



MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

The Independent Farm, Home and Market Weekly, for Michigan Business Farmers

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Guarding the Nation's Bread Basket

Food-Control Bill a Blow to Speculator and Boon to Farmer and Consumer



HERBERT HOOVER
FOOD ADMINISTRATOR

THE FOOD control bill, over which Congress has been wrangling for nearly three months, has become a law. The measure gives to President Wilson almost autocratic powers of seizure, control and disposal of foods, feeds, fuel, fertilizer and fertilizer ingredients, tools, utensils, implements, machinery, and equipment necessary for the actual production of foods, feeds and fuel. It is declared to be one of the most sweeping laws ever enacted by our Congress.

Immediately following the passage of the act, President Wilson officially named Herbert Hoover as food administrator.

The objects of the food-control law are to stimulate production and encourage conservation of foodstuffs, to prevent hoarding and speculation, and to facilitate distribution. The need of some kind of governmental control of the necessities of life was first recognized last winter when speculators took advantage of the scarcity of many crops to buy up large quantities and hoard them until the scarcity became acute when they placed them on the market at their own figures. Actual investigation showed that only a negligible portion of the producers profited by the unprecedented high prices.

The food-control bill was designed in the interests of both producer and consumer. It has no use, however, for the hordes of speculators that stand between. The provisions of the bill are such as to give the greatest possible encouragement to increased production, practically insuring profitable prices to the farmer on staple products, and at the same time making it possible for him to buy fertilizer, farm implements and tools at reasonable prices.

The interests of the consumer, on the other hand, are just as carefully conserved. He must be willing to pay a price which will insure the farmer a profit, plus the legitimate cost of bringing the products to his door, but the government will immediately take a hand as soon as the consumer is forced to pay more than this.

UNLAWFUL TO HOARD OR DESTROY

Section four of the food control bill provides that it shall be unlawful for any person wilfully to destroy, waste, or permit preventable deterioration of any necessities in connection with their production, manufacture or distribution; to hoard or monopolize, either locally or generally, any necessities; to exact excessive prices for any necessities.

This section does not apply to any farmer or gardener, co-operative association of farmers or gardeners, including live-stock farmers, or any other person, owning, leasing or cultivating any farm or garden. The government recognizes the right of farmers to hold their crops for any period of time in order to secure a profitable price therefor.

Section five discriminates between the farmers' co-operative marketing organizations and independent dealers. This section authorizes the President, at his discretion, to license the importation, manufacture, storage and distribution of any necessities, and compel every person engaged in any such business to procure a license and follow certain prescribed regulations. Failure to do this means forfeiture of license and the right to continue in such business. The purpose of this section is to give the President legal control when advisable, over all elevators, storage houses, etc., wherein necessities are stored, or prepared for storage, shipment or sale. This section does not apply to farmers or farmers' co-operative organizations whose gross sales do not exceed \$100,000 per annum.

GOVERNMENT MAY PURCHASE AND STORE FARM PRODUCTS

Section two provides that the President may from time to time purchase, provide storage facilities for, and sell for cash at reasonable prices, wheat, flour, meal, beans, and potatoes.

A proviso calls for the payment of a "just compensation" for any necessities which the government may purchase, the amount to be determined

by the President. If this compensation be not satisfactory, the person entitled to receive such, will be paid seventy-five per cent of the amount, and shall be entitled to sue the United States to recover whatever additional amount is in his judgment satisfactory compensation. It is not to be thought, however, that the government would attempt to requisition necessities for any purpose whatever without offering a compensation which will pay the producer or manufacturer a fair profit for the requisitioned articles. For such would be in direct opposition to the purposes of the law.

MINIMUM PRICE ON WHEAT ONLY

Section fourteen provides, that whenever the President shall find that an emergency exists requiring stimulation of the production of wheat, to determine and fix a reasonable guaranteed price for wheat, in order to assure producers a reasonable profit. Such price will be graduated according to the various grades of wheat as defined under the grains standards act.

This section fixes the minimum price on wheat until May 1, 1918, at not less than \$2, at the principal interior primary markets. This guaranty is in no wise dependent upon the action of the President, it having been made a part of the law already in effect. The question has been raised by many farmers as to whether this amount is also meant to be the maximum price. It is not. The sole purpose of the section is to stimulate wheat production by guaranteeing a profitable price, and the cost to the consumer is not here considered. Over-production cannot lower the price; under production might and probably would raise it considerably.

No provision has been made for the fixing of a minimum price on any other necessary than wheat. Possibly Congress felt that since bread is the staff of life, the nation can live on bread and milk, and the farmer accordingly be encouraged to grow wheat instead of beans and potatoes. That many states in the union are

not adapted to the growing of wheat is a minor detail that may never have occurred to our legislators.

It will be remembered by many of our readers that an effort was made last spring, notably by Mr. Grant Slocum, founder of the Gleaner organization, and editor-in-chief of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, to convince the government of the advisability of fixing minimum prices on all leading staples, thus giving equal encouragement to the production of each and insuring sufficient acreage to provide for the nation's needs of an ample, well-balanced ration. Thousands of farmers at that time expressed their willingness to increase their acreage from ten to twenty-five percent in the event of such minimum prices being established. It is probable that the encouragement that has been given to wheat production will cut down to some extent the acreage of other staples so that the government may find it advisable to fix minimum prices on all staples another year.

ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION OF DISTILLED LIQUORS

Section fifteen provides, that after thirty days from the date of the approval of the act, no foods, fruits, food materials or feeds shall be used in the production of distilled spirits for beverage purposes.

This clause is the death warrant of the booze business. It absolutely prohibits the manufacture, sale, as well as importation, of rye, whiskey, and kindred spirits as beverages during the duration of the war. The bill as originally drawn provided also for the absolute prohibition of all brewed beverages, but the booze interests came down on the bill so hard as to threaten its passage by endless debate, and the withdrawing of the beer and light wines from the restrictions was a compromise made to facilitate the passage of the act. Provisos in the above clause, however, give the President the power to regulate or prohibit the use of food materials in the manufacture of malt or vinous liquors when it appears in his judgment that such use seriously affects the supply of such materials for food purposes.

MAY PURCHASE NITRATE AND SELL AT COST

The President is authorized to procure, or aid in procuring, such stock of nitrate of soda as he may determine to be necessary, and find available for increasing agricultural production during the calendar years 1917 and 1918, and to dispose of the same for cash at cost, including all expenses connected therewith.

The sum of \$10,000,000 is appropriated by the act to carry out the provisions of this section.

Other provisions of the law give the President power to fix the prices of coal and coke, to establish rules for the regulation of their production, sale, shipment, distribution, apportionment, etc., and to exercise this power thru the federal trade commission; to requisition and take over the plant or business of any or all producers and dealers in the country; to compel the sale of all coal or coke to a government agent for distribution, if necessary at reasonable prices to be fixed by the President; and finally, to requisition and take over the plant or business of any or all producers and dealers in the United States.

Provision is made for the automatic repeal of the act with the cessation of war between the United States and Germany.



Williams in Indianapolis News

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

A Farm, Home and Market Weekly Owned and Edited in Michigan

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH, 1917.

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How Times Change

THE ACCOMPANYING cartoon was published some years ago in an eastern magazine. It purported to present the conception that urban people of the day had of the farmer. The printing of this hideous warping of some cartoonist's mind was a bold insult to the farmers of that generation and every generation, past and present.



Granting that there was a time when the farmer, perpetually weary from drudging work from sun-up till sun-down,—was quite pardonably careless of his personal appearance, let it be said that not even in his most prideless and poverty-stricken days did he become the slovenly, unkempt and uncouth object here portrayed.

We reproduce this cartoon at the present time merely to emphasize the great change in the attitude of the people of a few years ago and now toward the farmer. Exaggerated as the picture is, it nevertheless conveys some idea of the feeling of contempt and superiority that certain people of the time had toward the farmer. It was evidence enough that he was considered the lowest in the social plane, an ambitionless nobody, upon whom everybody trod and wiped their feet.

But times have changed. Today the farmer is known as he really is, a progressive, successful Business Man, clean of appearance, clean of habits and clean of collar, interested as keenly in the affairs of the world and taking as large a part in their administration as any other class of individuals. Today the name of the farmer is upon the lip of the entire nation; the governments of the world pay him homage.

The transition has been slow. For a score of years the farmers of the country have been waking up from a long, long, sleep. During their somnolent days somebody stepped in between them and the consumer, and with one hand took from the farmer the things he produced and with the other handed them over to the consumer. It was so easy for the farmer. Nothing to worry about when this obliging stranger stood ready to take the products, always of course at his own figure? Came the time when the farmer of necessity turned to the stranger for he found that he had unwittingly encouraged the building up of a system of distribution upon which he was obliged to depend for the marketing of his crops. Having absolutely no control over the selling of his products, is it any wonder that the farmer had to slave and skimp, barely making both ends meet, an object of others' scorn and pity.

Today, thank heaven, the farmer is in possession of his common sense and a large part of his marketing rights. The duties that he once abrogated to a horde of speculators he is taking upon himself. His sole ambition is no longer to wrest a mere living from the soil; he has had a new vision and today he toils and plans and administers that he may take enough from the soil to secure the common comforts of life that others in the city enjoy and to insure a competence for the children and old age.

Today, the farmer is in every sense of the word a business man,—a Business Farmer, if you please. He watches the trend of the markets as closely as the growing crops; he studies the market quotations as carefully as the latest treatise on farm crops and animals. His primary concern today is to sell what he raises at a profit; to increase production is his secondary concern.

The farmer of today recognizes that farming is a gigantic business, involving billions of dollars capital, and an annual gross return far exceeding that of any industrial enterprise in the entire world. The old term of "farming" has been too long associated with a despised and unappreciated vocation to express in the fullest measure the dignified pursuits of the present day farmer. There are still a few folks in the country who are just farming, but the vast majority of them have had the vision, and today they are profitably engaged in "business farming".

Save the Dairy Industry

MICHIGAN'S great dairy industry is threatened. Unless radical steps are taken at once to put the industry upon a more secure and permanently profitable basis, its very existence will pay the penalty for the supreme selfishness and arbitrary dictates of the milk combine.

For over a year now the organized dairymen of the State thru their central association, the Michigan Milk Producers' Ass'n., have fought stubbornly and partially successfully for higher prices, prices that would first, pay the actual cost of producing the milk, and secondly, if possible, a meager profit on the labor and investment involved. At every point they have met with stolid indifference, excuses, compromises, even defiance, on the part of the condensaries and big distributing companies. Most of the concessions secured from the dealers have been at the expense of costly milk strikes, protracted conferences, and innumerable delays which have cost the dairymen a pretty penny and well nigh exhausted their patience with the dealers and their confidence in an ultimate satisfactory settlement of existing differences.

It would seem that the big creamery companies and condensaries would be anxious to get together with the producers and determine upon some basis for the equitable regulation of milk prices for a period of years. It would seem that good business prudence would prompt them,—more, would warn them,—to get on the good side of the producers and establish such amity of feeling and such satisfactory adjustment of milk prices as to lend the utmost encouragement to the rapid development of the state's dairy industry.

As a Detroit Newspaper Sees It.

All of the milk distributors in Detroit gave prices a boost this week to the unprotected consumer. The nearest for an excuse is the unconfirmed report from the Back Bay district, the fashionable suburb of Boston, that the price of milk there was approaching the Detroit figure, threatening our reputation as being the highest cost spot on the globe for cow products. However, we beat 'em to it and so are safe. Some people think that owing to dry weather milk prices were raised to the farmer, but that is not the case. Producers set a price for the year last winter and that still prevails. It was purely a case of getting more dividends.

The small buyer, pint purchasers and these comprise about 60 per cent of the population of Detroit, are now paying at the rate of \$6.36 per 100 pounds for milk. The cow owners receive 75c per cwt. leaving for the Detroit distributors the neat little sum of \$4.61 for distribution cost, about 200 per cent more than is allowed by the market of the state of New York in the metropolis.

The milk producers in the neighborhood of Philadelphia are now receiving 60 per cent more for their wares than the farmers in Michigan, yet in the city of Brotherly Love the consumer is paying 30 per cent less than we who reside here among the sharks.

When the time comes that the government, co-operating with cities and states, will make a special study of marketing problems, then both producer and consumer will be benefitted. The matter of costs and legitimate profits will receive honest consideration.—The Little Stick.

The creamery companies have never shown the least deference to the wishes or welfare of the dairymen. They might be surprised to learn what a fair-minded and anxious-to-please class of people they were dealing with if once they should descend from their position of lofty dignity and arbitrary disposal and meet the farmers in a frank, open-handed discussion of the entire problem.

It has been the persistent dodging and ignoring of the issue involved in the milk price disputes, by the milk companies that has discouraged many farmers from continuing the dairy branch of their business. The past few months have seen many fine dairy cows led to the slaughter because they were worth more to their owners, dead than alive. This is truly a deplorable situation, but it is one over which the farmer has no control. He cannot afford to feed a big dairy herd thru another winter with no promise of sufficient returns from the milk to pay the cost of the feed and care.

The demoralization of Michigan's dairy industry has only just begun. With the price of meat continually on the increase, and the price of milk practically stationary, the dairymen the state over will sooner or later do the economically wise thing—sell or slaughter their cows and go out of the dairy business.

The farmers themselves cannot save the situation. They have exhausted every honorable means at their command to secure recognition of their rights from the creamery and condensary

companies. All advances and concessions from now on must come from the distributing company industry from the decline and ruin which it now faces.

Drafting the Farmers

A FEW days after the United States Congress passed the "selected" draft bill a Macomb county farmer sat in my office. We discussed the proposed draft.

"I have three boys," he said, "who are of draft age, but if they are called it will leave me short-handed with my crops."

Whereupon I assured him that President Wilson had emphatically announced that farmers would be exempted from the service, because they would be needed so badly in the fields.

He replied, "Just wait and see; when they get ready for the draft, they'll call the farmers' sons right along with everybody else."

Was he right?

During the past couple weeks there have been many evidences in various parts of the country that a "draft" was made of all the young men between the ages of 21 and 30. Thus far, however, no evidence has been submitted that the draft was a "selective" one. In fact, in spite of the President's ardent declarations several months ago that the draft would be a carefully selective one, utterances from those immediately in charge of the machinery of the draft are of quite the opposite tenor.

"There will be no exemptions on industrial grounds" are the very words that certain high authorities have been reputed as giving out to the press within the last month.

What are we to judge by this? That the government intentionally created a wrong impression earlier in the year for diplomatic purposes when it led the public to believe that only those who could be readily spared from civilian ranks would be taken, or that conditions have since arisen which makes it advisable to show no discrimination.

The farmers of the country were enjoined to use every means at their command to increase their crop production, with the promise that they and their sons and their hired men would be exempted from the draft. This promise has not been carried out either in spirit or letter. The uncertainty in many young farmers' minds as to the government's intentions, and the unfair insinuations that have been made in the cartoons and the editorial columns of the press against all single men, who were slow to enlist, (regardless of the sufficiency and sincerity of their motives), have driven many farm helpers into the service and given rise to a situation which no amount of explaining and exempting can now wholly remedy.

If the government has it in mind to exempt the farmers of the country from immediate military service, let the proper authorities speak up at once. How can the farmers plan to harvest and market their crops or lay out their schedule for another year's harvest when in a state of continual uncertainty, fearsome that the scant help they already have may be taken from them? President Wilson has well said that the farmers cannot be spared from the fields; they have a sacred duty to perform in feeding the universe. If these are not mere words, then the government should follow them up at once with some kind of action. It does not increase the faith of a people in their government when one thing is said and its opposite is done.

If the dread of a world scarcity of food is well founded, then does the government indeed need to give willingly and gladly exemption to every man of farm experience. It is fair to all the world that he should be exempted and that he should be treated with respect and understanding by both the civilian and the drafted population.

If the world hungers for food the government should place the responsibility for producing it upon the shoulders of those who know how. It would be the very essence of inefficiency and folly for the government to take experienced farm hands out of the fields and send them to the trenches, filling their places on the farms with effete and inexperienced help. Don't do it, Uncle Sam. Leave your "soldiers of the soil" where they belong, else you'll pay the penalty with short rations and a hungry nation.

Whoop 'Er Up, Boys, its an Interesting Game.

SOMEHOW its hard to understand the food proposition; but let us presume that its all because we don't understand the war game. For six months city dwellers everywhere have been shouting for more food-products; the President has asked the farmers to double their acreage; Congress has talked itself to death on the question, Agricultural Colleges have been calling for more farm products, and sending their professors into cities and villages to encourage back-yard gardens and to tell the city-bred how to raise what vegetables the family need. Women are

now going from house to house telling the thrifty housewives how they can save by caring for the odds and ends; and the end is not yet. But have you noticed that while the cost of shoes has doubled that no one has advised back-yard tanneries or that shoes should be worn until nothing was left but the strings. Clothing costs more, but the manufacturers have not been asked to be patriots and double their output. Everything we buy for our homes, ourselves and families costs all the way from fifty to one hundred per cent more than two years ago. And yet, no one seems to think about it. Is it because they are too busy kicking about the price of farm products? Ordinary business sense would suggest that increased production might mean unprofitable prices. At least that is the way the manufacturers would figure it out. Time will tell, how this scheme will work out with the farmers. In the meantime, whoop-er up fellows; a new concoction for any ailment is usually first tried on the fellow least able to refuse "dope."

A Tip to Mr. Hoover.

THE REAL gamblers in food stuffs have at last been discovered and run to earth. The sleuth who trailed the culprits is none other than Mr. E. C. Eichenberry of Camden, Ohio, president of the National Hay and Grain Dealer's Ass'n, who announced his remarkable findings at the annual meeting of the Michigan branch, at Saginaw.

"Farmers, and not elevators, are big gamblers and speculators," said Mr. Eichenberry. Call Mr. Hoover!

This is not the first time, however, that the farmer has been accused of being a gambler. He gambles with the soil, with the weather, with winds, droughts, floods, bugs and blight. Every time he plants a seed he gambles; his whole business is a gamble from sun up till sun down, year in and year out.

And now, after he has won or lost the stakes, as the case may be, against wind and weather, the speculators charge him with gambling with the market, holding his products till he can sell

them at a profit. Is it true, farmers of Michigan, that you are guilty of this heinous crime; that you have usurped the long-cherished privilege

The Harvester

*The harvester with bared head stands and sees
The nodding grain that waits the morrow's toil,
The waving wheat that lifts above his knees
The heavy grain his labor has for spoil;
And from the haze that hangs above the height
Come subtle whispers from the far off lands,
That bring a murmured message, low and light,
Which tells they wait the labor of his hands.*

*His is a greatness wrested not in war,
A dignity but yet half understood—
Not serf, but all the nation's servitor,
He looks upon his work, and it is good.
Out on the wheat his lengthened shadow slants,
A simile of labor's shielding worth,
And to his ears there come the crooning chants
That with the coming night are given birth.*

*The sunset flings its last red banners high,
And still he stands, as statues stand and brood,
A silhouette against the blazing sky—
A man in well-done toil's uplifting mood.
And then the night lets fall its dusky shroud
With wondrous jewelings of star on star—
A royal robe for him, the swarthy browed,
Who spends his strength for peoples near and far.*

of the speculators to hoard and gamble in the products you raise; that you absolutely refuse any longer to sell at a loss? Don't you know this

is contrary to all rules of the game as played for centuries? You're only supposed to grow crops; your friends, the speculators, are the fellows who market them and take the profits.

If your action has been a blow to the speculators, we'd call the food-control bill a 42 centimeter wallop in the solar plexus; for the food control bill permits the farmers to hold their products, while it administers the knockout drops to the real gambler.

Take the People Into Your Confidence.

PEACE, Peace, is the cry of the peoples of the world. But governments do not listen. The business of war goes on; the life-blood of men pours out upon the battlefields in ever swelling torrents; the trumpet's call for men, and yet more men, never ceases; the flower of the world's manhood marches endlessly on to misery and to death.

The world is nauseated with the stench of war; the cry for "peace" grows ever louder. Governments dodge the issue; "the people do not understand" is their excuse. Perhaps they are right; perhaps the people's comprehension of the abstract reasons advanced for war is not sufficiently clear to make them zealous war supporters. In any case, they are asking for peace. Shall they be denied? No! For are they not a part of the nation which boasts of a "government of for and by the people", and therefor entitled now as always to the rights guaranteed under the Constitution?

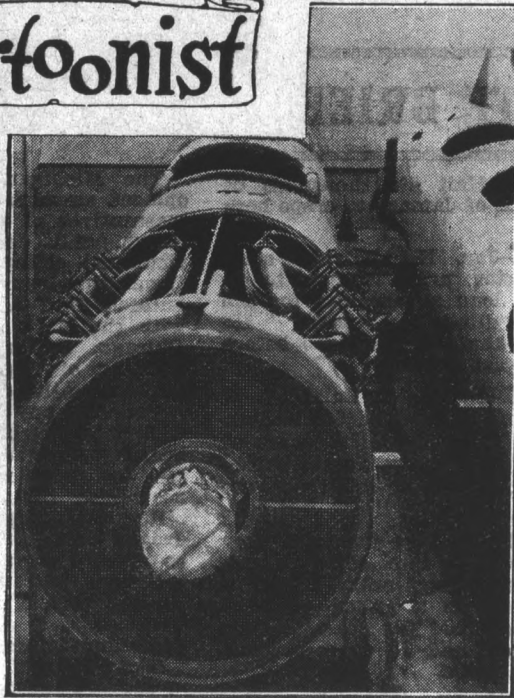
To these especially, to all the people of the nation who are called upon to lay sacrifices before the God of War, the United States government owes an immediate declaration of its war aims, in language so plain that it cannot be misunderstood.

If there are good and sufficient reasons for ignoring all peace advances by Germany, they are not known to the people of the United States and the Allied nations. The safe and opportune time for these governments to take their people into their confidence and tell them why there is no present hope of ending the hell let loose on earth, is now at hand while the people are yet in tolerant mood.

With the Kodaker and Cartoonist



McCutcheon in Chicago Tribune. Copyrighted by Tribune.



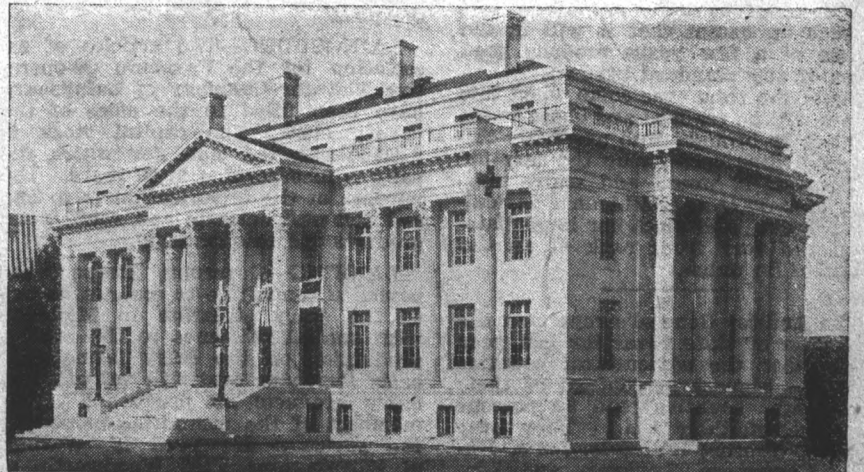
The body and motor of the latest model airplane. Thousands of these are being built in the Henry Ford factory at Detroit, at cost to the government. The government plans the construction of 20,000 air machines as soon as possible.



This smiling Miss is a type of the women that are being instructed in farm work at the New York State Agricultural school. European women now do a large part of the farm work and the idea has taken root in this country.



SETTING 'ER UP. Members of the U. S. Marine Corps hastily mounting a five-inch gun to repel an unexpected attack by the Kaiser (?).



HOME OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS. This beautiful structure was recently dedicated as the headquarters of the American Red Cross Society.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

WOULD RECLAIM BARREN LANDS

United States Government Experimenting with European Legumes on Sandy Lands of Northern Michigan

Has the magic soil builder that will transform the sandy barrens of Michigan into fertile, productive acres, been at last discovered? The Department of Agriculture claims to have secured the seed of European legumes which have reclaimed millions of acres of worthless lands across the seas that today are fertile and valuable farms.

The department has said little concerning this new discovery. But a few weeks ago a little parcel of five acres of land two miles north of Cadillac was taken over by them as an experiment station, and there the merits of the legumes will be tested.

No one can tell the precise number of acres that lie in the great tract of light sandy soils which stretch from Alpena south nearly to Bay City, and straight across the state, with the northern boundary line taking a south easterly direction, dividing quite clearly, even to the naked eye, the hardwood and fertile lands from the pine and barren lands. It has been estimated that fully three million acres of this vast area, embracing over twenty counties, are at the present time practically worthless for agricultural purposes.

It must not be understood, however, that all of this great section is sand. Far from it. In nearly every county there are great fertile hardwood plats like oases in a desert, which are among the finest farming lands in the world and produce a great diversity of crops. Michigan's finest and biggest yields of potatoes come from these counties and form the bulk of the state's crop. There are scores of different kinds of soil in the section. They vary from the heaviest of clay to the lightest of sand. There are hundreds of thousands of acres that will grow everything that can be raised in temperate climate; there are as many more so light that they do not respond to root crops, but raise clover and other legumes in great abundance. These vast acres form splendid grazing lands, as yet little appreciated by sheep and cattle owners of the state. Then there are soils so light and lifeless that they give practically no encouragement to any vegetation except the native shrubs, and scrub oaks and jack pines.

It is for the redemption of these millions of agriculturally worthless lands that the government has imported the leguminous plants from Europe which are claimed to be better soil builders than any native plant, such as vetch, clover and peas. They are declared to build up sandy soil to such an extent that it will in the course of a few years produce good crops of any standard product.

Should the time ever come when this dream will be realized and these waste empires be brought into profitable cultivation, thus opening up the way for settlement, it would add many millions of dollars to Michigan's agricultural wealth, and place her immediately at the very front rank of all the states of the union.

The Auditor General's report on the collection of state taxes for last year shows that the agricultural counties paid the highest percentage of their tax. Eight counties paid 99 percent or more of their tax. They are: Branch, Clinton, Hillsdale, Ionia, Huron, Keweenaw, Lenawee and Livingston. Keweenaw paid 99.44 percent of her tax, while Roscommon stood lowest among all counties with only 49 per cent of its tax paid.

GRAPE GROWERS WANT SINGLE SALES AGENCY

A meeting of Lawton grape growers was recently held to consider a plan for having all the grapes of the Paw Paw Grape Growers' Union, the Wolverine Co-operative Co. and the Southern Michigan Association sold by one organization.

A number of men spoke, the principal speaker being Mr. Ruel of the North American Fruit Exchange. The North American Fruit Exchange has representatives in 60 different cities in the United States and Canada. Mr. Ruel expressed the belief that if his organization was given the sale of the grapes in that district that through their organization they could make a better distribution of the crop and also procure better prices. The Exchange would retain the managers of the local organization and therefore the local organization does not lose its identity, nor reputation for a certain brand of fruit. The North American Fruit Exchange would hire the manager and pay telegraph bills and also have a central office for the district at Benton Harbor. Loading and other expenses are to be paid by the local organization. For its services the Fruit Exchange would charge \$15.00 per car.

The Wolverine Co. has already decided to take up with the proposition and the Grape Growers' Union will do so if the Southern Michigan decides to join in the movement. Southern Michigan members present seemed to favor the plan and no doubt such arrangements will be made.

By the proposed method the expense of handling the crop would be some larger, but if the price of grapes were advanced one half cent per basket, it would more than pay the additional expense.

STATE BRIEFS

MECOSTA—Hail did thousands of dollars' worth of damage to crops here last week.

OWOSSO—Jas. N. McBride, state market director, urges farmers to organize farm loan associations for the purpose of tiling their land. He recommends that this be done before fall wheat planting.

HILLSDALE—Lester Salsbury of Camden township received 800 bushels of excellent wheat from 17 acres of ground, a yield of more than 47 bushels an acre. Other record crops are reported.

BAY CITY—Milk producers of Bay County have put into effect an advance in the price of milk. The new price is 24 cents a gallon or \$2.83 a hundred pounds. The dealers raised the price to 9 and 10 cents a quart the previous week.

MARSHALL—The farmers in this vicinity will soon contract for the erection of a concrete grain elevator on the Michigan Central tracks in that city, which it is expected will be ready to receive grain within sixty days. A stock company of farmers is behind the plan.

LAINGSBURG—The articles of association for the Farmer's Co-operative Elevator Company of Laingsburg have been filled in the office of the county clerk. The capital stock is \$40,000 and the time for which the company is incorporated is 30 years. The purpose of the organization is to buy and sell at wholesale and retail farm products and raw material.

LANSING—Governor Sleeper has named a committee to make a survey of the dairy situation in Michigan with special reference to the cost of production on the dairy farms as a basis for more equitable valuation of dairy products by producers. The members of the committee named by the governor are Fred M. Warner, of Farmington; Fred Woodworth, of Caseville; J. N. McBride of Burton; Professor A. C. Anderson of East Lansing and I. R. Waterbury, of Highland.

PRODUCERS MEETING MAY MEAN MILK PRICE BOOST

A meeting of farmers of Michigan is to be held Aug. 21, in Lansing, and this means an increase in the price of milk according to state dairy authorities.

"It is hard to say just how much the farmers will increase the price of milk," said a Detroit dairy expert. "Every farmer in the state will be represented at this meeting and any increase will be statewide. Whatever increase the farmers make to the dairies will, of course, be reflected by an advance in the detail price of milk.

"It is true that farmers around Detroit get more now than they ever did. They get about \$2.25 a hundred pounds of milk. But even so, they are losing money by producing milk. This is because the cost of cattle feed is so high. It is more profitable by far to turn cattle into beef than to produce milk. Farmers, for this reason, are driven from necessity to some measure to make up their losses and an increase in the price of milk is the only practicable method.

"Milk conditions in Detroit have been good this summer. We have had practically no trouble. Farmers who supply milk to Detroit are well educated in our health requirements now and the milk has been uniformly healthy and of a good grade.

STATE TO HAVE DRYING PLANTS

Plans Under Way to Provide for Plants at Fenton, Bad Axe, Allegan and Reed City to Dry Perishable Foods

The Michigan Agricultural Development association, composed of representatives of the war preparedness board, public domain commission, agricultural college, railroads and sectional development associations, has entered into a tentative agreement with the Mark Process Dryer Co., of Chicago, looking to the immediate building of dryer plants at Fenton, Bad Axe, Allegan and Reed City.

The company controls a process invented by Mark. The patent is on a hearth over which fruits and vegetables are dried without in any degree destroying the food value or palatability. The theory is extracting hydrogen and inserting oxygen. When so dried the products do not absorb moisture, and will keep for an unlimited period of time, so it is represented. The drying, products are reduced from 100 pounds to 10.

The tentative plans accepted by the Association contemplates plants at each of the four cities named, each with a capacity for reducing 25 tons of fruit and vegetables annually to 2½ tons. Important advantages claimed for the process are that it will enable farmers to quickly transform vegetables and fruits into an imperishable state and eliminate large waste.

The Chicago company offers to furnish hearths for the four plants at cost. Local companies would be organized in the four cities to build the plants at an estimated cost of \$15,000 each. The Chicago company waives all royalties and explains its profits would come thru these four plants being an incentive to others to organize companies without public aid to build driers thruout the state.

Charles Grismer, of Brooklyn, president of the United Master Butchers of America, said he believed the American public soon would be using horse meat extensively as food. "People eat pork without question," he said. "Just think how much cleaner a horse lives than a hog. Horse flesh is wholesome and as palatable as the best beef." He predicted that meat prices would remain high until after the war.

FAT DIVIDENDS FOR MICH. SUGAR

Annual Statement Shows Net Profits for Year Equal to Nearly 16 Per Cent of Company's Common Stock

It is hard to explain the millions of profits shown in the recent statement made public of the Michigan Sugar Company's business the past year in the light of this company's repeated declarations last spring that they could not "afford" to pay the growers a fair price for their beets. The facts of the matter are that the plethoric dividends earned by this company last year were made from the 1916 crop at the expense of many a poor grower who lost hard-earned dollars because of poor yield and low prices.

Assets aggregating \$15,197,059.99 with a surplus of \$2,043,172.99 are shown in the balance sheet of the Michigan Sugar company on June 30, the close of the company's fiscal year. Net profits of the company for the year are given as \$1,360,331.69, equal to 15.24 per cent on the company's outstanding common stock after allowing for dividend requirements of the preferred stock.

Fixed assets of the company comprising its investment in property, land, buildings, machinery and equipment aggregate \$7,164,127.11. Good will, trade names, etc., are valued at \$3,742,924.32, investment in other companies at cost \$1,018,040.42. Deferred charges amount to \$101,777.25.

Current assets aggregate \$3,169,290.89, of which \$2,177,031.15 is in cash and \$787,837.25 in inventories of products and supplies on hand. Current liabilities comprising accounts payable and accrued taxes are \$31,624.43, net working capital amounting to \$3,137,666.41.

On the \$5,000,000 authorized 6 per cent cumulative preferred stock and \$7,500,000 of common stock, \$3,703,500 of the former and \$7,471,100 of the latter are outstanding.

Reserve amount to \$947,662.57, including \$884,011.49 for depreciation of which \$100,000 was added for the year just ended, and \$63,651.08 for inter campaign repairs to plants after equipment.

The balance of accumulated surplus on June 30, 1916, was \$2,502,739.30 to which was added net profits of \$1,360,331.69 for the fiscal year, while deductions were \$22,210 for dividends at 6 per cent on the preferred stock and \$597,688 at the rate of 8 per cent in the common stock, leaving accumulated surplus of \$3,043,172.99 on June 30, 1917.

FARMERS DIFFER ON COST OF MILK PRODUCTION

In an effort to get in as close touch as possible with the milk producers of Michigan and learn first handed from them what price they considered reasonable for milk, Field Secretary

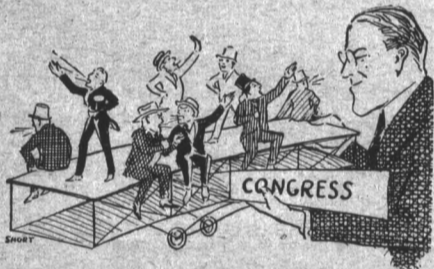
R. C. Reed of the Michigan Milk Producers' Association, recently sent out several hundred letters to Michigan dairymen. Data received from the first one hundred replies has proved very interesting and probably will be of great aid to the commission investigating the dairy industry. Thirty-four producers favored a flat rate of \$2.50 a hundred. Twenty-five others were indifferent and expressed a willingness to accept whatever price the association might agree upon. The others varied in their estimates. Some that they should receive \$3.50 a hundred during the winter months and \$2.50 for spring and summer milk. Still others asked \$3 a hundred for winter milk and all the way from \$2.25 to \$2.75 a hundred pounds for the other six months.

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON, D. C.
Well, things have quieted down a bit about the capitol since the passage of the food-control bill. The brewers have gone home rejoicing that the beer and wine clause was stricken from the bill; but the poor distillers have gone to weep maudlin tears over the remains of old King Whiskey, condemned to die on Sept. 8th. The prohibitionists are thicker'n mosquitos in a cedar swamp. When any of the boys take a drink nowadays even in the privacy of their own rooms, they plug up the keyhole for fear some Bryanite may be loitering in the corridor and hear the gurgle. It's something "turrrible", as a New York congressman confided to me the other day, "you dassent even go into a drug store any more to buy a bottle of camphor for your wife's headache, but what you feel like sneaking out the back door and up the alley to your hotel." And the worst is yet to come. In spite of the valiant efforts of Senators Bill Stone and Reed of Missouri to save beer and wine to posterity, the job looks hopeless. A national prohibition amendment will be submitted before long, and after that the boys can buy all the camphor they want without being suspected.

The food question having been chewed over, thoroly masticated, digested and disposed of, President Wilson is now investigating the coal situation. It's a sooty job, all right, but the President is handling it without gloves. He summoned all the coal barons to Washington the other day and told them it wasn't patriotic for them to make so much money from a necessity, and ordered them to reduce the price of coal instanter. The barons sassed back, and hinted they were capable of running their own business, which may all be, but it looks as tho they won't have any business to run pretty soon providing the President carries out his threat to take over all the mines, operate them and sell the



Someone Suggested that the President Send the Wind Squadron to France

products at cost. Tell the Michigan folks not to worry about their winter's coal supply. Have them bundle up well, take a soap stone to bed with them, and be patient. A bin full of patience and Saginaw matches is cheaper'n coal, anyway, and there aint no monopoly in them.

Well, as I've said before, aside from the tussle between the President and the coal-men, the daily raids of the suffragettes, Miss Rankins' maiden speech, the war talk and the peace wrangles, the wind battles between the Anti- and the Pro-German representatives, everything about the Capitol is as quiet as the tomb. But 'twill not be for long. "Bob" LaFollette has announced that he will talk on "Peace" this week, and then h—, well you know what, will be to pay. When anyone talks peace, war breaks out in the four corners of the Senate chamber, and all kinds of epithets and everything else movable and throwable be-fouls the atmosphere. As a precautionary measure, it is understood, Senator LaFollette has bribed the janitor to remove all superfluous volumes, ink bottles, paper weights, etc., from the other Senators' desks and to see that the furniture is securely fastened to the floor. You can just take it from me, there aint many fellows in Congress trying to sprinkle salt on the peace dove's tail. They're "standing by the President" regardless of what the folks back home want. Just the same, there's a lot of peace talk all over the country, and you can't be in Washington long without getting evidence of it. Men close to the President say that he is planning to make public this week the aims of the United

States in this war, and the terms upon which they will enter into peace negotiations.

It has been said before, and I say it here now, with abundant proof to back up the statement, that the most enthusiastic supporters of this war,—the fellows whose fat bellies are shaking with glee at the thot of the millions of young men to be sent across the sea that the war may go on and on, and the fellows who cry "traitor" the loudest when peace is suggested,—are the men who are making money out of the war.

Don't you have a feeling like the itch in the middle of your back when



Everybody paid close Attention to Miss Rankin's Maiden Speech in the House

you read that such fellows as Charlie Schwab of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and J. Ogden Armour of Armour & Co., have decided to stand loyal to the government? "Oggy" says the United States government can have Armour & Company if they want it, "yes", he whispers further, so nobody but the newspapers can hear it, "Uncle Sam can have J. Ogden Armour himself"!!! I've been expecting every day to read that Charlie and Oggy have enlisted in the army, but about the only mention I can find of them or their companies is in reference to the war profits they've been piling up the last three years. The three years before the war, the Bethlehem Steel Corporation paid annual dividends averaging \$3,075,108. In 1916 this company made a profit of \$43,593,968, an increase of \$40,518,860—more than 1,300 per cent. Armour & Co., the meat packers, made an average of \$4,746,632 for each of the three years preceding the war. In 1916 it made a profit of \$21,000,000. How? The huge war demand enabled the company to hold up the American consumer, and judging from the size of the profits, it was some "hold-up".

Big Business the country over has profited similarly by the war and similarly boasts of its undying loyalty to the country, as tho, indeed, theirs were a special brand of loyalty and infinitely more to be desired than the poor, modest loyalty of the boy who goes only to fight, with no thot or hope of lining his pockets with gold or having his name flaunted in the newspapers as the Original Patriot.

But the loyalty of Big Business is to be put to the test. Senators LaFollette, Thomas, and Gore, members of the senate committee on finance, have reported out the revenue bill,

recommending that war profits be taxed as high as 80 per cent instead of 12 to 50 per cent as provided for in the original bill. Now, watch the boasted loyalty of Big Business blister and peel and shrivel up! Suppose the Bethlehem Steel Corporation did have to pay 80 percent of its profits over to the government. Would it starve? Hardly. It would still have over \$8,600,000 profits left, or nearly three times its annual pre-war profits.

Under the revenue bill as originally drawn, a large part of the money would be derived by taxes upon the most common necessities of life and would be borne largely by the consumer. It includes taxes on transportation, both freight and passenger, and also on telephone and telegraph messages, on automobiles, motorcycles and boats, on admissions to places of amusements. The burdensome and vexatious stamp taxes, an excise tax on tea, coffee, cocoa, etc., taxes on postal rates, greatly increasing the cost of transmission of first class matter, and includes as well an additional tax on publishers. Bear in mind that these are all taxes in addition to duties and taxes levied under existing law and are so levied as to be directly placed on the consumer.

It is wholly un-American,—it is monstrously unfair,—for this government to put a tax upon the necessities of life to help carry the burden of war, while the big corporations continue to reap their fat profits. But this economic crime will surely be perpetrated unless the people rise at once to the danger and protest against it. Let every farmer of the state write to his senator and congressman and ask,—no, demand,—that he vote against any increased tax upon necessities of life. Let those who are making money from the war pay the cost of war. That would be fair and a true test of patriotism.

Take my advice; bury the desks of your Washington representatives with protests. These men are only human; they have their weaknesses; some times they are lead astray. Let them know that you folks back home are keeping your eyes on them and will expect them to vote in your interests on the revenue bill. I'll keep my eyes on 'em down here, too, and I expect to tell you folks just how every Michigan congressman and senator voted on this bill. Then you'll know where they stand, and at the next election you can show them where you stand.

WHAT BUSINESS FARMERS SAY OF THE NEW MARKET WEEKLY

Hope you get the weekly started soon. Earl French, VanBuren county.

Send paper soon as you can. Ed. Camp, Kent county.

I know it will be a great thing for the farmer. Geo. L. Conine, Wexford county.

Will send dollar soon. Send market weekly. Grant Hopkins, Montcalm county.

My dollar bill will be there on time. John Tucker, Casnovia.

Will send dollar as soon as I can for new market weekly. Robert Burtlow, Roscommon county.

Something we farmers need, a new market paper. Chas. A. Webb, Memphis.

I am sure such a market paper will be a fine thing. Will send money later. Jesse H. Shales, Macomb county.

Your market paper has saved me money. Howard Hopkins, Mendon.

WAR WIRES

The first definite peace proposal since the world war began in 1914 unfurled its white wings to the nations of the world last week when Pope Benedict offered a number of concrete suggestions to stop the gruesome slaughter of lives and destruction of property. The warring nations, the Entente Allies in particular, turned a deaf ear to the proposal and decided to fight on until "militarism" has been completely wiped from the face of the earth and until the world is made safe for democracy. Entente diplomats claimed they could see Teutonic influence behind the pontiff's proposals. His proposals contained the following suggestions: Reduction of all armaments; settlement of international disputes by arbitration; freedom of the seas; return to Germany of all her colonies; restoration of territory captured by Central powers; peaceful settlement of Alsace-Lorraine and Poland controversies; immediate exchange of diplomatic communications looking toward peace; avoidance of retaliatory economic struggle after the war. President Wilson is momentarily expected to reply to the Pope's proposal, and state the terms upon which this government will discuss peace.

All along the western front—the slaughter of men, the destruction of property, the devastation of the fertile fields—is going on according to the daily press despatches. During the last week the allied armies made a tremendous drive upon the enemy, gained much territory before the enemy made counter attacks and suffered a great loss of life. On the whole, however, the German army continues to take the defensive while the entente allies are forced to take the offensive. Recent fighting has seen a more extensive use of aeroplanes by the allied armies upon the Austro-German armies with telling force.

The newest and yet the most ancient nation to fling herself into the war upon the side of the Entente Allies by a government is China. Her decision to fight Germany, however, failed to create much of a furore either on Wall Street or among the warring nations, yet her entrance was presumably welcomed by the Allies.

The biggest review of American regulars in point of numbers held anywhere for many years took place on a meadow "somewhere in France" last week where they won both the admiration and respect of the French people and army officers of the Allies. American troops were also given a stirring ovation in London last week where millions of Britishers greeted them. A notable event took place at this demonstration when King George and Queen Mary of England saluted the flag.

Presumably sometime between September 5th and 15th, all Michigan young men who have been summoned before the draft boards and passed both physical and mental examinations, will be further notified to report at the cantonment at Battle Creek for final examinations. The percentage of young men asking exemption from military service is high and the draft boards and passed both physical and to tighten up on exemption claims. Many appeals are expected to be made to the district boards on industrial and dependent claims.

Germany and the Central powers are reported to be preparing to make concessions to the Poles in an effort to retain the confidence of the people of Poland. It is expected the Central powers will offer a regency composed of three eminent Polish politicians, and a ministerial cabinet and council of state, which will not have as members any persons who belong to the provisional council of state.

The war has been the means of swelling the profits of the American Ship Building Company. According to its recent annual report it shows net profits for the year ending June 30 to be \$3,148,040 after deducting \$400,000 from the net earnings for an estimated excess profit tax. This is equal to \$34 a share on common stock after allowing seven per cent on preferred stock.

Secretary Daniels divorced the United States Navy department from the Navy League last week when this body directed personal attacks upon him and his department for alleged delays in the investigation of the magazine explosion at Mare Island navy yards. Our readers may recall that it was this league that instituted a million dollar libel suit against Henry Ford because he accused it of fomenting a war spirit in the United States.

Six hundred young men of Michigan were awarded commissions by the United States Department of War. All of the young men had been in training at Fort Sheridan, Ill., for the last two months. Many of them will have charge of the work of training the drafted soldiers to be called within a few days.

Twenty-three persons were killed and fifty-two others seriously injured when twenty German airships crossed the English channel and let a shower of bombs fall upon southeastern England. Nine women and six children were among the dead.

A Japanese mission to the United States arrived last week on a "mission of friendship and good will." They came by a Pacific port and proceeded directly to Washington on official business as representatives of Japan.

I am willing to do what I can to help your paper. Wm. McDonald, Bellaire.

Glad to see a chance to duplicate the Pink Sheet. Wm. B. Vaw, Capac.

Please send market weekly. Will send money later. Joseph Orth, Clare county.



—From the Grain Growers' Guide, Can. Amen! So say we All!

The Truth About Michigan Crop Conditions

What Our Farmer Crop Reporters Say About Bean, Potato and Corn Crop Conditions

JACK FROST holds the fate of Michigan's corn, bean and potato crops in the palm of his hand. Should he decide to pay this state a visit at any time before Sept. 10th, he will cause the destruction of many millions of dollars worth of ripening crops; if he should postpone his visit until about Sept. 20th, he will find many acres of beans harvested, some corn safely stowed away in the crib, and many potatoes out of the ground, but he will still be early enough to blacken thousands of acres still bearing a load of crops. If Jack should lose his way, however, and not arrive until Oct. 1st, he will find only barren fields to greet him, while bulging bins and cellars will mock him for his delay.

The unusually cold and wet spring delayed the planting in Michigan this year until late, and a continuance of the bad weather until nearly the first of July retarded the growth of everything, and in some instances caused the seed to rot in the ground. Much corn was replanted, and in the lower sections of the state some farmers were obliged to make a third planting of their beans. July was an ideal growing month, but none of the crops were able to regain the ground lost by the early poor weather. As a result, potatoes are from a week to ten days late, beans ten days to a fortnight and corn from two to three weeks, depending upon the locality.

A three weeks' drought from about the 20th of July until near the middle of August retarded the growth of potatoes and injured some bean fields, but general rains between Aug. 13th and 17th remedied this condition appreciably.

Many conflicting reports have been issued by the various crop statistical agencies in the state. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, for instance, reports an estimated yield of 51,400,000 bushels of corn, as compared with last year's production of 45,375,000 bushels. Reports from the county agents working under the jurisdiction of the Michigan War Preparedness Bd. and the Agricultural College are not so optimistic and indicate a much less yield of corn.

In spite of all facts to the contrary, Mr. W. J. Orr, president of the Michigan Bean Jobbers' Ass'n, has repeatedly and persistently stated that the bean crop would be normal or above. Careful investigation discloses that Mr. Orr is altogether too optimistic, and that the yield will probably not greatly exceed 5,000,000 bushels in spite of an increase in acreage estimated at from 25 to 40 percent.

We proposed to find out the truth, if possible, concerning the crop conditions in the state, and so we asked eight farmers in every county in the state to estimate the number of acres, condition, yield, etc., of beans, potatoes and corn, and make a comparison with last year's acreage, condition and yield. The several hundred replies received were strikingly similar in their estimates, there being only two or three counties in the state where the figures were at variance.

Extracts from Some of the Reports

THE BEAN SITUATION

Mason—Crop ten days late; in a normal season ten percent of the beans in this section are damaged by frost in the fall; being late this year may mean a large increase in lost beans.

Oakland—Crop 50 percent better than last year; yield will be fair, providing no disease hits the crop before harvest.

Ingham—Condition poorer than last year. The cold, wet weather up till July 25th caused poor stand and a great many had to be planted over.

Montcalm—Condition medium; considerable damage by weevil, amounting to 50 percent in places. Some fields of heavier soil dragged up; late fall and proper moisture will do lots for the crop.

Saginaw—Condition better than last year; the wet weather drowned out a large part of the crop, but what is left is good.

Alcona—Bean crop looks fairly good, only late; yield probably about 12 bus.

Bay—Condition poor; flood after flood all thru the planting season; lots of the farmers planted twice and now have only a few here and there.

Benzie—Condition not quite so good as last year. Hot winds the middle of the month damaged many fields.

Gratiot—Owing to heavy rains probably one-fourth to one-third of acreage planted was drowned out; what is left is in much better condition than last year.

Midland—The crops were hurt by the heavy rains in early season and held back about two weeks by the cold weather. Now there seems to be a blight in the early ones.

Oceana—On account of the cold weather beans are not so far advanced as usual but they are looking fine now and prospects are for a fair crop.

Clinton—Condition poor; wet weather, late planting, loss from maggot; on the whole, however, beans look better than last year, but the weather must be very favorable to mature.

POTATOES

Ingham—Early potatoes are good, but late ones have just set and need rain to grow them; vines look good but there are evidences of blight.

Oscoda—Condition better than a year ago; about 15 percent of the acreage has been washed out or drowned but the condition now is fair; there is a ten percent increase in the acreage this year.

Mecosta—Potatoes are good, but the weather has been very favorable for the development of blight. Early potatoes are going about 100 bushels to the acre.

Grand Traverse—A good many of the potatoes are late planted but are looking fair; the bugs are very bad.

From these reports, the following important facts have been gleaned:

1. The bean acreage represents an increase of 25 to 40 percent over last year. In one or two of the eastern counties the acreage was less, in several the same, while in others the acreage was double that of a year ago. The estimated yield of beans for the entire state is 10.3 bushels per acre. The worst enemy to beans this year was the early cold weather, and the maggot, altho some fields along the western lake shore were badly damaged by drought and hot winds.

2. The potato acreage represents an increase of about 12 percent over last year. The condition is reported from medium to excellent in practically every county in the state, the poorest promise being in the lowlands

Presque Isle—Potatoes have never been more promising; a perfect stand, fine tops, and indications are for a bumper crop.

VanBuren—Condition good; some sections hit by blight.

Mecosta—This is just the time in the growing season for blight to be lurking around; blight or an early frost would cut the crop 50 percent.

Chippewa—Frost here on the 7th froze many fields; estimated yield 95 bushels.

Montcalm—One man's guess as good as another's on this year's yield; plenty of time for late crop to be made; have heard some reports of blight last few days.

CORN

Montcalm—Condition very poor; two three weeks late; it looks now as tho we would have no sound corn this year due to lack of corn weather.

Mecosta—Condition medium; cause due largely to poor seed; crop depends wholly upon the growing season from now on, if frost would hold off until September 20th I think corn would be a good ten year average.

Ogemaw—If we do not have warm weather, late fall corn will not mature here this year, owing to the lateness in planting and cold weather.

Isabella—Condition very poor; crop was planted too late, and weather extremes hurt it.

St. Clair—There will not be much corn for it was neglected thru harvest which could not be helped as money could not hire good help; cold and wet weather retarded growth.

Monroe—Condition very poor; a wet spring and August drought.

Genesee—Too old and wet at planting time; do not think there will be any corn in this county except for silage.

Saginaw—Cold and wet up to July 15th and there are a great many acres that cannot possibly have any ripe corn.

Mason—Not one-half of the farmers will have any hard corn this year.

VanBuren—Drought hurting corn and all other crops.

Huron—There will be very little corn get ripe this year; seed corn will be hard to get another year.

Monroe—Corn on tilled land is doing well but lots of poor sprouts; lots of late and very small corn which will not ear at all.

Clinton—We must have a long time of corn weather (which we're not getting) if it matures; it is very backward and there are many fields no good at all.

Lapeer—There will be very little corn in county this year.

every country reports that it will require at least three more weeks of good weather to ripen the corn. The estimated yield for the entire state is 11.3 bushels. It looks now as tho the only way for the farmers of the state to get value out of their corn crop is to stow it safely away in silos and that, of course, before the first frost comes.

4. Every section reports an increased acreage and yield of all grain crops. Oats particularly are a heavy crop, while wheat and rye greatly exceed any previous year. Sugar beets were irreparably damaged on the low grounds, but elsewhere are making good progress. The apple crop will be a third less than last year.

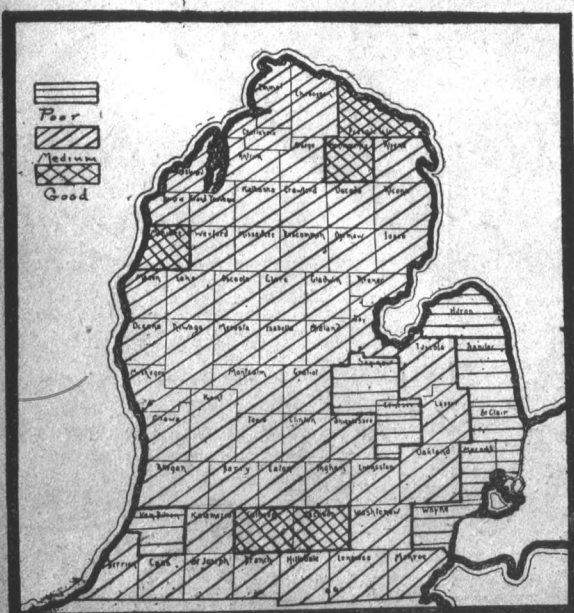
A general summary of the crop conditions and yields thruout the entire state indicates that Michigan business farmer will produce the greatest crop in the history of the state, and that a study of the market shows that the total value will exceed by 25 to 50 million dollars that of any previous year with the possible exception of 1916.

In order to sell their crops to the best advantage the farmers of Michigan should read the market section of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING regularly each week. Here you will find the latest market quotations and information gathered from far and near by our market editors, together with authentic advise as to the best time to sell farm products.

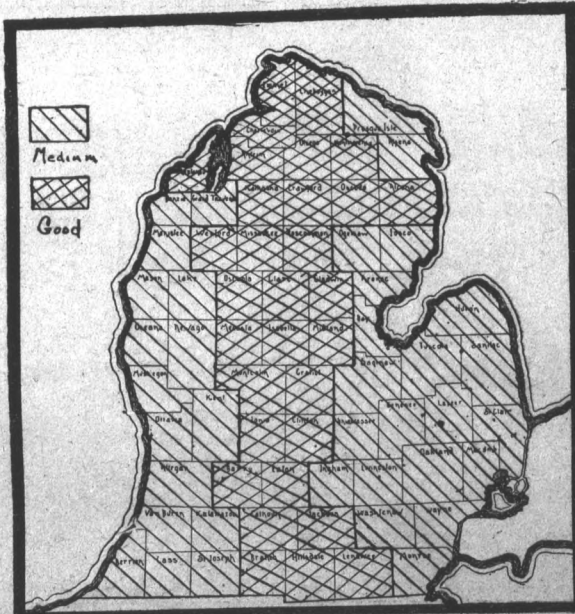
Editor's Note: The data and the graphic maps shown here represent the condition of beans, potatoes and corn in the State on August 15th. Weather changes since then may affect the deductions some tho not materially. In the case of beans, poor condition means an estimated yield of less than eight bushels, medium condition between eight and fifteen, good condition better than fifteen. There are no poor potato conditions so far as any particular section is concerned. Medium condition of potatoes indicates a yield of 80 to 100 bushels, and good condition an estimated yield of over 100. Strictly speaking, there are no good corn conditions. However, we have construed good conditions as meaning an estimated yield of over 50 bushels; medium conditions, 25 to 50 bushels, and poor conditions less than 25.

Dairymen Will Continue Strike For Higher Prices

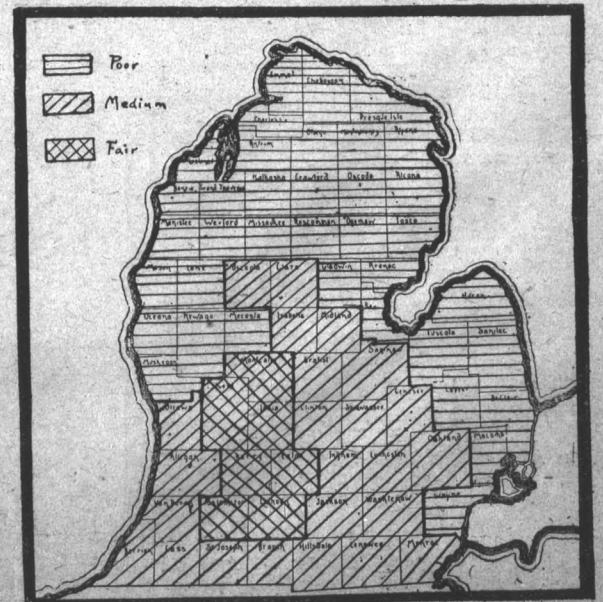
The Southwestern Michigan Milk Producers' Ass'n members have voted to continue their milk strike which has been in progress for a number of days, unless the retailers grant their demands for seven cents a quart after Sept. 1st. The farmers agreed, however, to a suggestion by one of the manufacturers that they accept a plan of asking the federal and state authorities to fix the price for the product after making an investigation of the production cost, allowing a fair profit. They also requested that a retail price be fixed. Producers are hopeful that this action may open up an avenue of investigation by the federal government which will lead to the fixing of adequate prices thruout the state, thus ending for all time the wearisome struggle that the producers have been obliged to make for equitable prices.



Graphic of Bean Conditions



Graphic of Potato Conditions



Graphic of Corn Conditions

Everyday Garden, Field and Orchard Helps

Reserve Feed in the Silo

SEVERAL years ago when we contemplated building a silo we considered first a 10 by 30 ft., then a 12 by 30 ft. and finally erected a 12 by 43 ft. silo. The latter seemed a little large but we desired a reserve capacity so under unusual conditions there would be no shortage of feed. This reserve capacity has proven to be a good investment.

Had the 12 by 30 ft. size been built we should have had to turn our stock onto the pastures in the spring before the pastures had made a good growth. The pastures got a good start while the stock was doing well on the silage until the middle of May. During the present warm weather we are feeding silage near the bottom of the silo that was put up two years ago, and it is just as good quality and eaten as freely by the stock as that put up last fall.

Having a reserve capacity of silage was an encouragement to buy, raise and feed a few more cattle. We had the feed, so why not, when the opportunity afforded, obtain more stock and utilize this feed? The additional cost of building just a little larger silo than is actually needed is not great; it has been proven that a large silo will keep properly ensiled corn for years. However, I believe the average farmer will find a silo 12 feet in diameter better adapted to his feeding requirements than one of larger diameter; the reserve capacity would be better in additional height than larger diameter. If as many as ten head of cattle are kept they will eat enough each day in warm weather to prevent spoilage, and when the cattle can finally be turned onto pasture the remaining silage may be sealed up and kept for future requirements.

The past hard winter demanded more feed for stock than usual, and quite a number of farmers with comparatively small silos fed out their silage before there was any pasture. Eight, ten or fifteen feet of additional silage would have carried them thru nicely. In some styles of silos it is not practicable to increase the height after they are once completed.

In determining the size of silo to build with a little additional capacity, it is well to consider the possibilities of long, hard winters, late springs, winter setting in early and cutting off the fall pastures, failure of spring and summer pasture crops and increasing the size of the herd by buying stock.

—J. L. Justice.

Filling the Silo on Time

NEVER BEFORE were there so many silos to be filled as this season. I believe that 25 per cent more silos are to be filled this season than there were two years ago, and still more in process of construction, and many silos that have stood empty for one or two years are going to be filled this year, therefore a great many people are getting ready to fill silos who have never done so before. The secret of success of the silo and silage is the proper methods employed in the making of the silage and filling the silo in time. About the only dissatisfaction with the silo has been caused by the mistakes in filling. It has been said (and a very truthful saying it is) that in many cases the first filling of the silo is wasted in learning how to do the work.

One great mistake which has often been made is that when the silo was first built, it was considered that in order to properly cure and preserve silage it was necessary to use very green corn. This being the case only a very small percentage of the feeding value of the corn crop was saved, as a great amount of acid developed, forming a product which lacked feeding value, being sour and not relished by the live stock.

In order to make the best kind of silage it is necessary to cut the corn when it contains the greatest amount of feeding value. Corn should be cut for silage when the bottom leaves are

just beginning to turn brown and the grains have become dented and are beginning to glaze. At this time the corn contains practically all its feeding value and yet there is enough moisture left to preserve the silage. Sometimes, however, an accident will occur that will prevent the filling when the corn is in the right degree of ripeness and the top may become too ripe. In this case a stream of water should be run into the silo at the same time the silage is going in so that sufficient moisture will be present to preserve the product.

Most all silo owners at filling are in a great hurry and rip and tear to get the filling over as soon as possible. This is not necessary unless there is likelihood of frost. A good silage cutter and sufficient power should be secured to cut the corn and elevate it into the silo. Plenty of power is an absolute necessity, for without plenty of power to drive the machinery the cutter is continually choking, causing frequent stops and large losses from idle hands. Of course some cutters require more power than others, but for most all cutters of a practical size where there is a blower attached a twelve-horsepower engine at least is required to do the work properly. One man and sometimes two should be in the silo to distribute the grain in such a way as to thoroughly mix it with the leaves and finer portions, and at the same time to do lots of tramping as

Remove poor grains and smut passed by thoro fanning. Sprinkle the pile of seed wheat thoroly with a solution of formalin made by adding one pint of formalin to 45 gallons of water. Allow one gallon for a bushel, and shovel over until every grain is wet. Cover the pile for two hours with damp cloths to retain the formalin fumes; then spread the wheat out to dry thoroly. Treated seed may be kept any length of time, but should be placed in clean receptacles and kept free from possible re-contamination until planted. Threshers, bins and drills may harbor the spores and be the means of spreading smut. To be effective the formalin must be full strength (40 per cent formaldehyde), and full measure.

Heads of wheat attacked by loose smut are already converted into a dark powdery, spore mass when they sput out from the sheaves. These spores are quickly scattered by the wind, and only a bare stem is left by harvest time. By means of spores that sift in between the chaff at flowering time this smut fungus gains entrance to the tender developing grain, and remains dormant inside the ripening grain, finally producing smutted heads on the plants coming from such grain. It is not such a simple matter to destroy the fungus inside the tissues of the seed without ruining the seed; but it may be done in this way: Soak the cleansed seed in cold water, for

The 4-Inch Grain Drill

DO YOU think the 4 inch grain drill has any advantage over the seven inch drills now in use? I have been receiving literature from the _____ Co., of Springfield, Ohio, urging me to buy one of their four-inch Fertilizer, Clover and Grain Drills. It has eighteen discs, four inches apart. They offer to refund my money if I am not perfectly satisfied. Please give me your opinion of this matter thru the Strong Arm Dept of the Gleaner.—H. L. Decker, Mich.

The grain drill with 18 discs four inches has much to commend it. Some claim to have grown more grain to the acre with that type. The feature of having the discs and spouts four inches apart is especially strong in the case of the grass seed usually sown with grain as it is unwise to leave the usual seven inches between rows of grass seed, which is the case with most drills. The usual seven-inch space is too much. If ground is strong the four inch discs are liable to clog worse with stones becoming lodged between discs than will be the seven-inch drill. In the four-inch drill each spout should run only about half as much seed as in case of seven inch drill. The four-inch type is in line with firmer tillage than we usually practice and is much used in Europe where the utmost must be grown per acre.—R. D. Bailey.

Food Comparisons.

THE following chart is the analysis and total pounds of digestible nutrients in 100 pounds of food stuff:

	Protein	Carbo- Hydrates	Fat	Total
Corn Meal	6.7	64.3	3.5	74.5
Wheat Flour	10.6	65.1	1	76.7
Oat Meal	11.9	65.1	6.7	83.7
Beans	22.2	45.3	1.3	68.8
Rice	6.4	79.2	.4	86
Whole Milk	3.4	4.8	3.7	11.9
Skim Milk	2.9	5.3	.3	8.5
Potatoes	1.1	5.6	.1	16.9
Carrots	.8	7.7	.3	8.8

The following chart is the total pounds of digestible nutrients in 100 pounds of food divided into the market price which equals the food cost per pound nutrient:

	Total lbs. Nutrients	Price per 100	Cost per lb
Corn Meal	74.5	5.00	.067
Wheat Flour	76.7	8.00	.103
Oat Meal	83.7	6.00	.07
Beans	68.8	17.00	.25
Rice	86.7	10.00	.116
Whole Milk	11.9	2.25	.19
Skim Milk	8.5	.50	.058
Potatoes	16.9	5.00	.29
Carrots	8.8	2.00	.226

From the chart it can be seen that \$1.00 worth of corn meal supplies more nutrients than \$4.00 worth of potatoes at present prices. \$1.00 worth of rice supplies as many nutrients as \$2.50 of potatoes and \$1.00 worth of corn meal supplies as many nutrients as \$1.50 of flour.—Lloyd S. Lake.

Farm Topics

Save those ewe lambs for breeding is the urgent message the Department of Agriculture is sending to sheep owners Market for slaughter only those being absolutely worthless for breeding stock. There is a strong demand among farmers for breeding stock and owners of ewe lambs should have no trouble finding a breeding market for them thru county agents or the state agricultural colleges. Sheep specialists of the Department believe that although prices for breeding stock now are high, those who start production of wool and mutton on a moderate scale will have no cause to regret purchasing stock at present figures.

Horse breeders should choose the best stallion available in the community for service. The value of the offspring will more than offset the difference in service fees. Good horse flesh finds ready sale on any market. Mongrels are often a drug on the market.

Baby beeves threaten to revolutionize the beef industry. There is a growing demand for small, high quality cuts of meat. The rapid growth of baby beef in view of the high cost of producing meat is winning new friends among the farmers.

Refrain from washing eggs you intend to sell. Approximately 5,016,000 dozens of eggs spoiled in cold storage last year because some one let clean eggs get wet while others had washed dirty eggs before sending them to market.

THE BUSINESS FARMER'S CALENDAR

Reminders of the Things That Should be Done On the Farm This Week

1. With the haying and harvest season past, every farmer should see that the implements have been drawn from the fields and placed in their respective places in the tool sheds.

2. Inspect the recently filled grain bins; the kernels may have been a little damp when they were dumped into the bin at threshing time. An inspection at this time and a little stirring of the grains if necessary will prevent damage to the cereals.

3. Mow that second crop of thistles shooting up in pasture fields and inspect the meadows, fence corners and road-sides for wild carrot and other plant life that will cause the farmers much inconvenience a year from now if permitted to go to seed.

4. Flies are always very troublesome to sheep at this time of the year. A little tar daubed upon the nose of each sheep is very offensive to flies and is a means of keeping down sheep losses from this source.

5. If it is impossible for the farm animals to get water whenever they are thirsty, they should be brought to the watering tank at noon and watered. The pasture is usually dry and the weather hot at this season of the year and the farm animals will not thrive and do their best unless they can have plenty of water to drink.

Many progressive and business farmers sow cover crops in their corn fields this week. Rye is most extensively used and usually makes a hardy growth before the ground freezes up.

7. If you are experiencing a labor shortage on your farm and you have heretofore depended upon hand labor to cut your corn, you would be showing considerable wisdom and good business foresight if you saw your implement dealer at once and ordered a corn harvester. Freight congestion a couple of weeks from now might make it impossible for your dealer to obtain a harvester for you in time.

the secret of making a good silage product lies in keeping it well packed, and especially around the edges.

After the corn is all in and the silo filled it is advisable to run one or two loads of straw thru the cutter, covering over the top of the silage and then on top of this sow one-half bushels of barley, then soak down the mass with twelve or fifteen barrels of water in a very large silo. The heat and moisture will germinate the barley and the result will be a good sod covering the top thus excluding the air.—R. B. Rushing.

Treatment of Seed Wheat

TWO distinct smuts affect wheat. One is known as the loose smut; the other as stinking, or covered smut. They differ very much in appearance, and in the way they attack wheat; and different methods must be employed in their control.

The stinking smut of wheat is recognized by the erect heads at harvest time with slightly swollen, brownish grains, that have their interior converted into black, dusty mass of ill-smelling spores. These spores are not shed in the field, but are enclosed in the hull until the grain is threshed, when they are scattered. Spores that are lodged on the outside of seed grain give rise to infection of the new crop. It is a very simple matter to destroy these spores without injuring the seed, and so insure the crop free from stinking smut. It can be done in this way:

four or five hours. Put it in half peck lots into coarse sacks or wire baskets. Next soak each lot of seed in warm water at about 120 degrees F. and out of this immediately soak the lots in hotter water at 129 degrees F. The first warm bath is to prevent the temperature from being lowered from the 129 degrees F., but it may be necessary to add hot water occasionally anyway to maintain that exact heat for ten minutes.

The object of the treatment is to expose every grain of wheat to 129 degrees for an even ten minutes. A greater heat or a longer period of exposure will not be effective in destroying the smut. And at best the germinating power of some of the wheat will be reduced, and there fore sufficient allowance for this must be made up in seeding the wheat.

The treatment requires much care and is laborious. Neither is it practical to treat enough grain for a large planting, there fore, I have found it a good plan to treat a small amount and sow it in an isolated plat for seed the next season. Seed from such a smut-free spot, at quite a distance from infected fields of wheat, will be clean and will in turn give a crop free from loose smut without further treatment. The hot water treatment for loose smut of wheat is also effective for the same smut of barley; and the formalin treatment for stinking smut of wheat is also effective for oats smut and for covered smut of barley as well.—R. B. Rushing.



Rouge Rex Shoes
—made for the farmer

IT is just as important for the farmer to have good work shoes as it is to have a good plow or a good harvester. Rouge Rex shoes are made for the farmer. They are particularly adapted for farm work at this season. They are strongly made throughout, light in weight, fit well, are easy on the feet and give the kind of wear you have a right to expect from high class working shoes.

Get Rouge Rex Shoes From Your Dealer

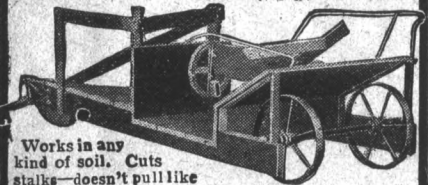
The Rouge Rex farmer's work shoe, as illustrated, comes in black or tan, wolverine chrome kip, 8-inch outing, 4-inch chrome split cuff, has bellows tongue all the way up to keep the dirt out and has two full chrome soles, brass nailed, that are almost impossible to wear out.

Let Rouge Rex shoes make your feet comfortable for full farm work. Get a pair from your dealer. Ask for No. 450 if you want black shoes, or No. 452 if you prefer tan shoes.

HIRTH-KRAUSE COMPANY
Hide-to-Shoe Tanners and Shoe Manufacturers
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

The PERFECT CORN HARVESTER

Sold Direct \$19.50 JUST THE THING FOR SHOCK OR SILO CUTTING



Works in any kind of soil. Cuts stalks—doesn't pull like other cutters. Absolutely no danger. Cuts Four to Seven Acres a Day with one man and one horse. Here is what one farmer says: Daisytown, Pa., Oct. 16, 1916. The Love Mfg. Co., Dear Sirs: I cut hillside that was a little steep. Rough and stony ground made no difference. I can cut three times as much and do it easier than by hand. (Signed) A. L. Williams.

SOLD DIRECT TO THE FARMER
Send for booklet and circulars telling all about this labor-saving machine; also containing testimonials of many users. Send for this circular matter today.
LOVE MANUFACTURING COMPANY
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Boys!

Win these prize Ewes

THE Bradley Sheep Club offers sixty flocks of bred ewes as prizes to stimulate interest in sheep raising and to increase wool production. Any boy between the ages of 13 and 17 inclusive, is eligible for one of these prize flocks. In five years the flock you win will earn enough to send you through college. This is your chance to learn a profitable industry and help clothe and feed our soldiers. Prizes awarded on merit only. Write us for Free Booklet On Sheep Raising by Mr. Anthony Gould of the American Sheep Breeder. Full details of contest will be sent with booklet.

BRADLEY KNITTING CO.
Delavan, Wisconsin
Bradley Sheep Club

LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM
POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

Dairy Facts to Remember

Approximate number of cattle and calves that can be shipped in railroad cars of various lengths.

Approximate weight of animals	36-ft. car	38-ft. car	40-ft. car
400 pounds	45	48	52
600 pounds	38	40	42
800 pounds	30	32	34
950 pounds	27	28	30
1,050 pounds	25	26	27
1,150 pounds	22	23	24
1,200 pounds	20	22	23

To Produce Spring Calves

Mo.	What to do	Feed.
July	Breed	Pasture with calves and bull
Aug.		Pasture with calves
Sept.		Do
Oct.	Wean calves	Pasture
Nov.		Do
Dec.		Stalk fields, straw, meadow aftermath
Jan.		Corn silage, 40 lbs. cottonseed meal 1 1/2 lbs.; or corn silage 32 lbs. with stover unlimited.
Feb.		Do
Mar.		Corn silage, 40 lbs.; cottonseed meal 1 1/2 lbs.; or corn silage 35 lbs. with stover unlimited
Apr.	Calves born	Cottonseed meal, 2 lb
May		Pasture with calves
June		Do

To Bring Baby Beeves to 15 Months

Mar.	Born	With cows. On grass or milk.
Apr.		Do.
May		Do.
June		With cows. On grass or milk; begin feeding shelled corn or corn meal 1/2 to 1 pound.
July		With cows. On skim milk or grass; corn meal, 2 pounds
Aug.	Wean	On grass with cows or on skim milk; chopped corn, 2 1/2 pounds.
Sept.	Vaccinate castrate	Pasture chopped corn, 4 pounds; silage and hay if necessary.
Oct.	do	Pasture; chopped corn, 5 pounds; silage, 10 pounds.
Nov.	Dry lot	Corn, 6 pounds; cottonseed meal, 1/2 pound; silage, 8 pounds; oat straw, unlimited; clover, 3 pounds.
Dec.	do	Corn, 7 pounds; cottonseed meal, 1 1/2 pounds; silage, 12 pounds; clover, 3 pounds; oat straw, unlimited.
Jan.	do	Corn, 8 pounds; cottonseed meal, 1 1/2 pounds; silage, 10 pounds; clover, 3 pounds; oat straw, unlimited.
Feb.	do	Corn, 9 pounds; cottonseed meal, 2 pounds; silage, 10 pounds; clover, 3 pounds; oat straw, unlimited.
Mar.	do	Corn, 10 pounds; cottonseed meal, 2 pounds; silage, 9 pounds; clover, 3 pounds; oat straw, unlimited.
Apr.	do	Corn, 11 pounds; cottonseed meal, 2 pounds; silage, 8 pounds; clover, 3 pounds; oat straw unlimited.
May	sell	Corn 12 pounds; cottonseed meal, 2 1/2 pounds; silage, 8 pounds; clover hay, 3 pounds; oat straw unlimited.

Profit in Raising Fall Pigs.

TO HAVE pigs weigh 200 pounds when they are six months old they must be farrowed the last of September or the first of October so they will get a good start before cold weather sets in. After farrowing, I always feed my sows heavily, as the gilts are a great drain on her, and the first two months of a pig's life is the time to start them. I give her corn, wheat, bran and nibblings. And I prefer to have some oats ground and mixed with the corn for a mash feed in the morning. After I feed in the morning I mix another batch and let it stand until night, as I think the feed gives better results if it is soaked for a few hours. At noon I give fresh water in troughs. I keep a box of charcoal and ashes where the pigs can help themselves at will and it is surprising the amount they will consume. I have several portable hog houses on the farm, made of good lumber, with good roofs and in several styles. But the favorite one is eight feet by eight feet. It is four feet high at the rear and six feet in front, with the front always set toward the south, and the roof sloped one way. As soon as the pigs want to eat with their mothers, I cut off one corner of the yard with boards, leaving space enough at the bottom for the pigs to get through. In this corner I keep a trough for skim milk and another for

equal parts ground oats, corn and middlings. This mixture I keep before them all the time, and they consume a lot of it.

Feed a pig in a way that will keep his appetite good, and feed it food that will supply the necessary elements for growth, and you will see it get up and hump and make the scales drop when it is put on, even though it may be young. And you know that is where the most money lies—in growing the pig quick, placing him on the market and getting other pigs in the lots to take the place of these that went to market.

Veterinary Department

G. H. CONN, D. V. Editor

WHAT causes heaves in horses and how can they be prevented? What can you do for a horse that has them?—E. A. Jackson, Mich. The old, old question—heaves are caused by the overloading of the stomach for such a length of time that the distension causes a diseased condition of the large Pneumogastric nerve that supplies the lungs and stomach with its nerve supply. This makes it impossible for the horse to expel all the air from the lungs as they lose their elasticity. If you have ever noticed the horse that has the heaves has no trouble in taking the air into the lungs but the trouble is in getting it out of them. Do not feed a heaver with large amounts of hay or other roughage, but rather give them more grain. Give them no hay at noon and not much in the morning but give them the bulk of it in the evening. Give one tablespoonful of Fowler's solution of arsenic on the feed three times each day as this will give some relief. This should not be given for more than one-half of the time.

CAN YOU send me the best remedy for hens affected with cholera? I have a nice flock of Plymouth Rocks and have lost several. Their heads get dark and after a time they droop and die. Mrs. E. W. West Branch, Mich. Chicken cholera as you know is a germ disease and is contagious. It is caused by Bacillus Avisepticus and is a blood poisoning. So the first thing to do in this condition is to destroy all dead birds by burning or burying deeply and covering with lime. Clean up all houses and roosts and thoroly disinfect with any good standard disinfectant and then whitewash the inside of the houses and coops. If the chickens have been confined to a yard that is not too large this should be well sprinkled with lime and then with a good disinfectant solution and then spaded or plowed under. The sick birds should be removed and kept from the well ones at all times. Take equal parts of Sodium Sulphocarbonate and Zinc Sulphocarbonate and have your druggist put this in 5 grain capsules and then dissolve the contents of one capsule in one-half pint of drinking water. This will be enough for ten chickens. If you had fifty chickens you would use 5 capsules. Keep this water before them at all times and do not allow them any other. Keep the drinking fountains well cleaned and disinfected.

I HAVE A heifer that has had one calf. She is supposed to come fresh in August. Can you tell me why I have to churn so long, over an hour, then I can not gather the butter. What causes a cow to hold up their milk.—Mrs. M. J. G. South Bend, Ind. It sometimes happens after a cow has given milk for several months and as she approaches the lactation period that her cream churns very hard, which is due no doubt to the partial exhaustion of the secretive part of the udder and for this reason the fat globules are very small and cannot be very easily gathered together; but it is more than likely that you let your cream get too warm and keep it that way when you begin and also for several hours before you churn. I would advise you to get a floating dairy thermometer which cost a quarter or in that neighborhood and then keep your cream at about 62 degrees if possible. After the cream is ripe and ready for churning make an effort to keep it for twelve hours longer at this same temperature and then you may rest assured that it is thoroly cooled; if it does not churn well at this temperature try 60 degrees; however 62 is the average, but I know some who churn as low as 52 and 54.

There is no real reason why a cow should hold up her milk other than the fact that she has the ability to do so and therefore exercises that right. If there is anything that can be done for it I have never found out what it is. It is no doubt aggravated by being rough and cross around such cows and I know of nothing that will do more good than handling her with care and try to keep her from getting nervous and excited.

Curbing Sheep Loses By Cur Dogs

THE TREASURERS in 502 counties of fifteen states report that in one year they paid sheep claims for 34,683 animals killed by vagrant, cur dogs. Applying this same rate of loss to twenty one other sheep states where detailed records are not available would increase the total loss to approximately 107,760 sheep per year. This is representative of an economic loss which can be and should be prevented. The mongrel dog is a grievous offender and deserves extinction as the fitting reward for his innumerable atrocities.

Good-for-nothing canines are the cause of the low percentage of sheep maintained on the average American farm. In England there is one sheep or lamb for each 2.5 acres of farming land while in the United States in the thirty-seven farming states of the Middle West, East and South each sheep or lamb has 31.8 acres of land over which to roam. The moral effect of the sheep killing dog in impeding the development and extension of the sheep industry is beyond estimate. There are thousands of farmers who would like to keep a flock of sheep but when they hear about the stray dogs killing five of neighbor Jones' and half of the Smith flock, they are deterred from engaging in the sheep business.

Expert sheepmen claim that our present holdings of sheep can be increased five hundred per cent without in any respect jeopardizing the industry. Leaving out the western states where the sheep population is large if the sheep numbers in the other sections of the country were increased 150 per cent, we would have 33,681,000 head more which would be worth \$144,267,000.

One of the most beneficial measures ever enacted in Michigan for the protection of the sheep industry of the state became effective on August 1st. This is the law enacted by the last legislature which requires that henceforth owners of dogs in the rural districts must pay an annual license fee of \$2.00 for each male animal and \$5.00 for each female in their possession. The act also enlarges the powers of deputies and police and makes it possible for officers to kill off without warning any unlicensed dogs roaming at large in districts to which the law applies. These districts it may be added, include all the state with the exception of cities in which charters or ordinances provide otherwise for the disposition of fees derived from the tax upon dogs.

Save The Feed Supply.

Conserve the farm feeds. Saving them is next in importance to saving human food.

More corn, rye and barley will be used for human consumption this winter than ever before, in order that more wheat and wheat flour may be exported. This will cut down materially the available supply of feeding-stuffs. A late growing season and, in some quarters, dried-up pastures have inspired further to lessen the feed supply. Consequently farmers are certain to have difficulty in obtaining sufficient grain and roughage to winter a normal amount of livestock. To do so it will be necessary for them to husband the feed supply quite as carefully as the housewives of the country are conserving food supplies.

As it is too late for the farmer to adopt plans making for any material increase in the amount of feed available for the coming winter, his problem is to make the best possible use of the supplies now in sight. This means avoiding wastes of feed.

Let there be clean mangers as well as clean plates.

Let the rats and mice do the starving.

Keep the livestock healthy and feed the animals in clean places, so that what is fed will not be wasted.

Careful attention to the arrangement of rations means feed economy as well as profit.

MARKET FLASHES

WHEAT LIKELY TO SELL AT \$2

In Fixing Price of 1918 Crop Government Established Precedent Which It May Have to Follow

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	2.15	2.16	2.20
No. 3 White	2.14	2.15	2.20
No. 2 Red	2.20	2.26	2.32
No. 3 Red	2.18	2.24	2.30

In view of the passage of the food-control bill and the world demand for wheat, there is little anticipation of the price of this cereal dropping below \$2 a bushel at any time this year. This assumption is based upon the further fact that the United States should have grown a billion bushels of wheat this year instead of 700,000,000, in order to meet the demands that will be made upon this necessity before another harvest season comes around. The allied nations of Europe will again be heavy purchasers of American wheat and should the price drop below \$2 a bushel, the producers would undoubtedly hold their supplies until the price had recovered its former level.

The passage of the food-control bill did not fix the price of the 1917 wheat crop; it must be clearly understood that the guaranteed minimum price of \$2 a bushel for wheat, set out in the bill, applies only to the 1918 harvest. Yet, if the price of wheat is forced down and the farmers are compelled to hold their wheat for satisfactory prices, the government is prepared under the act to purchase the entire crop in order to protect the producers and stabilize the price of bread. For this reason it is expected that wheat will not drop below \$2 a bushel and if anything, it will probably advance in price as the visible supply is found inadequate in face of a world shortage of the cereal.

Never was there a greater demand for American wheat than at the present time. According to an address delivered by W. J. Hanna, the Canadian food controller, before the Canadian club at Montreal, the total requirements of the allies in wheat are 1,150,000,000 bushels. The production of Europe was 645,000,000 bushels which leaves 450,000,000 bushels to be imported from North America. According to the most reliable estimates it is figured that the United States and Canada will have approximately 300,000,000 bushels to export above home consumption, which still leaves a shortage of 150,000,000 bushels to be secured from some other source. It may be seen from these figures that bread hungry Europe will have a tendency to stabilize the wheat market in the United States.

The American wheat crop was no more than a normal crop if we are to believe the reports of the federal government. The drought in the northwest cut down the national yield considerably and it is expected that the supply will be further reduced by the farmers sowing a greatly increased acreage this fall and next spring as a result of the congressional action in guaranteeing them a minimum price of \$2 a bushel for the 1918 crop.

Because of the pressing need of food among the warring nations of Europe, the governments are seizing many of the grain crops. Hungarian crops will be requisitioned by the government as soon as harvesting and threshing are completed. Farmers there will be permitted to retain only sufficient of the crops for their private use and for seed. Baron Rhondda, the British food administrator, by an order has taken over the 1917 crops of wheat, barley, oats, rye and potatoes. At the present time a billion dollar grain corporation is in the making by the food control committee, to buy the domestic wheat crop. If such a corporation is formed it will be for the purpose of preventing speculative buying and protecting the interests of the producers.

LAST MINUTE WIRE

CHICAGO WIRE—Hog market strong with advancing tendencies. Corn market unsettled and lower.

DETROIT SPECIAL—Poultry of good quality in strong demand. Egg market higher. Exceptional demand for all grades of new hay.

NEW YORK—Quotations on creamery butter of good quality show tendency to advance. Grain market active with heavy receipts.

BUFFALO—Livestock market in all branches strengthening with daily receipts about equal to demand. Strong competition between packers and eastern shippers.

How this New Market Weekly will Help Farmers of Michigan to sell their Crops at Greater Profit

Show us a farmer in Michigan,—a real business farmer, a man in the business of farming for the purpose of making money,—who is not interested in the crops, crop conditions and markets of the state and nation. We want to see him. We are certain, in the language of the slangist, that "there aint no sich animal."

Every true business farmer of the present day watches the trend of the markets as anxiously as his growing crops. For what does it benefit a man to bring a bountiful crop to harvest if he cannot sell it at a profit?

To sell at a profit is the new hope,—the new purpose,—back of the modern day farming. To bring this hope to realization requires a constant and intelligent study of the crop yield throughout the country, the conditions at the leading primary markets, and the manner in which prices on farm commodities are lowered or advanced by supply and demand, speculation, world influences, etc.

To learn the secrets of the marketing game is not easy; the marketing book contains something more than the letters of the alphabet; knotty problems, puzzling situations, unexplainable phenomena, deep, dark mystery attend the supposedly simple process of transporting farm products thru the devious channels that connect the producer and the consumer. For after they leave the farmer's hands he knoweth not where they go. Frequently, they get waylaid, hauled

into storage and six months later Mr. Consumer pays double and thrifble the price the farmer got for them.

In MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, we believe, the farmers of Michigan will find a simple key with which to unlock the secrets of market manipulations and show them quickly and correctly when, where and how to market their products at greater profit. It will keep a steady finger upon the market pulse, and with every fluctuation which sends prices of farm products up or down, the news will be flashed to every section of this great state. Every Saturday morning it will announce to the two hundred thousand farmers of Michigan the prices that are being paid on all the principal markets of the country for the products they have to sell. It will keep in constant touch with all conditions affecting the market—crop acreage, weather, crop yields, weekly exports, government regulation, etc.

If you feel with us that MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING comes at an opportune time to fill an actual and long-felt need in the state, your utmost co-operation as a friend and subscriber will prove it. If you find something of value in this paper for you, your neighbor may find something of equal value to him. You can do us an inestimable favor, by telling your neighbor of Michigan's new farm, home and market weekly, and show him how it will help him to market his farm products at a greater profit.—THE EDITORS.

OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 1 White	.70	.66	.76
No. 2 White	.69	.65	.74
No. 3 White	.68	.65	.74
No. 2 Mixed	.68	.65	.70

The oat market has been a trifle unsettled during the past week as a result of its passing thru a period of readjustment just prior to the movement of the new crop. In many sections of the country where the holdings were large concessions were made by the holders in an effort to clear the bins for the new crops. The small declines brot results but it is said that there are still plenty of old oats in storage.

There is every indication that the crop harvested is the largest on record exceeding the 1,000,000,000 bushels

raised in 1915. The new crop has already begun to move in volume in many parts of the country and market quotations are only a few cents under those quoted on old stock. The prices are expected to remain relatively high for some time.

Michigan oats are a fairly good crop. In many sections of the state the grain was so heavy that it became lodged during a storm just before the harvest began. This curtailed the yield somewhat yet it is believed that the crop as a whole is better than yields per acre are being received that of a year ago. Reports of good from sections of the state where the crop has already been threshed.

The bulk of the oats offered on the Chicago market last week were quickly snatched up presumably to fill sales for shipment made for the first half of August when the new crop was being moved very slowly.

SELLING WHAT YOU RAISE AT A PROFIT is equally as important as raising the utmost your land will produce. Our editor, Grant Slocum, was one of the first leaders in America to advance this theory and no expense has been spared to make this department without question the best of its kind in America.

The prices quoted are received from direct sources on all leading markets and form a basis by which any reader can find out exactly what his product is worth on his local market.

The price your local buyer should pay is the price quoted less freight from your shipping point to the best market, with a reasonable allowance for his commission or profit.

The advice given is written by our own employed market editor and is based on his best judgment with the facts and figures from all parts of the country before him. This advice is given wholly from the farmers' side of the fence, and while of course, it is not infallible, still an experience covering many years has proven that in the long run our Market Editors' advice based on this daily study of the markets, is the most reliable and the only unprejudiced advice which the farmers of Michigan are able to secure thru any known source.

Special direct Market Advice or best price on any commodity will be given any subscriber of record to this publication any day in the week by mail, wire or telegraph inquirer to pay sending and receiving costs. Address Market Editor, 323 Backett Street, Detroit. Telephone Cherry 2021.

FARMERS' ACTION AFFECTS PRICES

Intelligent Study of Market Conditions, and Careful Selling Will Help Keep Prices Steady

In spite of all the bearish talk of bumper crop yields, peace proposals, etc., we would advise the farmers of the state not to be in any hurry to sell their products as soon as the markets opens up, unless, of course, the prices offered are high enough to insure good profits on the crops.

Every farmer of the state should have his mind made up as to just about what price he should have for his various crops to pay him a good profit. No farmer, for instance, should be satisfied with less than \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bushel for his potatoes. That is high; it seems too much in comparison with opening prices previous years; but those of us who bought seed potatoes at \$3 per bushel and paid well to have them planted and cared for, only to have part of the crop damaged by rains and bugs, know that we cannot afford to sell for less than that.

So it is with all the other crops we raise in Michigan. It is necessary that prices be much higher this year than formerly, as the cost of producing them has been higher. The farmer who rushes to market with his newly harvested crop and sells it at below cost is not only hurting himself but doing an injustice to his neighbors. There is a certain price at which to sell the crops to insure profitable returns. No farmer should be satisfied with less than that, and should hold on to the crops until the price rises to suit. The farmer who holds his crop for a figure above what they are worth is a speculator and he has no one to blame but himself if he loses.

It is quite true that the nation will harvest the greatest crop in its history this year. But that signifies nothing. The crops were planted in response to a huge demand, which has only strengthened with the opening of the harvest, and held the prices firm. If there were anything economically wrong, and the demand a merely manufactured one, the results of such weakness would have already been felt. But with the new crops pouring into the market, the price remains steady, and the most pessimistic of us must believe that there IS a huge shortage of food which not even our bumper 1917 crop yield can supply.

CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	1.89	1.93	
No. 3 Yellow	1.89	1.87	
Common	1.87	1.80	
No. 2 Mixed			

With moderate offerings of corn the country over, the market on this crop has taken a sharp advance on the rumor of an oversold market. There is a big demand for cash corn with the prices steady. Prices are abnormally high on corn and as the new crop begins to move, sensational developments in this market may be expected.

The corn crop shows a material improvement in the corn belt. The hot weather, while causing considerable damage in many of the corn growing states, was checked in time by soaking rains. Michigan corn received a late start, and it will require weeks of warm weather to bring it to maturity.

The recent government crop report forecasted a bumper crop of corn in the United States. There are yet many things such as early frosts and even a drought that may blast the nation's prospects of a good corn crop but the corn belt is reported to look most promising at this time.



HAY

Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	16 50 17 00	16 50 17 00	15 50 16 00
Chicago	18 50 19	17 50 18	16 17
Cincinnati	18 19	17 50 18	16 50 17
Pittsburgh	18 50 19 25	17 50 18	16 50 17
New York	18 19	17 50 18	16 17
Richmond	19 50 20	17 50 18 50	16 50 17 50

Markets	No. 1 Light Mixed	No. 1 Clover	No. 1 Clover
Detroit	16 50 16 75	16 00 16 50	14 00 15 00
Chicago	18 18 50 16	17 16 17	
Cincinnati	17 50 18	16 16 50 17	16 50 17
Pittsburgh	17 50 18	16 16 50 17	16 50 17
New York	16 50 17	16 16 50 17	16 17
Richmond	19 19 50 17	18	

There is little activity in the hay market while the dealers are cleaning up their old stocks preparatory to receiving the new one which will begin to move next month. There is still considerable old hay in stock but the prices continue firm. The demands for army hay are active and are having their influence on prices. So long as the war continues, there will be a heavy drain upon American horses, and consequently upon American hay for feeding purposes.

The hay crop is reported to be normal in most sections of the country. Plenty of rainfall during the spring and summer months produced luxuriant growths of grass and the farmers were favored with ideal haying weather when it came time to stow away the crop. Most of the hay, according to the reports from many states, is of mixed varieties but of good quality. The Michigan crop was heavy and good.

The Detroit hay market is steady and much old hay is now being moved.



FLOUR & FEED

With old wheat stocks low and only a normal crop in sight and European war demands draining heavily upon American wheat, it seems almost certain that the price of flour will steadily advance until another crop can be harvested. If such is the case business farmers of Michigan who must buy their supply of flour will probably find it to their advantage to buy now while the market is lower than it was a month ago. The same is true of farmers who must purchase commercial feeds. Quotations on both flour and feeds are fluctuating now from day to day, presumably as the market weakens and strengthens under the pressure of heavy movements of grains from which they are manufactured. Among the feeds, cotton seed meal is expected to advance in price soon, as the August crop report showed the cotton crop to be about 2 per cent below normal.



POTATOES

MARKETS	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	1.65	1.55
Chicago	1.60	1.50
Cincinnati	1.65	1.60
New York	1.80	1.75
Pittsburgh	1.65	1.60
Norfolk, Va.	1.65	1.60

During the last week movement of the new Michigan crop of earlies began to be felt on the Detroit market but in such small quantities as to have little influence on quotations. Farmers seem to be reluctant about selling the new crop or it may be because they are too busy in the harvest fields to take time to dig the new tubers for which there is a strong demand in all city markets.

As the movement of the new Michigan crop is slow the Detroit market is continuing firm and prices are relatively high. Some of the first new tubers have been selling as high as \$1.80 a bushel but the bulk of the supply has been selling at \$1.65 and \$1.70 a bushel. The farmers are being urged by produce men to market the new crop while there is a good demand and the supply is low. They are also being informed that Michigan has a bumper crop of early varieties and are warned against holding until fall in view of the promising government crop report. Whether to sell or not to sell is now the problem before many busy Michigan business farmers.

A glance at the government crop report forecasting a national yield of

467,000,000 bushels and then at the average yield of 363,000,000 bushels for the normal years from 1911 to 1915 might at first alarm the potato growers were it not for the fact that there is at present and for many months to come a world shortage of foodstuffs. There is an estimated shortage of 150,000,000 bushels of wheat and it may become even more acute as the war progresses and Germany continues her effective underwater attacks upon commerce. The shortage of wheat must be made up in some other way and the bumper potato crop seems to be the logical crop to do this. The government is already urging the people to eat more potatoes and it is reported that experiments are now being conducted in an effort to manufacture a new kind of flour made from dried potatoes and wheat.

There is every reason to believe that the market on potatoes will not go below \$1 a bushel. It is more likely to be considerably above that quotation. The fixing of this price rests more in the hands of the growers this year than ever before. They have fully been informed on the world food shortage and if prices are not satisfactory, it will be their privilege to hold their crop until prices adjust themselves to a point where they belong. But it seems almost certain that the food needs of the allies and the activities of the German submarines will have a tendency to stabilize the potato market without the growers taking any drastic action.

Potato dealers are now laying plans for a heavy trade in tubers this fall. Many car lot shipments will be placed in industrial centers for winter storage. It is expected the market will start out brisk as soon as the fall crop begins to move, as the city people are planning on purchasing their winter supply early.



BEANS

With the bean market only a few weeks away, every Michigan business farmer who has a single acre planted to this crop is vitally concerned over the future market. It is common knowledge both to farmers and grain dealers that the bean stocks are practically exhausted and what few there are in the country are in control of the dealers. Empty bins await the new crop and the market should open with the highest price on record owing to the huge war demand.

According to western despatches, both California and Colorado have large bean acreages that will yield well. Minnesota has a normal acreage with good prospects of a normal yield. New York state is reported to have a greatly increased acreage but like Michigan, she has suffered greatly from early heavy rainfall. The Michigan crop is probably the most discouraging one grown in many years. Thousands of acres were completely drowned out and about the same acreage was planted so late that it is doubtful if they reach maturity before the first frosts come. In view of the fact that Michigan produces three quarters of the nation's bean supply, it can be readily seen that if the law of supply and demand regulates the price of beans this fall, present quotations will probably not undergo much slashing upon the opening of the market.

State authorities predict that the bean market will open at not less than \$6.50 to \$6.75 a bushel. To many farmers even this price will not be sufficient to compensate them for the losses sustained by the drowning out of several acres planted with high priced seed and the damage done to the remainder of the crop that survived the storms and the backwardness of the growing season. At present beans are quoted at \$8 and \$9 a bushel with the market dull.

A Fine Thing.

In regard to the new Market paper that you contemplate publishing, I think it would be a fine thing. I have been wondering why we didn't have better Market reports, that is, honest reports about the Markets. So enclosed find my order for the paper. I hope you will succeed with the paper.—M. Janski, Elkton, Mich.



APPLES

With the apple crop estimated just slightly below normal some market authorities on fruits believe that the market will be equally as firm and as good for choice hand-picked and sorted fruit as last year. There is a good demand for apples of number one grade on all markets but up to the present time the quality of the early varieties being received are not up to standard and consequently were not bringing the best of prices. Reports are being received of contracts being made by packers for the fall and winter varieties at attractive figures which might be taken to indicate that apple prices are going to be high next winter. The Michigan crop is reported small but of good quality. There is a strong demand in Detroit for Duchess apples which are now selling for \$2 and \$2.25 a bushel according to grade.

Michigan peaches, widely known on the large fruit markets, will not hold the attention of the buyers for any great length of time this year. The crop is small and attractive contracts are being offered western growers for their entire crop, tree run. One firm has made a standing offer to a Van Buren county farmer to buy his entire crop tree run at \$1.25 a bushel. The company agrees to furnish the baskets and pay all transportation charges from the orchard to the market. This offer was refused as it is believed that Michigan peaches will be worth more than that price when the picking season opens.



EGGS

Fine fresh eggs are firmer and higher this week and the chances seem good for them to go to still higher levels. The supply has fallen off considerably during the last two months, due principally to the high cost of feeds which the farmers say makes egg production unprofitable. For that reason many of them have sold off their flock and this has reduced the number of laying fowls to the lowest figure in the history of poultry husbandry.

Detroit is a good egg market and the demand for freshly laid stock is firm. The New York market is easier due principally to a falling off in egg consumption. The hot weather has also had its influence on the market. In Philadelphia the market has advanced under a short supply and an active demand. Freshly laid eggs are quoted 40 cents a dozen in Detroit this week.



BUTTER

A study of quotations on extras since the beginning of the butter season in May shows that the price has varied but little, and considering the entire year, outside of a few violent fluctuations, prices have not varied much over five cents a pound. During the entire butter deal extras have averaged close to 40 cents.

The firm advancing market is due primarily to the extremely hot weather, causing short pastures and in many instances deteriorating the grade of butter. Some delays have been encountered in long distant shipping. Good creamery butter is firm on all markets and higher prices are expected when the new milk price schedules go into effect in Michigan and other states where dairying is carried on extensively. Government contracts for the use of the navy have reduced the supply and aided in keeping the price of butter close to the 40-cent mark.



POULTRY

LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	Cinn.
Turkey	25-26	20-21	
Ducks	23-24	22-23	
Geese	19-21	18-19	
Springers	27-28	24-25	
Hens	22-23	20-21	

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

Never in the history of the Detroit market has the demand for poultry

been so keen as at present. There is a shortage of fancy, top grades of heavies, and the prices are firm. There is an abundance of light stock but even these grades are bringing good prices. Michigan business farmers who have a coop of chickens or old hens to sell would realize more from their flocks if they would ship direct to Detroit or any of the large markets within easy reach of their shipping station. Just at present many farmers are selling their poultry locally and no doubt the returns are not as satisfactory as they should be.

Shortage of feeds is causing many poultry men to sell off their flocks and this accounts for the large supply of light, grass-fed fowls now on the market. Old hens are in good demand in Detroit and the market on broilers is unusually active for this season of the year. No. 1 hens are

Shippers should be very careful and not over crowd the coops, as the fowls are very apt to get smothered in transit. Remember a loss of a fowl at the present selling prices represents quite an item. Be sure and get in your supply of chicken coops before the fall rush begins.



CATTLE

Grade	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	10 00-10 50	13 50-15 00	13 25-14 60
Steers, Com. to Fair	8 50-9 25	9 75-13 45	9 50-13 25
Heifers, good to prime	7 50-8 00	8 30-12 40	8 40-12 60
Cows, Average	7 50-7 75	8 25-11 25	8 20-11 20
Canners—Cutters	5 25-6 00	5 75-7 50	5 60-7 25
Bulls, Average	7 00-7 50	7 00-7 50	7 00-7 50
Veal, Fair to Good	14 00-15 00	12 25-14 75	13 50-15 00

The cattle market is slowly recovering from the jolt given it a few weeks ago when the western feeders were threatened with a most disastrous drought which caused them to rush their cattle of all grades upon the markets. The long needed rains brought much relief and quotations on practically all grades of live stock are on the up grade this week.

Steers weighing over 1,500 pounds are scarce on the market and are bringing good prices. The best of these offerings on the Chicago market were sold at \$14.50. Buyers are looking for prime big-weights and the scarcity of this heavy stock is evidence enough to most traders that feeders will not feed their corn. The few feeders who have prime corn-fed heavy animals are in no hurry to market as they have confidence in the future market. So far this month the market has been too heavily supplied with common grassy and feeder stock which has made the market unprofitable for feeders with choice, prime animals.

The present time seems opportune for farmers wishing to secure feeder stock for the winter. The enormous amount of thin cattle on the market can be bought at prices now that may not be seen again for weeks, especially after the cooler weather comes and the meat consumption picks up.

Each week brings the corn crop nearer maturity and present conditions indicate a big crop, which will mean an abundance of feed in most sections. With the assistance of a silo, even should some of the corn crop mature, Michigan business farmers will have plenty of feed that will be wasted if they do not get some cattle to consume it. The strong market for good to choice cattle in recent weeks in the face of the big declines on grassy lots should stimulate the farmers to buy more cattle, as it is an indication that buyers will continue to want them to supply both home and foreign trade.

Cattle values are steady to strong under good demand and moderating offerings on both the Chicago and Buffalo livestock markets. Even the Detroit market is showing much improvement. Prime steers are topping the market at \$14.50. Distillery cattle are selling just a few cents lower. Calves are in good demand and are selling from \$14.25 to \$14.50.



HOGS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Heavy 240-290	16 50 17 80	17 75 18 25	18 25 18 40
Med. 200 to 240	15 25 15 70	17 00 17 90	17 50 17 75
Mixed 150-200	15 00 15 25	16 40 18 00	16 75 17 25
Packers 100-150	14 50 14 75	16 35 18 00	15 50 16 00
Pigs 100 down	11 75 14 50	11 75 15 00	12 00 15 00

With the passing of each day it seems that a new record is being hung up either in the Chicago or Buffalo markets on well finished hogs.

County Crop Reports

Things are happening so spectacularly on these markets that it is not safe to predict what tomorrow holdeth for the shipper. With the price of corn and all other kinds of feeds sky-rocketing, a slumping market would hardly be justifiable but sometimes justice doesn't rule the markets and the unexpected happens.

Some business farmers are holding and have been for some time, for a higher market. They have felt that they could not sell at any price offered two and three weeks ago because of the tremendous investment they had made in their hogs by feeding high-priced corn to them. Quotations are now working their way to a point where it may be considered advisable to unload.

Market despatches indicate that there is a strong demand on the Chicago and Buffalo markets for well finished hogs. Both shippers and packers figure in the buying and such competitive markets always bring results and establish record prices. The bulk of the hogs last week sold around \$16.50 but a few car lots of prime animals topped the market off at \$18.25 to \$19.00. The highest ever known.



SHEEP

The market on both sheep and lambs has been somewhat stronger the past week. The high prices paid a few weeks ago spelt disaster to this market as the consumer boycotted the meat, reducing the consumption to a point where the market weakened. It has now recovered a part of its strength and prices are again on the up-grade.

Altho prices may enjoy a sharp bulge within the next few weeks, market authorities say there is certain to be a wide spread in values as buyers are discriminating against the plain kinds and probably will continue to do so. Much depends upon the consumptive demand but retail prices have worked down enough to stimulate the call from the consumer, and once packers find a better outlet for dressed stock they will support the market for live stuff with greater zeal.

The high price of wool and mutton is encouraging many Michigan business farmers to re-engage in the sheep industry. This has stimulated trade in breeding ewes in many sections of the state where they are selling at premium prices. Ewes are selling on the Chicago and Buffalo market around \$8.50 to \$9.50 and lambs are topping the market between \$15 and \$16.50. Culls and feeders are bringing from \$11 to \$13.50. The demand is reported active for all kinds.

Much interest is centered in the wool trade at Boston as a result of a proposal by eastern wool buyers to sell 50 per cent of the present supply to the government at current prices and then storing the wool for the government for four months free of any demurrage.

If the taking of 50 per cent of supplies now available in the market creates a shortage of raw material, it would be easy for the prevailing prices on the balance of the stock to advance and for the speculative element, which has been practically absent during the past few weeks, to make itself felt once more. Then it would be possible for those who have advocated \$2 wool see the situation come to pass.

South American wools on the Boston market are still high, quotations being as follows: Lincoln wool, 68 to 69 cents; average quarter-bloods, 73 to 75 cents; high quarter-bloods, 77 to 80 cents; half and three-eighths bloods, 85 cents and above. Quotations on Michigan wools range from 63 to 67 cents a pound. In some places little buying is going on on account of the unsettled market.

COAL SITUATION

Prospects of lower coal prices for the consumer seem more certain as we are going to press, and word comes from Washington that President Wilson is preparing to take action under the food bill looking to government regulation of coal prices for the entire nation. State authorities are also taking a hand in the situation, and the consumer ought to know by the middle of September at least about what prices he will have to pay for his winter's supply.

Antrim—Bean acreage about ten per cent higher than 1916; potato and corn acreage about equal to last year's. Corn and bean conditions medium; potatoes good. Long spell of dry weather kept crops back but mid-month rains brightened them up again. Corn is growing very rapidly now, and if we can escape early frosts, will mature.—C. T. W., Aiden.

Montcalm—Most of the crops in this vicinity look fine. Rye and late oats yielded well. Some good fields of beans and others that promise no yield. Potatoes looking fine. We have two acres of earlies about ready to dig. Corn picking up and will be average crop if weather continues favorable. Our buckwheat never looked better. E. W., Coral.

Cass County—Small acreage of beans, the probably double 1-st year's acreage. Condition about 80 per cent last year. Potato acreage 10 percent larger; with good weather yield should be 100 bushels to acre as compared with 75 bushels last year, but if dry weather continues crop will be permanently injured. Acreage, condition and yield of corn about the same as 1916. 30 bushels to acre probable yield. —P. H. S., Marcellus.

Genesee—Haying and harvesting have been about completed in the county, with exception of oats. Farmers are not doing any selling, nor buying much with the exception of silos. Early potatoes are very good this year. Wheat a lot better than was expected last spring. Rye is about an average yield. Hay was short in acreage, but the heavier yield makes up for the shortage. Corn is extra poor this year. Good yield of oats promised. —C. W. S., Fenton.

Monroe—Not a bean county, probably not more than 150 acres planted; conditions medium, owing to early wet weather; estimated yield about 12 bushels. Potato acreage larger than 1916 by 25 per cent; condition is medium owing to extensive drought. Corn acreage 30 per cent higher than 1916; condition poorer and impossible to estimate yield. Wheat crop was good; oats above average. —E. W. H., Erie.

Grand Traverse—Much of the bean crop destroyed by insects; yield probably around 12 bushels; potato acreage larger and condition of late tubers good; early potatoes hit by drought; corn crop in very poor condition owing to early cold and wet weather; unless remarkably good weather prevails farmers will not get enough corn for seed.—B. E. O., Buckley.

Clare—Haying and grain cutting nearly finished. Farmers have had some trouble getting help. It looks bad for the future when our soldier boys shall have gone. There will be a large acreage of wheat sown here this fall if ground can be fitted. Principle crops here are rye, oats, corn and hay. Quite a few farmers have high-priced beans in their bins yet; held too long. Some nice large round-roof barns are going up despite the cost of material. W. C. Fuller, Farwell.

Huron—Bean acreage about the same as last year; condition poor; many farmers had to sow crop a second time and very few fields have pods as yet; potato acreage less than 1916; condition of crop medium but better than last year; ground is pretty low to grow potatoes successfully. Corn acreage larger this year, but condition poor, in fact, very little of it will ripen and seed corn will be hard to get another year.—G. W., Elkton, Mich.

Benzie—Bean acreage in this county probably double that of last year, but the condition is not so good; estimated yield only 7 bushels; hot winds last of July injured crop in eastern part of county; potato acreage ten percent less than 1916; estimated yield about 100 bushels, same as last year; crop shows effect of poor seed, dry weather, grasshoppers and some blight. Corn acreage about normal, but condition poor; if frost holds off till Oct. 1st, there may be a light crop.—F. M., Elberta, Mich.

St. Clair—The bean acreage is believed to be smaller in this section than last year and is in a very poor condition on account of so much rain last spring. The crop is not very far advanced and it is impossible to make an estimate of the yield at this time. Early beans drowned out and the late crop is very thin on the ground. The potato acreage is also below normal and only in a fair condition. This is not much of a potato county as we are satisfied if we raise enough for home consumption. Rainy weather raised havoc with the corn crop this year and is not as good as the poor crop harvested by the farmers last fall. Wheat oats and hay were better than an average crop.—A. M., Beeville, Mich.

Tuscola—Corn is very poor. Beans are looking good. Wheat and rye not very good; lots of smut. R. B. C., Caro.

Ogemaw—Hay a good crop but little baled as yet. Oats about ready to cut. Clover seeding is good. Not much building going on as material is too high. Farm labor high and hard to get at any price. Farmers helping each other with haying.—W. N., West Branch.

Oceana—Haying and harvesting about done in this locality, with exception of oats which were planted late. Many of the farmers sowed buckwheat in the place of corn as it was too wet for corn. Many of the beans were ruined this year by a little worm which worked this year by a just as they were coming up, but for all of that there will be a fair crop.

Saginaw—The hay was all put away without any rain and there was a very large crop. Some wheat is being sold. A number of silos are being built this summer. The farmers' club held a picnic last week. The club was started last winter and the meetings have been well attended. Corn, beans and potatoes looking fine since the heavy mid-month rains. J. A. M., Hemlock.

KENT—Bean acreage in this section about one-third larger than last year, with condition medium; yield may be anywhere from 20 to 50 bushels depending upon the weather the next three weeks. Potato acreage about the same as 1916, but condition better and estimated yield somewhat higher. Corn acreage about the same and condition better than in most sections of the state; estimated yield, 50 to 125 bushels.—J. C., Sparta, Mich.

Manistee—Bean, potato and corn acreage larger than 1916. Condition of beans about the same as last year, with estimated yield of 7 to 10 bushels; injured some by grasshoppers. Condition of potatoes medium; estimated yield, 60 bushels; doubtful if corn will mature. Grain crops nearly all harvested. Buckwheat looking fine, and if early frosts stay away, there will be a bumper crop. Farmers not selling much unless early potatoes.—H. A., Bear Lake, Mich.

Mason—Bean acreage is 20 per cent larger than last year; condition medium; crop ten days late; estimated yield, 12 bushels. In a normal season ten per cent of beans are damaged by frost; being late this year may mean a large increase in frosted beans. Acreage and condition of potatoes above last year; estimated yield 125 bushels as compared with 80 to 90 in 1916; never saw potatoes look better, but large percentage of them two weeks late. Acreage of corn way below 1916; condition poor and farmers will have very little to harvest.—J. S., Fountain, Mich.

Gratiot—Bean acreage probably double that of last year, and condition of the crop is much better; estimated yield, 10 to 12 bushels as compared with 5 to 8 last year; much of the crop was drowned out by early rains. Potato acreage also probably double, and condition very good. Estimated yield, 150 bushels; yield 1916, nothing to 40 bushels. Corn acreage a third larger, but conditions ideal allowing middle month rains; could use more moisture. Wheat yield has been light; hay and oats heavier than normal. Some farmers have commenced plowing for fall wheat.—A. E. J., Bannister, Mich.

Mecosta—The bean acreage in this section is about the same, but the condition of the crop is better than 1916; estimated yield, 8 bushels; beans always look good at this time and it is little early yet for blight to show up. Potato acreage less but nearly every rod of ground in the villages of the county have been planted condition is 20 percent better than last year; crop looking fine, but a chance of being cut 50 percent by blight or early frost. Crop acreage just normal and condition medium; with good weather until Sept. 20th, corn will reach ten-year average.—W. H. S., Remus, Mich.

Isabella—Every paper we pick up now a-days, we read about preparedness, and speeding up farming, back-yards and door-yards cropped, but we fail to see anything materialize about the prices to be paid by the government for our produce. Is it to be the same old story? The farmer take a back seat and let the middleman (with bristles on his back) reap all the profit. Farm labor has cost from \$2 to \$4 per day, and seed extremely high. Had not the farmer ought to share the profits this year. Bean crop very poor hereabouts owing to rain and weevil, the yield will probably not exceed 3 to 5 bushels. Potato acreage normal and crop looks good. Corn acreage less and condition very poor; should frost come first of September, very few fields would have even roasting ears. W. D. T., Blanchard.

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

As Forecasted by E. C. Foster for Michigan Business Farming

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbance to cross continent August 18 to 22, warm wave 17 to 21, cool wave 20 to 24. This will bring dangerous storms on land and water; probably tornadoes in the central valleys and hurricanes on our southern seas. Heavy rains in northern sections and droughts in more southern parts of the continent are expected.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about August 23 and temperature will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest Rockies by close of August 24, plains sections 25, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio valleys 26, eastern sections 27, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland near Aug. 28. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

This will not be so great a storm as the preceding but should be watched as it may be dangerous in some places. Temperatures of the preceding storm will average below normal, while this storm will tend to higher

temperatures that will reach very high degrees about last of August.

Crop weather for winter grain promises good, following Aug. 20, and it will have a vigorous growth, make good pastures and enter the Winter in good condition. This has but little to do with the question as to a good Winter grain yield for 1918. Blue grass Fall pastures of 1917 promise good. This and Winter grain pastures are important to the live stock industry.

Killing frosts are indicated for some northern states not far from September 20 and the silos should be filled before those frosts get the green stuff. In middle latitudes the killing frosts will come near Oct. 4 near latitude 40. Near latitude 35 we expect the killing frosts near Nov. 1. Whoever hopes to succeed in arming must provide good silos and save green stuff, for winter feeding, that would otherwise be lost. By adopting all the best methods of intensive farming the agricultural pursuits will become the best business one can pursue.

Midland—A normal acreage of beans approximately 2,000 acres, was planted this year and is in fair condition; estimated yield of 10 bushels as compared with 12 bushels last year. Much damage was done to the crop by rains. The same acreage of potatoes was planted again this year and the crop is in better condition than a year ago; estimated yield of 100 bushels per acre; last year, 75 bushels. A normal acreage of corn was planted but it will not yield satisfactorily. Crop is not as good as last year. Hay wheat, barley and oats are good crops.—F. A. L., Coleman, Mich.

Clinton—The 1917 bean acreage is about the same as in 1916 but in poor condition on account of rains, late planting and bean maggot; estimated yield this year, 8 bushels; last year, 5 to 8 bushels. On the whole, the crop looks a trifle better than last year but weather conditions must be favorable to secure a mature crop. This is not a potato county and the acreage is normal. The crop is in good condition and will yield approximately 200 bushels to the acre, which is 100 percent better than last year. A normal acreage of corn was planted but is in poor condition.—J. W. H., Grand Ledge, Mich.

Charlevoix—The 20 percent increased acreage of beans in this county is showing up better than last year; drought hurt crop some, but mid-month rains gave them another good start. Potato acreage increased one-fourth to one-half; condition of earlies medium, late good; much better than last year; estimated acreage 125 to 200 bushels. Corn acreage less than 1916, and crop about two weeks late; with good weather until Sept. 20th, some of the crop will mature. New potatoes are being marketed slowly influenced no doubt by hope of higher prices this fall; prices offered here higher than at Grand Rapids or Chicago. Apple crop very poor. Oats and wheat fair. Buckwheat looks fine. A few farmers plowing for fall wheat. Cucumber picking started last week with prospects of a good crop. C. P. M., Ellsworth.

NATIONAL CROP REPORTS

MARSHALL, WIS.—The first new potatoes sold here for \$1 a bushel, the early crop being a very bountiful one.

HATLEY, WIS.—The potato crop looks good, but the long July drought is believed to have reduced the yield considerably. Corn is about five weeks late, but is growing nicely now.

ROYALTON, MINN.—The potato crop here looks exceptionally good and a big yield is expected. Some sections are reporting blight and experts are assisting farmers in combating it.

SALT LAKE CITY—Grasshoppers have laid bare alfalfa and grain areas in Juab county, and have done damage of \$60,000, according to a report made by J. B. Walker, state crop inspector.

PARK RAPIDS, MINN.—A large potato and bean crop are practically assured. There have been some fine rains and potatoes are setting good. The acreage is about one-third larger than last year.

PAW PAW, MICH.—Prospects are first class for a large grape crop in VanBuren county and for good prices. Sales contracts have lately been made with juice factories at \$35 per ton delivered at factory without packing.

FALL CREEK, WIS.—So far the potato crop around here looks very good. Most of it is late, as very little early stock is planted here. Yield will be good providing no blights set in. Grains look good. Corn is very backward and looks like a poor crop.

NEW YORK—In response to America's need of an increased food supply during the war, sugar growers of Haiti will send to this country 90,000,000 pounds of their product during the next crop season, it was announced here by bankers with Haitian connections.

ABERDEEN, S. D., August 10—A light frost here last night through the northeastern portion of South Dakota was reported here. It is believed no damage was done to crops. The mercury here dropped to 44 degrees above zero.

ATLANTA, N. Y.—It looks as though potato shipments from here this season would amount to at least 200 cars. This is fully 20 per cent more than last year. Crop is not in particularly good condition because of unfavorable weather. Movement should start around Oct. 1.

HARRISBURG, P. A.—Pennsylvania farmers will produce approximately 25,674,400 bushels of potatoes from 309,331 acres planted with potatoes this spring, according to estimates made public this week at the State Department of Agriculture.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.—Onondaga county will harvest a light apple crop this year. Even spraying along thorough and systematic lines has not saved the prospects which were good at the start of the season. Rainy weather has brought out scab, even in many excellent sprayed orchards. The best outlook is for the Spies.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Early peaches will move in August but the main crop will not be ready to ship before September. The first two weeks of that month will probably be the heaviest on Elbertas. The crop all through the western New York belt is heavy and it is expected that at least 6,000 cars will be shipped. It is estimated that there are fully 9,000 cars of peaches on the trees at present. A good deal of the fruit will be taken care of by the local markets, leaving 6,000 cars to go outside.

GOLDENRIDGE, ME.—The first potatoes planted on fairly dry ground are looking well. There is, however, a large percentage of the crop planted late, which is coming along slowly, as the ground was wet and continued so. It has been a hard season to hoe and spray and for that reason the weeds and bugs will damage the crop materially. Quite a percentage of the crop was drowned out early. It is not believed that under the most favorable circumstances from now on in Aroostock that as large a harvest as last year can be secured. The rain has let up some, and all crops are growing rapidly.



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



A Message to Business Farmers' Wives.

DEAR FOLKS: I just know that a little thrill of pleasure came over each of you when you "discovered" this page almost the last but certainly not the least in this first issue of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. This does not mean that you have not been interested in the foregoing pages. Where is there a successful farm wife who is not concerned with the problems of the farm, and all discussions pertaining thereto? But in addition to her interest in her husband's work and worries, the true woman,—the real helpmate and partner—finds time and joy in solving the problems of home-making and in reading the most up-to-date literature on that subject.

I take a great deal of pride in the fact that I was chosen to take charge of the women's and children's department of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. So much has been written and said lately about the farmer and his wife that everybody finds them subjects of absorbing interest, and that is why, I suspect, I feel it so great a privilege to become more closely associated with a work in which they have a part.

I shall not tell you here about the plans we have in mind for this department. The features will be a little departure from the ordinary. The "business" idea as applied to the conduct of the farm will be similarly associated with the conduct of the farm home. Just as the farming industry is being systematized and raised to a higher plane of dignity and profit, so do we hope with your kind co-operation, dear readers, to offer suggestions and plans for greater efficiency in the home, which means less waste, less work and less worry. There is no woman, as a class, who puts in such long hours of drudging work as the farm woman, and it is with hope of lightening her work, of giving her greater zest to perform her everyday duties, and arousing an actual love for her job as home-maker, that we lay our plans today.

As I have said before, we shall need the co-operation of our readers. You can best give this by offering to us suggestions and stories of your own experiences. I can think of no more interesting feature for this department than a weekly letter from some farm woman telling us in her most simple language how she saved steps, prevented waste of left-over food, systematized her work, inaugurated real business methods in buying her supplies and in planning her meals, how she manages with the children, and how she has transformed the old farm house drudgery into a labor of love and delight.

It will not be easy for me to write every week a page of stories and suggestions which you will find at all times interesting and helpful. I must depend upon my readers for help, and I know the women of the farms will not fail me. Write your letters addressed to *Anne Campbell Stark*, care of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mount Clemens, Michigan.

Economy in Dress.

ASIDE from economy in the kitchen, the question of economy in dress strikes each woman right now. Every woman who has any pride delights in looking well, and in having her children neatly and becomingly garbed. I have found children's clothes to be very expensive when purchased ready-made. Boys' rompers, for instance, range in price anywhere from 89 cents to \$3.00 and \$4.00 and can be made, buttons and all, for 50 cents, using good material, and trimming with hand work. Little girls' dresses, too, are much more economical, if made at home.

When it comes to your own clothes, however, we can sometimes pick up bargains in ready-mades. Regardless, however, of how to solve

the dress question, whether we buy a dress form, and make our own clothes, order them at the village store, there are certain economies that some of us never consider.

The greatest economy in dress is to wear things suitable to the occasion. A simple house dress saves your good clothes. Never do cooking or any kind of housework in street or good clothes. Don't wear a kimona to do your work in. The place for a kimona is in the bedroom or bathroom.

It is economy to select a becoming color. One brown or straw hat will suit all tan or brown dresses. Dark shades of blue are serviceable and becoming to most everyone. Be sure your clothes suit you, and you will get a great deal more wear out of them. We have all made the remark: "I like my so-and-so dress so well, I just wear it to death!" If a person feels good in a dress, and knows she looks well in it, she will literally wear it to shreds before she will give it up.

Study your good points and draw attention from the defects. If you are large, avoid plaids, wide stripes of conspicuous colors. Avoid also cross lines. Try to lengthen the effect of your figure with long straight lines, which draw attention from your outline. If you have large hips, have any trimming below the largest part to call attention from them. If your face is too round or too pointed, use opposite lines to cover the defect, or anything that will draw attention from it. If you have good eyes, wear colors that will bring out their shade.

In buying goods, see that you buy it in good strong daylight. Avoid goods that are not guaranteed to wash. Do not let imitations tempt you. They will not give you half the service of the genuine article. Better fewer clothes, and better quality.

A considerable saving can be effected, especially in purchasing materials for children's clothes, by watching the remnant counter. You will find, too, that clothes can be bought to best advantage out of season.

Cotton, because it washes and irons so well, is the best material for summer or indoor winter house dresses.

Wool, of course, is the best protection against cold or damp weather.

I have found it economical in buying any materials to purchase an extra yard for later on mending or remodeling. Sometimes when we go back later for goods, it is gone.

Plain standard colors are more economical than odd shades, which one soon grows tired of. Don't buy any more garments than you absolutely need.

For a practical outfit, the following is suggested: One long raincoat; one good tailored suit; one best or soft wool dress; one hack or second best suit; one cotton outing suit for summer; one white dress for summer; two cotton afternoon dresses; two cotton house or work dresses; two kimonas; several bungalow aprons; one sweater; three or four blouses; bathrobe; one or two suitable hats, shoes, gloves and suitable underwear for the various seasons.

Another Way to Use Tomatoes.

CANS are costly, time is short, and garden stuff is abundant, but perishable; why not bottle tomato paste instead of canning your crop of tomatoes. Tomato paste is a concentrated form, available for use in soups, sauces, and in combination with beans, macaroni, and spaghetti. Every European knows tomato paste and you can buy it from the American grocer; but the housewife who has a tomato patch, can prepare paste at no expense but a little time. The advantage of this concentrated form when jars are scarce is clear—any odd bottles can be used for the paste, corked and sealed with sealing wax.

1 quart thick strained tomato pulp; 1 slice onion; 4 tablespoonfuls of chopped sweet red pepper pulp, or one teaspoonful of paprika; 1-2 teaspoonful of salt; 1 teaspoonful of sugar; 1 tablespoonful of mixed spices.

Cook spices tied in bag with tomato pulp in a pan over boiling water for about three hours, or until the paste is thick enough to hold the shape of a spoon when tested by dipping out a spoonful. Bottle hot in freshly scalded bottles, cork and seal. The sealing can be easily managed if the cork is forced down below the edge of the neck and the top surface sealed over with sealing wax or paraffin.

The Bent Pin.

MARY'S mother shook her head impatiently. "I don't want that bent pin, Mary," she said. "Get me a straight one." Mary ran to the pincushion and put the bent pin back where she found it.

The Bent Pin sighed. "It is sad to be good for nothing," he thought. All the other pins stood up straight and strong and gazed at him scornfully. He bent over more than ever beneath their cruel glances. He had heard the other pins boast so often about the clever things they had done. Today Mary's mother was making Mary a dress, and a great many pins had been used to hold together hems and seams. Bent Pin never dreamed he would be chosen and had felt a thrill of delight when Mary's fingers seized him. He was rejected, though. He was good for nothing. Never, never would he be of any use in the world.

A certain little Safety Pin he cared for very much swayed closer to him.

"Never mind, Bent Pin," she said. "I can't help but think that there is use for everything in the world, even a Bent Pin. Why, in the world of human beings, those who are crippled and bent as you are have their work to do. Be of good cheer. I am sure your turn will come, and perhaps you will have a better time and be more useful and make some one happier than any of the rest of us will."

Bent Pin smiled at her as bravely as he could. Somehow her words did make him feel better, and so it was easier to bear the scorn of the straight pins about him.

As the days went by, he couldn't help but feel discouraged. So many pins went out into the world to do their part. Some came back and told of the good times they had, or of the useful work they did. Bent Pin thought the glass-headed pin who came back this morning had had the best time of all. She had been used to pin the violets Mary's big sister wore to the matinee, and she told all about the music and life and laughter.

"I guess I am doomed to stay on this blue pin-cushion forever," Bent Pin sighed, and just then he heard Little Tommy's voice.

"Oh Goody, Goody!" cried Tommy, "here's a bent pin! If I hadn't found it I would have had to bend one. I'm going fishing, Mary, with a bent pin and a piece of string."

Bent Pin went gaily out into the bright sunshine to have the best time of all, and do what every one loves to do,—make a little child happy.

The Little Safety Pin laughed and sighed all in one breath as she gazed after him. She was glad for him, and almost sorry, for a moment, that she too, was not a Bent Pin.

When I am Home

When I am home, a load of care
Drops from my shoulders, then and there,
When my mother meets me at the door
And takes me in her arms once more;
The sky is brighter I am sure;
The stars shine down, so clear and pure,
And oh! my heart is light as foam
When I am home.

When I am home, should I feel ill,
Then mother frets—as mothers will;
But once her soothing fingers find
My burning brow, I do not mind.
Where peace abounds, that I declare
I am so happy to be there
That there I'll stay and never roam—
When I am home.

When I am home my footsteps stray
Down paths where childish fancies play;
And watching mother rock to rest
My baby on her loving breast,
It seems almost that I am he,
And little as I used to be,
Hearing her sing of sprite and gnome—
When I am home.

When I am home it warms my heart,
As it comes time for us to part
That wheresoever she may be,
A loving welcome waits for me;
Two arms to pillow my tired head;
Two hands to share with me her bread;
Two lips that summon joy to come—
When I am home.

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

Average Jones

By Samuel Hopkins Adams

ADRIAN Van Reypen Egerton Jones, better known to his New York club friends as "Average" Jones because of the peculiar combination of initials with which his parents had labelled him, is left a fortune by an uncle, and suddenly finds himself in a position where he has nothing to do but spend money, an entirely degrading pastime for a young man with ideas and ambition. His friends come to his aid, however, and suggest a vocation in which he can make himself useful to people in trouble, and at the same time exercise, whatever special talents he may have. He becomes an "Ad-Visor," or in other words a counselor to people who have been "stung" thru deceptive advertisements in the daily newspapers. Jones establishes a clipping bureau, and his investigation of the many freak ads leads him into all sorts of amusing and even dangerous experiences with crooks, politicians, murderers and other human parasites. "Red Dot" is the name of the story that follows. Other stories of Jones' experiences will appear in later issues of Michigan Business Farming.—The Editors.

FROM his inner sanctum, Average Jones stared obliquely out upon the whirl of Fifth Avenue, warming itself under a late March sun.

In the outer offices a line of anxious applicants was being disposed of by his trained assistants. To the advertising expert's offices had come that day but three cases difficult enough to be referred to the Ad-Visor himself. Two were rather intricate financial lures which Average Jones was able to dispose of by a mere "don't". The third was a Spiritualist announcement behind which lurked a shrewd plot to entrap a senile millionaire into a marriage with the medium. These having been settled, the expert was free to muse upon a paragraph which had appeared in all the important New York morning papers of the day before.

REWARD—\$1,000 reward for information as to slayer of Brindle Bulldog "Rags" killed in office of Malcolm Dorr, Stengel Building, Union Square, March 29.

"That's too much money for a dog," decided Average Jones. "Particularly one that hasn't any bench record. I'll just have a glance into it."

Slipping on his coat he walked briskly down the avenue, and crossing over to Union Square, entered the gloomy old Stengel building. Stepping from the elevator at the seventh floor, he paused underneath this sign:

MALCOLM DORR
ANALYTICAL AND CONSULTING ENGINEER

Entering, Average Jones found a fat young man, with mild blue eyes, sitting at a desk.

"Mr. Dorr?" he asked.

"Yes," replied the fat young man nervously, "but if you are a reporter, I must—"

"I am not," interrupted the other. "I am an expert on advertising, and—I want that one thousand dollars reward."

"You mean you have—have found out something?"

"Not yet. But I intend to."

Dorr stared at him in silence.

"You are very fond of dogs, Mr. Dorr?"

"Eh? Oh, yes. Yes, certainly," said the other mechanically.

Average Jones shot a sudden glance of surprise at him, then looked dreamily down at his own finger-nails.

"I can sympathize with you. I have exhibited for some years. Your dog was perhaps a green-ribboner?"

"Ah! Several of mine have been. One in particular took medal after medal; a beautiful glossy brown bulldog, with long silky ears, and the slender splayed-out legs that are so highly prized but so seldom seen nowadays. His tail, too, had the truly Willoughby curve, from his dam, who was a famous courser."

Mr. Dorr looked puzzled. "I didn't know they used that kind of a dog for coursing," he said vaguely.

"Mr. Dorr," drawled Jones, "who—er—owned your—er—dog?"

"Why, I—I did," said the startled chemist.

"Who gave him to you?"

"A friend."

"Quite so. Was it that friend who—er—offered the reward?"

"What makes you think that?"

"This, to be frank. A man who doesn't know a bulldog from a bed-spring isn't likely to be offering a thousand dollars to avenge the death of one. And the minute you answered my question as to whether you cared for dogs, I knew you didn't. When you fell for a green-ribbon, and a splayed-legged, curly tailed medal-winner in the brindle bull class, I knew you were bluffing. Mr. Dorr, who—er—has been—er—threatening your life?"

The chemist swung around in his chair.

"What do you know?" he demanded.

"Nothing. I'm guessing. It's a fair guess that a reasonably valuable brindle bull isn't presented to a man who cares nothing for dogs without some reason. The most likely reason is protection. Is it in your case?"

"Yes, it is," replied the other.

"And now the protection is gone. Don't you think you'd better let me in on this? Who is it that wants to get rid of you?"

"The Paragon Pressed Meat Company."

Average Jones became vitally concerned in removing an infinitesimal speck from his left cuff. "Ah," he commented, "the Canned Meat Trust. What have you been doing to them?"

"Sold them a preparation of my invention for deodorizing certain by-products used for manufacturing purposes. Several months ago I found they were using it on canned meats that had gone bad, and then selling the stuff."

"Would the meat so treated be poisonous?"

"Well—dangerous to anyone eating it habitually. I wrote, warning them that they must stop."

"A man came to see me and told me I was mistaken. He hinted that if I thought my invention was worth more than I'd received, his principals would be glad to take the matter up with me. Shortly after I heard that the Federal authorities were going after the trust, so I called on Mr. Elverson, the district attorney."

"Mistake Number One. Elverson is straight, but his office is fuller of leaks than a sieve."

"That's probably why I found my private laboratory reeking of cyanide fumes a fortnight later," remarked Dorr dryly. "I got to the outer air alive, but not much more. A week later there was an explosion in the laboratory. I didn't happen to be there at the time. The odd feature of the explosion was that I didn't have any explosive drugs in the place."

Within a month after that, a friendly neighbor took a pot-shot at a man who was sneaking up behind me as I was going home late one night. The man shot, too, but missed me. I reported the affair to the police, and they told me to be sure and not let the newspapers know."

"Didn't you make any other precautions?"

"Oh, yes. I reported the attempt to Judge Elverson. Then I got a commission out in Denver. When I came back about a month ago, Judge Elverson gave me the two dogs."

"Two?"

"Yes. Rags and Tatters."

"Where's Tatters?"

"Dead. By the same road as Rags."

"Killed at your place in Flatbush?"

"No. Right here in this room."

Average Jones became suddenly very much worried about the second button of his coat. Having satisfied himself of its stability, he drawled, "Er—both of—er—them?"

"Yes. Ten days apart."

"Where were you?"

"On the spot. That is, I was here when Tatters got his death. I had gone to the wash-room at the father end of the hall when Rags was poisoned."

"Why do you say poisoned?"

"What else could it have been? There was no wound on either of the dogs."

"Was there evidence of poison?"

"Pathological only. In Tatters' case it was very marked. He was dozing in a corner near the radiator when I heard him yelp and saw him snapping at his belly. He ran across the room, lay down and began licking himself. Within fifteen minutes he began to whine. Then he stiffened out in a sort of spasm. Before I could get a veterinary here he was dead."

"Did you make any examination?"

"I analyzed the contents of his stomach, but did not obtain positive results."

"What about the other dog?"

"Rags? That was the day before yesterday. We had just come over from Flatbush and Rags was nosing around in the corner—"

"Was it the same corner where Tatters was attacked?"

"Yes; near the radiator. He seemed to be interested in something there when I left the room. I was gone not more than two minutes."

"Lock the door after you?"

"It has a special spring lock which I had put on myself."

Average Jones crossed over and looked at the contrivance. Then his glance fell to a huge, old-fashioned keyhole below the new fastening.

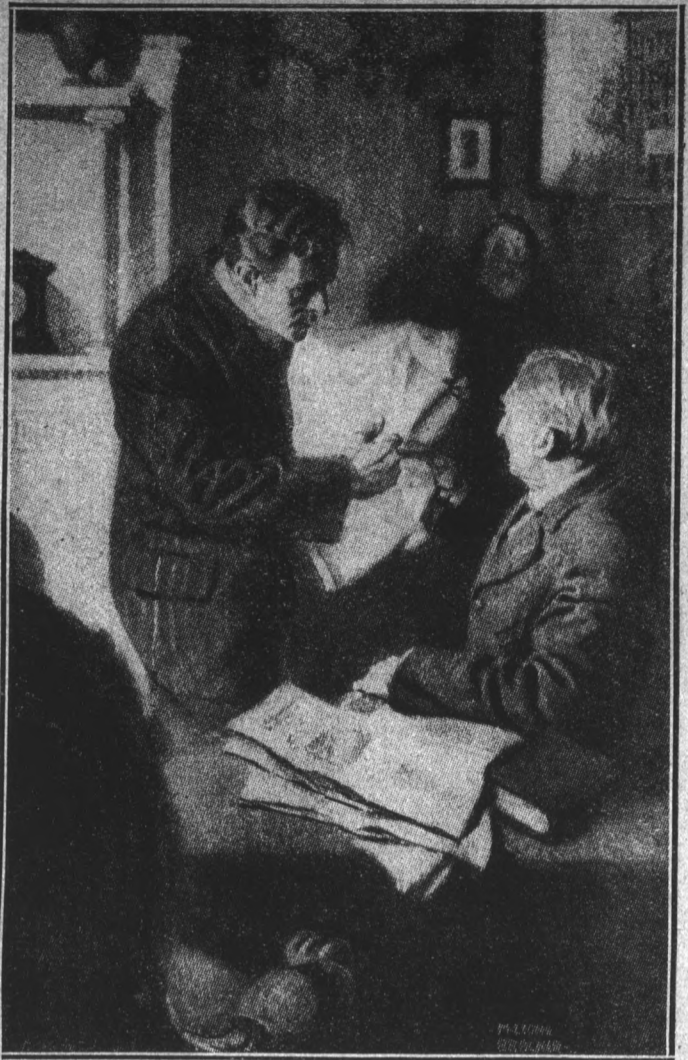
"You didn't use that larger lock?"

"No. I haven't for months. The key is lost, I think."

Retracing his steps the investigator sighted the hole from the radiator, and shook his head.

"It's not in range," he said. "Go on."

"As I reached the door on my return, I heard Rags yelp. You may believe I got to him quickly. He was pawing wildly at his nose. I called up the nearest veterinary. Within ten minutes the convulsions came on. The veterinary was here when Rags died, which was within fifteen minutes of



the first spasm. He didn't believe it was strychnine. Said the attacks were different. Whatever it was, I couldn't find any trace of it in the stomach. The veterinary took the body away and made a complete autopsy."

"Did he discover anything?"

"Yes. The blood was coagulated and on the upper lip he found a circle of small pustules. He agreed that both dogs probably swallowed something that was left in my office, though I don't see how it could have got there."

"That won't do," returned Average Jones positively. "A dog doesn't cry out when he swallows poison, unless it's some corrosive."

Average Jones examined the walls with attention and returned to the keyhole, thru which he peeped.

"Do you ever chew gum?" he asked suddenly.

The chemist stared at him. "It isn't a habit of mine," he said.

"But you wouldn't have any objection to my sending for some, in satisfaction of a sudden irresistible craving?"

"Any particular brand? I'll 'phone the corner drug store."

"Any sort will suit, thank you."

When the gum arrived, Average Jones chewed up a single stick thoroughly. This he rolled out to an extremely tenuous consistency and spread it deftly across the unused keyhole, which it completely though thinly veiled.

"Now, what's that for?" inquired the chemist, eyeing the improvised closure with some contempt.

"Don't know, exactly, yet," replied the deviser cheerfully. "But when queer and fatal things happen in a room and there's only one opening, it's just as well to keep your eye on that, no matter how small it is. Keep your eye on that gum. If it lets go its hold, wire me."

"All right," agreed young Mr. Dorr. Give me your address in case you leave town."

"As I may do. I am going to hire a press-clipping bureau on special order to dig through the files of the local and neighboring city newspapers for recent items concerning dog-poisoning cases. If our unknown has devised a new method of canicide, it's quite possible he may have worked it somewhere else, too. Good-by, and if you can't be wise, be careful."

One morning there arrived, among other data, an article from the Bridgeport "Morning Delineator" which caused the Ad-Visor to sit up with a jerk. It detailed the poisoning of several dogs under peculiar circumstances. Three hours later he was in the bustling Connecticut city. There he took carriage for the house of Mr. Curtis Fleming, whose valuable Great Dane dog had been the last victim.

Mr. Curtis Fleming revealed himself as an elderly gentleman all grown to a point: pointed white nose, eyes that were pin-points of irascible gleam, and a most pointed manner of speech.

"Who are you?" he demanded rancidly, as his visitor was ushered in.

Average Jones recognized the type. He knew of but one way to deal with it.

(Continued on following page.)

"Jones!" he retorted with such astounding emphasis that the monosyllable fairly exploded in the other's face.

"Ordinary variety of Jones. I want to know about your dog."

"Good boy!" approved the old martinet. Dog was out walking with me day before yesterday. Chased a rat. Rat ran into a heap of old timber. Dog nosed around. Gave a yelp and came back to me. Had spasm. Died in fifteen minutes. And hang me, sir," cried the old man, bringing his fist down on Average Jones' knees, "if I see how the poison got him, for he was muzzled to the snout, sir!"

"Muzzled? Then—er—why do you—er—suggest poison?" drawled the young man.

"Fourth dog to go the same way in the last week."

"Any suspicions?"

"Suspicions? Certainly, young man certainly. Look at this."

Average Jones took the smutted newspaper proof and read:

WARNING—Residents of the Golden Hill neighborhood are earnestly cautioned against unguarded handling of timber about woodpiles or outbuildings until further notice. Danger!

"When was his published?"

"Wasn't published. 'Delineator' refused it. Thought it was a case of insanity."

"Who offered it?"

"Professor Moseley. Tenant of mine. Frame house on the next corner with old-fashioned conservatory."

"Did he give any explanation of the advertisement?"

"No. Acted half-crazy when he brought it to the office. Wouldn't sign his name to the thing. Begged the manager to let him have the weather reports in advance, every day."

"Weather reports, eh?" Average Jones mused for a moment. "How long was the ad. to run?"

"Until the first hard frost."

"Has there—er—been a—er—frost since?" drawled Average Jones.

"No. What's your interest in all this, anyway, my mysterious young friend?"

"Two dogs in New York poisoned in something the same way as yours."

"Well, I've got my man. He confessed."

"Confessed?" echoed Average Jones.

"Practically. Professor Moseley committed suicide this morning."

Average Jones got to his feet slowly, walked over to the window, returned, picked up the strange proof with its message of suggested peril, studied it, returned to the window, and stared out into the gray day.

"Cut his throat about nine o'clock this morning," pursued the other.

"Do you mind not talking to me for a minute?" said Average Jones curtly.

"Told to hold my tongue in my own house by an uninvited stripling" cackled the other. "You're a singular young man. Have it your own way."

After a five minutes' silence the visitor turned from the window and spoke. "There has been a deadly danger loose about here for which Prof. Moseley felt himself responsible. I believe some human being has been killed by this thing, whatever it may be, and that the horror of it drove Moseley to suicide."

"Prove it."

"Give me a morning paper."

His host handed him the current issue of the "Delineator."

Average Jones studied the local page. "Where's Galvin's Alley?" he asked presently.

"Two short blocks from here."

"Read that."

Mr. Curtis Fleming took the paper. His eyes were directed to a paragraph telling of the death of an Italian child living in Galvin's Alley. Cause, convulsions.

"By jove!" said he, somewhat awed. "You can reason, young man."

"I've got to reason a lot further, if I'm to get anywhere in this affair," said Average Jones with conviction. "Do you care to come to Galvin's Alley with me?"

Together they went down the hill to a poor little house, marked by white crepe. The occupants were Italians who spoke some English. They said that four-year-old Pietro had been playing around a woodpile the afternoon before, when he was taken sick and came home, staggering. The doctor could do nothing.

"Was there a mark like a ring anywhere on the hand or face?" asked Average Jones.

The dead child's father looked surprised. That, he said, was what the strange gentleman who had come that very morning asked; a queer, bent little gentleman, very bald and with big eye-glasses, who was kind, and wept with them and gave them money to bury the "bambino."

"Moseley, by the Lord Harry!" ex-

claimed Mr. Curtis Fleming. "But what was the death-agent?"

Average Jones shook his head. "Too early to do more than guess. Will you take me to Professor Moseley's place?"

The old house stood four-square, with a patched-up conservatory on one wing. In the front room they found the recluse's body decently disposed, with an undertaker's assistant in charge. From the greenhouse came a subdued hissing.

"What's that?" asked Jones.

"Fumigating the conservatory. There was a note found near the body insisting on its being done."

In the old-fashioned desk was found a package of letters from the Denny Research Laboratories of St. Louis mentioning enclosure of checks; and three self-addressed envelopes bearing New York post-marks, of dates respectively, March 12, March 14 and March 20. Each contained a date-stamped sheet of paper, similar to that which Mr. Curtis Fleming had shown to Average Jones. The one of earliest date bore two red dots; the second, three red dots, and the third, two.

Of these Average Jones made careful note, as well as of the laboratory address. By this time the hissing of the fumigating apparatus had ceased. The two men went to the conservatory and gazed in upon a ruin of limp leaves and flaccid petals, killed by the powerful gases. Suddenly, with an exclamation of astonishment, the investigator stooped and lifted from the floor a marvel of ermine body and pale green wings. The moth spreading nearly a foot, was quite dead.

"Here's the mate, sir," said the fumigating expert, handing him another specimen.

Average Jones took the pair of moths to the desk, measured them and laid them carefully away in a drawer.

"The rest must wait," he said. "I have to send a telegram."

With the interested Mr. Curtis Fleming in attendance, he went to the telegraph office, where he wrote out a despatch.

"Malcolm Dorr, Stengel Building, New York City:

"Leave office immediately. Do not return until it has been fumigated thoroughly. Imperative. A. V. R. JONES."

"And now," said Average Jones to Mr. Fleming. "I'm going back to New York. If any collectors come chasing to you for luna moths, don't deal with them. Refer them to me, please."

"Your orders shall be obeyed" said the older man. "But why, in the name of all that's unheard of, should collectors come bothering me about luna moths?"

"Because of an announcement to this effect which will appear in the next number of the 'National Science Weekly,' and in coming issues of the New York 'Evening Register.'"

He handed out a rough draft of this advertisement:

"FOR SALE—Two largest known specimens of *Tropaea luna*, unmounted; respectively 10 and 11½ inches spread. Also various other specimens from collection of late Gerald Moseley, of Bridgeport, Conn. Write for particulars. Jones, Room 222, Astor Court Temple, New York."

"What about further danger here?" inquired Mr. Fleming, as Average Jones bade him good-by.

"Would we better run that warning of poor Moseley's, after all?"

For reply Jones pointed out of the window. A late-season whirl of snow enveloped the streets.

"I see," said the old man. "The frost. Well, Mr. Mysterious Jones I don't know what you're up to but you've given me an interesting day. Let me know what comes of it."

On the train back to New York, Average Jones wrote two letters. One was to the Denny Research Laboratories in St. Louis, the other to the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

Less than a week after the luna moth advertisement appeared, Average Jones walked into Malcolm Dorr's office with a twinkling eye.

"Do you know a man named Marcus L. Ross?" he asked the chemist.

"Never heard of him."

"Marcus L. Ross is interested, not only in luna moths, but in the rest of the Moseley collection. He has an office in this building. Likewise he works frequently at night. Finally, he is one of the confidential lobbyists of the Paragon Pressed Meat Company."

"It would be very easy for Mr. Ross, whose office is on the floor above, to stop at this door on his way down-stairs after quitting work late at night when the elevator had stopped running—and let us say—peep through the keyhole."

Malcolm Dorr got up and stretched himself slowly.

"I don't know what you're going to do to Mr. Ross," he said, "but I want to see him first."

"I'm not going to do anything to him," returned Average Jones, "because, in the first place, I suspect that he is far, far away, having noted, doubtless, the plugged keyhole and suffered a crisis of the nerves. Anyway, Ross is only an agent. I'm going to aim higher."

"As how?"

"Well, I expect to do three things. First, I expect to scare a peaceful but murderous trust multimillionaire almost out of his senses; second, I expect to despatch a costly yacht to unknown seas; and third, I expect to raise the street selling price of the evening 'yellow' journals temporarily, about one thousand per cent."

New York, that afternoon, saw something new in advertising. On the front page of each, stretching narrowly across three columns, was a device showing a tiny mapped outline in black marked Bridgeport, Conn., and a large skeleton draft of Manhattan Island showing the principal streets. From the Connecticut city down ward ran a line of dots in red. The dots entered New York from the north, passed down Fourth Avenue to the south side of Union Square, turned west and terminated. Beneath this map was the legend, also in red:

WATCH THE LINE ADVANCE IN LATE EDITIONS

The afternoon edition carried the same "fudge" advertisement, but now the red dots crossed over to Fifth Avenue and turned northward as far as Twenty-third Street. The inscription was:

UPWARD AND ONWARD SEE NEXT EXTRA

For the "Night Extra" people paid five, ten, even fifteen cents. This time, the red-dotted line went as far up Fifth Avenue as Fiftieth Street. And the legend was ominous:

WHEN I TURN, I STRIKE

But not until the following morning did the papers announce that President Colwell of the Canned Meat Trust, having been ordered by his physician on a long sea voyage to refurbish his depleted nerves, after closing his house on West Fifty-first street, had sailed in his own yacht. Mr. Curtis Fleming came to New York, keen for explanations, for he, too, had seen the "fudge" and marveled. Hence, Average Jones had him, together with young Mr. Dorr, at a private room luncheon at the Cosmic Club, where he offered an explanation and elucidation.

"The whole affair," he said, "was a problem in the connecting up of loose ends. At the New York terminus we had two deaths in the office of a man with powerful and subtle enemies, that office being practically sealed against intrusion except for a very large keyhole. Some deadly thing is introduced through that keyhole; so much is practically proven by the breaking out of the chewing gum with which I coated it. The killing influence reaches a corner far out of the direct line of the keyhole. Being near the radiator, that corner represents the attraction of warmth. Therefore, the invading force was some sentient creature."

"Now let's look at the Bridgeport end. Here, again, we have a deadly influence loosed; this time by accident. A scientific experimentalist is the innocent cause of the disaster. Here, too, the peril is somewhat dependent upon warmth, since we know, from Professor Moseley's agonized eagerness for a frost, that cold weather would have put an end to it. The cold weather fails to come. Dogs are killed. Finally a child falls victim, and on the child is found a circular mark, similar to the mark on Mr. Dorr's dog's lip. You see the striking points of analogy? Professor Moseley was an unhappy victim of his own carelessness in loosing a peril upon his neighborhood. You're forgetting a connecting link; the secretive red-dot communications from New York City addressed by Moseley to himself on behalf of some customer who ordered simply by a code of ink-dots. He was the man I had to find. The luna moths helped to do it. Their size showed Professor Moseley's line of work; the selective breeding of certain forms of life to two or three times the normal proportions. Very well; I had to ascertain some creature which, if magnified several times, would be deadly, and which would still be capable of entering a large keyhole. Having determined that, I had still to get in touch with Professor Moseley's mysterious New York correspondent. I figured that he must be interested in Professor Moseley's particular bran-

of research or he never could have devised his murderous scheme. So I constructed the luna moth advertisement to draw him, and when I got a reply from Mr. Ross, who is a fellow-tenant of V. Door's, the chain was complete. Now, you see where the luna moths were useful. If I had advertised, instead of them, the lathroductus, he might have suspected and refrained from answering."

"What's the lathroductus?" demanded both the hearers at once.

For answer Average Jones took a letter from his pocket and read:

Bureau of Entomology,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C., April 7.

Mr. A. V. R. Jones,
Astor Court Temple, New York City.

Dear Sir—Replying to our letter of inquiry, the only insect answering your specifications is a small spider *Lathroductus mactans*, sometimes popularly called the Red Dot, from a bright red mark upon the back. Rare cases are known where death has been caused by the bite of this insect.

The Bureau knows nothing of any experiments in breeding, the *Lathroductus* for size. Your surmise that specimens two or three times the normal size would be dangerous to life is undoubtedly correct. A *Lathroductus mactans* with fangs large enough to penetrate the skin of the hand, and a double or triple supply of venom, would be, perhaps, more deadly than a cobra.

The symptoms of poisoning by this species are spasms, similar to those of trismus and agonizing general pains. There are no local symptoms, except in some cases, a circle of small pustules about the bitten spot.

The species is very susceptible to cold, and would hardly survive a severe frost. It frequents woodpiles and outhouses.

Yours truly,
L. O. HOWARD,
Chief of Bureau.

"Then Ross was sneaking down here at night and putting the spiders which he had got from Professor Moseley thru my keyhole, in the hope that sooner or later one of them would get me," said Dorr.

"And now," said Mr. Curtis Fleming, "will some one kindly explain to me what this Ross fiend against our friend, Mr. Dorr?"

"Nothing," replied Average Jones.

"Nothing? Was he courting with spiders merely or sport?"

"Oh, no. You see Mr. Dorr was interfering with the machinery of one of our ruling institutions, the Canned Meat Trust. He possessed information which would have indicted all the officials. Therefore it was desirable—even essential—that he should be removed from the pathway of progress."

"And would have been but for your skill, young Jones," declared Mr. Curtis Fleming, with emphasis.

"Don't forget the fortunate coincidences," replied Average Jones modestly. "They're about half of it. The coincidence of the escape of the Red Dots from Professor Moseley's breeding cages; the coincidence of the death of the dogs on Golden Hill, followed by the death of the child; the coincidence of poor Moseley's having left the red-dot letters on the desk instead of destroying them; the coincidence of Dorr's dogs being bitter when it might easily have been himself had he gone to turn on the radiator and disturbed the savage little spider—"

"And the chief coincidence of your having become interested in the advertisement which Judge Elverson had me insert, really more to scare off further attempts than anything else," put in Dorr. "What became of the spiders that were slipped through my keyhole, anyway?"

"Two of them, as you know, were probably killed by the dogs. The others may well have died of cold at night when the heat was off and the windows open. And, sooner or later if Ross had continued to insert Red Dots through the keyhole one of them would have bitten you, Dorr, and the Canned Meat Trust would have gone on its way rejoicing."

"Well, you've certainly saved my life," declared Dorr, "and it's a case of sheer force of reasoning."

Average Jones shook his head. "You might give some of the credit to Providence," he said. "Just one little event would have meant the saving of the Italian child, and of Professor Moseley, and the death of yourself, instead of the other way around."

"And that event?" asked Mr. Curtis Fleming.

"Five degrees of frost in Bridgeport," replied Average Jones.

HERE'S THE BIGGEST BOOST YOU CAN GIVE THIS NEW PAPER—WILL YOU?

ALREADY a number of my friends have passed around this petition among their neighbors and secured ten names for the new weekly. Think what a wonderful service these men and women are rendering Business Farming in Michigan! I know these are busy days on the farm, but if you'll just carry this sample copy and as you show it to your neighbors ask them to sign this petition, **YOU'LL FIND THEM AS ANXIOUS AS YOU ARE TO DRIVE THE MARKET GAMBLERS OUT OF MICHIGAN.** Then as soon as you have secured as many names as possible—clip out this coupon and mail it in. **NO NEED TO ASK FOR THE DOLLAR,** they can send that in any time before December first, 1917, and you do not have to collect now or later, neither do you assume any obligation for them as we take care of everything from our office here. I am going to start a Roll of Honor for the real founders of our paper who have secured other names besides their own—here is the list so far:

- E. A. Stevens, Manistique, Mich.
 - Allen J. Mains, M-rshall, Mich.
 - E. T. Brokaw, Fenwick, Mich.
 - Marvin A. Shade, Evart, Mich.
 - Hugh P. Quinn, Walkerton, Ind.
 - Fred Cartell, Marion, Mich.
 - M. Jarvis, Elkton, Mich.
 - J. W. Kelley, Lake City, Mich.
 - Ernest C. Cummins, Hart, Mich.
 - Edward Gibbons, Blaine, Mich.
 - Ivert Eaver, Elberta, Mich.
 - Mark Stiner, Mecosta, Mich.
 - Elman C. Wilk, Twin Lake, M.
 - Rob't Howard, Boyne Falls, M.
 - A. H. Crandall, Mayville, Mich.
 - Henry George, Brighton, Mich.
 - Carl Winslow, Mattawan, Mich.
- No one can do more than this for our new paper and its success.

A PETITION TO GRANT SLOCUM FOR THE NEW MARKET WEEKLY

With the understanding that if five thousand farmers in Michigan pledge their support you will start a crop and market weekly this fall, I, the undersigned, by my signature subscribe for this new publication, if established for one year, and promise to pay One Dollar on or before December 1st, 1917.

No.	NAME	POST OFFICE AND R. F. D. No.
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

I have secured the above signers to your petition and know each one to be a farmer in good standing in this community.

Founder..... Address

Grant Slocum
MT. CLEMENS, MICH.



Deckerville business men are bending their efforts toward securing a better milk market for the farmers in that part of the state. They recently took a census of the cows in the community with a view of using the data to induce a milk company to erect a condensary in Deckerville. The census shows that there are now over 4,000 cows in the community and the business men were given assurances by the farmers that their dairy herds would be greatly increased if a better market for milk was furnished them.

What is considered to be the largest price paid for a half-acre of potatoes in the ground was handed over to R. J. Austin of Holly, when Mr. J. W. Phills of the same place paid him \$75. Mr. Austin planted the potatoes early, gave them the best of care, and although they were not fully ripe when Mr. Phills came along, they showed every indication of being a good crop and the purchaser expressed a willingness to stake \$75 on the tubers even tho they were hidden in the ground.

One of the best crops on the farm is being brot to market in many parts of Michigan in larger quantities this year than ever before and bringing the highest price paid since the Civil War. We refer to the many loads of scrap iron and steel that is being sold to the junk dealers every day. It is a crop that takes nothing from the soil, does not suffer from blight or drought, and one that is better off the place.

Having guaranteed the Grand Ledge Milk Company to furnish it with 20,000 pounds of cream daily, dairymen about Collins will soon be given a better market for their milk as the company proposes to erect a condensary in that village in the near future.

Mr. Frank Pierce, a well known farmer about Clark Lake, is telling a market story full of human interest. Last winter he took a load of beans to Jackson and the buyers tried to scale him down on the bluff that his beans were not up to sample. He was only offered six dollars a bushel at the time, so he decided to hold them a while longer. Several weeks later he was better received by the elevator men and he was paid \$10 a bushel for his crop. And the quality of his beans seemed to have improved with age, too, as they only picked one pound when he sold them and the elevator men sold them for seed.

The Constantine Buying and Selling association, composed of 225 citizens, has purchased the elevator and coal yards of the Farmer Elevator Co., at Constantine, Mich.

What was said by many to be the prettiest bunch of cattle ever shipped

out of Springport, Mich., was a drove of 34 two-year-old Angus steers shipped by Eli Hudltemeyer. And the steers did not look any nicer than the returns, they netting \$4,053.50, about \$120 each. Mr. Hudltemeyer admitted that he had "some money in them all right," but he was very well satisfied with the results.

Mrs. John McLarty, of near Cass City, Mich., sold six hens of the Rhode Island variety to the Cass City Meat Market recently and received in payment \$9.07.

L. W. Lovewell of South Lyons, Mich., purchased two head of baby beeves of Joe Purdy of Brighton township, for which he paid Mr. Purdy \$206.30. One of them was 14 months old, the other 16, and were raised up on the cow and are considered good stock by Mr. Lovewell. Mr. Lovewell also purchased two head of steers of A. Borden that weighed 2760 lbs. and paid \$276 for them.

H. E. Powell of Ionia, Mich., sold 16 head of cattle a few days ago for \$2,105.35. One brought \$162.97.

In the broadening of farming operations due to the great demand and scarcity of food products, the coming of the condensary to Sandusky, Mich., is playing no small part. Farmers in this territory are already enlarging their herds and the output of the dairies is being not only increased by the number of cows but also by the purchase of better quality animals. Properly culled and replaced by higher grade animals, even if no more cows were kept, a greatly increased production would result, but increasing of herds and raising of the average of production will rapidly increase the value of this department of Sanilac county's agriculture.

Emmet Luce of Napoleon recently finished marketing his fall pig crop at a few cents over \$800 for 23 pigs. This very remarkable record shows the war time possibilities in pork production

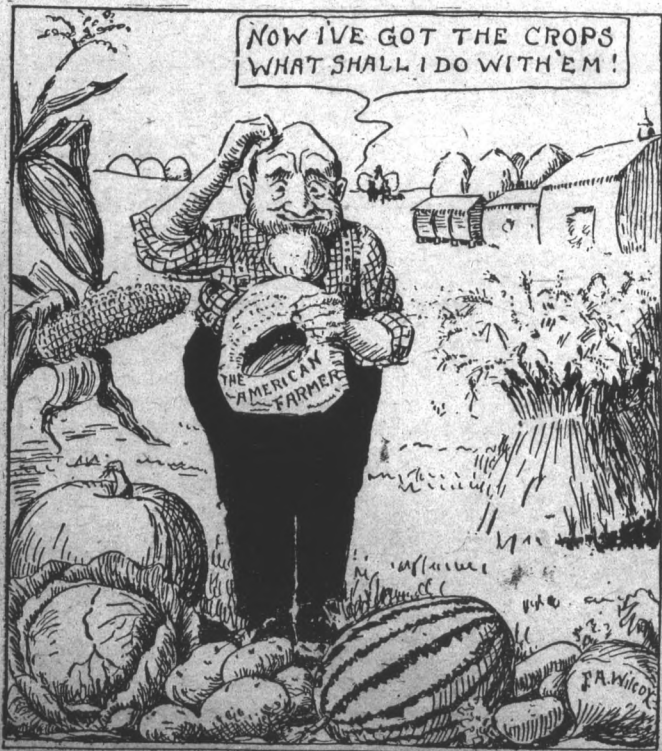
A co-operative elevator company at Corunna, capitalized at \$40,000 is being formed and it is expected the elevator will be ready for grain this fall.

F. J. VanAtta of South Lyons, recently purchased a six-weeks-old veal calf of John McMahon of Northfield that was a dandy. It cost him \$27.54.

A farmer and his wife drove into Hastings one day last month in a common buggy in which there was also room for \$21.60 worth of eggs. A load of wool there brought \$85 and the farmer who brings a can of cream to market nowadays gets \$18 for it.

C. J. Smith & Sons of North Oxford, sold what is considered to be one of the best steers ever raised in Oakland county to William Korss of Rochester. The animal weighed 1900 lbs and brought 12 1/4 cents per lb., or a total of \$237.50

Jay Leavenworth, representing the Warner cheese factory interests of Farmington, Mich., was in Clio last month and picked up a fine bunch of grade milch cows. Three of the herd were purchased from Chas. Montague, three from C. B. Barker, two each from Ray and Jay Green, and one each from H. Rose, J. O'Neil, Will Price, Otis Scott, Rob't Shaw Dell French. The seventeen head cost an average of \$100 apiece.



---Wilcox in Organized Farming

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Astonishing silo-filling records are being made by owners of the wonderful Ann Arbor. Up to 20 tons per hour—into the highest silo—is easy. The engine you own supplies the needed power. Patented disc-thrower wheel system means even cut, better silage and more of it at less cost to you.

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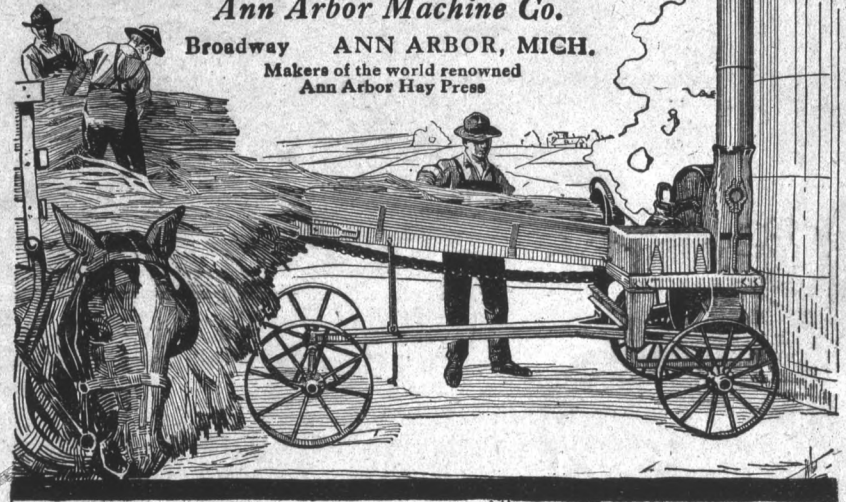
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Tell us what car you own on a postal to-day!

\$70,000 CASH ASSETS

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\$1.00 for Policy 25c per H. P.



300 Claims Paid

Wm. E. ROBB, Sec'y
CITIZENS MUTUAL AUTO INS. CO.,
Howell, Michigan

"This is the little weekly that the market gamblers swear at, but Michigan Business Farmers swear-by!"

War-times—big profits

—from Farm produce, but who gets them? Usually the buyer, for he knows when and where to sell at the top-market-price!

Who will get the profits from Your Farm this fall of 1917?

You or the man who buys them to load for market?

LET THIS NEW WEEKLY



MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

Keep you posted on when and where to sell your crops, this fall—if you know as much about the markets as your local buyer you can beat him at his own game!

We ask every loyal Michigan business farmer to lend us his support by pledging just one dollar to help us found this new weekly!

This is the year of years when you have the opportunity of getting full prices for every bushel and pound you raise—every farm crop will bring big prices, the only question is, WHO WILL GET THE PROFIT, you or the speculators?

The market season is scarcely four weeks away—you'll need the new weekly then—no where else can you secure dependable market advice written from the farmers side of the fence!

Since the promise of the new weekly was made hundreds of farmers have written us letters like these:

Editor Grant Slocum,
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Brother Slocum:—

Here's my support, we need just your kind of a fighting market weekly in Michigan.

I want Michigan Business Farming for one year and I'll send my dollar after crops

are sold this fall.....[] (mark)

or I enclose \$1 herewith[] (which)

Yours truly.....

P. O. R. F. D.....
County..... State..... St.....

Remarks.....

Very good thing and your money will be there on time. Richard Edgerton, Tuscola Co.
Will send \$5.00 if necessary to get it started. Thomas Hutchins, Isabella county.

Enclosed please find one dollar bill for my subscription. I enjoy your paper very much. It's the one paper that really stands for the interest of the farmer, and which every farmer ought to read. Albert Scheck, Kalkaska Co.

Rush Market Weekly. Will support it in every way I can. Your money will be there when it should. Thanking you in turn for assisting myself as well as a great many more farmers which the middle man has robbed every year. D. W. Stokes, Midland County.

I think a Market paper will be fine. Clare Lemen, Washtenaw County.

Like your plan very much for Markets. John W. Hann, Wexford County.

Will help you in any way. Geo. L. Baker, Gratiot County.

A good thing, send it to me. Fred Jenkins, Kalamazoo County.

Speed the good work along, I am with you. Chas. Ellett, Midland County.

I would be very much pleased to receive the weekly market report and hope you will receive the 5000 pledges to that effect. I have \$1.00 for you anytime you may call for it. I enclose coupon to-day taken from the Gleaner. Fred S. Brooks, Otsego County.

I am with Grant Slocum every time. Mrs. L. E. Starrett, Berrien County.

You hit the nail on the head every time. Just drive a few more. William A. Allen, Antrim County.

This paper has long been needed. Your \$1.00 will be there as agreed. Lynn W. Hendee, Livingstone County.

Just what we want. Send me subscription blanks. D. H. Crouch, Grand Traverse Co.

I will drive my stake here for your new Market Weekly. Herbert Wright, Ionia County.

Find enclosed the coupon. You can have the \$1.00 any time and may your Market Paper be the means of burying the market gamblers so deep that they will be unable to hear Gabriel's Horn in the day of Resurrection. Chas. M. Pierce, Charlevoix County.

YOU MUST ACT NOW—busy as you are—tell mother or one of your young folks right now to address an envelope to Grant Slocum, Mt. Clemens, Mich., and put your name and address on this coupon, send the dollar now or later, after harvest, just as you please, BUT SEND YOUR NAME IN RIGHT NOW TO BE AMONG THE FIVE THOUSAND FOUNDERS!