the snow was a little white dog. It was cold and hungry. Pedro took the dog in his arms. He put it under his coat to keep it warm. "You go to the church, Little Brother, and I shall take the dog home. It must have food or it will die." "Oh, dear, I don't want to go alone," said Little Brother. "But you will go, won't you dear?" said Pedro. "I saved all my pennies, and I have changed them for this bright dollar." "Yes, Pedro, I will go," answered Little Brother. Little Brother took the silver dollar and went to the church alone. He walked slowly in and took a seat. All the people listened for the bells to ring. The Priest was there in his snow-white robe. He said, "Bring your gifts to the altar." The king took his golden crown, but the bells did not ring. The queen gave her jewels, but still the bells did not ring. Rich people laid money on the altar, but the bells did not ring. Little Brother thought, "I will go and lay this dollar on the altar. I told Pedro I would, so now I must." He went slowly up to the altar and laid the dollar on the very edge of it, and now listen! the bells, the bells! The great bell went clang, clang, clang! The middle bell went clang, clang, clang! And the little bell went ring, ring, ring! The people all went home happy. Little Brother ran from the church. Pedro was coming to meet Little Brother, and he said, "Oh, Pedro, did you hear the bells?" "Yes, Little Brother, I heard them, their sound came over the snow to me."—Mary Cautcher, Fremont, Michigan.

A Christmas Story

Once upon a time, many, many years ago there lived an old man and his wife. They were a very aged couple. It was just Thanksgiving night of 1842, and these two good old people had no children to cheer them, only a cat and a parrot. They were about to give thanks to God when Mr. Ross said, "Mother Ross, don't you think it rather lonesome here without any children?" "It is very lonesome, indeed," said Mrs. Ross. "Why can't we ask God to give us a child for company, tonight when we pray?" "Good," said Mother Ross, "I'm glad you thought of it." So that night when they prayed they asked God to give them just one to cheer their home. This was on Thanksgiving eve. So they waited and watched. Then one night, just as they were sitting

down to supper, on Christmas night, there was a soft rapping on the door. "Tis some poor traveller stopping for the night," said kind Mrs. Ross. So she hurried to open the door. But—what was there? A baby! A wee, wee baby, wrapped up so snugly and so warm in blankets. "Oh, father, see here quick! The Lord has granted us our wish. We have a child!" They took the baby in and both loved it with all their heart. Then Mother Ross went to take off the blankets, and while doing so she found a piece of paper pinned to its dress and on this paper was written: "I leave this baby on Christmas night so it may be a Christmas present to you. But do take good care of it, for I cannot keep it warm. Its father has died and I am very poor." Signed, "The Baby's Mother." Well, Father and Mother Ross were very much surprised to find the note and they also felt sorry for the baby's mother. But still they had had their wish and it had come on Christmas night, so for that reason they called it "Christ-abell."

Dear Aunt Penelope:—Just a few words to tell you who I am. I would like very much to win a prize for you see I have just started a new Thrift Stamp book and only have four Thrift Stamps. If any of the girls have any tating or crochet patterns I would be glad to get some, and could also give some back. As this is my first letter, I will close.—Miss Erma Morse, Stanwood, Michigan.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I have not written to you before. I like to read the Children's page, and thought it would be fun to see my letter there. I am a girl 13 years of age, and am in the seventh and eighth grades at school. I live on a farm of 80 acres. We have 8 cows, 4 horses and 7 calves. I am sending you a story entitled "Santa in Uniform." I have a brother in France; he has been wounded. I have two brothers and two sisters at home. My father takes the M. B. F. We all read it, and like it real well. This is all this time. Will write more next time.—Doris C. Rich, Mio, Oscoda county, Michigan.

Santa in a Uniform

In a little cottage in Northeastern France lived Mrs. Rebudeaux and her daughter, Harriette. They were very happy until one day came the terrible news that a band of German troops were marching on the little settlement in which they lived. Mrs. Rebudeaux knew that the German troops would be driven back,



It is Christmas in the Wonderland of Doo and aren't the Doo Dads enjoying it? For days they have been looking for their Santa Claus and here he comes. See how they are welcoming him and no wonder, for he has a sleigh-load of good things just like our own good old Santa. There are toys galore, so many of them that it is a wonder that many of them are not lost,

Santa Claus Visits the Wonderland of Doo

and down in the bottom of his big sack there are candies and nuts, and all kinds of fruit, just the things that he knows the little Doo Dads are waiting for. He is much smaller than our Santa and instead of deer, his sleigh is drawn by mice. See how the jolly old Doo Dad is

ringing the Christmas bells. Here is the band playing Christmas music and one little mischief pouring water into the big horn. Some of the Doo Dads are having such a big time tobogganing that they haven't noticed Santa's arrival. But they are all in for a cold ducking, for one

has broken thru the ice and they will all be in before they can stop. See the cold little fellows sitting on the old Doo Dad's chimney trying to get warm. The old boy's stove is smoking and it has made him very angry. Down on the pond they are having a fine time skating. If the mouse runs under that bridge it will bump his master's nose. But they are having a merry Christmas.

because there was a regiment of U. S. troops stationed just outside of the town. The only thing that she feared was that the town would be all torn up. After a while the German soldiers came marching through, burning everything that came in their way. The women and children fled to the fort. When the battle was over and the Germans were driven back, and when Mrs. Rebudeaux and Harriette went home they found that their house had been burned to the ground. Some U. S. soldiers were coming down to the town to see what damage had been done. They found Mrs. Rebudeaux and Harriette crying. In a few days the troops had put up a rude building for Harriette and her mother to live in. One evening when they were sitting in the little shanty, Harriette looked up at her mother and asked, "Will Santa Claus come this Christmas, Mamma?" "No, dear," said her mother sadly. In the Y. M. C. A. building where the U. S. troops were quartered, two soldiers were also talking about Christmas. "Won't it be jolly when our boxes come from home?" said the first Sammy to his companion. "It sure will," answered the other whose name was Pvt. John D. Potter, "but," he added, sobering, "think of the many people in France who will have no Christmas at all." "It's too bad," the first speaker answered, but don't you think we could do something for them? For the old lady and her daughter whose home was burned during the German raid?" "Sure," answered Pvt. Potter, a smile lighting his face. Three weeks later Pvt. Potter, on opening his Christmas box received from home, found to his surprise a little French doll, which had been taken to America by a little French refugee. She had scribbled on a piece of paper, "It's homesick," pinned to the doll's dress and tucked it in the box which was to go to the American soldier in France. "Just the thing!" exclaimed Pvt. Potter, as he picked it up and ran to his pal. "This is something to tuck in the little kiddie's stocking Christmas night." "Fine, but really, though, I believe you'll have to play the part of Santa Claus, as I have an engagement," answered his companion. So, a few nights later Pvt. Potter came out of his tent and started toward where Mrs. Rebudeaux lived. He had with him the doll and some nuts and candy from his companion's box and a twenty dollar bill from his own pay. He crept into the house but found no stocking, as Harriette was not expecting Santa Claus. So he walked into Harriette's room and laid the presents at the foot of her bed. The little girl stirred and opened her eyes, and called, "Mamma, it's Santa Claus!" And then sitting up in bed and rubbing her eyes she said, "Mamma, it's Santa in a uniform." By this time she was examining the presents. Pvt. Potter thinking of his own little sister at home, picked her up and putting her on his shoulder carried her around the room, while the little girl spat her hands and laughed. "Mamma, Santa Claus is fighting the naughty Germans, too."

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I have never written to you before but thought I would try for the prize given for the best Christmas story. I am 13 years old. We live on a farm of 120 acres and we own 200 acres. We have a herd of thoroughbred Holstein cows. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, I am—Mariam Aceneth Hall, Crosswell, Michigan.

A Christmas Disappointment

It was the day before Christmas and Bobby and Ethyl were waiting for the mail. Bobby was six, a bright, little, curly-haired boy, who was always the leader in everything, while Ethyl was a quiet little girl of eight. When the mail came both children ran for it. There was a big bundle and a letter from their soldier brother who was in a training camp. Father read: "Dear Mother, I am sorry to have to disappoint you, but I asked for a furlough but the captain said that there were so many boys who wanted to go home for Christmas and we couldn't all leave camp, which means, suppose, that we will be going across pretty soon. You will have to eat my share of the turkey. The bundle is Christmas presents. Please do not open until Christmas. With love, Bennie."

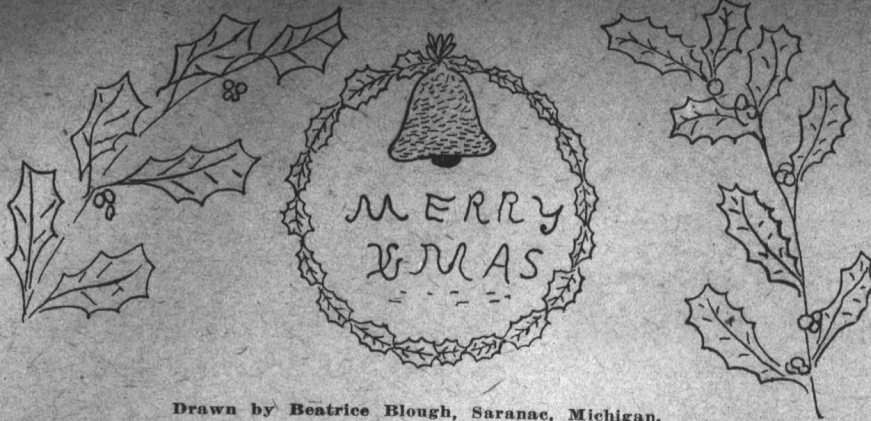
They were all disappointed for they had expected him home. The next day after breakfast the children got the bundle and wanted it opened. So father opened it and oh, what pretty things! There was a drum for Bobbie, a doll for Ethyl and some pretty things for father and mother. The children got lots of other things, too, and had lots of fun playing with them until Bobbie suddenly called out, "Oh, Ethyl, I have it; let's write a letter to Bennie and thank him for our pretty things." This seemed to suit Ethyl, who had learned to write at school, so they spent the rest of the day writing to Bennie.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—This is the first time I have written to your children's hour page. I think it is very nice. I am sending a Christmas story. I also wish you and all the boys and girls a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.—Erma B. Bingham, Frederick, Michigan.

The Poor Stranger Child

Once upon a time there lived a mother and two children. It was on Christmas eve and the mother was telling the children the story of Norway. She said, "there is a beautiful legend told to the children of Norway, that on Christmas the Christ Child wanders all over the world bearing on his shoulder a bundle of evergreen." Then the mother told them if they would like to have him come they should place a light in the window. The children ran to do so and as they did a rap at the door was heard. The children ran to open the door and there was a poor little boy. While the children were gone to get some of their clothes for him, and their mother gone to get some food he skipped out. When they came in they looked around and opened the door and there lay a bundle of evergreens. The mother said, "It was He. He came as a poor stranger child to test our love for Him."

Dear Aunt Penelope:—Well, I wrote once before but thought I would write again. I helped in harvesting; I helped pick up potatoes and in the beans, wheat



Drawn by Beatrice Blough, Saranac, Michigan.

and oats. It was very hot in the barn, up overhead. I wanted to try and get a Thrift Stamp and so will have a story here and a Christmas tree. I want a cap and a sweater for Christmas.—Jessie Blough, Saranac, Michigan.

A Christmas Story

Once upon a time there was a little girl who had no father and they were poor people and when Christmas came the little girl said, "I wonder is Santa Claus will bring me some pretty presents this year." And that little girl's stocking had a hole in it, so she put her wooden shoe down by the fireplace. In the morning she went in the room where her shoe was and there sat a poor cold birdie in the shoe, all cold, and the little girl took the bird and fed it and took care of it and as long as it lived.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I will now try and earn five Thrift Stamps. I will write a Christmas story containing a little more than two hundred words, and send you a picture of Santa Claus I drew when I was 10 years old.—Agnes Jackson, Rosebush, Michigan.

Christmas Presents

The glad Christmas was fast approaching and all were filled with wonder about the good Santa Claus. They talked of his coming and planned how they would lie awake to hear the prancing reindeer on the roof, and perhaps who knows, they may catch a glimpse of the jolly man himself, with his red cheeks and white beard and long fur coat. What joy it would be to see him filling the pack that is on his back. The children have been told that Santa Claus remembers all the good children, and every night at bed-time, they would ask, "Have we been a help to you today? Have we been good enough to please Santa Claus?" "Yes, dear children," answered their mother. How disappointed our children will be on Christmas morning! At last Christmas eve came and they hung their stockings up. In the morning what did they see? The stockings were full, and they were glad that Santa Claus did not forget them, and they did have a good time.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I have always wanted to write you, but it seems I am always busy. I am ten years old and in the fifth grade, so I thought I would write you a favorite Christmas story of mine.—Arvella M. Wickerhan, Harrison, Michigan.

A Christmas Story

The clock stood in the corner and a mouse came out from its hole and danced in the light of the moonbeam upon the floor. The old clock said, "You dance differently than Mrs. Velvetpaw and Mr. Sniffwhisker, your grandparents. You surprise me the way you dance." "Why shouldn't I be merry this Christmas eve?" "So it is," said the clock. "What is Christmas to you little mouse?" "I have been very good, have not gnawed any holes, nor stolen any bird seed, nor worried my mother by running where the trap is set." Just then there was a noise and good St. Nick entered with a bag of toys upon his back. He filled each stocking then turned, saying, "Not another thing can be put in that stocking." "Oh, yes, but there can," said the voice of the mouse. "I can put a very large thing in the stocking yet." "What is it?" said good St. Nick. And the little mouse with one bound was near the stocking and chewed a large hole in it. Then Santa laughed and said "you have outwitted me and here is a piece of candy for your prize."

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I thought I would write again. I am sending you a story, "A Happy Christmas." I have just recovered from the influenza. I was pretty sick. We butchered one hog on Thursday and are going to butcher another one next week. I and my sister are now members of the Junior Red Cross. I am crocheting a corset-cover now for my aunt, a Christmas present. Our baby, Virgie, has one tooth; she is 13 months old. There is snow on the ground here.—Mabelle Detwiler, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

A Happy Christmas

Once upon a time there was a family of five children. They were very poor. Their father was in the war in France. They asked their mother what they could have for Christmas, and she said, "We are very poor and you cannot have any Christmas." But there was a family across the road that was very rich. They heard of this and gathered up their old toys and got a pretty basket and fixed a nice dinner and their mother took it over to the poor children. They were very glad and while the children were eating a rap came at the door and they opened it and in came their father. As the war was over he had got his discharge and came home. It was the happiest Christmas they ever knew.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I am a girl 14 years old and am in the 8th grade at school. I am going to try to win some Thrift stamps.

Christmas Story

Betty's father was rich and he got his little girl everything she wanted. Betty was very selfish. If she saw any of her

little friends get something she did not have she teased her father until he got it for her. It was about four days before Christmas and Betty kept telling her father the things she wanted until at last he said, "Betty, it will take most a hundred dollars to get all that." Then Betty started to cry and she said she wanted them just the same. "Well, all right," said her father, "but I can't give so much to the poor children fund." Then Betty stopped crying and said, "You'll get them, won't you?" and he said he would. That same day Betty was walking down the street and she saw one little boy sharing his apple with another. They were both ragged and thin. Betty went up to the little boy and asked him why he shared his apple with the other when he wanted all, and he wasn't getting anything back. The little boy said, "It is near Christmas, and it is better to give than to receive." Betty went home and found her papa and told him that he would not have to get her all the things she wanted, so that he could give more to the poor children's fund. Then she told him about the little boys and he told her it was better to give than to receive.—Harriet Jarman, East Jordan.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I am a girl 12 years old. I am in the eighth grade. I live on a farm of 120 acres. I have two brothers, their names are Hazen and Ralph. We have 12 cows and 11 calves. We have 4 horses and 3 colts, their names are Kate, Maud, Bess, Billy, and the colts' names are Dick and Dutch Mike. The other colt hasn't any name yet. I like to read the children's page and I am sending you a story which I hope to see in print.—Helen Lilley, Lapeer, Mich.

Mary's First Christmas

Once there was a little girl named Mary. She was 6 years old. Her father and mother were dead, so she lived with her aunt. Her aunt was rich but she was selfish and stingy. Mary had never heard of Christmas because her aunt never gave her any presents. One day about a week before Christmas, Mary's teacher told the children all about Santa Claus and gave each of them a picture of him. When Mary got home that night she showed the picture to her aunt and said, "did you ever hear of Christmas?" Her aunt was so angry that she put the picture in the stove and sent Mary to bed. After everybody was in bed Mary got up and dressed. She crept down stairs and out into the road. Nobody heard her so she ran as fast as she could. It was very cold and Mary's clothes were not very warm, so soon she began to get cold and tired. After she had run quite a ways she sat down in the road to rest. Before she kn / it she was fast asleep. She awoke to hear someone singing. She looked around and soon saw where the singing came from. A man was coming down the road. Her first thought was to run. Then she said to herself, "maybe he can help me." The man drew nearer and by the light of the moon she saw he was wearing a soldier's uniform. "Soldiers are so good," she whispered, and ran to meet him. When she reached his side he said, "Hello, little girl, isn't it pretty late for you to be running around?" Mary's lips quivered as she replied, "I have no mother or father, and I live with a cruel old aunt." "That is too bad," said the soldier, "did she send you to do an errand this time of night?" "Oh, no, I ran away," said Mary. Then she told him about it. When she had finished he said, "my name is Jack and the war is over so I am going home to surprise my parents. Come along with me, my mother can take care of you." So Mary went home with Jack. Oh, how glad his parents were to see him. They said that Mary might live there and be their little girl because they hadn't any of their own. The next morning Jack and his father went and told the cruel old woman that they were going to adopt Mary. She said, "take her, and welcome, I am glad to get rid of her." Soon Christmas came. Mary was the first out of bed. She ran to see what she should find in her stocking. Out came a doll and some clothes for it, a red rubber ball, some mittens, a string of beads and a ring. Next came a lot of nuts and candy (made without sugar) and when she thought she had them all she found a five-dollar gold piece down in the toe. Jack's mother took her in to see the Christmas tree; it was a lovely evergreen and filled with pretty new clothes for Mary. She was so happy she could not say a word. After they had eaten the lovely dinner and she sat hugging her doll and looking at her new dress, she said, "Oh, I am the happiest girl in the world." To her dying day she thanked Jack, because as she afterwards told her new mother, "If it were not for his singing I would have been frozen out there in the snow."

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I am a girl 11 years old. I live on a 140-acre farm. We take the M. B. F. We have nine good horses.—Hilda Reynolds, Clare, Mich.

The Cold Christmas Night

A week before Christmas a little girl named Jane was poor and kind, and everyone loved her. Her soft golden hair hung in curls. One day Jane worked so hard, and she said, "Mamma, have I been

a help to you?" "Yes," said her mother, "But I don't think Santa Claus will remember us because we are so poor." That night a bird flew in at a crack in the house. Jane left her wooden shoes on the platform by the fire and when Jane got up and saw the bird she sang with delight. Jane fed the bird and petted it, gave it the water she held out in her hand, and when her pet died she cried every time she thought of it.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I saw that all the rest of the girls and boys were writing to you so I thought I would, and be friendly with the rest. When I saw in the M. B. F., which my papa takes, that you would give prizes for the boy or girl who wrote the best story, I thought I would try.

It Pays to Work

One day everybody was busy and working hard for the next day was Christmas. Everybody was working except one little boy. When night came he could not sleep because he was not sleepy. When Santa Claus came and saw him awake, of course, he did not give him any presents. So when morning came the little boy didn't have any presents. He was very sorry that he had not helped any the day before. Now, that same day when he was walking in the snowy meadows he met a boy who had worked awful hard the day before, so he had received a whole stockingful of toys. So the next day, Christmas, the little boy worked hard and got a whole stockingful of things.—Dorothy Jarman, East Jordan, Michigan.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I am a girl 11 years old. I have four sisters and three brothers; their names are Ollie, Geraldine, Ruth, Dorothy, Howard, Burl and Zellard. Last week Zellard died, he was married and left a wife and a baby six months old. He lived in Jackson, Mich. Mamma and papa and my brother went. I love to read the letters and stories in M. B. F. I think we can write to that little girl who made such good plans of gathering pits and stones. I thought that was the best letter I ever read except the letters that you write to us. I will gather all the pits I can find. I go to school every day; I am in the fifth grade; my teacher's name is Miss Campbell. I will write a story to put in the Children's Hour for the boys and girls.

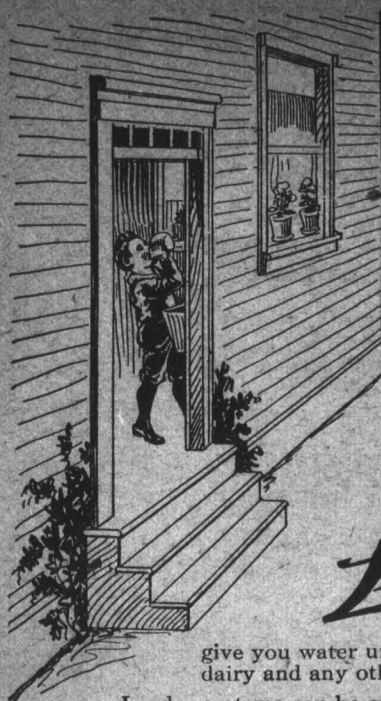
Do Not Waste Anything

There were two cousins, Hal and Ben, and they went to visit their uncle, who lived in the country. One morning while the boys were there he gave them a package to unwrap. Hal was brot up in a rich family and was told not to save for you could buy, but Ben was brot up in a poor family and he was taught to save. When they went to unwrap their packages there was a heavy whippoor around them. Ben sat down at the table and began to untie the knots, but Hal only held his package in his arms until Ben had his untied; then he said, "Oh, Ben, how did you get yours untied?" Hal pulled on the string and pulled the knots harder and he said, "I wonder what makes people tie up their packages so tight?" He took his jack knife from his pocket and cut it. Their uncle came in and said, "have you got your package untied yet? Give them to me." Ben gave his to his uncle and said, "Here is the string, you can have that." Ben stuck it in his pocket. When Hal gave his package to him his string was cut in several pieces so his uncle put it in the stove. Two days later their uncle gave them a top. Hal said, "I can't whirl my top," but Ben had the string from the package. Three days later in town the boys were to shoot bows and arrows. Ben and Hal went. Hal shot one arrow and his string broke. Ben shot one arrow and his string broke but he had the string from the package. When they went back to their uncle's he said to Hal, "That will teach you a lesson to save little things, as Ben has done."—Hazel Courser, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Dear Aunt Penelope:—I have been reading the letters and stories in the M. B. F. and like them very much. My papa takes the M. B. F. and likes it, too. Now I can't go to school because our school and church are closed because of the influenza. On Sunday there were three funerals which influenza caused. I have two uncles in the army in France, Uncle John and Uncle Anthony. I have one War Saving Stamp for five dollars. I have 4½ miles to walk to school. I help my mamma in scrubbing floors and sweeping now that I am not in school. My mamma teaches me to knit stockings and mittens.—Bernice Konwinski, Posen, Michigan.



Drawn by Lena Margaret Lather, Age 9



Water - at the turn of a faucet!

Are you going to continue to pump water for stock when you are needed in the fields? Are you going to ask your wife to laboriously carry water for the house and for the dairy?

Leader Water Systems

give you water under strong pressure for the house, barns, dairy and any other places it is needed.

Leader systems can be operated by gasoline engine, either direct connected or belted, by electric motor or by hand power. They can be furnished either with open tank to be installed in the attic, or with pressure tank for the basement. Many styles, many sizes, many prices—we can supply just the style and size you need at just the price you can afford to pay.

Light - at the twitch of a switch!

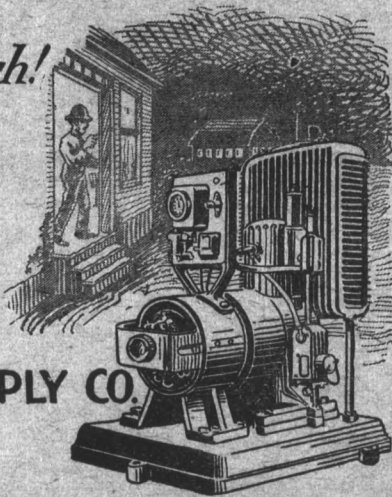
No more lighted matches, or carrying dangerous lanterns in the barn—no more smelly, smoky kerosene lamps for the house. Clean, bright electric light from our Farm Lighting Systems can be yours at a very low cost. Either direct connected or belted outfits furnished.

Write for details and prices

KERR

MACHINERY & SUPPLY CO.

E. Fort & Beaubien Sts.
Detroit, Mich.



RAPID GROWTH OF MICHIGAN'S FLOUR INDUSTRY

From an insignificant flour mill in the early eighties to a pretentious milling plant in 1918 producing 350,000 barrels of high grade flour is the achievement of the Valley City Milling Company which links it prominently in the minds of old-timers with the development of Grand Rapids and western Michigan.

In addition to 350,000 barrels of flour the Valley City Milling Company also produces several thousands of barrels of corn meal, corn flour and self-rising biscuit and pancake flours.

Three thousand carloads of grain and manufactured products move in and out of their plants annually—an average of ten cars per working day.

The business was established as a co-partnership February 1st, 1884, by the late William N. Rowe, Associate with him were Richard M. Lawrence, Moreau S. Crosby, one of Michigan's Lieutenant-Governors, and C. G. Swensburg. The names of these men are indelibly linked with the earlier progress of Grand Rapids. The business developed rapidly under the management of Mr. Rowe. In 1894 a corporation was formed, with C. G. Swensburg as president, Jesse Owen, vice-president, and Mr. Rowe as secretary-treasurer and general manager.

When the business was established Jesse Owen was installed as head miller. He is still with the organization as consulting miller and superintendent. This gives him a record of over 34 years continuous service. He is among the highest rated and best known millers in America. The Valley City Milling Company acknowledges much of its success to Mr. Owen's skill as a miller and his conspicuous ability as a production man.

In March, 1905, the responsibilities of the business were suddenly thrust upon the shoulders of William S. Rowe and Fred N. Rowe, sons of its founder, through the untimely death of the elder Rowe. The younger Rowes had been thoroughly schooled

in the business. There was no interruption of its progress. On the contrary the younger men developed it at even a more rapid rate than in former years—both in magnitude and popular favor. It is still growing not only throughout Michigan, but in New England and the southern states, where Valley City Milling Company products have a large distribution.

The present management is composed of Wm. S. Rowe, president and general manager; Fred N. Rowe, secretary; L. E. Smith, vice president, sales and advertising manager; F. E. Martin, treasurer and credit man; Henry Hagens, traffic manager. All are young men of high repute, established reputation, and splendid business ability. The Company is held in high regard by the trade and by the general public. A still greater and brighter future is unquestionably in prospect for the Valley City Milling Company.

Manistee (N.W.)—Farmers are getting ready for winter. Some are plowing and others cutting wood, doing chores and attending auction sales. A good many butchering this week. Weather fair. No snow on ground to speak of. Farmers selling some stock, some selling all crops at auction. Rye looks good around here. The following prices were paid at Bear Lake this week: Hay, \$26 to \$28; wheat, \$1.95 to \$2; rye, \$1.40; buckwheat, \$2.50 to \$3.25; butter, 50; butterfat, 68; eggs, 50; potatoes, 75c; onions, \$1; cabbage, 6c lb.; beef cows, 6 to 7; veal calves, 19; apples, 75c.—**Harold Archer, Bear Lake, Dec. 13.**

Clare (Central)—We have had a warm fall with good weather for fall work. Some fall plowing done and some road work being done. Feed is scarce and high, going above market price at auction sales. Beans are nearly all threshed. Potato market here is closed for winter. Have had some snow but not much sleighing. The following prices were quoted at Harrison this week: Wheat, \$2.00; barley, \$1.70; oats, \$65; rye, \$1.45.—**V. W. Harrison, Dec. 15.**

COUNTY CROP REPORTS

Arenac (East)—Weather very mild and at this writing is raining again and the roads are very bad. Little bad for winter wheat and rye. Auction sales continue numerous and stuff bringing high prices, especially cattle and hogs. The bean market keeps hovering around the \$8 mark and looks as tho the price will be there. Oats and corn are quoted higher; hay lower, caused by the mild weather. Sugar beets are still being hauled to the station as the wet fall has harassed the farmer very much. Looks as tho an enormous acreage of beets will be contracted next year. Dairy products are soaring and according to the outside markets going higher. Christmas will be dull here but when our farmer soldier boys return we will make up for it.—**M. B. R., Twining, Michigan, Dec. 12.**

Wexford (West)—A few days' rain and a little snow. Soft weather. It looks very much like an open winter. The following prices were quoted at Cadillac this week: Rye, \$1.45; hay, \$30; potatoes, \$1.10 cwt.; hens, 16 to 20; springers, 20; ducks, 20 to 23; geese, 19; turkeys, 21; butterfat, 70; hogs, 19 to 20; beef steers, 10 to 14; veal calves, 15 to 18, dressed.—**S. H. S., Harrietta, Dec. 13.**

Tuscola (N.E.)—Lots of rain and mud. Wheat and rye are looking good. Some fall plowing being done yet; some have sugar beets to haul. The following prices were quoted at Cass City this week: Wheat, \$2.08 to \$2.10; oats, 67; rye, \$1.48; beans, \$8; hens, 18 to 20; springers, 18 to 20; ducks, 25 to 27; geese, 22 to 23; turkeys, 25; butter, 50; butterfat, 66; eggs, 60; sheep, 4 to 8; lambs, 12; hogs, 13 to 15; beef steers, 6 to 8; beef cows, 4 to 6; veal calves, 10 to 15.—**S. S., Cass City, Dec. 13.**

Tuscola (West)—Farmers are plowing yet, where the ground is not frozen too hard. It has not been often that you could plow on the 13th of December. We are husking corn in the field and threshing beans. Farmers are selling oats, barley and beans; holding nothing. Lots of livestock and poultry going to market. We are still trucking apples to Bay City and Saginaw for 75c to \$1 per bushel. No market here yet. Lots of potatoes in farmers' hands yet, but no market for them. The following prices were quoted at Caro this week: Wheat, \$2.10; oats, 68; rye, \$1.50; hay, \$22 to \$23; barley, \$1.85 cwt.; buckwheat, \$1.50 cwt.; rye straw, \$7 to \$8; beans, \$8; potatoes, 60 to 70; hens, 19; springers, 20; ducks, 23; geese, 18; turkeys, 26; butter, 52; eggs, 60; sheep, 6 to 7; lambs, 10 to 15½; hogs, 15; beef steers, 9; beef cows, 4; veal calves, 15; apples, 75c to \$1.—**R. B. C., Caro, Dec. 13.**

Branch (North)—Farmers not doing much on account of bad weather. Selling some grain, hay and stock. Following quotations at Union City this week: Wheat, \$2.10 to \$2.13; corn, \$1.25; oats, 60; rye, \$1.45; hay, \$20 to \$24; beans, \$6.50; potatoes, 80; hens 22; springers, 22; butter, 50; butterfat, 64; eggs, 62; sheep, \$6.00; lambs, 13½; hogs, 16; beef steers, 7 to 8; beef cows, 5 to 6; veal calves, 17.—**F. S., Union City, Dec. 17.**

Grand Traverse (N.E.)—Rainy at present. Farmers putting up wood and hauling clover. Most of the late threshing is done. Not much being sold. A carload of hogs are being sent out from Williamsburg today. Beans at a standstill; no one buying. Following quotations made at Traverse city this week: Wheat, \$2.04; rye, \$1.60; potatoes, \$1.10; onions, \$1.50; butter, 55; butterfat, 70; eggs, 60.—**C. L. B., Williamsburg, Dec. 13.**

Imlay City (East)—Weather wet; has rained for three days and no sign of let-up. The ground is very wet and some are plowing. Roads are bad; not much stuff going to market. Sales are quite plentiful, cows selling high; grades selling for \$100 or better; horses selling cheap; tools sell-



ing for what they are worth. The following prices were paid at Imlay City this week: Wheat, \$1.95 to \$2.10; corn, \$1.60; oats, 67 to 70; rye, \$1.40 to \$1.50; hay, \$18 to \$22; rye straw, \$5; beans, \$7 to \$7.75; potatoes, 60; onions, 1.50; hens, 18 to 20; springers, 20 to 22; ducks, 25; geese, 23 to 25; butter, 60; butterfat, 67; eggs, 65; sheep, \$5 to \$8; lambs, \$11 to \$13; hogs, \$14.50 to \$16; beef steers, \$8; beef cows, \$5 to \$6; veal calves, \$14 to \$16.—**C. A. B., Imlay City, Dec. 14.**

Ingham (N.E.)—Weather bad most of the time. Too wet to plow. Farmers doing chores and taking care of sick. Not much grain going to market. Hay took a tumble; local buyer not buying any now. The following prices were paid at Williamston this week: Wheat, \$2.03; to \$2.05; corn, \$1.60; oats, 67; rye, \$1.50; beans, \$8.25; potatoes, 75; onions, \$3; butter, 55; butterfat, 58; eggs, 60; hogs, \$16; beef steers, 6 to 10; veal, \$8.50 to \$15.—**A. N., Williamston, Dec. 13.**

Jackson (West)—The following quotations were made at Jackson this week: Wheat, \$2.12; corn, \$1.50; oats, 70; rye, \$1.50; hay, \$26 to \$27; rye straw, \$10; wheat-oat straw, \$9; beans, \$8; potatoes, \$1.25; onions, \$1.35; hens, 22; springers, 25; ducks, 30; geese, 18; turkeys, 30; butter, 68; butterfat, 70; sheep, 8; lambs, 15; hogs, 15; beef steers, 11; beef cows, 8; veal calves, 15; apples, \$1.—**B. T., Parma, Dec. 7.**

Mecosta (North)—Farmers are busy getting ready for winter. Bean threshing is not all done yet; quite a lot of corn yet to husk. The ground is frozen. We had a few days' sleighing last week, but a few warm days has spoiled it. Fall grain is looking good. Farmers are still selling beans and potatoes. The following prices were paid here this week: Wheat, \$2.06; corn, \$1.35; oats, 60; rye, \$1.45; hay, \$22 to \$24; beans, \$7.50; potatoes, \$1; geese, 17; turkeys, 25; butter, 50 to 60; butterfat, 67; eggs, 60.—**L. M., Hersey, Dec. 12.**

Kalkaska (West)—The farmers are getting their work done up for the winter. The weather is very moderate. Selling cream for 68c per lb. The following prices were quoted at Kalkaska this week: Wheat, \$2.10; rye, \$1.35; rye straw, \$15; potatoes, \$1.20 cwt.; onions, \$1.50; hens, 20; springers, 20; butter, 50; butterfat, 68; eggs, 50; hogs, dressed, 18 to 20; beef cows, 5 to 6.—**R. B., South Boardman, Dec. 15.**

Emmet (North)—Most of the potatoes and beans and in fact all produce which the farmers had to sell has been disposed of. The farmers are turning their attention to winter work such as getting up wood and lumbering. The mildest weather has prevailed so far that we have known for years. There is just enough snow for sleighing and the thermometer stays very close to the 32 degree mark. The following prices were quoted at Harbor Springs this week: Wheat, \$2.10; hay, \$25; beans, \$7.25; potatoes, \$1.05; butter, 60; eggs, 60; hogs, \$19 to \$20; beef, 9 to 12; apples, \$1.—**C. L. G., Cross Village, Dec. 13.**

HINTS FOR MOTORISTS

By ALBERT L. CLOUGH, Motor Editor, Review of Reviews

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Driving on Snowy and Icy Roads

Examine Tractive Conditions Before Leaving the Beaten Track

IN DRIVING A CAR IN WINTER there are two general conditions which cause stalling: Lack of traction, due to the wheels being on slippery footing, which prevents engine power from being utilized for propulsive purposes, and excessive resistance to car motion, due to the wheels having cut through a great depth of hard packed snow, the overcoming of which requires more power than is available. The worst condition results from a combination of deep, dry snow, that has packed down over an icy bottom, for then effective engine power is at its lowest and resistance to car motion is at its highest. When deep snow has lain on ice for a long time in cold weather, and one drives out of the beaten rut into it, one is likely to "get stuck." When a car is brought to rest in difficult tractive conditions, starting is particularly hard for the reason that the engine has not only to furnish power to overcome the resistance acting against motion, but to overcome the inertia of the car. Very often, for this reason, a car can be kept moving in "going" on which it cannot be started and therefore, whenever possible no stop should be made except on "easy going." By the use of tire chains the traction of driving wheels on ice is immensely increased and is largely increased in soft snow and slush, but their value in deeply packed dry snow is rather slight. The cross chains on tires indent ice and, to a certain extent, "gear" the drive wheels to the roadway, thus providing traction but, if too great power is applied, the teeth of this "gearing" are stripped, the wheels slip and the chains act no longer as the teeth of the gears but as the teeth of a circular saw, cutting into the ice and forming an arc-shaped hollow, to escape from which an increasing amount of power and traction is required upon the part of the wheels, in proportion as the hollow is cut deeper by their spinning. For this reason, when starting a car on slippery footing, the clutch should be applied most gently, at first, and no more power applied than sufficient to just move the car, in order that the chain grip may not be broken. If the power has been applied too violently and the wheels have spun for any length of time without moving the car, it often becomes impossible to make a start from that particular spot. Sometimes, by reversing, the car can be moved enough to obtain a fresh starting point for the wheels. (To be continued)

ENGINE STARTS ON THREE CYLINDERS



The engine of May, 1913 — car runs on three only of its four cylinders for quite a long time after it is started, in cold weather, after running a little while, the fourth cylinder will begin to fire occasionally, but it does not commence to "hit" every time for quite a long period. What causes this and how can it be prevented?—A. McN.

The fuel is, at first, not evenly divided among the cylinders, on account of faulty action of the intake manifold. The troublesome cylinder probably receives a mixture too lean to explode, because the greater part of the gasoline, doubtless largely in liquid form, is sucked along the branches which go to the other cylinders, on account of some peculiarity of the manifold form or construction. These old engines had long, exposed intake piping and are especially prone to the above described trouble, when used with the heavy fuel now in use. If the fuel is thoroughly changed from the liquid to the vaporous state, before reaching the cylinders, this difficulty usually vanishes and we suggest that you apply an exhaust heated jacket to the manifold, which will warm it promptly and enable the

Questions of general interest to motorists will be answered in this column, space permitting. Address Albert L. Clough, care of this office.

FEED SPROUTED OATS TO THE POULTRY

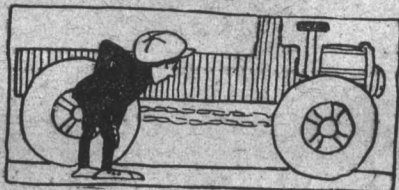
The poultry raiser who has not yet adopted sprouted oats as a part of the hen's bill of fare, especially during the winter months, is not only depriving his hens of feed that would be relished and which is most valuable in feeding for egg production, but is also overlooking one of his best opportunities to save on the cost of feeding. Town folks who keep only small flocks have been quicker to realize the advantages of feeding sprouted oats than have farmers, yet the latter are the ones who should be first to understand the food value and the results that might reasonably be expected from sprouted oats, because the oats sprouter is to the poultryman what the silo is to the dairyman. A few poultry raisers operate

troublesome cylinder to receive its share of mixture and commence reliable operation sooner than it does at present.

WORN OUT CHAIN DRIVE

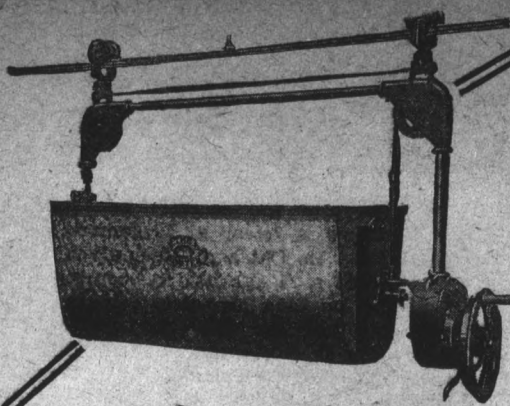
The driving chains on one of our delivery trucks make a fearful noise and snap badly once in a while. Is there anything we can do to correct this, short of replacing all the sprockets and providing new chains?—B. & J.

To do a thorough job you will probably have to renew everything except the large sprockets which, very likely, are not worn out. Occasionally the catch and snapping of the chains can be temporarily reduced by reversing the front sprockets or by filing down the hooked ends of the worn teeth. Sometimes the stretch of the chains, which throws them out of pitch and causes them to catch, is largely due to



wear at a comparatively few links. If this is the case, renewing the specially badly worn links improves matters somewhat. The tightness of chains is important. They should be neither too tight or too loose and the rear axle should be exactly parallel to the countershaft or there will be faulty alignment and noisy operation.

their oats sprouters the year around, they having found sprouted oats to be an excellent feed for both laying hens and growing stock. This can be done very profitably when the chickens do not have free range, but it is not necessary with the farm flock during that part of the year when there is plenty of natural green feed. The real advantage in feeding sprouted oats is that it provides succulent green feed when none other is available. In the sprouted form, none of the grain is lost or wasted. The hens eat all the tender green sprouts, roots and soft hulls. Every poultry raiser should add an oat sprouter to his equipment. It is just another one of those things that is needed in order to make the poultry equipment complete. It means only a small investment, but large returns.



Porter Litter Carriers

Priceless time, labor that runs into dollars—save them both with a Porter Litter Carrier—thousands of farmers all over the United States are doing it.

They're saving time and labor on what most of them think is the "toughest" job on the farm. The farmer knows that a little money expended on a labor-saving device is money well invested—that is, if the device is "right."

And most farmers know that a Porter product is right—that the Porter slogan, "Simplicity, Sanitation and Durability," is lived up to in everything turned out with the Porter stamp on it.

Save Time and Labor

Geared Hoist Litter Carrier—Most popular of the Porter models, shown in illustration above. Operated with plain spur gear and wire rope drums. Simple in design and operation, installation practical, reliable. Entire mechanism boxed, making it absolutely dirt and weather-proof. Runs on swiveled trucks adapted for Columbian steel track.

Chain Hoist Litter Carrier—Preferred in some cases. Like the geared hoist carrier, the tub can be tipped either way. Free from complicated parts. Tripped by light line as is geared hoist carrier.

We manufacture a complete line of stalls, stanchions, pens, carriers, etc.—the practical kind that show returns on the investment.

Your dealer can give you complete specifications. Write for our catalog.

J. E. Porter & Co.
302 Guilford Street
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(30)



Reflects Good Health

The milk flow is the best indication of the health condition of a cow. If the yield is below normal it is almost always a sign of approaching sickness.

Do not wait for actual disorders to develop; you can easily put the cow back on her feet and ward off serious ailments by the prompt use of Kow-Kure, the great cow medicine.

In cases of Abortion, Barrenness, Retained Afterbirth, Scouring, Lost Appetite, Bunches, etc., this standard remedy is a reliable treatment. It acts at once on the digestive and genital organs, where nearly all cow diseases originate.

The occasional use of Kow-Kure, as directed, will prove an effective preventive of cow diseases—and disease-prevention pays big in dairy profits.

Feed dealers and druggists sell Kow-Kure; 60c. and \$1.20 packages. Let us send you our FREE book, "The Home Cow Doctor."

DAIRY ASSOCIATION CO.
Lyndonville, Vermont

KOW-KURE



MARKET FLASHES

(Continued from page 10)

old "demand" hungry for more. You are safe so long as you hang onto the slogan, "Around five dollars." Speculation may boost prices higher before seeding time, but the extra long green thus secured will not be for the grower. California is coming, but remember the navy bean has already arrived, so don't get excited.



POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Round White Bulk
Detroit	1.90 cwt.	1.80 cwt.
Chicago	1.70	1.60
Cincinnati	1.90	1.80
New York	2.50	2.40
Pittsburgh	1.93	1.80

The potato market is quiet this week as it invariably is the week before Christmas. In fact, all produce suffers somewhat during the holidays. Potato shipments are on the decline and receipts are readily taken care of at prevailing prices. We would advise our readers who are in the habit of making carlot shipments not to ship any potatoes until after the first of the year, as there is a chance of a temporary decline in the market over the holidays. For the same reason, it would be well if farmers would stop hauling potatoes during the next ten days. Beginning the first of the year the market should be stronger.



BUTTER

New York, Dec. 14, 1918.—What will without doubt eventually prove to be the high water mark for butter prices was reached on Monday of this week when the quotation of 70c for extras was established. That price was evidently too high, however, as there was a decline of one cent the following day and that quotation has remained stable throughout the balance of the week. As a whole the condition of the market for the week cannot be said to be satisfactory. At times buyers seemed fairly eager to purchase stocks but on other days there was no demand whatever. There is no inclination on the part of jobbers to buy in large quantities but they seem to be playing safe fearing that at some time in the near future there may be a sudden decline in price that might cause them to lose considerable money. Receipts are fairly constant but it is quite evident that production is about at the lowest point for this season. No increase in receipts is expected for some weeks, which fact has an important bearing on present quotations.

On Monday quotations on all grades of butter advanced one cent, but on Tuesday the market was very weak and the decline mentioned above took place. The weakness continued on Wednesday but the quotation established on Tuesday remained. Thursday witnessed a little more trading and on Friday the market seemed to be quite strong. There continues to be a scarcity of high quality butter, and the supply of unsalted butter is insufficient to meet the demand. At the close on Friday additional quotations were as follows: Higher scoring than extras, 69½ to 70c; firsts, 63½ to 68c; seconds, 58 to 62½c; and unsalted butter at a differential of about two cents over quotations of corresponding grades of salted butter.



POULTRY

Although it is only a week before Christmas as we go to press, the demand for poultry is light, and higher prices are not expected. The warm weather is given part of the blame for this condition. Farmers who make shipments of poultry after Saturday, the 21st, do so at their own risk. Prices prevailing in Detroit on Dec. 18th were:

Live poultry—No. 1 springs, 25 to 26c; small springs, 24 to 25c; hens, 25 to 26c; small hens and Leghorns, 22 to 23c; roosters, 19 to 20c; geese,

25 to 26c; ducks, 30 to 31c; turkeys, 32 to 34c per lb.



EGGS

Despite the scarcity of eggs, the market is lower and demand very light. In Chicago, housewives have signed a pledge not to buy any more eggs so long as prices remain where they are, and there is evidence that there is a similar understanding between the women of Detroit. Anyway, the Detroit market is very low. Prices run anywhere from 52c for storage eggs to 63c for extra candled firsts.

Detroit Hides

No. 1 cured, 20c; No. 1, green, 16c; No. 1 cured bulls, 13c; No. 1 green bulls, 11c; No. 1 cured veal kip, 22c; No. 1 green veal kip, 20c; No. 1 cured murrain, 18c; No. 1 green murrain, 16c; No. 1 cured calf, 34c; No. 1 green calf, 32c; No. 1 horsehides, \$6; No. 2 horsehides, \$5; No. 2 hides, 1c and No. 2 kip and calf 1½c lower than the above prices; sheepskins, as to amt of wool, 50c to \$3 each.



LIVE STOCK

East Buffalo Live Stock Letter

(By Special Correspondent)

East Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1918.—Receipts of cattle Monday, 215 cars, including 40 cars of Canadians and 17 cars left from last week's trade. Trade opened 25 to 50 cents lower on medium weight and weighty steer cattle which were in light supply; butcher steers and handy weight steers were in good supply, sold 25c lower; fat cows and heifers were in very heavy supply, sold 25 to 50 cents lower; bulls of all classes were in light supply, sold steady; canners and cutters were in light supply, sold 25 cents higher; fresh cows and springers were in light supply, sold steady; stockers and feeders were in moderate supply, sold steady; yearlings were in moderate supply, sold 25 to 50 cents lower.

With 130 cars of hogs on sale Monday, good hogs sold at \$17.80; pigs and lights, \$16.50; roughs, \$10.00 to \$15.50; stags, \$10.00 to \$14.00.

Receipts of sheep and lambs Monday were called 8000 head. Best lambs sold from \$15.50 to \$15.65, and a few choice lambs sold up to \$15.75; culls, \$13.00 to \$13.50; yearlings, \$10.00

to \$11.00, which was \$1.00 lower than last week; wethers, \$9.50 to \$10.00; ewes, \$5.75 to \$8.50. With 1300 calves on sale Monday, best veals sold from \$19.00 to \$19.50, which was steady.

Tuesday, with 35 cars of cattle on sale, the market was a quarter lower on all grades.

With about 5000 hogs on sale Tuesday, the market opened steady on good hogs and 25 cents higher on pigs and lights. The good hogs sold at \$17.80; pigs and lights, \$16.75; roughs, \$15.50; skin roughs, \$10.00 to \$12.00; stags, \$10.00 to \$13.00.

Receipts of sheep and lambs Tuesday were called five cars. Best lambs sold from \$15.75 to \$16.00, and a few sold up to \$16.25; culls, \$13 to \$13.50; yearlings, \$10.00 to \$11.00; wethers, \$9.50 to \$10.00; ewes, \$7.75 to \$8.50. Best veals sold today from \$19.00 to \$19.50, which was steady with Monday.

Choice to prime weighty steers, \$17 to 17.50; medium to good weighty steers, \$15.25 to 16.00; plain and coarse weighty steers, \$12.00 to \$12.50; Choice to prime handy weight and medium weight steers, \$14.50 to 15; fair to good handy weight and medium weight steers, \$12.50 to 13.00; choice to prime yearlings, \$15.50 to 16.00; fair to good yearlings, \$13.50 to 14.00; medium to good butcher steers, \$11.00 to 11.50; fair to medium butcher steers, \$10.00 to \$0.50; good butcher heifers, \$10.50 to \$11.00; fair to medium butcher heifers, \$9.50 to 10.00; good to choice fat cows, \$9.50 to 10.00; medium to good fat cows, \$8.00 to 8.50; fair to good medium fat cows, \$7.00 to 7.50; cutters and common butcher cows, \$6.00 to 6.50; Canners, \$5.25 to 5.50; good to choice fat bulls, \$10 to 10.50; medium to good fat bulls, \$9.00 to 9.50; good weight sausage bulls, \$8.50 to 9.50; light and thin bulls, \$7.00 to 7.50; good to best stock and feeding steers, \$9.50 to 10.00; medium grades of stock and feeding steers, \$8.50 to 9.00; common to fair stock and feeding steers, \$7.50 to 8.00; good to choice fresh cows and springers, \$9.00 to 12.00; medium to good fresh cows and springers, \$75.00 to 90.00.

Detroit Live Stock Market

(By U. S. Bureau of Markets)

Detroit, Dec. 17.—Cattle: Receipts, 633; canners steady, others dull; quite a number of late arrivals unsold; best heavy steers, \$12.50 to \$16.50; best handy weight butcher steers, \$11 to \$11.75; mixed steers and heifers, \$9 to \$9.50; handy light butchers, \$7.50 to \$8; light butchers, \$6.50 to \$7.25; best cows, \$9 to \$9.25; butcher cows, \$7 to \$7.75; cutters, \$6 to \$6.25; canners, \$5.75 to \$6; best heavy bulls, \$8.50 to \$9.25; bologna bulls, \$6.75 to \$8; stock bulls, \$7 to \$7.25; feeders, \$9 to \$10; stockers, \$6.75 to \$8; milkers and springers, \$50 to \$125. Veal calves: Receipts, 286; market steady;

best, \$18 to \$18.50; others, \$7 to \$15; Sheep and lambs: Receipts, 1,953; market dull; best lambs, \$14.50 to \$14.70; fair lambs, \$13 to \$14; light to common lambs, \$10 to \$12; fair to good sheep, \$8 to \$8.50; culls and common, \$5 to \$7. Hogs: Receipts, 3,481; market steady; pigs, \$16; mixed hogs, \$17.50.

REVIEW OF PRODUCE MARKETS AT THE YEAR'S END

Carlot movement after the pre-holiday season which calls for special supplies usually settles down to a winter basis. Volume then varies but little from week to week unless hampered by unusually severe weather conditions or by car shortage. Most produce at this season has good keeping quality and does not need to be marketed quickly. Hence, prices tend to become fairly even and uniform after the first of the year. The December movement increased over the preceding month owing to the heavy demand for the holidays. Volume had previously shrunk to 1000 cars per day but increased to 1200 cars daily by the middle of December. About 700 cars per day may be considered a normal winter movement comprising chiefly potatoes, apples, oranges, onions and cabbage in about the order given.

Potatoes in Steady Position

The potato market has been nearly steady in price and movement for the past month. The situation in brief is that while the stocks in warehouses and in the dealers' hands are 14 per cent above last year, yet the stocks available for shipment from producing sections are apparently only about one-half those of last year. Values average about the same as at the end of 1917. Shipping sections quote No. 1 sacked white stock, \$1.35 to \$1.70 f.o.b. in the west, and \$2 to \$2.10 in the east. Large consuming centers quote \$1.75 to \$2.50, eastern markets generally ranging about \$2.

Rapid gain in Cabbage Markets

Cabbage values repeated in December to some extent the rapid rise in the corresponding month of the preceding year, best eastern stock reaching \$18 to \$25 per ton in bulk in shipping sections, and \$25 to \$35 in consuming markets, prices having nearly doubled the low point price in mid-November. Stocks in dealers' hands and in commercial storage are reported about the same as last year. Demand continues active.

Onions in Waiting Position

While markets are still reported dull, prices appear to be improving gradually. The supply in dealers' hands and in cold storage is considerably less than last year. The price, which at the end of 1917 was declining from an unduly high early basis, was at the end of 1918 slowly advancing, having gained 25 to 50c from the season's low point, and showing considerable strength in leading markets like New York and Chicago. The general range for yellow stock is \$1.35 to \$2 per cwt., sacked, but is somewhat higher in the east than in the middle west.

Well-Sustained Values for Apples

Apples have fully maintained their early promise. At no time has the general market been positively weak, and most decisive changes have been upward. The limited reopening of the export trade increases somewhat the demand for suitable barrel stock. Best grades of standard winter kinds range from \$5.50 to \$7 per barrel; northern boxed apples were already fairly high at \$2.75 to \$3.25 per box for extra fancy Winesaps, Romes, etc., and the only recent change is seen in tendency to narrow the spread between these prices and values in producing sections recent quotations at shipping points averaging about \$2.20, compared with \$2 last month.—U. S. Bureau of Markets.

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FOSTER'S COTTON AND GRAIN LETTER

December 9, 1918

To the Editor:

The World War is at an end; reconstruction of the governments of all parts of the world of man is just beginning and the task is an immense one. During the next twelve months North America must do more than all other countries combined in feeding the hungry peoples and the live stock of Europe while the armies of North America do a large part of bringing order out of chaos.

I am advising farmers and planters not to sell their products at reduced prices. I am convinced that some of the big dealers are trying to manipulate the market prices downward in order to buy at lower prices and that our national government has determined that better prices shall prevail.

This morning I received a Grain Letter from Dennis & Co., who are among the leading and reliable grain dealers and brokers. They express my view of the grain markets so clearly and forcibly that I give you below a complete copy of the letter:

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 7, 1918

Mr. W. T. Foster,

32 T St., N.E., Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:—The writer has just returned from Chicago, and he finds no abatement in the demand for oats. Local operators out there are opposed to present prices for oats, but the continuous export absorption hinders them from making much headway. In my conversation with the larger operators I find that they entertain the belief that corn is selling from 20 to 30 cents a bushel below its value, and some of them say 40 cents a bushel. They point to the high price of pork, and the famine conditions abroad. I am convinced we have not raised as large a crop as the last government report indicates. There seems to be an impression that the Food Administration is now in favor of maintaining or advancing prices. It is only logical in view of the fact that the government has guaranteed the price for the wheat crop of 1919 which holds good until June 1st, 1920. The higher the corn price the coming spring the more apt farmers will be to plant a fair amount of corn rather than put all the ground in wheat. The same applies to oats. In addition it is only natural to assume that, as we will now export freely, our producers should realize fair returns for their products.

—Dennis & Co.

Dennis & Co.'s published Daily market letter says: An important announcement to the farmers and business men of the country, regarding the agricultural program for 1919 production and urging active co-operation in the increasing efficiency and development of the work of the county agricultural agents, has been issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. Among other things it emphasizes the necessity of continuing our state of preparedness and of strengthening the foundations of our agriculture, since, for a considerable period, the world will particularly want a larger supply than normal of livestock and especially of fats. The bulletin also suggests perfecting the organization of our agricultural agencies for the purpose of intelligently executing such a

program of efficient distribution and of conservation as seems wise.—W. T. Foster.

CONDITION OF MEADOWS AND PASTURES, NOVEMBER

The month of November was generally favorable for meadows, pastures and ranges in all sections of the country. Winter wheat is furnishing excellent pasturage in the central and lower Great Plains area. There are a few districts in the Rocky Mountain and Plateau regions where the feed is poor, but over most of the great grazing district of the West the precipitation during the month was sufficient to place the ranges in good condition for the winter and increase the available water supply. Frequent cold rains and heavy snows during the last decade were unfavorable for stock from Texas westward to Arizona, but in most sections stock improved during the month and are in uniformly good condition. Sheep were being moved to winter ranges. There was considerable snow on the ground in the central Rocky Mountain and Plateau regions at the close of the month.—U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

MAY SELL AMERICAN HORSES FOR MEAT

(Continued from page 4)

acted as a stimulant in parts of the west for this new market. Many scrubs and inferior broncos have been turned loose on the open range this fall, and the owners have expressed no interest in whether they weather the winter or not. These animals will average 900 pounds each, however, and at that figure will readily be worth rounding up for shipment on the basis of five cents per pound.

"The department of trade and commerce at Ottawa is promoting the scheme and if a sufficient number of desirable horses can be supplied a shipment will be sent to Europe as an experiment, and if economically possible, the traffic will be continued as long as the supply lasts."

HAY TRADE CONDITIONS OF THE PAST WEEK

With the approach of the holiday season the markets grow inactive and this is indicated in the various reports from the primary centers this week. Receipts are ample for requirements at all points and lower values are the rule at a number of markets. The declines, however, are not sharp and the reduction of \$1 has stabilized the market in most instances. The general situation will remain irregular and dull until the opening of the new year at least.—Hay Trade Journal.

County Crop Reports

Berrien (West)—Weather very disagreeable, prohibiting all outside work. Soil so soaked with rain it will be impossible to plow for some time. Very warm and much sickness, both man and beast. Several farmers have lost

valuable horses and veterinarians are kept busy as there seems to be a Flu and pneumonia epidemic among horses. Not much farm produce going on market at present, a little hay and straw being sold. Farmers are hoping they will have some of the Soldier Boy's home to help them out with next summer's work. Everyone complaining that their winter's supply of apples are not keeping. Wheat and rye are looking fine. Following prices offered at St. Joseph, December 12: wheat, 2.10; corn, \$1.25; oats, 70c; rye, \$1.50; hay, \$25. to \$30; straw, \$12; beans, \$7.00; potatoes, \$.90 to 1.00; onions, \$1.00; potatoes, 90c to \$1.00; 19c to 20c; springers, 20c; bucks, 30c; geese, 35c; butter, 55c; butterfat, 64c; eggs, 65c; hogs, dressed, 19c; steers, 10c to 12c; cows, 8c to 10c; veal calves, dressed, 20c; apples, \$1.75.—O. C. Y., Baroda, December, 13, 1918.

Bay (S.E.)—Nice weather for plowing but it is mostly all done. Farmers getting hay pressed and some clover seed thrashed. Bean threshing started but roads very bad, too much wet weather. We had some snow but it

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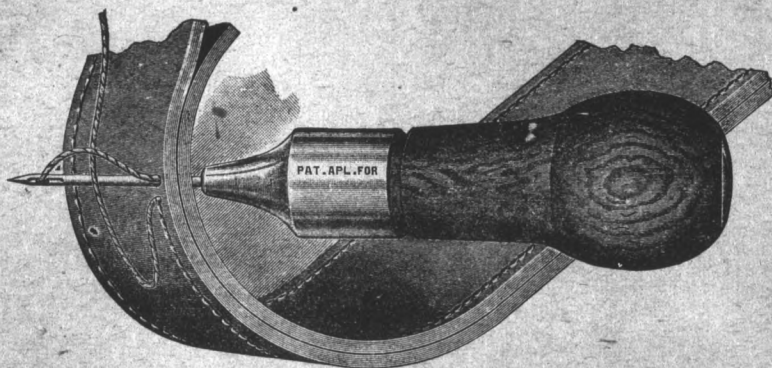
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is gone now. Farm produce in good demand, dairy products quite scarce and prices raising. Fowls not so plentiful this year and demand is good. Very few farmers making any improvements now. Not much corn shredding done yet. Those who have wood are getting their supply. Hard coal can not be obtained in sufficient quantity. Prices offered at Bay City, Dec. 11: wheat, 2.10; corn, \$1.45; oats, 70c; rye, \$1.50; hay, \$24 to \$26; beans, \$8; potatoes, \$1.20; onions, \$3.50 cwt.; cabbage, 2½c; live hens, 21; springers, 23; ducks, 22; geese, 18; turkeys, 28; butter, 65 to 66; eggs, 60; beef steers, 16 to 18; beef cows, 12 to 12½; veal calves, 20 to 21.—J. C. A., Munger, Dec. 12.

WANTED—A Man by the year on a 230-acre farm. Steady work the year around. Wife must be a good cook and able to board all the help. Please state experience and wages expected. Address Howard O. Gibson, Oxford, Mich.

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CARE OF PREGNANT EWES IN WINTER

The flock of pregnant ewes must be in fair condition of flesh if they are to pass thru the winter with success. In Missouri it is possible to have wheat or rye pasture a large part of the winter and it is indeed wise to plan on this sort of pasture for the sheep. Besides being a means of saving stored feed, it is better feed than can be stored, no matter what kind of feed or the facilities for storing. Two or three pounds of good corn silage and two or three pounds of good clover or alfalfa hay should be a sufficient daily ration for ewes weighing 120 to 150 pounds, during the greater part of the period of pregnancy, if the ewes are in thrifty condition. If silage is fed it should be free from any mold. When it is necessary to winter ewes on dry feed without pasture, there may be danger of an insufficient milk flow, especially with young ewes at the time they lamb. If silage or good grain pasture is not available, it may be necessary to feed a quarter to half pound of oats, or bran and oats to each ewe daily, from four to six weeks previous to lambing. It is always best to feed a light grain ration during the period of pregnancy if the fodder or silage cannot be supplemented with clover, alfalfa, cowpea, or other legume hay. For this oats, bran, linseed meal or cottonseed meal are much better than corn.

An expensive shelter is not necessary for the best results with sheep, says D. A. Spencer of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture. A shed, or barn, placed on well drained land, opening to the south to admit plenty of sunlight, and so arranged as to be freely ventilated, yet without direct drafts, if it has a good roof, will serve as sufficient protection for sheep during an ordinary Missouri winter. About twelve to fifteen square feet of floor space per ewe will give enough shed room. Except in windy, wet weather sheep prefer an open-air instead of a closed shed, no matter how cold the weather. The haystack may be some distance from the shed so the ewes will have to get exercise by running from their shelter to the feeding rack. Pregnant ewes should have the equivalent of at least a mile of exercise every day.

The young ewes and such ewes as are undersized and timid, should not be required to run with a large flock of vigorous ewes. It will pay well to keep them by themselves. One-quarter pound of oats a day will help young ewes to develop and grow good size.

When the ewes are bred and winter sets in take the ram away from the ewes. If left with them he will eat too much, get bossy and bunt the ewes, often causing abortions.

MODERN METHODS OF CLEANING GRASS SEED

No better application of the old proverb "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," can be made than that the modern seed house makes in preparing clover seed for the field. To prevent weed seeds from getting into the ground is the preventive measure that is taken by means of the elaborate process in selecting, cleaning and testing by modern seed houses before an ounce of clover seed is sent to the grower.

The seedman's efforts to supply first quality clover seed starts at the threshing machine, where before his eyes a selection is made of such lots of seeds that are big and plump, of good color and in which the germination is evident. For such seeds a premium is paid. But this is only

the start. From the field the seed is brought to the cleaning warehouse, where the real fight against weeds takes place.

In the first operation the stream of clover goes over a mill that fans out the light seeds, pieces of stems, etc. which are always present from threshing. At the same time the screens are set to remove all the larger, heavier particles as well as shrunken seeds. This is known as "rough conditioning" the seed. The flow of the seed is then directed to the Buckhorn mills where the process of removing foreign seeds, noxious weeds such as Buckhorn seed and fox-tail grass, takes place.

Buckhorn machines actually seem uncanny in their operation. The clover streams down over rollers set at a slight incline. The plump, smooth clover seeds roll down over these rollers but the buckhorn seed, which is a trifle sticky, adheres to the cloth covering these rollers, and is thrown over entirely out of the machine. These mills, with a screening mill, make it possible to take the Buckhorn almost entirely out of the clover. At the completion of the operation, the clover seed is really splendid-looking stock, but even this is not enough to produce best quality seed.

From the Buckhorn mills the seed is sent over still another milling process, through big monitor machines, which route out all shrunken seeds and foreign particles that may have escaped the Buckhorn machines. The result of this intensive cleaning produces clover seed that is 99½ per cent pure. Each seed is bright and plump, and capable of producing a healthy vigorous plant.

By these efficient methods and a well-planned warehouse, and the quantity of seeds modern machines are capable of handling, growers are enabled to obtain extra-quality seeds, entirely free from weeds, at a slight cost above uncleaned seeds. Farmers who know these facts, who realize the importance of planting only pure, clean seed, think it poor economy indeed to plant other than the best seed regardless of the first cost.—A. H. Luck.

HOW BEST TO CARE FOR THE INCUBATOR LAMPS

With the exception of large machines, the heat for most incubators is obtained from the use of coal oil lamps. The success or failure of a hatch very often results from the condition in which the lamp is kept during the incubation period. Right now there is a two-fold purpose in giving the incubator lamp good care. First, in order that the proper hatching temperature may be obtained; second, in order that the lamp may be operated with the least possible amount of oil. Any unnecessary burning or waste of oil in filling lamps adds to the cost of producing the hatch.

Kerosene or coal oil is used in a great many ways in producing heat, light and power. Large quantities are required, and in order that there may be a sufficient amount for all needs, the United States Fuel Administration has made an appeal to the users of coal oil to conserve the supply. The demand during the winter months is particularly great. Incubator users can not only operate their machines more successfully and save on the cost of operation, but can assist in conserving the supply of coal oil, if they will heed the suggestions of the Fuel Administration.

Do not fill lamps from a large can or container. A two-quart spout oil can is best and will avoid spilling.

Do not fill lamps brimful. This causes oil to spill when lamps are

moved, though the filling caps are screwed down.

Fill lamps slowly so that when almost full they will not overflow. There is a large waste caused by overflows and spills of this character.

If you use oil from a large can or barrel, be sure that it is kept tightly closed to prevent evaporation, also to prevent moisture, dust, and insects from getting into it. Moisture in oil causes lamps to sputter and produce poor, irregular light and uneven heat.

Be sure that the spigot or faucet in the barrel or can is turned off tightly when not in use. It is advisable to keep a vessel under the spigot or faucet to prevent waste in turning it off and on. Remember it is the leaks and drops that count.

A cleaned chimney and a well-trimmed wick mean more heat from the incubator lamp, and more light when the lamp is used to light the home.

GOOD METHOD FOR FATTENING LAMBS

Possibly under present market conditions, there will not be the inducements to winter feed lambs as was the case five years ago, but, although the markets are good at the present time, there is every indication that they will advance in price as the winter months pass by.

In gathering a bunch of lambs together, if buying by weight, it is well to remember that the handy weight lambs, weighing in finished condition 110 to 125 lbs. in March, will command more per lb. than the 135 to 150-lb. lambs, but if bought by the dollar, the large thin lamb might be the better bargain. Previous to going into winter quarters, unless the pasture is remarkably good, we would advise getting the flock started to eat oats, feeding very light at first, for fear that a few, more hearty than the others, should get too much and indigestion and scours would then be the result. As they come into winter quarters the grain ration can be slightly increased until they are all feeding at the trough, when their daily ration should be 1½ lbs. good clover hay (or 1¼ lbs. second-cut alfalfa), 1 lb. turnips, 1 lb. oats, ½ lb. shelled corn or barley per head, which can be increased slightly as the time advances and the finishing period approaches, when each lamb should have increased (if they were a healthy and clean, compact bunch—to start with) .30 of a pound per day or 30 or more lbs. in 100 days.

We have said the ration could be slightly increased as they near the finishing period; indeed, it is not possible to state just what increase could be made in the crowding process—each feeder must estimate that for himself, having in view the general thriftiness of his flock and the length of time he wishes to feed, etc. It is quite possible to materially increase the ration with profit or add oil cake (nutted or pea size) to the above ration gradually until ¼ lb. per day per lamb is being consumed. To do well, the lambs should have access to salt and water, and should be kept in a cool, dry place, free from drafts, and in all cases the grain should be fed whole, rather than ground. These few hints may be a benefit to new beginners in the lamb-feeding business. Old feeders already have their plans outlined.—R. H. H., in Canadian Countryman.

We think your paper a valuable one—Mrs. Ellen Wilmot, Isabella Co.

The paper is all O. K.—Wm. C. Fritts, Arenac Co.

Received sample copy and think it all right—Murt Schooley, Mecosta county.

CATTLE

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Two Young Bulls

for Sale, Ready for Service

One from a 25 lb. cow and one from a 22 lb. four year old. Write for pedigrees and prices. E. L. SALISBURY Shepherd, Michigan

MUSOLFF BROS.' HOLSTEINS

We are now booking orders for young bulls from King Pieter Segis Lyons 170506. All from A. R. O. dams with credible records. We test annually for tuberculosis. Write for prices and further information. Musolf Bros., South Lyons, Michigan.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING has sold two different lots of cattle I have offered. I now offer heifer calves from heavy milking dams for \$100 each, and the same kind of bull calves for \$35.

ROBIN CARR

FOWLerville, MICHIGAN

Clover Dairy Farm Offers a 10 months old grandson of Hengerveld De Kol sired by Johan Hengerveld Lad 61 A.R.O. daughters, eleven from 25 to 31 lbs. 19 others from 20 to 25 lbs. Dam is a granddaughter of King Segis who has a 32 lb. 4 yr. old sister. This calf is a splendid individual, well marked and well grown, price \$100 f.o.b. Flint. Write for extended pedigree and description. L. C. Ketzler, Flint, Mich.

Wolverine Stock Farm

Offers two sons about 1 yr. old, sired by Judge Walker Pietertje. These calves are nicely marked and light in color and are fine individuals. Write for prices and pedigrees. Fattle Creek, Mich., R. 2.

PREPARE

For the greatest demand, future prices that has ever known. Start now with the Holstein and convince yourself. Good stock always for sale. Howbert Stock Farm, Eau Claire, Michigan.

Bull Calves

sired by a son of Friend Hengerveld De Kol Butter Boy and by a son of King Segis De Kol Korndyke, from A. R. O. dams with records of 18.25 as Jr. two year old to 28.25 at full age. Prices reasonable breeding considered.

WALNUT GROVE STOCK FARM W. W. Wyckoff, Napoleon, Mich.

HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES

Sires dams average 37.76 lbs. butter 7 das. 145.93 lbs. 30 das. testing 5.52% fat. Dams good A. R. backing. Calves nice straight fellows, white. Price \$65.00 each while they last. Herd tuberculosis tested annually. Boardman Farms, Jackson, Michigan.

Holstein-Friesian Cattle

Under the present labor conditions I feel the necessity of reducing my herd. Would sell a few bred females or a few to freshen this spring. These cows are all with calf to a 30-pound bull. J. Fred Smith, Byron, Michigan

SUNNY PLAINS HOLSTEINS

A few young bulls left. Also a young pair heavy draft horses. Phone 58F15.

ARWIN KILLINGER,

Fowlerville, Michigan.

RINGLAND FARM HOLSTEIN HERD Average 13,000 Lbs. milk and bull calves at former prices.

John A. Rinke, Warren, Michigan.

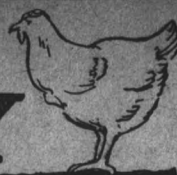
CHOICE REGISTERED STOCK

PERCHERONS,
HOLSTEINS,
SHROPSHIRE,
ANGUS,
DUROCS.

DORR D. BUELL, ELMIRA, MICH.
R. F. D. No. 1



BREEDERS DIRECTORY



RATES:—Up to 14 lines or one inch and for less than 13 insertions under this heading, fifteen cents per line. Title displayed to best advantage. Send in copy and we will quote rates. For larger ads or for ads to run 13 issues or more we will make special rates which will cheerfully be sent on application to the Advertising Dept., 116 Fort St., West, Detroit.

BULL CALF FOR SALE. Dam has 2 sisters that gave semi-officially over 17,000 lbs. of milk, winning prize money as 2 and 3 year olds. C. L. Hulett & Sons, Okemos, Michigan.

FOR SALE Eleven head of Holstein yearlings not bred, the rest to freshen this fall and winter. A good start reasonable for some one. Write, W. C. Hendee & Son, Pinckney, Michigan.

One Car-load Registered Holsteins Yearlings sired by 30 pound bull and from heavy-producing cows. Also some choice Duroc open gilts. J. Hubert Brown, Byron, Michigan.

JERSEY

JERSEY BULLS ready for service for sale. Sired by Majesty's Oxford Fox, and out of R. of M. Dams by Majesty's Wonder. Herd tuberculin tested and free from abortion. Our aim is size with good type, and production. Wildwood Jersey Farm, Alvin Balden, Capac, Mich.

JERSEYS

THE dollar mark is part of a Jersey because she is a real money maker. Costs less to keep than any other cow and her milk is worth more. She gives the prosperous touch to your farm. Compare Jersey butterfat records with any other breed and you will not be satisfied with anything but Jerseys—the profit breed. Ask breeders for prices and pedigrees and let us send you valuable facts, free.

THE AMERICAN JERSEY CATTLE CLUB 367 West 23rd Street New York City

GUERNSEY

GUERNSEYS WE HAVE A FEW Heifers and cows for sale, also a number of well bred young bulls—write for breeding. Village Farms, Grass Lake, Michigan.

FOR SALE GUERNSEY BULL, yearling, the one you are looking for; only \$75. Loren Dygert, Alto, Michigan.

SHORTHORN

WHAT DO YOU WANT? I represent 41 SHORTHORN breeders. Can put you in touch with best milk or beef strains. Bulls all ages. Some females. C. W. Crum, Secretary Central Michigan Shorthorn Association, McBrides, Michigan.

FOR SALE, pure bred Shorthorns and O. I. C. pigs. Five young bulls, 7 to 9 months, \$125 to \$150 each. Ray Warner, R. No. 3, Almont, Michigan.

For Sale TWO roan double standard bred Polled Durham Shorthorn Bull Calves, calved May 2nd and June 4th. Paul Quack, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, R. No. 2, Box 70.

SHORTHORNS and POLAND CHINAS. Bulls, heifers and spring pigs, either sex, for sale, at farmers' prices. F. M. Piggott & Son, Fowler, Michigan.

SHORTHORNS have been kept upon since 1867 and are Bates bred. Two red heifers for sale; 1 bull, 10 mos. old. J. E. Tanswell, Mason, Michigan.

THE VAN BUREN CO. Shorthorn Breeders' Association have young stock for sale, mostly Clay breeding. Write your wants to the Secretary. Frank Bailey, Hartford, Michigan.

RED POLLED

FOR SALE—Dual purpose Red Polled bulls and Oxforddown rams. L. H. Walker, Reed City, Michigan.

HORSES

SHETLAND PONIES

SHETLAND PONIES For Sale. Write for description & prices. Mark B. Curdy, Howell, Mich.

HOGS

O. I. C.

Bred Gilts and **Serviceable Boars** J. Carl Jewett, Mason, Mich.

8 LARGE TYPE O. I. C.

Spring boars. Also 2nd prize Jr. yr. boar Mich. State Fair, 1918. CLOVER LEAF STOCK FARM, Monroe, Mich.

DUROC

Merry Xmas

Our Duroc Jerseys are doing fine. Hope yours are too.

PEACH HILL FARM

Inwood Bros., Romeo, Mich.

DUROC JERSEY SWINE. Boars, Sows, Gilts and Fall pigs for sale. Choice spring boar, sired by Brookwater Tippy Orion No. 55421. This is an unusually good bunch to select from. Come and see them or I will ship on approval. Fall pigs \$18 each, either sex. Home Farm, Thos. Underhill, & Son, Props., Salem, Michigan.

DUROC BOARS Big, long, tall, growthy males that will add size and growth to your herd. Biggest March farrowed pigs in the country, 200 lbs. and not fat. Newton Barnhart, St. Johns, Michigan.

PLEASANT VIEW DUROCS

Spring boars and gilts of exceptional quality, prices right, inspection invited. W. C. Burlingame, Marshall, Michigan.

DUROC BOARS, GILTS

We are offering some fine, Big type, fall and spring Boars and Gilts. At Farmers' Prices.

F. E. EAGER and Son HOWELL, MICHIGAN

Durocs Spring Boars and gilts. Ten years experience. A few black top Rams left. Newton & Blank, Hill Crest Farm, 4 miles south of Middleton, Mich.

POLAND CHINA

Large Type Poland China Swine

LARGE TYPE P. C. fall gilts, bred and ready to ship. Will weigh up to 365 pounds. Will farrow in Aug. and Sept. Will also sell a few spring boars. Fall sale Nov. 29. Wm. J. Clarke, R. No. 7, Mason, Mich.

WALNUT ALLEY BIG TYPE Poland China Gilts. Sired by Arts Big Bob. Will be bred to a son of Giant Senator for April farrow. If you are looking for the best of breeding and the kind that gets big and has quality here is the place to find it. Please give me a chance to tell you more about them. A. D. Gregory, Ionia, Michigan.

2 BIG HUSKY POLAND CHINA BOAR will weigh over 200 lb. Price \$50 for Nov. and some fine prospects in fall. Pig either sex ready to ship. Gilts—all sold. C. E. Garnant, Eaton Rapids, Mich.

BIG TYPE P. C. BOARS, Rambouillet and Hampshire rams and ewes for sale. A. A. Wood & Son, Saline, Michigan.

BIG TYPE P. C. BOARS, all ages, the kind that make good. Meet me at the fairs. E. R. Leonard, St. Louis, Mich.

Poland China Hogs

Oxford Sheep

Toules Geese
White Wyandotte & Barred Rock Chickens
MILL CREEK STOCK FARM
S. J. Lambkin, Prop., Avoca, Michigan.

BIG TYPE P. C. The best lot of big, long bodied, heavy-boned boars; the prolific kind; litters averaged better than 10 the past 3 years. H. O. Swartz, Schoolcraft, Michigan.

HAMPSHIRE

HAMPSHIRE SPRING BOARS now ready at a bargain. Place your order for bred gilts now. John W. Snyder, St. Johns, Mich., R. No. 4

SHEEP

SHROPSHIRE

HIGH CLASS REGISTERED, yearling Shropshire ewes bred to ram of extra quality. Also healthy, vigorous, well woolled. Ram lambs ready for service. Flock established 1890. C. Lemeh, Dexter, Michigan.

DELAINE

IMPROVED Black Top Delaines. Sixty Reg. Rams to choose from. Newton & Blank, Hill Crest Farm, Perrinton, Mich. Farm situated four miles south of Middleton.

FOR SALE—Registered yearling Rams. Improved Black Top Delaine Merino. Frank Rohrabacher, Laingsburg, Mich.

FOR SALE REGISTERED IMPROVED Black Top Delaine Merino Rams. V. A. Backus & Son, Pottsville, Michigan. Citizens' Phone.

FOR SALE PURE BRED and registered American Delaine sheep. Young. Both sexes. F. H. Conley, Maple Rapids, Michigan.

DELAINE, bred on same farm for 50 years. Size, quality prepotent; rams for sale delivered. Write S. H. Sanders, R. No. 2, Ashtabula, Ohio.

"TIX-TON MIX" with salt the year around keeps flock healthy and free from worms and ticks. Saves you big money—a \$1.00 sample box by parcel post will mediate a barrel of salt. Write for club offer booklet on "Nature and Care of Sheep." PARSONS TIX-TON CO., Grand Ledge, Mich.

POULTRY

WYANDOTTE

Silver Laced, Golden and White Wyandottes of quality. Breeding stock after Oct. 1st. Engage it early. Clarence Browning, R. 2, Portland, Mich.

LEGHORN

PROFITABLE BUFF LEGHORNS—We have twenty pens of especially mated Single Comb Buffs that are not only mated for exhibition but, above all, for profitable egg production. Eggs at very reasonable price. Our list will interest you—please ask for it. Village Farms, Grass Lake, Michigan.

FOR SALE—Single Comb White Leghorn Cockerels and pullets; Barron 300-Egg strain. Also one oat sprouter 300-hen size. Cockerels, \$1.50 each in lots of two if taken at once. R. S. Woodruff, Melvin, Michigan.

WHITE ROCK

WHITE ROCK COCKERELS. Famous Fischel strain. Priced to sell. Mrs. F. J. Lange, Sebewaing, Michigan.

RHODE ISLAND RED

R. C. R. I. RED COCKERELS for sale at \$2.00 each if taken before Jan. 1, 1919. Harry McCabe, Blanchard, Mich.

ORPINGTON

For Sale WHITE ORPINGTON COCKERELS \$3 and \$5 each. White African guineas \$2 each. Odell Arnold, Coleman, Michigan.

BARRED ROCK

Barred ROCK COCKERELS from my great laying strain. Four pullets laid 950 eggs in one year. Prices reasonable. W. C. Coffman, R. 3, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

CHICKS

CHICKS We ship thousands each season, different varieties, booklet and testimonials, stamp appreciated. Freeport Hatchery, Box 10, Freeport, Michigan.

TURKEYS

MAMMOTH BRONZE TURKEYS—Strictly thoroughbred, for sale. Gobblers weigh 15-38 lbs., Hens 9-16 lbs. Price, \$7.00 to \$25.00, according to weight and beauty. Eggs, \$4.00 per setting of ten. John Morris, R. 7, Vassar, Michigan.

WHITE H. TURKEYS FOR SALE. Hens \$5, Toms \$7, till Xmas. Harry Colling, Mayville, Michigan.

HATCHING EGGS

PLYMOUTH ROCK

Barred Rock Eggs From strain with records to 290 eggs per year. \$2.00 per 15. Prepaid by parcel post. Circular free. Fred Astling, Constantine, Michigan.

RABBITS

BELGIAN HARES for sale from pedigree stock. Claude Greenwood, St. Johns, Michigan, R. 10.

CONSIGN YOUR LIVE STOCK TO

CLAY, ROBINSON & CO.

LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

Chicago South St. Paul South Omaha Denver Kansas City
East Buffalo Fort Worth East St. Louis Sioux City
El Paso South St. Joseph



Tix-Ton-Mix with salt the year around keeps flock healthy and free from stomach worms and ticks. A \$5.00 box makes \$60.00 worth of medicated salt—saves you big money—A \$1.00 trial box of "TIX-TON MIX" by parcel post will medicate a barrel of salt. Write for club offer—booklet on "Nature and Care of Sheep" PARSONS TIX-TON CO., Grand Ledge, Mich.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FARMER MUST END, SAYS MILO CAMPBELL

(Continued from page 7) indictment is against every milk producers' organization, and against every farm organization in this country. It is a challenge to co-operation, a principle that is near to the heart of all agricultural progress.

We do not believe that there is a fair-minded laboring man in the City of Chicago who would deny to the toiler on the farm the same right of conference that he himself has secured by express legislation.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, the federal government in all its departments encourages organization of industry.

The reputable public press of the city has offered no encouragement of this proceeding, and the country will await the result. If it shall be found that farmers alone are to be prohibited the right to organize, that three thousand millions of dollars in the City of Chicago can combine and become immune to court investigation and punishment, as indicated by the President on Monday of this week, it is high time that an awakening of justice from its sleep be had.

I do not undertake to prophesy that an aroused and indignant resentment of the farm population of this country would accomplish, nor what form it would take, but it will not always remain passive.

There never was and never could be a farm trust. There cannot be such a thing as a milk producers' trust. It is an impossibility to form six millions of milk producers into a trust. As well could you by law form the milky way of the heavens into a single constellation.

What we can do is to form local associations, and yet greater association for protection against the conspiracies above us.

We can learn the cost of milk production, and through marketing associations find a better market at more profitable compensation than by selling in small quantities as unorganized farmers. The Government is asking the farmers of America to produce enough for the consumers of

the Nation, and also for a surplus of twenty millions of tons to send to the starving 200,000,000 of people abroad. This is humane and commendable and in full keeping with the spirit of our people. But is there any reason why this should be at the expense of the farmers of America?

The law is both written and unwritten that "demand and supply" is the fundamental basis of all commercial and industrial dealings. The prosperity of one class, of one business, depends upon the scarcity, the want, or the misfortune of another class. This is true in manufactures, in trade, in labor and in agriculture.

The want of the farmers' food in Europe should be advantageous to the farmers of America.

But if regulation is to continue, if prices of farm foods are to be kept at the cost line, while manufacturers are allowed to revel in the law of supply and demand, there is one thing that must be conceded, and that is, that no city politicians be called in to fix that cost.

America can no more afford to be generous to the starving nations of Europe at the sole expense of the farmer than it could afford to make them supply munitions and food to our own armies, without aid from other classes.

The Government has unharnessed the other industries and turned them loose, with guaranties to see that they suffer no losses. We do not ask indemnity for the surplus we have grown, for the wheat we have sown, we want release from the bonds that bind us, or fair treatment in arriving at cost of our productions.

The day of anti-trust laws is past. The future will hold would-be monopolies and great aggregations of capital in check through regulation. Combined capital has laughed at anti-trust laws for long years. Not a day has been passed in jail for the violation of them. Steel and Standard oil, lumber, sugar and coffee, doctor and dentist, ice cream men and condensers, insurance, railroads and banking, combinations everywhere and in all directions.

There must be, and the politician who hopes to realize his ambition through such persecution as the one against the Chicago milk producers will find an unexpected force at the Marne.

HOW SHALL AMERICAN AGRICULTURE SECURE ITS JUST REWARDS?

(Continued from page 1) farmers to effect thru legislation and thru counsel and co-operation with farmers everywhere, the reforms that are so badly needed.

Federating the Farmers' Organizations

But, we are reminded, there are hundreds of farmer's organizations. If organization will solve these problems, why have they not been settled long ago? In answering this criticism, let us liken agriculture to a building. A house is made up of many pieces of timber. Each piece has its place, but before put into position it serves no valuable purpose. Here we have a number of pieces of timber cut and fitted to form a door. They are put together; the door is made; but the door is of no practical value until it is joined on to the house. And so in this manner boards and sash and lath and moulding are put together to form component parts which when in turn assembled in their proper places make a complete structure. And so it is with this structure of agriculture that we hope to build upon the organized strength of the farmers. Individual farmers are the bricks and boards that enter into the structure. Farmers' organizations covering local sections and striving for special reforms are the sides and the cornices and the towers; and when they are all put together they form a whole and perfect building. It is true that there are many farmers' organizations, but there is a lack of unification, even a lack of sympathy between them. It is to the welding of a link that will join all together in a common cause that the agricultural leaders of the nation now turn their attentions.

(To be continued)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The above is the first of a series of articles on the needs of agriculture and how this greatest of all industries may receive its just rewards. In the next article which will follow in an early issue, the proposed Chamber of Agriculture plan, as outlined by State Market Director McBride will be discussed.)

They Talk Learnedly of the Law of Supply and Demand!

They talk learnedly of the Law of Supply and Demand; of its importance as a factor in Markets and Marketings; and then go straight-way and buy futures; in order that both the supply and demand may be regulated according to their own choosing. True, during the war the Government was able to get a line on the supply, while the demand was fixed and ever increasing, but now that regulation will soon be a thing of the past, the law of supply and demand will again be set aside, and speculation will give us a market which ebbs and flows with the investment tide.

Note the headings which appeared in yesterday's market reports as published in the daily press. Here's sufficient evidence of the use of the market "tee-ter tau-ter," which ought to set you thinking.

"How do you gather the data, from which you arrange prices for the market reports?" asked a learned judge in the Illinois courts, when the market manipulators' investigation was under way.

Here is the answer given in so many words, by seven official market reporters for the Chicago daily papers: "Oh, we simply go up and down the line among the commission men, and they tell us about the supply, the demand and the prices they will pay."

The fellows who buy farm products not only quote prices, but tell what the probable "supply and demand will be."

Strange Manipulation This:

CORN AND OATS SWAY on MARKET

Gossip was current that very little corn would be used for human food this year, is said to be the cause.

PACKERS INCREASE SALES

Cudahy Packing Company in annual statement today shows profit for year of \$3,376,808, after taxes are paid.

HOGS AND CAT- TLE OFF

Light demand and good run, throws market off balance. Market will be some time righting itself.

DEAR MADAME:—Should your husband forget to send this Coupon, will you please see that he don't disappoint us. You, too, are interested in Farm Profits, and profits come only from selling products of the farm above the cost to produce.

THE PUBLISHERS.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

GENTLEMEN: As a reader of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING I am answering your appeal for new recruits in the growing army of practical business farmers, who believe in sane marketing and appreciate the value of market reports based upon actual conditions. You will please send MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING for one year, fifty-two numbers, to the following farmers, who have subscribed for the publication and whom I heartily recommend:

Name	R. F. D.	Post Office

(Your name and address here)

Name

Post Office..... R.F.D. No....

Michigan Business Farming was the first farm paper in the United States to get right into the game and place before the Farmer the same information as is given the buyers, through their trade papers. Michigan Business Farming is the progressive business farmers' own house organ. Others may imitate, but how feeble the effort; how barren the results.

Our market reports are based upon actual transactions. Our market service is for the purpose of getting facts for the farmer, not for the fellow who buys.

Will you help us increase the number of practical business farmers who believe in sane marketing and who appreciate market reports based upon actual conditions?

We can solve the marketing problem for Michigan, if every subscriber will enlist *Just three more* before January 1st, 1919. How easy for you to call up three neighbors, or meet them on the street, and tell them to join you—easy for you, but a mighty service for the cause. Will you do it?

Your recommendation will be sufficient; your neighbors can send their dollar at any time. Remember the Government can no longer do what they were able to do under stress of war; the lines have been slackened, and the evidence is already found in the market reports.

If you will get the three new recruits, under this plan, you will hear from us with words of appreciation before the New Year is ushered in.

Cordially,

The Publishers