



MICHIGAN



BUSINESS FARMING

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BEAN SITUATION CLOUDED BY NEW GOVERNMENT PRICE OF \$7.00

**Fixing of \$6.90 per Bushel on Own
Bean Purchases by Govern-
ment Sets Both-Growers
and Dealers to
Guessing**

A new angle has been added to the already many-sided bean situation by the Food Administration's most recent action in setting a price of \$6.90 on its own purchases of Michigan hand-picked beans. The first direct information that we received of this action was in an interview with W. J. Orr last Friday evening, who had just been notified of the reduction in prices. A transcript of the official notification was contained in Monday's Free Press, as follows:

"The following prices will apply to dry beans for the army placed during the period, October 5 to November 15, f.o.b. San Francisco, Cal., common pinto, California choice white beans, small, per lb., 11 cents; medium, 11 cents; red, pink, Bayo, 8 1-8; Lima, 11 1-2; kidney, 10 3-4, f. o. b.; Colorado, New Mexican pinto, 7 3-4; Michigan choice hand-picked white, 11 1-2 f. o. b.; New York state, New York choice hand picked white, 11 5-8. Beans must meet requirements of army specifications on a single bag basis. On double bags one-eighth of a cent per pound advance over the preceding prices will be allowed."

In view of the fact that the Government originally set the bean price at \$7.25 and later raised it to \$8, there is need of some careful explaining from somebody of this sudden and unwarranted drop.

That another attempt has been made to "bear" the bean market by elevator interests who have sold themselves short on earlier anticipations of higher government prices; there can now be no doubt. It does not appear, as yet, who are the responsible parties, but we are warned under recent date by one of the biggest bean buyers of the state that a wide-spread movement exists and that the action of the government is a result of false and distorted statements that have been placed before the Food Administration. This authority states that certain elevator men have written Washington that growers north of Grand Rapids are glad to sell their beans for \$7 a bushel and that many are being purchased at that figure.

In addition to the influence that is being brought to bear upon the government to reduce its bean price, similar efforts are being made thru the press of the bean growing states to keep the price down and frighten the farmers into selling. Below is a sample of the "bearish" stories which are going the rounds of the country press in this state:

"The present price of Michigan beans is likely to remove this state as leader in supplying the army and navy with this product. According to government reports Michigan beans at \$8.00 per bushel will be rather unpopular in the world market while Colorado pinto beans and the big California crop is offered at only \$6."

"This means," says W. J. Orr, president of the Michigan Bean Jobbers' Association of Saginaw, "that the army and navy allotment of beans will be bought in those states because of the price. They ought to be bought in Michigan. I am afraid the farmers of this state have made a mistake and Michigan is in danger of losing its position as a bean state."

"Canners are taboos the Michigan variety as many of them at the convention held in Saginaw recently immediately on hearing the Michigan price cabled to the orient for foreign beans which they would have bought in this state if the price had been right."

"An enormous increase in production of beans over last year, is shown in an estimate announced last Saturday by the department of agriculture at Washington."

"Almost double the quantity of beans is forecast, with a total of 15,814,000 bushels in the five principal growing states—New York, Michigan, Colorado, New Mexico and California. California leads with 9,728,000 bushels; Michigan is second with 4,006,000 bushels."

Mr. Orr emphatically denies the authorship of these stories. He points to the fact that "as a result of his visit to Washington, the price was raised from \$7.35 to \$8 per bushel for future purchases," and he appears very much disturbed over the government's latest action.

Be that as it may, someone is making mighty free use of Mr. Orr's name to "bear" the bean market, and it would seem that those who are daily being misled are entitled to an explanation of the source of these reports. They come so frequently now and are so patently intended to accom-

lish a very definite purpose that they must emanate from a well-organized source, of which it would seem that Mr. Orr and other high bean authorities should have some knowledge.

Thus far the announcement of the government has not affected the bean market a great deal. The price dropped 50 cents a bushel on the Detroit market the day following the story in the Free Press, but today they are being quoted at \$8.25 and in good demand. In spite of the fact that the government has the authority to commandeer beans in any elevator for its own uses, at its own price, dealers are out in the competitive market offering from \$1 to \$1.25 a bushel above the government price. Whether or not dealers will care to take this long chance on future purchases remains to be seen.

So many conflicting reports have been circulated on the bean situation that our bean producing readers are floundering about like a ship without a rudder. They don't know which way to steer. Let us just suggest, friends, that you don't steer at all; drop anchor and wait a few weeks until the storm has passed and the skies are cleared. In other words, hang on to your beans and don't worry.

We have put this thing squarely up to Mr. Hoover, and we have a feeling that the Food Administration will not want to go on record as forcing the farmers of Michigan to sell their beans at a loss, for that is exactly what \$7 beans means to Michigan producers. As shown by the accompanying telegram we are willing and anxious to have the food administration send a representative to this state and make a thoro investigation of the situation. If this is done and the investigator is left free and unhindered to render a decision upon the exact facts, we need have no fear of the outcome. As we have stated before, the growers ask nothing unreasonable; the profits they would make on \$8 beans will be very small this year. Let Mr. Hoover do the square thing, send his representative to Michigan, and the bean growers will abide by the result.

CROP YIELDS DISAPPOINTING

**Many Potatoes Still in Ground
and Beans Lying Out in
the Fields Unharvested
Resulting in Huge
Loss**

Letters from our county crop reporters are the most discouraging we have received in a long time and indicate a condition thruout the entire state which is bound to cause the farmers huge loss and very materially affect the total yield.

Especially is this true of beans and potatoes. October has been the poorest harvesting month in years, rain or snow have fallen twenty to twenty-five days out of the month, in most sections of the state. Help has been scarce with labor prices ranging from \$3 to \$5 per day. It has seemed almost impossible to make any headway this month on the harvesting of crops and as a result thousands of acres of potatoes are still undug and many acres of beans remain unharvested.

In the northern sections of the state the ground has frozen to a depth of two inches, ruining many potatoes. One upper peninsula farmer, it is stated, had 20,000 bushels of potatoes in the ground at the time of the freeze and they are now a total loss and will not be dug. In more southernly sections the damage to potatoes has not been great, but the damage to beans by the frost and wet weather will run into many thousands of dollars.

As is always the case, thousands of farmers have banked their all this year upon their bean and potato crops, and the yield in many instances has been so poor that not even the highest prices within the range of possibility will enable them to make a profit. Under these circumstances many farmers are obliged to hold to their crops, trusting that the price may go high enough to save them from loss. If the government expects the farmers to respond to its pleas another year it should at once help them solve the present year's problem.

We wish to say again to our readers that there is no over-production of crops this year. The huge potato forecast put out by the government will tumble many millions of bushels when the crop is dug, and the same is true of beans. It is doubtful now if Michigan's potato crop will run over 20,000,000 bushels or her bean crop over 3,000,000. Good common sense tells us in view of these facts that prices will range high thruout the entire winter. Don't speculate on your crops, farmer friends. When the prices reach a point which will insure you a reasonable profit, sell at least a part of your crop. Many city people will suffer this year from the high cost of coal and foodstuffs, and let it not be said that the farmers of Michigan are profiteers to make them suffer more. You hold the powers to drive prices to the skies, but do not abuse it.

Farmers, Don't Sell Your Beans Till We Get a Reply to This Telegram

HERBERT C. HOOVER, FOOD DICTATOR,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN JUSTICE TO MICHIGAN FARMERS GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVESTIGATE BEAN SITUATION. PRICE SET DOES NOT COVER COST OF PRODUCTION. SEND REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH BEAN BUYING OR GROWING AND WE'LL PAY EXPENSES UP TO \$200. OUR FARMERS ONLY ASK SQUARE DEAL. GET PROPOSITION OUT OF SPECULATORS' HANDS AND YOU'LL FIND FARMERS WILLING TO AID YOU. WILL YOU ACCEPT OFFER AND MAKE INVESTIGATION?

(SIGNED)

GRANT SLOCUM.

Show this copy to a Neighbor—and let him clip the coupon from page 4—that's the biggest boost you can give M. B. F.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

MILK MEETING AT DETROIT

Producers of Detroit Area Will
Meet at Chamber of Commerce
at 10:30, Nov. 5, to Discuss
Establishment of Cheese
Factories

Attention, Milk Producers of the
Detroit area:

The greatest contest yet lies just ahead of you. Never was there so much need of making our organization solid as now. We must close up the ranks. Thousands of dollars of your money and thousands of hours of your time depend upon the action you take now. It seems necessary to provide cheese factories to care for the milk now going into Detroit, provided there can not be a satisfactory settlement of the price question at the end of this year. There should be twenty of these factories situated in strategic points so that each one may be easily available. These factories can be run as long as it seems necessary to divert the milk from the city. One week would solve the problem without the waste of any milk. We must remember that we cannot waste food products now. Now let's get into the game in earnest. We have only been playing at it so far.

Some men have thought that when they put 50c into a co-operative proposition that they were really doing something to count in the accomplishment of a great objective. When you only have a 50c vision of a billion dollar business your vision is mighty limited. Why can we not get the ear of the city press that goes to the consuming public? Simply because the advertising patronage to these papers is entirely with the buyers of the dairy product. The agricultural press of the state have given thousands of dollars worth of space to the Michigan milk producers. They have given this space to you that would have brought them much money advertising for other business interests. We owe a debt of gratitude to these men. Let us do as other business men do and advertise our own business. If we would just get a different vision of our opportunity, we could multiply the consumption of dairy products. The automobile manufacturers put 5 per cent of the total sales of their business into the advertising. When one of the cars sell for one thousand dollars, fifty dollars of this is taken to set before the world knowledge of the value of the machines. This is put into the advertising fund to sell a thing that most people do not need.

The Detroit milk distributors have just made a fund of \$13,000 to advertise milk in Detroit; to sell your product. What are you putting in to acquaint people with a knowledge of the value of this most vital food product? We should have a more energetic campaign than ever to begin now. We should get into the press of the city with our advertising. Every dollar used in advertising will bring back a hundred-fold in increased price and demand. We believe that the milk producers should pay for the support of their state organization at least one-half cent per hundred pounds for the milk sold. This is an insignificant sum. At the present price of milk to the condensaries this would be one-half cent on every three dollars or one-sixth hundredth of your milk price. For every one dollar that you put into this, your campaign, the automobile manufacturers would put in thirty dollars. They get rich in

their business, while the milk production business, on a commercial basis, is and always has been a failure. You can change it if you will and you will be benefited all the time from start to finish. It is up to you. What will you do? Don't condemn the distributors or the consumers for what you can change yourself.

It is estimated by men of broad financial vision that the work and influence of the Michigan Milk Producers Association has increased the income of the milk producers of Michigan more than two million dollars a year. Just recently we found a place where they had no organization; where they knew nothing about the effort that was being made to help them; where they were selling milk for \$1.25 per hundred pounds.

You have done well for one year, now let's get into the game for a more determined effort along the line. Your association stands to assist in all possible ways. Let us still wave before the world our banner with our slogan, Education, Legislation, Co-operation; our policy, Construction, not Destruction; our aim, A price for our product that equals the cost of production.

We expect some of the best thinkers of Michigan at the Detroit area meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, city of Detroit, Nov. 5th. BE SURE TO BE THERE. Command us for your assistance.—R. C. Reed, Field Secretary, Howell, Mich.

STATE BRIEFS

Cadillac—The city schools may be closed in order to allow the pupils to gather potatoes. Laborers are being offered \$5 a day and board for work in the fields.

Calumet—The Adventure Mining Co. today suspended operations because of the low selling price of copper, set by the government. Officers of the company say the mine cannot operate

LIVINGSTON (Northwest)—Farmers are selling some oats, wheat and potatoes. No hay moving at present. Farmers are buying Liberty bonds quite freely. The consignment sale of Holsteins held at Howell Thursday was well attended and the bidding was lively.—G. A. W., Fowlerville.

MIDLAND (Southeast)—Weather is very unfavorable at present. Potatoes are all dug now and they are of a good quality and a fair yield. About half of the beans are out in the fields yet and are quite badly damaged by the rain.—A. B., Midland.

OTSEGO (West Central)—Most of the farmers have their potatoes out of the ground. A hard freeze recently damaged potatoes that were on the ground to some extent.—C. A., Gaylord.

BAY (East)—Farmers are ditching, plowing and some are trying real hard to harvest beans. Frequent rains have damaged the beans very much. A number of farmers are harvesting their beets. Hogs have dropped in value on the local market. Farmers are still too busy with fall work to sell much grain. Farm help is very scarce.—J. E. McK., Pinconning.

LIVINGSTON (Northeast)—Weather conditions could not have been worse than they have been for the past week. There are acres of beans that have not been harvested yet. It will be impossible to get in all of the fall crops that the farmers intended to. Potato digging has not been finished yet and there is a great amount of corn yet to harvest. Farmers who sprayed their orchards are finding a ready market for their apples at about \$2 per bu.—F. H., Linden.

HURON (Northwest)—Frequent rains have delayed bean harvest. One-third of the beans grown are yet in the fields, part in bunches and some not even pulled yet.—A. F. C., Pigeon.

MISSAUKEE (North Central)—The farmers are trying to harvest their potatoes and beans, but find it slow on account of the rain. Some are selling potatoes.—H. E. N., Cutcheon.

ST. JOSEPH (North Central)—We have had four weeks of bad weather. About a third of the beans are pulled and no weather to cure them. They are a poor crop and will not average 5 bushels to the acre; 50 per cent of the potatoes are still to be dug and the ground is so wet that it is impossible to use a digger. They are not an average crop in this section. Some farm auctions and

profitably at 23.5 cents a pound for the metal, with its present output. Other small companies may be forced to take similar action.

Almont—Two large barns on the John Thompson farm, four miles north of here, were lost in a fire believed to have been started by an incendiary. The barns, one 120 feet and the other 80 feet long, were filled with this year's hay and grain. The fire was set at the south end and a southwest wind fanned the flames. The loss is placed at \$10,000, partially insured.

Bangor—That men should help conserve grain by observing a beerless day each Wednesday while their families keep wheatless day and conserve tobacco for the soldiers by going smokeless each Tuesday, while their families abstain from eating meat, was urged in a resolution adopted by the fourth district Michigan W. C. T. U. convention here.

Bay City—The Columbia Sugar Co. plant here began operations Oct. 26. It will turn out between 400,000 and 500,000 pounds of sugar per day during the campaign which at this factory will be from 80 to 90 days. The West Bay City Sugar Co. plant and the local plant of the Michigan Sugar Co. will begin their campaign next week and when the three are in operation over a million and a quarter pounds of sugar per day will be manufactured here.

I see in your last M. B. F. that Frank Hopkins of Wise township received \$1,719 for beans from 18 acres. Mr. Frank Hopkins lives in Warren township, Midland county, so you see that I want my township to have all the praise that it deserves.—G. E., Midland county, R. F. D. No. 3.

I am enclosing two names with pledges for the M. B. F. I have received five or six copies and like the paper fine. I could send more names if I wasn't rushed so with fall work. In regards to the farmers holding back their wheat a number of those that raised good wheat last year have sold all or nearly all for seed, therefore there is very little to market in this section.—N. E., Dansville, Mich.

everything in the feed line selling at record prices, corn in the shock (8x8 hills square) selling as high as 72c per shock, and poor corn at that. Farmers are buying Liberty bonds freely despite the fact that we are branded as "slackers." Quite an acreage of wheat sown but there are many farmers who want to sow Rosen rye if the weather will permit, but at present all farm work is at a standstill.—H. A. H., Mendon.

NEWAYGO (Northeast)—Bad fall for saving crops. Beans still in the fields on some farms. Potatoes moving to market fast to meet summer expenses or to pay hired help; prices going down. The farmers are marketing light hogs this fall owing to the scarcity of corn.—F. S., Big Rapids.

ANTRIM (Southwest)—The weather is cold and rainy here most of the time, although we had a few days of nice weather the first of the week. Fully a half of the beans are in the field and are frozen so badly that they will not be of any account. About half of the potatoes are yet in the ground, and I believe that fully half of them are frozen.—C. W. O., Kewadin.

MIDLAND (Northwest)—Farmers in general are very busy getting in their beets. It has been very wet, too much rain to get much work done. There are a number of fields of beans out yet. A great number of farmers are selling potatoes. Several carloads were shipped from here the past week.—F. A. L., Coleman.

HURON (West Central)—A large part of the beans are still in the field; too wet to get them in. Some farmers are hanging them on rail fences to dry them. Fall plowing has started here. Wheat is not doing very well, the weather is too cold and wet. Farmers are buying Liberty bonds.—G. W., Elkton.

INGHAM (West Central)—Very bad weather for gathering crops. Farmers are busy turning over their beans in the fields; many are not yet pulled. Much of the corn will not be cut. Rye seeding about finished. Stock doing well; the pasture is good.—C. I. M., Mason.

WEXFORD (Central)—Farmers are still digging potatoes and gathering root crops. Buyers complain of frosted potatoes; the yield is only 50 bu. per acre on my place with good strong vines. The wheat small and most of the rye not up yet. Some beans in the field yet. The farmers are selling potatoes too freely.—A. A. H., Boon.

INVESTIGATE BEET DEAL

Gratiot County Subscriber Believes Time is Ripe for Beet Growers to Ask Government to Insure them Fair Prices

I take considerable interest in your paper and am putting up a proposition to you that I would like brought before the public about as follows:

It is now reported to us beet growers that we are to receive somewhere from \$8.10 to \$8.25 for our beets this year when we should be getting \$12.00 to \$15 in comparison with prices of other commodities. We are getting from \$2.00 to \$2.25 per bushel for wheat, \$8.00 to \$8.25 for beans and expect to get from \$1.00 to \$1.50 for corn and \$1.00 to \$1.25 for potatoes.

How many of us good farmers are going to raise sugar beets next year under such conditions when the raising of sugar beets costs at least \$30 more per acre than a crop of beans and all other commodities in the same proportion?

It is already stated that after January or February 1 there will be a new schedule and prices will advance no doubt, after the beets are all in and we farmers have received our pay for them at \$8.10 or \$8.25 as stated above, and the beet sugar is all marketed.

Now it looks to me, brother farmers, as though there has been one of the finest jobs put up on the beet sugar growers of Michigan that ever was perpetrated. It is claimed that there is the largest shortage of sugar that there ever was in the world and the Government has made a price for the refiners of the east who are monopolizing the cane sugar of the world. Then after this raw cane sugar comes in in January and February this new schedule will take place and no doubt the price will advance to the consumer from 12c to 15c per pound. It looks very queer to me that even now at the present time beet sugar has been retailing from 10c to 11c in New York City and according to this price the wholesale price should be 9c at least.

It's about time we took this matter into our own hands the same as the Louisiana and Southern growers of cane sugar are doing and put this up to the Government in its right light and get what our beets are worth this season instead of taking the paltry sum above stated? Now who is going to raise beets next year for the factories of Michigan? Our food commissioner is urging all the beets raised that can possibly be for next year's supply. Before we enter into anything of this kind we are going to know more about this proposition and what we are going to get for our beets this coming year and fight for our rights the same as the southern growers are at the present time. Isn't it about time the farmers took a hand in the price of sugar and put in their year's supply?

I take much interest and pride in your MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING paper and wish you success and will give you all the aid possible.—A. Gratiot County Farmer and Subscriber.

Attention, Readers

You will confer a favor upon us if you will write and tell us what time of the week you receive your M. B. F. We plan to have this paper in your hands every Saturday morning, but reports from some of our readers indicate that it is not received till Monday morning. If this condition is general we want to know and locate the trouble.

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON, D. C.—In the prosecution of the great war, the United States has been spending \$30,000 every minute, day and night, or 42,600,000 daily during the month of October, according to a statement issued by the treasury department. The total, which includes loans to the allies, probably will exceed \$1,000,000,000.

Official treasury reports show that for 23 working days thus far the average daily expenditure has been \$42,600,000.

The increase in the daily expenditure is greater at the present time than it was a month ago, and is steadily growing. It is thought that it will continue to grow. A \$2,000,000,000 month, officials assert, is not far off. It may be reached, with the retirement of short-time treasury certificates—to be met out of Liberty bond receipts—by mid-winter.

Expenditures for the fiscal year thus far have reached the total of \$3,446,659,764, of which \$1,770,700,000, more than half, is represented by loans to the allies. These loans and the interest upon them are to be repaid to the government by the borrowers and, therefore, do not represent actual expense to the American people.

The total expenditures of the current fiscal year to date, \$3,446,659,764, compares with \$331,238,313 during the same period last year, an increase of more than 900 per cent.

Because of the large issues of short-time certificates of indebtedness this month, the government's receipts have been greater than its expenditures, and total \$1,060,064,807. This is almost 20 times the amount, \$54,651,308, received during the corresponding period last year.

The increased postage rates, provided for in the revenue bill recently passed have become effective. A copy of them is given below. It would be well for every farmer to clip this out and put in his writing desk for future reference. Just remember that on and after November 2nd, you must attach three cents postage to a letter and two cents to a postcard:

FIRST CLASS.—Letter mail, to all points in the United States and its possessions, 3c each ounce or fraction thereof, except letter mail for delivery at point of entry.

FIRST CLASS.—Letter mail to Canada, Mexico, Panama, Cuba, Bahamas, British Guiana, British Honduras, Dominican Republic, Dutch West Indies, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Leeward Islands, Newfoundland and New Zealand, 3c each ounce or fraction thereof.

FIRST CLASS CARDS.—Government postal cards, and postcards containing writing; 2c each, regardless of address.

SECOND-CLASS.—No change. Complete copies of newspapers and magazines to all points in the United States and its possessions, and the United Expeditionary Forces; 3c for each four ounces or fraction thereof. Less than a complete copy, 1c for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

THIRD-CLASS.—Printed matter, circular letters, printed cards, etc. No change. 1c for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

FOURTH-CLASS.—Parcel post, etc. No change.

SHORT PAID POSTAGE.—First-Class letter mail and cards not fully prepaid at the new rates, will be rated and returned for postage to the sender, if the sender's name appears; otherwise they will be rated and held at this Post Office and a card sent to the addressee requesting the necessary additional postage, except that if one full rate is paid, (3c on letters, 2c on cards) the mail will be dispatched and the deficient postage collected at the point of delivery.

The Second Liberty Loan campaign wound up in a blaze of victory, and while even now, a week after the campaign closed, the officials are unable to announce the exact results, they are confident that it was oversubscribed. Up to within less than a week of the date marked for the close of the subscriptions, the proceeds lagged and it looked as if the loan would be a dismal failure. But the people responded nobly and loyally the last few days.

Be it said to the credit of the farmers of the nation that their avalanche of subscriptions was one of the things that turned the trick and rescued the loan from the brink of failure.

The capitol city went "dry" Nov. 1. Judge Ashley Gould in the district supreme court denied the injunction sought by six saloonkeepers to prevent the district commissioners from putting the Shepard law in effect Nov. 1 on the ground the law is unconstitutional. Slowly, very slowly, booze makes its exit. Before the war closes, many prophecy that the door will be closed upon him altogether.

FARMERS WOULD INJURE CAUSE

By Offering to Supply Milk to South Bend Consumers During Strike of Local Producers Establish Bad Precedent

According to the South Bend, Indiana, newspapers, milk producers of lower Michigan have agreed to supply that city with milk in case the local producers precipitate a milk strike as a result of the present differences between them and the health authorities of the city.

It is claimed that the producers of St. Joseph county in the neighboring state refuse to comply with the health ordinances of the city and as a result the health authorities have threatened to disbar them from selling milk in the city.

We do not know the exact facts of the Indiana situation, but we do know that there is a lot of red tape and needless restrictions to most of the milk ordinances in existence. We know, furthermore, that distributing companies persistently violate the provisions of these ordinances, and in most cases get by with it. Most of the milk ordinances place a heavy burden upon the producers and now that the cost of production has become so great, it is certain that many of those who are forced to comply

with the regulations are losing money by reason of them. We hold no brief for farmers who do not use ordinary care in the handling of their milk. Filthy stables, filthy animals and unclean utensils should by all means be tabooed, but ninety per cent of the farmers of our acquaintance are careful in these respects and require no ordinance to compel them to produce clean milk. A frequent and careful examination of the premises of producers supplying cities with milk, by one competent judge, constitutes, in our opinion a reasonable safeguard against diseased milk.

We are amazed and most of our milk producing friends will be amazed to learn that there are farmers who stand ready to interfere in the South Bend situation and hinder the farmers from reaching a satisfactory arrangement with the city authorities. Surely there is a big enough market in Michigan for Michigan milk. Let our Indiana friends alone; they're not unreasonable; they probably know more about their rights and their grievances than we.

THINKS PLAN OF TWO BEAN GRADES GOOD ONE

In reply to yours of 28th in regard to President Cook's method, or idea, of two grades of beans I think it would be a noble plan, for I can say for the township of Clayton two-thirds of the beans have been over-touched with the frost and they are damaged from a third to two-thirds, and some of them won't be pulled at all. Now there are half of the beans in this township yet in the fields and it is raining every other day. This is going to cause a lot of beans to color, and I think it would be a good idea this fall to have two grades of beans. If we don't the elevator man gets them for nothing and then he sells them to the canning factory, and it makes a nice price for him, but nothing for the man who grew them, and he paid the elevator man last spring \$10 a bushel for them. This is my idea of it.—John Stanley, Sterling, Mich., R.F.D. No. 1.

I have just been reading the last issue of M. B. F. Say, there is some hot stuff. Give us some more of the same brand; keep right on up the road, the farmer and laboring man are on the trail. I have some friends up north I would like to send that paper to if you have any of last week's issues left please send them to me and oblige—W. R. B., Durand.



Drawn for THE MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING BY P. G. WILSON

DON'T

WAR WIRES

Rio Janeiro.—The chamber of deputies, by an almost unanimous vote, has declared that a state of war exists between Brazil and Germany. The vote stood 149 to 1. The Senate unanimously approved the proclamation. Torpedo boats were at once ordered to proceed to Bahia and take over the German gunboat Eber, which has been lying there for some time.

Waco, Texas.—On Oct. 26, 600 boys from Camp Custer entered camp here. The boys were met at the depot by the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Michigan band and a group of officers. Most of the selective soldiers came from the upper peninsula of Michigan. One of the requests made by most of the men was to be shown the trench layouts and dugouts used in the training here.

Petrograd.—The Germans are continuing their retreat along the northern Russian front. Russian forces pursuing them have reached the Riga Orel railway without coming in sight of the enemy. The Germans have made an attempt to land reinforcements for the detachment on the Estonian coast, but without success. They were driven back with heavy losses.

Rome.—The Italian forces have been compelled to give some ground before the combined attacks of the German and Austrian armies operating on the Isonzo front. German forces have been concentrated in huge numbers along this front, evidently being compelled to some to the assistance of the hard pressed Austrian forces to prevent a general retreat and great loss of ground to Italy.

Paris.—From the heights of the Aisne the forces of the German Crown Prince are being driven back toward the fortress of Laon and experts predict a general retreat along all the line from St. Quentin to the Champagne. Under French pressure the Germans have been forced to abandon valuable positions and retreat to the Oise-Aisne canal. More than two thousand prisoners and many guns have fallen into French hands.

Camp Custer.—The boys here have subscribed a total of \$1,335,000 toward the Liberty loan. This is an average of \$70 per man and shows the kind of stuff Uncle Sam's new soldiers are made of. It is reported that a large number of officers now at Camp Custer are due for a shift. Seven of the men are to go direct to France for special instruction. Camp officials have issued a warning to the State of Michigan to beware of fakirs soliciting funds for various benefits at Camp Custer.

London.—Plot and counterplot still describes the Russian situation. Leon Trotsky, president of the soldiers' and workmen's council, in his latest attack against the provisional government has declared that Kerensky and his aides have planned to leave Petrograd in the hour of peril, but that the soldiers' and workmen's delegates will remain. Daily reports come from the south to the effect that agents of the old regime are busy there inciting trouble and seeking to re-establish the old order of things.

London.—The Austro-German advance on Italy has reached the Tagliamento river and Gen. Codorna is massing his forces for a final stand at that point. So far the Teutonic advance has swept back the Italian armies before it, capturing many thousand prisoners and several hundred guns. British and French reinforcements are being rushed to the assistance of Gen. Codorna's army and one of the greatest battles of the war is impending. So far the Italian armies have lost the greater portion of the territory won during their recent offensive, losing more than 900 square miles of territory.

Paris.—The American forces are now holding a sector of the front in Flanders. The weather has been very bad ever since the Americans went into the trenches, snow and rain adding to the discomfort of the cold weather.

HOOVER AFTER THE RETAILERS

Food Administrator Investigates Profits of Dealers and Orders Them to Lower Prices to Consumer

The Food Administration has started its campaign for a reduction of food prices to the consumers. The retailers all over the country have been asked to co-operate in the plan to reduce the cost of living, by handling goods on a less margin of profit during the duration of the war. To keep the public informed on the prices which should be paid for the various articles of food, to insure the retailers a fair profit, the Illinois State Food Administration issues a bulletin in the leading cities showing the prices which the dealer pays and the prices at which he should sell, and consumers are requested to report variations from these prices and to do their buying elsewhere until their regular dealer comes down.

Following are the wholesale and retail prices published by the Food Administration for Chicago on October 24th:

Retailer pays per cwt.	Consumer should pay per lb.
Sugar—best gran. in bulk	7½c to 8½c
Flour—1-2 bbl. in cotton bags	\$2.95 to \$3.18
Potatoes—No. 1	per 15 lbs.
per cwt.	43c to 46c
\$2.35 to \$2.50	
Milk—evap. (unsweetened)	per can
11½c to 12½c	13c to 15c
Condensed (sweetened)	
15c to 15½c	17c to 19c
Rye Flour—1-8 bbl. cotton bags	per bag
\$1.29 to \$1.37	\$1.37 to \$1.50
Pure white or patent—1-8 bbl.	\$1.37 to \$1.50
\$1.29 to \$1.37	
Dark (pure) cotton bag	\$1.26 to \$1.41
\$1.18 to \$1.28	
Corn Meal—White (bulk)	per lb.
per cwt.	6c to 7c
\$5.50 to \$5.75	

Food Administrator Prescott of Michigan has caused an investigation to be made into the retail prices current thruout this state with the intention of taking steps to reduce and standardize them as much as possible. Comparison with the prevailing prices in this state with those recommended by the Illinois Food Administrator show some wide discrepancies.

For instance, the average price of sugar in Michigan is 10 cents per pound. According to the Illinois Administrator the retailer buys this sugar at from \$7.65 to \$7.75; if this be true, the Michigan retailer is making an excessive profit. Flour is selling at an average of 30 cents per hundred pounds over the wholesale price, and from 5 to 25 cents over what it should cost. The margin on rye flour is even more marked, showing that the Michigan retailer is making a profit of 25 to 50 cents a hundred more than the Illinois retailer. Owing to the fact that Michigan is a potato state and that many of the country stores are selling potatoes purchased direct from the farmers, the potato

price for Michigan is much lower than that recommended for Chicago.

It does appear from the very complete manner in which Mr. Hoover is laying open the secrets of the wholesale and retail trade that the old high cost of living is due for the toboggan

pretty soon. These investigations by the government are going to do more than any other agency in setting the consumer right on the marketing proposition and prove to him that the farmer is not all that he has been accused of being.

NATIONAL CROP REPORTS

Washington—The egg supply of the country today is 15 per cent more than a year ago, due to the embargo on egg exports.

East Fairfield, Vt.—The potato crop here is about the same as last year, two or three cars for shipment. Rot is showing up badly in places.—A. J. P.

Ottawa, Ont.—Canadian Food Controller has decided not to fix an arbitrary price on potatoes. A surplus crop is expected in Eastern provinces.

Burley, Ida.—The potato crop here shows an increase of 50 per cent over last year. The acreage was larger and a normal yield per acre is being shown.—H. P. L.

Pine City, Minn.—There are about 250 cars of potatoes for shipment from here this year, half as many again as last year. There will be two cars of cabbage, double last year's shipment.—P. C. M. Co.

Eagle Bend, Minn.—Potatoes are nearing the end of the shipping season. Yield has been fair, but 10 per cent was lost by field frost. Cars are scarce, although a large percentage of the crop has been marketed.

New York—Canadian rutabagas were moving with some satisfaction this week. Shippers were quoting 45 @50c bu. delivered New York and the stock was selling around in the different markets at \$1.50 per 140 lb. barrel.

New Tripoli, Pa.—Potatoes are moving freely at \$1.70 bu. f.o.b. loading stations. The crop is excellent as to size and quality. There will be probably twice as many cars as last year, or about 500 cars from a radius of three miles.

Scranton, Pa.—Potatoes arised on its own farms are being offered by the Delaware & Hudson Railway Company to its 9,000 employees in and about the anthracite coal mines at \$1.20 a bushel. Each employee is limited to a purchase of five bushels.

Chicago—Peaches were no longer taken freely on the market this week, as the season had about reached an end and offerings were not especially desirable. Michigan late varieties in bushel baskets brought 50c@1.25; and New York Elbertas, \$1@1.50. Colorado flats were salable at 40c@50c.

Lincoln, Neb.—Nebraska State Potato Show, Nov. 15-16. Leading potato machinery manufacturers have secured space for exhibits. The state's potato crop exceeds 10,000,000 bu. and of superior quality, principally in northwestern Nebraska. In irrigated sections of North Platte valley there are yields of 300 to 450 bu. per acre. Systematic methods of sorting and distribution show increased profits to the growers by reducing expenses of handling.

Morrisville, N. Y.—Potatoes and cabbage are keeping in the eyes of the public by their almost daily advance. A few cars of cabbage have been shipped, with more to follow. Some business has been done at \$35 per ton. Yield is light, many pieces were eaten by worms and others never headed.

Gardiner, Me.—Crops are not as good as usual in this section, with the exception of hay. Apples show 60 per cent of a crop and buyers have picked most of them up at \$3 bbl. Potatoes are light, due to blight and the early frost. It is not believed that the crop is over 40 per cent of normal. Quite a number of growers have not finished digging.

Burdette, N. Y.—Farmers just beginning to dig potatoes. Some are rotting and the general average will not be over 75@90 bu. to the acre. More than half of the beans are yet to be pulled. Frost has hurt some of the crop and there will have to be good weather or all the beans and potatoes will not be harvested. Labor is extremely scarce.

Syracuse, N. Y.—The potato crop of Onondaga is estimated this season to reach a total of about 1,000,000 bushels. Out of this the shrinkage from rot is placed at 1 per cent. The yield is approximately from one-half to two-thirds that of a normal season. Much of the crop would be damaged by a freeze now. The probable yield per acre will strike an average of about 130 bushels.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Because of the high price and scarcity of sugar in this district, there was a falling off in the demand for preserving fruits this week. However, there was a fair inquiry for quinces, and while receipts were normal, the price on barrels advanced to \$4.50@7. In the pear deal, prices declined. Bulk pears which sold last week up to \$1.25@1.50 were slow and draggy this week at \$1.15@1.25.

Houston, Tex.—Poultry has been in smaller receipt this week and prices are firm, but generally unchanged. Large hens are quoted at 20@22c per pound, fryers 26@28c, geese 10@12c, and ducks \$4.50 per dozen. The market has been practically bare of geese, ducks, pigeons and guineas for several weeks. Turkeys are selling at 26 @28c per lb. in small lots with dealers quoting 20@24c per pound to the country.

Geneseo, N. Y.—The bean crop of Livingston county has been saved from killing frosts, but the yield will be small, only a fraction of normal. The potato crop in Groveland and in Dansville, both good potato towns, is a big one, but there are so many rots and spots in the product that the yield to be wintered will not be above normal, if it is that. Quotations run from \$2.20 to \$2.60 per cwt., according to prevalence of infection in stock.

SPUDS HIGHER; WHEAT LOWER

Average Michigan Prices Show Ten Cents More a Bushel Offered for Potatoes and Six Cents Less for Wheat

Our county crop letters show a much higher average potato price thruout the state the past week than the former. Last week the average was reported as \$1.06; this week \$1.15. It would appear that buyers are rapidly becoming acquainted with the true situation and are less afraid to stock up with \$1 potatoes. Other average prices are as follows: Eggs, 39c; hay, \$15.39; butter, 41c; rye, \$1.65; oats, 58c; wheat, \$2.02½.

That wheat price isn't high enough, farmers. There is no need for you to sell No. 2 red wheat for less than \$2.05 anywhere in the state and in most sections of the lower peninsula you should receive \$2.10. Expect to get as much for your wheat as your neighbor does and don't sell unless you do. A card to us will bring you the exact information as to what you should receive from your local elevator. We are glad to render this service. Write us, or the Food Administration Grain Corporation, Philadelphia and get the right "dope" on the wheat price.

GOV. CAPPER SAYS U. S. DENIES SQUARE DEAL

Asserting that \$50,000,000 was taken out of the pockets of Kansas farmers in 24 hours when the government fixed the price of wheat, Gov. Capper, in a letter to Herbert C. Hoover, says that the "sacrifice apparently has been made in vain," because "the millers, the bakers and the retailers have not reduced their prices."

"The farmer," the letter continues, "who still is paying as much or more for his flour, is losing confidence in the power of the government to enforce a square deal. There can be no defense of a system that takes profit from producer and fails to give consumer that benefit thru saving."

WET COUNTIES LEAD IN THE STATE'S CRIME

The annual report of the attorney-general, Alex J. Groesbeck, shows 56,993 cases were started by the prosecuting attorneys throughout the state during the year which ended June 30. Of these there were 47,516 convictions, of which 14,517 were drunkenness.

Wayne county leads with 24,528 convictions. Oscoda county reported but five convictions out of a total of 11 cases, which is the smallest number in the state. Convictions reported by prosecuting attorneys from some of the larger counties include: Bay, 1,067; Genesee, 778; Jackson, 1,907; Kent, 1,395; Lenawee, 346; Muskegon, 166; Oakland, 1,835; Saginaw, 729.

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Remarks _____

Enclosed please find one dollar postoffice order for which to pay you for my year's subscription. You have sent me several copies of the best farm paper ever published in the United States. Perhaps you do not think I know what I am talking about but I read a good many farm papers like the Rural New Yorker which is of the best and I have had several western farm papers and as I am in the real estate business as well as farming, I get a great many good papers wanting ads. Michigan Business Farming beats them all, and if you continue to put out such a good paper I don't see why all the farmers in the whole United States would not subscribe and stand by you like we do by Uncle Sam. I remain your friend and subscriber—W. S. Lincoln St. Joseph County.

I am sending you herewith the names and addresses of 10 farmers whom I believe will be very much interested in your market paper, M. B. F. Send them a copy and also a letter telling them just what you are doing, and I believe they will be ready to help the great cause along. M. B. F. is just what we want as we get the true markets and not have depend on the market gamblers, the crooked buyers, or commission scalpers' market reports any more. I can truthfully say that the M. B. F. has made me already \$150 or \$200 on potatoes alone. I was about to contract mine for 75c per bu. when your paper started, as I was guided by market scalpers' reports.—L. D. Hess, Calhoun county.

"Can truthfully say M. B. F. has made me \$150 or \$200 on potatoes alone. I was about to contract mine for 75c when your paper started as I was guided by market scalpers' reports"—L. D. Hess, Calhoun Co.



MARKET FLASHES



WHEAT

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

It is estimated at this time that North America, Argentina and Australia have a wheat supply of 644,000,000 bushels. This does not take into consideration the supply of India. It would appear from this that we would have sufficient supplies for this year. The Argentina wheat comes on the market slowly owing to shortage of available ships for transportation. Much Australian wheat is now coming to the United States and grain men estimate that as much as 75,000,000 will be brought into this country in that way. The markets of this country are in the best shape to take care of this wheat and primary marketings so far have been away under those of last year.

There is still a very strong demand from the milling interests and supplies are short. With heavy shipments of wheat moving from Canadian elevators to eastern mills, however, some relief should be in sight. So far the western mills have been running under capacity in order that eastern mills might have a full supply. With Canadian wheat in a great measure supplying the eastern trade, more western wheat will be available for in western mills.

There is no chance whatever of the price of wheat being changed. The Government purchase price will be maintained unless peace should come, at which time the food administration would come to an end. At the same time the price would probably drop as certain supplies, not now accessible would then come on the market.

One of the great factors at the present time is the car situation. This is becoming worse as the days shorten and the actual winter weather draws nearer. The condition is aggravated this year by the heavy Government shipments of war supplies. As the fall work lessens the farmers will dispose of their grain more freely and stocks will accumulate rapidly at the elevators. Under ordinary conditions this would mean lower prices. Perhaps this year it can only mean delay to growers at a time when they will want to haul their grain. Were peace to come suddenly it would undoubtedly mean lower prices. We feel that the wise thing to do is to dispose of wheat gradually rather than hold it this year. The Government price is fixed and will control the market. Holding can only result in loss from different causes. There is always the uncertainty of peace coming suddenly and unexpectedly, which would most surely effect the price. In all probability downward.



OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White Standard	.63	.60 1-4	.66 1-2
No. 3 White	.62 1-2	.60	.66
No. 4 White	.61 1-2	.59	.65 1-2

The oat situation shows very little change except a slightly higher price. Eastern buyers who were expecting a decline have, so far, been disappointed. Outside trading on oats is very limited. Exporters will soon be active in the market as they have been very quiet for some time. It is now about three months since the new oat crop began to move and at this time accumulations at terminal points are very small. With two billion bushels in this country and Canada it would seem that there would be enough to go around and some to spare. At the same time the car shortage will be a factor from now on; we believe that the oat market will just about be able to hold its own. There will be a steady demand all through the year and the way oats have been coming on the



LAST MINUTE WIRES

DETROIT SPECIAL—Dealers and commission men report a good inquiry for cabbage for reshipment. Strictly fresh-gathered eggs are in great demand and will bring shippers a premium. Market entirely bare of hay, advancing prices and exceptionally strong demand.

NEW YORK WIRE—Bean market is somewhat upset and buyers are holding off to see what range of prices will result from Government scale set for its purchases. Only moderate supplies on hand but demand just at this time is rather light.

PHILADELPHIA WIRE—Cabbage receipts light and market strong and higher, especially on medium-sized stock. Potatoes steady and unchanged. Onions active for fancy stock. Good demand for both pea beans at \$9.00 and red kidneys at \$8.50.

market it has been just about evenly supplied.

As we have said, the car situation will be a big factor from now on. We all remember last year that certain eastern points saw the price of oats go to a dollar while some of the middle western points were glutted. We would not like to see this condition prevail this year with our present crop. Growers will do well to watch conditions closely and not glut western markets should such a state of affairs again arise.



CORN

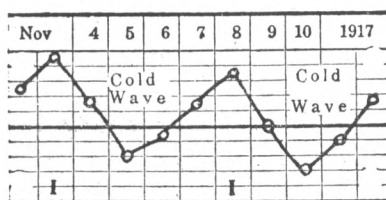
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	2.20	2.10	2.18
No. 3 Yellow	2.19 1-2	2.08	2.17 1-2
No. 2 Mixed	2.18	2.05	2.03

The corn market, as we expected, has worked considerably higher and there is every prospect of still higher prices before the new crop moves. And even after it does begin to move freely, it will take some time to satisfy the immediate demand and get reserve stocks of any kind accumulated at terminal points. The 1916 crop has been well cleaned up and with strong demand from different interests the immediate future looks very firm.

We expect to see the price gradually work lower on new corn but do not believe it will come before the first of the year. The distillers, working on Government orders, are in the market every day and different industries are also ready buyers. Offerings of new corn are few and far between. Husking has just been started in the more northern sections, adverse weather conditions holding it up. With the present advances in prices we believe many growers will speed up on the husking and on deliveries to elevators and this may result in an earlier movement than was expected.

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C. Nov. 3.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent Nov. 7 to 11, arm wave 6 to 10, cool wave 8 to 12. About normal temperatures with this storm, as an average, but the fall in temperature from the top of the warm wave to bottom of the cool wave will be sufficient to make a cold wave at the center of the latter. These storm waves affect the whole continent but in different ways. They affect your locality according to the path over which their centers move. As we improve our forecasts the interested reader will get greater benefits by studying, more closely, the nature of weather events. The above described storm is of no unusual importance as it will be of moderate force.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about Nov. 10 and temperatures will rise on all Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Nov. 11, plains sections 12, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio valleys 13, eastern sections 14, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Nov. 15.

Those who get their corn on the market now will of course profit over later sales.

The crop generally appears to be good but in spots soft corn is reported. This will be utilized in feeding hogs and in the long run will net an additional profit over the cost of the corn.

In all probability the price has just about reached the top as industries will buy from hand to mouth now until the new crop moves freely. We trust our friends in the state acted upon our advice and bought their immediate supplies some time ago before the later advances.



RYE

Rye demand has fallen off. Exporters are not active and the domestic demand has been rather quiet. On the other hand, farmers have not been active sellers so that the general situation has remained firm at current quotations. Detroit quotation on No. 2 is the same as that of last week, \$1.81; Chicago, \$1.80½.



BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	8.25	9.00	9.00
Prime	8.15	8.85	8.90
Red Kidneys	7.50	8.00	8.00

The future of the Michigan bean market holds much uncertainty at the time of writing this article. The new schedule of prices set by the Food Commission have just been reported but it is too early in the game to give any definite idea of just what effect they will have on the market. The prices as announced apply from Oct. 5th to Nov. 15th, and that set for

pea beans is considerably under the prices now being paid or that set by the growers association.

We do not look to see a very extensive movement of Michigan beans until after the date set, Nov. 15. At the same time if this present scale of prices is to be taken as a criterion, they may affect the market generally. There is a good strong domestic demand for beans but of course the export and Government buying is what must hold up the market. Therefore future buying prices as set from time to time by the War Industries Board will in a great measure govern general prices.

Reports from all over the state show that the yield has been away under normal. Most of the reporters give from five to six bushels as the yield and state that the quality is poor. A yield of ten to twelve bushels is a rare thing. Thus it appears that even with high prices many of our bean growers will not realize enough to pay for the seed. We will compile these reports and give them attention later.

Old crop beans in York State have been well cleaned up and the new crop has not yet started to move in any volume. Red kidney beans are very scarce in the east of late and there has been considerable demand for them. Lima beans are in good demand and the stocks of old beans on hand are firmly held. Additional reports from California give the Lima bean crop an average yield of 75 per cent for this year. No definite report on the pinto yield of Colorado has been received although general prospects are good. The Government prices for all these varieties, as just issued, is lower than those prevailing.



HAY

Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	22 50 23 00	21 50 23 00	20 50 21 00
Chicago	24 25 00 23	24 00 21 00	22 00
Cincinnati	23 00 23 50	22 50 23 00	21 50 23 00
Pittsburgh	25 00	24 50 25 00	22 50 23 50
New York	24 50 25 50	24 25	22 23
Richmond	25 75 26 25	25 26	24 50 25

The hay situation has shown little change unless it be to gather additional strength. The demand at Detroit continues strong and arrivals are exceptionally light for this time of the year. Anywhere from fifty to one hundred cars could be used to good advantage right now on the Detroit market without showing any effect so far as a decline in price is concerned. Not in many years has the Detroit market been so bare of hay at this time of the year and all during the fall as it has this year. The farmers, in harvesting their crops and preparing for a large wheat acreage next year, have neglected baling almost altogether. As colder weather comes this condition will change but so will the price. In all probability, and later shipments will not realize so much money.

The Chicago market is firm and higher. Shipments are not arriving in any quantity and are quickly taken. Arrivals of prairie are only moderate and values have advanced. Receipts of all grades of hay last week were under those of the preceding week.

All southern markets are calling for hay as they have been doing for some time. The New Orleans market has shown a further advance during the past week and all grades of timothy are wanted. Alfalfa and prairie are in good demand.

The Philadelphia market has been very active all week and some fancy prices are reported. Stocks are very light. Dealers there seem to expect local shipments to increase in the present condition of the market many cars will be absorbed before any effect is noticed on the price.

Pittsburgh is calling for hay. The market is firm at higher quotations. No. 1 timothy, good clover and heavy clover mixed are in demand on that market. All arrivals, however, sell quickly and at very high prices for this time of year. Receipts have increased slightly but nowhere near sufficient to take care of the constant demand.

Arrivals at Boston during the past week have been very light owing to scarcity of shipments from the west and bad weather and other adverse conditions in the local shipping districts. There is a good demand for the better grades and off grades find a ready market at the regular reductions. Dealers there say that the price will be sure to work lower with any increase in arrivals. This is the general opinion on all markets.

The tone of the New York market is somewhat stronger this week owing to small supplies and active demand. All arrivals clean up quickly. Not only is the local situation responsible for the strong position of the market but reports from all western shipping points indicate a shortage of supplies, which is having a certain effect. There is a great scarcity of No. 1 timothy, sales being reported as high as \$25.00 per ton. Clover mixed is scarce and wanted. Sales as high as \$23.00 are reported. Rye straw is selling as high as \$16.00 and wheat straw brings around \$11.00.



POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	1.50	1.45
Chicago	1.25	1.20
Cincinnati	1.45	1.40
New York	1.75	1.70
Pittsburgh	1.60	1.60
Norfolk Va.	1.40	1.35

The minimum wetweight on a car of bulk potatoes is now 45,000 pounds and on sacked, 39,000 pounds.

The Detroit market continues firm so far as the price is concerned and arrivals are taken quickly. There is a feeling among dealers that later liberal receipts will effect the markets and many buyers are taking only such supplies as they really need, as though it was a good time to get in shipments while the arrivals are light. There has been some talk of state control of the potato market but so far as we have been able to learn nothing definite has resulted. A price which would assure the farmer a satisfactory profit would perhaps be satisfactory to all concerned. It would have a tendency to stabilize the market and stop speculation. However we note a considerable difference of opinion among dealers and growers.

Chicago operators have been buying and selling by the cwt. during the past week. Arrivals there are just about sufficient to take care of the demand. The price remains about the same as last week. The daily receipts are around 75 cars, about normal for this season. Some trouble reported there from field frosted stock. Shippers should be very careful as regards this. Any stock which is frosted should be kept separate from that which is not. A very few frosted potatoes in a car will make the sacks wet and cause a discount on the whole lot.

The Pittsburgh potato situation is very difficult to figure out. The price remains the same with arrivals only moderate. At the same time there is a weak undertone and it would not take much in the way of receipts to send the price down. Dealers are buying only what their immediate needs require and seem to feel that the price will work lower.

Trading at Philadelphia is somewhat light with only moderate supplies. About the same feeling prevails there as at Pittsburgh. The Boston market has eased off from 10c to 15c per bushel. The local potato dealers have been furnishing the market with a fairly liberal supply which perhaps accounts for this.

The New York market is considerably easier than at this time last week and prices have declined below the points reached on last week's excited market. Receipts have been more liberal as was expected after the advances of last week. Local shippers especially have taken advantage of the situation and this goes to show how

easily a potato market may be overloaded. Dealers have temporarily filled their storage and will not be free buyers again until the market cleans up. The decline will no doubt effect shipments and furnish its own remedy. Considerable Pennsylvania stock has been received, selling at about the same price as Maine and Michigan stock. Long Island shippers have not been free sellers although their stock sells at a premium. At the time of writing this we are receiving reports of adverse weather conditions through the York State potato district. Rain and snow storms are tying up shipping, making digging impossible. This will have a good effect on the general eastern market.



CABBAGE

Wisconsin shippers are now moving their crop freely and the stock is of very good quality. The acreage this year was larger than that of last year and the yield is also greater than last year, although not a "bumper crop." The average yield per acre is around nine tons. Some localities report as high as twelve tons to the acre. Cold weather and snow is retarding the harvesting in some sections.

Pittsburgh reports the cabbage market as having taken an upward trend with prices ranging around \$7 to \$10 per ton over those of a week ago. The demand there continues active and no doubt the price will follow the York State market, which as stated in our last article, is very strong and advancing.

The New York market is still firm and the price ranges around the \$40 mark. This is for the hard Danish. There is very little demand for domestic around \$25 per ton. Shipments of red cabbage are light and there is a good demand around \$1.75 to \$2.75 per barrel.

The local Chicago market is keeping just about even, good stock selling around \$30.00 to \$32.00 per ton. Cars for eastern shipments are scarce and shippers west of Chicago are holding up on shipments. The Detroit demand is rather quiet locally, but many commission firms are billing shipments east and realizing a good profit on the transaction.



ONIONS

Judging by the Detroit demand for onions they must have taken the place of garlic over on the east side. The price is higher than last week and dealers are crying for more. Of course there is usually a lot of crying when it comes to onions. This crying however, is being done with their lungs and through the papers. Never was the onion market in better shape than it has been this fall. Shipments are cleaned up about as fast as they arrive. The price has steadily advanced and shippers to this market have generally been well satisfied. The Detroit market is still advancing and higher prices are in sight. Yellows are quoted at \$3.75 per cwt. Red, from \$3.50 down.

The Chicago market continues steady. The trade continues to take onions and call for more. There has been some speculation and dealers are reported putting some into storage, evidently feeling that there will be a shortage later on. Some home-grown still being offered but not nearly enough to supply the demand that is now looking to other fields for supplies. Yellows are quoted at \$3.25 to \$3.50 and red around \$3.00 per cwt.

The Pittsburgh onion market is just a little weak, owing to lighter demand and free arrivals. The price ranges around \$3.40 per cwt.

The New York market has been heavily supplied and the price has declined accordingly. The New York quotations have really been lower this week than the prices being paid at leading points. Rains have prevented distribution with consequent accumulations. On Monday of last week 76 cars arrived; Tuesday 46 and Wednesday, 56 cars. A considerable quantity have gone into storage.

Dealers expect, however, that the market will clean up with more favorable

weather and lighter receipts. Quotations: Yellows, \$3.00@3.50; reds, \$2.50@2.90.



APPLES

The demand continues good on the Detroit market for all varieties of winter apples. Early apples, used mostly for canning purposes, do not find such a ready sale owing to the present shortage of sugar. Receipts are only moderate and the demand could take care of much heavier shipments without serious effect on the price. With the season so far advanced it is only reasonable to think that shipments will not at any time from now on be such as to effect the market and shippers may feel safe in shipping either car lots or less than car lots to this market at any time without fear of finding a declining market. Jonathans, \$5.75 @ \$6.00; Wealthy, \$4.50@5.00; Alexander, \$5.50; other varieties, \$4.00@4.50; No. 2, \$3.00@3.50 per bbl.

The Chicago market continues steady. There is a very heavy trade, both for speculative and immediate needs. Shipments are not heavy for this season and clean up fast. Some of the later varieties are coming and meet with ready sale. Baldwins, \$4.25@4.75; Ben Davis, \$3.50@3.75; Greenings, \$4.50@5.00; extra fancy Jonathans, \$5.50@6.00; No. 1, \$3.75@4.25; Grimes Golden, \$5.00@5.50; Twenty Ounce, \$5.75@6.00; Arkansas Black, \$4.50@5.00; Winesaps, \$4.50@5.00; large Pippins, \$4.50@4.75; No. 2, all varieties, \$2.50@3.25.

New York apple prices have advanced under increased demand and lighter shipments. There is some speculation among receivers as to why receipts are not arriving in greater volume. The harvest has been in full swing for some time and the only reason which can be given is that growers are storing their product. Very little fruit is coming to that market from the western New York apple district, the bulk of it coming from the Hudson River district and southern points. The general range on the best fruit this week is: Greenings, Kings, 20 Ounce, \$5.00@6.00; Wealthy and McIntosh, \$6.00@7.00; Jonathans, \$6.00@7.50; Yorks, \$4.50@5.25; Baldwins, \$4.00@5.00; Snows, \$5.50@6.00.



BUTTER

The Detroit market has been inclined to weaken in sympathy with the eastern markets. No doubt the reaction will also affect the situation and bring about a stronger feeling with additional gains in values. There is a good supply coming to this market and also considerable storage butter moving. Fresh creamery firsts, 40c@40½c; extras, 41c@41½c.

The New York butter market is recovering the recent break and unless something unforeseen should occur conditions should soon be back to normal. The surplus of last week has gone into storage. Several large government orders have also helped the situation. Buyers have been more active in the market this week and have shown more confidence since the large surplus of last week has gone into storage. There has been good trading generally not only in good table butter but in the intermediate and under grades as well. There has also been some speculative buying since the last advance set in.

Production in the west is falling off. This is shown by a larger arrival of held stock from interior points. Some of the smaller creameries have closed for the winter. There is a falling off in quality which has led to a greater demand for the high grades. Firsts and seconds have also shown a good heavy movement for the past week.

Before the recent break held butter was moving quite freely, but owners refused to sell at the decline, as they figured there would be a speedy reaction, especially at this time of the year. Packing stock is not finding a very good market just at this time and is lower and easy. Receipts are only moderate.

New York quotations: Creamery, extras, 45c; firsts, 43c@44½c; seconds, 41½c@42½c; packing stock, best, 36½c@37c; seconds, 36c.

The Chicago market is firmer and shows advancing tendencies. However buyers are showing little enthusiasm and trading is rather quiet. The advance in eastern markets has had some effect on the Chicago market. There is quite an accumulation of butter at Chicago. Receipts at Chicago are falling off. Local consumption is fairly good, and considerable stock is being shipped in small lots to interior points. Creamery extras are quoted at 42½c; extra firsts at 41½c@42c; firsts, 39½c@41c; seconds, 38½c@39c; packing stock, 25c@35½c; according to quality; process, 39c@39½c.

Receipts of butter at Boston are somewhat lighter and this, together with the reports of higher markets in other eastern cities, has resulted in an advance of about 1-2c on most grades. The demand is rather quiet with buyers taking only sufficient to care for their immediate wants. The Philadelphia market is in better shape than last week. Consumption has increased and prices are firm.



EGGS

The Detroit egg market is advancing and supplies are very scarce. One dealer advised the writer that good fresh gathered uniform sized eggs were "worth their weight in gold." This gives some idea of the present condition and the sentiment which prevails on this market. We advise shippers to send their eggs to Detroit as they will be most sure to find a very satisfactory market and there is nothing to indicate a break on this market. Do not hold eggs too long but ship a case or so at a time, as they bring a better price when strictly fresh. Fresh Michigan firsts are quoted at 39c to 41c per dozen. Many sales are reported at a higher figure on strictly fancy stock. Storage eggs are selling at 6c and 7c under fresh.

Chicago market is firm and higher on all fresh offerings and the refrigerator stock is also quoted higher. Trading has been active on all fresh stock but somewhat limited on refrigerators. Some shipping being done to eastern points, principally owing to limited storage facilities. Receipts of fresh are light and much of the so-called fresh stock turns out to be held stock. A good many small eggs, also badly shrunken, sell down when examined. The demand for strictly fresh stock is away ahead of the offerings. Buyers have paid as high as 38 1-2c for strictly new laid firsts; ordinary firsts, 35c to 36c; checks, 26c to 30c; dirties, 28c to 32c.

The Philadelphia egg market has shown downward tendencies for the past week. New York has done better on strictly fresh offerings but on all other grades the market is slow. The accumulation of held fresh is gradually being reduced. Many shipments from the south and southwest show more fresh eggs than a week ago. However, packers there are not grading any too closely and discounts are made on this stock. This has a certain effect on the general market. There has been more activity in storage eggs which are somewhat firmer. Extras are quoted around 45c@46c; extra firsts, 44c@45c; firsts, 39c@42c; seconds, 40c@43c; thirds and poorer, 37c@39c.

While the condition generally over the country is good so far as strictly fresh stock is concerned, it is far from good on storage stock. Much storage stock is being held and dealers must soon move it or face a loss. It is a question with them whether to move it now by reducing the price or waiting and taking a chance on higher prices later in the winter. Many of them seem to favor reduced prices, causing increased consumption, so that storage stock may be moved more freely. The next few weeks will no doubt decide the matter. In the meantime shippers should remember that a free movement of held stock, at reduced prices, would affect the markets at many points. The chances are that the Detroit market would feel the effect less than others as there are fewer storage eggs held there.

POULTRY			
LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Turkey	24-25	22-23	25-27
Ducks	24-25	16-17 1-2	19-20
Geese	18-20	16-17 1-2	17-18
Springers	18-21	18-19	18-19
Hens	18-21	17-19	17-19
No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less			

What the Detroit market needs now is some good cold winter weather to brace the poultry market. The Thanksgiving demand will soon be coming on and with the proper kind of seasonable weather the demand should increase and trading become brisk. Just at this time the general demand is only sufficient to take care of current receipts and at times the market becomes just a little draggy. The better grades of offerings find a firm market even under present conditions but thin or otherwise off grade poultry is hard to sell. A few more ducks coming, also some geese. Not in any great volume however. Turkeys are scarce and those arriving are not in any too good shape.

The first of the week saw heavy receipts at Chicago and somewhat lower prices. The market is now cleaning up and with an increased demand conditions are getting back to normal. There is a big local trade for immediate consumption. The feeders and dressers are operating to a limited extent and some buying is being done by them. Iced poultry is dull and hard to move. The weather has not been such as to increase the call. There is more iced stock being offered than the trade demands and unless strictly fancy it finds a slow market.

Supplies of dressed poultry have increased on the New York market and the demand is only moderate. The arrivals have increased and owing to the rather unsettled condition of the live market many buyers have been dressing. The live poultry market there has been in a very unsettled condition. Receipts have been heavy and the demand light. Good stock, well finished, finds a very satisfactory market in most cases but off grade offerings are sold at a considerable discount. Some turkeys arriving but generally the condition is poor. A few Long Island ducklings being offered, but not in any quantity as yet. Geese are not coming in any quantity but as there is very little demand the shortage is not noticed. The Thanksgiving trade is expected to help conditions generally and cooler weather will also help.

CATTLE			
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	9 50-10 00	10 50-13 00	9 75-11 50
Steers, com. to fair	8 50-9 00	10 00-12 50	8 50-10 25
Heifers, good to prime	7 00-8 00	7 50-9 00	7 25-8 50
Cows, average	6 75-7 50	7 00-8 00	4 50-6 50
Canners, -Cuttlers	4 75-5 50	5 00-5 75	4 75-6 50
Bulls, average	6 00-7 00	6 50-7 50	6 50-7 50
Veal, fair to good	8 00-12 00	8 50-15 00	12 50-13 50

The Detroit cattle market is firm

FOOLING THE FUEL FAMINE.

While the hundreds of acres of wood lots last in Michigan there is little fear that the farmer will suffer much from cold for the lack of fuel. Our city cousins are setting up an awful hellaboo because the steam-b at is late in coming and the price of coal begins to rival its precious cousin, the white diamond. Like most economies this year, it is patriotic to save coal and burning wood is therefore helping to do one's "bit" for Uncle Sam. Getting wood out and cutting it up for stove sizes is not so hard a task as it once was. There is a folding sawing machine made by a company of that name, whose address is 161 West Harrison street, Chicago, which can be carried and operated by one man. Surely there should be a big demand for this machine particularly this year and M. B. F. readers who are interested ought to write the company for their catalog No.

FARM FOR SALE—80 acres of the best soil in Oceana County, 60 acres under cultivation, 20 acres wood and pasture, two acres of young orchard, 1/2 acre small fruit, 30x40 barn, two good wells of water, five-room house not finished, 1-2 mile to church and school, R.F.D. 2, electric line, a chance to double your money in a short time. 3 1/2 miles to good market, 1 mile to river. Ill health has compelled me to sell and go south. Write me if you are interested. Terms made a right party. Must sell by Dec. 1st. Also sell stock and tools if wanted. W. H. Grove, Hesperia, Mich., No. 4.

BEANS WANTED

Hand picked or machine run. Don't sell before mailing us sample advising number of bushels and when shipment can be made.

N. F. Simpson, Mgr. Clearing House, Bean Department, 323 Russell St.

and strong at present quotations. Lighter receipts following the recent break in prices had the desired results. A fairly good grade of stock is now coming with fewer of the canner and cutter order. Buyers report a number of very good upstate shipments of mixed steers and heifers, stock showing the result of proper feeding and finishing before marketing. This class of offerings bring a premium and it will pay shippers to put a little extra feed into the deal as the returns will more than satisfy anyone for the trouble and expense.

Chicago is having a better market than it had a week ago. Last week fat cattle values advanced irregularly 60c to \$1.00 per cwt., the bulk of the offerings grading below top class showing 75c to \$1.00 gains. On Monday, with an estimated supply of 36,000 in the pens and combined seven-market crop of 100,000 head, against 87,000 last Monday, the market held generally steady with the advance above noted on all classes of native cattle, while the western ranglers were 10c to 15c higher. Choice corn-fed were scarce but a \$17.00 top was made and others sold to \$16.85. Bulk of the 1050 to 1250 lb. warmed up and medium steers sold \$10.50 to \$12.50, while good to choice 1250 to 1500 lb. corn-fed sold largely at \$13.00 to \$16.00. Feeder competition is strong on decently bred steers selling below the \$11.50 line. Most of the stock and feeding cattle are going to the country between \$7.75 and \$10.00, but extra choice, fleshy, near beef feeders sold up to \$11.50 to \$12.00.

In the butcher cattle trade canners and cutters are 35c to 50c above the low spot ten days back; while fat cows and heifers are 60c to \$1.00 higher and bulls about 50c up. Best veal calves sold on Monday at \$14.75 to \$15.00.

No stronger proof of the abnormal demand prevailing for beef could be asked than that furnished by the action of the cattle market last week and Monday of this week, the sharp upturn in values shown virtually restoring declines enforced the week previous which were due solely to the fact that killing facilities here and elsewhere were solely overtaken by a record-smashing week's run at Chicago of 102,593 head and an enormous supply at seven western points aggregating 388,000 head. Last week's cattle receipts at Chicago decreased nearly 29,000 from the preceding week, while the combined cattle run at seven points showed the pronounced shrinkage of 116,000.

This contraction in supply was due in large measure to the severe break of the week previous and in part to shippers' inability to secure cars for shipment in many sections. It evidences, however, a well justified feeling of confidence on the part of producers in future conditions and now, with the movement of range cattle on the wane, we have no hesitancy in expressing our belief that the low point of the season has been passed. Owing to the approach of the poultry season and that portion of the year when stormy weather is likely to herald the coming of winter, there are likely to be some over-supplied sessions on which killers will be in a position to force temporary price breaks that may prove severe and we foresee some rather wide fluctuations in the market, but we anticipate that shippers will see in any break a signal for curtailment, as was the case last week, and prompt recovery will follow.

HOGS			
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Heavy 240-290	15 00 15 75	15 50 16 75	16 50 17 00
Medium 200-240	15 00 15 75	15 25 16 00	16 50 17 00
Mixed 150-200	15 00 15 75	15 00 16 00	16 50 16 85
Packers 100-150	14 50 15 10	15 00 15 25	14 50 16 00
Pigs 100 down	13 00 14 00	14 50 15 00	14 50 15 50

After the break of a week ago the Detroit hog market has been regaining its position. The first day or so of last week not much improvement was shown. After that however, things began to look up and now the market is again in a fairly satisfactory condition. There is still an unsatisfied demand on this market for real good, well finished stock.

Monday of this week saw a run of 26,000 head at Chicago with the market 10c to 25c higher than the close

of last week. The quality average was better than last week and the improvement in this market was most noticeable on the inbetween classes. The top was \$16.75. Bulk of the best grades sold at \$16.40 to \$16.65; good mixed \$15.90 to \$16.30; light mixed and heavy packing \$14.35 to \$15.85 and pigs and underweights from \$13.00 to \$14.50. There is a good demand on the Chicago market for stock pigs with a desirable 75 to 130 lb. class selling at \$13.75 to \$14.00. A charge of 80c per cwt. is required by the Government for a single vaccination treatment and it is administered by Stock Yards Co. A charge of 5c per head for disinfectant is also made. Buyers and dealers generally at Chicago advise against the marketing of young underweight hogs at this juncture where growers are in position to mature them. Food administrator Hoover has issued this reassuring statement to producers: "I wish to make this positive statement; that, so far as the United States Food Administrator is able, through its influence on the purchase of pork and its products for exportation, it will do all in its power to see that prices of pork are maintained in a ratio to feed prices that will cover not only the cost of production, but proper remuneration to the grower."

The Buffalo market, on Monday, with receipts of 12,000 hogs, opened 10c to 15c higher, with the medium and heavy hogs selling from \$16.75 to \$17. Arrivals on Tuesday were 2,889 head and the market opened generally 25c higher on the mixed, medium and yorkers and 50c higher on pigs and lights. One deck of heavy hogs reached \$17.15. The market is in good healthy condition and shippers should watch it closely so as not to flood it at any time. As soon as a break is in sight the logical remedy is to withhold shipments until the market cleans up. It should be remembered also that this market, in common with all the others at the present time, calls for well finished stock and any which is not up to standard will take a lower figure.

SHEEP			
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Top Lambs	15.75-16.25	15.00-17.50	16.35-16.50
Yearlings	13.50-14.50	12.00-16.00	13.00-14.00
Wethers	11.00-11.25	8.80-12.85	11.50-12.00
Ewes	10.50-11.00	7.85-11.40	11.50-12.00

The Detroit market is showing more firmness after the declines of a week ago. Prices have in a measure regained their former standing and with ordinary receipts and any kind of a demand the condition should continue to show improvement. The call for breeding ewes is not so heavy and the price on such offerings is not so good. There is a good demand for well-finished lambs. Use some of your rough feed on them before shipping. A little extra care and feeding will work wonders so far as price goes.

Chicago, on Monday, saw a run of 23,000 head of sheep and lambs and sold on a steady market with the decline of last week. The killer top on fat lambs was \$16.90 while choice light feeding lambs were quotable up to \$17.50. Best matured ewes sold for slaughter at \$11.25 to \$12.25 and \$12.50 was quoted for choice wethers, good handy weight yearlings selling around \$13.50. Owing to the lateness of the season the demand for breeding ewes has let up and a class of aged western ewes that ten days ago was finding a breeder outlet up to \$12.00 to \$13.50, now sell around \$10.50 to \$12.00. The movement of range sheep and lambs will be light on the Chicago market from now on and will consist mostly of feeding stock. A good many fed western lambs that went out early in the season are coming back and when they lack good killing flesh are getting poor action. It is advisable to hold this stock for a good finish whenever it is responding to feed with good weight gains.

The Buffalo market opened lower on Monday with about 30 cars of sheep and lambs reported. The decline in some cases ran as much as 25c to 35c lower than the Saturday price. Best lambs were selling around \$16.25 to \$16.50. Several loads of good lambs were held over, unsold. Tuesday saw a moderate run of 1,500 head and a more steady market, although the price remained at about Monday's level.



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MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 1917

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Shall There be a Maximum Potato Price?

STATE MARKET Director McBride is a little out of season with his recommendation that a maximum price be placed upon potatoes. In the first place, the food administration months ago, after an exhaustive investigation of the results of maximum price-fixing in Europe and of the conditions obtaining in the United States, decided that it would be unwise to establish maximum prices to the consumer. The matter should have been dropped there.

The suggestion is especially inopportune coming as it does at a time when every encouragement should be given to the speedy movement of the new crop to market. While there is little likelihood of the adoption of Mr. McBride's recommendation, even the remotest possibility of such makes buyers over-cautious, depresses the market and discourages both buying and selling.

The practice of the consumer in purchasing his winter's supply of potatoes at the first influx of the crop to provide against higher prices later in the season is the greatest factor in stabilizing the potato market. Place a maximum price upon the commodity and you at once remove the incentive to buy. In fact you discourage the consumer to purchase more than his daily needs at a time, for he knows that the price cannot go higher and he loses nothing if he takes a chance of its going lower.

Under our present system of marketing farm products the maximum price proposal is not feasible, and would inevitably disrupt the entire marketing organization from the local buyer to the city retailer. The bulk of the potato crop passes thru three important agencies from the producer to the consumer. They are important because, under our present marketing system, necessary. There is the local buyer, the commission house, the retailer, to say nothing of the transporting agent. Who shall say what toll each of these must exact to pay a reasonable profit? Has the Market Director figures to show what it costs to handle a bushel of potatoes in the local warehouse, what it costs to get it to the commission house, what profit the jobber should have, how many additional cents must be added to satisfy the retailer? For if he has these figures, he cannot mean that there is any hope of the farmer receiving \$1.10 per bushel out in the potato sections when the consumer pays only \$1.50.

Many farmers will make a fair profit this year on \$1 potatoes; thousands of others will lose money at \$1.10. The majority of those who can afford to do so will sell their potatoes at \$1, but those whose costs were higher will hold their crop for higher prices, which is merely good business. Would the State Market Director be guilty of placing a penalty upon the patriotism of those who at great expense responded to the government's plea for increased production,—for that is the only interpretation, so far as the farmer is concerned, that can be made of Mr. McBride's proposed maximum price.

There is no demand and no need of a maximum price on potatoes. Present prices are the result of very natural causes. Farmers who have been able to get their tubers out of the ground are selling a part of their crop at \$1 per bushel which is only a fair price. There is no speculation. The Market Director will find upon a little investigation that it costs all of 50 cents to place a bushel of potatoes grown in Northern Michigan into the hands of the Detroit consumer,—under our present marketing system.

Forget maximum prices, Brother McBride. Use your talents in shortening the road from farm to market, eliminating one or two of the intermediary agents. By so doing you will perform a service to both producer and consumer.

Our Best Assets Are Calmness and Clear Judgment

SOME MONTHS ago Senator Chas. E. Townsend speaking before the United States Senate said, "This is not a popular war." The Senator knew whereof he spoke. The people then had not warmed to the war; even yet they are apathetic; and it is questionable if they will ever give the war aims of the country their united and spontaneous support.

This attitude does not bespeak lack of sympathy with the motives which prompt the government. It is not born of pro-German preferences, nor anti-Ally antagonism. It is indicative solely of the people's inability to fully grasp the menace of Prussian militarism, and to sense the tragedies that accompany its operation.

War is so horrible in itself that we seek to excuse the causes of war and put it farther off. To the minds of many there is no national crime so foul and abhorrent as to compare with the great crime of war itself and its attendant countless murders. Logically then, a less crime cannot be expiated by a greater one.

This, we believe, sums up very briefly and crudely the mental condition of a considerable number of the people of the nation; among others, the farmers. We do not say that this attitude is justified; in fact, speaking in the light of the past year's developments, we believe that it is superficial and dangerous to the nation's welfare, but nevertheless it exists and means must be devised to combat and conquer it.

Ever since the beginning of the war our ears have rung with sordid tales of Prussian barbarism—the murder of infants, the ravishing of women, the torture of prisoners. It has all seemed so unreal, so inconsistent with our 20th century civilization that many of us have shook our heads and told ourselves that these tales were nothing more than the fantasies of the war promoters' fancies. No, we couldn't believe that a man inherent with the possibilities of fatherhood, could butcher an innocent child for either pleasure or reprisal.

But our eyes have been slowly opened and the repeated tales of Prussian cruelties and bloated ambitions have been verified so often that doubt has at last given way to horrified belief. Today we no longer doubt that the Prussian overlords are the beasts they have been portrayed, that they are committed to a conquest of aggrandizement and territorial expansion which brooks no argument nor respects the common rights of nations or humanity itself. Stirred at last by the pathetic cries of Belgium's murdered children, haunted to desperation by the mental vision of countless dead faces turned up toward the top of the sea, and alarmed by the finesse and purposfulness of the plots connived against our peace and safety, we are justified in believing that Prussia makes war for war's sake and that the peace of the world is endangered by the menace of the central powers.

Deep-rooted in our national conscience is the conviction that we war against war, and nothing else. Let us be truly thankful that this is the conception which guides us today in performing a duty we could not escape even had we so desired. Let us be thankful that our war preparations are devoid of fervor and enthusiasm, that the mass of the people are yet calm and their judgments unimpaired by overzealous impulses, in the face of the great decision. For when the day of reckoning comes, human justice will cast about for a champion whose vision is still clear from the lust of battle and whose perceptions are undulled by passion or prejudice.

Ohio's Dry Fight

THE INTEREST of the nation is pretty well divided just now between the war in Europe against the Kaiser and the war in Ohio against King Whiskey. For the fourth time the dries of our sister state have rallied to the side of law and order and sobriety and turned their guns upon the open saloon. Their ranks have been reinforced by the soldiers in the training camp, and their cause has been strengthened by the powerful opposition of leading nations to the trafficking in alcoholic liquors during war time.

Ohio's fight is a fight for sobriety and conservation at a time when habits of sobriety and conservation are being urged upon the people by the government. If the government and the leaders of the nation are sincere in their protest against waste and inefficiency, there is no better way that they can show it than by lining up solidly with the Ohio dries and helping them to win their war.

Men large in the affairs of the country are taking a hand in the mayoralty campaign of Mayor Mitchell of New York City, on the grounds that the issue involved is a question of loyalty to the government's war aims rather than of the fitness of the respective candidates. If there is justification for this meddling into municipal affairs merely to discourage Mr. Mitchell's opponents for their

war views, there are by far more cogent reasons why these same men should make a stand on the liquor question, take off their coats and help the Ohio dries lick the stuffing out of booze.

Mr. Bryan is already in the field; he's a doughty old warrior, but he can't lick the enemy single-handed. Where's Teddy with his big stick, and Billie Taft, Jos. Tumulty and the President? Seems as if they ought to turn their hand to this Ohio fight, for it is a scrap in which all the people from the Atlantic to the Pacific are watching with anxious eyes. And a defeated liquor element in Ohio means the saving of thousands of tons of foodstuffs and the conservation of men's bodies and morals. Here, gentlemen, is a game that's worth the candle.

"Eddication" Comes High

AUDITOR GENERAL Fuller has a most annoying habit of uncovering unwise expenditures by various state departments, and he uses no "camouflage" to keep the facts from the public. In fact one would say (or rather the unfortunate debtor on the state's account would say) that the Auditor General is distressingly lax in keeping the secrets of his office, for some way or other they do leak out.

For instance, not long ago Superintendent of Public Instruction Fred L. Keeler renovated and refurnished his office. The cost of harmonizing the walls and the draperies with the high-class tone of Mr. Keeler's profession cost the state a trifle over \$1,000. Then it became necessary to purchase a few pieces of new furniture to complete the setting, and in his selection here, Mr. Keeler again exhibited the fine distinctive qualities which are the heritage of the true connoisseur. Here is what he bought:

1 F flat top desk, 60x36	\$ 215.00
1 R roll-top desk, 66x36	285.00
1 A arm chair	69.00
2 AS arm swivel chairs at \$75.75 each	151.00
3 side chairs at \$52 each	156.00
1 table, 72x36	110.00
1 costumer	25.50
2 waste baskets at \$20 each	40.00
1 bookcase	120.00
1 double type desk	192.00
1 type chair	20.00
All walnut finish.	

Total \$1,384.00
Less 25 per cent 346.00

Total \$1,038.00

The bill came in, was paid, and finally came to the attention of Mr. Fuller, who it is related, nearly fainted when he saw it. But then the Auditor General is a sordid creature who thinks only in terms of money, and may be forgiven for his lack of appreciation of the beautiful.

If this furniture bill is any indication of the cost of conducting the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, then "edducation" in this state comes almighty high. We must not be too severe upon Mr. Keeler, however. He is merely a victim of a bad habit which seems chronic with ninety-nine and nine-tenths per cent of our public officials. It is always easy to spend somebody else's money, and the public officials are legion whose cravings for \$15 waste baskets and other expensive furnishings blind their judgment and quiet their conscience, if they have any.

Democracy is priceless; that's why it costs so much. But nobody has ever yet explained why our system of government and business economy are such strangers to each other. About 50 per cent or less of the people's tax money pays for service actually performed and legitimate public expenditures; the balance is spent for red tape—miles upon miles of red tape—the expensive whims of men in office, patronage, and kindred other luxuries, which we ought to be eliminating from our new scheme of efficiency, economy and conservation. Some day we will get tired of buying \$15 walnut "waste baskets" for the men we elect to office, and will hire plain business men whose esthetic tastes are not jarred by the plain and serviceable "wire baskets," to run our public affairs.

As long as a single pint of beer or whiskey is sold in the United States under the protection and license of the government, the food conservation program is a farce. How can the food administration expect people to cut themselves short on needful articles of food and observe meatless or wheatless days while tens of thousands of barrels of poison mule from diverted fruits and cereals are consumed every day in the year?

Mr. E. D. Hulburt, the gentleman who was responsible for the statement to be spread over the country that the farmers of the nation are slackers because they refuse to fight, buy Liberty bonds or sell their crops, has hastily drawn in his head to escape the shower of brickbats that descended upon him. Since the second Liberty loan campaign in which the farmers responded more loyally probably than any other class of people, Mr.

Hurlburt has retracted his statements. We would be mightily interested in knowing in what manner our Chicago critic is doing his "bit" for Uncle Sam. Come across with the dope. How many Liberty bonds did you buy and when do you entrain for Fort Sheridan?

Let us hope that State Market Director McBride is not so much occupied with the farmer's potato profits and the consumer's potato costs, to have no time to ponder over the glaring inequalities existing in the milk business. We really believe that Detroit consumers are more alarmed over present milk prices than over prospective potato prices. They are entitled to know why they are forced to pay 12 cents for milk that costs the distributing companies only 5 cents. We look to

Mr. McBride for a solution of Detroit's milk problem.

Much as we like to ignore it, we cannot be altogether blind to the fact that 1917 has been a poor crop year, not only for Michigan but for many other states. Considering the huge acreage that was planted last spring, the net yields of all the principal crops have been dismally poor. Not even present high prices are sufficient to return to many farmers a profit on their year's investment, and the outlook for more than a normal planting another season is not altogether promising.

The Illinois milk producers are being "investigated" because they tried to secure a fair price for their product. Strange isn't it, how the pub-

lic will guilelessly submit to monopolies created by the big distributing companies, but make a helluva kick when the farmer asks for even decent wages.

The farmer is the goat,—always the goat. A new fad, a new theory, a new formula of any kind is always tried out first upon the farmer. If he survives, well and good; if he perishes,—the fad-dists are conspicuous by their absence at the funeral.

The Government's price-fixing program and proposals to date have been largely directed against the things the farmer has to sell, but we have yet to witness one single practical effort to reduce the cost of the things he has to buy.

With the Kodaker and Cartoonist



—Darling in the New York Tribune.
An Unwelcome Guest



Canadian Official Photograph from the western front. Troops marching to take up cover and wait for night to fall to continue their advance. The stringent censorship fails to tell us what portion of the western front the view is taken from.



Gas Mask Practice by the Scots Guards. They are shown fixing the masks into position, which will be used in their attacks against the Germans. The loosing of poisonous gases by all combatants is a development of modern warfare.



A close up view of one of many varieties of gas masks captured by the Canadians from the Germans.



—Punch, London.
The Kaiser (to his people)—"Don't you listen to those who would sow dissension between us. I will never desert you."



Recruits being trained in the exigencies of camp life. To pitch a tent quickly is not altogether an easy job for the novice.



—Morris in New York Evening Mail.
A Tight Squeeze for Wilhelm

Everyday Garden, Field and Orchard Helps

THE LUBRICATION OF FARM MACHINERY

The various machines and implements used on the farm have become so high priced that it is to the farmer's interests to lubricate moving parts in a way which will insure maximum wear. The proper lubrication of the moving parts of a machine is an important consideration; it is not sufficient to see that all the moving parts are well lubricated, but it should also be remembered that often different varieties of lubricants are needed for the different parts.

Attention should be given to the quality of lubricants used; for much more oil is wasted by dripping, or passing through the bearings unused than is actually consumed and worn out in doing actual work.

A lubricant is a material which prevents contact of the metallic surfaces by supplying a thin film of oil on which the moving parts rub, and in this way keep the minute projections of the journal and bearings from interlocking. Lubricants are grouped into three classes, viz., fluids, semi-solids and solids. An efficient lubricant must prevent seizing (welding of the journal and boxes) prevent overheating, reduce wear and remove transmission losses. The characteristics of a good and efficient lubricant are easily understood. It should have sufficient body to prevent its squeezing out under the rubbing surfaces. It should be as fluid as possible; for a lubricant which is too thick requires additional power. However, the lubricant should not be too thin; for in case there will be a too rapid running off. A lubricant should not gum or dry out when exposed to the atmosphere, nor should it evaporate or decompose under working conditions. It should be free from foreign substances; for grit and dirt are the worst foreign elements which can enter the oil. They can increase friction and clog the feed tubes; they also heat and cut the journal and boxes, causing unnecessary wear.

It is best to use a lubricant which will not be readily decomposed by heat; when lubricant is decomposed by the heat carbon is deposited which will frequently cause trouble.

Oil and grease are the two commonest lubricants. Every farmer is familiar with the oiling of mowers, binders, etc. Oil is a wasteful lubricant at times because of its tendency to run off; but in many cases it is the only lubricant which may be used. A grease which contains graphite is well adapted for farm purposes. Graphite is well adapted for use under both heavy and light pressure when properly mixed with oils.

Gas engines of all kinds should be lubricated with care. The gas engine cylinder is difficult to lubricate as all parts requiring lubrication are difficult to reach without a waste of oil. A good grade mineral oil should be used for engine cylinders; for mineral oil will stand the high temperature without decomposing. Animal and vegetable oils are certain to decompose in the gas engine cylinder, leaving carbon deposits and gumming the pistons and other parts.

It is well to remember that too much oil will carbonize the cylinder. If blue smoke issues from the exhaust it indicates an excess of cylinder oil. The oil should be turned off until the blue smoke disappears.

Practically any oil or grease of good lubricating quality is suitable for use on gearing. Where oil is used it should be fed from a receptacle above and at one side, or to the center of the gears. Graphite, mixed with oil or grease is good for gearing. In all

cases the gearing should be kept well coated with grease or oil.

Proper lubrication will double, and occasionally triple the life of a machine. This is why emphasis should be placed on the proper use of lubricants on the farm.—*Clement White.*

POTATO TOPS DECEIVED EVERYBODY AS TO YIELD

In looking over the potato crop around this locality I find that the yield runs between 70 and 90 bu. per acre, sometimes below this and this is a potato growing section. In regards to the condition of all summer I think they have estimated the crop by the tops and not by the tubers.—*A. H. B., Sidney.*

WHY NOT A MAXIMUM PRICE ON EVERYTHING?

Will say in regard to the fixed price of \$1.00 on potatoes the farmers cannot raise potatoes at that price, paying \$3.00 for seed and \$3 per day and board for labor. Why should not the Government fix a price on labor and other things, such as sugar, tea, coffee and all eatables, such as we are paying, 40c for meat, 10c for sugar and other things in proportion. When

Not many pulled yet, weather too wet. We should have \$10.00 per bu. for beans. Estimated yield about 6 bu. per acre.—*J. S., Buckley.*

SAVE SKIM MILK—IT IS VALUABLE

Save every drop of skim milk. It is a valuable food. Use it in your kitchen and on your table.

It is valuable as a beverage, in cooking, as cottage cheese—too valuable to waste, whether it comes through your own separator or the separator at the creamery—too valuable to be thrown away, or fed to farm animals, if it can be used for human food.

At creameries where whole milk is handled, skim milk is often thrown down the drains. Creameries ought to make their skim milk into cottage cheese.

Farmers ought to make cottage cheese at home. Skim milk so used will supplement our meat supply, or cottage cheese is one of the best substitutes for meat. Use it in cooking. Make and eat cottage cheese and encourage others to make it.

Make puddings and soups and bread with skim milk.

The dairy division of the United States Department of Agriculture,

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ERECTING A SILO

If a silo is to give best results it must be perfectly airtight; for if air is admitted to the ensilage decomposition will set in and worthless silage will result. It is advisable to have the silo of as small diameter as possible so as to leave only a small surface at the top exposed to the air. The walls should be cylindrical, leaving no corners for air pockets to form.

It is important to use material which will not crack, crumble, decay or absorb the moisture from the silage; the walls should also be smooth so the silage will settle evenly. No part of the silo wall should be subject to chemical action, viz., rusting, crumbling or decaying due to the action of the acids within or effects of weather extremes without.

Attention should be given the doors; they should be of a non-warping wood or other material so as to fit properly at all times. Extremes of temperature inside the silo are to be avoided; this is why the walls should be of such construction as to prevent extremes of temperature from affecting the silage.

It is especially important to erect a silo which will be proof against rats and other vermin; for if rats once get a "foot-hold" they will cause serious damage to the structure.

Durability is an important factor to consider; the cheapest material is not always the most economical. The silo is subjected to more strain than any other structure on the farm; owing to this fact the only safe plan is to build a strong silo. When silage is settling the pressure is heavy, then the wind pressure must be reckoned with. Flimsy silos never give lasting satisfaction.

The item of convenience should be kept in mind. Ample room to drive about the silo at filling time makes for convenience. The silo can be made the most attractive building on the farm; it is certain to be the most "noticeable" building on the place, and should add to the farm's value.—*Clement White.*

MEAT ANIMALS GAIN IN PRICE AT THE FARM

The prices received by producers for cattle, sheep, and hogs, September 15, and chickens, October 1, have gained 52.7 per cent in the general average from 1916 to 1917, according to the latest report of the United States Department of Agriculture. The advance for beef cattle per 100 pounds, live weight, was from \$6.55 to \$8.40, or 28 per cent; for veal calves per 100 pounds, from \$8.77 to \$11.08, or 26 per cent; sheep per 100 pounds, from \$6.25 to \$10.05, or 61 per cent; lambs per 100 pounds, from \$8.22 to \$13.06; or 59 per cent; hogs per 100 pounds, from \$9.22 to \$15.69, or 70 per cent, and chickens, from 14.3 to 18.1 cents per pound, or 27 per cent. Sheep, lambs and hogs have far exceeded beef cattle, veal calves, and chickens in the upward price movement at the point of production.

The highest price at the farm per 100 pounds, live weight, reached during the year under review, was \$8.70 for beef cattle in May, \$11.08 for veal calves in last September, \$10.15 for sheep in May, \$13.06 for lambs in last September, \$15.69 for hogs in last September, and 18.1 cents per pound for chickens October 1 of this year. The latest farm price reported is the highest one of the year for veal calves, lambs, hogs and chickens; the May price was the highest for beef cattle and sheep.

THE BUSINESS FARMER'S CALENDAR

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

1. This early cold weather reminds us that many tender plants need immediate protection to safeguard them from winter killing. Pack with straw and cover with old burlap or tar paper. Don't wait until unseasonably cold weather has had a chance to injure the plants before protecting them.
2. Farm work lags this fall, and many farmers will be unable to do their fall plowing before the ground freezes. Plan to get the harvesting out of the way now as soon as possible so that the few rare days of warmer weather will find us ready to manure the fields and get at least part of the plowing done.
3. Replenish the woodpile. If you have a timber lot on the farm do not depend upon coal for your winter's heat. Haul up everything in the shape of wood. Many people in the cities will suffer this year from lack of coal.
4. Haul part of the potato crop to market this week providing the price offered will pay you a satisfactory profit. Store the balance of the crop. In this way you serve both yourself and the consumer.
5. Raise more hogs. Grain is high, we know, but so is pork, and consumption of hog products is far in excess of the supply. The farmer who this week buys a dozen or so fall pigs is making an investment which will return fat dividends before spring.

they do that then I would say \$1.00 for potatoes. But the poor farmer gets the worst of it. Am sending six more names, all good responsible farmers; they will stay with you till the end.—*F. H., Gaylord.*

DON'TS FOR THE POTATO GROWERS

Don't store potatoes while they are moist.

Don't store without first sorting into table grade and culls for feed.

Don't expose potatoes to injury by frost after digging.

Don't let the wind dry out the potatoes. A bitter taste will result.

Don't bank potatoes without providing a ventilator.

Don't store in a light room. Light lowers the quality.

Don't cover potatoes with damp earth when storing in a hot cellar. They will start to sprout if you do.

Don't forget to watch the thermometer. The ideal temperature is from thirty-five to forty degrees Fahrenheit.

Don't forget to sort out the decayed potatoes before the trouble spreads.

Don't forget to serve freely every day. This will help to keep the storage supply up to table grade.

GOVERNMENT FIXES \$7 ON OWN BEAN PURCHASES

Can you advise me if the Government has set the bean price at \$8.00. Is this what the farmer is to get at the local elevator; also has there been a price set on potatoes? Around Buckley potatoes are yielding from 100 to 150 bu. per acre. Beans are very poor and very green where the frost came.

Washington, D. C., will tell you how to make cottage cheese in the home or creamery and in what dishes it may be used.

DON'T PLANT FRUIT TREES EARLY IN FALL

Fall planting of fruit trees should be delayed to late November or early December, advises the United States Department of Agriculture.

A pomologist of the department writes in reply to a New Jersey inquirer he would hesitate to advise planting in any section as early as October because of probable injury to the trees. In sections of the north where cold weather prohibits planting in November or December, he says, it is usually better to plant in the spring. Apple trees can be planted with safety in the fall farther north than peach trees and other less hardy kinds.

At the Missouri Experiment Station it recently has been shown that little or no root action takes place with fall planted trees until the surface of the ground has begun to freeze and the trees planted early in the fall may lose considerable vitality before they begin root action.

AVERAGE WHEAT YIELD PER ACRE, 1915-14—U. S. DEPT. OF AGR. YEAR BOOK 1915

	Bushels
Germany	30.7
France	20.1
Hungary	18.1
United Kingdom	33.4
United States	14.8

LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

PERSISTENT COMMENTS ON PRESENT DAIRY PRICES

High priced feed is also bound to cut down the milk yield despite high prices for dairy products. Farmers are not used to such conditions. They really haven't the capital to handle the business. Why, it takes \$1,000 now to buy a car of bran, \$1600 to buy a car of oil meal, \$1800 to buy a car of hominy feed, and corn meal is \$88 per ton. The farmer is not only afraid to make the investment but he absolutely hasn't got the capital to do it and it surely takes some nerve to do it even though one has credit so that he can get the capital.

I can sell a car of wheat, loaded at my siding, (about 1000 bushels at a little over \$2.00 per bushel. This car won't much more than buy a car of good dairy feed or hog feed. Some business men say that the farmer ought to raise his own feed. But there is a new order of things. The price of dairy feed and in fact the price of feed for almost all animals is not fixed by the price these animals or their products sell for in the market, but rather by the price of human food. Corn didn't advance to over \$2 per bushel because of the price of hogs or cattle, or of dairy products, but it was because the distillers wanted corn to make into liquor. It was because the manufacturers of corn syrup wanted the corn to make human food. It was because the manufacturers of corn starch wanted corn to make starch, etc., and these products are sold for human consumption which fixes the price, while the by-products, gluten feed, hominy feed, distillers grains, etc., are offered to the farmer to feed live stock. And this is good economics too. We ought not feed wheat or corn, etc., to live stock. They ought to be made into flour, hominy, flakes, etc., for human consumption and the by-products fed to live stock. It is the same with most all of the grains.

Farming is much more of a business than it used to be. The farmer has to convert the products he produces on his farm into cash and then take this cash and purchase these by-products to feed his live stock. This takes more than double capital now and if the farmers' grain crops are short by reason of a bad year then he lacks capital and he has got to borrow, or else he has got to hedge on feeding live stock. To illustrate, I had thirty acres of sweet corn this year grown for the canning factory that didn't sufficiently mature so that we got one single ear of corn matured enough for canning purposes. I ought to have had at least \$1,000 worth of corn in cash but I haven't got a single dollar. We left the crop in the field after the frost in September, thinking it might develop sufficiently so that part of the corn would sell. Some of it was slowly developing, then came another freeze which actually killed it. Probably this corn is worth a little bit more for silage than the stalks would have been had we been able to pick off the ears and sell them but we lack the cash and in the face of so much money going into Liberty bonds it is not the easiest thing for banks to accommodate. The money is getting pretty well tied up so what is a fellow going to do? The average farmer reasons that the only thing to do is to cut down the grain ration in live stock feeding and let the cows go without the usual amount of feed and consequently the production of milk is lessened.

The man who has the nerve and the business initiative and can command the capital will probably win

out on this proposition because I have faith in the future, but it isn't always what a man thinks he ought to do or what he would like to do, many times it is a question of what he can do. And when people like the Michigan Tradesman, criticize the farmers severely because they apparently are not willing to do these things and say that they should be summarily dealt with, a man is apt to lose some of his faith in humanity and yet, I suppose that we should pay no attention to this, we should be more like the Saviour on the cross who said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." The fact is that such business people know but very little about farming conditions and it is their ignorance of such things more than anything else that causes them to write such editorials as the one copied in a recent issue of M. B. F.—Colon C. Lillie.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN BREEDERS

With the great number of horses that the U. S. army must purchase for war purposes and the great numbers bought by the Allies, there is going to be a big demand for American horses in the future. Since the European war started this country has been exporting horses across the water much faster than the supply can be increased. The result is that horses are becoming scarce with a big and increasing market that must be supplied.

The Government is selecting horses with extreme care. The price paid is in most cases good or at least fair. Farmers are satisfied with the way Government officials are handling the work. The Government will purchase horses now direct from farmers for the army if they have a carload at one place. A great number of farmers are pooling their horses they have for sale and are now selling them direct.

It is a wise thing to sell as many geldings as possible and keep good mares in their place. By breeding every mare to the best sires possible the supply can be kept up something like normal.

What is going to be the result of this draining the best horses from the farms? It can only have one effect and that will be to the advantage of farmers generally. It will take a great many horses from the farms that have not been profitable and enable farmers to fill their place with horses better suited to the work to be done.

Farmers will turn off as many horses as possible this fall and during the early winter because of good prices offered and on account of the high prices of feeds. That will work well now but how about next spring when there will also be a great demand for horses for the farm work that must be performed and we must not lose sight of the fact that the Government as well as the Allies will be buying horses then as well as they are now. The best horses of the country will go into the army and be slaughtered on the fields of battle. And it takes at least four years to replace every animal that goes to Europe, so it can be readily seen why the price of horses will go up.

At the National Stock Yards, Illinois, one of the largest horse markets in the world, from 600 to 700 horses are being sold every week as well as a great number of mules. Nearly all of these are being bought by the U. S. Government, but some are being taken by the British government. There is also a strong market for horses to fill the demand of the sugar, mine and plantation trade at good prices.

The four-year-old horses from the South that formerly found a ready market can not be sold now. Feeder trade is practically dead which shows that farmers are selling instead of buying horses.—Bernard E. Coffin.

FALL PIGS SHOULD MAKE PROFITABLE HOGS

Notwithstanding the facts that the crop of fall pigs is short, at least in this vicinity, and also that the price of fat hogs is abnormally high for average conditions, young pigs are very cheap. They have been selling for \$2.00 per head at weaning time, the same old price as when live hogs were selling for from five to six cents. Not only this but you can scarcely sell them at that. Farmers don't want to buy. A farmer in a nearby neighborhood told me that his neighbor could not give his pigs away. There was nobody that even wanted to take the fall pigs as a gift, buy high-priced feed for them and run the risk of loss. There is practically no demand at all for these fall pigs.

The cause of this condition is the failure of the corn crop. It is almost an absolute failure in our vicinity. Many fields have scarcely any ears at all. The crop didn't get far enough along to ear. Other fields are nearly all soft and there is no field in the whole neighborhood that has anything like half a crop of ears, consequently it will take what little there is to finish off what few spring pigs they have and they are going to wait until they produce another crop before they put any more money into hogs. Farmers will not borrow the money and take the risk.

Personally, I think they are making a mistake. I cannot conceive any loss even if a man has to buy the larger part of the ration because with the world demand for pork hogs are bound to bring an unusually large price. It seems to me that the proper thing to do would be to perhaps cut down the number of hogs somewhat but not to go out of the business entirely. Farmers argue that while hogs are exceedingly high they are not high in proportion to feed than they ever were, but the money or business risk is more than double. And they know the risk; they have had experience in the past. They have seen the price in Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo drop three or four cents in the last few weeks. It isn't because there is a surplus of hogs in the country. It is simply because the packers and the middlemen have the power to "bear" or "bull" the market whenever they take it into their heads to do so. We are told by men who have carefully estimated the supply of hogs that there is not only a shortage in this country but there is a world shortage, yet in the face of this, the packers can "bear" the market three or four cents after the farmer had to pay \$2.00 or better for corn to feed his hogs. It is these things that actually scare the farmer. He hasn't got money to take such risks.

And yet, in the face of all this, farmers ought not to change materially their policy of breeding and feeding hogs. It is apt to change and unsettle conditions so that nobody knows what will happen. It is absolutely necessary to have a certain amount of meat and animal fat to keep people in healthy condition, consequently, our armies and the armies of our allies should be and must be supplied with this necessary amount. Therefore, even if the farmer lacks faith in making money in feeding hogs this winter, he ought to be willing to do something for "the flag;" he ought to be patriotic enough to run a little risk in the markets so that he can do his bit toward supplying the very necessary article of food to the men who are going to win the war. Overlook profits for once and do it for "democracy."—Colon C. Lillie.

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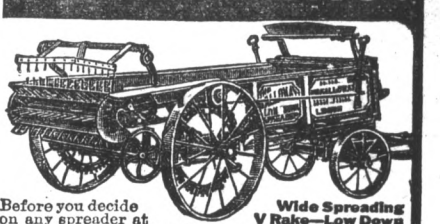
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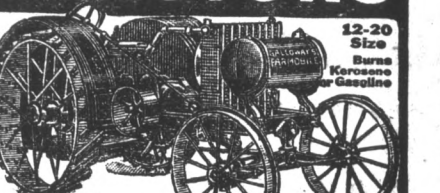


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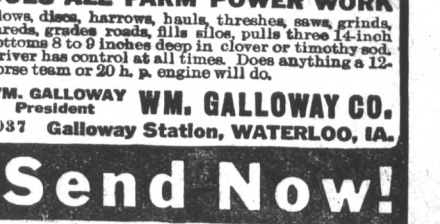
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France is Face to Face with Huge Meat Shortage

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The French people are very much like Americans to the extent that they prize their independence and resent efforts of the government to dictate methods of eating and living. They have also been liberal in feeding refugees without thought of their own future welfare. Hence they now face a dire shortage which official figures clearly prove. Farmers in America have a wonderful opportunity in helping to restore the agriculture of France by furnishing live stock both now and after the war.]

THE FRENCH government is very bureaucratic, but the French people do not like to be over-governed. They object seriously to anything that savors to them of meddling in a man's private affairs. For this reason is has been extremely difficult to get a workable income tax law in France. The people immediately rose against the proposal to give the government the right to examine their books and find out if they told the truth about their incomes, or find out what their incomes were, if they failed to make a return. So a scheme was figured out for taxing a man on seven times his rent, if he made no income tax return, or one the Government thought too low.

Saying how much or what a man shall eat is, also, getting pretty close to private affairs, and therefore, the French government, knowing intimately the people it has to deal with, is slow—s-l-o-w—in coming to such measures, even in face of the only too evident food shortage in the country. There have been efforts at price fixing, but they have not worked satisfactorily, one reason being that they have not been national, but local. Paris, for example, has tried fixing the price of butter, but it has been found that the result has been to drive butter away from Paris to localities where it could be sold for what the market would pay.

NATIONAL PRICE-FIXING TO BE TRIED

A scheme of national price-fixing is to be tried now with beans and potatoes. Both of these crops are far below the requirements of the country. I have seen many days when potatoes could not be bought in Paris, and it was a common thing last winter to have to run half over the city to find a market where green vegetables could be bought. The National price fixing scheme for beans and potatoes will divide the country into districts, with a penalty for sending either commodity out of the district without permission.

So far, meat has withstood all efforts to control its consumption—there has been no attempt to control its price—and yet it is vitally necessary either to control the consumption of meat in France or to increase the supply. Otherwise, the end of the war will see the country so reduced in its herds that it will take many years to bring them back again to the point where France will be once more self-sustaining.

SUPPLY MUST BE INCREASED.

Of course, the thing to do is to increase the supply. When a country has had its breadstuffs cut down to the extent that France has suffered, the people naturally fall back on meat. One might think they would fall back on vegetables, but the same reasons that have

Army Consumes 400,000 Tons of Meat Annually Which Together with Civilian Consumption is Rapidly Depleting the Live Stock Resources

By FRED B. PITNEY

deprived them of grains have deprived them of vegetables. There have not been the hands to cultivate the ground. They could no more raise vegetables than wheat. And they have fallen back on beef, mutton and pork. The herds existed and they have been eaten up. People had to have something to eat.

To what extent the herds have disappeared is shown by the cutting down of the meat ration of the soldiers at the front. At the beginning of the war they were allowed one pound of meat a day. Twenty per cent has now been cut from that allowance. And I will point out again that only dire necessity will countenance reducing the food allowance of soldiers at the front.

MEAT SHORTAGE SERIOUS

Civilians, naturally, were the first to suffer, when meat became scarce. The price went soaring. Retail prices to consumers doubled and trebled. The poor cut down in quantity, one under-stands, and the very poor went with-

out entirely. But those who could pay could have meat, if they were willing to give the price.

The time came, however, when there had to be an attempt to control the consumption. The army requires 36,000 tons of meat a month, or 432,000 tons a year. France's herds suffered enormously at the very beginning of the war. A total of approximately 2,500,000 cattle, sheep and hogs from the French herds were seized by Germany in the invaded provinces. Coming immediately on top of this loss France found herself compelled to find food for some millions of Belgian and French refugees. This had to be done at once and the herds remaining had to be slaughtered without stopping to ask questions about the future. One does not say to a starving man, "What will I do tomorrow, if I give you this crust of bread today?"

England, therefore, undertook to supply France with 250,000 tons of meat a year, and this supply was kept

up at the rate of about 20,000 tons a month until February of this year. At that time the English supply stopped. England was having then all she could do to feed her own people on reduced rations.

Thus, since February, France has had to supply from her own resources 432,000 tons of meat a year to her armies. 1,428,000 tons for the civilian population and another 350,000 tons for refugees, making a total of 2,000,000 tons of meat a year demanded by France.

HERDS DEPLETED

What are the herds she has to do this with? At the beginning of 1914 her cattle herds comprised 14,787,710 head; sheep 16,131,390 and hogs 7,035,850. By the end of 1914, after five months of war, her cattle were reduced to 12,668,243, her sheep to 14,038,361 and hogs to 5,925,291. Today her cattle herds are cut down more than twenty per cent, while her sheep number no more than 10,000,000 and her hogs 4,000,000—a loss of nearly fifty per cent of her hogs and three-eighths of her sheep on top of the loss of twenty per cent of her cattle.

Cattle feed is short in France and the cattle are poor and under weight. (Continued on page 13)

Renewing Fertility of Depleted Soils

To Reclaim "Worn-Out" Soils the Action which was the Cause of the Depletion must be Reversed and a Careful Rotation Followed

By NATHAN F. SIMPSON

WHILE THERE are many farmers suffering losses, because of poor marketing conditions, there are still more who are losing because they are not producing enough. Every farmer must produce a certain yield or he is farming at a loss. This lack of production is due to numerous causes, principally lack of fertility in the soil.

If the farmers now were blessed with virgin soil known to this country a half century ago, with the advantages of modern equipment available today, there would be an abundant production of farm products, notwithstanding the many vexing problems arising.

But no matter how painstaking the seeding and cultivating, no matter how much you study scientific farming, no matter how persistently you work to the end of reaching a maximum production, you must reclaim the fertility of the soil if living on a

depleted farm, or you will not be able to produce profitably. And when the farmers of any section have learned to feed the soil, along lines making possible a profitable rotation of crops, the problem of successful farming so far as that locality is concerned, is solved. This would apply especially to the proper fertilizing by clover and otherwise, of soil not so much depleted but what the successful seeding of clover and other nitrogen producing plants are certain.

The farmer in possession of soil, which under normal weather conditions will produce clover, has no excuse in this day and age, to allow the natural fertility of his soil to decrease. Keeping up the fertility of the soil where clover can be produced is a routine so simple and so generally known among all good farmers that further space to discuss the same

would not be necessary in this article. But how to reclaim a depleted farm where the soil is too poor to raise clover, and there are such farms in every community, will be the subject of this discussion.

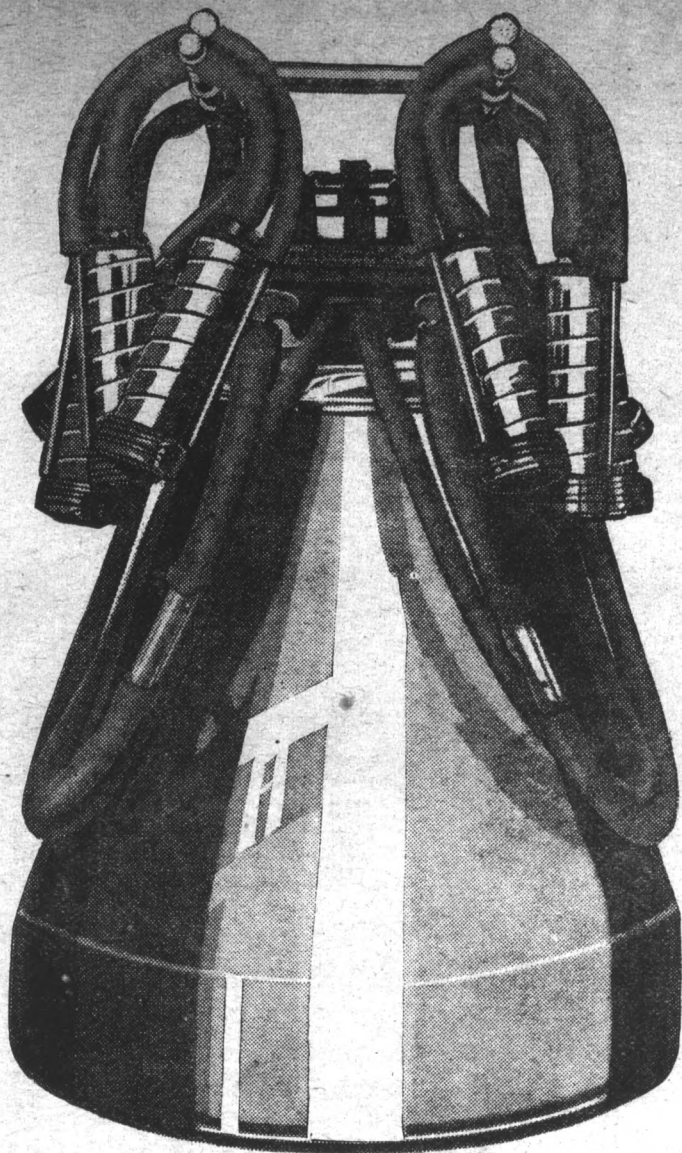
Not long ago, the writer, in company with the owner of a large farm in Michigan, was walking over the farm with a view of determining the proper rotation of crops. The owner was deploring the loss of a clover seeding, caused, as he claimed, by the drouth and hot winds. Scarcely had he completed his tale of woe when we came upon a strip of fresh clover, stretching across the field. This strip of clover marked the former site of a rail fence, which standing for years, had relieved this space of ground from producing, and in consequence it contained all that was required to produce clover. I called my companion's attention to the fresh growing clover, and asked

why the drouth and hot winds had not killed it. Following the observation, it was easy for me to convince the owner of this farm that he must start with some artificial means of fertilizing in order to produce a legume, which would further carry nitrogen to the soil until the usual rotation of grain, clover and pasture could be resumed. And you who are on a depleted farm, can usually at-tribute your loss of clover seeding more to the lack of fertility in the soil, than to conditions of the weather, and the great problem to discover the cure-all for this kind of soil, made pos-

(Cont. page 15)



A Belgian School House is used as a center for the allotment of wheat.



PERFECTION MILKER

"I Milk Thirty Cows An Hour, Alone."

THAT'S what farmers who use the Perfection are saying from coast to coast.

The Perfection is the friend who comes in without grumbling or complaining and does the milking. He milks each cow carefully and quickly. He keeps the milk clean. He doesn't howl and swear at the switching of the cow's tail. His quiet businesslike ways seem to please the cow better than those of the hand milkers. With one good man he can milk 30 cows in an hour. And he never quits his job.

The Perfection milks nature's way, with a gentle suction, a spiral downward squeeze, followed by a period of complete release. The

suction is adjustable to exactly suit hard or easy milking cows. The Perfection teat cup fits all sizes of teats. It is easy to clean. If your son or your hired man has been called to the colors, you will still be able to get your milking done easily, if you have the Perfection to help you. You can even increase the size of your herd, if you wish and thereby do your share in increasing the production of dairy foods of which the country really is in need.

C. F. Andrews of Richmond, Vermont, says:

"I milk 32 cows with my Perfection Milker in a satisfactory manner in about an hour. I see no change in the amount of milk we get. We have no teat or udder trouble. I know of 40 Perfections in this State, each one of which are satisfactory, and if I were to install another outfit, it would be a Perfection."

T. P. Peterson of Blooming Prairie, Minn., says:

"I use two double unit Perfection Milkers, and with them milk 27 cows in less than an hour. My cows made more butter fat per cow last year, milked with a Perfection Milker, than they ever made before. I bought another Perfection Milking Machine last fall for my other farm. I prefer the Perfection to any of the other makes that I have seen, and I believe it is easier on the cows, and the expense of keeping it in repair is very small. I am satisfied that it has no bad effect on the cows if properly operated. I would not be without a Perfection Milker as long as I milk cows."

Get a Perfection Milker and increase your earning capacity. Write today for free copy of our new illustrated catalog.

Perfection Manufacturing Company

2119 E. Hennepin Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota



A new potato and grain warehouse will be built at Provemont by A. J. Otto.

The Constantine Co-operative Buying & Selling association shipped a sow for John Stears the other day which weighed 530 pounds and sold for \$90.18 net.—*Advertiser-Record, Constantine.*

Geo. Freidrich marketed some regular shoats in Brooklyn Saturday. There were seven as near alike as peas. They averaged 260 lbs. each and at \$17.75 brought 321.27.—*Brooklyn Exponent.*

Alex McConnochie has just cleaned up 130 head of cattle which he has had on pasture farms during the season. Sixty head went to Buffalo and the balance were sold to farmers for feeders.—*Decker-ville Recorder.*

Will Scott planted an unknown variety of potatoes last spring which are proving to be some yielders according to two samples which he brot to our office last Friday. One hill contained 24 potatoes and weighed 9 1-4 pounds and the other contained 35 tubers which weighed 8 1-4 pounds. They are a fine sample and Will says they are splendid cookers.—*Decker-ville Recorder.*

Dr. A. H. Weber of Petoskey and brother J. S. Weber, the latter a banker in Des Moines, have purchased a number of Emmet county farms and will start a cattle raising industry. Alfalfa ranches will also be another feature on their newly secured farm land holdings, as well as potatoes from the fact that potatoes raised on the cheapest Michigan land yield as many bushels per acre and are far better quality than those raised on \$500 acre Iowa farms, according to Mr. Weber's statement.—*Portland Observer.*

The Co-operative company's shipments of live stock since instituting this department about three weeks ago, amount to \$12,244.78.—*North Branch Gazette.*

A carload of potatoes ready for shipment out of the Colon station was destroyed last week, some miscreant entering the car at night and sprinkling fine salt all over the tubers. The ruin was complete and Michigan Central detectives are looking for the evil doer.—*Union City Reg. Weekly.*

Federal secret service agents Tuesday reported to Washington the discovery in a Buffalo warehouse of millions of pounds of sugar in bags and barrels, labeled "Top Crust Flour." Notations on the packages, it was said indicated that the sugar had been coming into the warehouse over a period of several months. A federal agent who made a survey of the contents of the building estimated the amount of sugar at 150 carloads or about 10,000,000 pounds.—*Mayville Monitor.*

The Evert Creamery Company is now ready for business and will start in all departments this morning under the direction of expert workmen from the factory who placed the machinery. Since determining to enlarge the scope of their business last summer the company has been greatly delayed in procuring material with which to enlarge the plant and the machinery owing to prevailing conditions; it was first planned to have their plant ready July 15. The plant is equipped to make powdered milk, condensed milk, butter and cheese, and buy whole milk direct from the farmers. Next week auto trucks and teams will make regular trips to Hersey, Chippewa, Orient, Sylvan and Hartwick townships, for gathering milk, cream, eggs, poultry etc. The enlarged industry will furnish a great impetus to the dairy industry of this locality.—*Evert Review.*

Fred Donaldson of Sandusky brags about one bean stalk with 60 pods on it, but Walter Evans of this village has him beaten a mile. Mr. Evans brot a bean stalk to this office recently which had 110 pods on it and there were several pods broken off in handling. Come on, you bean brags.—*Decker-ville Recorder.*

Corwin Giles brought in some "Early Breakfast" potatoes on Tuesday, about the best seen around these parts in many a year. Carwin tells his experience as follows: "With just ten pounds of seed I planted 88 hills and harvested 376 pounds, an even six bushels above the ten pounds of seed planted. They are the best size as well as the best yield I have ever raised. Only eleven pounds of the lot were under market size and of the largest only 48 as selected filled a bushel basket, averaging from one to one and a half pounds each."—*Brooklyn Exponent.*

Plans are being made to hold a farmers meeting in Union City soon to consider the advisability of forming an independent local co-operative company. This is in response to numerous demands that products other than live stock be handled. It was quite generally considered at the time of joining with the West Calhoun Co-operative company that this junction was likely to be only temporary. The time now seems right to incorporate a company of our own, capitalizing enough to operate a warehouse and general supply house. By late interpretation of a co-operative law, it is made possible to organize very simply and to obtain sufficient financial rating to carry on an extensive business. Arrangements are being made to have a federal organizer here, and it is hoped that when the date is announced, a large attendance may be had.—*Union City Register Weekly.*

FRANCE FACE TO FACE WITH MEAT SHORTAGE

(Continued from page 12)

More of them have to be killed in proportion to supply the needed quantity of meat. Milk cows have been killed and the shortage of proper feed has reduced both the quantity and qual-

THE ORIGINAL CHEMICAL
Indoor Closet
30,000 SOLD—FIFTH YEAR
More Comfortable, Healthful, Convenient
Eliminates the out-house, open vault and cess-pool, which are breeding places for germs. Have a warm, sanitary, odorless toilet right in your house. No going out in cold weather. A boon to invalids. Endorsed by State Boards of Health.
ABSOLUTELY ODORLESS
Put It Anywhere In The House
The germs are killed by a chemical process in water in the container. Empty once a month. No more trouble to empty than ashes. Closet absolutely guaranteed. Guarantee on file in the office of this publication. Ask for catalog and price.
RO-SAN SANITARY MFG. CO. 12411 6th ST., DETROIT, MICH.
Ask about the Ro-San Washstand—Hot and Cold Running Water Without Plumbing

ity of milk. Why, I have seen the time when it has been next to impossible to get milk for my little baby in Paris. I have gone from store to store, begging some one to sell me as little as two cents worth of milk for my baby.

CRYING NEED FOR MEAT

The government is trying to conserve the meat supply and save the herds now, by limiting the use of meat to one meal a day. The endeavor is made to accomplish this purpose by forbidding the sale of meat after 1 p. m., and ordering the butcher shops closed at that hour, while hotels and restaurants can serve meat only with the noonday meal. But this measure has had little effect on the use of meat as it serves only against the restaurants. Housekeepers can buy all the meat they want before 1 o'clock, and they do it, as there is no restriction in the amount that can be bought. Moreover, in the restaurants one can eat all the meat one wants at midday, and thus make up for having none at night, and this, also is the practice.

There is only one real solution to the problem. France must have more meat. Her herds are disappearing rapidly. They are today far below the danger point. Soon they will have to be reconstituted entirely. Meat, meat, meat and again meat, is a pressing need for France.



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



ANNE CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

This Week's Tested Recipe

RICE PUDDING WITHOUT EGGS

Three tablespoonfuls of rice to a quart of milk, one cup of sugar, a lump of butter as big as a hickory nut, a little salt and nutmeg to suit. Bake about three hours, and stir until thick and creamy. (This economical recipe was taught me by my grandmother, and is splendid.—A. C. S.)

A Chance to Make Some Christmas Money.

ONE OF our neighbors from Lockport, Michigan, wrote me the other day, telling me that she had reduced the amount of wheat flour used in her family to one-third by following the suggestions of Mr. Herbert Hoover. She said she thought this was the least she could do for her country, and wondered if other women are doing the same.

I, for one, am observing two meatless days a week, and a wheatless day. Judging from how difficult it is to get sugar and coal, it looks as if after awhile we would be keeping meatless, wheatless, sweetless and heatless days!

Anyhow, what I want to know is, what are you doing for your country? Are you following the suggestions of the Government, through Mr. Hoover? Are you observing meatless days? Are you wasting nothing, and cutting down on your menu as much as possible?

Remember, we women have to help fight the kaiser, and the only way we have to do it except send our men away, is to fight him through the kitchen. Everything we save means so much more for our soldiers. And, by the way, are you remembering the soldiers at Christmas? Are you knitting?

Write and tell me in what manner you are doing your bit! For every letter published we will pay 50 cents and that much will help to buy some 'baccy for our boys at Christmastime!

Now, dear neighbors, drop your broom for a minute, sit down to the old "secretary," and tell me just what you are doing to shorten this war we are all praying will end soon.

Address letters to Mrs. Anne Campbell Stark, Editor Woman's Page, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

The Land of Substitutes

MISS MARY ETHEL MCAULEY went to Germany in 1915 to write of war conditions as she found them. She came back this summer, three months after we had entered the war, and says that Germany is the land of substitutes.

She says they have about a hundred different brands of coffee substitute and they are all very bad, as is also the substitute for tea.

Soap is one of the scarcest things in the land and everywhere posters are pasted warning the people to save the soap. Clothes are put to soak a week before washday and every day they are washed a little. At the end of the week the dirt falls out of them, and thus hard rubbing is saved. Miss McAuley says that they don't use washboards in Germany.

They clean hardwood floors with tin shavings. Felt shoes are worn by the housewives and the shavings are rubbed over the floors with the feet. Most stores will sell just one spool of embroidery floss to one person at one time. If you want another spool you have to go back the next day.

One of the funniest restrictions the storekeepers had, Miss McAuley says, was that you could not buy an orange without buying a lemon at the same time. This worked two ways. The oranges were saved and the storekeepers got rid of their lemons.

Coffee grounds are not thrown out but cooked over and over. When you go to a shop, you must take a bag of paper along, as they save paper over there. If you don't take your own bag for eggs you must carry them home in your hand. String is saved carefully, too.

No matter how rich a person is they cannot run their own automobile. This is to save tires and gasoline. Some of the automobiles displayed for sale have cement tires.

There is a substitute for eggs, and a substitute for milk. Miss McAuley says the egg substitute is very good, especially when mixed with one real egg, and makes very good omelets. They have iron and aluminum money. They make oil out of nuts, and use hazelnut oil to fry potatoes. They make cloth from thistles.

And to cap the climax, in the city of Hanover, on account of the scarcity of water, the water is shut off entirely from the bathrooms and no one can take a bath.

Enjoy This World

MY AUNT Abby Watkins always thought being a Christian was to frown on all the bright, beautiful things of this world, wear sober black, hold her mouth as if she was continually saying "papa, prunes and prisms," and never sing anything but hymns.

There are lots of Aunt Abbys in the world, sad to relate. What a strange idea hers is, dating back to the old Puritan days! They believed that although God surrounded them with beauty, it should be frowned upon. Rich and poor alike can enjoy the beauty of the fields, the open sky, the myriad colors of the autumn woods, the flowers, the friendly stars, the little moon that rides so high above us! It doesn't take riches to get beauty out of a sunset. No millionaire can drink it with any more appreciation or pleasure than his poorest servant.

A Night at Home in Winter

I LOVE the winter evenings,
Somehow they seem the best.
I like to sit around the lamp
And read, and talk and jest!
Outside the keen wind whistles,
Inside it's toasty warm!
There's nothing like a night at home
In winter, on the farm!

THE SOFT lamplight is shining
On daddy's silvered hair,
And sister at the organ
Is singing an old air.
While mother's knitting needles
Are shining in the light,
She helps the youngest children
Get all their lessons right.

SOMETIMES on Friday evenings
We pop the golden corn,
And munch the bright red apples
Until it's almost morn.
Some nights it is eleven,
Just dreadful late, I think!
But there's no school next morning
So we get an extra wink!

I Know when I am older
And maybe far from home
I'll think of these dear evenings,
No matter where I roam.
So quiet and so peaceful,
So far removed from harm!
There's nothing like a night at home
In winter, on the farm!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

I believe that is why God made this world so beautiful. Poor folks cannot fill their houses with beautiful pictures, Oriental rugs, and handsome furniture. We have to get along with what we have, and save mighty hard for any added luxury. But we can all enjoy the beautiful furnishings of the great out-of-doors; the snow which is more lovely than any carpet one can buy; the pictures Jack Frost makes on the window pane could not be reproduced with such delicacy and finish by man.

And Aunt Abby to the contrary, this world is filled with good, friendly people. We read the record of crimes in the daily papers, and it seems almost as if there aren't any Christians left in the world. But all about us are such fine, simple, friendly folks, who are always doing good little neighborly deeds for us. We know that the wicked and the criminals are the exception, and not the rule. Of course, if we have Aunt Abby's peculiar disposition, all we can see about this world is unlovely. We extoll the virtues of the next world, and do not see the heaven about us. We are so busy being good in our own narrow, selfish way that we haven't time to do good to those about us.

When I was a child going to Sunday school, I remember our teacher had made a visit to Chicago, and was much impressed with some of the sights he saw there. He described his sensations upon going up to the top of the Masonic Temple, many stories above the ground, and I will never forget the parable he drew for us. He said that

Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

Spread the Meat Flavor

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

Meat Turnovers

Chop the meat. If the quantity on hand is small, mix with it left-over potato or rice. Season with salt and pepper, onion, etc. Place filling on circular pieces of biscuit dough about the size of a saucer. Fold over the dough and crimp edges together. Bake for about one-half hour in a hot oven.

A brown sauce made from two tablespoonfuls of flour browned in two tablespoonfuls of butter to which a cupful of water or stock and a half teaspoonful of salt is added, may be served over the turnovers.

as he stood there and looked down, all the people on the street below looked short and wide, and spread out. No one looked tall and thin, and he said that the lesson he got from this was that God in looking down from His great height upon us, judged us the same way. We are judged by our width, by the good we spread about us, and not by the narrow, bigoted little life we live within ourselves.

In order to spread a good influence, it is necessary to be cheerful, to enjoy yourself, and have a good time as you go along. Smiles and loving words will work wonders, where frowns and cross words will fail utterly. Aunt Abby thought she was a good Christian; no doubt she was, poor soul, according to her understanding, but if she had laughed a little more, been kinder to children, and enjoyed this world, how lovingly we would think of her now, and how much more she would have enjoyed her life here!

Ninety-Nine Cents Worth of Cretonne

MY BACK bedroom was always a cheerless place. There are some rooms like that, have you noticed? It wasn't improved any when we built a garage in our backyard, which is small (we live in a village.) This made the room dark, and try as I would, I couldn't make a livable room of it. I was going to give it to the children as a play room, but thought that would be taking a mean advantage of them, as children require sunnier rooms than grown folks do. It was really a logical room for the guest room, and this is what I had planned, and so I told my friendliest little neighbor one autumn afternoon.

"Can you suggest anything to give this room the cosy look it lacks?" I asked.

She laughed as she answered, "Ninety-nine cents worth of cretonne!"

"I had just such a room in our old house," she went on to say. "One day I was over to the dry goods store, and saw some very inexpensive cretonne. It was a cream background, with a blue flowered design, and sold for only eighteen cents a yard. My windows were double as yours are, so I bought five and one-half yards, which cost me ninety-nine cents. I split it through the center, measured the length of my windows, made two curtains for each, hemmed on the one side, and top and bottom, and made a short curtain or valance to fit and ruffle a little, of course, between the pair of curtains on each window. I hung these over my tied-back ruffled curtains, which I used in order to get all the light possible into the room, and you have no idea what a difference it made. Luckily I had a white iron bed, and white dresser and rocker in the room, and the light furniture made the room seem brighter and cheerier than darker furniture would have. I enameled a little white table to match, and put a basket of bright artificial nasturtiums on it, and an inexpensive blue rug on the floor, and now it is the prettiest room in the house. Indeed I was so in love with my cretonne drapes, which are so easy to make, and cost so little that I have them in all my bedrooms now, and over my dining room curtains too, I have some handsome stuff in a bird and flower pattern."

My neighbor went on to say that it was those little touches that take more thought than money that give any room the desired homelike effect, and when I had followed her suggestion, I heartily agreed with her.

My back room is as pretty now as any room in the house, and I never feel ashamed when I usher a guest in there.

County Crop Reports

GENESEE (Southwest)—Farmers are sowing rye, digging potatoes and cutting corn. They are also harvesting the bean crop, many acres of which are yet in the fields. The weather has been cold and rainy for the past few days. The soil is too wet for working right now, but it will not take long for it to be O.K. for fitting up. Farmers are selling potatoes, wheat, rye and other grains in moderate quantities. Several are holding potatoes for higher prices. An extra large amount of the pedigreed grains, Red Rock wheat and Rosen rye are being sown this fall. The auction sale season has started and several sales are billed for the next few days. The apple crop is very short. There is a serious shortage of threshing coal.—C. W. S. Fenton.

HILLSDALE (Northeast)—Some are still cutting corn and others are husking. Potato digging is in full swing. Farmers are getting \$1 per bu. at the car.—J. A. H. Somerset Center.

BENZIE (West Central)—The Woodmen of Benzoncia camp filled neighbor Fred Watters' silo last Monday. Farmers are digging potatoes. A light snow has fallen here.—G. H. Benzoncia.

INGHAM (Northeast)—Farm work is pretty nearly at a standstill with rain and snow in the air. A few beans out yet.—A. N. Williamston.

BENZIE (West)—The farmers are digging potatoes and trying to harvest beans. There is a storm nearly every day when it rains or snows or does both. There are some potatoes but not very many. There is not much building or buying here only absolutely what is necessary (and automobiles.) The farmers will hold what little beans they have until they get a fair price for them. Then, even then they will show on the debit side of the ledger, at \$10 per bu. If the weather will ever permit, buckwheat will be threshed; it is about half a crop here as the crop was frosted.—F. M. Elberta.

MIDLAND (Southeast)—The farmers are threshing beans and doing fall plowing. The weather is cold and rainy at this writing. Our potatoes are all good and about all dug, but the bean crop here is small, had out 17 acres and will get about 25 bushels or close to that. Those who had their ground tilled did not do so bad.—J. H. M., Hemlock.

ANTRIM (Southwest)—Potato digging is the main business in this vicinity. Some of the farmers have not pulled all of their beans yet on account of the scarcity of help.—C. F. W., Alden.

MONROE (West)—Have had lots of rain. Most of the wheat and rye are in the ground. Corn is all cut and in the shock. There was lots of corn that was not good enough to cut this year. Some of the corn is soft. Hoping to have some warm weather for our late wheat. Lots of the early wheat did not come good on account of its being so dry shortly after being planted.

MONTCALM (Southwest)—Farmers are mostly through harvesting fall crops and some are digging potatoes which is a poor crop in this neighborhood. The weather is cold and heavy frosts were received this week. Soil is wet but not too wet to prevent farmers from working. The prices of potatoes are from twenty-five to thirty cents lower than they were last week and the farmers are not marketing.—W. L., Greenville.

OCEANA (Southeast)—It begins to look as though winter was nearly here. The biggest share of the crops are harvested and beans and buckwheat are being threshed. Beans are yielding very poorly and many will not even be threshed. They range in price here from \$7.50 to \$9.00, and some have been offered as high as \$10.00 for good white beans. A large acreage of grain was sown in this county; mostly all looking good.—H. V. B., Hesperia.

PRESQUE ISLE (Central)—The wet weather is interfering with potato digging; there is about a third of the crop in the ground yet, and they are not a very poor yield.—D. D. S., Millersburg.

TUSCOLA (Central)—Farmers are still digging potatoes, and they are not as good as looked for, but still a fair crop and range from 90 to 150 bushels to the acre; the price is from \$1.00 to \$1.20. Beans are all pulled here but no threshing done yet; there will be a light crop by the looks now. There is no corn here. Some beets and cloverseed out yet. The farmers are selling some rye and wheat but no oats. Potatoes are moving fast. No fall plowing done yet on account of the wet weather. Farmers are paying \$2.50 and \$3.00 a day with board for help and can't get it at that.—R. B. C., Caro.

BRANCH (North)—Farmers are refilling silos and digging potatoes. Weather wet and cold; soil too wet to work. Are selling some grain and holding some hay and oats. Not building or buying much.—F. S., Union City.

TUSCOLA (Northeast)—Owing to the continued rains the most of the beans are still in the field and how much they are being damaged is hard to tell but with the heavy frosts and so much wet weather they are no doubt being damaged to some extent. Potatoes are mostly taken care of and were a fair crop, although there are not many grown in this district. Corn not very ripe and seed corn will be scarce.—J. A. McG., Cass City.

JACKSON (West)—The farmers are still trying to dry their beans but it is still raining. The beans of Jackson Co. will be a total loss if it don't stop raining.—B. T., Parma.

JACKSON (South)—Weather is cold and rainy. Farmers are behind with their work. Impossible to get help. Day help commands 3.00 and dinner, but it is hard to secure any at that price. It is difficult to get a supply of either hard or soft coal at present. Dealers do not seem to know when they will get any more coal. Corn and beans nearly all harvested; crops poor and the corn is soft and of poor quality. Potatoes are good and of good quality, and are bringing readily \$1 a bu. at the market. Some farmers are getting more. Wheat all sown and most of the rye also. Apples are scarce and of poor quality. Not very much hay to market this year, most of it will be fed up on the farm.—G. S.

RENEWING FERTILITY OF DEPLETED SOILS

(Continued from page 12)

sible without bankrupting the owner. The cure for the depleted farm described in a few words is: reverse the action which was the cause of depleting your farm. How did you or your predecessor reduce the fertility of your farm? Listen! You raised wheat after wheat without fertilizing because the soil at that time would produce wheat, and wheat was bringing a good price. Because your straw stacks were numerous, you sold straw for a paltry sum, and in doing so you drove about as good a bargain as did Esau in selling his birthright.

Clover seed was costly, and in your mad pace to tax the soil to its limit you passed the clover by and raised another crop of grain. It was not necessary to divide the two fields of grain by a fence, so one by one your fences disappeared, and in consequence your flocks and herds diminished in the same proportion. You sold more milk and stopped the supply of separated milk, the main support of your calves and pigs.

As your flocks and herds diminished, necessarily your income was lessened, so you further reduced your live stock to finance the farm. The less live stock, the less you were in need of hay, pasture and fences, so you raised more wheat and sold more straw, carrying on your process of dissolution until by degrees you drew off from your farm or consumed in your every day routine of destructive farming the last vestige of fertility in your over-cropped farm, while clover, the redeemer of all depleted soils, no longer lived, and under the old dispensation of farm production, you were lost.

So I say, in prescribing a general remedy to reclaim depleted soils, take the opposite course from which you or your predecessors have taken in reducing the production of your farm. To start, use the necessary commercial fertilizers required in producing clover and other legumes. Stop selling whole milk, although it may bring a trifle more, and use the separated milk in raising pigs and calves. Build up your fences, and to the farmers I know who are buying condensed milk, purchase some cows. To the farmer who keeps a cow, staked out by the roadside, turn the poor creature into a pasture and see to it that she has company. Don't sell any more straw. Use it for roughage, mulching or as an absorbent about your stables or yards, and if you have the money or your credit is good, and should your neighbor be foolish enough to sell his straw, buy it, and you will realize within a short time, by comparison, that you are transferring the fertility of his farm to yours. Don't allow anyone to tell you that it pays to sell straw and buy commercial fertilizer. It pays to use both, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, so keep all your straw and roughage.

The Lord created vegetable life to sustain animal life, and the animals were intended to roam the fields, and subsist on what the soil produced. Do not try to defy natural laws established before you became a farmer.

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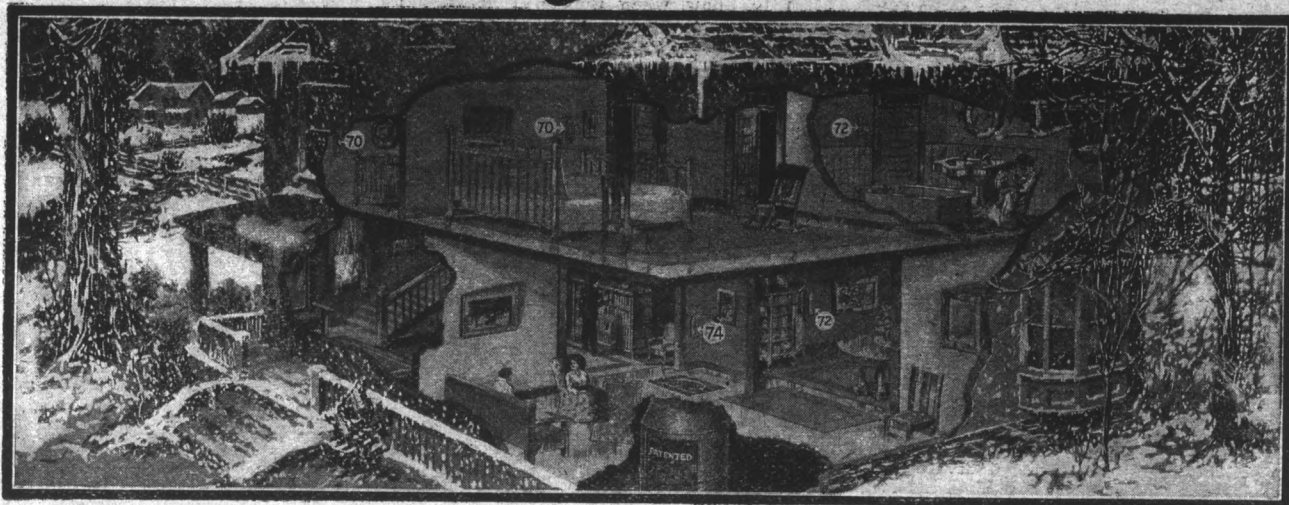
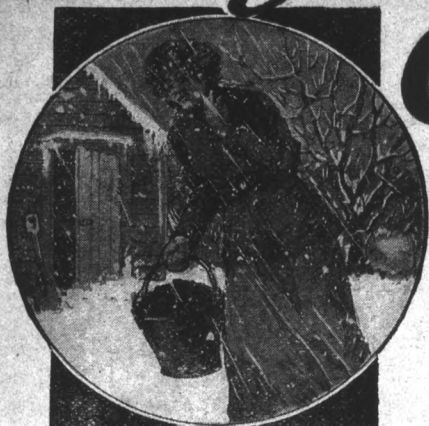
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