



# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

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Free List or Clubbing Offers

## WHEAT PRICE FIXED AT \$2.20

U. S. Producer Assured of Fair  
Profit on 1917 Crop Thru  
Government's Action in  
Establishing Minimum  
Price on all Grades

Speculators, greedy elevator men, middlemen, market gamblers and a score of other parasites and "stand-betweens," who have been making an easy living off Michigan Business Farmers' wheat since time immemorial, were given a severe jolt last week when the government's price-fixing committee sat down and did some tall thinking and decided to spike the price of wheat at Chicago at \$2.20 a bushel, thus eliminating speculation and doing away with the dealings in "futures" in the wheat trade in the Chicago "pit."

There is probably no little grief about the Chicago "pit" this week as a result. The government started to buying wheat on this market Wednesday and instead of the "pit" getting all excited and worked up over the government purchases, it was perfectly calm. The transactions bore a striking contrast to those of days gone by. There was no clamoring among the buyers to reach the "pit" because the food administration's representative was the only purchaser and he never went near the "pit" to make his purchases. The transactions proceeded as automatically as operations over the counter at any ordinary national bank.

In accordance with the government regulations there was just one standard of values, the basis of \$2.20 a bushel for No. 1 northern grade. Consignees in receipt of wheat merely had to send their commodity into store at the warehouse and on turning the receipt over to the representative of the food administrator, were given a check for cash in full payment. The exchange of the receipts for the check was not done in the board of trade but in an office building two blocks away. This graphically explains the simplicity with which the government has effectively wrested the market reins from those who have held control of them for years.

Fixing the price of wheat at \$2.20 a bushel does many things of great value to both producers and consumers. In the first place it stabilizes the market and does away with speculation in "futures" which has more than once caused the high of living to wax fat. It sets aside the law of supply and demand. It removes a heavy burden from the shoulders of wheat producers who have heretofore suffered losses by selling their crop when the markets unexplainably began to decline. It also protects the consumer against the speculators and middlemen boosting the price of the finished product out of sight.

Federal action in fixing the price of the 1917 crop could not be escaped. The government had no other course to follow after the enactment of the food control law fixing the price of the 1918 crop at \$2 a bushel. It established a precedent that it was forced to follow in order to protect both producer and consumer.

The price basis which the admin-

### Plant More Wheat

Michigan is a good wheat state. Her fertile soils are well adapted to the profitable production of this cereal and there is no reason why her farmers should not plant a much larger acreage than is their practice. Because of the price of \$2 that has already been fixed on the 1918 crop, there is no crop which the Michigan business farmer can grow that will insure better returns for the labor and money invested. Many farmers of this state report yields of 38 and 40 bushels to the acre, and with the proper preparation of the soil, this can be duplicated in almost any section of the state. Plant more wheat this fall. It is not too late. Get the Red Rock variety with which farmers have been having such wonderful success. Your soil is good; the price is fixed. With good, treated seed, you take the smallest chance of any crop that grows.

istration expects to maintain in accordance with the recommendation of the president for the period of this crop year will be at the various seaboard and interior primary markets, as follows:

For No. 1 northern, No. 1 red winter No. 1 hard winter, No. 1 durum and No. 1 hard white, at New York, \$2.30; at Philadelphia, \$2.29; Baltimore, \$2.29; Buffalo, \$2.25; Galveston, \$2.20; New Orleans, \$2.20; Chicago, \$2.20; St. Louis, \$2.18; Duluth, \$2.17; Minneapolis, \$2.17; Omaha, \$2.15; Kansas City, \$2.15.

For the No. 2 of each of these grades, 3 cents a bushel less.

For the No. 3 of each of these grades, 6 cents less.

For the No. 4 of each of these grades, 10 cents less.

For mixed wheat 4 cents less than the price of the predominating grade.

For dark hard winter, dark northern spring and amber durum, 4 cents a bushel premium over the basic grades.

For soft red winter, red spring and soft white, 2 cents discount under basic grade.

For yellow hard winter and white club wheat, 4 cents discount under basic grade.

For red durum and red walla, 7 cents under basic grade.

For humpback, 10 cents under the basic grade.

Lower grades will be purchased by sample on basis of relative values.

Purchases will all be on the basis of government's standards of grades of grain.

Grain bought for export will be paid for after being unloaded and warehouse receipt issued in a public elevator, or in a private elevator where receipts are issued under safeguards provided by the government.

These prices cover government purchases only but the food administration expects to control the wheat market through its wheat corporation recently organized with headquarters in New York City and twelve branch offices in the wheat-buying centers. It expects to control

the market by the fact that purchases for the Allies as well as the government are to be made through the corporation. It also has plans under consideration to make purchases for the millers and then it would virtually become the purchaser of the nation's entire crop.

At least for the next two years the producers and consumers will have their innings in the food game; the market gamblers and speculators will be permitted to warm the bleachers.

The fact remains we must grow more wheat and to do this we must substantially increase the planted acreage, and of no less importance, produce more bushels to the measured acre. Our Sammys at the front must be fed, and fed exceedingly well with an abundance of nutritious foods and rations to their liking. Our Allies must also be fed and those of us who stay at home must be fed as well.

There is just one best variety of wheat for the Michigan planter and that is Red Rock developed by the Michigan Agricultural College. There are several thousand bushels of this pedigreed seed available for planting this fall. It is a variety that has produced splendid results this year. It has been tested and found true. Yields ranging from 30 to 50 bushels per acre are reported from every corner of the state where the seed was sown last fall.

It is not too late to plant wheat yet. The best time to plant in central and southern Michigan is from September 15th to 30th. In northern Michigan it may be sown as late as September 10th. A good stand is not

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## MICHIGAN BEAN MAN U. S. BUYER

W. J. Orr, President Michigan  
Bean Jobbers Association,  
Chairman of Committee  
to Purchase Beans for  
Army and Navy

The bean "dictator" has arrived. Mr. W. J. Orr of Saginaw, president of the Michigan Bean Jobbers' Ass'n, and a nationally recognized authority on beans, has been appointed chairman of a committee to purchase the entire bean supplies needed by the United States army and navy. The other members of the committee are E. E. Doty of New York; G. G. Willson of Colorado; H. Clay Miller of California.

The government's bean needs for the month of September alone is 7,500,000 pounds or about 200 cars. This allotment will be obtained from California, Colorado, Michigan, New Mexico and New York state. They will be of the old crop and deliveries will start at once to the 32 cantonments, depots and to quartermasters.

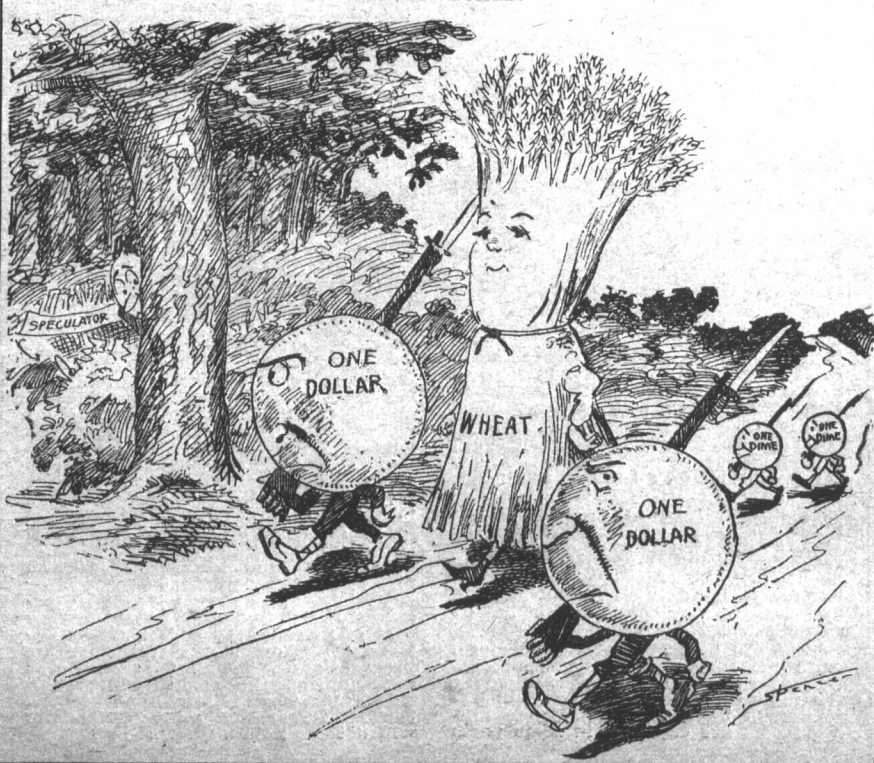
The government will set the price on all beans purchased for them. What this will be, Mr. Orr is unable to state at the present time. It has been presumed, however, that the price will be around \$7.50 per bushel. While the price the government fixes does not necessarily apply to beans sold for civilian consumption, it will undoubtedly automatically fix the price of such per bushel. Altho the price the government fixes on its own needs does not necessarily apply to those sold for civilian consumption, it is believed that this price will automatically govern the latter, owing to the large bulk of the crop which the government will take from the regular channels of trade.

Mr. Orr states to Michigan Business Farming that any elevator, any dealer or any producer of beans may sell to the government in car lots providing they satisfy the specifications. This being true, every producer in the state of Michigan has an equal chance with every other one to dispose of his crop to the government at the established price. Mr. Orr requests that all farmers desiring to sell their beans to the government to write to him at Saginaw and receive full particulars as to specifications, price, etc.

According to the provisions of the food-control bill neither Mr. Orr, or any of the other members of the committee, nor any firm in which they may be interested, may sell beans to the government. It is, therefore, manifestly impossible for these gentlemen to profit by virtue of their positions from the sale of any commodity to the government.

Mr. Orr is unable to state what the maximum needs of the government may be, but they will be sufficiently large to keep the market vigorous at all times, and no farmer need fear that he will be unable to dispose of his 1917 crop at a good price and a fair profit. The element of speculation which has dominated the bean market in the past is now entirely eliminated and the producer is placed upon an equal footing with the dealer.

### HER BODYGUARD.





# CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

## MANY FARMERS AT STATE FAIR

Annual Exposition Draws Thousands from Michigan Farms to View Exhibits and Splendid Attractions at Detroit.

While this article is being written and set in type the sixty-second annual Michigan State Fair is in full swing in the City of Detroit. Thousands of people from the farms, cities and villages are thronging the buildings, tents and fair ground avenues viewing the agricultural, mechanical and art exhibits with an appreciative eye. Appreciative eye, we say, because each fair guest can not help but realize the great handicap under which the annual agricultural exhibition is being held and take cognizance of the great efforts the state fair officials have made to crown it with success.

And the fair is again a success. It has drawn farmers and townspeople from every corner of the state to view the agricultural fruits of the year. No doubt the 1917 fair will surpass the attendance record of a year ago. The crop exhibits, however are not up to the standard maintained by those of a year ago, but this could not be expected when the backwardness of the growing season is taken into consideration. Yet such as they are Michigan can justly feel proud of her farmers in being able to grow as good crops as they have from which they picked their exhibits. These exhibits are from practically every county in the state and are on exhibition in one or more of the buildings on the grounds.

The fair is a success because it encouraged so many thousands of Michigan farmers to lay aside their tools, stand their horses in the barn for a short rest, while they went to Detroit to view the exhibits of what others have grown upon their farms this year. The farmers need a little vacation of this sort as well as other people; they needed it more this year as they have been laboring untiringly short handed many of them, to grow an increased acreage of foodstuffs to feed a hungry world being torn to pieces by international strife. The benefits derived from this fair will probably be manifold. Here the farmers were able to view the new types of grains that have obtained such splendid yields for many a Michigan Business Farmer; here they were brought in contact with breeders of the best livestock in the country; here they saw tractor and farm implement demonstrations. Then too, their minds were drawn away from the cares of the farm by attending the high-classed entertainment features on the grounds and viewing the fire works in the evening.

The fair closes Sunday and the farmers and the exhibitors will return to their farms to await the coming of another fair. In the meantime the fair officials begin laying plans for the sixty-third annual State Fair.

### Michigan Politics

Ex-Governors Chase S. Osborn and W. N. Ferris are already sparring around the political mat, calling each other affectionate names and otherwise calling the people's attention to their respective candidacies for United States senator to fill the boots which William Alden Smith will shake off shortly. But they are not the only ones who are reported to be after the job. The names of Ex-Governor Warner, "Pat" Kelley and Jos. Fordney have also been mentioned as probable candidates.

## STATE BRIEFS

**LUDINGTON**—A bumper cucumber crops predicted by growers in this section. Marketing of the cucumbers is in full swing this week.

**TRAVERSE CITY**—Milk producers increased the wholesale price to \$3 a hundred lbs. which will increase the retail price from 8 to 10 or 11 cents a quart.

**LANSING**—Figures of the U. S. census show there are 7,061 acres in cucumbers in Michigan, the largest state acreage in the country. New York, with an acreage of 3,350, ranks second.

**EAST LANSING**—In order to permit farmers' sons to remain on the farm and assist in the final harvesting of the crops, the Michigan Agricultural College has announced that postponement of its regular opening day of September 24th to October 10th.

**SALINE**—The apple crop will be 25 per cent. normal. Early varieties will be very short, and there will not be enough for local demand. Potatoes promise a normal yield despite the 10 per cent increase in acreage. The price in local stores is \$1 bu. Other fruit crops are short.

**MT. CLEMENS**—Farmers near here fear an early frost. Those who are weather-wise predict that during the month of September there will be two moons, an unusual condition. Crops are promising, but farmers believe a frost will do a great damage. Apples will be less than an average crop this year.

**MUSKEGON**—Thousands of barrels of flour were destroyed, a grain elevator razed and the People's Milling Company buildings gutted by a fire that threatened the business section here, including the Continental Motor Company plant. The loss is \$150,000. The police are seeking incendiaries.

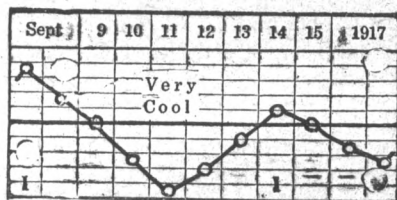
**LANSING**—Spread of hog cholera in counties of Southern Michigan is causing anxiety to state officers. Drastic steps to curb the epidemic are in preparation. Advice received here today said the disease had made its appearance in three townships of Lenawee county, and that additional cases were reported in Washtenaw and St. Joseph counties.

**LANSING**—Eight hundred farmers of Oscoda and Missaukee counties have petitioned Governor Sleeper that farmer boys be exempt from the draft. The petition asks that farmer boys be given military training during the winter months for home guard protection purposes only. Gov. Sleeper can not act and has so notified the petitioners.

**KALAMAZOO**—Kalamazoo milk dealers will be given ten days councilmen said recently to submit figures showing why consumers here should pay the increased rate for milk. The dealers have submitted one schedule of costs which would make the price of handling milk in this city as great as in New York. Kalamazoo is paying 12 cents a quart and seven cents a pint, the latter price being regarded as an injustice and without cause.

## 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 30 to September 3 and Sept. 5 to 8, warm wave Aug. 29 to Sept. 2 and Sept. 4 to 8, cool wave Sept. 1 to 5 and 7 to 9. These will carry us past the warm weather, with a great fall in temperatures Sept. 1 to 11 and killing frosts in the northern states and Canada near the latter date. Then the temperatures will run upward, contrary to the season, till about Sept. 27. Good rains will continue in the states till about Sept. 20 and then move north. Rains will continue in Canada but they will do more harm than good.

Next warm rain will reach Vancouver about Sept. 11 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Sept. 13, plains sections 13, meridian 90, great Lakes and Ohio valleys Sept. 14, eastern sections 15, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Sept. 16. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

This will be a well organized storm with more force than usual. Location of rains will be about same as for month past. Trend of temperatures will be upward. Light to killing frosts are expected in some parts

**CADILLAC**—Local milk dealers have served notice on the consumers of the advance in the price of milk to 10 cents a quart. A threatening milk famine is said to have prompted the dealers to make the raise.

**CASS CITY**—Hire's Condensed Milk Company is completing a modern condenser here which will have milk capacity of 200,000 pounds daily. When the plant is completed and operations begin, it is expected this new industry will stimulate the dairy industry about Cass City as it has never been done before.

**LANSING**—Secretary of State Vaughn has authorized the Grand Blanc Co-operative Elevator Company, of Grand Blanc to incorporate in Michigan to do an elevator and milling business. The company is capitalized at \$30,000. This will make the second farmers' co-operative elevator in Genesee county and a third company is now being organized by the farmers a Mt. Morris.

**HASTINGS**—R. L. Winslow, a Barry county farmer, believes in war efficiency. Rather than take his team of horses away from their work in the field, he hitched his touring car to a couple of loads of wheat and hauled them to market, a distance of two and a half miles, without meeting with an accident. He hauled 120 bushels to market at a single trip and traveled at the rate of five miles per hour.

**EAST LANSING**—According to the best authorities Michigan will market one of the biggest potato crops in her history this year. C. W. Wade, potato disease expert of the M. A. C., who has kept in intimate touch with the acreage and condition of the crop, believes the yield will reach nearly 40,000,000. While this is greatly in excess of last year's poor yield, it falls short of the state's average production.

**EVART**—An unusual effort will be made here to harvest the large wild blackberry crop about here as a result of word being received here that the government will require eleven million pounds of blackberry jam for the army and navy. Northern Michigan has a big crop of this fruit which is particularly desirable because it has medicinal qualities which counteract certain intestinal troubles in addition to its welcome place in the diet as a sweet.

**HASTINGS**—The Central Barry Co-operative association is shipping stock each Saturday. The membership is growing and will ultimately do all the stock shipping in this section and for that matter all over the southern part of Michigan, as there are thirty of these associations, and more organizing. The one centered here of which Albert Williams is secretary, has shipped since organized over \$15,000 worth of stock, and the prices received have been satisfactory.

**JACKSON**—The Michigan Co-operative Association of Livestock Buyers has been organized here. Officers are: President, E. A. Dunton, Coldwater; vice president, L. C. Kelly, Charlotte; secretary-treasurer, C. J. Miller, Union City. Forty local organizations will be asked to join. A meeting will be called here next month. The organization protested against the proposed unrestricted limitations of veal sales. It also opposed the establishment of uniform insurance rate for cattle in transit. The stop-over privilege in shipping stock was advocated. Buyers say there are fewer hogs and fewer sheep in southern Michigan now than a year ago. Hogs are 30 days late in maturing.

of middle west, Canada and northern states near Sept. 11 and some late corn will be damaged. General killing frosts in best corn section near Oct. 2. Great heat wave will reach meridian 90 near Sept. 27.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has published a large number of valuable farmers' bulletins for free distribution. Send to that department for a catalogue of those bulletins and then you can select such as interest you. They will assist you in studying intensified farming. The business of farming is now assured as the best occupation one can follow, but some farmers must get rid of their slouchy methods or they will be crowded out by the more enterprising. Lands are now too valuable for wooden mouldboard methods.

Acid fertilizers make the crops grow one season but they kill the soil. The better way is to permanently renew the soil so that it will not need acid fertilizers. The only natural and permanent fertilizers are vegetable and animal mold and some mineral, bird and animal deposits. The best soil goes into the ravines and down toward the sea. You should catch and bring it back.

September rains will put your soil in good condition for sowing winter grain and the grass seeds that are sown in the fall months. Winter grain and blue grass will furnish fine pastures. The 1918 cropweather conditions appear to be very favorable to timothy and other grasses east of meridian 90 and north of latitude 40. Now is the time to make preparations. Timothy should be sown during the usual sowing time this fall. That is one crop that will pay next year, but some other crops will not pay; the seed will be lost.

## BOARD OPPOSES FARM DRAFT

Despite Protests From Farm Colleges and Organizations the Country Over, President Says Farmers Cannot be Exempted

The State Board of Agriculture has passed a resolution protesting against the drafting of farmers and farm hands actively engaged in producing crops. Such policy, the board declared, is contrary to the intent of the selective draft act and if continued will result in nothing short of disaster for Michigan agriculture.

This resolution expresses the sentiment of farmers and farmer organizations all over the state, and there is a consensus of opinion that the continued conscription of farm helpers will work havoc with next year's production. In response to President Wilson's appeal for increased production, and depending upon the government's word that farm help would be exempted from the provisions of the draft, many farmers of this state made heavy purchases of lands, machinery and other equipment necessary to plant and care for a larger acreage of crops. They are now left in the lurch, with their sons and hired hands drafted into the army, and without visible help to care for the crops they have planned. But it appears that a protest at this date is useless, according to the following statement purported to have come from President Wilson:

"I feel that a class exemption (referring to exemptions of farmers) would lead to many difficulties and to many heart-burnings, much as I should personally like to see all genuine farmers left at their indispensable labors."

The President points out that no farmers will be called to camp until after the end of this year's harvesting season.

The farmers have made no demand that they be exempted from service as a class. There are men who reside in the country and try their hand at farming who are in no sense farmers, whose responsibilities and abilities are so slight that they could be taken out of the field of production and never missed. Many so-called farmers are city men who hiked to the country last spring expecting that they would be exempted upon their unsupported plea that they were farmers. None of these should have exemption. But where it is shown that a land-owning and crop-producing farmer.

### New Farmers' Elevator at Midland

The organization of the Farmers' and Gleaners' Co-operative Elevator at Midland has been completed.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Oscar Warren; vice president, Oscar Inman; secretary and treasurer, August Rohde. The above officers with Peter Weidemier and August Hintz, comprise the board of directors, and were given full power to act. August Rohde was elected manager of the elevator. The board of directors closed a deal with William Reardon, Sr., for the purchase of the upper elevator, which they expect to remodel and modernize for the new business, and to which a creamery will be added.

The new organization at present is composed of 116 stockholders, each of whom will have but one vote, irrespective of the number of shares owned.



# WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON D.C.—“Fatty” War Profits is chuckling with glee today. He has been exempted from military service. His gouty old guardian, Munitions Maker, filed claims of dependency before the Senate who took pity on the “poor” old man and returned his beloved protegee practically intact. True, a few hairs were pulled out during the heat of the conflict in the Senate over the exemption claims, but they’ll never be missed. He returns joyfully home to put on additional avoirdupois and keep the “old man” from starvation. In just what manner old Munitions-Maker expressed his gratitude to the kind and solicitous senators who spared his “sole support” is not related.

The report issued by the Senate committee on finance in support of its recommendation for higher taxes against war profits and incomes, is a bewildering document. It cites the profits of nearly 150 representative industrial corporations and railroads for 1916, ranging from the \$254,558 earnings of the Pere Marquette to the \$271,531,730 net income of the United States Steel Corporation. The aggregate of these profits runs up into many billions of dollars, and they have been secured both thru new foreign business, and increased charges to the American consumer. With but few exceptions all of these companies were making large profits on their invested capital prior to the war, which have been increased several hundred per cent during the last three years.

Under the original revenue bill the highest tax proposed against war profits was 60 per cent on all profits in excess of 300 percent of the pre-war profits. The finance committee recommended an increase ranging from 20 to 70 percent of the excess profits according to their size. Senators LaFollette of Wisconsin and Hiram Johnson of California lead the fight for higher taxes, but at no time were they able to muster more than 20 votes in support. For an entire fortnight Congress wrangled over the proposed amendments. Every time one amendment was defeated “Bob” LaFollette would bob up with another, all having the same object of fixing the war burden upon war profits. But Senator Simmons who lead the opposition was too ably supported by Honorable Senator Penrose (name sound familiar?) and other senators who make no secret of their obligations to the corporations, and on a final vote taken Sept. 5th the senate adopted the compromised compromise providing for a total levy of \$1,286,000,000, or about one-third of this year’s war and normal excess profits.

Most folks think that if the government has a right to conscript men it also has the right to conscript wealth. I know that some, however, hold wealth dearer than life, and there are a few thousand of the idle rich in this country who are unwilling to give up either life or wealth to help the country win the war. And with loyal friends sitting in the Congress of the United States, both their lives and their dollars will be safe for all time to come.

The graduated rates and their estimated revenue yield follows:

Twelve per cent. on excess profits up to 15 per cent., \$100,080,000.  
Sixteen per cent. on between 16 and 25 per cent., \$46,080,000.  
Twenty per cent. between 25 and 50 per cent., \$109,000,000.  
Thirty per cent. between 50 and 100 per cent., \$88,200,000.  
Thirty-five per cent. between 100 and 150 per cent., \$120,050,000.  
Forty per cent. between 150 and 200 per cent., \$102,000,000.  
Forty-five per cent. between 200 and 250 per cent., \$84,150,000.  
Fifty per cent. between 250 and 300 per cent., \$72,500,000.  
Sixty per cent. of profits in excess of 300 per cent., \$462,940,000.

Of course, the revenue bill will have to go back to the House where undoubtedly the war profits provisions will be discussed and argued all over again, but there is little likelihood of there being any additional tax put upon wealth by the House which originally recommended a much smaller tax than agreed upon by the Senate.

Advocates of licensed booze, “per-

sonal liberty” and “you-do-as-you-please and I’ll-do-as-I-please,” will profess to find in the recent statement of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue just made public complete substantiation of their old pleas that “prohibition does not prohibit,” “the more you prohibit the more booze there is drunk,” and other stock and equally as paradoxical arguments they have been using without success the last few years to stem the tide of prohibition. Even the prohibitionists themselves and those cheerful optimists who persist that the world is constantly growing better will scratch their heads and ponder long over the figures showing the amount of booze drunk and tobacco smoked and chewed in this country during the fiscal year ending June 30th, which greatly exceeded all previous year’s records.

Here are the grand totals of production on which taxes are paid:

Distilled spirits from every source, including rye, corn, wheat, apples, peaches, pears, pineapples, oranges, apricots, berries, prunes, figs and cherries, was 164,665,246 gallons, an increase of 26,000,000 gallons over the



The American Drunkard Pays His Annual Booze Bill

previous year, yielding a tax return of \$186,563,055.

Cigars of all descriptions and weight, 9,216,901,113, or approximately 90 per capita, as compared with 8,337,720,530, the previous year.

Cigarettes, 30,529,193,538, as compared with 21,087,075,078, an increase of more than 40 per cent.

Tobacco, chewing and smoking, 445,763,206 pounds, an increase of 28,500,000 pounds.

The return to the government in taxes in cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and snuff was \$103,201,592, an increase of approximately \$15,000,000, or 18 per cent over the previous year.

Looks kinda bad, all right for a country that has waged such war against booze and (in some sections) tobacco, as the United States. But the conclusions of the Federal government need analyzing. The country hasn’t so bad an alcohol and tobacco habit as the figures make out.

The government bases its CON-

SUMPTION statistics upon the taxes derived from the licensed MANUFACTURE. The government, therefore, knows nothing about the actual consumption of these products.

It is a fact that distillers and tobacco manufacturers paid millions of dollars of taxes upon whiskey and tobacco, which we never consumed in this country. In the matter of tobacco it is only necessary to state that the exports of this product this year to Europe have been the largest in the history of the country, which of course, accounts for the increased production. It is reasonable to suppose also that the idleness of men in the military training camps the past year has been a factor in increasing the use of cigarettes, especially.

The big increase in the quantity of distilled spirits manufactured does not necessarily mean that the public consumed them as beverages in the same length of time. Here’s the key to the puzzle: Over a year ago the manufacturers of distilled liquors got a “hunch” that the time would come very shortly when the government would prohibit or license very heavily the use of grains and fruits in the manufacture of whiskey and kindred spirits. The whiskey men have learned from sad experience that it pays to anticipate the future trials and needs of their business, and so very quietly they have been buying up huge quantities of grains and manufacturing booze vastly in excess of immediate consumption needs and storing it away in their great warehouses. This came to light only a few months ago when summary legislation was proposed to prohibit the manufacture of distilled liquor. Today whiskey-making must cease in the United States, but bulging warehouses in Peoria, Louisville and other distilling cities give evidence of the foresight of the booze-makers in providing for the wants of the American drunkard for some time to come.

Do you see now why the whiskey manufacturers paid so large a tax on manufactured products for the fiscal year ending June 30th?

A conference of representative livestock men was held this week in Washington for the purpose of discussing the meat situation. That there is a world shortage of all kinds of live stock is just being appreciated by the governments of the several nations, and concerted action is urged by the United States government to increase the production at once. The meat supply must have attention even if war had not broken out. Secretary Houston told the conference, “The number of animals has decreased steadily in the last decade,” he said, “while the population of the United States was growing rapidly. From all indications that we can get it is clear that the decrease in food animals abroad can be measured only by the tens of millions. The live stock men of this nation have an enormous problem to solve. They are going to be called upon to supply increasingly large quantities of meat products as well as breeding animals to Europe.” Get busy, business farmers, raise more livestock.

## WAR WIRES

The most important news that has come out of the war zone during the past several weeks is that of the fall of Riga, Russia’s big port on the Gulf of Riga, which was taken by the Germans last Saturday after a slight skirmish with the Russian defenders. During this offensive the Germans advanced over fifteen miles into Russian territory. The fleeing Russians laid the entire country in the way of their retreat in waste, burning villages and farms. Military authorities claim that there is little strategic value in controlling the Gulf of Riga, as it is too far north to permit of advantageous military operations during the severe winter months.

The Entente Allies have been meeting with further reverses in the Austro-Italian theatre of war, the Italians having made considerable progress along the Bainsizza Plateau where the fighting has been going on quite severely for a number of months. Advances to the Italian Embassy at Washington are to the effect that along the front of the present offensive the Austrians have lost more than 128,000 men. In the Flanders region the batteries of Field Marshal Haig are still pouring an incessant fire against the German trenches but they have not yet made sufficient inroads into the German lines to enable the British Marshal to safely follow it up with his infantrymen.

German airplanes have again been raiding the coast of England but the latest attack is reported to have been a complete failure as no casualties or damage have been discovered as a result of the attack. The frequency of German airplane attacks during the last several months keeps England constantly upon nerves and makes her apprehensive that Germany may at some future time conduct a more telling air attack upon her shores.

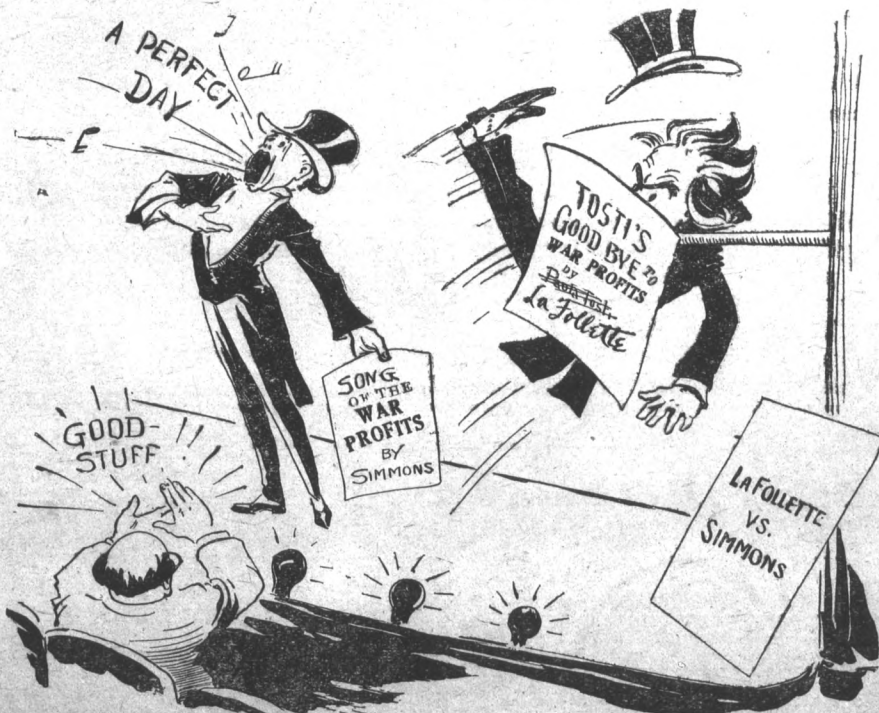
On account of the unsettled economic conditions in Europe, neutral countries are beginning to feel the pinch of curtailed imports. Norway and Sweden, in particular, are suffering from the lack of food and many of the other necessities of life. The shortages are so acute in these countries that the people are demanding that the governments take over all private stocks of food materials which are suspected of being held by food speculators. Some of the latest despatches from Sweden report of the rising indignation in many of the cities at the high prices of certain food stuffs. Particular complaint is made over the fact that some butchers are demanding 45 cents a pound for bacon. Max-tes Aftonbladet, a Swedish newspaper, says by the government on the price of pork. Vegetables are luxuries for the well-to-do and the price of clothing has advanced 65 per cent. The fuel situation is also acute. English coal is selling in Sweden at \$90 a ton and hard wood costs \$14 a cord. The poorer classes of people are reported near the hunger line already, and winter will bring great suffering unless some unforeseen amelioration of conditions comes to pass.

Any hope entertained in the United States that Argentina would support the allied nations in their war against Germany virtually has been abandoned as a result of the German government’s success in satisfying the demands of the Buenos Aires foreign office in connection with the sinking of the little Argentine sailing craft Toro. Germany’s agreement to pay indemnities for ships sunk under the Argentine flag caused Secretary Lansing to point out that the imperial government and made a greater promise to the United States and then had broken her word. Examination of the facts, however, indicate that Germany will not be embarrassed by keeping this latest promise because Argentina has no mercantile marine engaged in trans-Atlantic trade.

An increase in the number of British vessels sunk last week by mines or submarines is shown in the weekly admiralty statement just issued. Eighteen vessels of more than 1,600 tons capacity were sent to the bottom as compared with fifteen the previous week and five vessels of less than that tonnage, as against three the previous week. To some authorities this is taken to indicate that Germany has added a number of new submarines to her under-water fighting forces or else the vessels were so unfortunate as to run onto the “terriers” of the seas.

Answering Pope Benedict’s peace appeal floated in mid-August, President Wilson stated that the United States must continue the war until the world is freed of Prussianism and a stable and enduring peace is assured, not from the present rulers of Germany but from the German peoples themselves. Acceptance of the vatican’s peace proposals, the president pointed out, would mean a renewal of the great war at a later date. President Wilson made it plain in his reply that the United States can not trust the German autocracy. The refusal of the terms on the part of the United States could not be expressed in words conveying more certain meaning, but without, the president did not close the door to peace. He said we must await some new evidence of the purposes of the great peoples of the Central powers, which he hoped would be given soon. The Allies heartily endorsed the president’s reply.

While peace offerings are being rejected and peace parties are being denied the privilege of holding a convention in many of the states, preparations for carrying on a long and terrible war are being made by the war departments. The pinch of the war is being brought nearer home each day and many homes got their first taste of the war this week when dear ones entertained for the cantonment at Battle Creek where the drafted men of Michigan are to be trained in modern warfare.



War Supplies Manufacturers Are Pleased With Senator Simmons' Rendition of the War Profits Solo



## FORDNEY FAVORS LOWER SUGAR

Erstwhile Champion of Sugar Industry Startles Everyone With Sudden Conversion to Consumer's Cause

Congressman "Joe" Fordney, of Saginaw, erstwhile messenger boy and lobbyist extraordinary for the Michigan sugar interests, created a mild stir to-day in Washington when he told Herbert Hoover that the price of sugar should be reduced to six cents.

When a politician who has served the "interests" so faithfully and long as Mr. Fordney suddenly professes a change of heart and proclaims an affectionate regard for the welfare of the consumer, Mr. Consumer immediately "smells a rat." Nobody professes to know what is back of the Honorable Joseph's tactics. Certainly neither the producer nor the consumer are in on the secret. If the manufacturers are wise to his game they are keeping mum on the subject and all efforts to pry the information loose from them have to date proved quite futile.

It may be mentioned in passing that under the agreement made between the sugar manufacturers and the beet growers last spring the farmers will not receive over \$7 per ton for beets in the event of the government's acting upon Mr. Fordney's suggestion to fix the sugar price at 6 cents. It would be a fine thing, indeed, for the companies to be able to buy up all the 1917 beets at \$7 per ton and then have the war come to an end. Know what would happen? With the cessation of war, the government's control would be removed and sugar would immediately soar skyward.

—And then again—it is rumored that Mr. Fordney is a candidate for the United States senate.

### New Barrel Law.

The standard "dry measure" barrel law, passed by the 1917 legislature, became effective September 1, providing for the enforcement of the law of the dairy and food commissioner and penalties for its non-obedience. According to the new law the standard barrel for fruits, vegetables, and all other dry commodities with the exception of cranberries, shall be as follows: Diameter of heads, 17 1/2 inches, length of staves, 28 1/2 inches; distance between heads, 26 inches; circumference of bulge, 64 inches; and the thickness of staves not more than 4-10 of an inch; provided that any barrel of a different form having a capacity of 7.056 cubic inches shall be a standard barrel.

### Wheat Price Fixed at \$2.20

assured where fields are planted later than these dates altho there have been instances when splendid crops have been secured from later planting.

Weigh your wheat and other grains before taking them to market this fall! You should know how much grain you are taking to market as errors are sometimes made at the elevators in weighing; occasionally a grain spout get "plugged" and you lose a bushel or two. Every bushel of wheat means at least \$2 this year and it may be time well spent for you to weigh your wheat before taking it to the elevator. Remember, elevator men will not be able to speculate on your wheat this year but if they are none too honest they can make their excess profits in other ways. Weigh your grain and satisfy your conscience anyway!

—If this paper has something in it of value to you, it has something of equal value to your neighbor. Why not stick this copy of Michigan Business Farming in your jeans pocket so it'll be handy to show your neighbors when you meet them on the road or in town?

## LAST MINUTE COUNTY CROP REPORTS

**OSCEOLA**—Mr. Frank Applebee, neighbor, has threshed 93 bu. of Rosen rye off of four acres. Wm. Benth is building new barn, 40x70, with cement basement. Arthur Wiles just threshed 440 bu. of oats from 10 acres.—W. A. S., Marion.

**GRATIOT**—The farmers are getting ready to sow wheat, but some are not through threshing yet. The weather is threatening rain but we don't get any yet. The soil is working up good for being so dry. Wheat and oats are the principal grain going on the market. The farmers are not building as much this year as last.—H. E. C., Banister.

**PRESQUE ISLE**—Farmers are now threshing alsike clover seed. Weather cool and fair; soil sandy to clay loam. Are not selling much, a few sheep and cattle. Not holding anything as there is not much for market as yet. John Farrow's large barn burned with all hay and tools, caused by burning of stumps and neglected them. We need at least two weeks of good weather to finish potatoes and beans.—D. D. S., Millersburg.

**MIDLAND**—Since the last report have had rains, and if the frost holds off corn, beans and potatoes will make a fair crop. Some threshing done, but don't know the yield. But very little plowing done yet. Some of the farmers work in the chemical plant at Midland. Robert Haskins built a new house this summer. He is a good farmer; keeps his crops clean, keeps good horses, feeds regularly, keeps them clean and fat.—G. H. M., Midland.

**VAN BUREN**—Fall seeding in corn, sowing alfalfa, handling grape baskets, working out road tax. Consolidated school at Mattawan commenced Monday, September 3. A commercial course to take the place of German. September 5 a nice rain, but cold. Concord grapes are starting to turn. Nights cold, poor cucumber weather. Grape help being solicited for Oct. 1.—V. T. G., Mattawan.

**OGEMAW**—Oats are about all harvested. Rye is yielding from 15 to 30 bu. to the acre. Oats from 30 to 59. Not much wheat raised here. Peas are a good crop. Beans need two weeks yet to mature, are well podded but stand poor. Pasture good. Milk is bringing \$2.15 per hundred lbs. at Creamery with a bonus for milk testing over 3.5 per cent fat. Butter fat is 12 cents above Elgin quotation.—W. N., West Branch.

**LIVINGSTON**—Plowing for wheat; soil very dry but is raining today. Farmers are selling hay in stacks and in barns where the room will be needed to store beans. Most farmers are holding wheat. Rosen rye reported a big crop, some fields yielding as high as 44 bu. to the acre. Buyers are here from Pennsylvania and Indiana buying new milch cows, paying as high as \$150.00 for choice grades.—G. A. W., Fowlerville.

**NEWAYGO**—Cold nights, hot days shortening buckwheat crop to some extent. Stock buyers quite plentiful; 5 1/2 cents for steers. Threshing machines in every direction. Grain turning out good, especially oats. Probably 80 per cent of the corn crop may be harvested. Stock looking good, pasture excellent. Large acreage of fall grain will be sowed this fall. Gleaners' picnic largely attended good speakers, fine time in general.—F. S., Big Rapids.

**ANTRIM**—Weather conditions the past week have been ideal for the corn, bean and potato crops of this section. Corn has advanced wonderfully the last ten days and farmers are more hopeful for ripe corn this fall. Threshing has not been commenced yet as a good share of the oats are not yet hauled and the rains have prevented threshing from the fields. Potatoes and beans are doing finely and a good crop is expected. The cherry season is over and the orchardists report good gains altho much was lost because of scarcity of pickers. C. W. O., Kewadin.

## HERE'S PROOF THE LOCAL BUYER FIXES YOUR MARKET PRICES

County Market Reports Indicate a Wide and Unexplainable Margin Between Prices Paid by Local Buyers for Commodities in Different Parts of the State

Market reports gathered from a large number of counties in the lower peninsula indicate a wide margin in the prices paid in the several respective sections. As noted elsewhere, the price of potatoes, for instance, varied from 60 cents in Grand Traverse county to \$1.50 in Kalamazoo county. The same divergence is noticeable with practically all other farm products.

In a large number of counties, dealers have apparently been taking advantage of the farmers' ignorance of the wheat situation, and have been buying wheat at from 15 to 30 cents less per bushel than the price fixed by the government. Several counties report the wheat market at \$1.85 per bushel, while others show a market price as high as \$2.08. Under the prices fixed by the government, no wheat unless of the very poorest quality, should sell for less than \$2.05 per bushel anywhere in the state of Michigan. If your dealer will not pay you this, Mr. Business Farmer, hold your wheat and write us. We'll find out what's the trouble. The average price paid for wheat in the state on Sept. 4th was \$1.97.

The average for potatoes on the above date was \$1.08.

The price of oats ranges from 40 cents in Osceola county to 72 in Ogemaw, with an average of 57 cents. Rye prices vary from \$1.35 in Ottawa to \$1.90 in Antrim, with an average for the state of \$1.52. The average for No. 1 timothy hay is \$11.68, ranging from \$8 in Ingham to \$15 in Antrim. The average for poultry is 15 cents and for eggs, 34 cents.

There is no one in the world better able to stabilize the markets on all products than the farmer. By keeping in intimate touch with state and national market conditions and prices he is able at all times to strike a comparison with local prices and know about what he should receive for his produce. In all cases, when convinced that the condition of the market is such as to warrant higher prices than the buyer offers, the farmer should by all means demand it, and stand ready to show the buyer upon what grounds he expects a better price.

## The "Home Stretch" Pledge

Every Michigan business farmer wants to see this new market weekly go. Scores have sent in the pledges of ten to twenty of their neighbors. These bring us rapidly to the 5,000 mark. Clip this petition and ask your neighbor to sign it.

We, the undersigned, by our signatures herewith, pledge ourselves to one year's subscription to Michigan Business Farming, and promise to send \$1 on or before December 1st, 1917.

NAME	ADDRESS

Circulator's Name ..... Address .....

## GOV'T PROTECTS LAND CONTRACTS

Drafted Men Need Not Fear Loss of Property Purchased on Contract if Unable to Continue Payments While in Service

The following is a type of several letters that have been received by MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING recently:

"I am about to buy a farm or to make a payment on a farm and my neighbor has already made two payments but has more to make. We are both of draft age. Do you advise me to buy? and do you think my neighbor might lose? We were not drawn in the first drawing but if all reports are true I think there will be another drawing from the same registration soon."

We immediately referred this letter to Governor Sleeper and are in receipt of the following information from the Governor's secretary, Mr. Rolph Duff:

"I have your letter to Governor Sleeper in which you inquire as to the position of farmers who may be drafted and who have land contracts running."

"I just now called up Col. Bersey, Adjutant General of the State, and he tells me that there is no question in his mind that the law which takes care of these contracts in the case of enlisted men, applies equally to men who are called under the draft. If Col. Bersey is right, and I have no doubt he is, farmers need be under no apprehension then as to their land contracts."

"Yours very truly,  
"ROLPH DUFF, Secretary."

We would, therefore, unhesitatingly advise our readers of draft age to continue their business transactions as usual. They may never be drawn, but if they are, the government will look after any contracts to which they may be a party.

### What Our Readers Say:

It's a great little magazine for the farmers and I see it hews right to the line. The farmers must organize and stand together. Chas. P. Douglas, Saginaw Co.,

I am not engaged in farming, but am vitally interested in the things you stand for. Wish you every measure of success. J. M. Perry, Osceola County, Mich.

Keep coming, Slocum. I admire your nerve, also the way you handle your market reports. Your editorials are worth the price of admission. T. H. Force, Lapeer County, Mich.

It gives me pleasure to say that I am more than willing to co-operate with you in establishing a Market Paper. Wishing you success, I am, Ernest Truesdale, Wexford county.

As to being a crop reporter I will do the best I can for BUSINESS FARMING. I think we should all try to help one another. If my report will help you are welcome to it. W. H. Leach, Monroe, county.

I want you to know that I appreciate the Market Reports. In the way of Market information they are the best that I can obtain. No farmer can afford to be without this paper. I am, Percy E. Parkinson, Gladwin county, Michigan.

Altho I am already a subscriber to three prominent Farm magazines, besides several other works I have room for another and as evidence enclose herewith \$1 to get my name on your subscription list. This country is fast changing from a sparsely to a densely populated condition and I believe that the application of scientific principles of tillage will be absolutely necessary to successful farming and this result will be largely attained by organization of the farmers for the purpose of interchanging ideas and experience.—Geo. L. Ernst, Com. of Finance, Port Huron, Mich.

Dear Mr. Editor:—I am so glad that there are a few editors who are not afraid to speak the truth and picture the farmer's conditions as they exist. Last year I tried to work 160 acres of land; no help except occasionally a man by the day, my wife and the dog. The dog died. No one seemed to want to work on the farm. I am above 70 years old and lived in sight of where I now live since 1853. If you want to insult a man ask him if he would work on a farm. Our only hold was to change work with people in different townships. At the same time the stone roads were black with joy riders killing time. Work! No, thank you! Discouraged? Yes, until a week ago a Saginaw county man located a man and brought him here. We made a deal. He is deaf as a bat but fills the bill so far. Maybe he can get enough good out of your paper so it will be a blessing to both of us. Respectfully yours, Orville Read, Genesee county.





# MARKET FLASHES



## POTATO FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN

We'll Donate a Year's Subscription to the Prognosticator who Can Tell Us What Potatoes Will Sell At.

It's a wise man and a brave man who dares to tell what potatoes will bring next December. No one expects potatoes to drop below 50 cents a bushel, while others are confident that \$1 will be closer to the average price for the entire season.

It is apparent that buyers themselves are in a quandary as to what they ought to pay for potatoes. The folks in the cities are still paying \$2 per bushel at the corner store, and we know that buyers can safely pay from \$1.25 to \$1.50 for limited quantities. Some of them are paying that at the present time, but there are others who are offering as low as 60 cents here in Michigan.

On Sept. 4th potatoes were bringing 85 to 90 cents in Ingham county, \$1.25, Gratiot; \$1.50, Kalamazoo; \$1.25, Monroe; \$1.60, Macomb; 90c, Branch; 60c, Grand Traverse; \$1.40, Saginaw; \$1.25, Ottawa; \$1, Bay; 75c Newaygo; \$1.25, Antrim.

It is our judgment that potatoes will average considerably more than 60 cents per bushel this year, and that the growers ought not to sell this early in the season for any such figure. Remember, the potato crop has not yet been harvested. There are many things yet that can happen to cut down the yield by many million bushels. American farmers can produce a few extra million bushels quite safely without demoralizing the market. The only thing for them to do is to keep their head, reason things out for themselves and sit tight.

If wheat, for instance, were selling at \$2.20 per bushel, oats at 35c, corn for 90c, beans at \$2.50, etc., we'd say in a minute that something was wrong somewhere. But the prices of EVERY SINGLE THING produced on the farm is all out of proportion to prices other years, in spite of the fact that the grain crops this year have been stupendous, and we can see no reason why potatoes should be the only exception to the rule. It is quite true that potatoes are not so desirable an export crop as the grains, owing to the large amount of water they contain, but please bear in mind that every year nations DO export or import potatoes and that this year will be the biggest export year of all for this country. If wheat is worth \$2.20 per bushel and beans \$7.50 per bushel, who will say that potatoes are not worth \$1 per bushel, and that considering all conditions and circumstances the producer should not or will not receive that much for his 1917 crop.

OTTAWA (CAN.)—The government will consider placing potatoes on the tariff free list as a war measure. The announcement was made at a sitting of parliament in response to an urgent suggestion by F. B. Carvell, Liberal. In view of the fact that in central Canada there are indications of an almost unmarketable quantity of potatoes, Mr. Carvell urged the government to take action similar to that taken with wheat and wheat products.

A Dayton, Ohio, customer bought a bag of potatoes and discovered a note in one of the tubers which had been hollowed out to hold the communication, which read: "Will the ultimate buyer please write me what he paid a bushel for this sack of potatoes. I was paid 64c a bushel for them." He had just bought them at \$4.20 a bushel. The expense and various profits forms a problem that is difficult to equitably justify.

## LAST MINUTE WIRE

CHICAGO WIRE—Sheep and lamb market weakened by heavy receipts from western shippers. Hog market weaker and showing downward tendencies. Corn market unsettled.  
DETROIT SPECIAL—All kinds of poultry, especially old hens and springers, in good demand. Make shipments Wednesday and Thursday. Good demand for new potatoes. Strong demand for veal calves.  
NEW YORK—Potato market weakening. Butter and egg market showing new strength and advancing tendencies. Liberal supplies of fruit undermining market.  
BUFFALO—Good grades of cattle steady; others slow. Sheep and lamb market steady with light receipts. Hog market weaker.



## WHEAT

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	2.17	2.19	2.27
No. 3 White	2.15	2.18	2.27
No. 2 Red	2.19	2.20	2.28
No. 3 Red	2.18	2.19	2.28

The price of No. 1 Northern wheat is no longer a gamble. Government officials have gathered in the market reins in the last ten days and pegged the price at \$2.20 a bushel at Chicago. As a result the wheat market is effectively stabilized and speculation is completely eliminated.

In the last issue of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, we predicted that the price of the 1917 wheat crop would not drop below \$2 per bushel. In fixing the 1918 price at \$2 with the prospects of a bigger acreage than the present year, we held that the government had established a precedent which was of material value in determining the price of the present crop, which to all present indications is smaller than the one to be harvested next year.

Regardless of whether the Government had taken this drastic action there would have been no good excuse for the grain dealers to ride the price of wheat below the \$2 mark. The world shortage of this cereal alone would have been sufficient excuse for the speculators to send the wheat quotations sky-rocketing, which they probably would have done as soon as the farmers had marketed part of their crop. Wheat at \$2.20 a bushel is considered a just price and one that guarantees the grower after allowing for transportation and commission charges, between \$2.05 and \$2.10 a bushel for his grain.

Although this price is fixed on government purchases only, the food administration, thru its wheat corporation recently organized, expects to control the market without difficulty. In doing so it will take a great burden off the shoulders of the farmers who have always been compelled to match wits with the speculators when it came time to sell their wheat. The government wheat corporation expects to control the market through the fact that all government and allied purchases are to be made thru the corporation. Uncle Sam started buying thru this corporation this week and he was the only buyer on the Chicago wheat market Tuesday.

From a speculative viewpoint wheat is now a matter of history. Trading for future delivery in North America has ceased at the request of the gov-

ernment. Futures reflect the laws of supply and demand but the government has taken over the demand and set aside the law. Dealing in futures will no longer be necessary as a result of the government action.

Movement of new wheat is still slow at all of the terminal points but it is now believed that it will begin to move in larger volumes as a result of the market having become stabilized by the government's action in fixing the 1917 price. Estimates of the domestic wheat yield made since August 1 shows an enlargement of 25,000,000 bushels. Latest messages from abroad indicate that the alleged great Russian surplus is undoubtedly a myth. India and Australia, however, have large amounts awaiting export but are unable to get sufficient tonnage to ship freely.



## OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 1 White	.59	.58	.76
No. 2 White	.58	.58	.69
No. 3 White	.57	.58	.69
No. 2 Mixed	.58	.58	.70

Reports of bumper oat crops in many of the heavy grain producing states has beared the market and brought the quotations to a lower level. Cash oats have lost their premium over futures as a result. The bearish pressure has brought the quotation down to a reasonable level with other feeds and it is now expected that the trade will pick up. The domestic demand for the new grain is only fair while the export call is relatively light. However, bins and elevators are still generally empty and it will take a considerable movement of the new crop to fill up the holes.

Cash oats at this writing are quoted at 58 cents and the receipts are reported to have shown a marked decrease. Both the farmers and local shippers are showing a disposition to hold oats for better prices. This reluctance on the part of the country to sell, together with the difficulty in obtaining ears in some localities and the limited supply of oats in storage, will soon cause a break in the market, some authorities say, and better prices will issue forth.

Rather than sell their oats at 58 cents many farmers are reported feeding them to their livestock and hogs. Unusually heavy feeding is also anticipated because of the scarcity of corn thruout the country and the relative cheapness of oats as compared with other grains. It is our opinion that the farmers will make no mistake to hold their oats for better prices.

## NATIONAL CROP CONDITION GOOD

Reports Gleaned From 35 States Show Promise of Biggest Yield in Nation's Agricultural History

Judging from crop conditions and estimated yields obtaining in thirty-five states of the union, President Wilson's plea to the farmers to increase production has borne fruit. Crop reports from these states indicate not only a largely increased acreage, but generally good condition of crops, with the exception of fruit. There is no indication of more than local damage from either drouth or the various diseases and pests with which plants are bothered.

Practically all sections report a scarcity of rain during the growing season but not at all in comparison with the long drouths of last summer which ruined so many crops. New York state will have a below normal yield of potatoes on account of the dry weather, and Washington reports a decreased yield from the same cause. Potatoes were selling at \$1.40 per bushel on Sept. 1st in New York state. Western sections, however, report a lower price on tubers.

Fruit this year forms the notable exception both as to yield and quality. Michigan, it is well known, has a greatly below-average crop of apples, peaches and smaller fruits, while other fruit sections have made similar reports. Washington reports less than a 50 per cent. yield on all fruits.

The northerly states have recuperated somewhat from the backward condition of crops due to the late planting season. Sections which two weeks ago reported absolute failure of corn crop now state that some corn will mature or the crop will be close to average providing the frost holds off. The crop is in fine condition in the corn belt. A frost at any time now before the 15th would cut the corn, bean and potato yield 30 to 50 per cent. Mr. Foster, our official forecaster, says Canada and the northern states will be visited by killing frosts near the 11th or 12th. Let's hope for once that Mr. Foster may be mistaken.

## ENGLAND WORRIED BY RECENT CROP DAMAGE

The London papers feature as a matter of serious national importance the effect of the August weather on British crops. The month began with tremendous rains, which beat down the cereal crops to an extent, compelling reaping to be done with the scythe and sickle instead of by machine. The downpours have been frequent and heavy throughout the whole month, while the unfavorable harvesting weather now has culminated in a savage gale of a velocity at times of a hundred miles an hour and accompanied by sweeping deluges of rain. The Times in an editorial says that the results of the disastrous weather of this, the wettest August in 20 years, discount seriously the more optimistic mood about food supply which had been gradually gaining ground. The paper adds that recent estimates of the harvest in the United States are more favorable than the earlier calculations, "but that it is a treacherous source from which to gain much encouragement."

## Farm Chief Sees \$1 Eggs

BOSTON—Eggs at \$1 a dozen, with the price of dressed fowls somewhat lower, was predicted for this winter by Secretary Wheeler of the State board of Agriculture. He declared poultrymen are killing off their flocks because of the high cost of grain. It is also predicted butter will jump to \$1 a pound.

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 Editor's 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 Russell street, Detroit. Telephone Cherry 2021.





## CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	2.12	2.15	2.24
No. 3 Yellow	2.10	2.15	2.24
Common	2.10	2.14	2.20
No. 2 Mixed			

The corn market is a weather proposition at the present time with the bulls in the ascendancy every time the temperatures are unseasonably low and frost is threatened. With the crop generally from ten to thirty days late it is imperative that we have some warm weather within the next week or two to insure proper ripening of the bulk of the corn. With an early frost there will be a large quantity of corn, not only in Michigan, but in many of the corn belt states that will not be fit for commercial purposes.

Political news also promises to have more or less of a disturbing influence on the market, conditions in Europe being in such a state that rumors are bound to spring up at frequent intervals and upset the market. No material increase in receipts of cash corn is to be expected to have any influence on the market as the country has been closely cleaned up all this grain. Shipments of new corn from the south are expected to be coming soon but not in sufficient quantities to have much effect on the market.

Just as we are going to press reports of frost damage to the corn fields in the northwest had a bullish effect on the market. Most of the crop injury was done in Minnesota and North Dakota. The extent of the damage could not be learned.



## RYE

The rye market continues unchanged. At present there is a heavy demand for rye for export trade and if the movement does not pick up considerably, an advance in present quotations may be expected. Michigan Business Farmers who had acreages of Rosen rye, secured big yields and are assured of a fair return from their crop as the quotations on rye are abnormally high on account of the war. The 1917 rye crop is inadequate to meet the world needs so that a lower market is not to be expected.



## 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

The hay market has not changed materially from a week ago. In Detroit there is a good demand for both old and new hay but little of it is being moved either because of a shortage of cars or the shortage of labor to load cars at shipping points. In southwestern Michigan enquiries have been received from Illinois for large quantities of clover and mixed hays of good quality. The Illinois hay crop was short this year and feeders of live stock are reported anxious to get in touch with parties with these grades of hay for fall and winter shipments. The hay trade in the east and south is reported slow and the receipts moderate.



## BEANS

The bean market is practically at a standstill although the government continues to make heavy purchases for army and navy purposes. Bean stalks are low and buyers are anxiously waiting for a movement of the new crop. Beans are now quoted at \$7.50 a bushel and in all probability will continue at this figure even after the new crop

begins to move. There is some talk that the government may take over the bean crop the same as it has wheat in order to stabilize the market and eliminate speculation. It is believed that \$7.50 per bushel would be the price set by the government.



## POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	1.50	1.45
Chicago	1.45	1.40
Cincinnati	1.65	1.60
New York	1.45	1.40
Pittsburgh	1.50	1.45
Norfolk, Va.	1.25	1.20

So far this season the movement of new potatoes has been remarkably light in comparison with former years. In the last three weeks there have been times when there wasn't enough potatoes in Detroit to hardly supply the demand. The movement is said to be surprisingly light in view of the bumper crop of earlies in the state and the farmers have the produce men baffled at their reluctance to sell for a \$1.50 a bushel. Some are still inclined to believe that a shortage of farm labor and the busy harvest season have interfered with the movement of the new crop.

The government crop reports continue to forecast the biggest yield on record. That doesn't necessarily mean low prices. Prices, in our opinion, ought not to go below one dollar a bushel and probably will not except when large quantities are thrown upon the market at one time. We are led to believe that the market will open around one dollar a bushel by the fact that contract dealers in many places in northern Michigan are offering to buy the potato crop now at that figure per bushel. In fact farmers can not sell for less and realize a profit this year. The high cost of seed last spring and the big expense of spraying and caring for the crop have caused production costs to soar; consequently the growers must ask top notch prices for their tubers at the start this fall.

While predictions have been made of a bumper crop reports have been received from a number of states where diseases, insects and drouths are believed to have materially curtailed the yields of tubers in those states. Maine has been hit by the potato rust; a number of other states including Michigan have been in the grip of a drought. Late despatches from the state of Washington bring the news that the western crop will not be moved eastward as earlier planned but would be held in reserve for western consumption. Frosts have visited Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota but no information is available at this writing on the extent of the damage done to the potato crops in these states. These conditions will no doubt have their influence upon the potato market along with the world demand for foodstuffs.

Many cities have been planning to lay in large stores of potatoes as soon as the crop begins to move this fall. The city of Chicago planned to store 1,000,000 bushels and retail them to the public this fall at practically cost—\$1.50 a bushel one Chicago newspaper estimated—but the corporation counsel discovered that the city had no right to use the public's money for such purposes and the plan has apparently been dropped. The movement, however, reveals the fact that the consumer's expect to pay around \$1.50 a bushel for their potatoes this fall, which will mean one dollar or better to the farmer.

If a heavier movement of new tubers is felt on the Detroit market next week, produce men will probably force prices down some as few potatoes are kept in storage in the cities at this season of the year. But for a limited supply the market will remain firm and steady at from \$1.40 to \$1.50 a bushel.



## APPLES

With the crop rapidly reaching maturity the question of prices is occupying the attention of growers and shippers from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is practically conceded in most sections of the country that apple prices will probably be the highest in many years due to a short crop.

Government crop reports show the apple crop in the east to be far below normal while in the west a good crop will be harvested. Because of the known shortage many farmers in western Michigan with large well kept orchards are showing considerable hesitancy about signing contracts offered them by shippers to take their entire crop. Some of the buyers have been offering to purchase the apples at from \$2 to \$3.50 a barrel according to grade and variety. Such contracts offered so early in the season would indicate that apple prices are scheduled to go sky-rocketing before spring if the estimated shortage is found to be true. One of the most vital questions to the growers, however, is the question of exports. America usually exports from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 barrels of apples each season. So far this year all European markets are closed to American fruit and no little speculation hinges upon the probable effect this may have on the apple market.

### Peaches

The lightest peach crop harvested in Michigan in many years is now being gathered in the fruit belt. It is estimated that the yield per acre is not more than 10 per cent normal. The demand is more than equal to the supply and prices are abnormally high. Wherever the crop is anyways good canners have been endeavoring to buy up the whole crop at a \$1.50 per bushel tree run. The price of Michigan peaches, however, is being held down by the heavy supply of eastern peaches shipped into the state which are being depended upon in the large cities to supply the trade.

### Pears and Plums

Fair crops of both pears and plums are being harvested in Michigan and sold upon the market at prices higher than a year ago. Since the pear crop began to move to market prices have been working lower. They are now quoted from \$1.45 to \$1.75 a bushel. The quality of the fruit is medium and the demand is not as sharp as had been hoped for. There is a light demand for plums which are selling from one to two dollars a bushel. Fancy Lombards and Burbanks are selling close to \$2 a bushel. Canners are reported to be buying the plum crop from the growers at \$1 a bushel.

### Grapes

While no home grown grapes are on the market, preparations were being made this week by commission firms to receive shipments from the western part of the state some time the first of next week. As far as can be learned the Michigan crop is only about 60 per cent normal and is about two weeks late. Champions, one of the earliest varieties, are reported to be fast ripening and will be among the first to appear on the markets. The market is somewhat higher this year. The first grapes received in Chicago from Missouri sold for 35 cents a basket.

Grape growers of Berrien and Van Buren counties, two of the leading vineyard districts of the state, have decided to sell grapes to retailers for 15 cents a quart and \$40 a ton. The growers felt it necessary to demand higher prices on account of the increased cost of production due to higher cost of spray materials and labor.



## BUTTER

The withdrawal from the market of large quantities of butter for use in the army and navy is beginning to have its effect upon prices and the consumers will not be surprised in the least to see the price of creamery extras soar to 50 cents a pound. The government specifications call for this grade of butter. Creamery extras in Detroit are now selling at 43 cents while dairy prints are almost as high.

Besides the demand for butter from the army and navy, the production of the country has been decreased by shortage of pasturage which has curtailed the milk flow. The condensaries are also out after every pound of milk that can be delivered to their plants in a sweet condition so that much milk that would otherwise be skimmed and the cream made

into butter is being made into other products for which there is equally as strong a demand.

The market in New York has been sensitive, being affected by increased and decreased supplies, but generally it has been active with a strong demand for good grades. The opinion prevails with the trade that the future supply will be below normal and the market will be higher.

### Honey

According to the most reliable information obtainable the honey crop is very short all over the United States. Right now the market on this product is bullish and practically in control of eastern honey brokers. Despite the fact that large consignments have been leaving New York for European ports during the last ten days, and at war-time prices too quotations to the individual beekeepers have not materially changed. Prices are ranging on wholesale extracted honey at from 12 to 14 cents for the best grades. Best grades of comb honey are bringing from 18 to 20 cents and buyers are reported to be glad to get it at these figures. Advances received from some authorities on the honey market urge the beekeepers to stand pat for better prices but keeping, of course, within the bounds of reason.



## EGGS

Strictly fresh eggs direct from the farmer are not to be found upon the Detroit or other large markets in large quantities at the present time. Individual farmers are not getting enough eggs from day to day to make shipments themselves so they are selling to local buyers. "Reasonably" fresh eggs received from country grocers are selling at 40 cents a dozen in Detroit, with the supply inadequate to meet the demand. The daily receipts are very light which may be taken to indicate that the farmers are either selling off their hens because of the high cost of feeds or they are refusing to purchase the necessary feeds to secure egg production.



## FLOUR & FEED

Since the government has set the price of the 1917 wheat crop, quotations on flour and a number of the wheat shorts have steadied. Flour is now quoted all the way from \$11.20 to \$12.80 per barrel according to the patent and kind of wheat from which it was made. Feeds of all kinds are still high but quotations on them are not fluctuating as frequently as before the government set the price on wheat. Millers are now quoting bran at \$36 a ton, middlings at \$40, fine middlings at \$45. Cornmeal is quoted in jobbing lots at \$80 a ton, a price that is almost prohibitive.



## POULTRY

LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	Cinn.
Turkey	25-26	20-21	
Ducks	24-25	22-23	
Geese	16-17	15-16	
Springers	27-28	24-25	
Hens	26-27	25-26	

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

The market everywhere is exceptionally strong for all kinds of well finished poultry. This is particularly true of large fat hens and plump broilers and springers. Farmers who have a number of good hens in fair condition would do well to prepare them for shipment in the week of September 12 to 15 so that they would be on the market for the opening of the Jewish holidays. The Jews observe New Years on September 17 and 18. For the observance of these two days there will be a great demand in the cities and especially in Detroit, for good fat hens and springers, turkeys, ducks and geese.

There promises to be an excellent demand for good poultry for the next three weeks. The Jewish holiday trade will rule the market. The day



of atonement is September 26 and the best days to market stock for this trade will be from the 20th to 24th. All prime stock will be wanted, spring chickens and roosters especially. The feast of the tabernacle is observed on October 1 and 2 and the best days to market stock will be from Sept. 26 to 29. Fowls, ducks and fat geese will be mostly in demand. The feast of the law is observed on October 8 and 9. All kinds of prime poultry should be marketed five days in advance.

Altho plenty of poultry is being received on the markets most of it is light. Shortage of feeds on the farms and their high costs at the elevators are responsible for the liberal supply of light stocks now being unloaded on all of the markets. But the demand is so keen that the holdings are short from day to day.



## CATTLE

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	10 00-10 75	15 50-17 00	15 00-16 50
Steers, com. to fair	8 50-9 25	9 75-10 00	9 50-10 75
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—Cotters	5 25-6 00	5 75-7 50	5 60-7 25
Bulls, average	7 50-7 75	7 00-7 50	7 00-7 50
Veal, fair to good	16 00-16 50	11 75-15 75	13 50-15 00

In the face of heavy receipts the live stock markets the country over continue firm and show advancing tendencies. This is good news for cattle feeders. It indicates that no matter what may happen in the way of receipts showing spasmodic increases there is bound to be a continuation of broad demand and sharp reactions from any occasional downturn of prices.

Cattle advanced to new levels on the Chicago, Buffalo and Detroit markets during the last week with a few prime steers selling as high as \$16 a hundred, but with the average price around \$13. The demand is hot for cornfed steers and as the season works along and further shortage of corn-fat steers materializes, market authorities say that there are good prospects of the market going still higher altho government control of meat may interfere. The demand for feeders is not so active.

The veal market shows advancing tendencies with the receipts moderate and the demand good. Weather conditions have been more favorable for the shipment of calves during the last few days but commission men say that few shippers have taken advantage of it.



## HOGS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Heavy 240-290	16 75 17 50	17 00 18 10	18 90 19 00
Medium 200-240	15 25 15 70	17 00 17 90	18 75 19 10
Mixed 150-200	15 00 15 25	16 40 18 00	17 00 18 00
Packers 100-150	14 50 14 75	16 32 18 00	15 50 16 00
Pigs 100 down	11 75 14 50	11 25 15 00	12 00 15 00

Perhaps one explanation for the unusual advance in the price of live hogs in the last two weeks may be found in the demand of the British government for September and later deliveries of side meats and hams. A short time ago the British government advanced its maximum price of lard to \$1.60 per hundredweight; side meat was advanced a half cent to the maximum price. Local packers speculated on these prices and the British demands and consequently pork prices soared.

Twenty-dollar hogs proved an expensive buy for a number of speculators as the price had no more than climbed to its exalted position than the market became nervous thru the public's boycott of the meat and as a result quotations began to decline. It proved a good market for many farmers, however, who took advantage of it and unloaded many hogs that had been fed on high-priced corn.

The market has been in a more settled condition the last few days than at any time since the sensational advances two weeks ago. The demands of the markets at present lean towards offerings weighing under 250 pounds rather than above that weight. The supply of pork on any of the markets is not large, which is

causing the competition among packers to sharpen. No decline in the hog market is expected until the new corn crop is harvested and a larger run of corn-fat hogs then become more available.



## SHEEP

Increased consumption of both mutton and lambs as a result of the sudden advances in the cost of pork has strengthened the markets and prices of this kind of meat are seeking a level with pork. During the last two days, however, the high prices have been incentive to feeders to sell and heavy receipts are showing a tendency of weakening the market if they are not checked. More than 22,000 sheep and lambs were pushed on to the Chicago market Wednesday. The Buffalo market was much stronger as only two cars were received there. The demand for choice old breeding ewes

and large ewe lambs continues strong.

### Wool

The wool market continues unsettled and prices are relatively low considering the enormous demand made upon the visible supply by the government for army and navy purposes. An order went out from the navy recently for 4,500,000 yards of uniform cloth which will cost the government \$16,000,000. Other millions of yards of khaki cloth are ordered for the army. These large purchases by the government have failed to jack up the wool market and prices now range from 38 to 55 cents a pound according to grade.

A strong demand for feeding barley is reported from practical all markets near feeding centers. Feeders of swine are drawing heavily on this grain by substituting it for high priced corn. A good crop was harvested in Michigan and adjoining states. The market is steady at \$1.10 to \$1.30 with only a small volume of this grain moving.

# County Crop Reports

**Gratiot**—Threshing is the order of the day. Wheat is yielding from 25 to 40 bu. to the acre. Wheat is being marketed about as fast as it is threshed.—J. W., North Star.

**Ingham**—Threshing is the order of the day. Weather dry and cool nights. Soil dry. Some plowing for wheat. Some farmers selling wheat and oats. Some farmers buying light cattle for feeding. Corn and beans very late; not much prospects for a corn crop; some beans turning but not very well filled. Sugar beets looking pretty good.—A. N., Williamston.

**Ingham**—Farmers are plowing for wheat and rye, very dry and cold. Many are planning to sow Red Rock wheat; one man has record crop, 247 bu. off of seven acres. He has contracted it all for seed. Rosen rye has the mark for thirty-three bu. to the acre. Black rye has yielded twenty-six bu. per acre. Beans need three weeks of good weather; corn needs four.—B. M., Leslie.

**Hillsdale**—Farmers are harvesting oats and plowing for wheat and rye. Soil in good condition. Weather is fine with plenty of rain. It makes it backward with the oat harvest, but corn and potatoes are in fine condition. Corn is from two to three weeks behind; with good weather will have a good crop.—A. J. B., Hillsdale.

**Kalamazoo**—Farmers are busy threshing and plowing for wheat. We need rain badly for plowing, also for the crops. Monday was stock day at Climax. Monday, September 3, was the Pierce and Roe reunion at Indian Lake. The schools commenced yesterday and today throughout the county.—F. H. H., Climax.

**Grand Traverse**—Harvesting late oats. Weather favorable; soil good. Selling hay, wheat and rye. Holding wheat and rye for higher prices. Not much building at present. Have had demonstrations with tractors hauling gang plows; farmers well pleased with results.—B. E. O., Buckley.

**Crawford**—Beans are not filled out well on the stalk, and won't be more than half a crop if they get ripe. Corn is just silking out but very late; potatoes also look good but also late. Hay and wheat were good and oats fair in this section. The weather has been good and plenty of rain has boosted the late crops right along.—B. F. S., Frederic.

**Schoolcraft**—Light frosts in early part of month damaged some beans and corn, but they are recovering. Potatoes good, but somewhat late. Plenty of rain; nights are cold, but days fairly warm. Soil is quite light in spite of rains. Farmers not selling anything except an occasional load of potatoes. The Western Land Company of St. Paul are completing a large ditch thru the marshes northwest of Hiawatha where they intend to plant farms. The ditch connects with the Seney ditch and empties into Indian Lake. The soil is heavy muck on white sand.—J. M. H., Hiawatha.

**BAY**—The farmers at this report are busy threshing grain. There being a large amount of straw. Oats will average from 50 to 70 bu. per acre. Barley is also good with an average of about 35 to 40 bu. per acre, and wheat about 25 bu. per acre. With the frost holding off the beans are coming nicely and are well loaded where land has been drained. Few farmers are preparing soil for fall wheat, but will not be very large if it is thought at present. Corn, like beans, with frost holding off about two weeks, will about ripen but not very large.—G. G., Linwood.

**Monroe**—We are plowing for wheat between threshing jobs. The ground in this part of the county is fitting up fine. Cool nights. We have had plenty of rain for now. Not much selling, too busy at work. Would like to know how my brother farmers are getting along in other parts of the state. Will say we had a hail storm on Aug. 20. It hurt the corn badly, also spoilt cucumbers and tomatoes. The tomato crop is good quality, somewhat short on account of dry weather. Everything is doing well at present.—W. H. L., Dundee.

**Clinton**—We are getting a good heavy, cold, all-day rain, which is more than we need. There are some oats in shock waiting for thresher (not fit stack). Corn, beans potatoes are making growth but must have warmer weather to mature.—J. W. H., Grand Ledge.

**Saginaw**—A large number of the farmers have threshed out of the field. Wheat is not yielding as expected. Oats are very good. Barley is also good. The weather has been very favorable for harvesting and threshing, but too cool for corn. The soil is in fine shape on tilled ground, but quite hard and baked on ground not tilled. Farmers are selling wheat, oats and barley. There is nothing being held at present prices, as the farmers need the money and the prices are good and they are letting go.—J. A. M., Hemlock.

**Macomb**—Farmers have finished drawing oats. Plowing for wheat; lots of wheat going to be planted this fall. One farmer going to plant about 400 acres of wheat and rye on the county line. Fine weather. Had a severe thunder storm last Sunday morning. But rain did lots of good to potatoes and fall plowing. Farmers are not selling yet, as no threshing has been done. Threshers seem to be scarce. Lots of farmers going to the State Fair.—H. D., Almont.

**Branch**—Farmers plowing and threshing mostly. Weather rather cool. Soil in good condition. Nothing moving very fast. Farmers holding wheat. Some cattle not bringing much just now.—F. S., Union City.

**Genesee**—Farmers are plowing for fall crops, threshing, cutting and hauling oats. The weather has been cold, especially nights when it comes not far from freezing. In this section of the county we have not had enough rain and crops have suffered but in other parts there has been plenty of rainfall. In most sections the soil is in good shape for working for fall crops. Farmers are not selling much at this time. Several farmers are holding their grain for higher prices. Farmers are buying coal for threshing; some silos are being bot and erected. Several dairymen attended the Dairymen's meeting at the M. A. C. A. union picnic, comprising Gleaners, Grangers, and Farmers' Club members and others interested in co-operation was held near Fenton on August 29. The principal speaker was Nathan F. Simpson, manager of the Gleaner Clearing House Association, who gave an excellent talk.—C. W. S., Fenton.

**OTTAWA**—Some farmers are plowing for wheat and others that can't are waiting for rains and nicely started threshing. We are having a nice rain today (Sept. 5th), and hoping it will last for some time. We badly need a soaker to start and continue plowing, also for all growing crops. It is impossible to plow and fit the wheat beds. Only those farmers that are selling now and then such as beef cattle and a few hogs are probably raising some cash for building or for the present and past hired help.—R. J. K., Conklin.

**SAGINAW**—Corn, beans and late potatoes need three weeks more of good weather to mature. Oats are not yielding as good as expected. They average about 40 bu. per acre. Rain is needed to help in fitting ground for wheat.—M. S. G., Hemlock.

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## NATIONAL CROP REPORTS

**CENTER VILLAGE, N. Y.**—Potatoes look good. There are no signs of blight yet. Acreage is fully 10 per cent greater than last year.

**JAMESPORT, L. I.**—Loading cobbler potatoes started last week. The crop was never better. Farmers are getting 250 @ 350 bu. to the acre.

**SAN FRANCISCO**—The Southern Pacific expects to move 11,000 cars of grapes or 1,200 over last year. The bulk of the crop will be Malagas and Tokays. A feature will be the heavy increase of wine grapes, of which 60 per cent. will go to Chicago to be made into wine by Eastern concerns.

**CHICAGO**—The first car of hte season of Moore's Early grapes from Neoga, Mo., was received by Coyn Bros. The grapes were fine, packed in 6 1-2 lb. net baskets and sold for 35c.

**SWAYEE, IND.**—Owing to the drouth the potato crop looks bad. Late potatoes are needing rain. Early potatoes are good, but only a few were planted. There has been no rain to speak of for several weeks.

**CENTER CITY, MINN.**—Early potatoes have started to move. They are mostly all early Ohio's and very fine quality. Yield is heavy.

**APPLETON, N. Y.**—Until July 20 this section had considerable rain, but since then it has been very dry. Potatoes, corn and apples will be a light crop, but prospects for peaches are good.

**PELICAN RAPIDS, MINN.**—Although there is a large acreage of potatoes there are no prospects for a substantial yield as the ground is dry to the bottom of the roots. There will be very few potatoes unless rain comes soon. Cabbage is also suffering from drouth.

**BALTIMORE, MD.**—Apples are to join the climb to higher prices, according to a survey of the situation by the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, which declares that the yield of the country will be under that of last year. The quality, however, will be better. It is estimated that Maryland will produce 2,000,000 bushels of apples.

**DENVER**—Colorado bean growers propose to pool their entire crop of pinto beans and sell to the Government for army and navy use. Federal Market Agent W. H. Kerr, left here for Washington to present the proposition.

**ALLENTOWN, PA.**—Insects of various kinds have been unusually numerous on the potato vines. This has weakened the plants, making them more susceptible to blight and rot. Weather conditions have also been quite favorable for rot and reports are that early varieties are showing some. The yield will not come up to expectations.

**WASHINGTON**—According to the Bureau of Crop Estimates there are 70,500 acres planted in cabbage in the nine principal cabbage producing states. New York leads with 36,900 acres, with a forecasted production of 369,000 tons compared to 96,120 tons last year. Wisconsin comes next with 13,000 acres and a forecasted production of 157,300 tons compared to 57,960 last year. The total production for the country this season is figured at 747,910 tons against a total production of 246,630 last year.

**ELMER, N. J.**—While early indications pointed to an exceptionally good crop of potatoes it is now apparent that the lack of potash in fertilizer is becoming more and more apparent. The present indications are that South Jersey will not dig more than 60 per cent. of a crop. While shipments up to the close of last week were about one-third of last year, at the same time it is thought that 40 per cent of the crop has been moved. Unless good prices are maintained farmers will not have a very good year.

**ASHLAND, ME.**—There is considerable rust developing in potatoes all over the country. Considering the time potatoes were planted they are fairly well advanced. Growers here cannot see the bumper crop predicted by some. Acreage was cut short by the wet, late spring. Quite a few were drowned out and many fields do not look any too thrifty. A fairly good crop is all that can reasonably be expected.

**WASHINGTON**—Some interesting figures on the late onion production are shown in a recent estimate sent out by the Bureau of Crop Estimates. This shows a total acreage in 12 principal late onion producing states to 41,550. There will produce 14,439,800 bu. compared to 7,806,500 bu. from 28,350 acres last year.

**ROCHESTER**—A long drouth in Western N. Y. was broken when good rains fell in many parts of the growing belt. While they soaked many batches of out wheat and topped over the field and canning corn wherever it was shallow-rooted, the benefit was five times the loss. It was the first real rain in a month and did a great deal of good to potatoes and beans. These crops obtained a new lease, and another inch or two of rainfall will tide them over until Fall showers begin. With favorable weather from now until harvest, the potato and bean crops will be much better than forecasted, when it looked as if dry weather would shorten both crops. Some bean fields, however, are too far gone to be helped much, and these will be short.

**BELLINGHAM, WASH.**—S. A. Sherwood, Bellingham manager of the Ryan Fruit Co., says that the potato crop in Northwestern Washington this year will amount to not more than a third of the average per acre yield. He says the dry weather, which has lasted for more than a month continuously, is causing the vines to turn yellow before maturity has been reached and he believes there will be many small potatoes.

**HOULTON, ME.**—The prospects of a bumper crop of potatoes for 1917 does not look as bright as it did a few weeks ago. During the past week rust has appeared, and there are very few fields but what show the havoc. In many fields, apparently all right, the rust is gradually working up from the stalks and soon the tops will commence to turn brown and die.



# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1917

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## The Home Stretch

FROM THE day that the first copy of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING was put in the mails, pledges of subscription dollars have been coming back at the rate of from 50 to 150 every twenty-four hours.

"It is just the paper the farmer needs" is the verdict of its readers, voiced a thousand times among the great quantity of pledges that have come in. It is a verdict that has more than satisfied our highest expectations, and convinced us beyond the shadow of a doubt that the farmers of Michigan will support a straight dollar-a-year news and market weekly that recognizes and serves their need for a champion of their marketing rights, an out-and-out, free and above-board paper that dares to tell the truth about Michigan and national crop conditions and market prices.

Here and now the makers of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING give thanks to the hundreds of loyal friends throughout the state who have secured other subscriptions besides their own. The numerous offers of this kind of assistance has been one of the most pleasant surprises of the campaign and has helped immensely to swell the charter list of subscribers to the desired number.

The 5,000 goal is near at hand. We are on the home stretch. Every subscription, every FRIEND—counts now. Who will be the first of the last one thousand to send in a neighbor's name or subscription, and bring MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING down the "home stretch" safely under the wire?

## Keep the Pig in the Parlor

A CARTOONIST suggests that the American aristocrat can now quite safely "keep the pig in the parlor" without soiling the social doormat. Pigs and Pork have gone skyward along with everything else these days. Only the rich may safely revel in the luxury of pork steak without robbing the family purse. And the best of it is, for the farmer who has pigs to sell, that if the price does not stay where it is now, it will go higher. The entire world is short on pigs and pork. Germany has slaughtered her porcines by the millions, and the people there hunger for fats. The Allied nations have reduced their pork supplies until they are already feeling the pinch, and thousands of tons of pork products have been exported to Europe the last year, diminishing our own supplies to a very noticeable extent. The demand continues; the shortage becomes more evident every day. People will be crying for pigs and pork in another six months. Therefore, my farmer friend, raise pigs—raise all you can—encourage the children to raise pigs—and keep them in the parlor if you want to.

## Is This the Spirit of the War?

"IF WE BEAT the Germans, we shall skin them alive, and we cannot help doing it." This is reported to be the satirical remark of George Bernard Shaw, the noted English author. Is this the contemplated diversion of the English people in the aftermath of the war? Does this sentiment typify the thot and spirit of the Allied governments, the United States included? Shaw's remark may have been made in jest—it probably was,—yet it must have been the frivolous expression of a serious thot conceived in the great writer's mind or passed on to him by someone else,—a thot of complete domination of the political trade rights of the German people after the war. Is this, then, the spirit of the war? Is it for this we send our sons to foreign battlefields, destroy thousands of useful careers, and bring despair to as many firesides; is it for this we disrupt our peaceful industries and rend the fabric of our national life? Mr. Shaw has voiced a thought that must be explained. No true son of America can fight with conscience to free a people from one despotism that they may be subjugated by another.

## Michigan Bean Yield in Dark

MANY and diverse have been the predictions of the 1917 yield of Michigan beans. Various authorities have prophesied yields ranging from four to eight millions bushels, but now all are agreed that "nobody knows." Early in the bean season W. J. Orr, president of the Michigan Bean Jobbers' Ass'n, gave out the announcement that Michigan would grow the greatest crop of beans in her history, probably 8 million bushels; subsequent predictions on the part of Mr. Orr were not so promising; altho he is reported to have given an opinion as recently as Aug. 30th that Michigan would produce 40 per cent of the predicted national crop of twenty million bushels. On Sept. 1st, the press quoted Mr. Orr as saying that California will lead the bean producing states this year with 10,000,000 bushels (normal crop 6,000,000), Colorado and New Mexico, 4,000,000; Michigan, at least 4,000,000 and double that if good weather continues. Today, however, Mr. Orr frankly admits to the Michigan Business Farming that he can not estimate what the yield will be.

Readers of the initial issue of Michigan Business Farming published two weeks ago will recall that we questioned all the circulated reports of a bumper crop of beans, and after a careful investigation thru crop reports of conditions prevailing in the leading bean counties, we estimated that even with the continuance of reasonably warm weather until late in September the yield would not exceed five million bushels. This is the only forecast of the bean situation we have attempted to make, and now over three weeks after the forecast was made, all facts seem to substantiate our figures.

## Every Dog Has His Day

"ANY PERSON who willfully hoards any necessities shall upon conviction thereof be fined not exceeding \$5,000 or be imprisoned for not more than two years, or both. Necessaries shall be deemed to be hoarded within the meaning of this Act when\*\*\* (c), withheld, whether by possession or under any contract or agreement, from the market by any person for the purpose of unreasonably increasing or diminishing the price: *Provided*—that any accumulation or withholding by any farmer, co-operative association of farmers \*\*\* shall not be deemed to be hoarding within the meaning of this Act."

Thus reads Section 6 of the Federal Food Control Law, and thus reads the death warrant of the oldtime speculator.

As a well-known elevator man recently said, "We might as well face the facts; the elevator men have had their inning, and now their business is regulated by a law which they cannot escape."

The purpose of the food-control law in this respect is very plain. It absolutely deprives elevators or other dealers in farm produce of their old right and their invariable practice of buying commodities at whatever prices the farmers were willing to sell and holding them for the top-notch market prices.

The farmer who takes his grain to market now-a-days may know that the price he receives includes a part of the fat profits that formerly the elevator man took as exorbitant commission for its jobbing service, and the consumer, too, may know that the price he pays represents the value of the goods he buys plus only a reasonable profit to those thru whose hands they have passed on their normal route to market.

Every dog has his day. The elevator man has had his, and a prosperous day it has been. The new day that dawns is a day of profit and justice to the producer. And it will be a long, long day.

## Land Values Will Advance

LAND VALUES of Northern Michigan are being stimulated at the present time by the prevailing high prices of farm products. This condition seems to be the result of natural causes and follows a trend that has been noticeable for years, the tendency of farm land prices to increase with farm crop prices.

There was a time when the best cut-over land in the state could be bought for five dollars per acre. It seemed incredible but nevertheless absolutely true that virgin loam soil, as fertile as any land in the state, could be purchased and cleared ready for planting for a maximum price of \$25 per acre. More unbelievable still was the fact that these lands were capable of producing the first two or three years, without fertilizer two to three hundred bushels of potatoes, more than sufficient to pay for the land and the cost of the crop. Yet, this statement, is likewise absolutely true as hundreds of new farmers on the little new farms of the section have demonstrated.

Despite the remarkable cheapness and produc-

tivity of these lands settlement has been slow, which is easy to understand considering the snail-like progress of agriculture, even in the more settled regions the past twenty years. As a matter of fact the farming industry has declined in many localities during the last few years, the sons of the farm having entered industrial pursuits in the great cities leaving the farming business to languish. The last decade has been an industrial era. Industrial wages have been high; the cities have flourished. Prices on farm products have been unattractive and in many cases unprofitable. As a result there has been little demand for farm lands, and prices have remained practically stationary.

But all this is changing. The demands of warring nations, the increase of population in our own country, the curtailment of production because of low prices have contributed to both stimulate the demand and deplete the supply. Result, higher prices, greater interest in farming, greater demand for farm lands and naturally higher values.

A comparison of prices for two different periods is interesting and discloses the reason for higher land values. In 1910 wheat sold for 78c; oats, 34; corn, 50; beans, 1.60; potatoes, 60. Today wheat is quoted at \$2.19; oats, 58; corn, \$2.08; beans, \$7.50; potatoes, \$1.50. The increase on these particular commodities is from 200 to 500 per cent.

A greatly increased demand for farm property is now inevitable. There is a general and concerted "back-to-the-farm" movement taking place. Farm boys who have been lured to the city are going back "home"; city men are turning their eyes longingly countryward, and farmers are increasing their land holdings.

Quite naturally the cheaper lands are the first to feel the demand. The need of the times is for good land that can be purchased cheaply on long-time contracts, and easily cleared for immediate use.

The concerted efforts of the past few years to make known the vast possibilities of Northern Michigan cut-over lands are about to bear fruit. Tenant farmers of other states where land sells for \$100 to \$300 per acre are now seeking the lands of Northern Michigan, the desire for ownership upon them. At the present time the very best of these lands are being purchased at a maximum of \$20 per acre, with many thousands of acres selling for as low as \$10. But authorities on land values claim that such prices are only temporary, that with the increased demand there will come higher prices.

The price of farm products then and the fear of mounting land prices are stimulating trade in these lands and the present summer will bring hundreds into this fertile section from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and neighboring states.

## The Graduated Milk Price

WHY a graduated milk schedule? Is there any economically sound reason why milk dealers should buy summer milk at \$1.60 per hundred and winter milk at \$2.25 per hundred while they charge the same price to the customer all the year 'round?

The theory of the graduated milk price scale is based on the fact that it often costs less to feed cows during certain months than at other periods of the year. It is upon this assumption that most of the Michigan milk contracts are drawn; should the summer months be wet and warm and the pastures good, the theory works out beautifully; should the pastures fail the theory explodes and the farmer loses money.

Dairymen must have three dollars a hundred for three per cent milk this winter or \$3.25 for that testing 3.5 per cent., which seems to be about the average for city milk delivered to consumers there. This is nearly seven cents a quart. It is believed to be perfectly possible for such milk to be delivered at 12 cents and make a good profit.—H. H. L. in Rural New Yorker.

Under the graduated milk price arrangement, the farmer takes all the chances; the dealer plays safe. Regardless of the weather his profits mount automatically as the milk price goes down during the summer months, for he never thinks of reducing the price to the consumer during these months.

The price paid to the farmer for his milk during any period of time should be a flat rate determined by the highest monthly production cost of the preceding year. The most satisfactory contract will not cover a longer period than three months. No other arrangement can possibly be made that will fully protect the farmer and give the dealer a permanent basis upon which to determine his costs and profits.

Let us compare the farmer to the manufacturer. The latter bases his selling price upon the cost of production. He figures his costs month by month, takes into consideration all the seasonal problems that may add to his costs, and the price



he ultimately puts upon his finished product is the highest weekly or monthly or yearly cost of manufacturing the product plus his profit. He takes no chances; he must be certain that his cost figures are high enough to take care of all probable and possible emergencies and contingencies that may arise, for once his product is placed upon the market and its price advertised to the public there can be no continual graduation of the selling price. If thru good business management and foresight, the manufacturer is able to avert the problems which he had figured might arise and serve as a financial detriment, he is the one to profit thereby.

The farmer's case is identical. To be safe, he should figure his costs in like manner. If the pastures are good and he is able to put away sufficient silage and other feed to keep his stock thru the winter at a minimum cost, then most certainly he, and not the distributor of his products, should profit by his business acumen. But ALWAYS,

ALWAYS, the price that the farmer should have for his milk the year 'round is the sum and total of the highest probable cost of any single month, (and for aught he knows that may be the cost for every month or the majority of them) plus his profit.

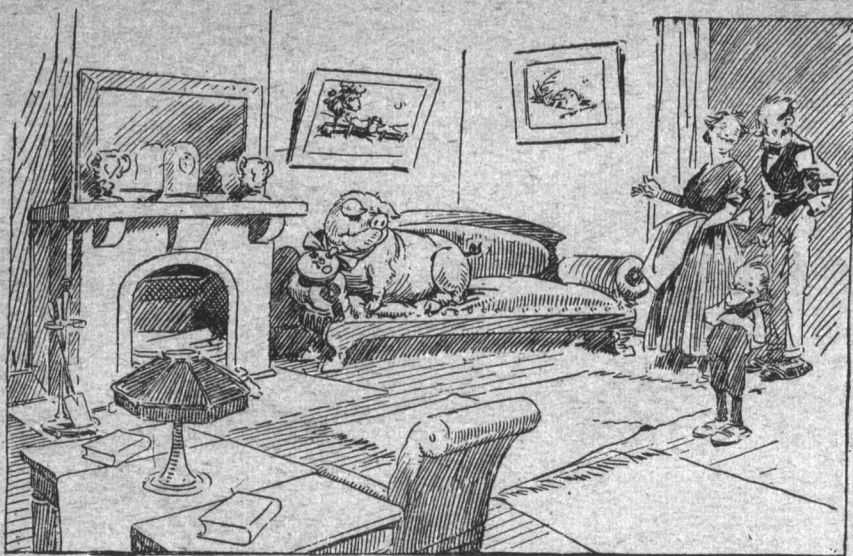
This plan is fair. It is a practical guarantee of profit to the average farmer; how large or how small the profit may become depends upon the business ability of the producer. The plan is fair to the distributor. He has a permanent foundation upon which to base his costs and his profits. The plan is likewise fair to the consumer. It does not take away his privilege to buy milk cheaper in the summer than in the winter, for, in truth, he never had that privilege.

If Henry Ford were president he would take 95 per cent of the war profits to help support the war. As a citizen he has offered to manufacture

war supplies for the government at cost. Somehow or other Mr. Ford's unselfish spirit arouses in us a supreme pity and contempt for the mercenaries who have been crying their patriotism to the skies while they rake in the shekels with both hands. Who is the traitor—the man who wants peace and happiness for his country, or the man who wants war and misery because they fatten his bank account?

The predicted farm labor shortage in Michigan has not yet developed. Farmers in most localities have been able to harvest their crops without calling upon the school children, city politicians or street bums which well-meaning city authorities planned to give them. Will people ever learn that the farmer can run his own business without their interference when he is given the same control over his markets as other manufacturers have?

## With the Kodaker and Cartoonist



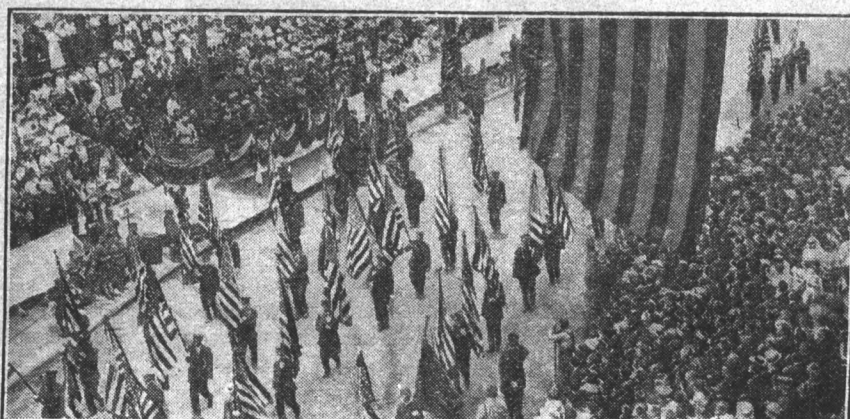
"You can Keep the Pig in the Parlor Now if you Want to," says Williams in the Indianapolis News.



The New York Evening Mail suggests that there is plenty of advice for the farmer but little action in his behalf.



These sturdy looking soldiers are not men as their closely-cramped hair might indicate, but are members of the Russian Women Regiment, "Battalion of Death" who have won world-wide admiration by their deeds of skill and bravery.



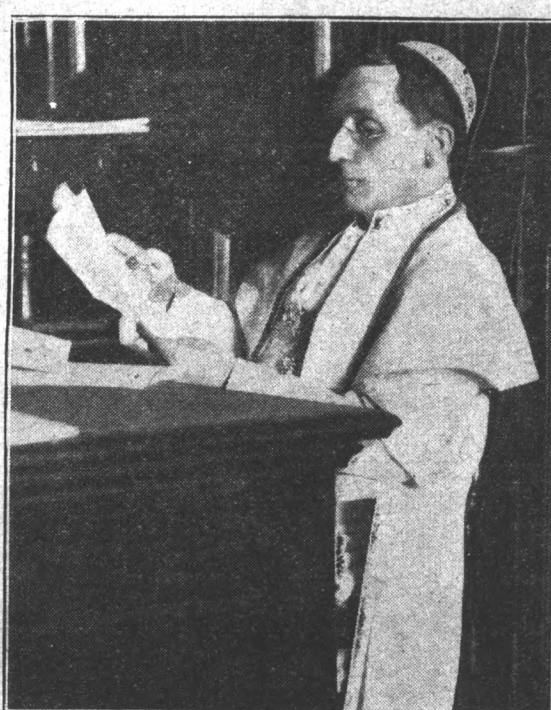
This patriotic demonstration was a feature of the recent G. A. R. Reunion at Boston. The flags are borne by veterans of the Spanish-American War who received tremendous ovation from the huge throng that packed the line of march.



Even in the arts of war, woman is replacing man to a large extent. This young lady is culling out defective cartridges, so that no shots aimed at the enemy will be wasted. Judging from her smile the young lady apparently does not appreciate the serious aspect of her job.



The Agricultural Digest portrays the great service that farm boys render the government as producers



Pope Benedict, whose peace proposals have been rejected by the Allies on the grounds that they were too Pro-German. Undaunted the Pontiff plans another Peace Move and Catholic authorities affirm that a new note will be issued in the very near future to the belligerents.



# Everyday Garden, Field and Orchard Helps

## Select Seed Corn in Field

AT CORN-RIPENING time, drop all other farm business, says the United States Department of Agriculture, and select twice as much seed corn as you think you will need. The job is too important to be conducted incidentally while husking, and demands the entire attention of the farmer when the time is ripe,—likewise the corn.

Get the very best to be had and preserve it well, because then, say the corn experts, increased yields will return more profit than from any other work that can be done on the farm. The one and only proper way to select seed corn is from the stalks standing where they grow, as soon as ripe and before the first hard freeze.

As soon as the crop ripens the wise farmer will go through the field with seed-picking bags, and husk the ears from the stalks that have produced the most corn without having any special advantages such as space, moisture, or fertility. He will pass by the large ears on stalks standing alone with an unusual amount of space around them. Strains that do well in competition for light, and moisture, and soil fertility are likely to repeat under the same conditions. The most important consideration is to select seed from those plants which have the ingrained ability to furnish the largest quantity of dry shelled corn.

Early maturity is a desirable quality, and so are short, thick, wind-firm stalks; top-heavy ones with ears borne too high are likely to mean losses. Breeding experiments have proved that the tendency to produce suckers is hereditary in corn. Other things being equal, take the seed from suckerless stalks.

The same day that seed corn is gathered from standing stalks as they grow in the field, the husked ears should be put in a dry place that the ears do not touch one another.

This is the only safe way, as much good seed has been ruined because it was thought to be dry enough when gathered. Many farmers think that autumns are so dry that these precautions are not necessary, yet there is no locality where the corn will not be bettered by a thorough drying treatment. If corn is left in the husk it may sprout or mildew during warm wet weather, and it is more likely to become infested with weevils.

The vitality of seed may be reduced by leaving it in a sack or in a pile for even a day after it has been gathered. During warm fall days, with some moisture in the cobs and kernels, the ears heat or mildew in a remarkably short time.

The best and cheapest treatment immediately after the ears are gathered and husked is to tie the ears singly on binder twine at about eight-inch intervals, the twine being looped about the middle of the ears so that they hang balanced and horizontal. Ordinary binder twine is strong enough to support from 15 to 20 ears.

Wire racks are cheaper in the long run and more convenient. A good form is made from welded or woven wire fencing, the up-right wires being used as the hangers, and the lateral wires cut off and bent upward being used as supports for the individual ears. The lateral wires, about

three inches long on either side of the main upright, are thrust into the butt end of the cob. These racks will last many years and are easily stored when not in use. In use, with the corn upon them, they have somewhat the appearance of giant fern fronds. The central wire is the mid-rib of the leaf, and the ears of corn stand out on each side like the fern leaflets, or like leaflets on a locust tree.

Wooden seed racks, in which the ears are stored in rows on separate shelves, are convenient dryers, and have no drawbacks in a dry, breezy place, although the air can not circulate freely on all sides and dampness may be held where the row of kernels rests on the wood.

Only during unusually damp weather at seed-gathering time will a fire be necessary to help the drying. Yet if heat is applied in a poorly ventilated place it will do more harm than good. If used, the fire should be slow and long-continued. It should be below the ears with plenty of good ventilation above them.

## Michigan's New Apple Law

Section 1. The standard grades for apples grown in this state when packed in closed packages shall be as follows:

First, "Michigan Standard Fancy" shall consist of hand-picked, properly

the face shown surface shall fairly represent the size and quality of the apples in the package.

Section 4. Every closed package containing apples grown in the state of Michigan which is sold, offered, or consigned for sale, packed for sale, or shipped for sale, shall bear upon the outside of one end in plain letters or figures, or both, the name and address of the person by whose authority the apples were packed, the true name of the variety, the grade of the apples therein contained when packed or re-packed, and the minimum size or the numerical count of the fruit in the package. If the true name of the variety is not known to the packer or the person by whose authority the apples are packed or branded, then such varieties shall be designated as "unknown."

Every package of apples which is re-packed shall also bear upon the same end of the package the name and address of the person by whose authority it is re-packed, such name and address to be preceded by the words "repacked by." The letters and figures used in markings or branding closed packages of apples under the provisions of this act shall be of a size not less than 24 point Gothic. Provided, That closed packages containing apples which can not be readily marked on one end, so as to bear conspicuously the information therein specified shall be marked or branded in such other conspicuous place as may be prescribed by the regulations promulgated hereunder.

Section 5. The marks and brands prescribed in this act may be accompanied by any additional marks or brands which are not inconsistent with or do not in any way obscure the marks and brands required by this act. Apples packed and branded in accordance with the United States apple grading law, approved August third, nineteen hundred twelve, shall

of the person as well as of the official or employee. The words "closed package" shall mean a box, barrel, basket, or other package, the contents of which can not be inspected when such package is closed.

Section 10. It shall be the duty of the dairy and food commissioner to diligently enforce the provisions of this act and his officers, employees and agents are authorized to enter upon the premises of any person within this state for the purpose of inspecting packages of apples and securing evidence of violation of this act, and the said dairy and food commissioner is hereby authorized and empowered to make, promulgate and enforce such regulations as may be necessary for interpreting the grade specifications prescribed in this act, and for otherwise enforcing its provisions: Provided, however, that any grades or classes of apples packed in closed packages, or any requirements for making closed packages containing apples, mandatory as applying to interstate commerce, which may hereafter be established by the authority of the Congress of the United States shall forthwith, as far as applicable, be established and promulgated by the dairy and food commissioner as official grades, classes and marks for apples packed in closed packages in the state of Michigan.

Section 11. All the acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

## Quack Grass Roots

I have been informed that the farmers in Southern Michigan are getting sale for Quack Grass roots. Can you tell me if this is true? If so, where could I sell such and how much per ton could I realize out of it?—A. W. W., Roscommon.

It is true that Quack Grass Roots are used to a limited extent in medicine, being recognized as official in the United States Pharmacopoeia. Hitherto, however, all the roots used came from Europe. It is barely possible that under the present conditions brot about by the war, there will be some demand for American roots. I would suggest that you make inquiry of Parke, Davis & Co.—E. A. Bessey, Professor of Botany.

## Green Plant Lice

Can you tell me what is the matter with the twig I am enclosing, and what to do for my trees.—W. W. S.

The small twig shows that it had been covered with green plant lice. It may be that most of these lice will have disappeared from your trees by this time. If they are still present, however, it would probably pay you to spray.

The safest and most satisfactory spray to use is one of the nicotine extracts made up in soap water. Black Leaf 40, made by the Kentucky Tobacco Products Company, Louisville, Kentucky, and sold by most dealers who handle insecticides, is one of the best nicotine preparations. It is a 40 per cent solution of Nicotine Sulphate. In making up this spray for use, first dissolve 2 pounds of any good soap in fifty gallons of water and then stir in one-half pint of the Black Leaf 40. This solution should be applied with a pump and nozzle that will give you a fine, strong spray. The work should be done very thoroughly, since only those lice will be killed which become thoroughly wet with the spray solution.

In case you find winter eggs—little oval, black eggs, on the bark and about the bud scales of the trees next winter, it would spray in the spring just before the buds open with strong lime sulphur, such as is used against San Jose Scale. When plant lice eggs occur on the trees, we believe that many of them may be killed at that time before they hatch with strong lime sulphur. In the summer, however, the spray with Black Leaf 40 is recommended as about the safest and best one to use.—G. D. Shafer, Associate Entomologist, M. A. C.

—a service that costs your nothing,—a good word for Michigan Business Farming. If you like this paper, please tell your neighbors about it; show them this copy. If Michigan Business Farming falls short of your expectations, tell us and we'll remedy the shortcoming. This paper was founded to help the farmers of Michigan secure better prices and bigger profits. We want YOUR suggestions as to how it can be improved.

## THE BUSINESS FARMER'S CALENDAR

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

1. Look over the corn harvester and see if it needs any repairs. This should be tended to at once as the present freight congestion would make it difficult for your implement dealer to secure new parts in a few days if he does not carry them in stock.
2. Don't neglect to have your seed wheat screened and also treated for smut. Seed that is free of straw and trash will sow evenly thru the drill tubes and treated seed will mean dollars to the farmers' next harvest time.
3. "Phosphated manure" will increase your wheat yield next fall. It is easily made by adding 40 pounds of acid phosphate to each ton of barnyard manure applied on the field to be planted.
4. Set a trap for those rats that are getting too nosy around the recently filled granary. Remember, rats are great destroyers of chickens, eggs, fruits, grains in the shocks, stacks, mow, crib, granary, elevator, car or ship.
5. Make plans to sow an increased acreage of wheat. You will at least have sufficient labor to get the soil fitted and planted to this crop this fall but you may not next spring when it comes time to plant something else unless the government calls a halt to the drafting of farmers.
6. Make a rough estimate of your apple crop this week and see if you have enough barrels, crates or other containers needed for fruits. It is not safe to wait until harvest time to view your crop prospects.
7. If the pasture is short, cut some of that corn in the field which you think will not reach maturity this fall before a killing frost comes, and feed it to the cows. Splendid returns are obtained from this feed when freshly cut.
8. Dairymen should order their winter's supply of commercial feeds at this time. Two months from now it is being predicted that the price of feeds will be higher than at present.

packed apples of one variety, which are well grown specimens, normal in shape, uniform in size, of good color for the variety, and which are free from dirt, insect injury, fungus disease, bruises and other defects, except such as are necessarily caused in the operation of packing. "Uniform size" shall be construed to mean that apples contained in any one package shall not vary in size more than one half inch in diameter.

Second, "Michigan Standard A" shall consist of hand-picked, properly packed apples of one variety, which are well grown specimens, normal in shape, of not less than fifty per centum of good color for the variety, and which are practically free from dirt, insect injury, fungus disease, bruises and other defects, except such as are necessarily caused in the operation of packing.

Third, "Michigan Standard B" shall consist of hand-picked, properly packed apples of one variety, which are well grown and practically free from insect injury and fungus disease: Provided, That the apples having healed-over insect punctures, small scab or blotch infections, fruit spots, or other defects which taken singly or collectively, do not materially deform or discolor the fruit or injure its keeping quality, shall be admitted to this grade.

Fourth, "Michigan Unclassified" shall consist of apples which do not conform to the foregoing specifications of grade, or which though conforming, are not branded in accordance therewith.

Section 2. In interpretation of this act a tolerance of six per centum below the standard shall be allowed in the Standard Fancy grade, ten per centum in the Standard A grade, and fifteen per centum in the Standard B grade. Such tolerances shall apply to size, color, and other grade specifications and shall be computed by counting or weighing the specimens which are judged to be below the standard for the grade in any respect and those which are found to be smaller than the minimum size, marked on the package.

Section 3. In all of the grades specified in this act, the apples included in

be exempt from the provisions of this act.

Section 6. The minimum size of the fruit in all grades shall be determined by taking the transverse diameter of the smallest fruit in the package. Minimum sizes shall be state in variations of one quarter of an inch, as two inches, two and one-quarter inches, two and one-half inches, two and three-quarters inches and so on, in accordance with the facts. Minimum sizes may be designated by either figures or words and the word "minimum" may be designated by the use of the abbreviation "min."

Section 7. It shall be unlawful for any person to pack for sale, ship for sale, offer or consign for sale, or sell, in closed packages, any apples grown in this state which are not graded, packed and marked or branded in accordance with the provisions of this act and the regulations made hereunder, or closed packages of apples bearing any false statement, design, or device regarding such apples within the meaning of this act.

Section 8. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this act, or of the regulations promulgated hereunder, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50 for the first offense and not more than \$100 for each subsequent offense: Provided, That no person shall be prosecuted under this act who can establish satisfactory evidence that no part of the packing or branding of the apples concerned was done by him or under his authority and that he had no knowledge that they were not packed and branded in accordance with said provisions and said regulations.

Section 9. The word "person" as used herein shall be construed to include individuals, corporations, partnerships, and associations. The act, omission, or failure of any official or employee of any person, when such official or employee is acting within the scope of his employment or office, shall, in every case, be deemed also the act, omission or failure

## Why Seed Treatment Pays

Over 3 1-2 per cent of the wheat crop and 1 per cent of the rye crop is lost through smut.

Seed treatment with formaldehyde solution is practically 100 per cent efficient except in a few sections where the soil is badly polluted with smut spores.

The formaldehyde treatment costs less than 5 cents per acre for materials and labor. To this must be added in extreme cases the cost of 20 per cent of the seed grain, the germinating power of which may be destroyed because of seed injury.

In every case the entire cost of the treatment together with possible seed injury is much less than the value of the increased yield which it assures.





# LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP  
AND SWINE

BEEF PRODUCTION  
BREEDING PROBLEMS



**Hog Cholera in Michigan**  
HOG CHOLERA has broken out in Michigan. It was first discovered in Riga township, Lenawee county, where it has infected over 400 hogs valued at \$8,000. Subsequent advices state that it has also broken out in Washtenaw and St. Joseph counties. Federal Agent C. L. Tawney and C. L. Coffeen, agricultural agent for Lenawee county, are using the utmost measures to stamp out the disease and prevent its spread. September introduces the normally infectious season for hog cholera, and if this southern Michigan outbreak is any criterion of what may happen as the season advances, the farmers are in for a bad year. But there's no use crossing a bridge till you get there. Pork is too valuable now-a-days to permit hogs to die from cholera without making the best possible effort to save them.

The present outbreak bids fair to become general if the proper measures are not taken to check it, but if every farmer in Saginaw county, or any other counties for that matter will use ordinary precautions, there is no need for alarm.

The most prolific cause of hog cholera prevalence is the indifference of many farmers, and their seemingly absolute refusal to recognize the disease even when their hogs succumb to it. The best way to check the disease is to have every animal that shows signs of sickness examined by a competent veterinarian and if found infected to have every hog on the farm treated with serum.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture says upon the subject:

"Don't take a chance with a sick hog. Act quickly. Get a veterinarian or a trained man immediately. Don't wait a single hour when you suspect disease in your herd. Use the telephone or send to town at once. Only prompt action will stop hog cholera losses. Every hog saved will help win the war."

The time for argument about anti-hog-cholera serum is past. Explicit figures are readily available which prove unmistakably that when administered in time by competent persons, hog-cholera serum will keep well hogs from taking the disease for a period of 3 to 6 weeks. Not argument, but quick action is imperative to get serum and a trained operator to the farm to treat the hogs. Hogs will be saved and the nation's meat supply increased if every farmer will immediately upon sign of disease call in the nearest available expert to diagnose the complaint and administer treatment.

The Department of Agriculture is urging that all State, county and local live stock interests, including State college workers, county agents and local veterinarians, begin immediately to organize anti-hog-cholera preparedness campaigns to reach every farmer in every county. Such organization already exists in many places. Where it does not, there is need of special and immediate action before the hot weather conditions, favorable to hog-cholera, come on.

Bankers and other business men can aid in the work of informing farmers where they can get expert help immediately when they suspect cholera in their herds. Lists of accredited persons competent to diagnose cholera and administer serum, together with their addresses and telephone numbers, should be furnished to each farmer in the county with the appeal that he call for help at once in case of need. Business men may also arrange thru the local veterinary authorities or county agents to buy serum and hold it in reserve for emergency use at the nearest State serum plant, private plant, or serum depot. State and Federal animal-industry authorities should be notified of any outbreak at once by telegraph.

Because a single outbreak of hog-cholera on any farm is a matter of moment to the entire community, and because hog-cholera infection is rapidly spread in many ways, the Department of Agriculture is urging farmers to employ every possible measure to keep the disease out of their herds. The Department has issued a special hog-cholera poster, "Stop Hog-Cholera Losses," which gives specific directions

for avoiding infection by sanitary and self-quarantine measures; also directions for the isolation and treatment of cholera-infected hogs and directions for disinfection and restocking the hog lot. Farmer's Bulletin 834, soon to be published, contains the latest information at the command of the Department of Agriculture concerning hog-cholera prevention and the immunization of hogs against the disease.

All farmers should have it. We will secure copies of this bulletin free of charge upon request.

## Veterinary Department

G. H. CONN, D. V., Editor

WE HAVE a pure-bred Holstein cow 3 years old. She is giving at this time about 30 pounds of milk per day. She seems to be in perfect health, but yesterday I noticed a peculiar bunch on the right hand lower jaw. This bunch is about the size of a goose egg. It is very hard and seems to be attached to the bone. It hurts her to have it touched. Our nearest veterinary is 20 miles away, so we would like to have you tell us what the trouble is and what we can do for it. H. M. and F. H. H., Bellaire, Mich.

Undoubtedly this enlargement on your cow's jaw is an Actinomycotic tumor which is commonly known as Lumpy jaw. This is the common location for them but once in a while they will be found between the jaw bones under the throat and occasionally they will affect the tongue making it stiff and this condition is then spoken of as wooden tongue. In rare cases these growths may be found internally as well. When these conditions are treated early it is marvelous almost at the results that may be obtained in the majority of cases. The large percent of them will respond very readily and rapidly to treatment. Paint this growth night and morning with tincture of iodine. Take three ounces of Potassium Iodide and dissolve in one pint of water and give this cow one tablespoonful three times each day on some chop or brain if she is where you can feed her at noon, if she can be handily fed at noon give this night and morning. If this growth is not removed until the medicine is all given, repeat after one week as before. Need not stop the paintings with the Tincture of Iodine during such interval.

WE HAVE some Holstein heifers that are about fourteen or fifteen months old. Are they old enough to breed?—A. N., Monroe, Mich.

It would be much better to wait until these heifers are at least a year and one-half old before they are bred. It does not pay to breed them too young. It would be well if possible to breed them so that they would not freshen before they were two and one-half years old.

WE HAVE a nice five-year-old Jersey cow that is getting the lump jaw. This growth has just been coming for about three or four weeks. Does not seem to bother her any. What can be done for it?—T. McC., Saginaw, Mich.

Get the fluid extract of Poke root and give her one tablespoonful in a little water as a drench three times each day and paint this growth with tincture of iodine night and morning. This will no doubt remove this growth, unless the bone is already diseased which is not at all likely.

MY HENS are barred Plymouth Rock and Brown Leghorns. They are dying with a bowel trouble; they are not sick but two or three days. The droppings are sluggish; sometimes it seems like bloody dysentery and some like the whites of two eggs at first. Then after it is exposed to the air a short time becomes white. They want to sit on the nest at this time and I have lost three where they became very lame. First it affects the barred rocks, mostly beautiful looking hens. I am feeding them barley, wheat screenings and corn. They run at large and get only clean water. I put 10 drops of carbolic acid into a 4 quart pan of water. I have lost 13 in just a short time.

The condition that you describe seems to be an infectious diarrhea. The first thing that should be done would be to clean all coops and roosts if you have not already done so and then disinfect them thoroughly. This should be done well; the trash in the run should be raked together and burned; if the runs are not too large they should be well sprinkled with lime and the poultry removed to some other location for a few days or a few weeks if possible. The feed should be clean and free from mould or contamination. The water should be clean and pure. Separate the sick ones from the well ones.

Get the following:—Sodium Sulphocarbonate and Zinc Sulphocarbonate of each one (1) ounce and mix together. Take of this one level tablespoonful and dissolve in one gallon of water and keep this before the chickens for them to drink; if desired this can be used to make a wet mash for them and feed to them in this way. This is non-poisonous and they should have no other water to drink. This should bring about a normal condition in a short time.

## The Live Stock Farmer

AS ONE travels a long distance thru the country, he is constantly impressed with the various types of farms that line the road. Some show a very prosperous appearance. Fields and meadows stretch away in a green rolling panorama, and sleek live stock graze contentedly in the distant. Grain waist and head high, nods in the breeze; the smell of clover sweetens the air, and there is a thrifty appearance to all vegetation that bespeaks a fertile soil and careful cultivation. Invariably modern farm buildings add the final touch to the air of prosperity and success that hangs over such places. And if you have been schooled in the ways of farming you know at once that these are live stock farms, and that live stock was the key to their success.

But there is another type of farm that the traveller encounters. It has a hang-dog appearance. The fields are green but the crops look poor and stunted as tho starved of the elements needed for full development. The absence of cattle or sheep denotes a lack of interest in live stock raising and appearance of the crops. It usually also explains the run-down appearance of the barns and house, for the man of experience knows that without live stock to replenish the soil of the elements that are annually taken away by the crops, there cannot be the highest success.

Show me a community where live stock are not raised and I will show you a community where public improvements are lacking, the roads and schools are poor, the farms are not producing profitably and the buildings are out of date, money is scarce and the rate of interest is high; the young people from this community are leaving the farm and going to the city.

On the other hand show me a community where good live stock are raised and I will show you a community of prosperous contented farmers. Their roads and schools are of the best. Farm buildings are in good repair and their homes have all the modern conveniences. Their crops are good, money plenty and rates of interest are reasonable. The young people from such a community are staying on the farm. They can see the advantage of such a life over that of a shop life in the city.

Some way must be found to feed the great numbers of people who have flocked from the farms to the cities the past decade, and the solution of this problem is resting with the farmer. The fact that this increase is going on and that meat contributes a large part of the diet of the average American family makes it reasonable to suppose that we will never see cheap meats again for any length of time.

At the present time good live stock is bringing good prices for food purposes; but we can not see but what the man who is breeding pure-bred farm animals of quality, will get very high prices for all the animals he can spare for breeding stock for several years to come. This country will use more food animals during the next few months than they have ever used before as they will send as much food to the allied armies as possible and as soon as the war is over the European countries that are at war will find it necessary to replenish their breeding herds and they will look to the U. S. to supply these animals.

The possibilities of the live stock farmer are almost unlimited and almost unbelievable. The men who are getting results in their breeding operations are reaping rich financial rewards; cattle, horses, sheep and hogs of quality and that are typical of their type are bringing enormous prices; there seems to be scarcely a limit to the prices that men will pay for breeding animals in an effort to increase the value of their herd and its progeny. Five months' old bull calf recently sold for \$53,200; a cow for \$18,300. Hogs and horses are bringing prices in comparison. The man that can produce the highest class of live stock at this time, need not go begging for his reward, as there are many men just waiting to hear his price, and they write the check. It would not surprise me if we were to hear

# Farm Loans

## 5% interest Rate

We want selected farm mortgage loans of \$2000 and up on improved farm lands in Michigan. Interest at only 5%, the borrower paying a small brokerage when loan is closed. Prompt service.

## The Guaranty Title and Mortgage Co.

Farm Loan Dept. Flint, Michigan

# 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

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Separators—Engines—Spreaders—Tractors

Don't buy any implement until you see what Galloway can save for you. Learn all about my low prices and fine quality. I sell you direct from my factories at the lowest manufacturer's price, and if I cannot save you big money on the best implements built I don't want your order.

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I want this great book in every farm home. Let it be your buying guide for anything you need on your farm. It will save you a big amount of money in the course of a year. Send for your copy today. It's free. A postal will do.

WM. GALLOWAY CO., Box 3737  
WATERLOO, IOWA



ROSEN RYE—We have for sale the new selected and improved Rosen Rye, that we obtained from the Michigan Agricultural College, which yields as high as 40 bushels per acre. Seed is pure and carefully selected. Write for prices. Strachan & Son, Ionia, Mich.

of some one paying a hundred thousand dollars for a good dairy bull within the next five years. It would not surprise us if we would not see at least half a dozen sales of \$50,000 bulls in the next five years and no doubt as many cows that sell for \$20,000 or more in the same length of time. The man that can and is breeding good stock, should stay on the job and redouble his energy and do his best to produce better animals than he is now doing and he need have no fears as to being able to be well repaid for his efforts.

Let us all boost for the live stock farmer, not because he needs it, but because our country needs live stock farms, instead of grain farmers; let us boost for them because it makes for prosperity and happy contented farmers and because it contributes more largely than any other branch of farming to maintaining the fertility of our farms; let us boost for it because it makes us independent and prosperous and because it brings us everything that is good. Let us all have this for our slogan, "Better and more live stock on every farm", yes let us go one better and have another slogan equally as applicable and here it is, "Pure bred live stock on every farm and every farmer a Live Stock Farmer."—G. H. Conn, D. V. M.





# Average Jones

By Samuel Hopkins Adams

IN "BLUE FIRES," Average Jones, the Ad-Visor who helps people out of trouble and keeps others from getting in, solves the mystery of stolen gems, and as a result reconciles a superstitious young lady with her anxious suitor. Other thrilling and fascinating experiences of Average Jones in untangling the mysteries in which people become involved, will be told in subsequent issues.

"I've been studying you on the car," explained Average Jones. "You're hard as nails; yet you're nerves are on edge. It isn't illness, so must be trouble. On your watchchain you've got a solitaire diamond ring. Not for an ornament; you aren't that sort of a dresser. It's there for convenience until you can find a place for it. When a deeply troubled man wears an engagement ring on his watch-chain it's a fair inference that there's been an obstruction in the course of true love. Unless I'm mistaken, you, being a stranger newly come to town, were going to take your case to those man-eating sharks?"

"When you looked at your watch I noticed it was three hours slow. That must mean the Pacific coast, or near it. Therefore you've just got in from the Far West and have not thought to rectify your time. \*\*\*—You made a good guess at a woman in the case, and you call this a coincidence? She'd say it was a case of intuition. She's very strong on intuition and superstition generally." There was a mixture of tenderness and bitterness in his

tone. "Chance brought that advertisement to her eyes. A hat pin she'd dropped stuck through it, or something of that sort. Enough for her. Nothing would do but that I should chase over to see the Owl Building bunch. At that, maybe her hunch was right. It's brought me up against you. Perhaps you can help me. What are you? A sort of detective?"

"Only on the side." Average Jones drew a card from his pocket, and tendered it:

A. JONES, Ad-Visor

Advice upon all matters connected with Advertising

Astor Court Temple 2 to 5 P. M.  
"Ad-Visor, eh?" repeated the other. "Well, there's going to be an advertisement in the *Evening Truth* today, by me. Here's a proof of it."

LOST—Necklace of curious blue stones from Hotel Denton, night of August sixth. Reward greater than value of stones for return to hotel. No questions asked.

"Reward greater than value of stones," commented Average Jones. "There's a sentimental interest, then?"

"Will you take the case?" returned Kirby abruptly.

"At least I'll look into it," replied Average Jones. "Come to the hotel, then, and lunch with me, and I'll open up the whole thing."

Across the luncheon table, at the quiet, old-fashioned Hotel Denton, Kirby unburdened himself. "You know all that's necessary about me. The other party in the matter is Mrs. Hale. She's a young widow. We've been engaged for six months; were to be married in a fortnight. Now she insists on a postponement. That's where I want your help."

Average Jones moved uneasily in his chair. "Really, Mr. Kirby, lovers' quarrels aren't in my line."

"There's been no quarrel. We're as much engaged now as ever, in spite of the return of the ring. It's only her infern—her deep-rooted superstition that's caused this trouble. One can't blame her; her father and mother were both killed in an accident after some sort of 'ghostly warning.' The first thing I gave her, after our engagement, was a necklace of these stones—he tapped his scarf pin—"that I'd selected, one by one myself. They're beautiful as you see, but they're not particularly valuable; only semi-precious. The devil of it is that they're the subject of an Indian legend. The Indians and Mexicans call them 'blue fires,' and say they have the power to bind and loose in love. Edna has been out in that country; she's naturally high strung and responsive to that sort of thing, as I told you, and she fairly soaked in all that nonsense. To make it worse, when I sent them to her I wrote that—that a dull red surged up under the tan skin—"that as long as the fire in the stones burned blue for her my heart would all be hers. Now the necklace is gone. You can imagine the effect on a woman of that temperament. And you can see the result." He pointed with a face of misery to the solitaire on his watch-chain. "She insisted on giving this back. Says that a woman as careless as she proved herself can't be trusted with jewelry. And she's hysterically sure that misfortune will follow us forever if we're married

without recovering the fool necklace. So she's begged a postponement."

"Details," said Average Jones crisply.

"She's here at this hotel. Has a small suite on the third floor. Came down from her home on central New York to meet my mother, whom she had never seen. Mother's here, too, on the same floor. Night before last Mrs. Hale thought she heard a noise in her outer room. She made a look-see, but found nothing. In the morning when she got up, about ten (she's a late riser) the necklace was gone."

"Where had it been left?"

"On a stand in her sitting room."

"Anything else taken?"

"That's the strange part of it. Her purse, with over a hundred dollars in it, which lay under the necklace, wasn't touched."

"Does she usually leave valuables around in that casual way?"

"Well, you see, she's always stayed at the Denton, and she felt perfectly secure here."

"Any other thefts in the hotel?"

"Not that I can discover. But one of the guests on the same floor with Mrs. Hale saw a fellow acting queerly that same night. There he sits, yonder, at that table. I'll ask him to come over."

The guest, an elderly man, already interested in the case, was willing enough to tell all he knew.

"I was awakened by some one fumbling at my door and making a clinking noise," he explained. "I called out. Nobody answered. Almost immediately I heard a noise across the hall. I opened my door. A man was fussing at the keyhole of the room opposite. He was very clumsy. I said, 'Is that your room?' He didn't look at me. In a moment he started down the hallway. He walked very fast, and I could hear him muttering to himself. He seemed to be carrying something in front of him with both hands. It was his keys, I suppose. Anyway I could hear it clink. At the end of the hall he stopped, turned to the door at the left and fumbled at the keyhole for quite a while. I could hear his keys clink again. This time, I suppose, he had the right room, for he unlocked it and went in. I listened for fifteen or twenty minutes. There was nothing further."

"How was the man dressed?" asked Average Jones.

"Grayish dressing-gown and bed slippers. He was tall and had gray hair."

"Many thanks. Now, Mr. Kirby, will you take me to see Mrs. Hale?"

The young woman received them in her sitting room. She was of the slender, big-eyed, sensitive type of womanhood; her piquant face marred by the evidences of sleeplessness and tears. "I felt sure the advertisement would bring us help," she said wistfully. "Now, I feel surer than ever."

"Faith helps the worst case," said the young man, smiling. "Mr. Kirby tells me that the intruder awakened you."

"Yes; and I'm a very heavy sleeper. Still I can't say positively that anything definite roused me; it was rather an impression of some one's being about. I came out of my bed room and looked around the outer room, but there was nobody there."

"You didn't think to look for the necklace?"

"No," she said with a little gasp; "if I only had!"

"And—er—you didn't happen to hear any clinking noise, did you?"

"No."

"After he'd got into the room he'd put the key up, wouldn't he?" suggested Kirby.

"You're assuming that he had a key."

"Of course he had a key. The guest across the hall saw him trying it on the doors and heard it clink against the lock."

"If he had a key to this room why did he try it on several other doors first?" propounded Average Jones. "As for the clinking noise, in which I'm a good deal interested—may I look at your key Mrs. Hale."

She handed it to him. He tried it on the lock, outside, jabbing at the metal setting. The resultant sound was dull and wooden. "Not much of the clink which our friend describes as having heard, is it?" he remarked.

"Then how could he get into my room?" cried Mrs. Hale.

"Are you sure your door was locked?"

"Certain. As soon as I missed the necklace I looked at the catch."

"That was in the morning. But the night before?"

"I always slip the spring. And I know I did this time because it had been left unsprung so that Mr. Kirby's mother could come in and out of my sitting room, and I remember springing it when she left for bed."

"Sometimes these locks don't work." Slipping

THERE WERE few places, Average Jones held where human nature in the rough can be studied to better advantage than in the stifling tunnels of the subway or the close-packed sardine boxes of the metropolitan surface lines. It was in pursuance of this theory that he encountered the Westerner, on a Third Avenue car. By custom, Average Jones picked out the most interesting or unusual human being in any assembly where he found himself, for study and analysis. This man was peculiar in that he alone was not perspiring in the sudden August humidity. The clear-browed skin and the rangy strength of the figure gave him a certain distinction. He held in his sinewy hands a doubly folded newspaper. Presently it slipped from his hold to the seat beside him. He stared at the window opposite with harassed and unseeing eyes. Abruptly he rose and went out on the platform. Average Jones picked up the paper. In the middle of the column to which it was folded was a marked advertisement:

ARE you in an embarrassing position? Anything, anywhere, any time, regardless of nature or location. Everybody's friend. Consultation at all hours. Suite 152, Owl Building, Brooklyn.

The car was nearing Brooklyn Bridge. Average Jones saw his man drop lightly off. He followed and at the bridge entrance caught him up.

"You've left your paper," said he.

The stranger whirled quickly. "Right," he said. "Thanks. Perhaps you can tell me where the Owl Building is."

"Are you going there?"

"Yes."

"I wouldn't."

A slight wrinkle of surprise appeared on the man's tanned forehead.

"Perhaps you wouldn't," he returned coolly.

"In other words, 'mind your business,'" said Average Jones, with a smile.

"Something of that sort," admitted the stranger.

"Nevertheless, I wouldn't consult with Everybody's Friend over in the Owl Building."

"Why?"

"Er—because—er if I may speak plainly," drawled Average Jones, "I wouldn't risk a woman's name with a gang of blackmailers."

"You've got your nerve," retorted the stranger. The keen eyes, flattening almost to slits, fixed on the impassive face of the other.

"Well, I'll go you," he decided, after a moment. His glance swept the range of vision and settled upon a rathskeller sign. "Come over there where we can talk."

They crossed the grilling roadway, and, being wise in the heat, ordered "soft" drinks.

"Now," said the stranger, "you've declared in on my game. Make good. What's your interest?"

"None, personally. I like your looks, that's all," replied the other frankly. "And I don't like to see you run into that spider's web."

"You know them?"

"Twice in the last year I've made 'em change their place of business."

"But you don't know me. And you spoke of—"



the catch back. Average Jones pressed the lever down. There was a click, but the ward failed to slip. At the second attempt the lock worked. But repeated trials proved that more than half the time the door did not lock.

"So," observed Average Jones, "I think we may dismiss the key theory."

"But the locked door this morning?" cried Mrs. Hale.

"The intruder may have done that as he left."

"I don't see why," protested Kirby, in a tone which indicated a waning faith in Jones.

"By way of confusing the trail. Possibly he hoped to suggest that he'd escaped by the fire escape. Presumably he was on the balcony when Mrs. Hale came out into the room." \*\*\* Jones disappeared through a window.

When he returned, after five minutes, he held in his hand some scrapings of the rusted iron which formed the balcony railing.

"You're a mining man, Mr. Kirby," he said. "Would you say that assayed anything?"

Kirby examined the glinting particles. "Gold," he said decisively.

"Ah, then the necklace rubbed with some violence against the railing. Now, Mrs. Hale, how long were you awake?"

"Ten or fifteen minutes. I remember that a continuous rattling of wagons below kept up for a little while. And I heard one of the drivers call out something about taking air."

"Er—really!" Average Jones became suddenly absorbed in his seal ring. He turned it around five accurate times and turned it back an equal number of revolutions. "Did he—er—get any answer?"

"Not that I heard."

The young man pondered, then drew a chair up to Mrs. Hale's escritoire, and, with an abrupt "excuse me," helped himself to pen, ink and paper.

"There!" he said, after five minutes' work. "That'll do for a starter. You see," he added, handing the product of his toil to Mrs. Hale, "this street happens to be the regular cross-town route for the milk that comes over by one of the minor ferries. If you heard a number of wagons passing in the early morning they were the milk-vans. Hence this."

Mrs. Hale read:

**MILK-DRIVERS, ATTENTION!**—Delaware Central mid-town route. Who talked to man outside hotel early morning of August 7? Twenty dollars to right man. Apply personally to Jones, Ad-Visor, Astor Court Temple, New York.

"For the coming issue of the Milk-Dealer's Journal," explained the author. "Now, Mr. Kirby, I want you to find out for me—Mrs. Hale can help you since she has known the hotel people for years—the names of all those who gave up rooms on this floor, or the floors above or below, yesterday morning, and ask whether they are known to the hotel people."

"You think the thief is still in the hotel?" cried Mrs. Hale.

"Hardly. But I think I see smoke from your blue fires. To make out the figure through the smoke is out—Average Jones broke off, shaking his head. He was still shaking his head when he left the hotel."

It took three days for the milk-journal advertisement to work. On the afternoon of August tenth, a lank, husky-voiced teamster called at the office of the Ad-Visor and was passed in ahead of the waiting line.

"I'm after that twenty," he declared. "Earn it," said Average Jones with equal brevity.

"Hotel Denton. Guy on the third floor balcony."

"Right so far."

"Leanin' on the rail as if he was sick. I give him a hello. 'Takin' a nip o' night air. Bill? I says. He didn't say nothin'."

"Did he do anything?"

"Kinder fanned himself an' jerked his head back over his shoulder. Meanin' it was too hot to sleep inside, I reckon. It sure was hot!"

"Fanned himself? How?"

"Like this." The visitor raised his hands awkwardly, cupped them, and drew them toward his face.

"Er—with both hands?"

"Yep."

"Did you see him go in?"

"Nope."

"Here's your twenty," said Average Jones. "You're long on sense and short on words. I wish there were more like you."

"Thanks. Thanks again," said the teamster, and went out.

Meantime Kirby had sent his list of the guests who had given up their rooms on August seventh: George M. Weaver, Jr., Utica, N. Y., well known to hotel people and vouched for them.

Walker Parker, New Orleans, ditto.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hull; quite elderly people; first visit to hotel.

Henry M. Gillespie, Locke, N. Y. Middle aged man; new guest.

C. F. Willard, Chicago; been going to hotel for ten years; vouched for by hotel people.

Armed with the list, Average Jones went to the Hotel Denton and spent a busy morning.

"I've had a little talk with the hotel servants," said he to Kirby, when the latter called to make inquiries. "Mr. Henry M. Gillespie, of Locke, N. Y., had room 168. It's on the same floor with Mrs. Hale's suite, at the farther end of the hall. He had only one piece of luggage, a suit case marked H. M. G. That information I got from the porter. He left his room in perfect order except for one thing: one of the knobs on the headboard of the old-fashioned bed was broken off short. He didn't mention the matter to the hotel people."

"What do you make of that?"

"It was a stout knob. Only a considerable effort of strength exerted in a peculiar way would have broken it as it was broken. There was something unusual going on in room 168, alright."

"Then you think Henry M. Gillespie, of Locke, New York, is our man?"

"No," said Average Jones.

The Westerner's square jaw fell. "Why not?"

"Because there's no such person as Henry M. Gillespie, of Locke, New York. I've just sent there and found out."

For three weeks Average Jones issued advertisements like commands. The advertisements would, perhaps, have struck the formal-minded Kirby as evidences of a wavering intellect. Indeed, they present a curious and incongruous appearance upon the page of Average Jones' scrap-book, where they now mark a successful conclusion.

Variety, the Clipper and the Billboard scattered the appeal broadcast throughout "the profession." Thousands read it, and one answered it. And within a few days after receiving that answer Jones wired to Kirby:

"Probably found. Bring Mrs. Hale tomorrow at 11. Answer. A. Jones."

Average Jones greeted his guests cordially. Their first questions to him were significant of the masculine and feminine differences in point of view.

"Have you got the necklace?" cried Mrs. Hale.

"Have you got the thief?" queried Kirby.

"I haven't got the necklace and I haven't got the thief," announced Average Jones; "but I think I've got the man who's got the necklace; Mr. Harvey M. Greene, who now sits in the outer room."

"H. M. G.," said Kirby quickly. "Is it possible that the decent looking old boy out there is the man who stole—"

"It is not," interrupted Average Jones with emphasis. "And shall ask you, whatever may occur, to guard your speech from offensive expressions of that sort while he is here."

"All right if you say so," acquiesced the other. "But do you mind telling me how you figure out a man traveling under an alias and helping himself to other people's property on any other basis than that he's a thief?"

The man from the outer room entered and nervously acknowledged his introduction to the others.

"Mr. Greene," explained Jones, "has kindly consented to help clear up the events of the night of August sixth at the Hotel Denton and"—he paused for a moment and shifted his gaze to the newcomer's narrow shoes—"and—er—the loss of—er—Mrs. Hale's jeweled necklace."

The boots retracted sharply, as under the impulse of some sudden emotion; startled surprise, for example. "What?" cried Greene, in obvious amazement. "I don't know anything about a necklace."

"That also is possible," Jones admitted. "If you'll permit the form of an examination; when you came to the Hotel Denton on August sixth, did you carry the same suitcase you now have with you, and similarly packed?"

"Yes. As nearly as possible."

"Thank you. You were registered under the name of Henry M. Gillespie?"

The other's voice was low and strained as he replied in the affirmative.

"For good reasons of your own?"

"Yes."

"For which same reasons you left the hotel quite early on the following morning?"

"Yes."

"Your business compels you to travel a great deal?"

"Yes."

"Do you often register under an alias?"

"Yes," returned the other, his face twitching.

"But not always?"

"No."

"In a large city and a strange hotel, for example, you'd take any name which would correspond to the initials, H. M. G., on your dress-suit case. But in a small town where you were known, you'd be obliged to register under your real name of Harvey M. Greene. It was that necessity which enabled me to find you."

"I'd like to know how you did it," said the other gloomily.

"Now," Jones said, "here's a bedpost, exactly like the one in room 168 occupied by Mr. Greene at the Denton. Kirby, you're a powerful man. Can you break that knob off with one hand?"

He wedged the post firmly in a chair for the trial. The bedpost resisted.

"Could you do it with both hands?" he asked.

"Probably, if I could get a hold. But there isn't surface enough for a good hold."

"No, there isn't. But now," Jones coiled a rope around the post and handed the end to Kirby. He pulled sharply. The knob snapped and rolled on the floor.

"Q. E. D.," said Kirby. "But it doesn't mean anything to me."

"Doesn't it? Let me recall some other evidence. The guest who saw Mr. Greene in the hallway thought he was carrying something in both hands. The milk driver who hailed him on the balcony noticed that he gestured awkwardly with both hands. In what circumstances would a man use both hands for action normally performed with one?"

"Too much drink," hazarded Kirby, looking dubiously at Greene, who had been following Jones' discourse with absorbed attention.

"Possibly. But it wouldn't fit this case."

"Physical weakness," suggested Mrs. Hale.

"Rather a shrewd suggestion. But no weakening broke off that bedpost in Henry M. Gillespie's room. I assumed that theory that the phenomena of that night were symptomatic rather than accidental. Therefore, I set out to find in what other places the mysterious H. M. G. had performed."

He handed the "Oh, You Hotel Men" advertisement to the little group.

"Plenty of replies came. You have, if I may say it without offense, Mr. Green, an unfortunate reputation among hotel proprietors. Small wonder that you use an alias! From the Hotel Carpathia in Boston I got a response more valuable than I had dared to hope. An H. M. G. guest—H. Morton Garson, of Pillsbury, Pennsylvania (Mr. Greene nodded)—had wrecked his room and left behind him his souvenir."



## Rouge Rex Shoes Wear Like Rawhide

The leather used in these shoes comes only from the toughest part of the hide and is especially tanned to meet all requirements of the farmer. They are not made for attractiveness, but for hard and long wear you can't beat them. They will stand the most severe tests and are manufactured in such a manner that they give double service where the most wear comes. Have wing tip, double vamp, bellows tongue and two full Oak-A-Tan nailed soles and slip. They will wear longer and give you more genuine satisfaction and service than any other shoes you have ever worn. They will cut your yearly shoe bill in half.

Ask your dealer for a pair of No. 407 smoke or rawhide color Rouge Rex shoes. Give them a trial. Prove to yourself that these shoes are everything we claim for them—that they are the shoes that will give you the best service.

**Rouge Rex No. 407**—Smoke Wolverine kip, wing tip, double vamp, blucher, large nickel eyelets, bellows tongue, two full size Oak-A-Tan soles and slip, nailed, sizes 6 to 11, EE width. For sale by all first class dealers.

## HIRTH-KRAUSE COMPANY

Hide-to-Shoe

Tanners and Shoe Manufacturers  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Leaning over, Jones pulled, clinking from the scrap-basket, a fine steel chain. It was endless and some twelve feet in total length, and had two small loops, about a foot apart.

"Yes, that is mine," said Mr. Greene with composure. "I left it because it had ceased to be serviceable to me."

"Ah! That's very interesting," said Average Jones with a keen glance. "Of course when I examined it and found no locks, I guessed that it was a trick chain, and that there were invisible springs in the wrist loops."

"But why should any one chain Mr. Greene to his bed with a trick chain?" questioned Mrs. Hale, whose mind had been working swiftly.

"He chained himself," explained Jones, "for excellent reasons. As there is no regular trade in these things, I figured that he probably bought it from some juggler whose performance had given him the idea. So," continued Jones, producing a specimen of his advertisements in the theatrical publications, "I set out to find what professional had sold a 'prop' to an amateur. I found the sale had been made at Bardsfield, Ohio, late in November of last year, by a 'Slippery Sam,' termed 'The Elusive Edwardes.' On November twenty-eighth of last year Mr. Harvey M. Greene, of Richmond, Virginia, was registered at the principal, in fact the only decent hotel, at Bardsfield. I wrote to him and here he is."

"Yes; but where is my necklace?" cried Mrs. Hale.

"On my word of honor, madam, I know nothing of your necklace," asserted Greene, with a painful contraction of his features. "If this gentleman can throw any more light—"

"I think I can," said Average Jones. "Do you remember anything of that night's events after you broke off the bedpost and left your room—the meeting with a guest who questioned you in the hall, for example?"

"Nothing. Not a thing until I awoke and found myself on the fire-escape."

"Awoke?" cried Kirby. "Were you asleep all the time?"

"Certainly. I'm a confirmed sleep-walker of the worst type. That's why I go under an alias. That's why I got the trick handcuff chain and chained myself up with it, until I found it drove me fighting crazy in my sleep when I could not break away. That's why I slept in my dressing gown that night at the Denton. There was a red light in the hall outside, and any light, particularly a colored one, is likely to set me going. I probably dreamed I was escaping from a locomotive—that's a common delusion of mine—and sought refuge in the first door that was open."

"Wait a minute," said Average Jones. "You—er—say that you are—er—peculiarly susceptible to—er—colored light."

"Yes."

"Mrs. Hale, was the table on which the necklace lay in line with any light outside?"

"I think probably with the direct ray of an electric globe shining through the farther window."

"Then, Mr. Greene," said Average Jones, "the glint of the fire-blue stones undoubtedly caught your eye. You seized on the necklace and carried it out on the fire-escape balcony, where the cool air or the milk driver's hail awakened you. Have you no recollection of seeing such a thing?"

"Not the faintest, unhappily?"

"Then he must have dropped it to the ground below," said Kirby.

"I don't think so," controverted Jones slowly. "Mr. Greene must have been clinging to it tenaciously when it swung and caught against the railing, stripping off the three end stones. If the whole necklace had dropped it would have broken up fine, and more than three stones would have returned to us in reply to the advertisements. And in that case, too, the chances against the end stones alone returning, out of all the thirty-six, are too unlikely to be considered. No, the fire-blue necklace never fell to the ground."

"It certainly didn't remain on the balcony," said Kirby. "It would have been discovered there."

"Quite so," assented Average Jones. "We're getting at it by the process of exclusion. The necklace didn't fall. It didn't stay. Therefore?"—he looked inquiringly at Mrs. Hale.

"It returned," she said quickly.

"With Mr. Greene," added Average Jones.

"I tell you," cried the gentleman vehemently, "I haven't set eyes on the wretched thing."

"Agreed," returned Average Jones; "which doesn't at all affect the point I wish to make. You may recall, Mr. Greene, that in my message I asked you to pack your suitcase exactly as it was when you left the hotel with it on the morning of August seventh."

"I've done so with the exception of the conjurer's chain, of course."

"Including the dressing gown you had on, that night, I assume. Have you worn it since?"

"No. It hung in my closet until yesterday, when I folded it to pack. You see, I—I've had to give up the road on account of my unhappy failing."

"Then permit me," Average Jones stooped to the dress-suit case, drew out the garment and thrust his hand into it one pocket. He turned to Mrs. Hale.

"Would you—er—mind—er leaning over a bit?" he said.

She bent her dainty head, then gave a startled cry of delight as the young man, with a swift motion, looped over her shoulders a chain of living blue fires which gleamed and glinted in the sunlight.

"They were there all the time," she exclaimed; "and you knew it."

"Guessed it," he corrected, "by figuring out that they couldn't well be elsewhere—unless on the untenable hypothesis that our friend, Mr. Greene here, was a thief."

"Which only goes to prove," said Kirby soberly, "that evidence may be a mighty deceptive accuser."

"Which only goes to prove," amended Average Jones, "that there's no fire, even the bluest, without traceable smoke."





# THE FARM HOME

*A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm*



## Let's Be Neighbors

ONCE I lived in a very isolated place, where I had no neighbor. It was before the day of telephones, and what would I have not given for a half hour's cheery chat with a woman! I don't know how I existed through that lonely year, I am sure if it were not for the mail, and books and magazines, and of course, my dear husband, I would have died! And just think, city folks often do not know their next door neighbors! They seem to glory in the phrase "Oh, I can't be bothered with neighbors!" It must be the loneliest feeling in the world for a stranger to walk down a city street and see all the pleasant homes, and the happy faces of children, and not be able to speak to them. Why, in our town, I know everybody! There isn't a man, woman or child in the neighborhood that does not sing out a cheery greeting when I walk abroad. Quite a contrast to my isolated year, when I almost ate my heart out in loneliness.

I wonder if some of my readers are living where neighbors are scarce or too far away to run in for an occasional chat? Perhaps you have taken up a homestead in some far Canadian country where the nearest neighbor lives miles away. Or maybe your good neighbor who used to come in and sit in the kitchen and swap experiences with you has moved away.

Let me be your neighbor! I'm coming to see you once a week on this page of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, and I'm going to say "Hello, Neighbor", and I want you to say "Howdy" right back again! Have you some troubles you just have to tell somebody? Aren't things going just right? Maybe I can help you! Do you want a certain recipe? Surely our readers, or neighbors, will be able to help you out, if I cannot. Let's all be neighbors, exchange experiences, and try to help each other and this good old world by the simple method of give and take. I'll give you all the helpful articles I can think of, and you give me your advice, suggestions, and experiences. And we'll all take from this life we're living in every bit of happiness and good cheer we can squeeze out of it!

I'm calling on you today, and sitting out in your kitchen, and talking to you, and suggesting to you. LET'S BE NEIGHBORS!

## Now Comes The School Lunch Problem

TO MOST of us, one of the "pesky" jobs of the day is putting up the school luncheon. We have been free from it all summer; now the problem faces us again. What shall we give the children to eat during the fall and winter? Of course, we all realize that the little growing body and the rapidly developing brain must be properly nourished, and the careful mother does not take the attitude that "any old thing will do" for the school lunch box. In Illinois alone there are 254,000 rural school children who carry their lunch to school. Just imagine all the mothers in the different states, thinking about the same problem—the school lunch box!

If the teachers feel responsible for the development of the very best in her pupils, and she too realizes that a child cannot accomplish his full quota of work when he is poorly nourished any more than an engine can run without fuel. Oftentimes the teacher will co-operate with the mothers, and serve warm food to add to the cold sandwiches and salads that are brought in the lunch boxes. Experiments show that whenever warm food has been added, good results have been noticed by parents and teachers, keener interest in school work, better marks, and above all better health. Children who are well fed aren't likely to be so greatly in need of discipline.

A growing child has need of large quantities of body-building material. A child often needs more energy than a grown person, growing as he is, mentally and physically. Proteins, fats and carbohydrates are necessary to the body, but there are other necessary substances. Lime is needed by the child to build bone and teeth. This is found in milk, eggs, dried or fresh peas, beans, carrots, prunes, parsnips, turnips, oranges, almonds, and peanuts. Anemia, which means "thin" blood, is often caused by the lack of iron in the system. Too many persons take tonics containing iron, when proper food would supply the same element. The foods rich in iron are the fruits and vegetables such as prunes, raisins, spinach, peas and beans. Also eggs, beefsteak, oatmeal and whole grains of wheat. Children

are more fully nourished when their diet is of meat, fish, milk, vegetables, and cereals, and fruits rather than the sweets so many are freely given.

Fried foods, rich cakes, pastry and pickles, and other highly seasoned foods should be excluded as far as possible from the school lunch box.

Do not put lunches up in air-tight pail or container. Food gets soggy if the box is not ventilated. Holes can be punched in the side of a tin pail. A basket makes a good lunch basket. Waxed paper used to wrap the food in is desirable, because it is sanitary, and makes sandwiches so appetizing.

The University of Illinois has co-operated with the United States Department of Agriculture and published a valuable booklet on school lunches, compiled by Florence Harrison and Olive B. Percival. The receipts which follow are taken from this interesting little booklet:

### SUGGESTIONS FOR SANDWICH FILLINGS

1. Ham, chicken, or veal, minced fine, seasoned, and mixed with cream or salad dressing. Hard cooked eggs may be added.
2. Cottage cheese, plain or mixed with chopped pimentos, olives or nuts.
3. Grated cheese, minced green pepper and cream.
4. Raisins, nuts, dates and figs, ground and mixed with fruit juice.
5. Sardines, salmon, etc., boned, seasoned with paprika and lemon juice or mixed with salad dressing.
6. Hard cooked eggs, chopped, mixed with grated cheese, butter and vinegar. Use with rye bread.
7. Salted peanuts, ground fine and mixed with cream or salad dressing.
8. Dates ground and rubbed to a paste with orange juice. Good served with cocoa.
9. Thin slices of tender meat, veal, beef, chicken, etc.

Fresh and canned fruits have an importance in the school lunch box. The dessert may supply the sweet of which all children are so fond. It may be a piece of plain cake, a cookie, dried fruit, such as raisins, figs, dates, a few pieces of pure candy, or some sweet chocolate. Custard, rice or tapioca pudding may furnish the dessert.

## This Week's Tested Recipe

### SCHOOL LUNCH COOKIES

- 1 1-3 cups brown sugar, 3-4 cup lard or butter, 2 eggs, 1-2 teaspoonful salt, 1-2 teaspoon nutmeg, 2 teaspoons cream tartar, 1 teaspoon soda, 3 level cups flour.

It should not be difficult for the teacher in the public school to make a warm dish a day for her little charges. For instance: potato soup, cream of tomato soup, apples cooked with bacon, cocoa, apple sauce, custard, or baked beans. Any of these simple things can be prepared in the winter on the school stove, and in the fall and spring on a little alcohol stove. The older pupils could co-operate with the teacher, and one delegated each day to prepare the luncheon. She could go quietly about her task a few minutes before noon. The various food products could be furnished by the parents of the school children.



## At the County Fair

**T**HE WIND it breathes of autumn,  
Kinda nippy-like, and keen.  
The leaves are red and yellor,  
When they used to be so green.  
The rose has lost its fragrance  
But there's odors in the air  
That seem to sorta tell me,  
We'll exhibit at the Fair!

**T**HE PICKLIN' and the jellin'  
That ma is doin' now  
Will surely prove a winner,  
For upon her sweatin' brow  
Is writ determination  
To git all the prizes there!  
All the wimmen in the County  
Are preparin' for the Fair!

**O**H GOSH, there's heaps a doin'  
The sideshows and the rest,  
The livestock and the races,  
Each girl togged in her best!  
The whirligigs and dance halls  
Would make a parson swear,  
But don't we all enjoy it,  
Down at the County Fair!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK



## RECIPES FOR HOT SCHOOL LUNCHEONS

### Cream of Corn Soup

1 1-2 cups corn, 1 1-2 cups cold water, 3-4 sliced onion, 3 cups milk, 3 tablespoons flour, 3 tablespoons butter, 2 eggs. Chop corn, add water, and simmer twenty minutes. Scald milk with onion; remove onion. Melt butter, add flour and gradually pour on milk. Add to heated corn, cook thoroughly, season to taste with salt and pepper, and pour onto the beaten eggs. When well mixed, serve hot. The egg and onion may be omitted if desired.

### Potato Soup

4 cups milk, 1 slice onion, 1 1-2 cups mashed potatoes, 3 tablespoons butter, 3 tablespoons flour, 1 1-2 teaspoons salt. Scald milk with onion in it, remove onion and add milk slowly to potatoes. Season with salt and pepper and serve.

### Baked Custard

4 cups milk, 4 to 6 eggs, 6 tablespoons sugar, few grains salt. Flavor with nutmeg, cinnamon, vanilla, or lemon extract. Scald milk beat eggs, add sugar and salt, and pour on gradually the scalded milk. Flavor to taste and pour into custard cups; place cups in deep pan and pour boiling water around them until it almost reaches the tops of cups. Bake in moderate oven about 20 minutes. To test when done, dip a pointed knife into the custard. If the knife comes out clean the custard is done.

Other suggested dishes for the hot school luncheon are cream of celery soup, pea soup, onion soup, cream of rich soup, milk and cheese soup, baked eggs, shirred eggs, coddled eggs, creamed eggs, apple custard, banana custard, chocolate custard, tapioca cream, rice pudding, cream of wheat, milk toast, macaroni, baked apples and baked bananas.

I would suggest that every mother speak to the teacher about the hot lunch plan. The teacher would be rewarded by better development of her pupils, and the effort required is so little, as compared with the results obtained.

## Winter Goodies

IT IS A WISE housekeeper who converts part of the summer fruits into winter "goodies" to fill the call for candy or "rush order" desserts. Fruit paste so common in the tropics is little known in America. Old time Virginia housekeepers put up peach and damson "leather", a similar product.

These pastes make a delightful dessert served with cream cheese or nuts. They can be used to garnish cakes, custards and platters of cold meat or eaten as a candy.

Fruit paste is made by boiling down fruit pulp, adding sugar, and drying out slightly.

**PEACH PASTE**—Cook peaches tender and rub through colander after draining off juice (this can be bottled and used as a fruit syrup). Allow 1-2 lb. of sugar to 1 lb. of fruit. Cook over slow fire till very thick. Pour paste out in thin sheet on flat dish or marble slab which has been rubbed over slightly with salad oil. Place in sun or draft for two days, covered to protect from insects. It should be dry enough not to be sticky, but by no means hard or leathery. Cut paste in fancy figures or in any way desired, place on wax paper, sprinkle with granulated sugar, stand in draft two days more. To store, dip again in granulated sugar and pack in boxes or jars like candy with layers of paper between.

**DAMSON PLUM LEATHER**—"Damson leather", as it is known in Virginia, is made without straining, the skins left in, dried as above. The sheet of leather is then sprinkled with granulated sugar, rolled like a jelly roll, and cut into slices. Dip these slices in granulated sugar and pack in jar.

**APPLE CONSERVE**—1 lb. apples to 3-4 lb. sugar and 1-2 pint water. Simmer apples, quartered and peeled, in syrup till clear. Dry in sun till no longer sticky. Roll in granulated sugar and pack in tin boxes or glass jars, in layers with wax paper.

**DAMSON PLUM CONSERVE**—4 lbs. plums, 3 lbs. sugar, 1 lb. shelled nuts, 2 oranges, 1 lb. raisins.

Remove the seeds and chop the plums. Peel the oranges and slice thinly one-half of the peel. Discard the other peel and the seeds. Mix chopped plums, orange pulp, sliced peel, sugar and raisins. Cook all together rapidly until bright and thick as jam. Add nuts five minutes before removing from the fire. Remove from fire, cool, and pack into jars.

**FANCY VARIATIONS**—These are only a few suggestions; there are endless varieties and combinations that can be worked out with these pastes. Use different fruits or pastes, dry partly, and arrange in layers like layer cake. Or vary the layers by adding finely cut citron, candied peel or blanched nuts. With apple pastes different colorings and flavors can be used. Where fruit is abundant, fancy packages of these pastes might be put up for Christmas presents or church bazaars.





## From Farm to Market

Plenty of apple buyers have been in Ganges the past few days paying from \$2.75 to \$3.25 a barrel for the Oldenberg apple crop.

Chas. Bowen of Paw Paw shipped one hundred bushels of fine Yellow Transparent apples to Chicago last week where they sold at top prices.

Rev. H. Nankervis of Memphis, harvested a big crop of early potatoes from his "little farm" which he sold locally all the way from \$2.60 per bushel down to \$1.80.

It is said that shipments of peaches around South Haven this season will probably not be large because the canning factories will pick up most of them, paying \$1.50 per bushel. Peaches are just ripening.

Frank King and son of Charlotte received \$841.10 net for 22 hogs and one veal calf and George Cooley shipped a sow that netted \$73.42. Both were sold thru the Square Deal Co-operative Shipping Association.

Mike Kenny hauled to Chief the biggest load of cucumbers ever brought to that station. There was about fifty bushels and he received \$30 for them. Mr. Kenny not only broke the record but also broke his wagon, so that it took him till late in the evening to make the delivery.

The largest yields of wheat, in many years, are reported, around Reading, Leroy March, three and one-half miles north and west of Reading village, reports 1,115 bushels of wheat from thirty acres of ground. At present prices Mr. March's crop is worth \$2,230 or better.

George W. Leggett of Allendale made a nice bunch of money from his early potatoes. He dug 225 bushels from an acre and a half, which brought him in the sum of \$364, an average of a trifle over \$1.60 a bushel. He experienced no trouble in selling them. Is there any one who can beat this record? We would like to hear from him.

It is estimated that Allegan county will this year produce 7,000 bushels of Red Rock wheat and is probably foremost in the state in this line. County Agent Bentall has just sold to parties in Jackson county a car load of wheat at \$3.50 per bushel. One piece of eight and one-half acres just threshed in that county gave a yield of fifty bushels per acre.

Talk of \$1 eggs next winter is not impossible. In fact the Birmingham Egg-centric printer is now paying more than \$4 per dozen for nice fresh eggs! He has 21 hens that generously contribute one egg every three days while they consume 100 pounds of feed in less than four weeks. And that same 100 pounds of energy cost just \$4.25 cash. He is going to live on chicken instead of pork chops.

William R. McDonough of Oceola recently sold a thoroughbred Holstein cow and calf to a Grand Rapids man for \$1,200. Last winter on an official test this cow produced 608.3 pounds of milk and 30.9 pounds of butter in seven days. Here is where a test made the owner several hundred dollars, for it is said that without the test he would have done well to get \$400 for the pair.

Officers of the Charlotte Square Deal Co-operative Association published the following statement in a local paper which is self-explanatory: "Whether you ship your stock with the Square Deal company or not, please give us credit for making a market in this locality. Mr. Goodman from Bay county spent Monday here learning how co-operative shipments are handled and he says the highest price they can get offered for two year old steers of good quality is 6 1-2 cents lb. The highest price they have received for hogs this year is 14 cents lb."

James Coe, of Brighton, delivered a veal calf to L. W. Lovewell Tuesday and was paid \$30.20 in exchange for it.

It is estimated, according to advance information, that eggs will reach a price of \$1 per dozen the coming winter. That's cheerful news.

Joseph Fritch, the apple buyer of Bloomingdale, made a business trip thru the northern counties to Traverse City. As a result he will pay a little over \$3 per barrel for apples.

The farmers' co-operative grain elevator will be built on the old Hurd mill site in Marshall. It will be a modern elevator, of 17,000 bushels capacity, and will be completed by December 1.

From eight acres of Rosen Rye, George Disbrow of Barryton, threshed 240 bushels, or 30 bushels per acre, while the old fashioned rye yielded but 16 bushels per acre. At the present price the Rosen Rye would bring to the producer \$48 per acre, as against \$25.60 for the old variety.

Alfred Gates of Elk Rapids has solved the labor problem, so far as his raspberries are concerned. Finding it difficult to get help to pick them, he sold them on the bushes, allowing people to do their own picking. Monday he disposed of 17 crates in this way, for which he received \$2.00 a crate.

Manager Kelly of the Charlotte Square Deal Co-operative Association, helped Eaton Rapids farmers recently to complete their co-operative shipping company there and Secretary Kiplinger helped organize one at Ann Arbor on the same plan as the Square Deal Company. The invitation to Ann Arbor was extended through the State Grange department.

The West Michigan Holstein-Friesian association will again offer a \$25 loving cup to the exhibitor showing the best Holstein-Friesian cow and two of its offspring, regardless of sex, at the West Michigan State Fair, September 17-21. The exhibitor must be a member of the Holstein-Friesian association, and the cattle must be registered on its books.

Six hundred bushels of potatoes have been traded by John Johnson, of Danforth, to A. & J. DeGrand, of Escanaba, for a new automobile. Mr. Johnson calls his car a "spudmobile" and says he'll grow more potatoes than ever this year. Prominent potato men here claim that more potatoes will be grown this year than in any two seasons before.

C. P. Smith of Portland brought in a bushel of fine looking, home grown potatoes, the first that were sold to Portland grocers. Mr. Smith has followed a custom of several years' standing of allowing the seed potatoes to sprout in the house and then transferring them to his garden. This gives him several weeks' start in getting his potato patch under way and insures him good prices. Mr. Smith received \$2 for this bushel.

The municipal piggery, established some time ago to take care of Lansing's garbage, is making money. The amount of the debt has been reduced to \$1,300 from \$2,000 and the present stock is valued at \$4,000. The pigs are said to be gaining in weight rapidly on the garbage fare, and with pork selling around 14 cents per pound, Lansing will make an average profit on each pig of \$12.60.

Probably the record wheat yield for Michigan was threshed at John Tichenor's farm near Dowagiac where a field of 14 acres of Red Wave wheat gave a yield of 50 bushels per acre with five bushels and some pounds to spare, and 30 acres gave a total yield of 1,473 bushels machine measure. This means a return of about \$125 per acre for Mr. Tichenor, and this return will not be equalled in the state this year from a field of that size.



## Some Day, Mr. Business Farmer,

this may happen to you; what then? A Michigan jury has awarded \$5,000 to the victim of an auto accident, can you afford the risk? No sir, not when you can get

## CITIZENS MUTUAL FIRE, THEFT AND LIABILITY INSURANCE

at so low a cost to you.

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

**\$65,000  
CASH  
ASSETS**

**28,400  
MEMBERS**



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

**300  
Claims Paid**

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

Frank Mahrl of Marshall, reports the largest yield of wheat raised in southern Michigan in years. He got 418 bushels from nine acres and sold it in Tekonsha for \$2.02 a bushel.

Walter Hoyes, a South Lyons farmer sold to Frank J. VanAtta the record breaking veal calf to date. This calf was 5 1-2 weeks old and Mr. Hoyes received \$35 for it.

The Godfrey Canning and Packing company of Benton Harbor, who last fall contracted 25,000 crates of red raspberries at \$1 per crate is doing an "unheard of" act in paying the growers \$1.25 for the contracted fruit, when the agreement is \$1.

The first load of 1917 grain was delivered to the Barryton elevator last week by Floyd Van Syckle, of Sec. 18, Fork, on Monday morning. It consisted of 81 bushels of rye, and the load brought the producer \$125.55, at \$1.55 per bushel.

G. B. Wilson's raspberry farm of ten and a half acres did quite satisfactory this year for young plants. He marketed a big crop of choice berries that brought top prices on the markets.

"Here are some peas for your vault," said R. E. Snider, of Grand Marais, as he walked into a local bank and placed \$499.40 on the cashier's desk. "I made this by selling 105 bushels of peas at \$5.25 a bushel. I am going to grow peas all my life after this." Snider got a yield of 35 bushels to the acre. All of Snider's friends laughed at him last year for planting peas. This year they are all buying seed from him. G. W. Hackman former Chicago waiter, bought 40 acres of land for \$4,000. He has just sold his bean crop for \$4,800.

## A \$20,000 Investment

**A**FTER several years of experience here are those among us who are still asking "Does the County Agent pay?" The answer, of course, depends partly upon the agent and partly upon the county in which he is working.

Scott county, Iowa, furnishes a concrete example of what has been done thru the development of the work that has its start in the county agent's office. Says A. F. Dawson of Davenport:

"If any county in the United States was to expend \$3,000 a year for four years, or a total of \$12,000, and in return for this expenditure was to enhance the value of the county nearly \$1,500,000, would you regard the investment as a good one and the effort put into the work worth while? Something over four years ago, a number of progressive farmers of Scott county, Iowa, joined with the busi-

ness men forming the Scott County Farm Improvement League, which engaged the services of G. R. Bliss as county agent. It is not an easy matter to measure in dollars and cents the net value of crops increased and animals saved as the result of this organized work. But there have been six items in the program pursued in this county, with regard to which the record could be kept and the accompanying table shows the extent to which the farmers of this county have been enriched by reason of organized effort with the county agent at its head. The six items are:

"These figures show net increases. For instance, the figures on alfalfa are from actual production and for the value of the crop above the price of timothy or clover. In 1912 there were but 146 acres of alfalfa in this county, now there are 2,950 acres which have shown an average yield per acre from four to five tons.

"The increased value of the corn crop comes from persistent campaign for the gathering of seed corn early. Before the organization was formed, 57 per cent of the seed corn was gathered early. Last year the per cent was 81. The gain in oats is the result of similar activity for the treatment of seed for smut. Before the county agent came, only five per cent of the seed oats were thus treated. The figures on silos are based on an estimated profit of \$200 a silo.

"Before the organization was formed, there was only one farmer in the county who believed in the serum treatment to prevent hog cholera. The league conducted demonstrations which proved its efficacy beyond question. As a result, 17,420 hogs were treated in 1913, of which 14,284 or 82 per cent, were saved. In 1914, 18,611 hogs were treated, of which 16,377 or 88 per cent, were saved. The value of the animals thus saved is conservatively figured at \$10 per head.

"And back of the county agent has been an organization which has enabled him to buy \$3,500 worth of serum and sell to the farmers at cost; to market a carload of Scott county clover seed to advantage; to conduct a most useful farm tour; to secure an extensive state soil station in this county; to obtain government assistance in a campaign to completely stamp out hog cholera; to protect the farmers from frauds and humbugs of one kind and another; and to accomplish other services which cannot be enumerated."

A more concrete and forceful example of a dollar-and-cents value of the County Agent could not be acquired, yet there are among us men who are still wondering whether it pays the farmer to put up his share of the money required to finance the movement.

**—a dollar investment in Michigan Business Farming pays real dividends. Can you do your friends a better service than to show them where to invest in a dividend-paying proposition?**



A wheat field on the farm of J. Fred Smith of Byron, Mich., one of Shiawassee county's most progressive farmers, which farmers have estimated will yield forty bushels to the acre. The field was originally sown to alfalfa last fall but Mr. Smith thought he had gotten a poor seeding, so he dragged the field and sowed it to wheat. He not only got a good crop of wheat but also a splendid seeding of alfalfa.



"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 L. Check, 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!**