"Yes, this is the little "Pink-Sheet" that the Farmers swear by, and the Market Gamblers swear at!"

Michigan Business Farming

The First Crop Reporter and Market Guide ever published solely in the Interests of those who make a Business of Tilling the Soil for Profit

No. 20 (VOL. I) Born in 1912—And Proud of It DETROIT, *Saturday, March 1st, 1913* ONE CENT PER COPY (50 WEEKS OR MORE)

JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE

COMMISSION MEN DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF GIVING BONDS.

Bills Have Been Presented in the Legislature of Several States—Ohio Shippers Want to Know Who Bought Their Shipments.

Before the commission men of Ohio were aware of the fact, a bill was passed by the legislature in session at Cincinnati, by a vote of 104 to 3, which will have far-reaching effect in the manner of handling goods on consignment. The law, which is known as the Winan's Bill, provides that every commission merchant or broker, association or corporation, shall furnish to each customer or principal, for whom he has executed an order for the purchase or sale of any hay, grain, vegetables, fruits, poultry, eggs, or other farm products, the names and postoffice address of the parties to whom such property or any part thereof, has been sold, the time when, the place where, and the price. The mailing of such statement, postage prepaid, addressed to such customer or principal upon the sale being made, shall be sufficient delivery. The violator is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than $25 and not more than $500.

A delegation of commission merchants and representatives of the different exchanges throughout the state immediately got busy and had a hearing before the Committee. The president of the National League of Commission Merchants appears very indignant over this attempt to pry into the commission man's business. He says:

"I defy any one to come into the commission district on a morning, say about 5 o'clock, and try to get the correct names and addresses of the foreigners who purchase fruits and vegetables. We would have to hire an interpreter to straighten out some of the names. We would have to hire a corps of detectives to see that we are getting the correct names. Suppose a peddler buys a barrel of apples and a barrel of potatoes. Suppose he gets away with an extra barrel of potatoes and gives us an incorrect name. We furnish this name to the shipper, who writes and receives no answer. The shipper then accuses the commission man of swindling him. The commission men would have to hire extra bookkeepers to keep records, which would mean extra time and increased expense and would also tend to higher prices."

The New York state legislature is wrestling with a bill which provides that all commission merchants shall be bonded. This bill was commented upon in a recent issue of the "Pink Sheet." It is a good one, and a similar law should be passed in this state. The advocates of the Ohio bill are undoubtedly trying to find out whether the shipper gets his share of the returns, and thinks that he could find out by having the name of the purchaser. It would be a very easy matter for the commission merchants to arrange the terms of sale so that the shipper would not be any wiser after having written a letter asking for information. You cannot make a man honest. Therefore, if the bill is passed, in our opinion, it will not correct the evils that exist. Let the commission men be bonded so that shippers know their financial responsibility, and then they can invoke the aid of the law if it is necessary. Every week from one to a half dozen commission firms fail, and they always leave a string of liabilities about three times as long as the list of assets.

"You are doing a good work, Mr. Slocum, but you don't need to be told that, you know it."—Wilson J. Buffington, Rushton, Michigan, Box 29, R. 2.

Our Service as Broad as the Farmer's Needs

THE KNOWLEDGE that we are performing a real, distinct and satisfying service to the ten thousand readers of Michigan Business Farming, is encouragement sufficient to spur every man on to do his level best. No paper ever established had a greater number or more loyal friends than the "Pink Sheet," and as we proceed fearlessly down the highway which leads to the marketplace we find ample opportunities for even greater service.

FROM TIME TO TIME we shall add new departments, for we propose that this little paper shall supply your every need so far as lies within the power and scope of the printed word. This week we announce the appointment of a representative at Lansing. The legislature has just got down to business; many laws that are of vital interest to the farmer, are to be considered. You need a representative right on the ground who is bound by no organization, who champions no special cause, who is honest and square himself and only asks that the farmer receives a square deal. Such a person is Mr. E. C. Lindemann, who will furnish the "Pink Sheet" with a hot letter, right off the bat from the legislative ball field at Lansing. He is at your service. Letters addressed to this office will have his personal attention.

"Not here to Sing the Old Song—but to Join in the Chorus of the New."

KICK AT PARCEL POST.

Editor, Michigan Business Farming:—

The parcel post is a step in the right direction, and a great convenience to the rural population, but why plants and seeds should have a higher rate than merchandise is something more than I can understand. The real service of a parcel post is to aid those who live miles from any express office to get their packages. Under the present law plant seeds, which should be rushed by parcel post, cannot be sent because the price is almost prohibitive. For instance, our city cousins can 'phone to a rural router ten or twelve miles out in the country, and get eleven pounds of popcorn brought to town for 15 cents, but if the farmer wants the same amount from town, for seed, it will cost the farmer 88 cents.—J. JORGERSEN, Poysippi, Wisconsin.

Last Moment Market Flashes

The Weekly Pink Sheet's visit reminds you that another week has slipped by. Shows you the "Shoddy" nature of the commercial fabric. Gives you an X-ray picture of the situation. Don't miss a word—each has a value.

THE LAST MINUTE before going to press, we secure quotations on the several commodities from the principal market centers. A detailed statement covering conditions, our predictions and special advice, will be found with each commodity on the following pages. The very latest quotations are:

Wheat No. 1 White (large mills paying)	$1.07½
Wheat No. 2 Red (large mills paying)	1.08½
Oats, Standard	.34
Rye	.63
Beans	2.05
Hay (best market today, New York), at	20.00
Potatoes (best market today, Pittsburgh) at	.55
Butter	.33
Poultry	.16
Dressed Hogs (Detroit Market)	.10½
Eggs	.20

See Complete Markets Beginning Next Page

SUBSTITUTE FOR GASOLINE FOUND

STANDARD OIL COMPANY PREPARES TO PUT "MOTOR SPIRIT" ON THE MARKET.

The New Fuel Will Cost About Three Cents per Gallon Less Than Gasoline—Tests Show More Mileage to Gallon Can Be Obtained.

On the heels of an announcement by the New York section of the Society of Automobile engineers calling a meeting of its members to discuss ways and means of reducing the high cost of motor fuels, the Standard Oil company yesterday made public the fact that a substitute for gasoline had been discovered after a year's experiments. It also was announced that the new product, which will be called motor spirit, will be marketed by the company immediately.

Motor spirit will cost 3 cents a gallon less than gasoline and will furnish, it is asserted, 25 per cent more mileage.

The new fuel is an additional by-product of petroleum. It was discovered by W. M. Burton and patents for the process of manufacture were granted the first of the year. The spirit has a greater range of boiling points than gasoline. This, it is said, will allow a motor to be started as easily or more easily, with the new fuel than with gasoline.

By the discovery of the spirit the output of fuel for gasoline engines from a given amount of crude petroleum is declared to be practically doubled. This it is believed, will tend to prevent any rise in the price of gasoline.

Motor spirit resembles gasoline closely except it is yellow in color and has a pungent odor. The company intends it for use in motor trucks and stationary engines, but its cheapness is expected to encourage its use in pleasure cars notwithstanding there are several discouraging features from the standpoint of pleasure car owners.

Chief of these is the exhaust of a car which employs the spirit as a fuel is a white smoke similar in appearance to that caused by an excess of oil.

The great consumption of gasoline by motors has been threatening the available supply for some time, and has been advanced as the chief reason for increasing the price of gasoline.

The new fuel has been under test by the Standard Oil company for several weeks, and its efficiency it is declared, has been proved satisfactory to the company's engineers.

PENSION THE TEACHERS.

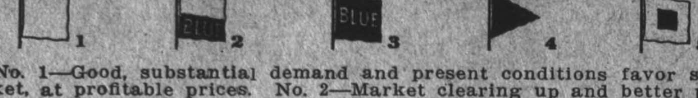
I see that the teachers are trying to get a pension bill passed. Why should ex-teachers get a pension any more than ex-farmers or ex-anybody else? They get good wages and have just as good a chance to save as we have. They must be trying to keep up their dignity, like our expresidents, I guess. What can taxpayers do to kill the bill?—L. M. S., Auburn, Mich.

IF YOU like the "Pink-Sheet", tell your Neighbor——IF WE can improve it tell Us

A Market Review from the Farmers Standpoint

OUR MARKET SIGNALS

THE Weather Man takes his observations; gets his reports from other stations and "guesses the weather." We take our observations, have our reports from other stations, and with these as a basis we are going to take a chance at the markets. We will not hit it every time; neither does the weather man. But if we keep just a few farmers from getting "soaked" it will pay. Get on your "Slickers" and watch the signals:



No. 1—Good, substantial demand and present conditions favor steady market, at profitable prices. No. 2—Market clearing up and better prices predicted. No. 3—Market very quiet; has every appearance of being over-fed. No. 4—No profit at ruling prices. If you can hold, this is an "eleventh hour" proposition. No. 5—Better keep in port. Storm on. Prices may go lower but we would take a chance.

HAY

BLUE We believe that you will agree with us that a resume of the hay situation this season discloses a condition which has not visited us in a number of years. The writer of this article has been connected commercially with the disposition of hay and in a very large way for the last 15 years, and never during this period do I recall a time when the situation assumed this year's position. Never has the situation from all angles, considering both grower and local distributor, been handled as this season. We started out knowing that we had a most abundant crop for disposition. As statistics tell us, this surplus is represented by three million tons. The "Pink Sheet" was aware of this condition and the the percentage of different qualities of hay for disposition, advising you in our October number that not over 5 per cent of this season's crop would grade as No. 1 Timothy Hay; that a great percentage could not be termed commercial hay. With these conditions put before you it should have been apparent that this season was one in which the most careful consideration of conditions and that an outlining of activities must be indulged in. Nothing has been done this season to bolster up the situation in the least. Everyone in any way connected with the disposition of this commodity has seemingly had cold feet from the very inception of the season, it being the disposition of all interested to dump on the market just as fast as possible. Never has there been a time during this season, so far, in which this is not absolutely true, and the only feature holding back hay at all has been "car supply." The only regulator that has been on the whole situation is found in this one element, the Railroad Carriers. We have been most unfortunate in the feature of weather conditions, not having had practically any real winter weather up to the present. It can be conservatively stated that not three weeks of good snug winter, or feeding weather has visited us this season. Weather conditions is considered commercially as one of the greatest and grandest asset possible in the furthering of better market conditions. It is more than commercially true with the commodity in question. We have an example on the farm of the lesser amount of hay that you have consumed this year by virtue of a mild and open winter. Self-evident is this that the amount of hay you have not fed at home will result in an excess in the amount you will naturally put on the market. While it is not possible to determine exactly the amount of hay you have saved, or in other words, have not fed, as a result of weather conditions, still we do know that taking the whole situation into consideration that this item would stand out in large numbers. Not only does this weather condition affect the feeding at home on the farm, but it also cuts down consumption at natural receiving centers. A great percentage of markets taking our hay are those which are partially self-supporting. Going farther than this, it is absolutely true that not as much will be consumed, in off or out of season weather, as will be the case in snug ever present zero conditions. We are fast approaching a time when spring will be with us, when the natural consuming months for every quality of hay excepting high quality No. 2 and No. 1 will not be looked on with any favor, being entirely out of season. The season for mixed hay, for instance, is during winter months and usually for cattle consumption. With the advent of spring this avenue of escape, escapes with it. With the abundance of common quality hay back, it is not logical to conclude that a keen disposition will be shown in their favor. Readers, we have shown you from the outset of this new market paper that the only way in God's world that the hay situation, from a large angle, could be benefited was by holding the high quality stuff which means your No. 2 or better. These qualities of hay will always be looked on with favor, always drawing a handicap regardless of the race. We know, that from an individual standpoint, that this might not have worked but in a large way there was no other manner in which the hay situation could draw improvement. Right today, men, with the situation in its present demoralized condition, it would be possible to so regulate and handle the balance of this crop that good No. 2 and better would draw a good snug price for the remainder of the season. We will not advise you one way or another with reference to the manner of disposition of the hay you have on hand, because it is simply impossible and you appreciate it, to understand the manner in which your Brother Producers and also your local distributors will be disposed to handle the situation from now on, but it is possible to make this good No. 1 hay bring home good returns even in the face of what might seem the impossible. If this farmer's steam was only condensed in the form of Farmer Elevators we could then put our hand on the regulator and shape the future of the hay situation in an astonishing manner. Naturally the outlook for the hay situation bears but mighty little promise. On low grades of hay there seems hardly any ray of hope, on high-class hay the situation is what you make it, entirely up to the fight in its behalf. Not all the low grade hay is going onto the market this year. If someone has got to be left out with their low grade hay, why don't we consider it individually and collectively when we can, and regulate as best we can, the disposition of the same. There is no use simply swamping the situation at any time. The same is suicidal from its every angle. Do everything you can to bolster up the present situation and protect the future—don't sacrifice if you have No. 1 Timothy or a close counterfeit. There is a wide range between this grade and common quality, mixed, etc., as to selling value. Accept an anywhere conservative price for your low grade stock, but hold a stiff upper lip on your high class hay.

HAY—MICHIGAN ZONE PRICES.

Zone No. 1 Michigan	$10.00
Zone No. 2 Michigan	11.00
Zone No. 3 Michigan	11.50
Zone No. 4 Michigan	11.30
Zone No. 5 Michigan	11.00
Zone No. 6 Michigan	11.30
Zone No. 7 Michigan	12.20

NOTE—The prices given are on a basis of No. 1 Timothy hay in the different Michigan freight zones. This gives you the price that Michigan dealers should be able to pay for this commodity, f. o. b. their stations, under existing market conditions.

DETROIT—Instead of being able to advise a better condition as existing on the Detroit market, we are obliged to give you its opposite. Still the situation that looms up right under our eyes shows conclusively and supports our position, that it is the common qualities of hay and the manner of disposition that is tearing down what little protective wall we did have. On the Detroit market last week the writer actually witnessed sales of good, straight, clean, No. 2 timothy hay at $9 per ton, one car of mixed hay fairly good color, a little fine grass at $7, other grades of No. 2 at $11, but not a car of strictly No. 1 Timothy hay were we able to inspect during this time. This goes to show that the present manner of disposition is simply demolishing the situation here and placing it in a very indifferent position. Everything is in the buyer's favor, sacrificed prices are continuously being made, but in face of this, good bright cars of No. 1 hay will sell readily at quotations.

HAY—DETROIT MARKET.

No. 1 Timothy	$14.00
No. 2 Timothy	12.00
Light mixed	12.00
No. 1 Mixed	11.00
Rye Straw	8.50
Wheat and Oat Straw	7.50

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh market has experienced a very heavy run of low quality hay the last week. It almost appeared necessary at one time to place an embargo. Up to the present this has not been done. Sales of common quality of hay began to be on a very indefinite basis and subject to reduction, and in some cases sacrificing. Receipts is the one feature, and practically the only one, having a direct influence on the situation here. Receipts of high class hay continue to be about normal, but we think a little below.

HAY—PITTSBURGH MARKET.

No. 1 Timothy Hay	$15.00
No. 2 Timothy Hay	13.00
No. 3 Timothy	10.00
No. 1 Light mixed hay	13.00
No. 1 Clover mixed hay	13.00
No. 1 Clover hay	13.00
Fine Prairie Packing Hay	10.00
No. 1 Oat straw	9.00
No. 1 Rye straw	10.00
No. 1 Wheat straw	9.00

CHICAGO—For a few days the Chicago market experienced receipts away out of line with the local demand, but we think at the present time the situation there is about normal, basd on conditions existing over the entire situation. About one general basis will be naturally established between one market and another, as sympathy extends a long way when directed along commercial lines, and especially when conditions are assuming a toboggan nature.

HAY—CHICAGO MARKET.

Choice Timothy	$16.50
No. 1 Timothy	14.50
No. 2 Timothy	12.50
Light Clover Mixed	12.50
No. 2 Mixed hay	11.00
No. 3 Timothy	11.00
Clover	11.00
Threshed Timothy	8.00
Marsh feeding hay	7.00
Packing	6.00
Choice Alfalfa	18.00
No. 1 Alfalfa	16.00
Rye	8.00
Oats	7.00
Wheat	6.50

BOSTON—We can't say that there is any particular changes in the situation from that reported last week. Receipts are not noticeably heavy, congestion is not apparent, the situation not particularly alarming, only in so much as must be the case naturally as influences the general condition. No general improvement to give out, neither do we think its opposite is warranted.

HAY—BOSTON MARKET.

	Large bales.	Small bales.
Hay, choice	$21.00	$20.00
Hay, No. 1	19.00	19.00
Hay, No. 2	17.00	17.00
Hay, No. 3	14.00	14.00
Hay, clover	15.00	15.00
Hay, clover mixed	15.00	15.00
Hay, stock	13.00	13.00
Long rye straw	18.00	
Tangled rye straw	12.00	12.00
Oat straw	11.00	11.00

NOTE—Large bales weigh from 200 to 250 pounds; medium bales from 80 to 100 pounds.

NEW YORK—In our last week's issue "Last Moment Market Flashes" we showed a telgram received from the New York market. Don't be misled by this or excited to a point where you will expect that the situation has shown very much of an improvement. We feel this advice was prompted by local conditions caused by the Firemen's Strike Agitation, but it does go to show that receipts, which are a result of disposition, will bring about an advance in the face of anything. This market shot up a quick dollar per ton on grades of hay No. 2 or better. Low grades were not benefited only possibly through natural sympathy.

HAY—NEW YORK MARKET.

New Hay: Timothy— Choice.	Large bales, per ton.	Small bales, per ton.
No. 1	$21.50	$21.00
No. 2	19.00	18.00
No. 3	14.00	14.00
Shipping	14.00	14.00
Light Clover Mixed	17.00	17.00
No. 1 Clover Mixed	16.50	16.50
No. 1 Clover	16.00	16.00
No. 2 Clover Mixed	13.50	13.50
No. 2 Clover	15.00	
Straw—		
No. 1 Rye	17.00	
No. 2 Rye	16.00	
No. 1 Oat	11.50	11.00
No. 1 Wheat	11.50	

NOTE—Large bales weigh from 200 to 250 pounds; medium bales from 80 to 100 pounds.

Dear Mr. Slocum:—I thought I would drop you a line, first a word for the "pink sheet." I received 16c a pound for our turkeys and if I hadn't the "pink sheet" I would have got only 14c. I received $2 per bushel for my beans, machine-run, and they were only paying $2 on hand-picked basis. So it is worth a whole lot to know what our stuff is worth and what we dare hold it at. I consider the "pink sheet" a farmer's guide! — Fred Ascher, White Cloud, Mich.

POTATOES

BLUE We think there is just a little disposition on the part of both producers and distributors to ease up on the reins they have been holding on the market situation. Taut have you held the lines almost continuously up to the moment. It may be that you have not loosened your grip on the situation or taken any definite conception of it, but the outside situation would suggest it and also the movement of Potatoes would have a tendency to prove it, but at the same time if these Potatoes have been going forward on basis of sales having been effected, which establishes a definite basis and a basis on which we hope you are satisfied, and which is in keeping with the standard we have been fighting for. If this is true the varied colors in the market cloud should mean nothing particular, the only thing that it should conservatively suggest, is a heavy movement as a result of loosening in car supply. We hope, of course, that this is the true situation. We hate to feel that either the producer or distributor of Potatoes has in the least wavered from the staunch stand taken when the season was in its infancy. We believe, from the result of the situation, as it has shown from week to week, that not only the producer reading this "Pink Sheet" but many of the distributors, and a large percentage of them, have been working along the very same lines as suggested by us. We believe all have figuured that the plan as outlined by us was about the only conservative and serviceable plan to be considered in the matter of disposition of this crop. We are fast approaching a time when stocks in pits will be looked ino, and very much is going to depend on the manner in which these Potatoes come out. One year with another it has been said that 10 per cent of Potatoes held back are placed in pjits. We think this is a little high, but naturally we know the percentage of Potatoes held in pits will be an important factor with the Spring situation. You don't want to figure for a minute that this 20 round fight we have been talking about is any "walk-away." As the ring generals would say, it is going to be "some fight," and men, we want you to appreciate that the situation today does suggest that some fight is ahead of us to maintain or improve the situation now before us. No living man has a right to tell you that the situation is going to be so and so, because it is simply impossible. As raisers of Potatoes I will guarantee, that you have been so completely fooled and so many times along expectancy lines that you will agree wth the above. The writer has experienced, been in actual touch with concerns, in the game in a very large way, what we would naturally term manipulators, who went completely wrong on the future situation, therefore never be entirely dependent on the dope given out by someone else, their ideas and otherwise. Use your own head, compare your notes with others, form your own conclusions. We want it thoroughly understood that you can so consider the matter in working along and affiliating with this market sheet. It is a big situation—too big for any one man. The situation today goes to show that we are enjoying a usually healthy tone to the market, that we must be most careful in the matter of this disposition or we will see its effect at once. We believe the future situation is of the most sensitive nature, one which will respond to the every touch of the marketer.

POTATOES—MICHIGAN ZONE PRICES.

Zone No. 2 Michigan	**$ .37**
Zone No. 4 Michigan	**.39**
Zone No. 5 Michigan	**.37**
Zone No. 6 Michigan	**.42**
Zone No. 7 Michigan	**.42**

NOTE—From present market conditions, local dealers in the freight zones should pay you the price quoted above for No. 1 stock delivered at their stations. These prices can be increased by taking advantage of special carlot offers.

DETROIT—The Detroit situation is gone too stable at the present time. There seems a tendency on the part of the distributors to place their Potatoes on this market at a price out of line with the generally conceded natural situation. Adjacent to the Detroit market are some very good Potato sections and some of these have access to the Detroit market over the Electric Railroad, at any rate the carrying charge from these localities to this market is much less than to other outside terminals. Instead of holding the price up and taking the advantage of their location and position to this market, they are giving it away in the form of a lowered price. This is a case where the grower and distributor is not taking advantage of the situation at his disposal. The market at the moment is topheavy, receipts out of line with demand, with the disposition to cut prices.

POTATOES—DETROIT MARKET.

Bulk from car, per bu.	**.40 to .43**
***Sacked from car, per bu.**	**.45 to .48**

***Sacks must be even weight, 150 pounds.**
Price quoted includes cost of sack, about 10½c each.

CHICAGO—There is no material change to report in the market situation existing at this point. Quite uniform have been market quotations and the market situation at this point for some time. We are well aware that the situation may show a little change from day to day, possibly from week to week, the situation being entirely governed and made possible by the nature of receipts, but at all times the general situation has been quite sympathetic wth the situation generally existing. The tone to the market this last week has been quite satisfactory.

POTATOES—CHICAGO MARKET.

Bulk from car, per bu.	**.43 to .48**
***Sacked from car, per bu.**	**.45 to .50**

***Sacks must be even weight, 150 pounds.**
Price quoted includes cost of sack, about 10½c each.

CINCINNATI—We are not able to report a very snappy condition existing on the Cincinnati market, instead the market was pretty slow, trade showing disposition to hold back, while in most cases last week's quotations were held and the situation in general quite well maintained, still at the same time the general tone to the situation was somewhat impaired.

POTATOES—CINCINNATI MARKET.

Bulk from car, per bu.	**.50 to .55**
***Sacked from car, per bu.**	**.55 to .58**

***Sacks must be even weight, 150 pounds.**
Price quoted includes cost of sack, about 10½c each.

WHEAT

The wheat situation, during the past week, makes the writer think of an old hen with a brood of young ducks; most everyone taking a stand on the bank and apparently becoming nervous watching the wheat market on the commercial sea, when we believe the wheat market is just about as safe today as the little ducks were in their water position. About the only ground for conversation during the past week has been the feature of the weather conditions on the outside. Dry weather has been reported over a great portion of the wheat section. Being well aware of what happened last year through this same angle the weather cry at this time has more than a natural influence. It is even now considered by practical people, that the crop has not yet been injured. These are called Bulls to the situation, ones who have a strong sentiment in the trade, which will not be checked until the wheat has had plenty of moisture. We believe there is room for a conservative view of the situation as it shows at the moment, but on the other hand we believe there is no reason why the present situation does not give every promise of a good healthy future.

WHEAT—DETROIT MARKET.

No. 1 White	**$1.07½**
No. 2 Red	**1.08½**
Speculative Prices.	
July delivery	**$ .96½**
***May delivery**	**1.16**

***The prices given for December and May delivery represent the future delivery prices. This information merely gives you the future basis of this commodity as figured by those who speculate on future prospects.**

WHEAT—CHICAGO MARKET.

No. 2 Red	**$1.08**
Speculative Prices.	
***July delivery**	**.91¾**
***May delivery**	**.93¼**

***The price given for July and May delivery represent the future delivery prices. This information merely gives you the future basis of this commodity as figured by those who speculate on future prospects.**

"Your 'pink sheet' has been like a light in the night. I have followed its advice with profit. I want it regularly as long as I can depend on the soil. If it can grow, let it always be as fearless as in the past."—S. D Ellison, Boyne Falls, Mich.

BEANS

BLUE Do you know, men, that it is getting high time that we get right down and study good and hard on the future possibilities, manner of disposition, etc., of this commodity. We have a patient here that is gradually getting weaker as the weeks go by. It is suicidal on our part to allow this situation to go along and not give it some attention. We would like to have you get your "Pink Sheets" together from week to week and read the outlines of the situation as therein given. We think you will find that we have stolidly maintained a line of attack and defense for this commodity, which, if it had been carried out, would have maintained the possibilities of this season's output. Going back to the inception of the season we all know the nature of the crop, the abundance thereof, etc.; nothing suggestive whatever in either of these elements that we should have our present situation. That being true, then why is it that our present demoralized situation should be visiting us? Isn't the cause the manner in which disposition has been made? Don't you believe it is true that the disposition of beans so far this year and the situation in general has been thoroughly misused, and demonstrating that a real mistake has been made. As distributors you are coming to a time when the percentage of beans in your hands will be very small. The large handlers of beans are very likely looking forward to this time, that they may be working with this end in view. If they are, the reason for the present situation is therein explained, and just the moment that these handlers think the situation is right, will be the time when the percentage of beans left in the Farmer's hands have reduced to the minimum, this is the time when you will see a great change in the general bean situation, the time when the great bean dealers' organization of Michigan will step into the field and show you its strength from a marketing standpoint. We had a case just like this in 1911, beans were forced down to $1.90 by the dealers over the State, the situation given out to the Farmers as very bad, etc. On a falling market you fellows break your necks to sell your stuff. At that time you dumped your beans on the market at $1.90, which was a reduction from the normal level, of 15c to 25c. When the beans had been dumped by you, the elevator situation turned the table. We saw beans climb to $2.65. The question is are we facing, what possibly is, a recurrence of like conditions? Is the general situation warranted, or is it not? You all know that beans will keep until next year if this year's price don't suit you. The future to the situation bears

Continued on Page Six

MICHIGAN FREIGHT ZONES

IN order to keep in touch with the market conditions you should know the freight rate from your shipping station to the leading market centers. If you have the freight rate you have the key which places you in a position to know whether your local dealer is giving you the market price for your products or not. In connection with this article we give you the Michigan Business Farmer Zone Map. You will notice that this map is divided into seven freight zones. Your farm is located in one of these zones, and by referring to the table given below you will find approximately what it costs for carlot shipments to the different market centers. The rate given is per 100 pounds, and it should be remembered that these are the approximate rates which will, of course, differ a little from different points in the several zones, therefore it is advisable that you secure from your local station agent the correct rate from your station to any of the markets named. Remember the railroad companies are common carriers and the agent is obliged to give you the freight rates if you make a request. For example let us say that you reside in zone 5 and wish to ship a carload of hay to Pittsburgh. The rate is 22c a hundred or $4.40 per ton. The quotations in Pittsburgh, for instance, show that Nt. 1 Timothy hay is worth $16.00 per ton. The freight being $4.40, would show that the dealers in Tuscola county should pay $11.60 per ton, less handling charge. The minimum weight of a car of hay is 20,000 pounds; the minimum weight of a car of potatoes is 30,000 pounds; the minimum weight of a car of beans is 40,000 pounds; and you will have to pay for that number of pounds in each car, so be sure and ship a full carload. The rates given cover hay, potatoes and beans only; all kinds of grains take a different rate. We will be glad to furnish you with full information with reference to the maximum and minimum car-lots, or you can get this information from your local agent.

Zone 1—Sault Ste. Marie.

New York City	.32
Pittsburgh	.28½
Cincinnati	.29
Chicago	.22
Detroit	.22

Zone 2—Kalkaska.

New York City	.34½
Pittsburgh	.22
Cincinnati	.19½
Chicago	.16
Detroit	.14

Zone 3—Bay City.

New York City	.27½
Pittsburgh	.17
Cincinnati	.16
Chicago	.13
Detroit	.10

Zone 4—Greenville.

New York City	.29
Pittsburgh	.17½
Cincinnati	.16
Chicago	.13
Detroit	.11

Zone 5—Sandusky.

New York City	.27½
Pittsburgh	.22
Cincinnati	.18
Chicago	.15
Detroit	.13

Zone 6—Vicksburg.

New York City	.29
Pittsburgh	.17
Cincinnati	.15
Chicago	.10½
Detroit	.11

Zone 7—Pontiac.

New York City	.27½
Pittsburgh	.17
Cincinnati	.15
Chicago	.13
Detroit	.06½

Michigan Business Farming

The First Crop Reporter and Market Guide ever published solely in the Interests of those who make a Business of Tilling the Soil for Profit

"Founded in 1912, for the Business Farmers of today, and proud of it!"

EDITED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. GRANT SLOCUM

"They copied all they could follow, but they couldn't copy my mind,
And I left 'em sweating and stealin' a year and a half behind."—Kipling.

¶ This "pink-sheet" has no creed, nor party, plays no favorites and bows its head to neither friend nor enemy, if they would swerve it from the single path which it has laid for itself to solve the greatest problem that confronts the farmer today, THAT OF DISPOSING OF HIS CROP FOR A GREATER PROFIT!

¶ The market reports are written directly to serve the farmers of Michigan, and to assist them in receiving at their own local market the prices which should be theirs.

¶ MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING maintains a Service department, under competent and experienced direction of men, whose duty it is to aid our readers in any part of this state to secure fair prices and good markets and if the local buyer will not meet these conditions to aid, if possible, in the disposing of his produce on a favorable market.

¶ In the unpretentious little "pink-sheet" which you hold in your hands, the farmers of Michigan will find a militant strong-arm, ready and anxious at all times to defend their rights and to right their wrongs wherever and whenever they be found. No independent farmer or group of organized farmers in this state need hesitate to call upon this publication, at any time, if it can be of assistance to them.

¶ MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, let it be clearly understood, represents no single organization, be it Gleaners, Grangers, Farmers' Clubs, Society of Equity or whatever its creed or title. It does, however, stand for organized farming, because in this way only do we believe the farmers of Michigan can come into their own.

ONE-CENT-PER-WEEK (when ordered for 50 weeks or more)
SEND 50c FOR 50 WEEKS.

(In remitting it is to your advantage to write full name and address carefully and tell us whether you are an old or new subscriber.)

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT DETROIT BY

RURAL PUBLISHING CO, INC., GEO. M. SLOCUM, SEC'Y-TREAS.
HOME OFFICES: 95 WEST FORT STREET, DETROIT, MICHIGAN.
OTHER OFFICES: New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Port Huron.

Entered as 2nd Class Matter, Oct. 13, 1912, at Detroit, Mich., under Act of Mar. 3, 1879.

EDITORIAL

ROBBING OUR OWN TILLS.

YOU HAVE HEARD about the merchant who was arrested for robbing his own till? He was going to leave for a distant city in the early morning, and entered his store late at night, to get some cash. He had just opened the till, and was counting out his cash when the policeman on the beat saw the "robber" and hustled him away to the police station.

He told his story straight; claimed ownership of both the cash and the store; but the sergeant in charge laughed at his flimsy excuses and he was locked up for the night. In the police court at 10 o'clock the next morning, he convinced the judge that he was really robbing his own till and, therefore, could not be convicted of a crime.

Eight out of every ten farmers are robbing their own tills. You can't convict them of robbery, because they have a title to their tills. They are soil robbers nevertheless, and could be convicted in any court, with the prosecution in the hands of Attorney Outraged Nature.

We claim to be prosperous; call attention to the fact that we have been successful; and boast of the increased value of our holdings. Yet we bought our farms when land was very much cheaper and the paper value has increased a third or a half. And why?

Isn't it a fact, brother, that you came along ten or fifteen years ago and stumbled on to a lot of wealth lying right near the surface? It was placed there by a beneficent Providence, and all you had to do was to await the increase price of farm products—and conditions added to the value of your farm.

The value of that farm of yours is determined by its productiveness. No matter what kind of buildings you may have; no matter what crops you have raised in the past—the value of YOUR farm lies in the amount of fertility remaining in the soil.

Isn't it a fact that you have been mining from the black top soil for years; taking the wealth and spending it with just as lavish a hand, as the son wastes the money left by his doting father? You have kept right on, year after year, taking money from your till.

And now that the cash does not come so easily, you are anxious to move on, where you can again spread your net and get a larger and more profitable haul. When you move on, some one gets a "sucked lemon"—a wornout farm.

It is possible to so conserve the soil, that with added years it becomes more productive. But you can't maintain fertility by robbing nature's till, and never allowing a dollar to go back to her, as a slight recompense for the treasures she has lavished upon you.

The farmers of the old country have learned that finally nature will exact her pound of flesh. They have passed through many bitter schools of experience. But they have emerged with a clean balance sheet, and nature is today giving five and ten-fold greater returns than she awards the American farmer.

If you own a farm, your selfish interest, if none other, should lead you to strive to conserve and increase the fertility of the soil. "I will deal justly with you," says nature. "Return to me a small portion of that which I give unto you, and I will reward your fidelity in the coming harvest."

Increased production isn't everything; but it is going to cut quite a figure in your future profits. And remember, if the fertility of your farm is not being at least conserved, it is growing less productive year by year.

And according to the number of years you have been robbing nature, so shall the number of years be required of you to return to nature that which belongeth to her. We are passing through a period of increased land values—let us hope that these values are not inflated.

We can only know whether present values are stable or not by applying the business principle to the present day values. If your farm will show a good interest return on the money, time, and for the labor and ability invested in carrying on the business.

Then present values will remain. But only so long as you can take each year from nature's store-house, a sum sufficient to maintain the dividend payments. Possibly for a year or so, returns may not interfere with the value, but finally:

When things get right down to business, it is the returns that count. Values are not based upon acreage, buildings or farm implements—land values for farming purposes will be based, in the very near future, solely and wholly upon the productiveness of the soil.

So don't rob your own till. Nature has a watchman on guard, and you will get "run in" sooner or later.

WHO? THAT'S THE QUESTION! WHO?

The Department of Agriculture is occasionally placed in a humorous if not an absurd position. Just recently they sent out the welcome statement that the cost of living was growing less and that its statistics proved that the materials of life sold for less during the past year than these same materials sold for in years previous. The average wage-earner laughs at this statement because he has only to look at his bills to see that he has paid more for almost everything, including oils which ought to be cheaper since the trust is "busted."

It is not so easy to laugh at the statements of the Department of Agriculture in connection with the glowing reports of the increase in wealth which must have come to the farmer during the past ten years. Recently it has been the hobby of editors of various papers to quote the Department of Agriculture to prove that the American farmer is becoming rapidly wealthy. Don't the statistics show that corn has increased several millions of dollars in price? Hasn't wheat brought millions more this year than it did ten years ago? Yes, some of these statistics may be true, but THEY TELL ONLY ONE-HALF OF THE STORY. What the American farmer wants to know is, "WHO IS GETTING THIS EXTRA WEALTH?"

Why doesn't our venerable Department of Agriculture tell us something about the difference in price between what the farmer receives for his product and the price which the consumer pays? A few years ago they told us that the farmer received on an average about 46 cents out of each dollars' worth of product sold. Is he still doing business with this 46-cent dollar? If he is, why hasn't something been done to enable him to market a dollar's worth of produce for less than 54 cents? He knows it doesn't cost that much.

Is it fair to tell to the world that the farm products are worth millions more this year than ever before without also telling the public who gets these extra millions?

The farmer is, to be sure, getting a little more for his products, but his increased cost of land, machinery, necessities of life and lack of farm labor compensate for this. The consumer is paying a big margin more for products than he did ten years ago. And, our dear "Farmers Aid," the Department of Agriculture, continues to send out statistics. Statistics look well on paper, and make interesting material for the newspaper editors, but what the farmer wants is someone with the nerve to go beyond the statistics and get after the non-producing middleman who is in reality the individual who is getting the increased wealth. E. C. L.

MINNESOTA FRUIT GROWERS INCORPORATE

Will Have a Capital Stock of $100,000

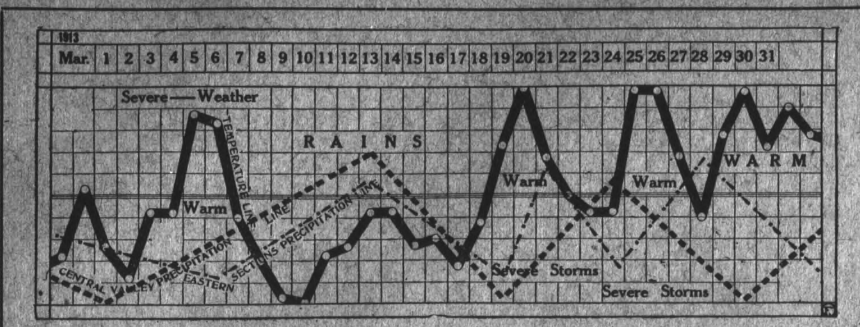
Last week the directors of the Minnesota Fruit Association, a co-operative company of fruit growers, held a meeting at Minneapolis, at which time final arrangements were made for incorporating. The association will incorporate for $100,000, with a limited liability of $50,000. There will be ten thousand shares of stock with a par value of $10 per share.

In speaking of the organization's work Manager H. H. Rowley said: "We have found that although we have met to a certain extent with more success than we anticipated, we have felt at all times the need of a working capital or fund which could be used for extension and assistance of the ordinary agriculturist. We want to be where we can be of material assistance inasmuch as they may possibly be short of funds from time to time and need outside aid. We make them an advance on their stock and take up their notes. In fact we operate as a sort of clearing house for the local organizations scattered throughout this territory.

"Our past operations have proved conclusively that this is the logical solution of a long felt want. We are not attempting the impossible—that of distribution of produce direct from producer to consumer—but rather we will operate between the grower and the wholesaler; the grower will be benefited in that he will not have to devote his time to looking up a market for his produce, and the wholesaler and jobber are taking a decided interest in our work because it becomes an easier proposition for him to keep supplied."

Foster's March, 1913, Weather Chart

(Copyrighted 1913 by W. T. Foster—Exclusive rights granted to Michigan Business Farming)



March will be warmer than usual east of Rockies and cooler than usual west of Rockies. Rainfall will be greater than usual within 150 miles of Kansas City, along gulf coast, along Atlantic coast from South Carolina northward and north part of Pacific coast. Elsewhere less than usual rain. High temperatures not far from March 5, 20, 26 and 30. Cold 8 to 18. Precipitation waves will cross continent Feb. 26 to March 2, March 11 to 15, 20 to 25 and 26 to 30. Severe weather March 1 to 6. Very dangerous storms 16 to 29. Our danger signals will hang out during that period. Chances are about even for good and for bad weather in Washington March 4.

In above chart the treble line represents normal precipitation and temperatures. As temperatures and precipitation lines rise probabilities will increase for more precipitation and higher temperatures. Dates are for Meridian 90. Count one to three days earlier for west of that line and as much later for east of it, in proportion to distance from that Meridian which runs north through St. Louis.

Washington, D. C., March 1.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbance to cross continent March 4 to 8, warm wave 3 to 7, cool wave 6 to 10. This will be about an average disturbance and therefore of no great importance. The interesting matter in connection with this weather event is the kind of weather it will give to Washington for the inauguration.

The indications are favorable to moderately fair weather for that event. According to our calculations, made about middle of January, the cool wave will be due at Washington on March 4 and therefore clearing weather may be expected for the inauguration.

Next disturbance will reach Pacific coast about March 10, cross Pacific slope by close of 11, great central valleys 12 to 14, eastern sections 15. Warm wave will cross Pacific slope about March 10, great central valleys 12, eastern sections 14. Cool wave will cross Pacific slope about March 13, great central valleys 15, eastern sections 17.

This disturbance does not promise any dangerous storms, but there are indications of more than the average rainfall for March, 1913. But the rainfall of this disturbance will probably be in the country from Galveston, New Orleans, Houston, San Antonio and Dallas, north to eastern Kansas. It also promises rains in the New England States. Elsewhere probably dry. Large parts of the country are threatened with a March drouth and a general thaw.

Again we hang out danger signals for March 16 to 28. We have no doubt that very destructive storms will occur during that two weeks' period, but, as we cannot now locate them, all should be on the alert for them. Much property and some lives might be saved by being prepared.

Our February temperature forecasts were certainly good and should encourage all who desire reliable weather forecasts. The temperatures of February seemed to follow our chart lines, made two months before, as though they were tied together and could not separate. We have a right to boast of the marked forecasts of February weather. No other forecaster has ever dared to chart his weather forecasts a month ahead. We propose to make that feature of our work the greatest scientific success of the age.

At great expense we have again gone through the tedious calculations for rainfall for all sections of this continent covering the coming crop season and believe our readers may rely on the crop weather forecasts of these bulletins for 1913.

At time of writing this bulletin, February 20, prices of grain and cotton are tending downward. This was expected, because we are now at the season when producers will deliver large quantities of farm products. Another influence favorable to lower prices will be the warm weather of March and April, which will bring early crop growing weather. Still another influence for lower prices is the prospect that the European war will soon be closed and the Turk eliminated from Europe.

The big business interests seem to be favoring a depression and many people in New York city are out of employment. Another index to lower prices is that the public entertainments are not being well patronized. The people are holding the dollars more firmly and many shows have been forced out of business.

These statements are made because heretofore we have advised farmers not to sell. The affairs of our country are in excellent condition and 1913 should be one of our most prosperous years. But it all depends on the managers of big business.

1913 SUGAR BEET CONTRACT.

A Few Little Changes in the Contract That the Grower Will Not Appreciate.

We have had a number of inquiries with reference to the Sugar Beet Contract for 1913. We give herewith a copy of the uniform contract adopted by the Michigan sugar companies:

Concerning Raising and Delivery of Sugar Beets for

CAMPAIGN OF 1913.

The undersigned hereby agrees to plant, cultivate, harvest and deliver during the year commencing with the spring of 1913, to the.................. .... at its factory in ...., Mich., or at one of the Company's weigh stations ....acres of Sugar Beets grown on the following described lands, to wit: .... in Section .... township of .... in the County of.................. State of Michigan.

About 15 pounds of seed per acre shall be planted, which seed shall be furnished by the.......................... SUGAR COMPANY, at 15 cents per pound, and the cost of same to be deducted from the first payment made for beets delivered. The title to said seed and to said crop of beets, from the time when the same begins to grow, shall be and remain in the Company.

The beets are to be given due care, and the grower will follow instructions in regard to preparing the soil, seeding, caring for, harvesting and delivering the crop.

For beets delivered under this contract the Company will pay at the rate of four dollars and fifty cents ($4.50) per ton for beets testing 12 per cent sugar, and 33 1-3 cents per ton additional for each per cent above 12 per cent, subject to tare for dirt and improper topping.

It is agreed that freight on beets delivered shall be paid by the grower at a rate which shall not exceed the rate on beets delivered to any other sugar factory from the same station.

Said beets shall be harvested and loaded by the grower for the Company on cars or delivered at Factory Sheds at such time and in such quantities as may be directed by the Company. The Company will not be liable to receive or pay for beets which are rotten or otherwise unfit or undesirable for making sugar.

Payment to be made on the 15th of the month following the delivery of the beets. All wagons used in the hauling and delivering of beets grown under this contract must have boxes with tight sides and bottoms and be free from holes and cracks of any sort. Beets must be forked from wagon and all dirt remaining in wagon must be weighed out with wagon.

All samples for tare and test must be forked into tare baskets in the regular manner.

This contract not valid until approved by an officer of the Company or its Agriculturist, and NO AGENT OF THE COMPANY HAS ANY AUTHORITY TO CHANGE OR ALTER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS CONTRACT.

(Signature of Grower.)

Two things you will notice: First, that the clause which guaranteed $5 per ton in 1912, has been lost sight of and does not appear in the 1913 contract. And, again, the clause with reference to the payment of freight has been changed somewhat; it now reads that "the grower shall pay the freight." This means that the price for growing beets for 1913 will average at least $1 per ton less than for 1912.

DOWN AT LANSING.

The present House of Representatives of Michigan has at least the outward appearances of being progressive. Thus far it has shown a tendency to act favorably upon measures which seek to place Michigan in the rank of progressive states.

On Thursday of last week two very important bills were passed. The Flowers Resolution which aims to give the ballot to the women of the State was passed by a vote of 74 to 21. This means that if the resolution is concurred in by the Senate the voters of Michigan will again have an opportunity of deciding whether or not they wish to extend the suffrage to women. Because of the part that the liquor interests played in the election of last fall, many believe that the amendment to the constitution will have a better chance in the spring.

On the same day that this important measure was passed the House, also passed the much-talked-of Glasner bill. This is considered one of the most revolutionary bills that any legislature has ever considered. It provides that "no idiot, epileptic or person who has been afflicted with open tuberculosis, syphilis or gonorrhoea and has not been cured of the same shall be capable of contracting marriage." It further provides for a stringent examination by a competent physician with a written report which must be presented to the county clerk before the parties may be solemnized in marriage. Physicians or others who do not comply with this law will be subject to a fine of from $500 to $1,000 or imprisonment in Jackson prison for a term of from one to five years. This bill was introduced by Representative Glasner of Barry County, and is intended to check the increase in feeble-minded and diseased children.

Tuesday afternoon the Senate, by a vote of 26 to 5, agreed to submit the question of Equal Suffrage to the voters at the April election; the House agreed to the resolution last Thursday. Nothing now stands in the way of giving the people a right to vote on this important question in April.

There are five farmers and 12 lawyers in the present Senate of Michigan. This is about the usual representation which the farmer gets in the upper house.

A national convention has been called in Chicago to be held in the early spring and whose business it will be to consider the business side of farming. Marketing and co-operation will be the two chief topics of discussion. At last a few of those who are interested in farming and the farmer seem to have gotten a ray of light on the real problem. Well, we hope they do something besides talk theory. In the meantime, we shall continue to preach the doctrine of co-operation which we pioneered when most people were talking about "growing two blades of grass where only one grew before."

Even the statesmen and near-statesmen at Washington seem to realize that there is something wrong with the marketing end of farm products. Senator Hoke Smith introduced a bill last session to establish a Bureau of Markets. That was lost, and now there is an appropriation asked for in the Agricultural Appropriation Bill to give the Secretary of Agriculture $50,000 for the purpose of acquiring and diffusing knowledge on subjects connected with the marketing and distribution of farm products. Really, our old Department of Agriculture seems to have a new lease on life.

* * *

A recently published interview with Secretary R. L. Drake of the Michigan Industrial Accident Board reveals the fact that even though farm laborers are excluded from the Workmen's Compensation Law, the farmer may still be affected by the law.

Section 2 of the first part of this law says, "The provisions of section one shall not apply to actions to recover damages for personal injuries sustained by household domestic servants and farm laborers."

This statement seems distinct enough, and yet there is a possibility of the farmer being held responsible for accidents occurring to men in his employe. This is due to the fact that it has not been determined in Michigan just what the term "farm laborers" means. For example, when a man is injured while operating a grain binder, mowing or threshing machine, it may be held that he is not a farm laborer but is a mechanic. In that case he could ask for compensation under the Act.

There are already applications at the office of the Accident Board for such men as are operating dairies, greenhouses, etc., to come under the provisions of this law. It must be remembered here that this law is entirely optional with the employer and the employe. If the employer does not elect to come under the law he is liable to a suit in the common law in case of accident. If the employe makes claim to his employer who has come under the law for compensation, he cannot thereafter sue his employer at the common law.

MICHIGAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION TO MEET.

The tenth annual convention of the Michigan Poultry, Butter and Egg Association, will be held at Hotel Griswold, Detroit, March 6 and 7. Let it be understood that this is not a meeting of the poultry men and dairymen, but of those who deal in these products. Among the speakers for Friday afternoon, March 7, we find the names of J. W. Helme, State Dairy and Food Commissioner, Lansing; J. O. Linton, Poultry Department, Michigan Agricultural College; H. M. Lamon, U. S. Bureau Animal Industry, Washington, D. C., and W. A. Brown, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada.

We want the mailing arranged so that every subscriber will have the "pink-sheet" in his hands every week by Saturday, at least. If you receive your copy for three (3) consecutive issues later than Saturday, advise our Mailing Department on a postal, just what time it reaches you regularly.

THE MARKET SITUATION VIEWED FROM THE INSIDE

Continued from Page Three

enough promise so that you have a right to make a fight for it.

BEANS—DETROIT MARKET.

White, hand-picked basis	$2.05
Red Kidney	2.10

MICHIGAN ZONE PRICES.

Zone No. 2 Michigan	$2.05
Zone No. 3 Michigan	2.10
Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7 Michigan	2.15

NOTE—We give you above the prices that Michigan dealers should be able to pay you for beans, hand-picked basis, in the different freight zones of Michigan. The Pink Sheet has set the price for beans, hand-picked basis, at the average Michigan points, at $2.40 per bushel.

"I am much pleased with the paper."—S. B. Curtiss, Shepard, Michigan.

OATS

As the weeks come and go the ability of Oats to withstand their position is clearly demonstrated. In face of a constant fire from heavy market guns Oats have almost steadily and continuously maintained their position. This week you will notice they have come back ½c. This goes to show that the general stability to the Oat situation is one to be relied upon. It all goes to show that there is nothing spirited about the situation, therefore no material change should be looked for, for some little time.

OATS—DETROIT MARKET.

Standard	.34
No. 3 White	.33
No. 4 White	
No. 2 Mixed	
No. 3 Mixed	

CINCINNATI—There was but little animation to the situation with a heavy tone generally prevailing. The quality of arrivals was not very satisfactory, receipts grading No. 3 and under. Oats grading standard or No. 2 would have met with ready sale at quotations.

OATS—CINCINNATI MARKET.

Standard	.35½
No. 3 White	.34½
No. 4 White	.34
No. 2 Mixed	.34
No. 3 Mixed	.33½

PITTSBURGH—Receipts of Oats on the Pittsburgh market were fully up to the demand. Owing to conditions on some other lines of coarse feeds, the general tone to the Oat situation was not very satisfactory. Receipts ran high in common qualities with a great percentage of the trade looking for something a little better.

OATS—PITTSBURGH MARKET.

Standard	.36
No. 3 White	.35
No. 4 White	.33½
No. 2 Mixed	
No. 3 Mixed	

"We can't get along without the 'pink sheet,' with it we know what the other fellow knows."—Frank E. Sattler, Smith Creek, Michigan.

CLOVER SEED

There is but little change to report from week to week on the general situation and outlook of the seed market. It continues to bear every promise, and fulfill every hope that we have, in the past, entertained for it. At the moment the situation is most healthy with every angle to the situation all we could hope for. We do not look for any particular change to the situation for some time, but we will be just a little surprised if the seed situation does not take a little jump when seeding time is with us. We appreciate that in making the above assertion that much will depend on the manner in which large holders are disposed to handle the situation in hand.

CLOVER SEED—DETROIT MARKET.

June, prime	$12.30
Mammoth, prime	12.30
Alsike, prime	13.25
Timothy Seed, prime	1.90

"I was one of the original subscribers and still consider it a paper which every farmer ought to read."—W. A. Culp, Doster, Michigan, No. 2.

CORN

We are raising Flag No. 1 because based on the general situation we can see nothing wrong with the price or tone to the situation. That don't mean that the price at the moment is just what we might hope for or possibly experience, but from a large angle you must appreciate that it is practically impossible to maintain a uniform level throughout the season. There will be times and conditions over which control is absolutely impossible. The car situation, for the last fortnight, has had much to do with the little depression manifest in the corn market. We have done mighty well this year to show the present and past standard of levels because we all know that a bumper crop was in actual evidence, that the oat situation was a little depressed, that the hay situation was very much depressed, therefore, in harmony and in sympathy with other coarse feed stuffs we have done very well. As far as we are concerned from a market standpoint feel very pleased over the situation we have enjoyed up to the present time. The tone to the situation at the moment is good, healthy and bears every promise of continued health and tone.

CORN—DETROIT MARKET.

No. 2 white	
No. 3 white	
No. 4 white	
No. 2 yellow	
No. 3 yellow	.50½
No. 4 yellow	.49
No. 2 mixed	.49
No. 3 mixed	.48½
No. 4 mixed	

CORN—CINCINNATI MARKET.

No. 2 white	
No. 3 white	52
No. 4 white	.48½
No. 2 yellow	
No. 3 yellow	.50
No. 4 yellow	.49
No. 2 mixed	
No. 3 mixed	.53
No. 4 mixed	.52

CORN—PITTSBURG MARKET.

No. 2 white	
No. 3 white	
No. 4 white	
No. 2 yellow	.53½
No. 3 yellow	.52½
No. 4 yellow	
No. 2 mixed	
No. 3 mixed	
No. 4 mixed	

"I have found Michigan Business Farming O. K. I think every farmer within reach should have it in their home."—Oscar Stimson, Brown City, Michigan, No. 2.

APPLES

The apple situation is gradually working around to a point where special grades and kinds are looked after. When a condition like this is in evidence proof is at once established that the small handlers and storers of apples are gradually coming into the market for kinds called for and specified. If they run out of some particular kinds then they come into the market. At the moment this situation seems to be in general evidence, therefore, should have much to do with the demand situation from now on. It is this class of trade who make the volume of outlet for this commodity. There are other angles and sources of escape but this angle takes care of at least 80 per cent of the entire receipts. This source is no other than the average small commission man who sells direct to the retail groceryman, restaurants, etc. The future possibilities are entirely up to those having apples in storage at the moment. It is absolutely and thoroughly possible to maintain or enhance the present market level. Whether they will do so or not, only time can tell.

APPLES—GENERAL MARKET.

Fancy, per barrel	2.00 to 3.50
Ordinary, per barrel	1.00 to 2.50

"The 'pink sheet' or farmer's educator should be taken by every farmer in Michigan, as it is a guide which is a help to every farmer in future marketing their crops."—M. C. Wittaker, Marlette, Mich.

ONIONS

BLUE

We have endeavored to get more than the usual line up on the onion situation to give out to you in this week's situation. We are very much disappointed in not being able to give you any data supporting the situation we are now experiencing. We have only the general situation, trend of affairs and expression of the market on which to base our write-up. We continue to maintain that there is absolutely no reason or excuse for the present market situation being forced on us. It simply demonstrates that the men doing the business end of your onion business do not care particularly what the general market is as long as they can have a well understanding of it so that purchases from you can be made, thereby guaranteeing a profit. The point being brought out is this, that the local man don't care one snap what he pays for a bushel of onions as long as they guarantee him a profit looked for. Just as long as business is done along these lines and by these agents just so long will you be subject to conditions of this kind visiting you. You cannot look for these local dealers to bolster up the situation. I have heard it explained this year that producers ought to be satisfied with the present condition because last year for a few minutes in the spring onions happened to touch better than $1 per bushel, but let me tell you right here, very few producers realized the advantage out of the advance that was manifest at that time, practically all these onions drawing these prices were out of storage. We are of the opinion that local dealers have enough of this season's crop in store so that they can govern the situation as they see fit and on the same basis. If they continue to dump these onions on the market as they have been, there will be no brighter future or advanced prices. On red stock the situation is almost critical at the present time. The outlook for yellow stock is a little wider, covering a larger range, and while the market is low, are moving quite freely.

ONIONS.

Detroit.

Yellow Globe, sacked, per cwt.	$ .60
Red Globe, sacked, per cwt.	
Yellow Globe, bulk, per cwt.	.40
Red Globe, bulk, per cwt.	

Cincinnati.

Yellow Globe, sacked, per cwt.	.65
Red Globe, sacked, per cwt.	
Yellow Globe, bulk, per cwt.	.45
Red Globe, bulk, per cwt.	

Pittsburg.

Yellow Globe, sacked, per cwt.	.75
Red Globe, sacked, per cwt.	.60
Yellow Globe, bulk, per cwt.	.60
Red Globe, bulk, per cwt.	.30

CABBAGE

BLUE

We are unable to give out any immediate encouragement for those having cabbage for disposition. The situation is not yet cleaned up to a point where shipments are at all inviting. We could not conservatively suggest shipping by anyone. At times there seems to be a little demand creep in for cars of domestic stock, then again the same seems to free itself from the market entirely leaving the situation bare of inquiry. As long as the situation remains in this condition there is no room for conservative and safe trading.

CABBAGE — PITTSBURGH

Danish, per ton on track	$9.00
Domestic, per ton, track	No market

"The 'pink sheet' is all right, not a dull line in it. Why the map showing the freight zones is worth the price of the paper for a year."—C. A. Fall, Elberta, Mich.

BUTTER

There is real activity to the butter market at the moment. All traders feel secure in the general situation. There is no immediate possibility of the situation even suggesting a decline. Most healthy and promising is the butter situation on all top grades of both creamery and dairy. While this is true the reverse is true on irregular shipments of dairy butter in rolls and off colored shipments, etc. Dairy shipments really, have no definite basis, while fancy dairy butter, if having established a reputation, will draw extra creamery prices, but before establishing this reputation has to be established through shipments, and accordingly introduction to the trade.

BUTTER — GENERAL MARKET.

Creamery No. 1, per pound	.34
Fancy Dairy, per pound	.33

"The paper is a hummer."—Geo. W. Yale, Kingsley, Michigan.

EGGS

It has been our aim to continuously warn you that from now on, regardless of how healthy the situation was, the tendency would be to show a decline. Please remember this because it is simply inevitable. At the moment the egg situation is healthy enough, but the price has declined by virtue of the heavier receipts from the state, locally and also as a result of heavy southern receipts. Let us advise you that from now on you should be able to get better and safer prices for your eggs at home than you can by shipping, unless you have some special outside market arrangement.

EGGS—GENERAL MARKET.

Large fresh	$ .20
Medium fresh	.19

"I am well pleased with the Michigan Business Farming. I am sure it is going to do a world of good for the farmers of Michigan."—Samuel Wanner, Ida, Michigan.

POULTRY

We continue to enjoy, not only a healthy, but a spirited poultry market situation. The fact is, receipts of a natural nature will not begin to take care of the demand at the present time, the trade being dependent on car lot shipments from outside states. In the face of this we are experiencing a gradually advancing price and a constant healthy tone to the general situation. This will extend throughout the remainder of the season. We don't think there is any question about this, because disposition will be of such a nature naturally, that the same could hardly be avoided.

POULTRY—DETROIT MARKET.

No. 1 Turkeys	.19 to .20
No. 2 Turkeys	.14 to .16
No. 1 Spring Chickens	.15 to .16½
No. 2 Spring Chickens	.12 to .13
No. 1 Fowls	.14 to .16½
No. 2 Fowls	.12 to .13
No. 1 Geese	.15 to .15½
No. 1 Ducks	.19 to .20

POULTRY — CHICAGO MARKET.

No. 1 Turkeys	.17
No. 2 Turkeys	.14
No. 1 Spring Chickens	.15
No. 2 Spring Chickens	.12
No. 1 Fowls	.15
No. 2 Fowls	.11
No. 1 Geese	.13
No. 1 Ducks	.14

Note.—A wire from any of our readers will bring last minute quotations. Use care in making shipments and be sure the consignee is financially responsible.

"Michigan Business Farming is all right for the farmers. The sale part of business is the best part of any business. It looks now as if we might be taxed to learn us how to raise more apples, more potatoes and more onions than we can sell at a profit."—Horace Hart, Bellevue, Michigan.

LIVE STOCK

Cattle—Detroit.

The week at the Detroit Stock Yards marks one of activity and generally considered liberal receipts. The range of stock continues to be of fairly good kind with the trade seemingly disposed to look on the general situation as healthy and warrantable in face of its high latitude. Good handy weight stuff, not too fat, continues to be looked after in preference to the prime heavy fat kind. This has been explained as a result of high meat prices and an indisposition to pay for "fat." Best steers touched $8.20, with handy weight steers and heifers going at $7.50. The entire rnn from canners to top steers were anything but disappointing.

CATTLE—DETROIT STOCK YARDS.

Beef steers, good to prime heavy	$8.00 to 8.20
Beef steers, medium to good	6.00 to 7.00
Beef steers, common to fair	5.00 to 7.00
Beef cows, common to selected	4.00 to 6.50
Heifers, selected	5.00 to 7.00
Stock steers	5.00 to 6.00
Feeders	5.25 to 5.75
Canners and Cutters	2.75 to 3.25
Good to prime veals	9.00 to 11.00
Bulls	4.00 to 5.00

Cattle—Chicago.

This table is of great value in the establishing of future expectancy and the understanding of the actual situation now present:

	Extreme range.	Bulk of sales.
Last week	$6.85@9.00	$7.85@8.65
Previous week	6.60@9.00	7.65@8.65
Four weeks ago	6.10@9.00	7.25@8.15
1912	4.80@8.35	5.75@7.50
1911	5.00@6.85	5.85@6.65
1910	4.80@8.00	5.80@7.10
1909	4.50@7.10	5.60@6.60
1908	4.05@6.00	4.90@5.75

The opening of the market gates on Monday revealed light receipts and a resultant snappy disposition on part of traders. A load of good 1,579-lb. steers from Missouri were snapped up at $9. Twenty-four hours later shows the situation to have assumed a little different aspect—quite some reversal of form evident. The fancy $9 stuff going at $8.85, while plain and medinm handy weight killers sold at $7.50 to $8, some light stock going around $7. The midweek market found a general decline of about 10c based on Monday and on grades above $8. Below this the feeding demand seemed most urgent and a keen competitive situation resulted with but little change from Monday's opening. Thursday opened up with a small steer crop and a genuine rush for everything in sight above the $8 kind. Values quickly resumed the week's best mark. Qualities below holding position established Tuesday. The week draws to a close with the general situation on about last week's level. The good butcher range was from $7.50 to $9, with kinds below in good demand.

CATTLE—CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

Beef steers, good to prime heavy	$8.50 to 9.25
Beef steers, medium to good	8.00 to 8.50
Beef steers, common to fair	6.25 to 7.15
Beef cows, common to selected	4.50 to 7.30
Fat heifers, good to choice	5.25 to 7.50
Canners and cutters	3.10 to 4.40
Good to prime veals	9.50 to 11.00
Bulls	4.25 to 6.85

Cattle—Buffalo.

Good weight steers fared badly at the opening of the week. Packers were shy of high-priced steers. Consumers continue to protest against high-priced beef and killers are trying to meet the demand for lower-priced stuff by killing half fat steers and more of the female stuff. Eastern killers of better weight and more costly steers, who are the main support to the better steer trade, were indifferent. Chicago showed 22,000 to open up with this week and in consequence the east was slow to come here with orders for the strong weights. Trade progressed slow on the best steers and it was not until the afternoon session that much was accomplished and transactions finally showed a 15@25-cent decline from the week before and at that the buyers cared little whether their bids were accepted or not. Market on the lighter and less expensive butchering grades did not show so heavily a takeoff, the decline figuring from 10@15 cents generally. Stock and feeding cattle remained steady, several loads of Canadian feeders being on offer and selling from $6@7.25, the highest range in the history of the local trade on these kinds. Bulls held to a steady market, a few toppy heavy kinds bringing $7.25@7.40, nothing in the bull line, which are showing extremely high prices, selling below $5.75. Fresh cows and springers market was strong on the best quality heavy kinds, steady on others.

CATTLE—BUFFALO STOCK YARDS.

Good to choice heavy steers	$8.25 to 8.90
Medium to fair heavy steers	7.75 to 8.25
Handy weight butchering steers	6.50 to 8.00
Fat heifers, inferior to choice	4.75 to 7.25
Fat cows, medium to choice	4.25 to 6.50
Canners and cutters	3.25 to 4.00
Bulls	4.50 to 6.75
Stockers and feeders	4.75 to 6.75
Milchers and springers	35.00 to 85.00
Calves, choice to extra	$11.50 to 12.50
Fair to good	10.00 to 11.00
Cull and common	9.00 to 9.50
Light thin	6.50 to 8.50
Fed calves	4.00 to 6.00

Calves—Buffalo.

One thousand head comprised the Monday supply at Buffalo. Active trade at steady prices, with last week's close.

Calf Quotations.

Calves, choice to extra	10.50 to 11.00
Fair to good	9.00 to 10.00
Cull and common	8.00 to 8.50
Light, thin	6.50 to 7.50
Fed calves	4.00 to 5.50

Hogs—Detroit.

Even a hog's "squeal" has a value these days, and before the same has died out during, and after the unloading of the first car at the yards this week, the sturdy, red cheeked butcher was on the job with an air of invitation. The situation started out steady to strong and maintained its position throughout the week. Receipts were quite close to last week with very much the same general tone existing, but as quotations show, an advance has visited the hog market and some say has taken off its coat preparatory to making some stay.

HOGS—DETROIT MARKET.

Fair to choice butchers	$8.30 to $8.35
Lightweights	8.20 to 8.40
Boars, according to weight	3.00 to 3.25
Pigs	8.35 to 8.45
Stags	One-third off

Hogs—Chicago.

The aviation "meat" is still on at the Chicago yards. Hogs sold at an average of $8.43 which is the highest touched since October 25th last. The cause for real snap and advance is mostly due to the falling down miserably of receipts. The shipping demand eased just a little so that the market ranged to the heavier grades or butcher varieties. On heavier receipts the market assumed a lower level at midweek, going mostly at about 10 to 15c under opening code, the average being about $8.30. Activity seemed to keep up, but seemingly aware was the trade, that concessions were due, sellers being satisfied to meet the occasion. With the market range in the present latitude, it is natural to expect that variation will be in evidence continuously. At present level the situation is sensitive, quickly responding to any and all influences. The market closes with the top for the week set at $8.50, with the bulk of good handy butcher kinds hanging close to $8.35.

HOGS—CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

Bulk of sales	$8.30 to $8.50
Common to good mixed	8.30 to 8.45
Fair to medium weight	8.25 to 8.35
Lightweights	8.15 to 8.30
Selected 260-300-lb. packers	8.20 to 8.40
Stags, 80 lbs., dockage	7.00 to 8.10

Hogs—Buffalo.

Eighty cars or 12 800 head on offer for the opening day of the week. Prices advanced 15@25 cents over last week. Packers paid $9@9.05, bulk of shipping grades $9.05@9.10. Roughs, $8@8.10. Stags, $6.50@7. There are more bulls in the hog trade than bears, general opinion being that the high prices for the year have not been reached as yet and that next summer will witness a higher level. Pork demand is heavy, provisions are active and general opinion is that the cholera has depleted the herds in some of the heavy hog producing states and that the visible supply will not meet the demands.

HOGS—BUFFALO STOCK YARDS

Extreme heavies 280 up	8.90 to 9.00
Heavies, 240 to 280	9.00 to 9.05
Mediums, 220 to 240	9.00 to 9.05
Mediums, 190 to 220	9.00 to 9.05
Mixed, 180 to 220	9.00 to 9.05
Yorkers, 150 to 170	9.00 to 9.10
Do light, 130 to 150	9.00 to 9.10
Pigs, 120 down	9.00 to 9.10
Heavy ends	8.75 to 8.90
Roughs	8.00 to 8.10
Stags	6.00 to 7.00

Sheep and Lambs—Detroit.

The receipts of sheep and lambs for the last two weeks has shown a variance of only three, last week being 5,961—week previous 5,964. The run being very uniform has had much to do with the maintenance of steady conditions existing. The nature of all markets is to throw out a sympathetic glow on others, making the whole horizon bear one general appearance. Detroit, as quotations show, is keeping well up in the race for top notch laurels. While nothing exciting is in evidence, still a most healthy situation exists at this writing. A quick clean-up was readily effected on all grades, and at prices made by the seller—not the buyer.

SHEEP — DETROIT STOCK YARDS.

Lambs, good to choice	$8.25 to $8.50
do, fair to good	6.00 to 6.50
Yearling lambs, choice	7.50 to 8.00
Mixed sheep	5.00 to 5.50
Cull sheep	3.00 to 4.00

Sheep and Lambs—Chicago.

The table below furnishes a good clear synopsis of the sheep and lamb situation:

	Sheep		Lambs	
	Top.	Bulk.	Top.	Bulk.
Last week	$7.00	$5.75@6.60	$8.80	$8.40@8.75
Week ago	6.40	5.50@6.25	8.90	8.35@8.75
Four weeks ago	6.00	5.00@5.75	9.00	8.00@8.50
1912	4.85	3.85@4.50	7.00	5.65@6.60
1911	4.65	3.75@4.50	6.10	5.75@6.00
1910	7.90	6.75@7.25	9.25	8.75@9.00
1909	5.50	4.50@5.35	7.85	7.25@7.65
1908	5.60	4.75@5.60	6.90	6.25@6.85

Buyers for sheep were on the ground at the sound of the gong with anxious eyes directed in this quarter. Trade was very active on anything at all desirable in quality. Good handy weight kinds drawing real attention. Receipts were somewhat smaller than anticipated, which had much to do with the feeling in evidence. The game opened up with prime handy weight wethers selling up to $6.60, with straggling sales above. Top ewes tipped the financial scale at $5.85, with good handy killers going at around $5.50. A large bunch of feeding ewes went at $4.25. Yearlings were a keen attraction and close scrutiny was placed on this division, tops going at $7.75 to a shipping trade. Local channel took the bnlk of receipts at $7.25 to $7.50. Packers formed the market squad for midweek, being the only contenders with not enough in sight to meet their demand. There has been a tendency from the start of the week's operations for a tightening of the market tension. The situation was up to "high C" on aged wethers at the close, with the highest point being attained since last May. Yearlings weakened around 10 to 25c while lambs suffered a reduction of 25 to 40c.

SHEEP — CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

Lambs, good to choice	$8.25 to $8.75
do, fair to good	7.00 to 8.00
do, cull to common	5.00 to 6.00
Yearling Lambs, choice	7.00 to 7.50
do, cull to fair	6.50 to 7.50
Wethers, choice	6.25 to 6.60
Ewes, choice handy weight	5.00 to 6.00
do, choice heavy	5.50 to 6.00
Cull sheep	4.00 to 5.50
Bucks	3.50 to 4.25

Sheep and Lambs—Buffalo.

Seventy-seven loads or 13,400 head made up the Monday supply. It was estimated by buyers that there were not exceeding ten to twelve loads of real prime lambs included in the day's run, showing that the feeders are inclined to liquidate, rather than cash the corn, via the lamb route. Active lamb market, prices being a quarter higher, top bring 30 cents above last Saturday. Extreme Monday lamb top $9.15, with majority good ones bringing around $9, culls selling mostly from $8 down. Yearlings steady, with sheep, which were in liberal supply, quarter lower. Indications are that there will be a scarcity of choice lambs in Michigan, which is a heavy shipper to the Buffalo market.

SHEEP — BUFFALO STOCK YARDS.

Lambs, good to choice	8.85 to 9.15
Do fair to good	8.10 to 8.75
Do cull and common	7.00 to 8.00
Do skips	6.00 to 6.75
Yearling wethers, choice	7.50 to 8.00
Do cull to fair	5.00 to 7.50
Do ewes, choice	6.50 to 7.00
Wethers, choice	6.50 to 7.00
Mixed sheep	6.25 to 6.40
Ewes, choice handy wt.	6.00 to 6.25
Do choice heavy	5.75 to 6.00
Cull sheep	3.00 to 5.00
Bucks	3.00 to 4.50

"I think every farmer in the state should take the 'pink sheet,' or as I call it the Farmers' Friend."
—B. C. Schumaker, Merrill, Mich.

Coal.

There being an oversupply of Virginia and Kentucky domestic lump en route to different markets that has not been sold, is forcing the operators to put a price on this coal that is lower than we would naturally expect it to be. Of course it must be remembered that prices on coal originating on account of a temporary oversupply must not be used as a basis in calculating for the future.

At the present moment no one is in a position to tell what the future of the market is going to be. The largest operators are taking a general survey of the commercial situation for the purpose of arriving at some calculating point in order to establish a price to work on contract business and early season shipments. The smaller operators will have to trail behind with their proposition, prices, etc.

The general feeling among the operators is that they will not have to experience the labor trouble this spring that they did last spring and their daily output will be sufficient to take care of their contract and outside business during the spring, summer and early fall season without any trouble. There is an active demand for all steam lump, especially slack, which is scarce on account of very little domestic lump being prepared.

Soft Coal. Kind of Coal.	F.O.B. Mines.
Hocking rescreened lump	$1.70
Cambridge lump	1.60
Cambridge ¾-lump	1.40
West Virginia splint lump	1.50
White Ash block	1.50
Kentucky 4-inch lump	2.00
Kentucky 4x2-inch egg	1.80
Harrisburg 6-inch lump	1.75
Pocahontas lump and egg	2.50
Pocahontas mine run	1.75
Michigan domestic 4-inch lump	2.90
Anthracite egg, stove or nut	4.50

Note: Quotations on anthracite coal are based on gross tons.

FLOUR AND FEED.

The wheat situation being unsettled, the market on flour is a little easier. The sales on feed are not very encouraging and prices are practically the same as last week.

Kind.	Price per bbl.
"Blend" flour, ⅛-paper sacks	$ 5.30
Spring patent	4.60
Toweling sacks or wood barrels 20c higher.	

	Per ton.
Coarse corn meal	23.00
Cracked corn	24.50
Chop feed	22.00
Coarse middlings	23.50
Fine middlings	24.50
Bran (standard)	22.50

The above prices are f. o. b. Detroit, Mich., on car lot shipments.

*Tankage, averaging 60 per cent protein, $41 per ton f. o. b., Chicago.

Editor, Michigan Business Farming:
Will you advise me through your paper the official measurement of a bushel, in the city of Detroit?.—E. F. B., Mr. Clemens.

Two thousand one hundred fifty and forty-two one-hundredths (2150.42) cubic inches is the measurement for one bushel, stricken measure. But the law demands that apples and potatoes and like produce shall be sold by heaped measure, which means all that will lay upon a measure of above capacity without special design. And the law seems to imply that 2748 cubic inches is the measurement for such a crate. This, however, we feel is excessive measurement and have informed all who inquire that we will be satisfied with a crate having 2600 cubic inches inside measurement to hold a bushel of coarse commodity when level full.

GEORGE F. AUSTIN,
City Sealer.

"I like the 'pink sheet' very much and hope it will continue. I think the market reports are good, up-to-date."—P. A. Helps, Evart, Michigan.

ARE THE PACKERS PLAYING THE GAME.

Opinion Prevails That Prices of Good Weight Cattle Will Be High

It was evident last year that this would be a lean year in the live stock industry. First of all, immigration has been liberal to the west and southwest, in the range sections of the country, where cheap land shows profit from live stock breeding and raising. With the coming of the settler, land prices have advanced and the lessening of live stock production has been the natural consequence. Secondly, America's population is growing very rapidly and live stock production has not kept pace with it. Thirdly, prices for live stock of late years have been such that feeders, with high-priced corn, could not figure out substantial profits from fattening cattle, even with hogs following, and so we find that this year live stock markets all over are showing diminished supplies and prices have been skyward. A few months ago ster prices reached the highest record in the history of the world, not even excepting war times, prime steers selling on the hoof up to $11 per cwt. With steers of this price showing a dressing percentage of 60 to 65 pounds, it is easily to be seen that the cost of the dressed beef was high, so high that the working man could not touch and only available for large hotels and restaurants which obtain very high prices. It was but natural that toppy prices brought up prices on the cheaper kinds and for a time we heard thundering complaints from the eastern cities that the public could not stand the prices that were being exacted for all kinds of meats. But the high prices continued right along, notwithstanding and under excitement of these high prices, feeders began to fill the feed lots with steers. After they were in and started on feed the bears came upon the scene and of late the big killing interests have acted badly on good weight and expensive steers. Did they trap the feeder? Did they get him in the feeding game and then pound down the prices? The packers are able to protect themselves at any stage of the game, not so with the feeder, who buys the corn, takes the chances and comes to market, only to find that he has spent his money and his time for three or four months, only to lose several hundred or perhaps several thousand dollars. Ordinarily, cheap corn produces many feeders, as it is no doubt a fact that corn can be cashed in at a higher price, under a heavy production, by way of the American hog. But high-priced corn and low-priced steers and hogs, comparatively speaking, mean nothing if not discouragement to live stock feeding.

Opinion prevails generally among most authorities at this time, however, that prices on good weight steers will come back and that the holder of good weight cattle along in April or next summer will reap the benefit. It looks as certain as any proposition could, that the Michigan feeder who played the lamb feeding game this year will be taken good care of and be amply repaid for his work and that hogs will put the feeder on the right side of the bank

This is a great and growing country. Demand for food products was never as strong. The little farmer who raises a few head of live stock each year is the prosperous, well-to-do one who is contributing much to the greater prosperity of old Michigan. Any animal in the meat line these days is ready cash, can be fattened on waste, so to speak, and bring to the producer the biggest dividend of any. Michigan is one of the greatest lamb-feeding sections in the world, is showing splendid results in hog raising and sends to the markets some as well finished cattle as can be found but it needs to make the live stock breeding and feeding industry more general.

EASTERN DEALERS TALKING EGG PRICES

It is Said That April Prices Will Hinge Around 18 or 19 Cents in the Eastern Markets.

A dispatch to the "Pink Sheet" from New York says: Receipts of eggs for the week ending last Saturday were 66,310 cases against 37,077 the same week a year before. It looks as though the egg market had settled down to its spring-time form, although future weather conditions will have considerable to do with regulating prices.

There is some talk of April prices for the coming season and they seem to hinge as though there was not going to be a whole lot of wild speculation on the part of eastern operators this year. Most of them have been pretty badly burnt, and the old saying: "A burnt child fears the fire," will undoubtedly hold good as far as speculating in eggs is concerned this season. The consensus of opinion seems to be that about 18 to 18½c seaboard are the prices that should rule this season.

Storage eggs are about down and out as far as their being an active commodity is concerned. The middle of the week the bottom dropped out of the market and what stock was moving sold around 16 to 16½c and this graded as firsts. Storage seconds were quotable at 14 to 15½c with poorer stock selling down for anything it would bring. Nearby eggs have declined with western and the quotation which has been going out at 25 to 26c is extreme, the bulk of offerings of white eggs selling around 23 to 24c with mixed 21 to 22c.

It will be noted from the above report that the dealers are going to fight shy of high prices for summer eggs. Eighteen and nineteen-cent eggs, f.o.b. eastern points doesn't mean very profitable prices for the Michigan farmer. It is to be regretted that the farmers are not sufficiently organized so that they could take advantage of the cold storage facilities when the prices range from 12 to 15 cents per dozen.

SHIPPER MUST STAND THE LOSS

A Cincinnati Dealer Turns Down an F. O. B. Sale—The Court Gives A Decision in His Favor.

A case of interest to shippers and the trade generally, was recently decided in the Common Pleas Court at Cincinnati. The case involved a car of peaches bought f.o.b. the shipping point, and refused when it reached destination on account of the condition of the shipment, and was tried before a jury which rendered a decision in favor of the defendant.

In July, 1907, Nic Dietzen of Chattanooga, Tenn., sold a car of Elberta peaches f. o. b. loading point Warring, Ga., for $1.75 to A. P. Lawhead & Co., this city. The car arrived in due time and under inspection was refused on the grounds that it did not come up to the standard bought. The car laid here three or four days and then was turned over to another house to handle. After receiving returns Dietzen brought suit against the Lawhead concern for the difference realized, and what the car was sold for, amounting to $421.45. The defendant, in his answer, filed a counter suit for loss sustained for the profit he would have realized had the car been in good condition.

The shipper contended that his contract was fulfilled when he loaded the peaches in the car, while the defendant claimed that he bought the car with the understanding that it was to be sound, heavy pack Elbertas. Instead he claimed when he inspected the car it showed the effects of brown rot, being specked and overripe and did not come up to the quality bought.