



# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

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## HOOVER MUM ON BEAN DEAL

Food Administration Refuses to  
Commit Self as to Knowledge  
of Michigan Situation or  
Opinion as to Worth  
of Beans

On October 8th, we sent the following telegram to Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the Food Administration committee:

"Is report true that Armour & Co. have tendered food administration thru W. J. Orr, Chairman U. S. Bean purchasing committee free use all warehouse facilities for gathering in beans from all over world to keep U. S. and particularly Michigan price down? Have you knowledge recent cable purchase in Orient by big Michigan canning company of eight hundred tons beans at price seventy-five cents under price set by Michigan producers? Is it true that California, Colorado producers have agreed to sell beans to Government at six dollars? Our belief that jobbers using underhanded methods to scare farmers into selling beans at loss. Price of eight dollars based on average yield seven bushels this state gives grower no profit. Explain why farmer should not have small profit on beans. Government takes into consideration production costs when determining price of coal, steel, copper. Why not give farmer same treatment?"

Receiving no reply to this telegram we wrote the Food Administration under date of October 11th, giving copy of our wire, and concluding as follows:

"In view of the sensitive relations now existing between producer, distributor and consumer, we believe that the readers of our publication are entitled to an answer to these questions and a little explanation of the Food Administration's attitude upon the bean situation in Michigan, with which I believe you are conversant. May we not have this information by return mail?"

The only response we have received to either the telegram or letter is merely a statement that the food administration had received a communication from the Lewellyn Bean Company, offering the use of its elevators, etc., as told in last week's issue of M. B. F. On the subjects of the western bean price and the supposed Oriental bean purchase, the administration maintains a discreet silence.

## OHIO PRODUCERS GET \$3.20 FOR OCTOBER MILK

The Ohio Dairy Company announces the condensaries in the section will pay the \$3.20 price. This is 20 cents more than the price asked for by the Michigan Milk Producers' Association. The price to be paid in the vicinity of Pittsburg is \$2.60 and throughout the country in general \$2.50 to \$3.00. The result of the raise has already been felt in Toledo where the retail price of milk has advanced to 13 cents a quart and six cents a pint.

## SHOWING UP THE SPECULATORS

In an effort to verify the statement that was published by the market manipulators that the bean growers of California and Colorado had offered to sell their beans for \$6, we sent a telegram to the California Lima Bean Growers' Ass'n, asking for the truth of the matter. Below is their reply:

"OXNARD, CALIF., OCT. 16, '17  
"MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING,  
"MT. CLEMENS, MICH.

ANSWERING TELEGRAM ARE ADVISED COLORADO BEAN GROWERS ASKING NINE TO TEN CENTS FOR PINTOS WHICH ARE COLORED BEANS. CALIFORNIA GROWERS RECENTLY RECEIVED AS HIGH AS THIRTEEN CENTS FOR LIMAS, TWELVE HALF CENTS SMALL WHITE. MARKET DULL PAST FEW DAYS. EXPECTED SETTLE AT HALF CENT OR MORE BELOW ABOVE FIGURES.

"CALIFORNIA LIMA BEAN GROWERS' ASS'N."

## What and Why the Second Liberty Loan

Few people are thoroly conversant with all the details of the Second Liberty Loan of 1917. For the benefit of these the U. S. Treasury department has issued a primer of questions and answers which cover the subject completely. We reprint the more important of these below:

Q. When I lend my money to the United States Government, what do I get in return?

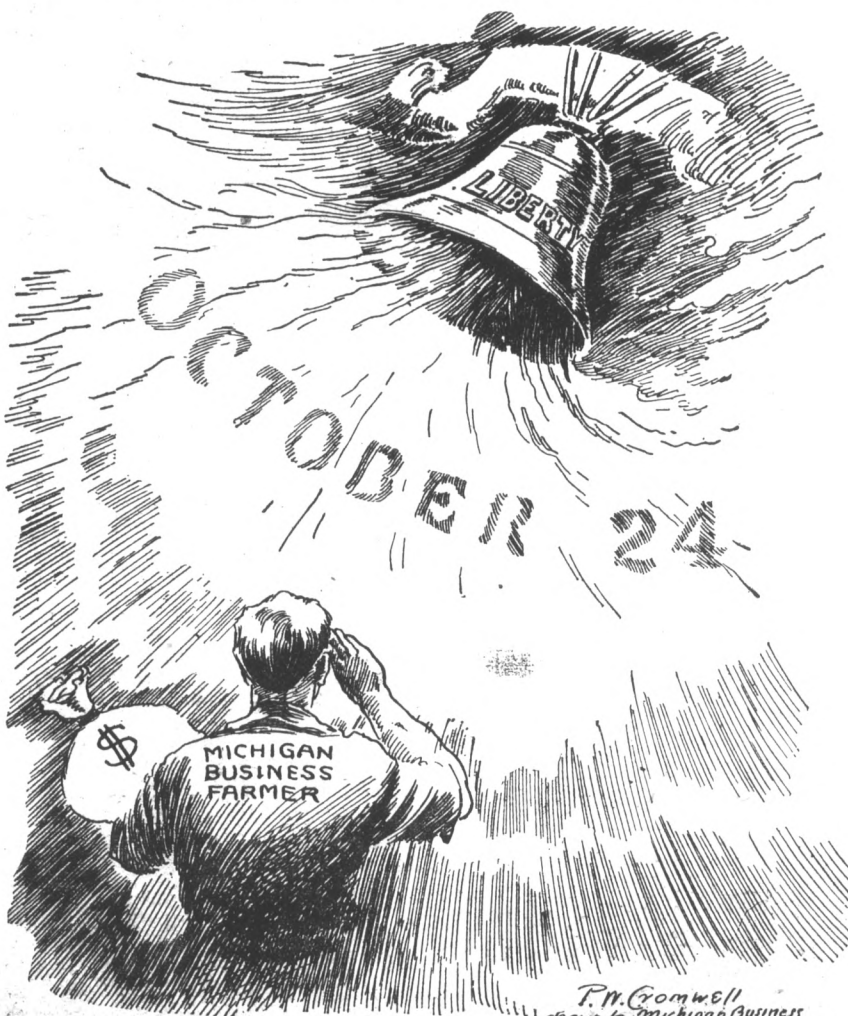
A. You get a promissory note giv-

en by the United States Government and bearing interest. This note is called a bond.

Q. What, then, is a United States Government bond?

A. It is the direct and unconditional promise of the United States of America to pay upon a certain date a specified sum of money in gold, together with interest at a specified rate, payable at specific dates until the

(Continued on page 3)



Wednesday, October 24th, has been designated by President Wilson as "Liberty Day." How many of the 200,000 farmers of Michigan will be ready on that day to buy their Liberty bond and help win the war?

## ANNUAL MEETING MILK PRODUCERS

Consensus of Opinion Among the  
Members of Michigan Milk  
Producers' Ass'n That  
Milk Cannot be Pro-  
duced for Less  
Than \$3.

The outstanding feature of the Michigan Milk Producers' annual meeting, held at East Lansing, Oct. 16th, was the statement of Ex-Gov. Fred M. Warner, speaking in behalf of the Michigan Milk Commission, that milk could not be produced in Michigan for less than something over \$3 per hundredweight.

Over 400 people were present at the meeting. Addresses, stripped of all verbiage, and confined strictly to the problems now confronting the dairy interests, were given by President N. P. Hull, Field Secretary R. C. Reed, Ex-Governor Warner, Milo D. Campbell, and D. D. Aitkin.

President Hull spoke briefly on the rights of the farmer to have something to say as to the price received for the products of his labor; he urged the producers to watch their costs closely and keep them as low as possible; he warned them to be careful of the methods they might select in their price-fixing program, citing the case of the Illinois Milk Producers' Ass'n whose officers are now before the grand jury, as an example of how farmers might unconsciously violate the laws of the land.

"Look to the herd and cull out the star boarders if you expect to do future duty to the dairy interests and the country at large," said Mr. R. C. Reed, the field secretary. Mr. Reed claimed that as a direct result of the efforts of the association there had been a total increase of over \$2,000,000 in the milk receipts. He urged the inauguration of immediate plans to take care of the surplus milk around Detroit in the event of the Detroit dealers refusing to pay the prices asked next month.

Ex-Governor Warner stated that the Commission appointed by the Food Administration to investigate the cost of producing milk in the state, had failed to agree on all items of cost, but were unanimous in their opinion that the total cost would be somewhat in excess of \$3 per hundredweight. It is the belief of Mr. Warner that the dairyman is entitled to not only a clear 10 per cent profit, but an additional 5 per cent for managerial services.

In speaking of the trials of the Illinois producers, Mr. Milo Campbell of Coldwater, president of the National Federation of Milk Producers, laid all the blame at the door of the Chicago middlemen and scouted the idea that anything serious would come from the grand jury investigations.

D. D. Aitkin, Michigan's veteran dairyman and live stock breeder, declared that the price of milk should

(Continued on page 3)

BUY A LIBERTY BOND AND HASTEN THE END OF THE WAR!

# CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

## REPORTS ON POTATO PRICES

**Evidence Submitted by Various Agencies Indicate that Potato Price Should not Fall Below \$1 per Bushel**

We have stated repeatedly in the columns of M. B. F. that the potato price this year should not fall below \$1 per bushel and many farmers will lose money at that price. Following is a summary of opinions from producers and those interested in the marketing of the crop, as compiled by Jas. N. McBride, state market director:

At the present prices for wheat, beans and other food products it would seem to me that the wholesale price of 1917 crop of potatoes would not be less than one dollar a bushel.—Geo. A. Prescott, *Federal Food Administrator*.

In most of the markets today potatoes are selling at the rate of about \$2.00 per hundredweight, equalling \$1.20 a bushel but I was in hopes that the Market Reports, both government and state, will from now on use hundredweight instead of bushels or packages, as barrels, crates, etc., and if in the beginning of the harvest the prices to the farmer will be \$1.00 a bushel or a little better and we can get a fairly even flow of this year's crop to the market, distributing it over the 9 1-2 to 10 months that it will be used as food, we are in hopes of having the price run fairly even throughout the season.—U. S. Food Administration, *Lou D. Sweet*.

The report of the Michigan Crop Growing Commission says that growers must have \$1.00 per bushel for bulk carlot potatoes. Government Grades Standard No. 1 at Grand Rapids.—*Jason Woodman, Chairman*.

Below is the itemized account of my cost in raising potatoes per acre.

Rent of ground	\$10.00
Plowing	3.50
Harrowing	2.50
Discing	1.00
Seed	20.00
Cutting seed, marking and planting	3.40
Cultivating	2.50
Hoeing	1.25
Spraying	10.00
Digging	15.00
Hauling to market	8.00
	\$77.90

I charge \$10.00 in rent because, while that seems high it takes four years of preparation to get and keep potato ground up. This year my potatoes are very disappointing. They looked before digging like a bumper crop—200 bu. per acre. I now have them dug and my early ones—3 1-2 acres, went about 135 bu. per acre. My late 13 acres about 90 bu. per acre. My hay was a normal crop—25 acres, 25 tons. Corn very poor, silage, no ears. Killed by frost, 15 acres. Buckwheat, frost-killed 5 acres; beans grasshoppers injured, may get from 5 acres 20 bushels. This is about the average of farms in this township. Potatoes are the main cash crop. Everyone around here tried to make a crop. We were led to believe we would get \$1 per bu. Here with that price this fall we might pull through and raise another crop, but if potatoes drop below 80c there will not be 50 per cent of a crop planted in 1918. The farmers are just as patriotic and just as willing to do their bit as any others, but we simply cannot put \$2 worth of hard work into \$1.50 worth of produce. If it were not for the

long hours the farmer puts in and the help he gets from his wife and children, but few small farmers would be in business today. When farmers get so we keep track of our hours of labor and give our families credit for the time they are employed and demand the pay such labor ought to bring, the problem of keeping the boys on the farms will be settled. If we are to have a normal crop of potatoes next year see that we get around \$1 per bu. this year.—*C. F. Carroll*.

## STATE BRIEFS

**MANCELONA**—Justice C. A. Lane held court in a bean field so as not to force five game law violators to stop work. The five men were fined without losing more than two minutes' time.

**MENOMINEE**—The Menominee conference of wool growers, which has offered grazing privileges to the western sheep men, has decided to raise funds to assist raisers to bring their stock here.

**PORT HURON**—The first step toward a municipal coal yard was taken Monday by the Trades and Labor council. The fuel administrator was asked where coal could be purchased. The city commission will furnish the funds for the yard.

**MENOMINEE**—Operations have been started at the Menominee beet sugar factory, and while the season is late this year, the supply of beets is much larger than in 1916, due to the response of the beet growers in this section to the request of the government that more sugar be produced this year.

**LANSING**—Food Administrator Prescott may make war against the purveyors of ordinary chicken feed. They are charging too much for it, and as a result many poultry raisers in the central part of the state are feeding their chickens straight wheat. This is hardly compatible with the "save the wheat" idea. Chicken feed at prices in Lansing and vicinity, costs about \$4.50 a hundred pounds, while the same amount of wheat can be bought for slightly less than \$3.50.

**DETROIT**—The 57th Annual State Sunday School Convention will be held in Detroit Nov. 6-8. Among the 50

speakers will be Marion Lawrance, Mrs. Mary Foster Bryner, Eugene C. Foster, President W. D. Schemerhorn, Mitchell, S. D., Dr. S. D. Price and Dr. Christian F. Reisner, New York, E. K. Warren, E. W. Halpenny, Toronto, and C. D. Meigs, Indianapolis. Features of the convention will be a concert given by a chorus of 1,000 voices, a great patriotic meeting, and a free automobile ride for the delegates. Programs can be obtained from Michigan S. S. Association, Albion, Mich.

## AVERAGE MICHIGAN PRICE SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE

Average prices being paid in Michigan this week show little change over last. Potatoes seem inclined to rise a little, the lower markets which were paying around seventy-five cents having come up to ninety cents and \$1 per bushel. The dealers are unquestionably puzzled over the potato situation. They cannot reconcile the Government forecast with the small receipts on the primary market and it will undoubtedly be another thirty days before they will be able to see the situation as it really is and buy accordingly.

Other average prices for the week are as follows: Hogs, 17c; eggs, 38c; butter, 41 1-2c; rye, \$1.72; hay, \$13.50; oats, 58 1-2; wheat, \$2.07.

### ATTENTION, CROP REPORTERS

Last week a special crop report blank was sent to all crop reporters. It is important that these be filled out and returned AT ONCE. There is much dispute as to the average yield of the principal crops in the state. Our crop reporters are the only ones in a position to give this information readily. Let's have these reports by return mail.

### WANTED, CROP REPORTERS.

We have crop reporters in nearly every county in the state. We want one to four farmers in EVERY county to send us a weekly crop and market letter. Who will volunteer? Drop us a postcard and let us tell you how you can be of great service to M. B. F. and to the business farmers throughout the state, by acting as our crop reporter.

### DOES HE EXIST?



Some six or seven months ago this paper showed that the Leading Creamery Company of Detroit was earning nearly \$1,000,000 a year, in spite of its claims to the contrary. The producers of the state have always suspected the existence of a huge combine, a "gentlemen's agreement" between the principal distributing companies of that city. Their suspicions have been borne out by the simultaneous action the dealers have taken to boost the price of milk to the consumer whenever they were obliged to pay the farmer a little more. Always this price has been the same for all companies and apparently agreed upon by them prior to their public announcement of the raise. Now that the consumers of the city have hinted at the existence of a combine among the milk dealers something may be done tending toward a grand jury investigation. M. B. F. is now conducting a rigid investigation into the Detroit situation and hopes to have something of a definite nature upon the subject to present to our readers in the near future.

## ELEVATORS DO BIG BUSINESS

**Shiawassee County Co-Operative Associations Pay Out to the Farmers Over \$128,000 In Less Than Six Months' Time**

The success that attends most co-operative ventures among farmers cannot be better illustrated than by what has been accomplished by the farmers of Shiawassee county since last May.

The Co-Operative Stock Shippers' Ass'n of Bennington and Laingsburg began business the middle of May and has paid to farmers for stock shipped over \$45,000.

In August co-operative elevator associations were organized at Corunna, Bennington and Laingsburg, and up to the close of business September 28th, these elevators had paid out the following amounts to farmers.

Corunna, \$35,171.27; Laingsburg, \$26,777.61; Bennington, \$21,359.94; total for the elevator, \$83,298.82; total for both elevators' and shippers' association, \$128,298.82.

Shiawassee county is one of the most forward counties, agriculturally speaking, in the state. It is the home of some of the most prominent men in the state's agricultural circles. Many a co-operative idea has been born there, and many a movement for the betterment of the farmers in general has had its inception there.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF STATE MILK PRODUCERS

Your committee on ways and means and program of the Michigan Milk Producers' Association recommends as a means of finance that a membership fee of at least \$1.50 be established of which \$1.00 shall be remitted to the State Association. Such other additional means as the local organizations may employ is hereby authorized. We recommend that the Board of Directors make suitable provision for the equipment of the Secretary's office.

We recommend that a committee be appointed to inquire into the cost of establishing cheese factories in certain portions of the state to care for any surplus milk, and that this committee shall make its report to the Board of Directors who are authorized to act in accordance therewith.

We recommend that the Board of Directors select one man who shall be known as the Milk Salesman who shall have authority to determine prices and market conditions based on cost of milk production.

We also recommend the continuation of Governor Sleeper's committee appointed to investigate the milk conditions, namely, Fred M. Warner, chairman; I. R. Waterbury, A. C. Anderson, Fred L. Woodworth, James N. McBride, Geo. A. Prescott, as a committee on investigation of milk prices and milk conditions and to advise in such capacity as questions may be referred to them.

We recommend that in the case of the milk producers of Illinois now under charge of conspiracy that where no criminal intent has been found and only technical violations of the law that these conditions be taken into consideration and that there be no effort made to further embarrass or disturb the dairy industry. We express our sympathy with every effort made to conserve the dairy interests and provide an adequate supply of milk and pledge our efforts in this direction.

# WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON, D. C. — President Wilson has named Wednesday, October 24th, as "Liberty Day" and urges all Liberty loan committees to make special efforts on that day to dispose of their allotted share of the Liberty bonds. It will be well for our readers to keep the day in mind and arrange for their purchases of these bonds.

In response to appeals from milk producers and consumers in all parts of the country, Herbert C. Hoover, food administrator, will begin an investigation into the costs of milk production and distribution. He has named as chairman of an advisory committee on the subject, Dr. Clyde L. King of the University of Pennsylvania and chairman of the Tri-State Milk committee of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. Hearings will be conducted at which producers and distributors will be quizzed on the costs of conducting their respective businesses and the methods they employ in determining their selling prices. Everybody, with the possible exception of the big creamery companies, will welcome such an investigation at the present time. Producers have been getting too little and in some instances consumers have been paying too much for their milk; governmental regulation may prove a good thing at this time.

Interest in the "investigation" proceedings against Senator LaFollette wanes as it becomes apparent that there is no real basis on which to convict him of disloyalty. Both the friends and enemies of the Senator predict that the charges against him will be dropped.

In a letter to Senator Pomerene, LaFollette denounced the committee's procedure as "extraordinary and unprecedented," and demanded specific information on the charges made against him, those controverting any of his statements and a thorough-going investigation. He declared he would not subject himself to examination until he received the specific information requested.

"The public has been led to believe" said Senator LaFollette's letter, "that the action of your committee is the initial step in a proceeding involving the title to my seat in the United States Senate, and that the investigation you are making is for the purpose of determining the validity of the charge of disloyalty made against me. If this is not the purpose of your investigation, then it seems to me both the public and myself are entitled to know it now."

"If the charge against me is of sufficient importance to be investigated, it is of sufficient importance to be investigated thoroughly. I insist upon the right to meet face to face and cross-examine any person who challenges the accuracy of any statement in the speech."

Arrangements are under way for the first international conference in which all the allied nations, including the United States, will participate. The conference will be held in Paris and many important matters concerning the future conduct of the war will be discussed. Among these is the Russian situation. Russia has not been considered as a real factor in the war for a number of months, and the unsettled civil conditions existing there are a constant source of anxiety to the rest of the allies. Unless Russia's internal affairs can be adjusted satisfactorily within the near future, little additional help may be expected from that empire, if indeed, there is not open rebellion against further participation in the war. It will require the combined diplomacy of the other allied nations if Russia is

to be kept in line to do her share. Another matter that requires immediate and combined attention is the submarine menace. Effective means for combatting the underseas terror constitute a real problem for the Allied nations. Whether or not the subject of peace will be taken up at all is not yet known, but peace advocates are of the opinion that the best opportunity yet presented for a calm discussion of tentative peace plans and the early end of the war will have been lost, if the delegates to this conference do not make such a discussion one of their primary objects.

## WHAT AND WHY THE LIBERTY LOAN

(Continued from page 1)

bond matures, or is called for redemption.

**Q. When are bonds of the Second Liberty Loan dated?**

A. November 15, 1917, is the date they will bear, because that is the date on which they will be issued by the Government and the date on which interest begins.

**Q. When will these bonds be paid by the Government; that is, when will they become due?**

A. November 15, 1942; but the Government has the right to pay them any time after 10 years from date of the bond.

**Q. Do I have to hold my bond until the date it is due before I get my money back?**

A. No; you can sell your bond any time you desire. There is always a ready market for United States Government bonds.

**Q. How can such a sale be made?**

A. Any bank, trust company, reliable bond dealer, or broker will be glad to sell your bond for you at any time.

**Q. If necessary, could I borrow money on these bonds?**

A. Yes; United States Government are the best security which can be offered in borrowing money. They will obtain for you the best terms possible. Ask any bank if you desire to borrow money on your liberty bonds.

**Q. Do I get any interest on my money while it is loaned to my Government?**

A. Yes; the Government will pay you interest at the rate of 4 per cent a year.

**Q. How often do I get this interest?**

A. Every six months. This interest will be paid to you every May 15 and every November 15 during the life of the bond.

**Q. Can I lend any amount to the Government and get a bond in return?**

A. No; \$50 is the smallest amount that the Government will accept in return for a bond. Coupon bonds are issued in the following fixed denominations: \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000; registered bonds are issued in fixed denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, 5,000, \$10,000, and \$100,000.

**Q. A United States Government bond is frequently spoken of as "best security in the world." Why is this true?**

A. Because the promise to pay a Government bond is backed by the faith and honor of the United States of America and by the taxing power of this whole country, which is the richest Nation in the world.

**Q. Has the United States issued bonds before; and if so, has it ever failed to pay all of its bonds when they became due?**

A. This Government has issued bonds before, and has never failed to pay every bond debt when it became due with all of the interest on same. Even after the Civil War, when the country was suffering from

a heavy debt and was not nearly as it is to-day, all of the Government bonds were paid when they became due.

**Q. Are Liberty Bonds exempt from taxation?**

A. The bonds are exempt both as to principal and interest from all taxes imposed by the United States, any State, or any of the possessions of the United States, or by any local taxing authority, except:

(a) Estate or inheritance taxes.

(b) Graduated additional income taxes, commonly known as surtaxes and excess profits or war-profits taxes now or hereafter imposed by the United States upon the income or profits of corporations, individuals, partnerships, or associations.

The interest on an amount of bonds and certificates, not in excess of \$5,000 in one ownership, is exempt from taxes provided for in clause (b) above.

**Q. Does this mean that the bonds are free from all local taxation?**

A. Yes; the local assessor or tax collector cannot assess these bonds as personal property.

**Q. How much do bonds of the Second Liberty Loan cost?**

A. From \$50 to \$10,000, whatever their face value calls for. The law states that these bonds must be sold at not less than "par"; that is, their face value—100 cents on the dollar.

**Q. How can I buy the bonds of the Second Liberty Loan?**

A. By filling out an application blank and handing it to any bank or trust company, bond dealer or broker, or to one of the Federal reserve banks, or to the Treasury Department at Washington.

**Q. When can this application for bonds be made?**

A. At any time from the 1st of October to the close of business on the 27th day of October, 1917.

**Q. Must the full price of bonds be paid on application?**

A. No; only 2 per cent of the amount you want to buy is required when application is made.

**Q. When must the remainder be paid?**

A. In installments as follows: 18 per cent on November 15, 1917; 40 per cent on December 15, 1917; and 40 per cent on January 15, 1918.

**Q. Can I buy a bond on the installment plan by paying for it weekly or monthly?**

A. The Treasury Department will not accept payments in this manner, but many banks and a great many employers will sell you a bond and allow you to pay for it in partial payments. If you desire to pay for your bonds in this way, consult your employer or any banker.

**Q. To whom shall I make payments?**

A. Payments can be made to the Treasury Department at Washington or to one of the 12 Federal reserve banks in cash, by bank draft, certified check, post-office money order, or express company order, but subscribers are urged to make all payments of their bonds to the bank with whom they placed their subscriptions.

**Q. What provision is made for the interest accruing on the bonds from November 15, 1917, to May 15, 1917, a six months' period, when final payment on the bonds is not made until January 15, 1918.**

A. Interest from November 15, 1917 to date of full payment must be made added to the last payment. Credit will be given the subscriber for interest at the same rate upon all the payments. Tables showing the amount of accrued interest payable on January 15, 1918, and on various interest days after payment has been made, will be distributed through the banks by the Treasury Department.

**Q. As a practical matter, will I have any difficulty in attending to these details?**

A. None at all. Any bank, trust company, bond house, or broker will gladly give you full instructions at any time without charge.

## WAR WIRES

WASHINGTON—The treasury department has announced an additional loan of \$15,000,000 to Great Britain. This makes a total advance to that country of \$1,255,000,000 and the total loans to the allies now amounts to \$2,253,000,000.

WASHINGTON—The enemy pressure along the eastern front has been relieved by the strong allied offensive in Flanders. No engagements of more than local importance are reported in the east. The German advance in the northeast has apparently weakened, and the Russians have been able to re-organize their positions in the Riga sector.

ROME—In the Italian war zone unsuccessful attacks by the Austrians on the Italian positions in the Monte San Mariele sector are reported. The enemy's efforts to gain ground in this sector in every case failed. In another powerful drive the Italians captured the high ground south of Podlaca, taking 1,409 prisoners, including 49 officers. Intermittent artillery fire is reported from other sectors.

CAMP CUSTER—The first battalion of the Thirty-third Michigan infantry, commanded by Major Gansser, has left for Waco. The people of Battle Creek turned out en masse to bid them good-bye. The Mothers' club of Battle Creek distributed pies, cakes, candy and fried cakes. Officials are now working on the task of locating men with special qualifications and getting them established where they may be of the most service. There are many gifted men in the ranks who will come under these assignments.

AMSTERDAM—Mutiny among the crews of four battleships of the German fleet has occurred at Wilhelmshaven. The captain of one of the battleships, the Westfalen, was thrown into the sea and drowned. The crews landed and marines refused to fire on them. The sailors were surrounded by soldiers and surrendered. It is also reported that the crews of the German battleship Nurnberg mutined at sea, siezed the officers and proceeded toward Norway. The ship was pursued by German destroyers and forced to surrender. Several of the mutineers were executed and many received heavy prison sentences.

## ANNUAL MEETING STATE MILK PRODUCERS' ASS'N

(Continued from page 1.)

not be determined by the cost of production, but by its worth as an article of food. In Mr. Aitkin's opinion, money expended in advertising the food value of milk to increase consumption would be well invested.

The following officers were elected: President, N. P. Hull; vice president, Chas. Hainline; field secretary, R. C. Reed; treasurer, Horace Nordin, Sr. Directors—M. L. Noon, Jackson; Milo Campbell, Coldwater; Jno. C. Ketcham, Hastings; Frank J. Newman, Birch Run; M. W. Willard, Grand Rapids; Chas. Evans, Belleville; F. F. Consul, Mt. Pleasant; C. S. Bartlett, Pontiac; John C. Near, Flat Rock.

A crisis is approaching in the relations between the milk producers and the distributors. The producers feel it coming. Very soon now, the dairymen will lay before the creamery companies and condensaries their final ultimatum on the price they must have for their milk. If contracts are to be entered into at all they will probably not be for a longer duration than one month, and the distributors will be impressed with the desirability of making adequate future provisions for friendly relations with the producers. The time must come and it is near at hand when producers and distributors will decide upon some fixed basis for determining the price that is to be paid for milk during certain stated periods. Until that time, it behooves every producer in the state to remain loyal to the state association and abide by its decisions. In this way only can ultimate victory crown their efforts.

## GOV'T BEAN SPECIFICATIONS

How Beans Must be Prepared and Packed for Sale and Shipment to the U. S. Government

The long delayed specifications on the Government's bean purchases have at last arrived, and altho still a 'little indefinite they will give the bean dealer and the bean growers, perhaps, some idea of what the conditions are under which they may sell to the Government. The specifications are in the form of correspondence between the Government authorities and Mr. Orr, chairman of the bean purchasing committee, and follow:

### White Beans

Beans to be choice; must be sound, dry, well screened, well cleaned, and must not contain more than 1-2 per cent of discolored and split beans and not more than 7 per cent of large or medium beans, in double sacks, 100 lbs. net.

### Colored Beans

Quality to be No. 1 choice, small and medium, re-cleaned, to consist of dry, bright beans, cleaned through regular bean cleaning machines and shall contain not over 1-2 of 1 per cent of foreign matter and not over 1-2 per cent split beans and not over 6 per cent discolored or rain damaged beans, in double sacks, 100 lbs. net.

"For your information," writes Mr. Orr, "I desire to state again, as already stated to you, that I have been attempting since August 21st, to have our government standardize the kind of beans they would accept for army cantonments, navy and for export, and the above is the result. Recently I have been working hard to have them advise as to bag specifications. Some time ago I submitted a sample in order that same might be approved or disapproved, so that any grower, shipper or dealer in beans throughout the United States would understand exactly the Government's requirements. I received the following reply this morning:

"WAR INDUSTRIES BOARD,

" 'COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

"Washington, Oct. 8, 1917

"Mr. W. J. Orr,

"Saginaw, Mich.

"Dear Sir: Referring to the new bean specifications calling for 100 lb. double bags, we have had this matter up with the Quartermaster General's Department and attach herewith reply.

"It would appear from the reply that the question of packages is for the respective quartermasters to decide upon. Our former interpretation on bean package or container is that beans intended for exportation or extremely long shipment should be in 100 lb. double bags, and until differently advised this will probably be the attitude of this committee.

Yours truly,

COMMITTEE ON SUPPLIES,

By H. B. Collins."

"Now you will note how indefinite this is. According to this communication, it depends entirely upon the judgment of the Quartermaster at each particular station as to the quality of containers that are to be used for bean shipments, which makes it very indefinite. However, the writer will continue to attempt to have this matter determined, so that every individual, whether he is a grower, or dealer, can readily understand our government's requirements, because

**IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY** a subscriber, this is an invitation for you to place your name among the real business farmers of Michigan. Send a dollar bill in an envelope to day and keep up to the minute on the markets and what's happening in your state for a full year.

the oldest shipper and dealer does not know where he is at as yet. But we all must be patient, because we are engaged in a big undertaking." W. J. Orr.

## SEC. BAKER WILL ASK FOR SOLDIERS' MORATORIUM

Legislation to protect the civil and property rights of soldiers, in effect a moratorium for the duration of the war in behalf of men who are serving their country on the firing line, may be placed upon the Administration's program for this session of the raising of a citizen army. The soldiers' and sailors' civil rights bill to carry out this purpose already has been introduced in both houses, having been framed in the office of Judge Advocate General Crowder. Secretary Baker has under consideration recommendations that the entire weight of Administration court actions until after the close of the war, and establish as a legal excuse for failure to carry out certain contracts, the fact that a man is in the military service.

## WHEAT IS NOW BEING FED TO LIVE STOCK

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Half a million bushels of wheat will be fed to live stock in Oklahoma this fall, it is indicated by reports received here by the state council of defense from 23 western counties. In most of the counties an increased acreage of wheat planted is indicated, but no hope is held out that planting will be further stimulated by an increase of a few cents a bushel possible under new marketing arrangements. In Grant county alone, it is estimated that 1500 bushels of wheat is being fed to live stock daily.

# NATIONAL CROP REPORTS

Mt. Carmel, Ill.—The apple crop here is about half as large as a year ago with two or three cars for shipment.

Mapleton, Me.—Most farmers have finished potato digging. There is about 40 per cent of a crop. No rot to speak of is shown. Stock is selling at \$3.

Goldenridge, Me.—Growers are almost through digging their potatoes. Shipments will not be more than 50 per cent of last year when the output was 92 per cent less than normal. Contracts are being made by some dealers to take stock from the station delivering in December and January at \$4.25 barrel sack.

Riverhead, L. I.—Potatoes moving into market slowly, just the opposite of last week. The price has been \$1.50 per bu. at Riverhead and \$1.60 east of here. Market, however, dropped back to \$1.50 by Tuesday. Good many potatoes being stored and large number of growers have finished digging. Cauliflower coming in slowly and bringing \$3 to \$3.50 per crate for good stock.

New York—Receipts of cheese in New York were lighter in September by considerable than in the same month in 1915-16, being 69,456 boxes, against 74,656 boxes in 1915, and 94,841 in 1916. First color and white specials both averaged 25.3c, while the same color, average run, averaged 24.73c last year. The averages were 19.53c on specials and 19.11c on average. In 1915 the figures were 14.63c and 14.26c.

Covington, N. Y.—Potatoes are an average crop. Some rot is reported because of the rainy spell. Onions show a good yield, but the acreage was small and not enough for shipping will be harvested. Beans are about half a crop as the early frost caught the late crop. There will be 2,500 bu. from the station. Hay was a large yield but poultry is scarce. There will be no cabbage to be shipped. Apples were poor.

Seattle—With the big rush of summer fruit over, jobbers are now concentrating their attention on the fall and winter staples. Onions are firm. California freight rates by water are double those of a year ago and shippers are reporting great difficulty in securing cars for rail shipments. Walla Walla onions are arriving in sufficient quantities to undersell the Californians by a shade, with Oregon's a trifle higher due to the difference in popularity and quality. Few onions except from the Walla Walla district are coming from Eastern Washington.

New York—Shipments of peaches from New York stations fell off nearly one thousand cars during the past week. With reduced arrivals jobbing prices are about steady. It is estimated there are about 1000 cars in storage at Rochester. Total grape movement unchanged, but Michigan's was nearly doubled. New York crop moving heavily now, although movement way below a year ago. California shipped twice as many as any other state. Most of Maine's white potato crop is

stored and only 2,500 cars shipped against 5,000 a year ago. Eastern and New Jersey sweet potato shipments less than last year.

New Orleans—The egg market continues firm with only moderate receipts in and a good demand. Fresh candled Louisiana and southern eggs sell at 40c to 41c per doz., and western fresh candled at 45c to 46c.

Claremont, Va.—Irish potatoes are looking favorable and the weather is right for a big crop where the stand is good. Digging will not begin before Nov. 1. There is no blight or rot. Buyers are paying \$1.50.

Arcade, N. Y.—No potatoes dug here yet. Heavy rains and late blight started rot. Crop on low land rotting badly. There will not be more than 50 per cent of a yield. There are no apples, and beans are only half a crop.

Cohocton, N. Y.—Potato digging is on in full blast and farmers are getting \$1 a bushel at loading stations. The yield is averaging 40 to 60 bu. to the acre but there is considerable rot. Beans were greatly damaged by frost Oct. 2. Help is scarce in the potato fields.

Coachella, Calif.—Onion growers in this valley held a meeting last week to discuss marketing plans and to organize. No definite idea was arrived at. Another meeting will be held at an early date when it is believed an organization will be formed.

Stetson, Me.—The potato crop in this section is turning out much lighter than anticipated. Many growers will not dig. There is quite a variation in the crop, some fields will only produce 13 bushels to the acre while others will go up to 100. Quite a few of the growers will not get the seed back but are digging just the same.

Sacramento, Calif.—The Pacific Rice Growers' Association in session here has fixed the price for the 1917 rice crop at 4c a pound. Representatives of several milling companies as well as rice growers attended the session. Prices on the lower grades of rice will be fixed at later meetings. This is the first season of operation for the association.

Trumansburg, N. Y.—Apples are a light crop and are selling around \$2 a bu. for the best picked. Drops are bringing \$1 100 lbs. Pears are an average crop, but there are lots of peaches, which meet a good demand. Potatoes were blighted in late August and are now rotting. There are not many beans harvested yet, but the acreage was above normal. Good weather is needed to bring them thru properly.

St. Louis—An active call is shown for red onions of quality which are firm. Offerings are light. White onions are slow and about unchanged. Iowa and Minnesota sacked red globes are bringing \$2.50 to \$2.60 per 100 pounds and Missouri red globes \$2.00 to \$2.25. Cabbage is firm with prices considerably higher. The demand is very good for the light receipts. Northern bulk cabbage is selling at \$30 to \$35 per ton.

Spearfish, S. D.—The apple crop of the Spearfish valley for this season is reported by growers to be the best ever produced in the valley. The quality of the fruit is exceptionally good. Shipments of apples are being made to points outside the Black Hills.

Kansas City—Unions of all varieties, both home-grown and shipped, moved well here this week. Prices were not much changed from a week ago. Ohio red globes jobbed at \$2.65 per 100 lbs., while yellows brought \$1.40. Crated imported Spanish onions held steady at \$1.90. Nearby offerings of onions dropped off considerably and the few brought in were higher. Homegrown whites sold at \$1.50 per bushel for large stock, while reds and yellows were slightly lower at \$1.35 to \$1.40.

Chicago—News was received here Monday that the proposed increased rates on potatoes in this territory, which were to have become effective Oct. 10, have been suspended by interstate Commerce Commission. The new tariffs proposed increases ranging from 1c to 13c per 100 lbs. on potatoes from Wisconsin, Minnesota, upper Michigan, North and South Dakota, Iowa, to all points in the middle west and south. Suspension holds good until Feb. 7 next and investigation is being made as to reasonableness of the rates.

New York—Receipts of dressed poultry in New York during September were lighter than the same month in 1915-16. This year they were 46,566 packages compared with 69,431 packages last year, and 57,165 packages in September 1915. This year fowls averaged 25.25c; broilers, 27.18c; fryers, 24.75c; roasters, 28.31c; frozen fowls averaged 24.88c; broilers, 27.17c; fryers, 23.63c; roasters, 27.63c; turkeys, 30.50c. Last year the fresh fowls averaged 19.92c; broilers, 25.72c; fryers, 25.10c; roasters, 25.31c. No figures were given on western frozen but in 1915 frozen turkeys averaged 19.50c; roasters, 19.64c; and fowls, 15.27c. Fresh fowls averaged 15.44c; broilers, 20.40c; fryers, 18.76c; roasters, 19.58c.

The most recent and accurate reports obtainable are to the effect that the apple crop is about equal to that of last year, when approximately 680,000 bbls. were produced. Due, however, to the British embargo, something like 400,000 bbls. which last year were shipped to English ports, will have to be marketed this year in Canada and possibly in the United States.—Commerce Reports.

## APPRECIATES NEW FEATURES IN M. B. F.

"As per your request about the Average Jones stories can say they are enjoyed in this home. Your editorials are fine, too. Also wish to express my sincere appreciation at your being able to secure Mr. Colon C. Lillie as contributor. Mr. N. F. Simpson's "The Old and the New Way of Farming," is just hitting the nail on the head. Will close with the Irish wish granting more power to your elbow." —C. F., Brant.

## STANDARD OIL DIVIDENDS GAIN \$1,800,000 IN YEAR

The Standard Oil Company of Indiana, which supplies the Michigan field earned last year 52 per cent on net capital investment, or about 100 per cent on nominal capitalization of \$30,000,000. The company closed the year with a profit and loss surplus of over \$53,000,000. Dividends of 3 per cent quarterly were paid during 1916, or a total of 12 per cent for the year amounting to \$3,600,000. Quarterly dividends of 3 per cent and 3 per cent extra have been paid each quarter this year, amounting to \$5,400,000, as compared with total dividends for last year of \$3,600,000. Standard Oil of Indiana has increased its authorized capitalization to \$100,000,000, indicating a capital readjustment is contemplated. As earnings this year are said to be running as well as last year, it should close the year with a profit and loss surplus of more than \$70,000,000.

# MARKET FLASHES



## WHEAT

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 R.	2.17	2.15	2.25
No. 3 Red	2.14	2.12	2.22
No. 2 Whit.	2.15	2.13	2.23
No. 2 Mixed	2.15	2.13	2.23

Conditions in the wheat market have changed very little since our last issue. Receipts are still only moderate and the demand increases. The slight increase in deliveries has relieved the flour situation to some extent. Mills are doing a capacity business. The price of flour has been slightly lowered. No doubt the movement will be greatly increased as the fall seeding is finished in the western wheat states. Kansas has now just about finished fall seeding and other states are as well along. The Government guarantee of a basic price of \$2.00 per bu. for every bushel that can be raised in 1918 has resulted in a heavy increase in acreage. Taking the element of uncertainty out of the 1918 market has had the desired effect.

The great amount of labor necessary to prepare for such an acreage of seeding has no doubt been one of the prime factors in delaying deliveries. Many of those who have been free with criticism during the period of light deliveries will no doubt find that as usual the growers have gone about their own affairs, regardless of the clamor, and have taken care of this year's crop under great difficulties, and have prepared an acreage of wheat which another year, will prove that they are right there when it comes to doing their bit toward winning the war.

A letter just received from the U. S. Department of Agriculture states that they are receiving reports of agitation looking to the suspension during the war of the enforcement of the United States grain standards act, and the grading system established under this act. A conference between officials of the U. S. Food Administration Grain Corporation and the U. S. Department of Agriculture has resulted in the following announcement:

All purchases of wheat over which the United States Food Administration Grain Corporation has control will be made according to the grades of the official grain standards of the United States from No. 1 to No. 3, and below No. 3 after examination of actual samples of the wheat. The enforcement of the grain standards Act will not be suspended by the Government, but on the contrary the United States Food Administration Grain Corporation and the United States Department of Agriculture will co-operate in carrying out its provisions so as to obtain the most beneficial results to all concerned. It appears that confusion has arisen on account of the unfamiliarity of many persons in the grain trade with the new standards and also on account of unwarranted practices that have arisen recently, such as the arbitrary assignment of a lower numerical grade to wheat by reason of the presence of dockage, notwithstanding the fact that dockage does not properly enter into the assignment of the numerical grade. Every effort will be made to eliminate these abuses, to bring about the just application of the official standards and to establish fair dealings. It must be remembered that the Food Administration Grain Corporation is compelled to buy within the limits of fixed prices, and that the Department of Agriculture must see that the standards are correctly applied. Co-operation of producer, the grain trade, and the milling interests with the Food Administration and the Department of Agriculture is required in handling the situation which has arisen as a result of the war crisis.

Thus it will be seen that for the period of the war the Federal grades as now established will apply regardless of any protest.

## LAST MINUTE WIRE

**DETROIT SPECIAL**—Not in many months has the Detroit market been so short on hay as it is right now. Advise shippers to get in on it now while the supply is short and demand exceptionally heavy.

**NEW YORK WIRE**—Beans are slightly inclined to work lower. Buyers seem to feel that the Government is about to take some action looking toward control of the price. Exporters awaiting developments. Dealers look for increased buying in near future.

**PITTSBURG WIRE**—Demand for potatoes increasing and western shipments finding better market owing to fact that shipments from local growers are diminishing.



## OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	.613-4	.601-2	.67
Standard	.611-4	.601-4	.661-2
No. 3 White	.601-2	.591-2	.66

Oats continue to range in price, with slight variation, at about the same level. The market in some respects lacks tone, and at times appears to weaken. But with only minor changes the price continues to hold. We would not be surprised to see the market decline as deliveries become more general, but we feel that any decline will be but temporary. Oats are worth the money and the great demand should more than counterbalance any surplus which might accumulate at any time.

Export sales have fallen off just a trifle. Arrivals of Canadian wheat at the seaboard are now of sufficient quantity to furnish cargoes and as this wheat is greatly needed by the Allies it has been given preference over oats. But remember that this will only result in a later renewed demand for oats.

The United States crop summary for October gives the estimated yield of oats for 1917 as 1,580,714,000 bu. This compared with the 1916 yield of 1,251,992,000 bu. shows an increase of 328,722,000 bu. This is not such an enormous increase and when the increased demand is taken into consideration, and the decreased production in other countries outside of Canada, it will be seen that American growers have little cause for worry as regards price.



## CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	2.00	1.93	2.02
No. 3 Yellow	1.991-2	1.921-2	2.01
No. 2 Mixed	1.98	1.911-2	2.00

The Government report for October places the estimated corn yield at 3,210,795,000 bushels. This, compared with last year's estimate shows an increase of 627,554,000 bushels. Compared with the five year average of 2,754,164,000, it shows an increase of 456,631,000 bushels. Thus it will be seen that the corn crop this year is excellent and that the harvest so far this year has been satisfactory despite the early frost and certain other adverse conditions. The weather for the past week has been generally fair over the corn belt.

The Michigan corn crop has been taken care of and silo filling has been general for some time. Michigan is not a corn exporting state, but raises a great deal for home consumption. The crop in central and northern Michigan suffered generally from the early frosts. Silos have come into general use in Michigan and this year of all years they have demonstrated their usefulness. Much of this year's crop in this state would have been a loss without the silo as many have found who were without them. Farther north in the state the crop got a very late start and was far from maturity when the first killing frosts came. Our crop reporters from that part of the state say that many silos are but half filled and that some fields of corn will never be cut.

Cash corn is in active demand with supplies short and a firm market. The

future market is not as strong as is only to be expected in the light of the latest Government report. It would surprise us to see the cash market work just a little higher, as we have said before, until time for the new crop to move.



## RYE

Under a very light demand the rye market has eased off considerably. Deliveries at originating points have increased materially. Shipments have also increased in consequence. This together with the fact that exporters have not been active in the market for several days no doubt accounts for the lower price. No. 2 rye is quoted on the Detroit market at \$1.80 and Chicago quotes \$1.79 per bu.

## Buckwheat

On Sept. 1 the promise of the growing buckwheat crop was 21,000,000 bu., as compared with 12,000,000 last year and a ten year average crop of about 16,000,000; but heavy killing frosts during the month in practically all buckwheat-producing states resulted in such serious loss as to materially reduce the yield of milling grain. The current reports from all territory now indicate a crop of no more than equal to the ten-year average and possibly much less.

This year the Government's fixed price for wheat has established a certain standard of minimum value for all other flour cereals. Therefore, with the crop of buckwheat certainly no larger than will be required for normal domestic demands, the price can hardly be expected to be lower than its value as a substitute for wheat, while it may be considerably higher.—P. C. Grain Reporter.



## HAY

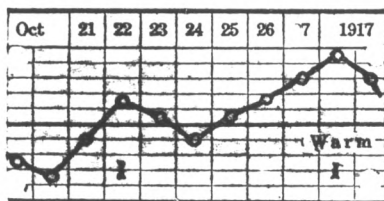
Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	20 50 21 00	19 50 20 00	18 00 19 00
Chicago	20 50 22 00	20 50 22 00	20 00 21 50
Cincinnati	23 00 23 50	22 50 23 00	21 50 23 00
Pittsburgh	23 00 23 25	22 50 23 00	21 75 22 50
New York	24 25	23 50 24	22 23
Richmond	23 25 23 50	22 50 23	22 75 23 25

Markets	No. 1 Light Mixed	No. 1 Clover Mixed	No. 1 Clover
Detroit	19 50 20	15 50 15 75	14 50 15 00
Chicago	22 50 22 50	22 25 23 00	22 22 75
Cincinnati	23 00 23 50	22 50 23 00	22 50 23
Pittsburgh	20 75 21 25	20 50 21 50	20 00 20 00
New York	22 23	20 22 18	20
Richmond	22 25 22 75	22 25 23 00	20 50 21 00

## THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 20.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbance to cross continent Oct. 21 to 25, warm wave 20 to 24, cool wave 23 to 27. This will be preceded by colder and followed by warmer than usual. No great storms are expected with it and not much precipitation. An old aphorism said: "The calm precedes the storm." During this calm is the time to get your out doors work done. In many sections this is the time to sow winter grain. Some good growing weather is expected between this and Nov. 15.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about Oct. 25 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Oct. 26, plains sections 27, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio valleys Oct. 28, eastern sections 29, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Oct. 30. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

This storm will be of unusual importance in many ways. Its first important feature will be a slow rise in temperatures for several days, reaching to the top on meridian 90, as it moves eastward, about Oct. 28, near which date the mutterings and other warning features of war in the elements will be heard, seen and felt.

The storm may not reach you, but you will know it is at work, for it will be one of the greatest storms of the year.

South of this storm path the weather will be unusually warm and north of it unusually cold. Heavy rains or snows will be general and a great cold wave and blizzard will afflict northern sections. Don't be so reckless as to risk your life on the great lakes during that dangerous storm.

The great storm period comes near the end of the hurricane season, but we expect one of these ocean monsters to organize, about the last days of October, east of the West Indies and come into telegraphic sight of the U. S. Weather Bureau not far from Nov. 4. Near this last date another cold wave will begin operation in the northwest.

Another warm wave will reach Vancouver near Oct. 31 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Nov. 1, plains sections 2, meridian 90, Great lakes and Ohio valleys, 3, eastern sections 4, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Nov. 5. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

This storm will be similar to the preceding, but not so fierce. A cold wave is expected to come in sight east of Rockies in Alberta near Nov. 4 and follow the usual course with less force than the preceding. Heavy snows are expected from it in the middle northwest and heavy rains in southern and eastern sections.

Following these great storms we expect good weather till about middle of November and during that quiet spell farmers should make good use of the time for another very bad week that is expected to center on November 17.

There is an exceptionally strong demand for hay right now on all western markets. Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis and other points report a great call for hay and receipts away short. Old hay seems to be just about cleaned up at all points and as yet growers have done but little baling. The markets have all shown advances, with the exception of far eastern points. The Detroit demand is mostly for the better grades of hay. Straight clover hay will perhaps find a better market at Chicago or St. Louis. Cincinnati also seems to have a very good demand for clover mixed and No. 1 clover. The Cincinnati market is showing particular strength right now owing to the fact that Ohio shippers cannot get hay at all. The local growers have as yet done very little baling and much of what has been baled has gone east rather than south into Cincinnati. Shippers from farther west and north have likewise found a market at Detroit, Chicago and other points, leaving the Cincinnati market practically bare.

Eastern markets seem to have fared better in the way of supplies and the price remains about as it was last week. While there is a fairly good demand for the better grades, others find rather hard going at times. York State growers have been doing more baling than growers farther west and so far a considerable portion of their offerings are of the clover order.

We believe Michigan shippers will find a most satisfactory market right in Detroit at the present time, and that now is the time to get some hay moving so as to catch the present high range of prices. A little later hay will be moving freely and the price is almost sure to work lower. Looks as though those who got in on the market during the next week or so would catch the top and secure a better price than will be realized on deferred shipments.



## BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	9.00	9.15	9.00
Prime	8.85	9.00	8.90
Red Kidneys	6.50	6.50	7.00

Reports continue to reach us from our corps of reporters relative to the bean harvest. If the writer is any judge of conditions the final yield will be a great surprise to those who have looked for such an enormous crop this year. One report after another states that the beans are immature and but few in the pod. Many fields are still out and it is keeping all hands busy turning them between rains. Now any one at all familiar with bean growing in Michigan knows what effect this will have on the crop. It will mean many discolored beans, culls in other words, which will greatly reduce the final commercial production. Right at this time it looks as though the average pick for Michigan beans would be from 10 pounds up. In making this statement we wish to add that we are not trying to bull the market. We are simply trying to get at the truth. During the past two or three weeks the air has been filled with all sorts of claims regarding the present crop. Elevator men, jobbers, canners, consumers, butchers, bakers, candlestick-makers and agents of the Allies have all had their say as to what the crop would be and what the price should be. The farmer, for setting a price based on the actual cost of production per acre has been damned by everybody in general and yellow newspaper reporters in particular.

All the growers want established is the truth. That is what we have set about to get and we have planned to get it in the logical way, through personal reports from all sections of the state, from reliable sources. If there is such an enormous crop no one is more anxious to learn the truth than the growers. On the other hand if the crop is short it will be to the interest of dealers and consumers to know it. We will soon have these reports compiled for each county of the state, and then—"the truth, no matter who it helps or hurts." In the meantime our first paragraph will give you the present trend of the reports. And, by the way, the writer has personally inspected a few fields in different parts of the state, just as a matter of verification.

A great deal has been heard of late regarding importations of foreign beans. They were to be imported in such quantities as to knock American bean prices into a cocked hat. Well, here is a report from Los Angeles, which will tie a can to at least one of these fairy tales: "A large shipment of Rangoon or Burma beans, grown in India, which arrived from across the Pacific ocean this week, was condemned by federal officers because found to contain hydro-cyanic acid. It was hoped by importers that the beans grown in India would prove satisfactory and thus help to reduce the present price of beans. (get that?) The presence of the hydro-cyanic acid is explained by Government chemists in this way: While the beans are in process of growth, deterioration sets in and the poisonous gas develops."

Wouldn't be surprised if that hydro-cyanic acid gave some of those importers a pain in the small of the stomach, even though none of it was taken internally. One more boost for Michigan beans. They contain no hydro-cyanic acid. They are worth the money every day in the week.

### HOW CAN I HELP M. B. F.?

That's easy, brother; show this copy to a neighbor. He wants this weekly just as you want it, but probably he has never seen a copy. Tell him.



## POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	1.50	1.45
Chicago	1.40	1.35
Cincinnati	1.40	1.35
New York	1.50	1.40
Pittsburgh	1.30	1.25
Norfolk, Va.	1.30	1.25

Detroit potato market is very active at present quotations. The price still remains about the same with some of the dealers expecting a slight decline as shipments increase. We would not be surprised to see a few of them get left on this proposition. The farmers have made up their minds as to about what price they must have for this year's crop and when the market drops below that level shipments will cease. There is a good steady demand on the Detroit market and those who are making shipments at this time, either bulk or sacked in car lots or sacked in less than car lots, will find satisfactory conditions. But keep your eye on the market. Watch it carefully and do not overload it. The price variations will indicate the supply.

Chicago market is in good condition with a fair demand and only moderate receipts. The supply has slightly increased but additional buying has more than counteracted any tendency to lower prices.

Boston market is quiet and unchanged at about the same level of prices. Maine shippers are not shipping freely. Some western arrivals are quickly taken at top of the market.

Philadelphia market, under light receipts and good demand, continues strong. Pittsburgh market is firmer under increased demand and only moderate receipts. Dealers there expect greatly increased receipts and lower market. While the receipts may increase somewhat we believe that a lower market will bring about a lighter shipment which in turn will prevent the price from much of a decline at any time.

There is a very decided upward tendency in the New York market with a heavy demand. Not nearly so many potatoes arriving there as is usual for this time of year. Consumers, fearing higher prices later on, are buying and storing for winter use. The heavy rains have prevented digging in nearby territory.

The United States Department of Agriculture has arranged a potato week from Oct. 22 to 27. Three purposes are expected to be accomplished by the nation-wide observance of this period at which time a special effort will be made to increase the consumption of potatoes. The first of these purposes is to encourage the eating of the tubers because at that time it is expected that potatoes will be the most available and economical starchy food; the second is to save wheat during this period; and the third is to encourage the general use of potatoes as a wheat substitute by the American householder.

It is proposed that consumers make a special effort to eat potatoes prepared in different ways, recipes for which can be obtained from the home economics departments of the various state colleges of agriculture, or from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is not proposed that this potato week will of itself have much effect on the potato situation, but it should call the attention of the people to the fact that there is a plentiful supply which should be used in domestic commerce, leaving the more readily transportable grains for export trade. In shipping potatoes about four-fifths of the weight is water; in shipping wheat only one-eighth is moisture.



## ONIONS

Detroit onion market remains unchanged. Car lots of good Yellow Globe onions are selling at \$2.60@ \$2.70 per cwt. Local sales of small lots still reported by certain dealers as high as \$2.90@ \$3.00. It is not well to figure on this price however, as it cannot always be obtained. Shippers will find a good market at Detroit for the next week or so at least and per-

haps right along. We will endeavor to keep you posted.

Chicago market is cleaning up some but is still not quite so strong as it will be a little later on. Local growers are disposing of their stocks. They can afford to sell for less than those who pay transportation charges although they make a mistake by doing so. No. 1 yellows are selling around \$2.50 per cwt. Some sales reported at a somewhat better figure.

Pittsburgh market reported only fair. A great deal of stock arriving is of inferior grade and this holds the market back. This will soon clean up at which time dealers expect the market to take on a more healthy condition. Yellows are quoted \$2.50 @ \$2.75 per cwt.

New York arrivals have increased this week. The bulk of the receipts have been from the west rather than from local points. Medium grades seem to be in the majority and these sell slowly. Cool weather has helped the demand. Fancy yellows have sold as high as \$3.25 per cwt. Red onions not so much in demand and selling considerably lower than yellows.



## CABBAGE

Detroit cabbage market would not stand any heavy shipments. There is a fairly good demand for small quantities or an occasional car. Quoted on the market at 60c per bu. Prices range from \$15.00@ \$16.00 in the wholesale way.

Eastern cabbage markets are in good healthy condition. The increased demand has resulted in better prices. New York reports the heaviest arrivals of the season during the past week. On Tuesday there were 24 cars on track. The best of it sold around \$22.00@ \$25.00 per ton. Barrel lots selling at \$1.00@ \$1.75. Red cabbage arriving in limited way and selling around \$2.50 per barrel. A few cars of cabbage were marketed as early as August 15th, but the kraut factories did not begin operations until Sept. 10th, and the real harvest began at that date. With no supply of kraut left over from the preceding year, the demand for cabbage has been keen. As a result some has been cut before it was fully matured but the general quality has been very good.

### Vegetables

Carrots, \$1 per bu.; beets, \$1 per bu.; turnips, \$1 per bu.; green onions 20c per doz.; hothouse cucumbers, \$1.65 per doz.; garlic, 14c@15c per lb.; radishes, 50c per doz.; green peppers, \$2 per bu.; parsley, 25c@30c per doz.



## APPLES

Shipments of apples to the Detroit market are exceptionally light for this time of year, and there is also an exceptionally strong demand. We see no reason for any lower prices and shippers will do well to look toward Detroit when planning on shipments.

Quotations on Jonathans, \$5.75 @ \$6.00; Wealthy, \$5.00@ \$5.50; Alexander, \$4.50; other varieties, \$4.00 @ \$4.50; No. 2, \$3.00@ \$3.50 per barrel. Chicago has had slightly increased receipts but the market is active and strong. Arrivals still mostly of the early varieties. Shippers are finding conditions very satisfactory there as on all other markets. Quotations are about the same as last week. Jonathans, \$5.50; poorer color, \$5.00; Wealthy, \$4.00@ \$4.50; Grimes' Golden, \$4.50@ \$5.00; Maiden Blush, \$4.50 @ \$5.00; Alexanders, \$5.50; 20 oz., \$5 @ \$6.00; Greenings, \$5.50@ \$5.75.

Pittsburg market steady with good range of prices. The market has received a great deal of inferior stock but the demand has been such as to clean it up rapidly without material effect on the general market. Quotations as follows: Smokehouse, \$4.25 @ \$4.50 bbl.; Maiden Blush, \$5@ \$5.25; Va. Pippin, \$3.50@ \$5.00; Jonathans, \$5@ \$5.25; Baldwin, \$4@ \$4.50; Red Streak, \$4@ \$4.50; Rambo, \$4@ \$4.25; 20 oz., \$5@ \$5.25; Wealthy, fancy, \$5 @ \$5.50; ungraded, \$4.25@ \$4.50; black Twig, \$5.25@ \$5.50; Box apples now moving and demand good. Winter bananas, \$2.50@ \$3.25; Jonathans, \$2.15@ \$2.90, according to size. New York prices are somewhat high-

er than last week. The market is firm. The demand is far in excess of supply. Fancy Jonathans sell around \$6@ \$7 with No. 1 stock bringing \$5 @ \$6. York Imperials, \$4@ \$4.75; fancy Greenings, \$6; A grade, \$4@ \$4.75; Grade A King, \$4@ \$5.50; Wealthy, \$5 @ \$6; McIntosh, \$5.50@ \$6.50. All poorer fruit of these varieties, \$1.50 @ \$4, depending on quality and variety.

### Grapes, Peaches, Quinces

Chicago—There were more black grapes coming and prices had to be forced down to move them. There has been no snap to trading and prices will have to be shaded further. Concord, Delaware, and Wordens in unlabeled baskets sell 19@20c, and labeled, 20@21c. There are a few Isle of Pines pineapples, but little or no demand, and they are dull, \$2.50 @ \$2.75. Michigan plums are about through; only Damsons sell well; 16 qt. cases, \$1.75; bu. baskets, \$3. Green gages and Bradshaws are dull; 16 qt. cases, \$1; bushels, \$2@ \$2.25.

The crest of the peach movement is over, demand slack and lower prices rule generally. New York State stock shows poor quality and is mostly soft. A great deal of western stock is over-ripe. Colorado Elbertas, \$1.75; New York Elbertas, \$1@ \$1.50; Michigan Late Crowfords, \$1.25@ \$1.75; Prolifics, \$1@ \$1.25; Smocks, \$1@ \$1.50. Crab apples have cleaned up well. Barrel Hyslops, \$9; bu., \$3@ \$3.25; barrel Transcendents, \$7.50; bu., \$2.75@ \$3.

The first quinces meet with slow sale, \$1.75@ \$2.50 bu. Cranberries are dull, \$10@ \$10.50 bbl. The melon season is about wound up. Michigan cantaloupes are about done. Colorados are doing fairly well, considering the cold weather. Standards, 1.50@ \$1.75; white meat flats, 80@85c pink flats, 75c@ \$1. Both Casabas and Honeydews are meeting with better sale now that the heavy cantaloupe movement is over, selling on a basis of \$1@ \$1.25.

### Fruits

Plums, \$2@ \$2.50 per bu.; Lemons, \$8@ \$8.50 per box; cranberries, \$4 per bu.; oranges, Valencia's, \$4@ \$4.75 per box; peaches, AA, \$1.50; A, \$1@ \$1.25; B, 75c per bu.; dates, Fards, 19c per lb.; Dromedary, \$4.25 per crate; California fruits, plums, \$2@ \$2.25; pears, \$3.50 per box; Malaga grapes, \$1.75 per case; Tokay, \$1.75 per case.



## BUTTER

No material change in Detroit butter market. Arrivals not heavy and consist principally of creamery stock. Very little roll or crock butter arriving and what is received is not generally of such quality as to sell well. Creamery extras are quoted at 44c; firsts, 42½c@43½c.

Chicago and other middle western markets report a fairly active situation with some storage butter moving. New York reports receipts showing poorer quality than two weeks ago, but the deterioration about normal for this season. Consumption greatly curtailed by high prices and the use of oleo. Held butter shows a fairly good movement but the market is easier. Most of the withdrawals are of the medium grades, holders of fine Junes holding until later in the season. When extras struck 44½c the confidence in the market was restored and buyers began to operate more freely. This has made a more steady market for arrivals of stock from interior points. Extras are quoted 44½c; firsts, 43½c@44c; seconds, 43c@44c.

### Cheese

Michigan flats, 24 1-2c; New York, flats, 26 1-2c; brick, 32 1-2c; long horns, 27 1-2c; Michigan daisies, 25 1-2c; Wisconsin daisies, 26 1-2c; Wisconsin double daisies, 26 1-4c; domestic Swiss, 30c@36c or prime to fancy; limburger, 28 1-2c@29c per lb.



## EGGS

Receipts are very light on the Detroit market and strictly fresh stock

is in great demand. Fancy white firsts will sell as high as 46c per doz. This of course, is for eggs of uniform color and size, strictly new laid and desirable in every way. Regular run of fresh gathered firsts are selling this week around 39c per doz., delivered Detroit. The market here is in a better condition this week than it has been for some time.

New York—The fresh egg situation has shown some improvement this week. It has not been so hard to sell stock near quotations although general trading is light. The large amount of held stock is cleaning up, but there is still much to move. Dealers feel that the market will do better after it is out of the way. Consumption continues light. Stores generally report sales light for this season of the year. It is rather a difficult market to quote as prices in many cases depend on the bargain made between the buyer and seller. Extras are selling around 46c per doz.; current receipts of firsts, 39c per doz.

Other eastern markets report a fairly satisfactory market but much lighter demand than usual for this time of year.



## POULTRY

LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Turkey	24-25	23-25	
Ducks	24-25	23-25	20-22
Geese	18-20	18-20	18-20
Springers	20-22	19-22	20-23
Hens	19-22	19-22	20-24

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

While the Detroit poultry market is good for the better grade of offerings, well finished stuff, the majority of arrivals seem to be in poor condition and as a result the market has been somewhat inclined to become unsettled. Some of last week's receipts of thin stock still reported on hand by dealers. Receipts are somewhat light but just about sufficient to take care of the demand. Not many ducks, geese or turkeys coming. Ducks moving somewhat more freely than a week ago.

Chicago poultry conditions are about the same as those in Detroit. Rather free receipts of stock of poor quality has somewhat affected the market.

An easier and lower poultry market prevailed in New York this week because of limited trading. Some shipments intended for last week's market arrived too late and had to be carried over. Buyers refused to meet the ideas of receivers as they wanted to secure poultry at lower rates. Before trading was generally resumed the prices had shown a slight decline. The receipts are not increasing to any great extent as was anticipated. Fancy small broilers are hard to find. A premium has been paid for large roosters. Old roosters more plentiful. Good fat hens sell well but a great deal of the stock offered is thin.



## CATTLE

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	10 50-11 00	7 00-12 00	8 00-12 00
Steers, com. to fair	9 00-10 25	9 00-11 00	8 75-10 75
Heifers, good to prime	8 00-8 50	7 75-8 75	7 80-8 90
Cows, average	6 75-8 00	6 70-8 25	7 00-8 00
Canners—Cutters	5 00-5 50	5 00-6 00	4 50-6 25
Bulls, average	6 00-7 25	6 50-7 50	6 75-7 75
Veal, fair to good	14 00-15 00	14 00-15 25	14 25-15 00

The Detroit market is in a good, healthy condition. The better class of offerings are firm at about the former range of prices. Others slightly lower. There is a good demand however for all grades and the yards clean up quickly. Shipments this week have been of about the usual volume and shippers as usual were well satisfied with returns.

The Buffalo market has been just a little slow this week with prices inclined to work a trifle lower. Certain conditions have tended to lessen the demand and at the same time arrivals have been more plentiful than those of the preceding week. No doubt this is but a temporary condition.

On Monday of this week our Chicago reporter states that the preceding week's receipts of cattle at seven western markets aggregated approximately 378,000, a new record and a supply 23,000 in excess of the week

previous and about 70,000 more than the corresponding week last year.

Following this unprecedented marketward movement there was a tremendously heavy run around the market circuit again on Monday, the seven points considered reporting a total of 146,500 cattle. Chicago leading with 43,000, the fifth largest day's supply on record, and Kansas City reporting 41,000. The speed with which the trans-Missouri regions are unloading is indicated by the fact that Monday's Chicago receipts included 10,000 from the western range country and by a supply of 23,000 cattle at St. Paul, a record run for that point.

The fact that this is the heart of the season for the movement of the range cattle and the period of the year when producers in most all sections invariably show a disposition to stampede marketward, in order to get ahead of bad weather, makes a liberal receipt at this time seasonable. While resultant declines in values will doubtless tend to check the marketing somewhat in the future, the fact that a car shortage is operating at this time to prevent an even heavier movement is suggestive of generous supplies for some weeks ahead and until liquidation subsides the trend of values will probably continue downward.

With so many cattle at their disposal, buyers on Monday were naturally slow to get into action early. At the noon hour the trade was only beginning to get fairly under way. Extra good to prime beef steers of all weights held up well, being about steady with a week ago, and a \$17.50 top was made, but such kinds were scarce and their sale no criterion of the general market which showed irregular 25c and 30c declines from last Wednesday, the high time of last week, the bulk being 25c to 40c lower.

Now, when supplies are coming freely, such an excellent selection is available and the market depressed through sheer weight of numbers, is a good time to lay in your stockers and feeders. The fact that the fat cattle market has held up well as it has under such heavy receipts clearly evidences the great breadth to demand for beef. Current liquidation can only lead to scarcity in the months ahead. Young cattle will be high and hard to buy next spring, and we feel that thin yearlings and two-year-old cattle at present prices should be a good investment for those who have plenty of rough feed.



## HOGS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Heavy 240-290	17 75-18 00	17 00-18 30	18 00-18 50
Medium 200-240	17 75-18 00	17 50-18 00	18 00-18 25
Mixed 150-200	17 50-18 25	17 00-17 50	17 50-18 00
Packers 100-150	17 30-18 35	15 50-17 25	17 25-18 00
Pigs 100 down	16 25-16 75	14 50-15 75	16 00-17 25

Hogs on the Detroit market have shown an inclination this week to work lower. The arrivals have increased somewhat on this as on all other markets, and the immediate result was a small oversupply. All offerings are cleaning up each day, however, and the price is such as to prove satisfactory returns to shippers. There is still a heavy demand for well-finished stock and the arrivals seem to run to the thin order. Shippers who have to feed to finish their hogs or at least to put a little more weight on them, will be well repaid in additional receipts.

Conditions on the Buffalo market have shown some improvement and with lighter supplies the prices may work upward. On the other hand much depends on the condition of western markets. Declines there usually mean heavier shipments eastward with a resulting oversupply on eastern markets. This is a condition which requires close study on the part of the shipper.

The supply of hogs on the Chicago market shows a steadily increasing tendency and average weights are falling as the market movement of the spring pig crop gains volume. Last week's receipts of hogs at Chicago, though totaling only 76,000 head, were the largest in about two months and the average weight, 215 pounds, the lightest for the corresponding period. Monday's hog receipts at Chicago were 24,000 and the market 10c to 25c

lower than the close of last week. Bulk of the best shipping hogs sold from \$18.00 to \$18.40; good mixed \$17.50 to \$18.00.



## SHEEP

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Top Lambs	16.75-17.00	16.00-17.25	17.00-17.25
Yearlings	15.50-15.75	15.50-16.00	14.00-15.00
Wethers	10.00-10.50	10.00-11.00	11.00-11.75
Ewes	10.00-10.50	9.50-10.75	10.00-11.00

Not much change in the sheep and lamb market. Conditions just about the same on all markets as they were last week. The Detroit market is firm and steady. Good demand and arrivals only moderate and cleaned up fast.

Buffalo reports conditions a trifle better with slightly increased demand and offerings only moderate. Buyers are looking for good fat lambs although all grades find ready sale.

Chicago received about 30,000 sheep and lambs on Monday of this week and prices worked off somewhat. Those sold for slaughter did not go above \$17.50, but feeder sales were reported as high as \$18.25 for the more desirable weights, and there were not enough sheep in the run to adversely influence trade. The market has since regained its strength and shippers will find it satisfactory in every way.

### Hides

No. 1, cured, 20c; No. 1 green, 16c; No. 1 cured bulls, 15c; No. 1 green bulls, 12c; No. 1 cured veal kip, 23c; No. 1 green veal kip, 19c; No. 1 cured murrain, 18c; No. 1 green murrain, 15c; No. 1 cured calf, 28c; No. 1 green calf, 24c; No. 1 horsehides, \$6; No. 2 horsehides, \$5; No. 2 hides, 1c and No. 2 kip calf 1 1/2c lower than the above; sheepskins (as to amount of wool), 50c@\$2 each.

### SHIPPERS REPORT ON TURKEYS, POULTRY, EGGS

Bunker Hill, W. Va.—Poultry crop in this vicinity will be one-third smaller than last year on account of the high price of grain. Probably 500 head of turkeys will be shipped in addition to four coops weekly of other poultry. The supply of eggs will be about the same. About 40 cases a week will be shipped from here.—W. B. C.

Evans, W. Va.—The shipments of poultry from this vicinity will be less than last year. Probably three or four cars of turkeys will be shipped during the season and about 12 coops weekly of other poultry. The fall production of eggs will be smaller, probably 25 cases a week being shipped.—O. O. O.

Falling Waters, W. Va.—Poultry crop in this vicinity is one-third smaller than last year. About 25 coops of chickens weekly will be the output. About the usual amount of eggs will be shipped, not to exceed 15 cases a week.—J. W. E.

Leon, W. Va.—Turkey crop here is one-half smaller than last year with about one car for shipment. Other poultry is 50 per cent less with five coops per week to ship. There will be less eggs this fall; probably ten cases a week to ship.—F. A. S.

Reedy, W. Va.—Poultry crop in this section is smaller than last year. There will be about 1,500 to 2,000 turkeys for shipment, while the output of other poultry will be about half as compared with last year. Probably 30 coops a week will be shipped. The supply of eggs will also be short; about 60 cases a week will be the output from here.—R. P. Co.

Woods, W. Va.—Poultry crop is smaller in this section as compared with last year. There will be one carload of turkeys shipped during the season and would judge ten coops weekly of other poultry. The outlook for eggs is about the same; probably 25 cases a week will be shipped.—J. P. Co.

Gapland, Md.—Poultry crop in this section will be about half as compared with last year. About 500 head of turkeys will be shipped in addition to average weekly shipments of 250 head of other poultry. There will be one-third less eggs produced than last

year and 50 cases a week will cover the output.—D. M. R.

### Meat Situation

The world is facing a scarcity of meats and the problem today is not one of prices, but of production. The Government report on hogs in the country on Sept. 1 showed there were 5,427,000 fewer than two years ago. Figuring about 160 pounds of dressed meat to the hog this gives about 860,000,000 lbs. less hog meat available than a year ago and about 1,280,000,000 lbs. less than two years ago. The Government Bureau of Markets reports that 51 markets of the country received for the first eight months of this year 24,326,038 hogs, 2,676,490 fewer than received in the corresponding eight months of 1916. Figuring about 161 lbs. of dressed meat to the hog, they would equal 3,916,492,118 lbs. of meats. This will give a fair idea of what hog products were available in pounds during the first eight months of 1917.

It almost staggers one's imagination to figure what the future requirements of meats will be. The average yearly exports of meats for three years prior to the war were 2,574,632 lbs. of fresh pork and 377,667,667 lbs. of hams and bacon. The exports for the year ending June 30, 1917, were 50,429,275 lbs. of fresh pork and 933,811,642 lbs. of hams and bacons. The average annual shipments of all kinds of meats for the three years preceding the war were 486,837,839 lbs. For the year ending June 30, 1916 the export of meats totaled 1,323,779,731 lbs. and for the year ending June 30, 1917, the exports of hog products alone totaled 1,499,476,444 lbs. Undoubtedly, prior to our entry into the war, considerable of our exports found their way into Germany and Austria through neutral countries, such as Sweden, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland. Our Government may be relied upon to see that the Central Powers get nothing from now on, but our Allies must be supplied with meats and the United States must furnish it. Our own Government will be a big buyer of meats to feed the large army we must raise.

Our domestic consumption will be up to the limit, because owing to the industrial conditions prevailing, labor will be employed to its fullest capacity and the working man will not only have the appetite, but also the pocketbook with which to gratify it. With these facts before us, it is impossible to arrive at any other conclusion than that there will be for the coming 12 months a keen demand for every pound of meat this country can produce, as if we would sell the neutral countries all they would buy, there would be a demand for more than we could possibly produce, therefore, we are forced to the conclusion that meats and hog products of all kinds will rule very high in price for a long time to come.—P. C. Grain Reporter.

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# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 1917

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## Mr. Orr Errs

IN A RECENT communication to M. B. F., Mr. W. J. Orr makes two very serious errors in judgment.

Error No. 1. "I am just as much interested in the welfare of the growers of beans in this state," he writes, "as the editor of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING can possibly be."

Error No. 2. "Will you kindly answer thru the columns of your paper as to why you should not accept my every statement or intend that your readers should?"

It is with the utmost pleasure, Mr. Orr, that we challenge your statement and answer your question.

You have never been, are not now and never can be as much interested in the welfare of the bean growers of this or any other state as the editors of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING.

You have been for years and are at the present time a dealer in beans. You are in that business to make money—to make all the money you can. It is natural and legitimate, so far as the laws of the country are concerned, for you to buy beans from the grower at the lowest possible price and dispose of them at the highest possible price. By the very nature of your business, if for no other reason, you cannot be unselfishly interested in the welfare of the bean growers. We grant that every year you and your association have encouraged the growers to plant more beans, plant more beans, and have painted glowing word pictures of the vast amount of wealth that would come to them; yet we know, and the farmer knows, that you speak once for the farmer and twice for the bean jobbers. The larger the bean yield and consequently the greater the trading in beans, the more money the jobbers make. Will you say, Mr. Orr, that we are wrong in our conclusions?

We do not accept your every statement nor intend that our readers shall for the simple reason that it has not been safe to do so in the past. Will you deny, Mr. Orr, that there has been a single year during your incumbency as president of the bean jobbers that you did not cause to be circulated thruout the state erroneous reports of the bean yield that would have the logical result of inducing many growers to sell on the opening market? We do not know whether you intentionally deceived the growers; we only suspect that you did; but that is quite immaterial so far as an answer to your question is concerned. Regardless of your motives the facts remain that your reports have been invariably wrong. Take your forecast of the bean yield for the present year, for instance. Early in the spring, thru the columns of this very paper, you forecasted a yield of over 8,000,000 bushels of beans for this state. Having committed yourself to that figure you stuck to it thru all the summer months, in spite of all facts to the contrary, and the daily press was quoting you as still claiming that the yield would be over 7,000,000 bushels, at a time when as an acknowledged authority on beans, and with ready access to the true situation, you should have known better. Since you are so almighty interested in the welfare of the bean growers, Mr. Orr, please tell us and our readers why you persisted in giving out these false reports?

Have we answered your question to your satisfaction? If not, we call your attention to a press report that was published in the Detroit News of October 8th, under the caption, "Armour to Smash State Bean Prices." That dispatch came from Saginaw, the home of Mr. W. J. Orr, president of the Bean Jobbers' Ass'n, and chairman of the Government's bean purchasing committee, logically supposed to be the highest authority of the day upon all phases of bean marketing and consumption. The names of only two Michigan men were mentioned in that report, viz., Mr. Fred

Lewellyn of Grand Rapids and Mr. Orr of Saginaw. Shall we assume then or not that this report had its source in Mr. Orr's office, and that he was responsible for the statement that "messages from California and Colorado where 13,000,000 bushels of beans have been raised this year, state that growers will accept \$6 a bushel?" Please set us right on this, Mr. Orr. If you are not the gentleman who sprung this little tale on the bean growers, pray tell us WHO WAS.

As you doubtless know, Mr. Orr, the statement was a pure fabrication. The author may have received such a report from some source, but it would seem that ordinary discretion would have prompted anyone who insists that we make a public explanation of why we cannot vouch for the veracity of his every statement, to take the pains to determine the authenticity of the "messages from California and Colorado" before giving them out to the public. Don't you agree with us, Mr. Orr?

## That Liberty Loan

IF MICHIGAN is to subscribe the entire \$125,000,000 of its Liberty loan quota it will have to be with the united assistance of the farmers of the state. The city of Detroit is having a hard time raising the \$65,000,000 allotted to it; Henry Ford's subscription for \$10,000,000 worth of bonds is the only thing that has to date saved the campaign in Detroit from ignominious failure. Reports from other cities in the state are not at all encouraging, and with less than a week left in which to raise the desired amount, the Liberty loan committee now looks to the rural districts to subscribe the remaining millions.

The average farmer is not a stock or bond-buyer. He prefers to invest his surplus earnings in good old Mother Earth which is permanent and unmovable. Some times money invested in this commodity yields handsome returns; other times the dividends are not so attractive and high taxes are an annual levy against the investment.

We do not, as a rule, urge our farmers to invest in stocks and bonds. Many of them have a distressing habit of fluctuating in value and the most of them depend too much upon the fickleness of Wall Street. But a bond that is backed by the guarantee of Uncle Sam and the resources of the richest nation on earth is quite another matter. It offers at once to both the small and the large investor the maximum in security and above the average in dividends.

When a farmer buys a Liberty Bond, he performs a service both for himself and for his country. On the one hand he makes a safe and profitable investment; on the other, he helps the Government to buy clothes and food, guns and ammunition for the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who will fight to preserve the honor of the United States.

If this country is to wage the war it has entered to a successful conclusion it must have money—a great deal of money. Inasmuch as Congress, composed of the representatives of the people, has declared this war, Congress will see to it that the war is financed. There are two ways to raise money to meet the expenditures of war—by the levying of taxes and the selling of bonds against the resources of the country. Some taxes have been levied, and distributed in such a way that no person in the country can escape

paying some part of them. But Congress did not deem it wise to raise all the money needed thru this method. Congress said: "Instead of forcing the people to support this war by the paying of taxes, we will give them an opportunity to loan their money at interest and after the war is over the money will be paid back to them." That is why the "Liberty Bond" issues have come into being and that is why every man who has money to invest is asked to buy these bonds. If the people of the country do not want to LOAN their money to the Government, they will be forced to GIVE it thru increased taxes upon the commodities of life.

Millions of people are subscribing to the Liberty Loan because of patriotism; millions of others subscribe solely because it offers a good investment; but the great majority are actuated by a combination of these motives. Among the latter are the farmers of the nation.

The second Liberty Loan campaign closes October 27th. As we have said it devolves upon the farmers whether or not the loan is to be a sorry failure or a glorious success in this state. If the loan fails the farmer will be blamed; if it succeeds he will get at least part of the credit. We urgently request every reader of this paper who can spare \$50 or more during the ensuing year to see his local banker at once and arrange for the purchase of one or more Liberty Bonds.

## The Heel of Achilles

ACHILLES WAS the name of the Greek hero we believe, who possessed only one spot on his entire body that was vulnerable to fatal injury. That was his left heel. An arrow thrust there, and the warrior must needs give up the ghost. And history records that a certain enemy of Achilles discovered this point of vulnerability and did wound him there, and Achilles did straightway yield up the ghost.

Not quite so strong and noble and manly perhaps, but at least possessing the vulnerable heel the average jobber in farm products plays the role of a modern Achilles. As a distributor of an important article of food, the bean jobber has been immune to the targets of his enemies. In the guise of a public benefactor he has bought beans cheaply, picked them closely, hoarded them carefully, manipulated the market successfully and sold out at exorbitant prices. He has systematically "beared" the producer and "bulled" the consumer, always smugly satisfied that he could get by with his bluff that he was a necessary medium between the two.

But he could not hide his vulnerable heel. In spite of his protestations to the contrary, the average bean jobber is a speculator of the most pronounced type and therewith lies his weakness. The producer knew he speculated; the consumer suspected it, but to catch him at his little game, that was the rub!

He could not fool his Uncle Sammy, however. In the food control law the Government took a pot-shot at the bean manipulator along with all the other seventeen different breeds of market manipulators, and inflicted an all but mortal wound on his vulnerable point. "No more speculation" is the edict that has gone forth, and this means "no more exorbitant profits." Henceforth or at least during the duration of the war, the jobber in beans and other farm commodities will be permitted to figure only a nominal profit for his distribution purposes. From now on the producer and the consumer divide the cream, while the erstwhile speculator gets the skim milk.

## Feeding the Hungry

IN THIS issue we begin the publication of a series of three articles dealing with the food situation in France and Belgium. They convey only a vague idea of the gravity of the food shortage in all the European countries now at war. They give only a hint of the dire needs of the belligerent peoples and the prohibitive cost, to some at least, of many of the most common articles of food; they suggest only conservatively something of the responsibilities resting upon this nation of feeding the hungry and wretched people of Europe. But for all their moderate wording and calm conclusions, they are sufficient to open the eyes of the American farmer to the huge demand that exists abroad for the products of his farm.

It is safe to assume that the average farmer does not comprehend the true conditions affecting food production and consumption now existing in the nations at war. If he did he would require no urgings from the government to increase production; if he did, he would entertain no doubts as to the demands of the immediate future and the prices which his products might command.

Let us try to visualize the situation that exists in Europe today. Most of the countries now at



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Step up, Farmer Friends, Buy a Liberty Bond and Help Put the Kaiser out of Business.

war have been big food producers in times of peace. Without exception their farmers were and still are intensive farmers, coaxing from the soil the very maximum of production. The average farm of those countries produces two to three times as much as the average farm of the United States, and the contribution of European farms to the world's food supplies has been the largest in the world. Now, suddenly, thousands of Europe's farmers have been taken from the field and put into the trenches, and millions of the most fertile acres have been turned to barren wastes by the ravages of war. Of necessity, production has fallen off; for a time the decrease was not noted and the world's surplus took care of the demand very nicely. But soon the surplus dwind-

led away, and the world finally awoke to the fact that consumption was outstripping production and that sooner or later there would not be enough foodstuffs to go 'round.

And this very condition exists today—not in the United States, to be sure, tho the continued high prices which prevail in spite of food control legislation is the plainest evidence that we can have that the demand is larger than the supply and that unless we raise more the next two or three years actual hunger will prevail in even this land of boasted plenty.

Even if the Great War should cease tomorrow, we can see no reason why the unprecedented world demand for American farm products should not continue without abatement for sev-

eral years to come. Millions of European farmers have been killed in battle; and this means that from five to ten times as many millions of consumers will have to look to other farmers for their food supplies. It will be years before the great scale of supply and demand comes to balance again; till then the American farmer need have no fear of over-production or profitless prices.

The farmers of the nation have made greater progress toward securing equitable prices this year of 1917 than in any five year period of the last half century. If they but knew it they stand now in a position to insure profitable prices for all time to come.

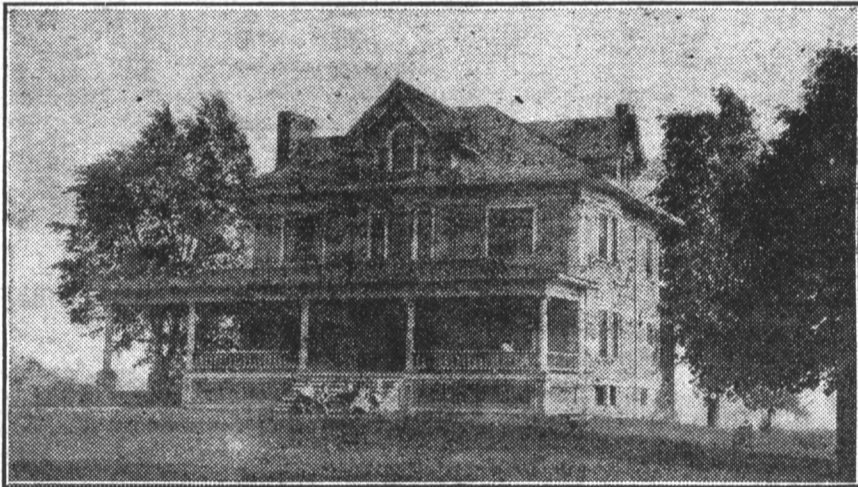


More and more it is being impressed upon the United States Government that airplanes will win the war. Giant factories all over the country are working night and day turning out airplane motors and bodies. The above scene shows mechanics testing out a motor before mounting the wings. There can be chance of a defect in the mechanism. A loose screw, a rusty valve, may mean death to someone.

## With the Kodaker and Cartoonist



"Fatty" War-Profits almost makes a getaway. The Consumer lies in the dust at the rear.



The attractive and roomy farm home of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Cook, near Owosso. Note the wide, hospitable veranda, and topping all the kiddies on the steps. Mr. Cook is president of the Bean Growers' Association, and by using strict business methods has made a splendid success of the business of farming.



"I thot I'd enlist for fun," said many a young man on the eve of his departure for training camp. He is getting his fun, all right, as the picture below will show, but he is also being initiated into real work that trys his muscle and puts a kink in his back.



The "hard knocks" you get at training camp here illustrated. The object of the exercise is to wallop each other so hard with the padded club that one falls from the barrel. Such exertions keep the boys in physical trim.



In France. The bulk of the farm labor in France is being done today by women. They have not only proven themselves quick to learn and very capable but have shown that they can stand the rigors of field labor.



# Everyday Garden, Field and Orchard Helps

## THE FARMER AND CONSERVATION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

That the farmers of the country should be requested by the national food administrator to go without meat every Tuesday and without any form of wheat food stuffs every Wednesday is a condition never before thought of. It is extremely extraordinary. America has always been the land of cheap and abundant food and farmers especially have never thought of scrimping on either of these two products. Wheat products and meat are the main stay for the farmer's table and yet here at this day and age our President informs us that it will not only be policy but that it will be necessary for us to conserve these two products that we may have a sufficient amount to ship to France to supply our armies and the armies of our allies.

We are told that England, France and Italy are short of wheat, meat, sugar and fats. It is absolutely necessary that this country do everything possible to supply the armies of our allies with these necessary foods because unless an army is well supplied with provisions it cannot fight, and the more fighting our allies do the less fighting the Americans must do for we are in this war to win. We have got to win; and we are going to win!

Under the circumstances, with these extraordinary conditions before us it seems to me that every citizen of this great republic ought to be willing to deprive himself of these necessary foods to a certain extent in order to increase the available surplus to be shipped abroad. It looks to me like a patriotic duty. Of course, it is hard for many of us to believe that such a condition exists and yet it has been presented to us so plainly from all sources that we cannot help but believe that it is true, and if it be true, I believe it is the duty of every farmer and all members of his family to comply with the request that Food Administrator Hoover has made and abstain from meat and wheat products on each Tuesday and Wednesday.

It isn't much of a sacrifice. While these products figure largely in a farmer's bill of fare, to give them up for one day each week is not a sacrifice worth mentioning. Some of us may think such a small amount will be saved that it will have no perceptible effect upon the total amount made available for shipment abroad. Of course, what is saved merely from one person abstaining from their use isn't much, but when you multiply that by over a hundred million, the number of people in this country, and we can hardly realize the amount of these products that are saved just by this little sacrifice by each person.

At our house we have begun to comply with the request of the food administrator and we have formed a resolution that will not be broken that now and hereafter as long as it is necessary there will be no meat on Tuesday nor any wheat products on Wednesday. Of course, there has only been two or three weeks so far and thus far it has been no sacrifice at all. It is not worth mentioning. There are so many substitutes that can be used in the place of wheat in this country—rye, buckwheat and corn meal especially—that one really is better off to abstain from it one day in the week. It gives a greater variety. It may make a little more work for the women folks because they will have to make corn bread and buckwheat cakes and perhaps rye bread when they haven't been used to doing so, but after they get used to it they will

not mind it, and I am sure that the women will be perfectly willing to make this little sacrifice in order that the American army abroad may be provided with these necessary foods, and also our allies.

So far as the meatless Tuesday is concerned, it doesn't matter whether one tries to find a substitute or not. Of course, meat is rich in protein but where one only has to abstain from its use one day this is not important. The most of us consume more protein than necessary and to abstain from the use of meat rich in protein would really be beneficial instead of a detriment. Beans can readily be substituted for meat on Tuesdays and the necessary protein furnished in this food. I am positive that if the Government finds it necessary for further abstinence on these important foods that the farmers at least will be willing to make greater sacrifices and abstain from eating meat and wheat products two days each week instead of one.

Some seem to be puzzled to know why our government asks us to save wheat by substituting corn when corn costs as much or more. It is not to cut down our expenses that the request is made but to save wheat. Wheat is war food. For this purpose there is no substitute. We can utilize

the corn at home but it can not well take the place of wheat for the army or for the people of Europe who know nothing about this food product.

Sugar is also a war food as well as meat. We can scrimp a little on this and not hurt us, and have more to export. I haven't used sugar in my coffee since the war began and I shall not as long as it lasts. If everybody would do that it would help out immensely.

Many of us are deprived of the honor and the privilege of going to the front and defending our country in this great crisis. The only thing left for us to do is to stay at home and provide for the army in the field and the millions who must make ammunition and other war supplies, and see that they are properly taken care of so that they can do their work well. We can do this, and this with what we can do in the purchase of Liberty Bonds to help the Government finance this great question will be about the only things that we can do for our country.—Colon C. Lillie.

**GOVERNMENT TAKES THIS MAN'S ONLY FARM HELP**

"I will send you my complaint towards the way I feel about the drafting of farmer boys and hired help. As the Government advised me and all farmers to grow all the crops possible, and that the farmer will be exempted if really needed on the farm, I am working 160 acres of land and have a

nice lot of crops in and had a No. 1 man working for me, he was taken in the draft and it leaves me in a serious condition to take care of my crops. The Government appointed \_\_\_\_\_, of Millington, Mich., to consider the exemption. He was over to see my wife and she gave him the circumstances as near as possible and he agreed to furnish another man in his place, but I have not heard from him since and my man was kidnapped Sept. 27. Now I will say that \_\_\_\_\_ is out of place for the position that the government gave him. P. S.—I have at present about 15 acres of beans to harvest, 7 acres of potatoes to dig and my intention was to sow about 40 acres of fall crops. At present I have sowed 12 acres and am left alone and impossible to get a man."—J. L. B., Mayville.

**U. S. SUGGESTS 100 POUND UNIT FOR POTATOES**

No standard measure for the handling of potatoes is uniformly accepted in the United States. In certain states various units of measurements have been established through usage. For instance, Maine has adopted the 165-pound barrel; Washington, the ton; New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and others the bushel; and Colorado, Idaho and Oregon, 100 pounds as the basis. The confusion caused by the wide difference of units of measure-

ments has led to the demand for a uniform standard to be adopted for the entire United States.

A joint committee representing the growers and the shippers and distributors held a conference in Washington recently. This committee went on record as recommending that the bureau of standards be urged to take the necessary steps as soon as possible toward the establishment of 100 pounds as the unit upon which price quotations and buying and selling of potatoes shall be based throughout the United States.

Lou D. Sweet and E. P. Miller, potato experts with the United States Food administration, heartily endorse this action. Such a unity will facilitate handling and will be fairer to producer and consumer alike.

**SOME POTATO PARINGS**

Good seed potatoes, free from blight and rot, are always worth saving for one's own future crop, or to supply others.

Feed the cull crop to the hogs. Cook the potatoes thoroughly and mix with corn meal, shorts, or bran. Skim milk is a good addition.

Grading potatoes for market increases the possibilities of sales and raises the price received. Keep the culls on the farms and save the cost of hauling.

Potatoes add succulence to the dairy ration. Where corn silage is not available and there are plenty of small potatoes a peck a day will give a marked increase in milk flow. They should be introduced into the ration gradually, and should be run thru a root cutter to avoid the possibility of choking the animal.

## NEW SETTLER MAKES NO PROFIT ON \$1.00 POTATOES

"Enclosed you will find \$1 for my subscription to your valuable paper. In my opinion the farmer who would refuse to invest one dollar in a paper like the M. B. F. has a mighty poor business head on his shoulders. I am also sending in the names of three neighbors who want the paper. I think I will have a few more later on.

"Corn in this section was badly hit with the frost. No ripe corn. Many fields of beans spoiled entirely. Some fields have been plowed up and put into fall grain. Potatoes mostly going from 25 to 50 bu. per acre; a few fields as high as 100 bu. or better; and some not worth digging.

"In my opinion we should get \$1.25 per bushel for potatoes this year and at that many farmers would lose money on the crop up in this neck of the woods. A good many men have bought wild land, cleared up a nice piece of it and paid \$3.50 per bu. for seed potatoes to plant it with, thinking the price would be very high and they would make enough to build a little house and barn and get a start on a little home. Some even bought the lumber on time and built a small house and barn, but their hopes are mostly gone glimmering. The frost cut their crop short, and at a dollar a bushel they won't more than get pay for their labor and many will not do that. The writer and his brother cleared up about 11 acres and planted it to potatoes. We are very lucky as they are a fairly good crop, but we can't figure out how we are going to make much of a profit figuring the cost of clearing, the price of seed and \$3.00 per day for men to dig them. We are wondering where the money is coming from to pay for the two barns we had to build and paid \$23 per thousand for the lumber we put in them.

"No doubt Mr. Bale, Mr. Woodman, Mr. Allen, Mr. Cook, Mr. Scully and the other men who were called to help fix the price on potatoes can raise them for \$1 per bu. on their improved farms with all modern machinery to work with, and their farms in a high state of cultivation, but what of the men, and there are hundreds of them, who are raising their crops on new land, where they have to clear the land, work around the stumps and grubs all summer cultivating with one horse, paying \$3 per day for digging them with a six-tined fork, making payments and paying interest on their land, paying for teams and tools, building house and barn and making other improvements on the new farm that these men on their improved farms don't have to do. They say the price is based on the average farmer. Now I take it that that would be like taking the man half way between the best improved farm and the fellow who is just starting in and paying them all the price it costs the middle or average farmer to produce his crops with a small profit added.

"The average farmer makes a small profit, the big farmer makes a big profit and the little fellow makes no profit at all, while if there is any man who should have a good profit it is the man who is taking up the wild, waste land of our country, clearing it up, making homes of it and helping to feed the nation.

"But, as in other business, the big fellow gets the big profit and the little fellow gets a lot of hard work and no profit.

"We want a square deal."—B. E. S., Van, Mich."

## THE BUSINESS FARMER'S CALENDAR

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

1. Invest some money in Liberty Bonds. A good investment and a patriotic duty.
2. Provide good warm quarters for the young pigs. Get a hot water heater for the live stock.
3. Plan a good supply of reading matter for the long winter evenings. A few good books, magazines and newspapers. Don't forget to send in your subscription to Michigan Business Farming.
4. Now is the time to plan on a good lighting system. You will be surprised how reasonably one may be installed.
5. Mothers—Find an afternoon to visit the school. Perhaps you have a new teacher. She will appreciate getting acquainted and will realize you are interested in your children's welfare.
6. Litter carriers are great labor savers. Why not install one in your barn before winter sets in?

ize the corn at home but it can not well take the place of wheat for the army or for the people of Europe who know nothing about this food product.

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# LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

## MAINTAINING HEALTH IN SWINE WISE PRECAUTION

During the fall and winter, disease of some kind is apt to break out among the hogs. The changeable weather and new feed make it necessary for us to watch the animals closely when they are being crowded for the market. There is perhaps no other animal on the farm which succumbs more readily to disease than the hog. The health of the animal is one of the necessary requirements for profit. An unhealthy hog is unprofitable even though the disease from which it is suffering is not contagious. We should therefore take every care to preserve health.

One of the helpful things to do is to keep the premises in good sanitary condition. Hogs feed with their noses to the earth and are filthy where they are compelled to be so. If we provide them with clean quarters and pens they appreciate it. All the pens, yards and surroundings should be thoroughly cleansed, disinfected and limed with fresh air slacked lime to fertilize and increase productiveness. The fences, partitions and all of the wood work both inside and outside and all posts need to be thoroly whitewashed. In this way vermin and the germs from mange deposited there by the hogs rubbing against them will be destroyed. While this is not a sure guarantee against disease it is an excellent preventive. Even a healthy herd with clean surroundings may have the germs of disease introduced or carried into it by other means, but this is a proper precaution which we can exercise and at little expense. It is very beneficial to the hogs to be in clean pens, with clean bedding, and to have clean feeding troughs. It is like a tonic, it is appetizing and better results are obtained from the feed.

A feature of much importance is to furnish proper protection for the animals during the winter. On some farms, however, this thing is overdone. The animals are given a tight building well banked up with windows and doors that can be closed, shutting out all cold air. An expensive hog house is built in which the thing aimed at is to exclude the cold. This idea carried to the extreme is a wrong one and may bring more disaster in its train than protection. Hogs are provided by nature for withstanding the cold. It is protection from the cold currents of air and the storms that they require. Thorough ventilation is important always. A dozen big fat hogs in a tight room will raise the temperature to a degree that will make their sudden dash out into the outer air extremely dangerous. Fresh air is not to be excluded, but all drafts should be. No animal while sleeping should be subjected to a draft of cold air.

Another danger in a hog house is from dust. Dust in the sleeping place cannot fail to get into the bronchial tubes and lungs of the animals causing coughing and irritation. For this reason it is necessary to supply good clean bedding and change it frequently or whenever it becomes chaffy or filled with dust. In a well constructed hog house comparatively little bedding is required. In a floorless house the dust problem may become a serious one. The ground will become hard and dry and the sharp hoofs of the animals will grind the hard earth into dust which will become mixed with the bedding material. If the house is on a well-drained spot the dust can be swept out when occasion demands, but this continued for a time will make the floor of the house lower than the surrounding surface of the yard, and in rainy weather

water will settle therein. This must be guarded against and I know of no better way of doing it than to make a good wooden floor and keep it bedded with straw or other material.

I keep charcoal in reach of my hogs at all times. Free use of it is a good way to rid hogs of worms, and inasmuch as it has no medicinal properties the effect must be purely mechanical. Hogs have insatiable appetites, especially when being given such feeds as corn, for burnt corn cobs, slack coal, wood ashes and charcoal in every possible form. All this indicates that these meet some requirement of the animal system. What is palatable seldom does the system any injury and then only when taken in excess, which is likely to be if the animals are not accustomed to it especially if they are hungry. The very fact that hogs, when on a full feed of corn, eat all forms of charcoal with avidity and never get too much of it, is sufficient grounds for providing it in abundance and keeping it within their reach at all times.

Charcoal can be made conveniently by digging a pit about two or three feet wide and as many feet deep, starting a fire in the bottom then filling up the pit with corn cobs and when they are thoroughly charred covering the pit over and smothering the fire. Then if some salt is mixed with this corn-cob charcoal and put where the hogs can have free access to it their requirements both in the way of salt and charcoal will be met. This mixture will help a great deal in maintaining the hogs in good health.—John Underwood.

## KEEPING DAIRY RECORD HAS HELPED PROFITS

A good many years ago I found that it was a good thing to keep records of all my farm operations. They may seem trivial at the time, yet some day are sure to be of great value and are a great help and satisfaction in clearing up difficulties that frequently arise. It requires only a small amount of work to keep them if the work is done regularly and systematically. The very fact that records are kept makes one careful of details and interested in making the things of which the records are kept turn out the best. It helps one to have a firm grasp on his affairs and to know just where he stands in all his work. He knows whether he is running his farm or any branch of his farming at a profit or at a loss.

In no branch of farming are records of more importance than in dairying. Yet in going among dairymen one would be surprised to find how very few keep records. It is of actual money importance to know whether a cow is making a profit on the feed she consumes or is eating more than she is paying for. It is also a good thing to know when cows are bred and when they are expected to freshen. The creameryman knows to a fraction of a pound what he is taking in and what he is selling. He must keep accurate accounts. He would not know just where he stood and would be involved in all kinds of difficulties if he could not give a definite account of every item of his business at any time. What is true of the creamery or any other business operation is similarly true of dairying. There are a great many dairy farmers who do not know just how their business stands. They may be losing in some operation and yet not know it, simply because they have no definite knowledge of profits and loss of the operation. Their cows may be making them money, or they may be eating more food than they are paying for.

In my experience I have found it a very easy matter to keep a reliable record and to know just how each cow in my herd is standing all the time. The first essential in keeping a record of this kind is a pair of scales with which to weigh the milk. There also ought to be another set of scales to weigh feeds. A chart placed on the wall of the milk room receives the daily record of the amount of milk given by each cow with the total for the month. These monthly totals are credited each month or week to each cow in a book and on the same page she is charged with her feed for the time. If whole milk is sold the debits and balances are simple. If the milk is made into butter either at home or the cream sold to a creamery or cream buying station from the butterfat test of each cow her actual producing power can be determined. It is necessary to weigh the milk at each milking and record the number of pounds on the chart. With feeds the weighing need not be done so often. For instance, a mixture of grain for one feed may be weighed and then measured and the same amount measured out for each feed till a change of ration is desired. By this method the quantity of feed each cow consumes each week may be determined approximately and the account entered in the dairy record book at the end of each week. When the ration is changed a new weighing may be made for a single feed and the account of this made at the end of each week till the ration is changed again.

In order to give the cows credit for all they do an account of the loads of manure hauled from the dairy stables should be kept and its value estimated approximately. If cream is sold or butter made the cows must be given full credit for all the skim milk either at some standard market price or for what it actually makes by feeding it to calves, pigs and poultry. If the skim milk is all fed to pigs its value may be accurately determined by weighing the pigs, weighing other feeds consumed by them and the skim milk given for a week or some given period. By weighing the pigs at the end of the given period the gain and value of the skim milk may be determined almost to the cent per 100 pounds. This value will of course be partially determined by the current price of hogs.

After a little experience in keeping a dairy record methods of making entries will suggest themselves as well as methods of figuring balances or profits. The work will become easy and more perfect with practice. The cows are to be charged with feed, shelter and service. They are to be given credit for butterfat, skim milk, calves and manure. If accounts of these are accurately kept it will be easy to determine what each cow is doing and whether the dairy in general is making a profit or is run at a loss.—John Underwood.

## FIRST ISSUE OF M. B. F. WORTH \$1 TO THIS FARMER

"First copy of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING was worth one dollar to me. Must say it is a fine paper. Keep right on sending it. Prices are very interesting in this paper. Am thankful you sent me the first copy.—H. C. E. B., Rogers, Mich.

## Veterinary Department

G. H. CONN, D. V., Editor  
[EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. G. H. Conn has enlisted in the veterinary department at Camp Sherman, Mo., and will be able to continue his work with M. B. F. only until he leaves for France. All veterinary inquiries received from our readers up to that time, however, will be promptly answered in this department by Dr. Conn.]



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**WANTED**—Persons contemplating purchasing farms to correspond with J. W. Saunders, Beulah, Benzie Co., Mich. Free map and description of 160 acres or part. Small payment, time on balance.

**CHESTER WHITE ROYAL BREEDING**  
Ralph H. Littler Route 9, Tiffin, O.

# The Food Situation as it Exists in France

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a series of articles by Fred B. Pitney, a noted foreign correspondent, on the food situation in France. Mr. Pitney not only had at his disposition the official figures of the French government on the food supply of France, but he has lived in France during the war and speaks from personal experience and intimate first-hand knowledge of the conditions there. Statesmen and politicians have had the mistaken belief that they are the only ones wise enough and strong-hearted enough to face the entire truth. Consequently when the nation is hard-pressed and its man-power is low and food supplies nearing a low ebb, they wish to keep this information from the people and endeavor to reassure them with false hopes. Politicians have also officially denied reports of meagre resources in order to give France greater prestige in peace councils. This, the writer shows, is a dangerous policy since it results in conflicting reports and weakens confidence of the people in their government.]

**T**ELLING THE truth about the food situation in France is an extremely difficult thing to do, for one comes immediately into contact with so many counter currents of opinion. There is no question in the mind of anyone conversant with the facts that it is not only Germany, but with the Allies as well, that the food situation is serious and needs prompt and effective treatment. But in the endeavor to deal with this question one finds constantly in the official mind an attempt to reconcile two irreconcilable positions.

## GOVERNMENTS ALONE CANNOT WIN THE WAR

On the one hand, there is the open and full recognition of the seriousness of the situation, of the demand for prompt, full and efficacious co-operation and co-ordination of effort among all the nations warring against Germany in order that each may be able to sustain its striking power at the point of highest efficiency. This must be a war of the Allied peoples against Germany. And this opinion sees the necessity of laying the situation fully and fairly before the people so that they will voluntarily adopt the conservation methods necessary to victory.

On the other hand, confused in the same minds with this opinion there is an idea that if the people are told too much they will become frightened and will weaken. This is a bald statement, very plainly put, but that is what it boils down to. The statement and politicians have a peculiar idea that they are the only men who are farsighted enough and strong enough to face the whole truth and go on fighting. So they try at the same time to arouse the people and to reassure them.

We find a fine example of this in the submarine. On the one side we are told the submarine is a failure and it is to laugh at the German threats. In regard to food we are told that the Allies must guard their every resource and immediately on top of that we are told they have reserve stocks for the next three years. We are told that it is vitally necessary for America to put a great army in the field at once and in the same breath we hear that the Allied preponderance in man power over Germany is increasing every day.

## WHOLE TRUTH MUST NOT BE KNOWN

How can one expect to arouse a

## Being the First of Three Articles on the Food Shortage in European Countries and the Duty Devolving upon the American Farmer to "Feed the Hungry"

By FRED B. PITNEY

nation to war with such a stream of contradictory statements? My own opinion is that the peoples of all the Allied nations are strong enough to know the whole truth and that knowing it will only make them more determined and fight harder, while at the same time their collective action will be much more intelligent. I do not believe in any government trying to win this war. I believe that only an aroused nation will be victorious. And I believe that the way to arouse the nation is to lay every shred of fact fully and completely before the people.

In France, however, one meets with a third phase of official opinion that further complicates the situation. France has borne the brunt of the fighting on the side of the Allies for three years. Her resources in men and material have been strained to the uttermost, and everyone realizes that France cannot go on bearing the brunt of the fighting for another three years. Yet, French statesmen are so afraid of the possible effect at time of the peace conference of an admission that France needs assistance now that immediately the idea is suggested there comes an official denial in one form or another. French statesmen, perhaps with reason, are obsessed with the idea that France will get an extremely short end of the stick at the peace conference, if there is a suspicion that she does not go into them stronger than she went into the war and able to fight on for another million years. But how is she going to get anything at the peace conferences if the Allies are not the victors? And how are the Allies to be victors, unless the people of America know the full truth about the task imposed on them?

This complicated situation makes it extremely difficult, however, to tell the truth about food conditions in the face of the imminent probabilities of thereby injuring susceptible official feelings.

## FOOD AS IT AFFECTS THE INDIVIDUAL IN FRANCE

As I have kept house in Paris during the war, I can speak from experience on the food situation in France as it affects the individual. And let

me remark in passing that one learns a great deal, when keeping house, of which one gets no inkling, when living in a hotel and eating in restaurants. One can always go to a restaurant and order a meal and get it. I have heard many visiting Americans, who lived in France in that way, poo-poo the idea that there was a food shortage in the country. If those same persons had had to search the markets before they had their meals, they would have gained a very different idea of the food situation.

Sugar offers an excellent concrete example. In a restaurant one is fairly certain of sugar for one's coffee. Three lumps to a person is the rule. Formerly, the sugar was put on the table in a bowl and one helped one's self. Now, the ration is served to each person separately. Still, one is fairly sure of one's sugar in a restaurant.

But if one is keeping house, one finds that one must have a "sugar card", permitting him to buy a stipulated amount of sugar in a month. The allowance is 1 1/2 pounds of sugar a month, if three meals a day are taken at home, 1 pound if two meals are taken at home and 1/2 pound if only one meal is taken at home. This means for the person who takes three meals a day at home 18 pounds of sugar a year. The annual sugar consumption per person in America is 85 pounds.

One would not be likely to find this out, if one were living in restaurants in France, but one finds it out very soon, if one is keeping house.

It is soon learned, also, that the "sugar card" does not mean that one can demand a pound and a half of sugar a month, but only that one is permitted to buy that much, provided a dealer can be found who has it to sell. A dealer who has sugar will not sell it to anyone who comes in. He sells only to his own regular customers.

We paid last winter in Paris 11 cents a piece for eggs and \$2 a pound for butter and there was frequently neither butter nor eggs nor milk to be had. Private families were allowed to buy one-eighth of a pound of flour at a time. The grocers could not sell flour, only the bakers. The flour mills

could not choose their own customers, nor could the bakers and restaurants choose the mills they would buy from. Lists were made out, telling each miller to whom he could sell. This was in order that one section should not be able to eat up the stock of flour belonging to another section, or one baker deprive the customers of another, when all were short.

## WHEAT SITUATION IN FRANCE

Let me give you the official figures on the wheat situation in France, so that there can be no question.

It is estimated that there will be a deficit of approximately 5,000,000 tons of wheat in France over the period from September 1, 1917, to September 1, 1918.

The normal consumption of wheat is from 9,200,000 tons, or slightly less than the consumption. Since the beginning of the war her production has fallen off radically. In 1914 it was 7,700,000 tons, in 1915 6,065,000 tons, and in 1916 5,840,000 tons, while for this year the crop is estimated at 4,000,000 tons with a possibility of rising to 4,500,000 tons, leaving for the period from September, 1917, to September, 1918, a deficit of nearly 5,000,000 tons, which must be made up by imports.

## WHEAT MUST COME FROM AMERICA

Where can those imports come from except from America? Italy by reason of her position in the Mediterranean takes the first toll from the wheat of the Far East, while England, of whom the Far Eastern wheat producing countries are colonies, takes the remainder. France can get a little from South Africa. Argentina has stopped the exportation of wheat. This country is the only resource left to France.

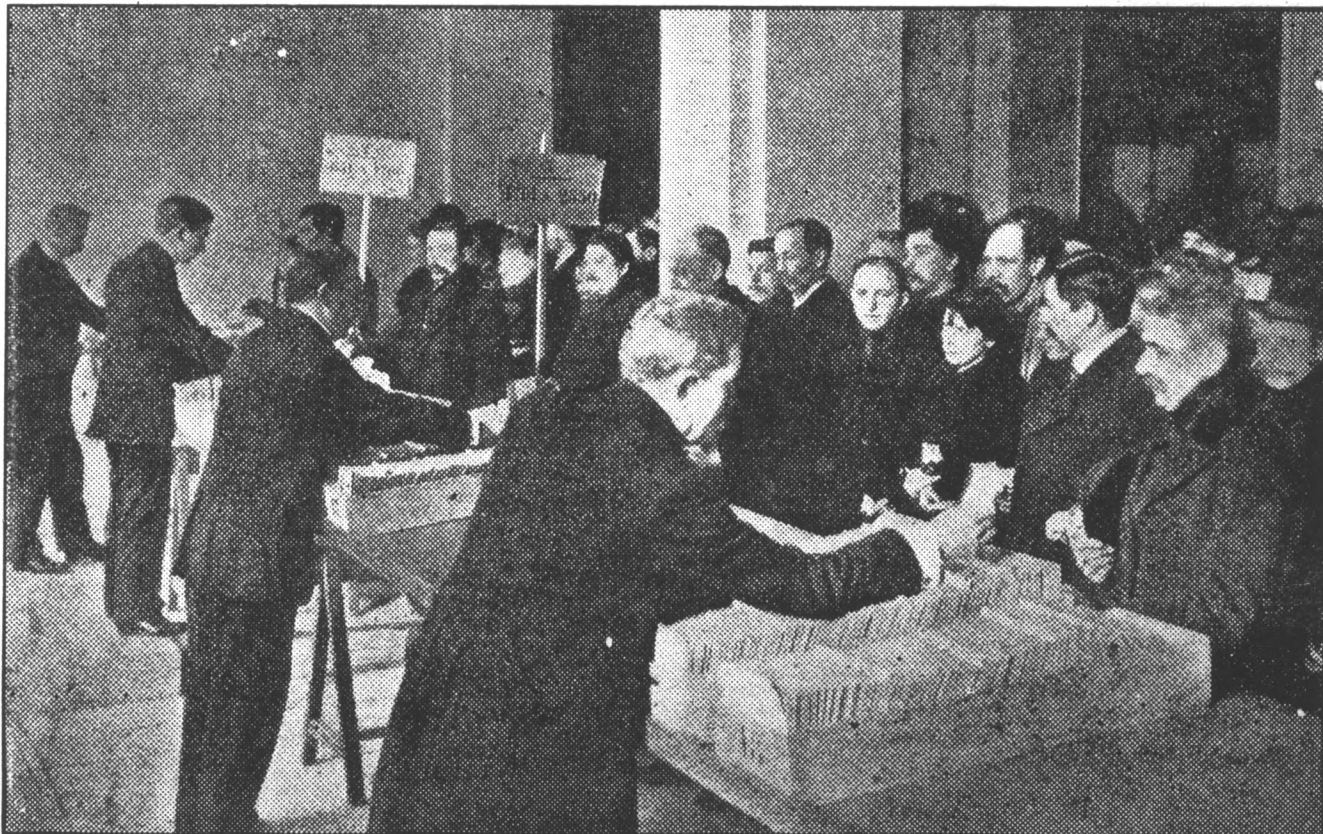
I have spoken of the scarcity of flour, resulting from the shortage of wheat. Let us try to see what this means to France. In the first place, it must be realized that there bread is the staple article of food. It is the base of all meals, especially among the working population. Luncheon is bread, soup, coffee and often, though not always, some meat or fish and a vegetable. The big dish is bread. Bread is again the base of dinner or supper, however, the meal may be called. Bread and cheese will make an entire meal for a French peasant, with a glass of wine to wash it down.

## BREAD ALLOWANCE AND "BREAD CARDS"

The French soldier's allowance of bread was a trifle over a pound and a half a day. On account of the shortage of wheat it has been necessary to cut this ration to a pound and a third a day. And it is not necessary to say that only dire necessity will countenance the cutting of the soldier's rations.

Another thing that has happened is "bread cards" in some localities. There are no national "bread cards" in France as there are "sugar cards" but in some parts of the country it has been necessary to restrict the use of bread by local regulations. I have in mind several letters from my friends among the peasants of

(Cont. on pg. 15)



Distributing Bread Tickets to the Hungry Populace in Wretched Belgium.

# County Crop Reports

**ANTRIM (Southwest)**—Corn is nearly all cut, but it was damaged some by frost. Beans are being pulled, they are not very ripe, damaged by frost. I understand that in the east part of the county they were very badly damaged by the frost. Late potatoes are being dug and they are yielding fairly well. Fall seeding being done. As much rye and wheat being sold as usual. Silos are nearly all filled with corn that is none too ripe. Soft coal is being sold at Alden for \$8 per ton.—C. F. W., Alden.

**OTTAWA (Northeast)**—Fall plowing will be next, as silo filling is nearly over with. Corn crop is short this year as silos are only about half full. Had a heavy frost Oct. 5 and it has been cooler since. Some farmers are selling hay and a little wheat.—J. P., Cooperville.

**GRAND TRAVERSE**—Everything is frozen here. The early potatoes are nearly all dug and some are digging the late ones. Most of the beans are about half or three-quarters ripe. Not many pulled yet. It is wet and cold now. The buyers at Traverse City paid 90c for potatoes when they were \$1 at Bates. On Friday the prices at Bates ran from \$1.05 to \$1.10. Many of the farmers are storing and holding for more money.—A. H., Acme.

**BAY (North)**—Farmers in this vicinity are still harvesting beans; only about half of the crop has been taken care of owing to the frequent showers. A few are harvesting sugar beets but this crop is nothing extra this year. Some farmers are fall plowing.—J. E. McK., Pinconning.

**OGEMAW (West Central)**—Beans are mostly harvested but none are threshed yet. The yield will be light. Potatoes are being dug with yield running from 50 to 100 bu. with a few acres going over the 100 mark. A lot of rye is being put in. Weather is too dry for plowing. Milk cows at recent sales went high and horses cheap. Butterfat brings 49 cents at creamery.—W. N., West Branch.

**OTSEGO (West Central)**—The rainy weather is making it hard for farmers to get their potatoes out of the ground. The farmers are paying from \$3 to \$3.50 per day for help with board and it is hard to get help at that price.—C. A., Gaylord.

**LIVINGSTON (Northwest)**—Farmers in this vicinity are threshing, sowing Rosen rye and digging potatoes. The weather has been cold and wet; the soil is just right to work good. Farmers are selling some wheat and oats and some hay, and they are buying their winter's supply of coal at \$10 a ton for chestnut size.—G. A. W., Fowlerville.

**JACKSON (West)**—I am still harvesting beans. I began the first day of October. The weather was cloudy and wet and they would not dry. I kept at it and now have the whole 70 acres in the bunch and it is still cloudy.—B. T., Parma.

**MACOMB (Northwest)**—Farmers are still sowing wheat and rye, a good many acres being in. The weather has been bad for beans, rainy and cold. The soil is in good condition for fall plowing. The farmers are selling some rye and wheat. Farmers are starting to dig potatoes as the frost has about finished them. We have had two hard frosts this week. A number of farmers are reporting blight on potatoes.—H. D., Almont.

**CALHOUN (Northwest)**—Farmers are seeding. It is rainy and cold. The soil is in nice shape. Farmers are not selling much at present as they are busy with their corn cutting. Potatoes are a fair crop, but beans are a failure in this vicinity. Corn is of poor quality.—C. E. B., Battle Creek.

**BAY (Southeast)**—Very bad weather for a week. Sugar beets very poor. Bad for beans. Wheat growing slow.—J. C. A., Munger.

**LAPPEER (North)**—Farmers are cutting corn, some are sowing rye. Weather very nasty. Soil very good condition. Farmers selling some hay and grain, holding oats, some hay and potatoes.—F. S., Union City.

**OSCEOLA (Northeast)**—Cold and rain all the past week. Farmers are busy building silos and digging potatoes, pulling beans when weather will permit. The bean pods are not very well filled. Potatoes are advancing slowly. The potato market is acting strange, for some buyers are offering 75c while others are paying as high as 80c and \$1. The majority of them are paying \$1.—W. A. S., Marion.

**GENESEE (South)**—The farmers are filling their silos, sowing rye, cutting corn and harvesting beans. The weather has been cold and wet and the bean harvest is progressing slowly. The soil is in good shape for fall work. Farmers are selling medium amounts of grain. Live stock will be put on the market before the animals are finished, on account of the high cost of feed. Wheat is mostly all sown. Heavy frost Monday night froze most everything. The majority of the beans have been harvested but there is still quite a number of acres to be harvested yet. The yield will be low and the quality not very good with a considerable pick in most localities on account of the green beans being frosted. No potatoes have been dug to speak of but it looks as tho a good yield will be secured. There will be a severe shortage of good seed corn.—C. W. S., Fenton.

**MIDLAND (Northwest)**—We have had bad weather the past week; lots of beans out in the field. Beans that have been threshed are running from 2 to 9 bu. to the acre. A few farmers have been pulling beets the past few days. The beet business will be in full swing next week. A few farmers are selling hay. A number of farmers are putting out small pieces of rye.—F. A. L., Coleman.

**MONTCALM (Southwest)**—Farmers are busy at this report. Digging and drawing potatoes seem to be the order of the day, there being a large acreage, but averaging about 85 bushels per acre. The price is higher than last week's report, \$1.16 to \$1.18 at Miller's Station. Beans are being harvested slowly, being hit heavily by frost which did heavy damages. Cold rains were received the fore part of the week, preventing farmers from drawing beans; there was a large acreage but poor average. Corn is mostly cut. It was hit by the frost and some damage resulted; the acreage is medium. A large amount of grain is being put in this fall, the new seeding is mostly Rosen rye and Red Rock wheat, as they seem to be more satisfactory for the farmers now. Rain was received on Thursday afternoon and night; weather is cold and damp. The soil was medium before the rain but is too wet to work now. Potatoes are moving fast; grain is moving slow. Farmers are not holding produce for higher prices.—W. L., Greenville.

**MANISTEE (Northwest)**—The frost of October 5 did a lot of damage in this county; it froze everything dead, there are lots of beans and potatoes that are not worth harvesting and lots of buckwheat gone entirely and we have farmers who will have to buy potatoes or go without them. The farmers are sowing more fall grain than usual this fall, rye has a large acreage and more wheat than last year. Some are sowing Red Rock wheat at \$2.50 per bu.—C. H. S., Bear Lake.

**GRATIOT (East)**—Farmers are busy turning their beans and drilling in wheat between the rows. The weather conditions have been bad for bean harvest. Corn is rather thin.—J. W., North Star.

**MIDLAND (Southeast)**—Grain threshing has just been completed in this neighborhood. Crops have turned out better than was expected. The weather is very cold and wet, it being bad for late beans that were not harvested before the last heavy frosts of Sunday and Monday nights.—A. B., Midland.

**MONROE (East)**—The frosts of the past few weeks have finished harvesting the late crops. About half of the corn has been cut and the silos are now being filled. Most of the wheat is in, but very little of it is up. There are very few apples in this neighborhood.—E. H. M., Monroe.

**GRATIOT (Southeast)**—The farmers have about finished sowing wheat. There is some corn to cut yet and some beans to harvest. The weather is cold, cloudy and rainy. The soil is working up nicely since the rains. Wheat and oats are the principal grains going on the market.—J. E. C., Bannister.

**VAN BUREN (East)**—Picking grapes when the weather will permit. The weather has been cold and wet and a little snow has fallen with the rain. Concord grapes are selling at per 4 qt. baskets 18c; bulk, \$50 per ton. Help is scarce and most growers could use from three to eight more hands.—V. T. G., Mattawan.

**HURON (West)**—Hard frost Monday and Wednesday nights froze corn, beans, potatoes and all the garden stuff. Most of the corn was cut before the frost. Some of the early beans are harvested. Beans are going to pick heavy this year. A number of cattle and hogs shipped from here this week. Sugar beets are being harvested now. Bro. Farmer, report every acre you have sowed to beans to your thrasher if you want a fair price for what you have to sell.—G. W., Elkton.

**GRAND TRAVERSE (South)**—The farmers are filling silos and digging potatoes. Weather not very favorable. Ground in some sections rather wet for digging potatoes. A good many potatoes are being held for higher prices.—R. E. O., Buckley.

**HILLSDALE (Central)**—The frost of September 10 hurt part of the corn and the late beans. On Oct. 5 another frost came, and it killed the rest of the corn and late potatoes and tomatoes. Corn is the nearest a failure that I have ever seen in this part of the country, and in consequence the farmers are feeling pretty blue. M. A. Robbins of Adams township is finishing a stock barn 30 x 70; one of the best in that township.—A. J. B., Hillsdale.

**TUSCULA (Northwest)**—We are having hard frosts now and beans that were not matured are lost, and there were a large quantity here that were about half ripe. I see the bean jobbers report twice as many as last year, but there are no more in this community than there were last year.—W. L. L., Akron.

**MONROE (Northeast)**—The farmers are cutting corn and filling silos. The frosts of Oct. 8 and 9 were hard ones, everything being frozen to the ground. Some farmers are selling a little wheat, and some hay is being sold. Not many oats are being sold at this time.—W. L., Dundee.

**ST. CLAIR (Southwest)**—Sowing of wheat and rye is about completed here, although some are still sowing rye. Potato digging is on in full swing. Farmers are getting scared because of the hard frosts we have had recently, as the ground has frozen to quite a depth.—E. J., St. Clair, Mich.

**WEXFORD (South Central)**—Farmers are digging potatoes and sowing rye. The weather is cloudy and rainy; some snow has fallen, very little sunshine. Considerable increase in rye acreage. Several new silos have been built. The farmers are selling potatoes freely. There are many beans in the fields yet. Some fields have been plowed under. Potatoes yielding 75 bu. per acre, of a fair quality.—A. A. H., Boon.

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(Signed) *Floyd Breckenridge, Oakland county, Mich.*

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**SAGINAW (Northwest)**—Past week has been rainy and bad for bean harvest. Potatoes are yielding good. Not many raised here for market. Wheat is looking fine. Many fields are not up yet.—M. S. G., Hemlock.

**MISSAUKEE (North Central)**—The weather continues cold and wet. Every one digging potatoes; help very scarce, wages from \$3 to \$4 per day. Farmers

are letting their beans stand to see if they will mature; prospects for 20 per cent of crop.—H. E. N., Cutcheon.

**MIDLAND (Southeast)**—Farmers are still sowing rye; some are fall plowing. Quite a number of the young men of Midland and vicinity have gone to the various training camps, and the older men will take their places. There are over a thousand men working at the Chemical plant here.—J. H. M., Hemlock.



# THE FARM HOME

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



ANNE CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

## This Week's Tested Recipe

### SWEET GRAPE JUICE

To one gallon of grapes add one quart of water and bring to boil, then strain. To one gallon juice add one pint of water and one pint of sugar. Seal while hot.

### "I Haven't Time."

THERE ARE many burdens added to the weary shoulders of the busy mother; sometimes almost more than she can bear. Small wonder that the little toddler is often greeted with an impatient, "Go away! I haven't time." And then the tiny one who creeps and pulls at her skirts to be taken up for a brief rest in those loving comfy arms! It is hard to resist him, but there isn't always time to love him, is there, mother? At least, you think there is not.

I used to think that too. My little one has a habit of creeping to me several times during the day, and climbing up on my knee for a kiss and a cuddle. I admit there weren't very many times that I repulsed him; but once or twice I "shooed" him away impatiently when I was deep in the mysteries of making jelly or some fancy dish for supper.

But that was before I stood and looked at the wax-like, angel face of my little niece who was snatched out of our arms before eight months had passed over her curly, flaxen head. She was ill such a pitifully short time; not a moment of warning was given us before she was gone.

I have time for my small son now, always. He will never come to his mother for sympathy, for comfort, for rest after his play, and find me wanting. I will answer his questions patiently, when he grows old enough to ask them. I will care for him tenderly, watch over him nightly, and never complain because of loss of sleep, or busy hours of care.

For always I see that beautiful baby face, so still and peaceful, that dear body so heart-breakingly little and cold, those brown eyes, closed forever, and they plead with me, and with you to be patient and loving and kind to my boy and every baby in this broad land.

### Rainy Days

AN OCCASIONAL rainy day is a decidedly "comfy" thing! Don't you agree with me?

A person feels, somehow, just like browsing around in the sewing room, doing some mending, or catching up with the children's clothes. Rainy days always make me feel like sewing or reading, both favorite occupations, by the way. It's fun to braid rugs on rainy days, or to tat, or crochet. There are always quilt blocks one can piece, or rags to sew for that new rag rug we've been planning. It seems to me that there are innumerable things to do on rainy days, aside from our regular housework.

For instance, there's that old black suit of yours. You could wear it this fall again, if you had some new collars and cuffs for it. A rainy day is just the day to sit down and make a set or two. White broadcloth or felt makes very pretty sets. These can be finished by simply cutting scallops around the edge, instead of hemming them. Very new collar and cuff sets are made of colored organdie, with three, four and five rows of white or cream val lace, of the very narrow variety. White with cream lace is also seen, but the colored ones are the most popular. The collars are generally cut circular, and the rows of lace are sewed around the edge. Narrow black ribbon with bead pendants at the ends, matching the color of the organdie, give a chic touch to these collars.

It's really not too early for the woman who is going to make Christmas presents, to start getting busy. Towels, with an edge of tatting, make pretty gifts. Tatting edges are used a great deal on dresser scarfs, too. It's sometimes hard for us country folks to figure out what to send to our city cousins for gifts of various kinds. I was entertained in the city this summer very extensively, and felt that I was obliged to make some return. As I love to tat, I conceived the idea of sending my cousin a luncheon set made with this dainty edging for the only trimming. It isn't done yet, and that's the way I'm spending my rainy afternoons. I'm making it of fine

white linen, the doilies in circular shape. The tatted edge is made of No. 50 crochet cotton. The inner loops extend in over the linen, where they are tacked in place. I know the whole set is going to be dainty and lacy. I think she'll like it, don't you?

### Hallowe'en Entertainments

NO ENTERTAINMENT is more enjoyed by young or old than a Hallowe'en party. This is an easy party to give, too, as the house can be trimmed with the colored leaves from the woods, and the cornhusks and pumpkins from the fields.

A friend of mine who is giving a Hallowe'en party this year is requesting all her guests to wear a sheet and a pillow case. She is going to make jack-o'-lanterns from pumpkins and squash, and over the door entering the house she will hang a skull and cross-bones. She gave this kind of a party last year, and has black and yellow cheese cloth left, with which she is going to construct a booth for the witch who will tell fortunes.

The fortune teller at the Hallowe'en party adds much to the gayety. She should be someone who

### Main Street on Saturday Night

YOU ought to see Main Street on Saturday night!

The folks are so happy; the lights are so bright;

The women in groups stand gossiping 'round,

Discussing the prices by gallon and pound.

The picture show's running, and hours take their flight

As if they were minutes, on Saturday night.

YOU ought to see Main Street on Saturday night!

The shops are wide open; the prices are right,

And every one's busy with trading and talk;

The girls all dressed pretty parade down the walk.

I do not believe there's a livelier sight Than Main Street in our town on Saturday night!

YOU ought to see Main Street on Saturday night!

When sometimes the Band Boys, with all of their might,

Play Dixie and songs we are crazy about, And we feel so blamed joyful we could stand up and shout!

And home songs somehow fill our hearts with delight

When played by our Town Band on Saturday night!

YOU ought to see Main Street on Saturday night!

I know that New York has no prettier sight,

For hearts couldn't beat half as true as those hearts

That beat in the bosoms of folks in these parts.

After all, it's the FOLKS, not the town, who make right

Most any old street on most any old night.

—Anne Campbell Stark

knows everyone present, and who is able to disguise herself so they will not recognize her. This will add to the mystery, as they will wonder where she got the power to tell them so much about themselves.

She is going to use black paper for her invitations, and write on them with white ink. The dining room will be in total darkness, except for the light given by the Jack-o'-lanterns, until she seats her guests.

On a little table by the dining room door will stand a large pumpkin, from which hang as many ribbons as there are guests. One end of the ribbon is attached to a small card in the pumpkin, which is decorated appropriately. On this card is a number. She intends to have a red ribbon for the girls and a yellow ribbon for the boys, with corresponding numbers. Each partner

## Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

### SPREAD THE MEAT FLAVOR

Spread the meat flavor and so economize on the amount of meat consumed, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Here is one way to utilize left-over meat by spreading its flavor:

### Meat and Bread-Crumb Cakes

To four parts of chopped or ground meat add one part soaked bread crumbs, a small quantity of chopped onion, and salt and pepper to taste. Mix and form into small round cakes. Brown the cakes in butter or other fat, turning them.

Raw ground meat may be used. If so, the pan should be covered so that greater heat will be applied.

draws a ribbon from the pumpkin and finds their partner by number.

We were talking about the party the other day, and wondering what would be a good idea to start the fun. My friend said she would like the fun to start the moment the guests stepped in the door. I told her about a party I attended once, where, as we stepped in we were greeted by some one dressed as a ghost. This scary looking person extended his hand which was covered with wet salt. You can imagine the sensation it gave one to feel that clammy handclasp!

We compiled a list of games to play at the Hallowe'en party, and because I am sure they will be appreciated by you folks, too, I am passing them on.

### BLIND APPLE SEEKERS

This is a game which does well to start the evening. Blindfold several guests. Then hide nuts or apples in various parts of the room or house. A small prize can be given to the person finding the most nuts or apples.

### THE BARREL HOOP GAME

Suspending horizontally from the ceiling a barrel hoop on which is fastened apples, cookies, candle ends and candies. Guests gather around the hoop, and as the hoop turns around each in turn tries to bite one of the good things to eat; the person who bites the candle pays a forfeit.

### APPLE GAME

When we were children we greatly enjoyed the apple game, with which no doubt you are all familiar. Suspend apples by means of strings in the doorway or from the ceiling, to be caught between the teeth. The first successful player can be given a prize. Pin cushions of silk, representing tomatoes, or apples, or pen-wipers representing cats, witches, etc., make good Hallowe'en prizes.

### JUMPING LIGHTED CANDLE

In the middle of the floor place a lighted candle, not too securely. Have each guest jump over it. Those who clear the candle will have a happy year; those who knock it over will have a year of trouble.

### HIDING GAME

Hide a ring, penny and thimble somewhere in the room. The one who finds the ring will be married soon; the thimble denotes a life of single blessedness; the penny is a sign of wealth.

### DUCKING FOR APPLES

This is another old game, which is always enjoyed. Into one tub half filled with water, place apples, to the stems of which tie slips of paper containing the names of boys present at the party. Across the room have another tub, in which the names of girls are placed. Tie the guests' hands behind them and have them endeavor to pick the apples out of the water with their teeth. The name upon the slip denotes the future life partner.

## This Week's Menu for the School Lunch Box

MONDAY—Sandwiches from the Sunday roast; sweet pickles, one tomato, two cookies and a baked apple.

TUESDAY—Corn bread and jelly; hard boiled eggs, nuts and raisins, celery.

WEDNESDAY—Cottage cheese, plain or mixed with pimentos or nuts, made into sandwiches, graham crackers, and an orange.

THURSDAY—Baked beans, sandwiches made of pork sliced thin, pickles, stewed apples and cake.

FRIDAY—Salmon sandwiches, or chopped eggs, mixed with grated cheese, butter and vinegar, on rye or brown bread, pear and gingerbread.



One day last week the John Smalley threshing outfit ran through for John Pinkham 1,692 bushels of oats as the product of 28 acres of land.—*Orion Review*.

The Carsonville Creamery was compelled to close up its business last week as its owners Archie and Fred Thompson, are both 'drafted'.—*Mayville Monitor*.

The Ohio Dairy Company announces that it will pay \$3.20 for October milk. This is the highest price ever paid by the company, the price one year ago being \$2 and the highest previous price being \$2.75 for September of this year. It is understood that all

This office acknowledges receipt of a dish of strawberries from Mrs. Jas. Cowman, picked out of her garden in this city Sept. 29. The berries were luscious and show that they ripen here until late in the year, as she had many more like them.—*Manistiquie Pioneer-Tribune*.

A company of Charlotte men have joined hands and formed a company with \$5,000 capital, in the growing of ginseng and other medicinal herbs. They have acquired about four acres of land for the purpose south of the Charlotte Manufacturing Company's plant.—*Charlotte Leader*.

Representatives of the Hires Condensed Milk Co. are at Akron canvassing the farmers of that community with the object of establishing a cash station in Akron for the purchase of milk if sufficient farmers can be interested. In the event of establishing the Akron milk station, the milk secured at that point will be hauled by trucks to the Hires plant at Cass City.

Northern Michigan's apple crop is a failure this year says a dispatch from Traverse City. Buyers say the crop is only 20 per cent normal. The heavy snow storms late in the spring are responsible. The short crop will mean high prices. Apples are being harvested now. Plums and peaches were unaffected by the storms and the crop will be normal. Early varieties are being marketed now.

Mr. A. H. Chipman of DeGroff St., has made a discovery that will mean the saving of many dollars to people at times when the price of seed potatoes is high, the same as last spring. On June 9th Mr. Chipman planted potato sprouts in several hills, and this week he is exhibiting some very fine large potatoes that he dug from these same hills. Mr. Chipman says he has not dug his potatoes yet, where he planted the seed potatoes, but if they yield as well as did his potato sprouts he will be perfectly satisfied.—*Grand Ledge Times*.

County Agent Bentall says that nearly or quite 3,000 acres of Red Rock wheat have been sown in Allegan county this fall. About 8,500 bushels of this wheat were produced here this year, of which 4,500 were retained for seed. The returns from this were \$12,000 above what could have been obtained from the same quantity of any other sort of wheat. The crop of 1917 gave to its growers about \$29,000 for it sold at \$3.50 per bushel. The extra profit from this wheat amounts to three times all the money Allegan county has put into its farm bureau.—*Allegan Gazette*.

At a meeting of the Patriotic League a scheme was put on foot to take better care of the crops that are still out. Many farmers are unable to secure help when they need it and there are often many men who are idle for a day or half day. This help should all be conserved for the securing of the crops—men who go out for a day's work, business men who are willing to help and older high school boys. The secretary, J. L. Cathcart, will keep a list of names of those willing to work, and arrange with farmers for the number of men they may want. At present farmers are paying \$2.00 per day and board for men who understand the work.—*Cass City Chronicle*.

An egg market is a new industry at Lawrence.

The Barry county board of supervisors has before it the proposition of engaging a farm agent. The farmers of that county have asked the board to look into the matter.

Ezra Taylor brings in 10 pounds of potatoes for the Jeffersonian exhibit. There are but six potatoes in the ten pounds and all are mighty fine specimens.—*Croswell Jeffersonian*.

The Wolf kraut factory at Lawton is now in full operation with cabbage shipments covering points 40 miles distant. The enterprise is considered a good addition to the town.—*Portland Observer*.

Robert Wright raised 100 bushels of mangle wurtzels on 14 rows nine rods long this season. Some beets. Mr. Wright says he did not sow his wurtzels seed as thick as usual.—*Memphis Bee*.

N. Estelle picked 100 quarts of strawberries on his farm in West Olive last week and they found a ready sale at fancy prices. The fruit was picked from plants set out last spring.—*Holland Sentinel*.

A Cass City banker of 31 years acquaintance with the territory surrounding that thriving little village, predicts that the establishment of the condensary there would enhance land values from ten to twenty dollars an acre.—*Almont Herald*.

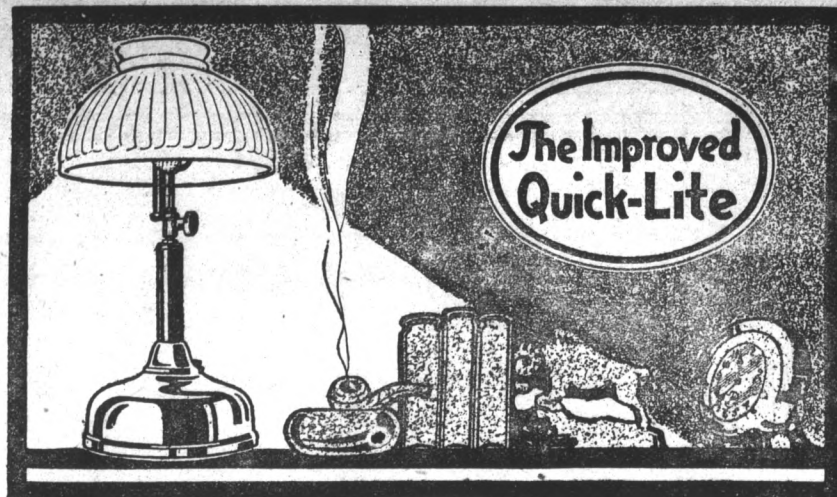
A goodly number of farmers gathered at the office of the Co-operative Elevator Co. recently to consider the advisability of sending for feeding cattle to be distributed among the farmers. After due consideration it was concluded that the farmers could handle from two to four carloads.—*Laingsburg News*.

The Helvetia Milk Condensing Co., which has a branch in Wayland, announced a record price for milk. The October schedule calls for payment of \$3.20 per hundred weight of milk testing 3.5 per cent butterfat. A bonus will be paid for milk testing more than that. This is the highest price ever paid for milk in this section.—*The Laingsburg News*.

The wandering dogs got in their work ten days ago on the farm of Clinton Nelson in Home township, where they killed 26 sheep. The dog tax in Home is hardly enough to pay for such a slaughter, and therefore the taxpayers will be called upon to make up the deficit. We want to ask now if our friends remember what John Taylor said about wandering dogs and the farmers' sheep.—*Greenville Independent*.

A few years ago L. W. Lovewell would pay the farmers of this section about \$500 for a carload of hogs. On Tuesday he shipped 27 hogs in mixed corral of stock, and had paid our farmers \$884 for the 27. In this bunch was one raised by Master Ford Jones, of East Lyon, that weighed 240 pounds and for which he paid \$43.20. Eight brought in by Alfred Travis, brought \$806 and eleven brought in by Mr. Naylor of Worden brought \$340.—*South Lyon Herald*.

F. G. Cleveland, one of the good farmers of Arlington, always keeps a small flock of sheep and considers them one of the best money-makers on the place. This year he started with 24 including one ram and three young ewes, which left him only 20 breeding ewes. His clip sold for \$173 and from the 20 producing ewes he sold 31 lambs that brought him \$438, making a total of \$611 off his flock, and he has his original flock left. He would like to hear from someone who can beat this record, but he says that what makes him maddest is to think of the time and trouble he has been to this summer feeding a bunch of hogs that will not net him near as much, while all he had to do was to salt the sheep once a week while they were in pasture.—*Bangor Advance*.



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## RAILROAD PROFITS ARE STILL INCREASING

Further increases in net revenue from railway operations throughout the country have been reported to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Returns from 180 of the chief roads covering July operations and made public this week, show net revenues of \$106,337,406, as compared with \$101,170,216 in July, 1916. Operating revenues increased nearly \$44,000,000, totaling \$333,407,171, while expenses increased about \$41,000,000, reaching a total of \$227,069,765.

Eastern roads ran slightly behind last year's July record in net revenues with a total of \$43,928,112, although operating revenues increased about \$18,000,000. Diminution of net revenues was due to the increased cost of supplies and labor, another item of operating expenses.

Southern roads recorded an increase of about \$2,000,000 in net revenues, with a total of \$14,242,106. Operating revenues of these roads increased nearly \$10,000,000, totaling \$49,441,608, or more than 25 per cent within the year.

Western roads showed increased operating revenues of about \$16,000,000, totaling \$136,289,902, and increased net revenues of about \$2,500,000.

Operating revenues and expenses for the seven months ending with July are the highest ever recorded, being \$2,144,454,367 and \$1,516,154,584 respectively, leaving net revenues for this period of \$628,299,783.

## THE FOOD SITUATION IN FRANCE

(Continued from page 12)

Brittany, telling of the privations they were enduring because their bread was cut down so much. Remember that bread is the chief article of diet among those people.

FRANCE SUFFERS IN SILENCE. Do not think they complained. There is no finer souled, stronger or greater people in the world than the French peasants. They are heroes among a nation of heroes. No trial that justice and right could demand could wring a complaint from Josephine Herve, one of the grandest women among a grand race. That simple peasant woman can neither read nor write, but without a word of bitterness she gave her husband to her country, and she is schooling her five sons and raising

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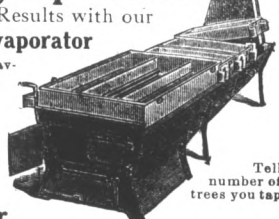
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them for her country. The oldest goes to the army with the next class that is called out. When little Charlot, next to the youngest of her boys, writes for her and tells what they are enduring, there is no complaint, no bitterness. It is a simple statement of facts in plain and homely language, the story of a peasant cottage told to the child she nursed and loved.

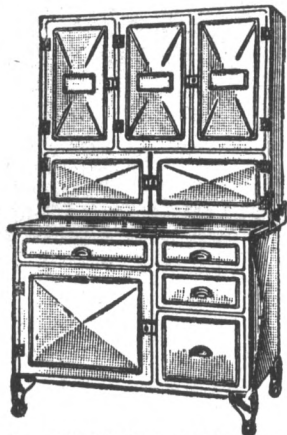
And one cannot help her. One can send her money, but it is not money she needs but bread.

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