

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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Attitude of Special Commission Favorable to Higher Prices to Milk Producers

Decision of Commission Appointed to Determine Wholesale and Retail Price of Milk for Detroit of Vital Interest to Every Producer in Michigan

As we go to press the milk commission appointed by Governor Sleeper at the request of the Michigan Milk Producers' Ass'n for the purpose of determining what price the producers who supply the city of Detroit are entitled to for their milk and what the consumers should pay, is still in session. We had hoped to present the outcome of the conference to our readers this week, but in view of the large amount of testimony that had to be considered by the commission, it was unable to complete its investigation and make a report within the period expected, and as a result we are compelled to close our pages without this valuable information.

The commission came into being thru the efforts of the officers of the Michigan Milk Producers' Ass'n, who had grown tired of the constant struggle between the producers and distributors and were anxious to let the light of publicity shine full upon the situation, believing that the consumer would be fair enough to concede the producers' demands even at the cost of higher retail prices. The producers agreed without any hesitancy to abide by the findings of the commission and to accept whatever price they deemed was equitable after a review of the facts. The distributors were not so willing to place their case into the hands of a disinterested committee but largely thru the efforts of W. J. Kennedy, president of Towar's Creamery Company representing about 90 per cent of the total number of milk wagons plying the city, finally agreed to plead their case before the commission and abide by the result.

The commission convened last Friday afternoon at the Detroit Board of Commerce. President N. F. Hull presented the producers' case very briefly and completely, laying especial emphasis upon the fairness and justness of their demands. He earnestly declared that positively all the producers wanted was a price to cov-

er the cost of production plus a fair profit.

Secretary Reed told the commission that in investigating and determining the wholesale and retail prices of milk, the most valuable human food in existence, they were making history in which the entire country was interested. In his eloquent and earnest manner Mr. Reed impressed the committee with the dignity and importance of their task and urged them to consider the matter strictly from an unprejudiced standpoint, basing their decision wholly upon the facts to be laid before them.

Splendid addresses were made by D. D. Aitken of Flint, and Milo D. Campbell of Coldwater, who is president of the National Milk Producers' Ass'n, and who has been in Washington the larger part of the last four months in conference with Mr. Hoover.

W. J. Kennedy of the Towar's Creamery spoke as an indirect representative of the Detroit dealers. He very diplomatically conceded that the producers should have more money but said that it was impossible for the distributors to pay more with milk at 12 cents per quart. Endeavoring to explain the wide margin between the price paid to the producer and that charged the consumer, Mr. Kennedy admitted that the fault lay principally in the waste-

ful distributing methods, involving a duplication of routes by several different companies. He said he had positive knowledge of a case where 20 different dealers were delivering milk within the same block. Other causes to which he attributed the high cost of distribution included shrinkage, breakage of bottles, and high labor costs, incident to the city of Detroit.

It would be impossible to review in detail the mass of figures and documentary evidence laid before the commission by the milk dealers, to show that they were losing money every day. Altho each representative had cost sheets covering expense of conducting their plants for various periods of the year, each of which disclosed a deficit, written right down in red ink where everyone could see, none of them had a plausible explanation as to why they were still in business and present at the meeting to argue their case.

From the various statements laid before the commission we are able to gather the following summary:

1. The producers are entitled to an advance in the price of milk which will cover the cost of production plus a 10 per cent profit. This is what the producers ask. As the basis of their costs, they are willing to accept the data gathered by F. T. Redell of the experiment station.

2. The distributors practically agree that the farmers must have higher prices to meet the constantly increasing costs, and they use the same

arguments to show that they, too, are entitled to higher prices.

3. The cost of distributing milk in the city of Detroit is abnormally high. Whether this is wholly due to the causes enumerated by the distributors, or to overcapitalization and excessive salaries has not yet been made clear.

4. Assuming that the figures prepared by public accountants showing the gross income and expenses of the creamery companies are correct, there is very little money in the creamery business in the city of Detroit today. The Towar's Creamery Company claim their net profits are about three tenths of one per cent per quart, which on a gross business of 100,000 quarts per day means a daily income of \$300. Part of this amount, however, must go toward paying taxes and depreciation, or at least so declared Mr. Kennedy.

5. The price of milk in Detroit is no higher than in many other cities of equal size and less than in some cities. However, without exception, the distributors in those cities where milk is retailing at 12 cents a quart are paying much higher prices to farmers than are the Detroit distributors.

6. Undoubtedly the commission will grant the producers the price they ask. And unless a careful checking of the books of the creamery companies by a disinterested accountant is made revealing padded charges, the commission will recommend higher prices to the distributors, on the basis of the figures they have submitted. This means that the producers will receive for their December milk (\$3.47 cost plus 10% profit), and the price to the consumer will go up to 14 and possibly 15 cents per \$3.47 per hundred quart.

What will be the final outcome of this investigation into the Detroit milk situation? It must be admitted by all who have any knowledge of the situation at all that any recommendations made at this time can have only a temporary effect. As long as individuals or corporations performing any kind of a function in the distributing of farm

(Cont. on page 16)



Special Milk Commission Appointed by Governor Sleeper to solve Detroit's milk problem. From left to right, they are as follows: Mrs. Robert Grindley, representative of the Women's Clubs; J. Walter Drake, representative of Detroit Board of Commerce; Hon. Fred M. Warner, former governor of Michigan; Frank Martel, representative of Detroit Federation of Labor; Hon. Fred L. Woodworth, state dairy and food commissioner; Hon. L. R. Waterbury, member state board of agriculture; Hon. Jas. N. McBride, state market director; Prof. A. C. Anderson of the Michigan Agricultural College.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

NEW BEAN MAN IS APPOINTED

K. P. Kimball, Erstwhile Bean Jobber, Called to Washington to Head Government's Bean Department

About the only development in the bean situation which can be legitimately called news is the appointment of K. P. Kimball of Detroit to take charge of the government's bean department.

Mr. Kimball is a typical bean jobber, having been associated at various times with the Isbell Bean Company and the C. J. Edgar Company. Whether he goes to Washington as a friend or foe of Michigan bean producers is not known, tho press dispatches upon this point are very optimistic claiming that Mr. Kimball will see to it that Michigan growers get a square deal and a fair profit.

It is stated that Mr. Kimball appreciates the losses to which Michigan and New York growers have been subjected and will use his influence with the Food Administration to protect the farmers thru a fair price to the end that they may be encouraged to plant as large an acreage another year. It is also declared that Mr. Kimball plans to invite into consultation representatives of the various farmers' organizations of the state.

If this is done, it will be the first sensible move that has yet been made to take the growers into the confidence of the Administration and listen to their "side of the story." It should be plain to the government that the farmers of this state will not be foolish enough to plant beans in any quantity another year, if nothing is done to save them from losses this year. We shall endeavor to secure a statement from Mr. Kimball relative to his plan for satisfying the conditions in Michigan, but,—

In the meantime, hang onto your beans until they hit the \$8 mark.

Last Minute Crop Reports

INGHAM (Southwest)—The bean situation in this locality is bad. A few fields that were early are good quality with a small yield per acre, about 7 to 10 bu. The late beans are soft and pick heavy. Some will not be threshed at all, and some will not be pulled, and some pulled and stacked and will be fed to stock. One farmer here had 60 acres, paid \$10 per bu. for seed, pulled 52 acres, lost 8 acres, threshed the 52 acres and got 350 bu. and mostly all soft. Where are the beans that will make a record crop for this year? Corn is poor, and there will not be much husked here; it won't keep until it is frozen and then stock won't eat it until it is cooked. Every man who raised sugar beets is mad; it looked like a good contract, but now they say the government has fixed the price of sugar, so our contracts are no good, and the agent tells us it is \$8.25 per ton.—F. H., Leslie.

CHEBOYGAN (South)—Cheboygan county has had real winter weather this week, all but the snow. The mercury has registered as low as 8 degrees below zero. The ground is frozen so as to stop plowing and road work. Bean threshing and hay baling is the order of the day at this time. Farmers are getting things in shape for winter. This is the week

"R. E. Smith who has conducted a general store at Leroy for several years, has the distinction of being the only merchant, so far as there is any record, to be tendered a party by his customers 'because of his low prices and fair treatment.' Two hundred of his patrons gathered at Grange hall here and dined Mr. Smith, then presented him with a purse of \$85."

Here's an object lesson for those few cross-grained, sour-visaged, pessimistic country dealers who still persist in believing that the farmer is their worst enemy. Our small town brethren would receive vastly more consideration from the farmers when they show by word and action that they deserve it.

of Thanksgiving, and although we are in the midst of trying times, we surely have many things to be thankful for. If our forefathers could give thanks on that first Thanksgiving day we at this time can surely do the same, if our hearts are right.—Wolverine.

NEWAYGO (Central)—We have had another fine week for farm work. Most all of the beans are threshed, some were good but many of them were very poor. Farmers are not selling much. \$1.00 per cwt. is being paid for potatoes in Fremont.—C. B., White Cloud.

MISSAUKEE (North Central)—Farmers are getting ready for winter. Some fall plowing done. Weather very cold for this time of year with no snow. No potatoes are moving; they are not buying at Lake City. Farmers do not want to sell for less than \$1 per bu.—H. E. N., Cutcheon.

BENZIE (Southwest)—Farmers are cutting their winter supply of wood. We have had two weeks of pleasant weather but it is snowing now. Farmers are selling beans, potatoes and cabbage; holding potatoes for higher prices. Fuel scarce, soft coal \$9 per ton. Farmers get \$2.75 for green stove-wood and \$3.75 for dry.—G. H., Benzonian.

SAGINAW (Northwest)—Plowing has been halted by the frost. The weather is fine but cold. Hemlock farmers have set the price of seed corn at \$2.00 per bu. ears. Corn is being husked very slowly because of the large proportion of soft corn. Butchering is the order of the day. Most farmers here have had meatless weeks the past summer.—M. S. G., Hemlock.

CLINTON (West)—Some clover being threshed, yielding from 1 to 2 bu. per acre. Not much wheat is sold, elevators at Fowler and Pewama paying only \$2.05 for No. 2 red, while the price should be \$2.10. Farmers are dissatisfied with grading of wheat at elevators. At least 95 per cent of corn is soft and has to be fed from field. Coal and wood very scarce. No corn to be had and some are obliged to feed wheat, which at the regular price is our cheapest feed.—T. B., Fowler.

FARMERS' CLUB ANNIVERSARY

Twenty-Five Years of Successful Organization to be Properly Celebrated With Two-Day Program, Beginning Dec. 4.

The Michigan State Association of Farmers' Clubs has rounded out a full quarter of a century of existence, and on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, Dec. 4th and 5th, will fittingly observe the anniversary by a splendid program, to be given in the senate chamber of the State Capitol at Lansing.

Hon. C. B. Scully, farmer-senator of the 21st district, is president of the Association and will preside at the meeting. The general session will open at 1 p. m. Tuesday, and a program of speeches, music, readings, etc., will be rendered during the afternoon and evening. At the following morning's session, Mr. C. F. Hainline of Alma, vice-president of the association, will conduct the club conference of delegates; and reports of various committees will be heard. Among the speakers of note who will take part in the program are A. B. Cook of Owosso; Walter B. Dickinson of New York City; C. B. Scully of Almont; J. L. Snyder, president emeritus of the M. A. C.; Pres. F. S. Kedzie of the M. A. C.; Ralph Duff, secretary to Governor Sleeper; J. N. McBride, state market director; W. K. Prudden, state fuel director; Dr. Caroline Bartlett Crane; Dean White of M. A. C.

Every club in the state has been urged to send two delegates to the convention, and President Scully says a splendid treat is in store for all who attend.

From the Morning's Mail

We cannot find words to express our appreciation of your paper. The whole family and neighbors are greatly interested. Your views are clearly and fairly stated. They must all admit that. If they don't help the farmer this fall to what is his full

share, his just dues, what will happen another year? We won't have the heart to try to raise a big crop.—W. A., Alden, Mich.

Am using the envelope as suggested in M. B. F. I appreciate your efforts to get a fair price for beans. Have just finished hauling my beans in, 18 acres. Will probably have not over 100 bu. hand-picked beans from the 18 acres, and mine are as good as the average in this community.—M. E. S., Sherman.

Find enclosed \$1 to pay my subscription to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER. I think it is fine. I take four farm papers but none of them dare say what M. B. F. does. Give us some more. It is the best farmers have been getting for some time, and if you can send some coal with the next issue—but if you can't send the coal speak to the Lord about it, for I guess all the other fellows have been spoken to.—R. H., Clifford.

All the farmers in this section think MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER is the best farm paper. It beats them all! I would like to call your attention to this: All threshing machine men must send in an account of all the grain threshed for every farmer, and of each kind, to Lansing. Now, in threshing beans they must send in the full amount, and in looking at the beans I find that about 40 per cent are cull beans, or seconds. Now I am afraid that the men at Lansing will get their figures too high if their attention is not called to it.—H. E. C., Charlevoix.

I am pleased to send you \$1 for MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER, which is the most valuable paper, to me, that has ever come to my house. Your editorials are splendid and your fearlessness and methods in dealing with the various farmer questions that arise, I admire. Your market pages are so complete and your comments on the markets show much study and knowledge and are almost invariably correct. If the farmers will follow the advice given in M. B. F. they will certainly win out in the long run. Keep up the good work.—C. M. L., Albion, Mich.

You will find enclosed check for one dollar for payment for your paper. I like your paper, the M. B. F. I like the interest you take in the farmer, especially the stand you took in telegraphing the Food Administration about cutting the price of beans. That means thousands of dollars to Michigan farmers. I have 60 acres of beans in myself, but on account of the wet weather last spring and the early frost this fall they won't average over four bushels to the acre and lots of my neighbors' are worse than mine; one farmer sowed his twice and then plowed them under to plant wheat. I think the beans in Huron county won't be more than a quarter of a crop on the average, so farmers must have a good price for them, or they will not pay expenses.—J. F., Bad Axe.

I sincerely believe you have the interests of the farmer at heart. I wish to call your attention to the way the miller treats the farmer. Today I took wheat to a flouring mill to exchange for flour. When I got there the miller informed me I could get thirty-three (33) pounds of flour for a bushel of wheat weighing 60 lbs. If my wheat tested 60 lbs; but as he informed me my wheat did not test but 57 lbs. he gave me 32 lbs. of flour for my 60 lbs. of wheat. Understand, there was no other feed of any kind given, just 32 lbs. of flour. What do you think of that? After a farmer has raised a bushel of wheat he has to give nearly 1/2 of it for merely having it ground into flour.—C. S., Dexter.

AVERAGE MICHIGAN PRICES LAST WEEK

Following are average Michigan prices for week ending Nov. 24th: Wheat, \$2.04; oats, 64c; rye, \$1.66 1/2; hay, \$17.73; potatoes, \$1.05; hens, 14c; butter, 42c; eggs, 43c; hogs, 16c.

MILK COSTS FOR MICHIGAN

Figures Compiled Under Direction Dairy Department, M. A. C., Estimate Cost for December, 1917, at \$3.17 a Hundred

It is a peculiar and lamentable fact that no two farmers can quite agree on the cost of producing milk, which explains perhaps why it has been so difficult in the past for the producers to harmonize their ideas and work jointly for a common price. Experts the country over have guessed and variously estimated the cost of milk production, but an analysis of their figures usually disclose something overlooked or an unfair charge included.

It remained for Prof. A. C. Anderson, professor of dairy husbandry of the Michigan Agricultural College, to make a study of the problem along systematic and painstaking lines and to finally arrive at a combination of representative costs which has met the approval of dairy experts the country over.

Prof. Anderson chose Mr. F. T. Riddell to supervise this important work which covered a period of one year, the observations being taken on 25 representative farms of Livingston county, and covering 442 representative grade cows. Mr. Riddell appeared before the milk committee which is trying to decide what price the Detroit distributors shall pay the farmer and what they shall charge the consumer, and it is believed that his cost figures will be accepted by the committee.

We present below Mr. Riddell's findings as to the cost of milk production for the month of December. The data was taken last December but feed and other varying cost charges have been revised to suit current conditions:

The following data are the average cost and credits per cow for the month of December:

Unicorn, 96 lbs.	\$57.00	\$2.74
Gr. Oats, 48 lbs.	39.00	.93
Bran, 32 lbs.	40.00	.64
C. S. Meal, 9 lbs.	57.00	.25
Mixed hay, 313 lbs.	18.00	2.82
Stover, 96 lbs.	7.00	.34
Silage, 944 lbs.	7.00	3.30
Bean pods, 41 lbs.	10.00	.21
Alfalfa, 52 lbs.	19.00	.49
Beets, 19 lbs.	6.00	.06
Straw bedding, 119 lbs.	6.00	.36
Manager's lbr, 5.8 hrs. at 25c.		1.45
Common lbr., 8.2 hrs at 23c.		1.89
Man lbr. hauling feed, 3-10 hrs., at 24c.07
Horse lbr., 6-10 hrs. at 13c.09
Hauling milk, 656 lbs. at 18c.		1.18
Taxes and insurance on cows \$125.00 at 1 1-2 per cent (1 mo.)16
Interest, \$125 at 6 per cent.63
Depreciation on cows, \$125 at 5 per cent (1 mo.)52
Losses due to death16
Taxes, interest, insurance and dep. on Bldgs. \$132.00 at 10 per cent (1 mo.)		1.10
Taxes, Int. and Dep. on Equipment (1 mo.)23
Veterinary services and drugs.14
Miscellaneous costs (10 per cent increase)31
Added cost, managerial ability risks and omitted items, 10 per cent is added		2.01
Total cost		\$22.00

Credits

Recoverable manure, 64 tons at \$2.00	\$1.28
Net cost	\$20.80
Milk produced, 656 lbs.	
Net cost of production per cwt.	\$3.17

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON, D. C.—The huge increase in corporation profits despite the special war taxes show how leniently the Government has dealt with big business. Calculations covering 45 diversified American corporations show that after the payment of all war taxes, the average net profits of these concerns will equal 21.5 per cent upon the quoted value of the stock in December, 1916, when the market was at its height of the war boom. It is estimated that the average profits will exceed 40 per cent of the capital actually invested.

The net earnings of the United States Steel Corporation for this year will amount to the enormous sum of \$451,000,000, it is estimated. Out of this amount the corporation will have to pay \$178,000,000 taxes, leaving a balance of \$273,000,000, or nearly four times the net income of the company's best pre-war year. Other concerns to reap huge profits thru the war business are the American Woolen Company, Central Leather Company, American Sugar Company, Pittsburgh Coal Company.

In the light of these disclosures there is some question as to whether many senators and representatives will continue to point with pride to their record in the past session, a conspicuous chapter of which was their opposition to proposed increases in the excess profits tax bill. There is some speculation as to whether they still consider their action at that time a diplomatic solving of profiteering corporations to quiet the wrath of their profiteering souls. It is freely predicted in the small talk of semi-official and semi-conventional circles that Senator Robert M. LaFollette and his colleagues who fought stubbornly for higher taxes on excess profits are chuckling up their sleeves over the continued hearing of the American lambs by the big corporations.

But Congress meets again in December, when Uncle Sam will require additional funds to pay his war bills. The common folks have already been taxed just about as much as many of them can stand, but the vaults of the corporations are filled with idle money that ought to be working. Taxes on excess war profits will doubtless be increased during the coming session; big business will eventually be compelled to pay for the war from which it gathers such handsome dividends. That is as it should be. In the meantime, however, the American and allied people will have added several billion dollars to corporation profits thru the high cost of common necessities.

In passing, let us remark that France's new finance bill increases the extraordinary income tax on war profits to 25 per cent on profits from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 and takes one-half beyond \$1,000,000.

Washington representatives of the country's various peace parties who have been told to refrain from discussions of the war are at a loss to understand the wide latitude of freedom granted to Theodore Roosevelt and other war preachers who are denouncing the administration for its failure to declare war on Austria and Turkey. Is it possible that the government discriminates between anti-war agitators and pro-war agitators?

It is whispered that President Wilson is in receipt of a communication from Leon Trotsky, the foreign secretary of the new Bolshevik regime, containing Russia's plans for world and immediate democratic peace. It is whispered also, that the good President is muchly worried over what disposal to make of the document. He fears that even a formal acknowledgment of it might be construed as official recognition of the Bolshevik government, but inasmuch as the subject is one in which the world is so tragically interested, he deems that some consideration should be given it, especially since it comes from a country until recently an active ally of the United States.

The feeling is growing in Washington that the revolution in Russia is something more than a bubble. Altho a number of officials of Russia's foreign embassies in this and other allied countries, appointees of Kerensky, quite naturally scoff at the efforts of the Bolsheviks to formulate a government, the resignation of certain other Russian attaches is taken as evidence that they do not believe the Lenin government is founded upon sand and to be quickly dissolved.

The administration is at the present time in open disfavor with the new Russian regime, but many believe that it will be obliged as a matter of diplomacy to alter this policy and enter into council with the new Russian leaders.

Altho the investigation into the alleged disloyal utterances of Senator LaFollette was to have been resumed this week, it was necessary to postpone the hearing temporarily on account of the absence of W. J. Bryan, one of the principal witnesses. LaFollette's enemies seem bent on "getting" him, and the whole proceedings have resolved themselves into a vindictive farce, of which LaFollette is the unwitting villain, and the American public an ashamed and unwilling audience.

Has fuel control been a failure? The thousands of inquiries that are pouring into the Food Administration from dealers, municipalities and individual consumers indicate a general situation of the utmost gravity, and are mute reflections upon the government's inability to secure a proportionate distribution of fuel at a time when it is sorely needed. Innumerable instances are on record of farmers tearing down outbuildings for fuel, factories closing up, street cars without heat, municipal lighting plants in darkness, and many poor people actually suffering from the cold.

The fuel administration has made many promises, but executed few. Coal

that should now be in the bins is yet unmined; winter is coming on—is already with us, the car shortage becomes more acute. What is the nation to do?

If the fuel administration is ignorant of where the responsibility for such a condition rests, it has already failed of its purpose. If it has this knowledge and fails to act for fear of antagonizing powerful interests, it has already betrayed the people it was meant to represent. Feeling is current that the mine owners are not co-operating with the government as they should, and instead of running their mines at full capacity, they retard operations.

MANUFACTURER'S VIEWS ON BOOZE WASTE

The following letter was received from the president of one of the largest manufacturing concerns of the country, located at Chicago:

"I have noted with interest the cartoon on conserving food and manufacturing alcohol.

"We enclose herewith a reproduction of Priority Order No. 2 issued in the interest of moving coal. You will note that it has appeared necessary to suspend road construction and repair, notwithstanding the breweries continue to burn coal in the manufacture of beer, to say nothing of coal consumed in transporting supplies to and from the breweries.

"There is, as everyone knows, a shortage of labor, but something like 70,000 men are employed in the breweries. Why not put them to useful employment?"

When men of this calibre begin to reason thusly against the booze business, we must believe that it's end is nigh. Yet the government is slow to act, claiming as its last excuse that it would not be politic to ban the manufacture and sale of beer as long as so much whiskey remains in the country to tempt the erstwhile beer drinkers. We have no objection whatever to the government confiscating every gallon of whiskey and separating the alcohol for commercial purposes. If the government has the right to conscript men and money hasn't it also the right to conscript booze? To save the terrible waste of food, fuel and human lives that accompany the booze business, let the government immediately put a ban on the manufacture of every alcoholic beverage.

WAR WIRES

London—The British forces in Mesopotamia are advancing steadily and are now almost within striking distance of the ancient city of Jerusalem. The death of Gen. Maude temporarily delayed the advance but it has been renewed and the march inland across Palestine is proceeding rapidly. The British forces are receiving the co-operation of the Arab forces and the advance has now become a serious menace to the Turks. With sufficient reinforcements the British columns may eventually threaten Constantinople itself. The Turks are said to be demanding assistance from their Austro-German allies and from Bulgaria.

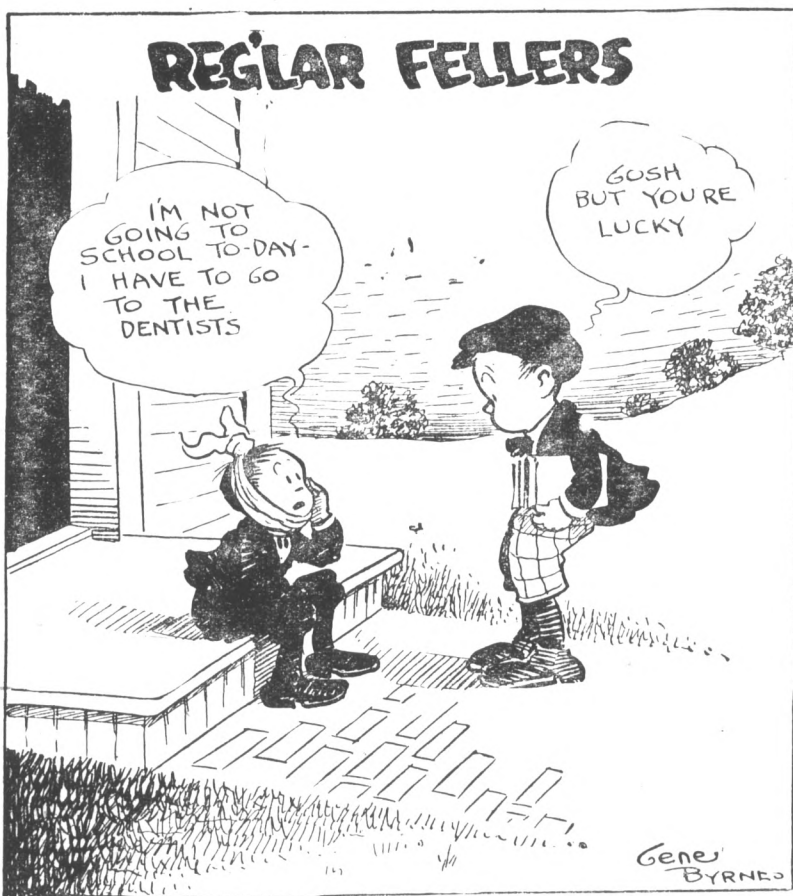
Camp Custer—The latest draft quotas to arrive in camp are hard at work studying in the "school of the soldier." They are given every assistance by the "veterans" of a month or so and are taking to the work with a zest. The few cold days have added snap to the work and the general health of the recruits is excellent. Some inconveniences are bound to be met with by men enlisted in such work, but the welfare of the boys is being safeguarded in every possible way and they are taking on weight under the healthy training and discipline. It is reported that additional numbers will be used to fill the National Guard units and that more of the boys will shortly leave for Camp MacArthur at Waco, Texas.

London—The British advance on the Western front continues and British troops have captured many square miles of territory during the past four days. The latest acquisition is Bourlon village and virtually all of Bourlon wood, including all high ground around and within it. Many hundreds of prisoners have been taken and the number increases hourly. Many pathetic scenes are witnessed as French citizens, after three years of bondage, are freed by the advancing Allied troops. The British tanks are playing an important part in the advance, having succeeded the artillery for destroying barbed wire entanglements in this particular drive. The object of Gen. Byng's advance at this time seems to be not only to push the German forces farther back, but also to relieve the Austro-German pressure on the Italian front. The movement has every prospect of success.

Amsterdam—Affairs in Russia have gone from bad to worse. With no established government, short of supplies and facing the terrible snows and cold of a Russian winter, disaster stares the nation in the face. The Lenin, Trotsky and Kameneff factions are in control at Petrograd and have issued a manifesto calling upon workmen of all the warring nations to demand an immediate consummation of peace. It is reported that negotiations are to be opened with Germany or the German socialists, looking toward a separate peace and also that the German and Austrian prisoners are to be at once returned to their governments. Russia at this stage needs the guiding hand of a master mind. As yet the revolution has failed to produce the "strong man." Kerensky proved a failure in this respect. But as all such great upheavals in history have at last produced the controlling genius, the world awaits with apprehension his advent in the land of snows.

Rome—While the Austro-German forces have in some places succeeded in crossing the Tagliamento river, in the main the new Italian line is holding and each day gives it added strength. Some of the most bitter fighting of the whole war is taking place along the newly established front. Hand-to-hand conflicts of the most savage nature are of constant occurrence; the Italians, realizing that they are fighting a battle, the loss of which means disaster to their country, are holding to the death. The city of Venice still remains in Italian hands although its fate for several days has hung in the balance.

Paris—French troops have advanced north of Verdun and more than 800 prisoners have been taken. The German forces were taken completely by surprise. The French have been able to consolidate the positions won, in spite of severe German artillery fire.



Were You ever a Boy? Can you remember the "Reg'lar Fellers" in the bunch? If so, you'll enjoy our new comic series, the first of which appears above.

NEW DEMANDS UPON FARMERS

How Much Should Farmers of Michigan Change Their Farm Management to Meet War Conditions?

We all want to be patriotic and we all want to grow foods that will bring us the most money and yet keep our land in good, healthy, productive condition. Every farmer who understands the basic principles of agriculture knows that in order to get the best results in a series of years he should have a good plan of rotation of crops, arranged after duly considering his markets and the kind of farming he wants to follow. It a man wants to have live stock the principal factor in his farming he will have a little different rotation of crops than he would if he wanted to make grain farming the principal factor and in either case he must understand the principle involved and plan his rotation accordingly.

The live-stock farmer can make little change in his management to meet war conditions, because he must grow clover and corn to feed his live stock and it would be best to maintain his regular rotation. But the grain farmer can modify his rotation materially. He can cut out clover or hay for a certain length of time and grow wheat after wheat, or grow the different cereals in succession, being prompted by the high market price of these products at the present time.

When the great war first broke out, nobody thought it would last for more than three years anyway and many did not think it would last that long. At that time, knowing that wheat was a war food, I advocated the breaking up of the rotation of crops if necessary and growing wheat after wheat, taking two crops off before planting another crop. The idea, of course, was to get more wheat when that cereal commanded a war price; but when you grow wheat after wheat you are getting your land in poor physical condition by destroying or using up the organic matter and it won't do to carry this policy for any considerable length of time or the land will get in such poor physical condition that profitable crops cannot be grown.

That is the trouble with a great deal of land in Michigan today. It won't produce good crops any more from the fact that it is in poor physical condition brought about by not incorporating regularly and systematically organic matter in the soil rather than because it is deficient in the essential available plant foods.

We can't farm successfully in Michigan for any considerable length of time unless we produce sods in a rotation to be plowed down to furnish organic matter for the purpose of keeping the land in good physical condition. You can't keep land in good physical condition by using commercial fertilizers to grow cereals year after year because you lack organic matter. There is nothing that will take the place of it, absolutely nothing, and any system of agriculture founded on any other idea is bound sooner or later to prove a failure.

Some people have claimed that commercial fertilizers have ruined their land, got it in condition so that they couldn't grow good crops. Now, this is absolutely wrong. Commercial fertilizers have never hurt any land. It would absolutely be impossible for the fertilizer itself to injure the land, but the fact is that people have used commercial fertilizers to supply available plant food and then have grown cereals year after year until they exhausted the organic matter in the soil and got their land in such poor physical condition that it was impossible to grow crops profitably. It wasn't

the fertilizer. It was the poor system of farming.

Now, that is what is liable to happen in this era of high war prices for certain things and that is what the farmer has got to guard against. If the war lasts two or three years longer and we should try to raise every acre of wheat that we possibly could, neglecting the growing of sods, we would get our land in such poor condition that it would be impossible to grow profitable crops and so we must consider this proposition carefully. The world will want food in the years to come just as well as now and we can't afford to so change our rotation and injure the productive capacity of our soils that they become unprofitable. As I said, we want to be patriotic and grow the foods that the world needs but we mustn't become so patriotic that we ruin our land so that we can't feed the hungry people after the war.—Colon C. Lillie.

ADDITIONAL MARKETS

The cabbage market is still inactive, but we believe the turning point should come before long. Supplies from now on will have to come out of temporary storage and the supply of off grade stock and the last from the fields has been pretty well cleaned up. Demand from the kraut cutters let up when it was least expected. This had a serious effect on the situation as many shipments were enroute, depending on the demand from that source to keep the market in good condition.

The Detroit market is quiet, very little demand and fair supplies. Prices run from \$12 to \$15 per ton delivered and buyers are scarce at that price. Receivers look for better conditions after the holidays or as soon as there is an improvement in the general vegetable market.

The Chicago market is just a little firmer. The supply of field frosted stock is about out of the way. The demand is poor but the fact that the market has to a certain extent cleaned up has led a firmer feeling among the shippers and local dealers and this will eventually have its effect on the general trade. The spot market moves around \$15 to \$20 per ton. Shippers are quoting on a basis of \$25.00 per ton for storage stock. Very little stock moving at that price, however.

Hides

No. 1, cured, 23c; No. 1 green, 18c; No. 1 cured bulls, 15c; No. 1 green bulls, 12c; No. 1 cured veal kip, 25c; No. 1 green veal kip, 22c; No. 1 cured murrain, 23c; No. 1 green murrain, 22c; No. 1 cured calf, 33c; No. 1 green calf, 29c; No. 1 horsehides, \$7; No. 2

horsehides, \$6; No. 2 hides 1c and No. 2 kip and calf 1½c lower than the above; sheepskins (as to amount of wool), 50c@\$.3 each.

Sugar

New York—No new developments occurred in the raw sugar market today and no fresh business was reported. Prices were unchanged at 5½c for Cubas cost and freight, equal to 6.90c for centrifugal and 6.02c for molasses. No official announcement has been made as yet regarding the price of the coming Cuban crop, and it is understood that the conferences between the international sugar committee and the Cuban planters' committee will be resumed later in the week. In refined the committee is working out details in regard to the distribution of the recently acquired Russian sugar. It is said that nearly all the western beet factories are in full operation, but shipments are being interfered with by the scarcity of cars. Prices were unchanged at 8.35c for fine granulated.

WILL I GET \$2.00 A BU. FOR MY ONIONS?

After finishing my fall work last week I was about to market my crop of onions, but was advised by local buyers they did not want them at any price, the market was way down. I am also a subscriber to the *Chicago Packer* but did not see anything worth mentioning, only a little lower. Will you please advise me as to market conditions on onions. I am holding them at \$2.00 per bu. Will I get it? I prefer to sell cash at car door.—J. M. D., Zeeland.

Just at the present time the market is a little off. We understand that about the top in Detroit on car lot sales is \$2.40 per cwt. Less than car lots sacked, on special sales, might net a trifle more.

The trouble seems to be that many shippers rushed their onions to market to avoid the freezing weather. There has been a good onion market in Detroit all fall, as well as at all other points. We see no reason why the different markets should not clean up fast, but it may take longer than expected in case buyers have laid in a supply and there is a chance that they have.

You mention \$2.00 per bu. We would not want to advise you to hold for that price, as no one can tell what the market may do. Everything is too uncertain. The chances are that prices will be better after the first of the year, but here is the frost hazard to consider. You must use your own judgment.

United States Food Administration

Food Administration Grain Corporation

Philadelphia, Nov. 24, 1917

Mr. F. A. Lord, Editor,

Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Your favor of the 22nd received with enclosure as stated, and I have read with interest your article regarding wheat prices, and the table which you have published. I have not time to check all these freight rates, but consider your entire method of handling it decidedly commendable, and this ought to be a great help to producers and others throughout your state, and personally I am very glad indeed you have published it in this way; the only possible criticism I could have is in the allowance you make to the country elevator man, only 2c per bushel. You have qualified this, I realize, in some cases, and I honestly feel that many of them cannot hope to maintain their plants on quite such a narrow margin. I further believe that your producers will realize this, as you have intimated, and grant any reasonable difference which local dealer shows he is entitled to.

I shall be glad to take up any special cases which you bring to my attention, or which any of your country dealers, millers, shippers or farmers will present here, assuring them always of careful attention.

I know of no better way to secure the result which you are endeavoring to attain than through publicity, and I am certainly pleased to see that in this case you have been careful as to the method of figuring.

I am always glad to hear from you.

Yours truly,

FOOD ADMINISTRATION GRAIN CORPORATION,
H. D. Irvin 2nd Vice President.

LET THE DEVIL HAVE HIS DUE

Charge Against Chicago Commission Men of Destroying Vegetables to Boost Market Prices Proven False

A fair example of the frequent misconception which people and press place upon perfectly natural and legitimate proceedings in this suspicious age, was the recent story of the "discovery of several hundred carloads of potatoes, cabbage, onion, and sugar beets that had been allowed to freeze and rot in the railroad yards at Chicago. Detectives assert that this was done to force a higher market. Police detectives declared they found a hill more than 35 feet high and 100 feet long composed of decomposed vegetables, recently dumped from freight cars."

Now for the truth regarding this wonderful "discovery." Those who are familiar with the produce business do not need to be told that this report was absolutely false from start to finish. To those who are not familiar with the business we will say that just a moment's reflection will show the absurdity of such an article. When you stop to figure what a car load of potatoes or onions is worth at the loading station, then add the freight to Chicago, you will understand what it would cost to dump "several hundred cars." It would mean the loss of several hundred thousand dollars, and even though the dumping caused the market to rise 30 cents per bushel, the shipper or dealer would still stand a loss, judging by the quantity any individual firm has had on hand at any time this year. And as a matter of fact it would not cause the market to advance 10 cents per bushel owing to the quantity of potatoes arriving every day and shipments in transit.

But how, you ask, did those potatoes, onions, etc., get to the dump? First, let it be understood that investigation by the authorities disclosed the fact that the quantity was not within a mile of "several hundred carloads." In fact it was just about 1.7 per cent of the arrivals. It should be remembered that October of this year was one of the coldest on record. Many fields of potatoes were caught and much frosted stock resulted. Our farmer friends know this to be the case. The same was true of onions, cabbage and other late produce. When a car of field-frosted stock arrives in Chicago or on any other market it is necessary to sort it. These frozen potatoes are either left in the cars or dumped out on the pavement alongside the team track. It is necessary for the railroad company to load them on cars and haul them to the dump. At the same time other refuse naturally becomes mixed with the frozen vegetables.

Hinton G. Claybaugh, special investigator for the federal department of Justice, discussing this latest report, says: "most of that talk about the illegal destruction of vegetables is all 'bunk.' The wastage existed mainly on paper. 'If anyone can show me evidence of criminal intent in the matter I would like to have him do so. My men have been unable to find any. It stirs the public up to fever heat over nothing."

Let the devil have his due. The good Lord knows that the commission men have been guilty of enough crimes against the producer and the consumer in the past without being falsely accused. The farmers are conducting their campaign for better prices and fairer treatment in a quiet and impartial manner. Let's not get the issues befogged with false charges and beliefs.

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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

Wheat is now moving freely from farms and mills are securing sufficient supplies to permit of their running to full capacity. A heavy volume of Government business is being handled and this has increased during the past week. The car shortage is now the principal difficulty in the way of sufficient supplies. From the regular reports which all elevator operators are obliged to furnish, the Government knows just where the supplies of wheat are most available and has it in its power to order out these shipments as needed. Providing sufficient coal and equipment can be furnished, there appears no further reason to fear a shortage of the wheat supply. The fall work is now about over in many sections and growers will be disposing of their holdings in the regular course of events.

Adverse crop reports continue to come to us from certain sections of the West where drouth conditions have prevailed. Rains are needed in parts of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas if the wheat is to come through the winter in good condition. Reports so far from Michigan indicate that the new crop is going into the winter in fairly promising condition. We would like more definite information from our crop reporters on this subject.

How many of our readers are observing the wheatless and meatless days? The observance of the meatless day especially will do all of us a great deal of good. And in observing the wheatless day we are not in any way affecting the market but are saving more grain for our allies, lending that much assistance to ultimate victory and a free, open market in the years to come. Let us give our Government hearty support in this matter. We believe that if all our people give the hearty co-operation the farmers are giving, victory is assured.



OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	.75 1-2	.73 1-2	.79 1-2
Standard	.75	.73 1-4	.79
No. 3 White	.74	.72 1-2	.78 1-2

Oats have furnished the sensation of the week. The market has experienced a rapid advance and we would not be surprised to see it soar still higher. The cause of this is easily understood. Heavy buying by the different governments, as well as by our own, cleaned up the supplies on all terminal markets. The shorts were taken by surprise, evidently not figuring on such an immediate increase in the domestic and export demand. They had counted on the large crop but failed to take into consideration the immediate effect of the car shortage and the prospect of sudden heavy buying. The result was they were caught napping and the covering which resulted forced the market up rapidly.

Everything looks favorable for oats right now. While we fear lower prices later, still many things may act to prevent such a turn. Our latest European reports show an unfavorable yield compared with what was expected and we see no change in sight in the car situation. Even though both this country and Canada have exceptionally large crops, it may be possible to feed them onto the market gradually and with sufficient export and domestic demand prices may be fairly well maintained. But we cannot lose sight of the corn crop and the fact that much of it must be moved before warm weather comes again, even tho it is moved at lower prices than expected. This appears to be the strong bear factor in the oat situation at the present time. The fact that December oats are now at a premium over May,



LAST MINUTE WIRES



DETROIT SPECIAL—Too many potatoes on track continue to keep the market uncertain and weak. Some increase in hay arrivals but supply still much under demand. Poultry has cleaned up rapidly and market continues healthy.

CHICAGO WIRE—Very little doing in the bean market. Buyers still waiting for the turn of events. Apple supplies increasing but under fair demand the market continues good. Poultry has had good sale all week and the Thanksgiving market has been more than satisfactory.

PHILADELPHIA WIRE—Potatoes continue in liberal supply and moving slowly. Quotations remain about the same but the trend of the market is weak. Hay continues strong and market is active on all grades.

for the first time this season, explains the present condition and the general opinion of operators regarding the future market. The Government is going to be a steady buyer right along and in larger quantities than ever before. There are now 17 cantonments equipped and each will be supplied with about 10,000 horses and mules. It will require about two cars of oats per day at each cantonment, or around 20 million bushels per year, making Uncle Sam quite a factor in the oat market.



CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	2.31	1.94	2.36
No. 3 Yellow	2.30 1-2	1.93	2.35
No. 2 Mixed	2.28	1.90	2.33

We believe the corn market is on the verge of a decline. The weather of late has been favorable for deliveries and growers are showing every indication of being anxious to sell. Heavy deliveries at originating points will most certainly mean lower prices. There is an enormous crop of corn to be moved and with the general condition as it has been it is only natural for growers to want to get some of it off their hands as soon as possible.

The general condition of arrivals during the past week has been better than at any time since the new crop began to move. While many lots are still in very bad condition, the moisture content on an average is working lower. The recent weather has been more conducive to this than at any time this season and the result is already apparent. Export demand is very light. The condition of the crop moving so far has not been such as to stand foreign shipment. The high price has also had its effect as buyers have waited for a decline, feeling that it would come sooner or later.

We note of late, a feeling on the part of operators and reporters generally that the crop is going to turn out better in the long run than has been

supposed. The chances are that much of the off grade stuff will be disposed of during the winter and that the balance will turn out in the spring about the same as in 1915. It will be remembered that at that time the crop came in better shape than had been expected during the fall and early winter. There is a great tendency on the part of growers this year to hurry the husking and marketing. Many Iowa growers have husked and cribbed their corn and now find it necessary to take it out of the cribs and sort it, owing to heating. We believe a good share of the corn should be left on the stalk this year until well into December.

We want to once more caution Michigan car-lot buyers of corn to thoroughly inspect each car at the time of arrival and before accepting same. We are hearing of trouble wherever the new corn goes and buyers cannot be too careful.

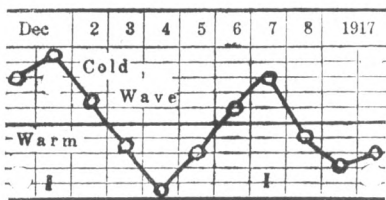


RYE

Well, the rye price has managed to crowd up another cent since last week. Our friends will remember what we said two weeks ago and again last week. That we felt it would pay to hold onto rye for a few days longer and see what was coming. Sure enough the market has advanced just a little each week and now stands at \$1.80 at Detroit. Chicago quotes No. 2 at \$1.79. Rye is in rather a ticklish place right now. The demand is far from good, although some sales are reported each day. On the other hand there is only a moderate supply moving from originating points and from growers. Wheatless days are helping the sale of rye flour and in the aggregate this sale amounts to quite a factor. The distilling trade is out of the running and this also has had an effect. After considering all the factors in the situation we believe the price will still advance some but we would not advise much speculation on it right now.

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 1.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent Nov. 29 to Dec. 3 and Dec. 9 to 5, warm waves Nov. 28 to Dec. 2 and Dec. 4 to 8, cool waves Dec. 1 to 5 and 7 to 11. The period covered by these will bring a great fall in temperatures from very warm on Pacific slope near Nov. 29 to very cool near Dec. 10, and these conditions, with other relative weather events, will drift eastward across the continent. Rainfall will be greater than for the previous two weeks, but toward the middle southwest the Mexican drouth will continue to work against the rains they need in that section. The war in Europe has no more to do with the southwestern drouth than does Villa's war down in Mexico.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about Dec. 8 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Dec. 9, plains sections, 10, meridian

90, great lakes and Ohio valleys, Dec. 11, eastern sections 12, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Dec. 13. Storm wave will follow about one day behind storm wave.

This will be an unusually severe storm and its forces will continually increase as it moves from the Pacific to the Atlantic. The cool waves preceding and following will be cold waves and the week, centering on the day the warm wave reaches you, will average unusually cold. Precipitation in northern states and Canada will be in form of snow.

Fair cropweather will be the rule for the whole continent first half of December. Even the victims of the southwestern drouth section are promised some relief. High temperatures are expected to immediately follow this cold spell. Unusually severe storms are expected during the week centering on Dec. 13. Looks like good weather for Christmas holidays. Not much rain or snow last ten days of December.

The Mexican drouth was more severe in our middle southwest than expected and therefore the Fall rains in that section were less than we predicted. This has been unfavorable, so far, for Winter grain, which is now a most important crop. The government officials induced everybody to favor the sowing of large acreage of Winter wheat. Indications are now less favorable than expected and seem to warn us that wheat prices will go higher, along with cotton.



HAY

Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	24 50 25 00	23 50 24 00	22 50 23 50
Chicago	27 28 00	26 50 27 50	26 00 27 00
Cincinnati	29 00 29 25	28 50 29 00	28 00 28 50
Pittsburgh	29 50 30 00	27 50 28 75	27 00 28 00
New York	26 00 27 00	24 75 25 50	23 24 00
Richmond	31 00 32 00	31 00 31 50	31 00 31 50

Markets	No. 1 Light Mixed	No. 1 Clover Mixed	No. 1 Clover
Detroit	23 50 24 20	20 00 21 00	19 00 20 00
Chicago	20 22 00	19 00 20 00	18 50 20 50
Cincinnati	28 50 27 75	28 00 28 50	28 25 28 50
Pittsburgh	28 28 50	29 00 30 00	29 00 30 00
New York	21 23 19	50 21 00	18 20
Richmond	30 00 31 29	00 29 50	28 50 29

The hay situation still remains acute so far as supplies are concerned, although the tension has been relieved to a certain extent on some markets. The price at Detroit continues to climb and it would appear that the limit had just about been reached. The car situation still delays deliveries and baling is slow in starting. We are receiving advice now however, that dealers and growers are straining every energy toward getting some hay in on the present market and no doubt the situation will be generally relieved before a great while. There is a continuation of the good demand at Detroit for any and all kinds of hay and arrivals are quickly disposed of at current quotations.

Chicago has seen an increased demand for hay during the past week and while the offerings have increased somewhat, still the market is firm and hay, both for shipping and local consumption, finds ready sale. The advance of last week has been sustained and there is no immediate prospect of a change. The receipts of hay last week were 7185 tons, against 6480 tons last week.

Pittsburg reports somewhat increased receipts during the past week, but a firm market. The car situation there prevents receipts from increasing in any volume even from nearby territory. The Pennsylvania R. R. embargo makes it impossible to move any cars beyond the city limits. Mixed and clover hay are badly wanted and the supply is away short. Receipts of hay for this week were 1932 tons, as against 1416 tons last week.

Stocks of hay at Philadelphia continue light and prices are firm. No immediate relief is in sight owing to congestion and scarcity of cars. Values are confined to spot sales. Buyers there feel that the market is bound to work lower as soon as conditions are relieved. The question is when this will be. Straw is wanted there and the supply is away short. Receipts of hay there last week were just a little less than those of the week before.

The Richmond market is just a little stronger than it was last week and they have a very active market. Receipts of hay for the week showed a slight increase over those of the preceding week but were just about one-fourth of those of the same period last year. The demand is good for all grades but especially strong for standard and No. 1 light mixed.

The Baltimore market is strong and higher. There is an active demand for all grades and the supply is not nearly large enough to supply the wants of buyers. The market there has been affected by embargoes and there is no immediate sign of relief from these conditions. All kinds of straw is scarce and wanted. Receipts of hay of all kinds last week were around 400 tons less than those of the week before. Receipts of straw were about half what they were the preceding week.

New York quotations remain about the same. The receipts have increased slightly but not in a way to affect the market. Some hay has been arriving by river and this has, to a certain extent, relieved the situation. Receivers and consumers feel that supplies must increase and relieve the situation as well as the price before a great while. Very little No. 1 timothy arriving. Good mixed is also scarce and bringing a premium.



BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	7.80	8.80	9.00
Prime	7.75	8.70	8.80
Red Kidneys	7.50	8.15	8.80

We are more and more impressed each day with the fact that the general condition of the Michigan beans crop this year is far and away worse than has been supposed, even by the most pessimistic. We feel safe in saying that at least 70 per cent of the beans grown in this state this year will have to be put through a drier before they will be fit to move in commerce. This is especially true of stock in the central and northern sections of the state. Many elevators have already filled up their bins and are buying only as they can run the stock through the driers. And in many sections driers do not exist. With good cold weather the beans will keep until they can be moved to points having driers, but in many localities the sale is going to be slow. Elevator men cannot be blamed for not wanting to fill up their bins with wet beans, but at the same time it places a great many northern farmers in a very discouraging position. The bean industry of Michigan has been hard hit this year.

To still further complicate matters the Food Control Board has issued orders to the effect that beans cannot be canned except under a special permit. This is, of course, owing to the shortage of tin plate and its very urgent need for war purposes. There are thousands of bushels of beans in the state which might be saved by immediate canning. Often times beans ordinarily classed as culls may be canned and used for food and they are just as good as any other. Cooking the beans removes the discoloration and the food value remains as it was never affected in the first place.

Reports from reliable sources in Colorado state that the pinto crop has been greatly over-estimated. The estimate went forth of a yield of 500 to 800 pounds per acre. The actual yield as reported by a reliable corps of reporters is not over 100 to 250 pounds per acre. California growers have only an ordinary yield and are firm in their ideas. Bean growing sections of Idaho have not raised an average crop. New York beans are damp and coming on the market slowly. Generally it will be seen that the bean situation is unsatisfactory. The reports of enormous yields in different sections have, in our opinion, been circulated with a purpose. Beans are quoted in Detroit at \$13.00 per cwt., about \$7.80 per bushel. Taking into consideration the cost of production, the yield and condition of the crop, we do not believe Michigan growers generally can afford to sell for less than \$8.00. And to make a long tale bob-tailed, we believe they will get it. Leave your damp beans in the straw. They will keep better there and you need not worry so long as cold weather lasts, and that will, in all probability, be until next Easter. Beans are going to be beans before we are ready to market the 1918 crop, so why all this hurry? Take your time! Buyers are only waiting for conditions to become established. The working men and army boys must have their beans and they will be coming to Michigan for them. We believe it would be unpatriotic to try to work a market away up for the sake of additional profit but on the other hand we feel that Michigan farmers should at least have a price which will let them out on the year's business. In some cases an \$8.00 price might mean a very neat profit where the yield had been near the average, but what about all those fellows who got only from 3 to 5 bu. per acre? In most cases they are farthest north, and are the ones who need it most.



POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	1.85 cwt.	1.75 cwt.
Chicago	1.85	1.75
Cincinnati	2.10	2.05
New York	2.25	2.15
Pittsburgh	2.10	2.05
Norfolk, Va.	2.20	2.10

The potato market at present is in

poor condition. Trade is slow at all points and prices in many cases have declined. This condition is only natural when one takes into consideration the amount of field-frosted stock which has reached all markets, and the talk generally of such a large crop. Then again just at this time there has been quite a heavy marketward movement by shippers who wished to avoid heating cars as must be done later on. Shipments to some markets were held up by congestion in the outer yards and when at last this was relieved they all moved in at once, causing a slump. What the potato market now needs is a chance to clean up. It is to be hoped that shipments will not be so heavy for a few weeks. Should this be the case we believe there will be a better market about the first of the year and it should continue firm from that time on.

The demand in Detroit right now is slow. Many cars have arrived and some of them out of condition. It is necessary to hunt a buyer for stock arriving and this is never a satisfactory kind of market. What the Detroit market needs is a chance to clean up. Additional heavy supplies at this time, coming in bunches as they have been doing, will only mean a further slump.

The Chicago market is easy and not in any way active. Receipts there are less than they were a week ago however, and there is a better undertone. Looks as though the tracks might clear up and better conditions prevail before many days. Buyers have been going from hand to mouth owing to the constant downward movement and the free arrival of field frosted stock. Many of the small towns which buy usually at this time of the year have been holding off owing to the fear of frosted stock. They will also be more active in the game.

The Pittsburgh market is off, most of the stock arriving there during the past week having been in bad condition. Looks as though shippers had been cleaning up on what stock they were afraid would not keep. The natural result of this is a poor, declining market. And better conditions will come only after this stock has been cleaned up and some of it hauled to the dump.

The New York market, in company with all others at the present time, is dull. Arrivals are growing less each day and this will soon help the situation greatly. The demand been very light for some days now. No doubt this has been caused by wet frozen stock being offered first.

We have confidence in the potato market. We believe that the first of the year will see much better conditions. With a lot of off grade stock being dumped on the market it was only to be expected that there would be a slump. It was the most natural thing in the world for this to occur. Given a chance to clean up the market should become steady and firm for the balance of the winter.



ONIONS

The onion market has been going from bad to worse and is in very bad shape just at this time. The Detroit market, under more plentiful supplies and only a moderate demand, is not nearly so strong as it has been. This market held up long after others were in a bad way, but the influence of the other markets at last was felt. We do not expect to see much change until after the first of the year. Supplies have greatly increased during the past week, due no doubt to the fact that the market here was about the best in sight. The very top on No. 1 yellow onions now on this market is \$2.50 per cwt., sacked. Sales are reported \$2.15 to \$2.35, according to grade.

Chicago reports a very quiet market with conditions about the same as at Detroit. There is very little demand, buyers having satisfied their wants for the time from the large quantities offered by nearby growers. Most of the stock has been cleaned up from the fields and from now on arrivals will be from storage stock. Dealers there seem to feel that the onion market is bound to seek a lower level for some time. We believe it will pick up again as soon as the vegetable market in general has a chance to clean up. There was a very strong demand as caused shippers to place too much stock on the market. Some of it was

poor, just as in the case of potatoes, and the market could not hold up under it.

New York reports the onion market in the most satisfactory shape it has been in at this season, in years. There is a heavy supply of fresh receipts. The demand is very quiet and many lots have gone into storage. It is now found that this storage stock is not keeping well and some of it will have to come out and be disposed of in the near future, perhaps at a loss to the owners. Buyers, knowing this to be the case, are holding off until the last minute. Shippers are now withholding shipments on account of the general condition and this is one thing in the market's favor. The price on yellows ranges from \$2.00 to \$2.75 per cwt. Reds sell from \$2.00 to \$2.50.

We advise shippers to discontinue shipping for the time as otherwise conditions will continue to go from bad to worse. The market must be given a chance to clean up at all points. Shipments arriving at the present time are liable to show unsatisfactory returns.



APPLES

Apples are still selling in Detroit at the former range of prices. There is a good demand but the present supply is just about sufficient to meet it. The holiday season will no doubt result in heavy sales but as receipts usually increase at the same time there is a question as to higher prices. Shippers will find very satisfactory conditions however, and we see no reason whatever for any lower prices from now until the first of the year. Nothing but exceptionally heavy receipts could do it. There is very little chance of this from now on. Quotations: Spy, \$7; Greenings, \$6.00@ \$6.50; snow, \$6.50@ \$7.00; Baldwins, \$5.50; Wealthy, \$4.50@ \$5.00; Alexander, \$5.50@ \$6.00; No. 2, \$3.00@ \$3.50 per bbl.

The Chicago market has been just a little inclined to work downward. Barrel stock has been a little quiet. Many buyers have supplied their wants for storage and arrivals have had to go on the market for immediate purchase by consumers. The following quotations represent values at present: No. 1 to fancy, Baldwins, \$5.00@ \$5.50; Greenings, \$5.50@ \$6.00; Spys, \$6.00@ \$6.50; York Imperials, \$5.00@ \$5.50; Grimes Golden, \$5.25@ \$5.50; Twenty Ounce, \$6.00@ \$6.25; Fancy Jonathans, \$5.50@ \$6.00. No. 2 of all varieties, \$2.25@ \$2.75.



BUTTER

The Detroit butter market is in a satisfactory condition and the price has worked up just a little. There is a good demand for the first grades and seconds and held are reported to be moving more freely than for some time. Receipts are not so plentiful as they were a few weeks ago and this, of course, is helping the trade. There is a heavy sale of butter substitutes reported and this will no doubt increase as butter becomes more scarce and higher. Creamery is nominal at 41½@43c for firsts, 43½@44c for extras.

Chicago is short of fancy fresh butter and the price is advancing. Receipts are not 60 per cent of what they were a week ago. The make is falling off rapidly. Quality is poor with very little real fancy fresh being offered. Business centers on the fancy and storage and held are dull and inactive. Dealers are buying from hand to mouth. Federal restrictions have affected the trade to a certain extent. Consumptive demand is good for fresh fancy stock, big premiums being paid for this class of goods. Freshcreamery extras are selling 45½@46c; extras firsts, 44½@45c; firsts, 40@42½c; seconds, 38@39c.

New York is short on fancy grades and what trading there has been during the past week has been on the under grades. The scarcity of fine butter has improved the general tone of the undergrade market, proving a boon to the holders of such stock. Held butter has been in much better demand and the movement has greatly increased over that of last week. Receivers have expressed it as their opinion that the movement of held has been better during the past week than at any time

this fall. A firm feeling now prevails on held, especially the fancy grades. This is bound to have its effect on the market for all other offerings.

Quotations for this week: Creamery, higher scoring than extras, 47½@47¾c; firsts, 46½@46¾c; unsalted, higher than extras, 48@48½c; extras, 47@47½c; held, higher scoring than extras, 43½@44c; extras, 42½@43c; State, dairy, tubs, finest, 44½@45½c; renovated, extras, 41c; lades, current make, firsts, 33½@34c; packing stock, current make, No. 1, 33@33½c.



EGGS

The egg market generally is running along at about the same level as at the time of our last article. There is a sufficient demand to take care of all arrivals of strictly fresh stock on the Detroit market. Seconds and storage eggs still find rather hard going at times. Any advance seems hard to hold for the price is now up where consumption falls off quickly on any rise. We expect to see a good strong market from now until the time for winter laying to start and even until well towards spring.

Fresh arrivals at Chicago are going higher in price while storage stock is working lower, showing more of a spread from day to day. Good fresh stock is becoming more scarce every day. On the other hand more and more refrigerators are being offered. About the only car movement coming to Chicago now is from Kansas and Missouri. Northern sections are doing very little shipping as laying has about let up for the time. Receipts of refrigerator stock have increased greatly as handlers realize that stocks must soon be moved. Strictly fresh firsts are selling at 45@46c; ordinary firsts, 42@44c; checks and dirties, 25@30c; refrigerators, 30@30½c.

Buyers in New York are having great difficulty in securing strictly fresh firsts to supply their trade. The high prices have checked consumption but still the scarcity of arrivals is such that the market is kept up. On the other hand the demand for storage stock is very limited and the market is slow and inclined to work lower. Fresh gathered extras are quoted at 57@58c; extra firsts, 55@56c; firsts, 50@54c; seconds, 44@45c; refrigerators, 32½@34½c.



POULTRY

LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Turkey	31-32	32-33	30-32
Ducks	25-26	21-24	21-24
Geese	24-25	18-20	23-24
Springers	18-24	17-20	20-22
Hens	18-24	16-20	19-22

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

The surplus of poultry has cleaned up on the Detroit market and conditions are very much better than they were a week or so ago. Prices have advanced some and there is every promise of a good trade during the period from now until the holidays. The Thanksgiving trade has been good and prices have been well maintained. The run of turkeys this year has been smaller than usual. The same has been true of geese. Ducks have been received in the usual quantities. During the past week or ten days the quality of poultry has improved and more stock in well fed condition has been received.

Chicago has seen a good active demand for live poultry all week and there has been a shortage of the dressed article. There is a greatly increased demand for spring chickens. The high price of turkeys has helped the goose and duck market. Receipts of dressed and iced poultry have not been of the quality desired, but have found a ready market owing to shortage of the supply.

Eastern markets have been fairly active all week and conditions point to higher prices. Turkeys especially are in great demand and the supply is away short. The shortage in live turkeys has given operators in frozen stock a chance to unload and they have been quick to take advantage of the situation. Ducks and geese have been in good demand all week. The New York market has received a good supply of poultry, many car lots coming

in for the Thanksgiving trade. But the demand has been just about strong enough to take care of arrivals and keep the market in a good healthy condition.



CLOVER SEED

The clover seed market is firm and stocks are moving slowly. Alsike continues firm while timothy is rather dull and the movement slow. Toledo quotations follow: Clover seed, prime, \$76.00; No. 2, \$15.50; No. 3, \$15.00@15.25; rejected, \$14.75@15; N. E. G., \$3.60@14.60. Alsike, No. 2, \$13.40@14.60; No. 3, \$13.10@12.30; rejected, \$12.90@13.00; N. E. G., \$3.60@14.00. Timothy, No. 2, \$3.40@3.45; No. 3, \$3.30@3.35.



CATTLE

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	10 25-11 5	10 50-12 00	11 75-12 25
Steers, com. to fair	8 75-10 0	9 00-11 00	11 00-11 50
Heifers, good to prime	7 50-8 25	8 00-9 00	9 00-9 50
Cows, average	6 00-7 50	7 50-8 25	7 50-8 00
Canners, -Cutters	4 75-5 25	4 50-6 25	4 00-6 50
Bulls, average	6 50-7 25	7 00-7 50	6 75-8 00
Veal, fair to good	10 00-12 50	11 00-12 00	0 50-11 75

November has been a notable month in the cattle market. Receipts locally and in the aggregate around the market circuit, while short of October's record smashing run, have been liberal and the trade has been featured by the ability of the market to absorb at big prices an enormous quantity of cattle the product of which is adopted to army purposes, by the continued breadth of feeder demand, by the comparatively narrow outlet for high-priced beef bullocks and by the continued free movement of range cattle both from the Northwest and the Southwest, due to feed scarcity and, to an extent, in response to a lofty market.

Quality and condition of the offering has been of low average, but demand for medium and low grade cattle on killing account has seemed limited only by slaughtering capacity. Such cattle have found by all odds the best November market ever encountered. In the steer trade everything selling from \$12.00 down and in the she stock everything below \$8.50, especially, have felt the effects of the insistent war demand. Such grades advanced irregularly, while choice heavy bullocks declined approximately \$1.00 per cwt., the spread between ordinary light and choice beeves narrowing greatly during the month. Choice beeves were never scarcer, but it was a case of few of the kind being wanted at the prices, such being denied a place in army rations, adversely influenced by meatless days and lacking an export outlet.

The carlot steer top for the month was \$17.25, against \$17.65 for October and \$17.90 on the September high spot. Due to the absence of prime steers in load lots and the decline in the market only a few loads of steers were good enough to make \$15.00 during the last half of November, but killers went to common light to fairly well-conditioned short-feds, selling between \$8.50 and \$12.50, with a greed such as has seldom been witnessed. The month's steer top was \$4.75 higher than for November of last year, while the general average at about \$11.00, compared with an average of \$10.15 the same month last year, the highest monthly average on record up to that time.

The countryward movement of stock and feeding cattle during the month has been very heavy from all primary markets, due in large measure to the great abundance of soft corn over wide areas of the feeding belt. Supply has been liberal but it sold on an advancing market. Meaty, selected feeders with weight sold on the Chicago market up to \$12.00, while bulk of the stock and feeding steers went to the country at prices ranging from \$7.75 to \$10.00, comparing with a top of \$7.95 and \$6.00 to \$7.35 bulk in November of last year.

Vigorous response to every opportunity to advance has featured the month's butcher and canning cattle trade. War demand, which embraced classes ranging from canners and boners up to good medium grades of

fat cows, heifers, bull and steers and the lofty war-made markets for hides and other by-products, have been the factors. Supplies diminished as the month advanced and prices shot upward rapidly following a slump the first full week of the month, the market showing 25 to 50c gains late in the month on most butcher and canning stock over the close of the month previous. The healthy undertone shown by the trade warrants prediction of a high winter market. The calf market was handicapped throughout the month by heavy runs of Texas calves to the southwestern markets and \$12.50 bought the bulk of the prime vealers, against \$14.50 to \$15.50 for the bulk of the October supply.



HOGS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Heavy 240-290	17 00-17 40	17 00-17 85	18 00-18 2
Medium 200-240	16 75-17 25	17 00-17 50	18 00-18 1
Mixed 150-200	16 50-17 00	16 85-17 25	17 75-18
Packers 100-150	16 75-17 19	17 00-17 65	17 85-18 00
Pigs 100-140	16 50-17 00	16 50-17 50	17 00-17 7

Hog trade during the month now closing has been as far removed from the brand normally experienced in November as is the Kaiser from hearts of all true lovers of democracy. Much of the prosperity exhibited by this branch of the trade may be credited to governmental action in stimulating production by establishing the market through its own enormous purchases of hog products for the U. S. and allied nations and by relating the price per cwt. for hogs on foot, insofar as establishing a minimum value is concerned, to the price of corn on a 13 to 1 ratio.

Supply has been of better volume than during October but still below normal, while urgent and extensive government contracts have created an abnormal demand which has been further expanded by the development, subsequent to the announcement of federal aid to producers, of an unprecedented call for feeding pigs, a demand that ran the market for healthy pigs and underweight hogs to dizzy heights.

The November hog trade got off to a flying start, advances of 25 to 50c being scored on the month's initial session which produced a \$17.35 top and a general average of about \$16.90. Good to choice pigs then sold largely at \$14.00 to \$15.00. After a slight reaction the hog trade again headed upward, advancing steadily, despite increasing receipts until an \$18.10 top and a \$17.70 to \$18.00 bulk for matured hogs was reached last week, while feeding pigs went to the country on the month's highest spot at \$17.75.

With packers operating under a fixed ratio of profits they will not have the same incentives for bearing down the market as heretofore. On the contrary the maintaining of dependable, remunerative markets for producers that will generate confidence and increasing production at this time of need would be to killers' advantage.

The average weight of hogs at Chicago for November 1917 will be about 208 pounds, compared with 195 for November last year and 187, the lightest month's average on record, for November two years ago.



SHEEP

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Top Lambs	16.25-16.50	16.00-17.25	16.85-17.00
Yearlings	15.00-16.00	14.50-15.00	13.00-13.50
Wethers	9.50-10.00	9.75-11.25	11.25-11.50
Ewes	9.25-9.75	9.00-9.75	10.00-10.50

Although lacking in large measure the support that military needs have given the cattle and hog markets, sheep and lamb trade for November has needed no apologist. Consumptive demand for lamb and mutton has been none too robust, but an unusually favorable brand of November weather most of the month tended to keep western stock running in cornfields where it was making good weight gains away from the shambles until in good marketable condition, holding supplies down to moderate proportions. An eleventh-hour scramble on the part of feeder buyers for supplies as the season's range movement drew to a close deprived killers of access to the

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lighter fleshed stock of suitable feeder class and finishers absorbed such stuff at record November prices. Weakness was displayed in the lamb trade early in the month, with the best fat lambs going around \$16.50 at low time, or 75c below October's closing level and the bulk of the fat lambs selling the first half of November at \$16.00 to \$16.75. Moderate receipts followed, however, and the trade acquired a stride that carried the top on killing account up to \$17.40 by the 20th and the bulk up to \$17.00 to \$17.25. More or less discrimination was felt throughout against strong and heavy-weights, this becoming more pronounced the latter part of the month when choice 90 to 100-lb. weights sold 75c to \$1.25 below the top.

Feeding lambs of a very desirable class sold on a low spot early in the month at \$16.00, but a spurt in demand carried the best up to \$17.75 to \$18.00 last week. Owing to a short supply the output was small, but there was a brisk demand for everything of useful feeding class offered.

Yearling wethers of choice light class sold upward to \$15.00, odd lots of matured wethers to \$13.00, with full loads up to \$12.50 and best aged ewes for slaughter at \$11.50. Few feeding or breeding sheep or yearlings appeared, but such as were on the market found good favor, western yearling breeding ewes selling up to \$17.00, a full mouth class around \$12.50 to \$13.50; feeding yearling wethers to \$13.50, aged feeding wethers to \$11.75 and good feeding ewes to \$9.00 to \$9.50.

The above prices are by long odds the highest on record for November. During the corresponding month last year when the highest November prices up to that time were paid, top lambs reached \$12.45, feeding lambs to \$11.00, top matured muttons to \$9 and yearlings to \$10.65.

An impression is developing that the supply of sheep and lambs is less than has been generally supposed and although the marketward movement promises to be somewhat irregular for

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the next few weeks, with weather conditions an important factor in governing the supply and market, the trade promises to go on a healthy, stable basis by or before mid-January at which time the big end of the available supply will be in Colorado feed lots.

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MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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GRANT SLOCUM
FORREST A. LORD
ANNE CAMPBELL STARK
Dr. G. A. COHN
WM. E. BROWN

EDITOR
EDITOR
EDITOR WOMAN'S DEPT
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LEGAL EDITOR

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Struggling Russia Needs a Helping Hand

THE GOVERNMENT that has been set up in Russia by the socialists, the anarchists, the workmen, the soldiers and the sailors, and the what not who were not in sympathy with the provisional regime, is most unpopular with everyone excepting the people of Russia.

When the Old Nick (alias Czar Nicholas) first mobilized his troops against the menace of Kaiserism, it will be remembered that the movement was hailed with general acclaim by England, France and the United States; everybody let out a war whoop and wanted to join hands with Nicky. "For he was a jolly good fellow." But when a few months of war rubbed the varnish off this imp of Satan (a tool of Wilhelm, as later developments showed), the Allied nations gave him the cold shoulder and wept not a single tear when he was led off to Siberia.

For a time the Kerensky government was shadowed suspiciously, but the brilliant young premier finally convinced the Allies that he was Russia's saviour and they opened their arms to him. Kerensky reigned long enough to get into the debt of the United States to the tune of 35 or 40 million dollars, and then his lamp of genius flickered out. At no time had it shown brightly enough to reveal the first clouds of the gathering storm, and when the tempest finally burst, he had no oil to pour upon the troubled waters. Hence they engulfed him, and his ship of state struck bottom. There were no tears at the funeral; the Allied nations glumly agreed that they never had any faith in Kerensky anyway.

From out of the chaos that followed, two leaders have emerged, Lenine and Trotok, both socialists, if not anarchists. Despite all rumors and hopes to the contrary, the machinery of authority established by these men has slowly been shaping itself into a semblance of a central government that seems to be commanding the respect of the great masses of soldiers and peasants.

But the Allied nations have very foolishly refused to have any thing to do with Russia's new government, claiming that it is not representative of the people. If they refer to those who enjoyed special favors under the old monarchistic regime and the great body of landed proprietors and merchants who formed the bulwark of the Kerensky government, they are absolutely right; but if they mean the millions of peasant farmers, many of whom were freed from serfdom in 1861, they are wrong.

No one contends that anarchism or socialism will solve Russia's problem. They merely pave the way by tearing out root and branch the old notions of special proprietary rights and class privileges which cling to the disappearing monarchy like eddies about a sinking ship. Every vestige of the old regime must be swept away. And not until then can the great masses of Russian peasants give undivided support and confidence to the leaders who will rise from out the chaos to direct the country's destinies.

It is tragical that these events should have transpired at this critical period of the Great War. But the Allies should make the best of it, by evincing at least a show of friendship toward those who have gathered up Russia's fate in the palms of their hands and are stumbling thru the darkness. It is a situation that calls for diplomacy of the highest order; to blind ourselves with doubt and prejudice now is to bungle; whether we approve of the revolutionary developments mat-

ters not; our cue is to enter into council with these people, and prove that in spite of our past friendship to the Czar, we are after all fighting for Democracy.

The Age of Conservation

THE WAR is drawing heavily upon the natural resources of the United States. Innumerable tons of coal, iron, steel and other minerals and countless gallons of oils are shipped every month to the Allied countries. Because of their amplitude our mineral resources have not yet begun to show any evidence of the drain upon them, and it may be a matter of years before they do.

But the war is sapping the fertility of our soils which, unlike our mines, are far from being inexhaustible. Millions of pounds of cereals, vegetables and meats, the products of American farms, are being sent across the seas to feed Allied armies. The elements of fertility which entered into their production are gone forever; in no manner can they be returned to their native soils.

Were all men producers, and all products consumed by both man and beast within the area grown, the fertility of the soils would vary very little from year to year. There is really no such a thing as waste. The elements that leave the soil to give life to plants are never lost; they are merely converted into other forms and some time return to Mother Earth in substantially the same character as when they left.

Good prices have tempted many farmers to sell off their live stock and crop their soils almost to a state of total barrenness. With the first big advance in feeds farmers all over the country began to cut down their dairy herds. The depletion is still going on, and unless it is checked at once the productivity of our soils is going to be greatly reduced.

Conservation of soil fertility is a matter which should occupy the serious attention of every farmer in Michigan. Our lands must be made to produce more if we are to continue to make money in the farming business. It is foolish optimism to expect that a piece of land which has grown a crop of potatoes for two consecutive years will grow as good a crop the third year, and it is poor business for a farmer to plant such a field to potatoes at all, or if this must be, without first returning to the soil some of the elements that he must know were taken out the first two years.

If natural fertilizers, such as lime, marl and stable manure are not to be had in sufficient quantities, then by all means commercial fertilizers should be purchased and applied liberally. For some reason or other many farms have a prejudice against commercial fertilizers, but their value has been fully established and with the decrease in the number of live stock on the farm more and more farmers will have to turn to commercial fertilizers.

Let's not have any more discouraging potato yields as we did this year in many sections where the soil was impoverished from over-cropping. If any of us have a field that we must use next year for root crops and it is at all deficient in fertility, let's not just trust to the Lord to make it produce; let's make the job easier for Him by turning back some of the elements that we've deprived it of.

Fifty Cent Potatoes

THE ARMOUR Grain Company," announces a United Press dispatch that has appeared in newspapers all over the country, "declared that only the reduction of potatoes to fifty cents a bushel will prevent fully a hundred million bushels of the new crop from rotting or being fed to livestock. If the consumer could buy them at fifty cents per bushel nearly all the immense crop would be consumed, making a great saving in wheat and other foods on which the government is economizing. But the consumers are paying around \$1.40 a bushel and are therefore using them sparingly. The government estimated the potatoes grown on farms at a hundred and fifty-four million bushels more than last year and that added to the big war garden crop makes a very large amount over last year's supply."

We rise to ask why Armour & Company are giving such widespread publicity to a fact that's as plain as the nose on a man's face? Cheaper potatoes—greater consumption? Of course. So would cheaper pork and smaller profits for Armour mean greater consumption of meat and fewer hungry bellies. If the government would step in and chop off a few millions of the packers' profits, the consumer could afford to eat more meat and spare more grain.

Cheaper potatoes—50 cent potatoes—undoubtedly would mean increased consumption this year, but what about next year? The farmer knows, Armour knows, everybody knows that 50 cent potatoes this year would mean \$5 potatoes or no potatoes at all next year.

Half this talk about the huge "surplus" is pure buncombe. There is no surplus. Armour & Company assert that potatoes are selling to the consumer at \$1.40 a bushel, but they do not explain why. Most of the farmers of the country have acted upon the government's recommendation and have sold a part of their crop at prevailing prices, yet the supply has not exceeded the demand nor forced down the price. And enough market "bears" have been loosed by Armour & Company and other "interests" to scare the market into fits if it wasn't well sustained by an unsatisfied demand.

If the combined influence of padded crop reports, publicity seeking Armours, and the new potato grading doesn't knock the props from under the market within the next thirty days, nothing ever can.

A "Bit" of Intelligence

THE USE to which the farm reservoir is to be put should determine the type of construction. If it is intended to use any part of the stored water for drinking or even culinary purposes, the entire supply must be kept free from pollution, while if the supply is intended for irrigation only, the purity of the water need not be considered."

This surprising bit of intelligence is contained in a Farmers' Bulletin No. 828, on "Farm Reservoirs."

How long, oh, Lord, how long, must we farmers be fed up on such stuff as this? For a quarter of a century we have been deluged with bulletins filled with such nonsensical stuff as this; silly, obvious facts have been crammed down our throats till our palates are sick with their taste.

We have been told when to get up in the morning, when to go to bed at night; how many children we ought to beget and how many hogs we ought to raise; we've been told what crops to plant and what not to plant; we've been told to come in out of the rain, and make hay while the sun shines; we've been urged to do everything that our intelligence tells us to do, and warned against doing everything that we have no desire to do.

It was not to be thought that the early agricultural propaganda put out by the government was to escape the camouflage of red tape, technicality and verbosity that shrouds the workings and wordings of government enterprise. But it does seem that the years might have purged it somewhat, and brought the service down to a practical basis of some concrete value to those it was meant to benefit. But it is not to be. The farmer continues to plant his corn and beans and potatoes, rightly or wrongly, it matters not. The harvest comes, and he gathers into his bins and graineries the fruits of his toil, waiting for the turn of the market wheel to give him profit or loss; it matters not for his hands are tied and he cannot stop the wheel when and where he would.

He turns to his government bulletin for advice. Ah, here it is! "If you intend to drink this water, it must be clean; but if you're going to use it to irrigate your land, it's purity need not be considered."

A good Catholic subscriber writes that she considers the cartoon published in the Nov. 17th issue of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER, showing Pope Benedict in the role of mediator, an insult. She will have the good sense, we are sure, to appreciate that the cartoon was not intended by us as any reflection upon the motives and judgment of the Pontiff. The cartoon was copied from the *Literary Digest* which is supposed to be an impartial purveyor of news, comment and opinion. For the benefit of our Catholic friends, we might say that the editor of the *Digest* is declared to be of Catholic faith, yet does not hesitate to give both sides of a question involving religious issues and creeds. It is the conviction of the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER that more deference should have been paid to Pope Benedict's peace plan by the Allied nations; therefore, the cartoon in question could not have been meant as an expression of editorial policy.

This terrible war! Altho the mandates of etiquette are strictly ag'in that sort of thing, society folks have patriotically resolved to stir the sugar in their coffee and to "lick the platter clean." We presume that individual gravy spoons and souvenir bean knives will now be added to the silverware collection.

"Stop, look and listen." Use the best judgment at your command this year before you take that crop to market and sell it at below cost. The marketing season has only just opened, there are six months—a half year—left in which to market perishables. Sit tight, and don't worry.

Here is the Evidence-What Shall the Verdict be?

Thousands of Michigan Farmers Caught with Small Potatoes, Lose all Hope of Profit as Full Meaning of New Grading Rules Dawns Upon Them

Kent County Man Dissatisfied

I am not satisfied with the way they are grading potatoes. Will not plant only for my own use next year. The buyers of beans are taking off 20 cents from the market price for every pound they will pick and the beans that were out in the rains will pick from 10 to 20 lbs. and three-quarters of the beans were out in the storms.—A. T. D., Kent county.

Will Lower Price of Potatoes 30c a Bushel

Enclosed find check for \$1.00 in payment for M. B. F., also the names of some of my farm neighbors. In regard to grading our potatoes would say it is an imposition pushed forward by the dealers to make more money out of us. I have bought potatoes for six seasons, sorted them myself, using 1½ inch screen. Never had a kick on a single car during that time. Believe we should do all we can to stop being imposed upon. It will lower the price of potatoes about 30c per bu. in our neighborhood, besides being almost an entire loss to some.—W. A. C., Osceola county.

One-Half Potatoes Grade as Seconds

I have seen a number of complaints of the two grades of potatoes. I will speak for the most of the farmers of this district: Potatoes run about 60 bu. to the acre and with the way they grade nearly half of the potato crop would have to be sold as second grade, and at the price of number 2 grade the farmers would suffer a great loss, and if the Food Administrator does not step in and see that the farmers get a square deal there will be very few potatoes planted next year, for the farmers cannot work for nothing. I suggest that you take this up with the Food Administration. — F. D. B., Mecosta county, Mich.

Few Potatoes Next Year

I wish to say you are publishing the very best farm paper that ever came to my notice. This is a paper that should be in the hands of every Michigan farmer. I noticed an article in the Grand Rapids News in which Armour was quoted as having said that potatoes should not be more than 50 cents to the consumer this year and that if they could be brought down to this figure there would be more potatoes consumed and less wheat. Just let them try to bring them down to that figure this year after the great expense the farmers have been to and there will be a bunch of potato buyers looking for a job next year. They can't fool all the farmers all the time. There will be very few potatoes raised in this section next year if the price falls below where it is now.—W. D., Osceola Co., Michigan, R. F. D. No. 2.

City Man Hit Too

I agree with the Mecosta editor when he says that the farmer loses on the present method of grading potatoes, but the city man is hit just as hard, for if my potatoes grade out one-half as some did, and I got \$1 for what went over and nothing for what went thru, or if I got 75c and they graded out only about 1-12, which would be best for the city man? For with the old way of grading this county and the surrounding counties would yield about

one quarter more potatoes, and therefore one-quarter more potatoes, and therefore the city man would have just as many more potatoes to eat. All I can say for the man who established the 1½ grade is that he did it so he could get along without handling so many potatoes and get just as much profit, for with a small screen the city man would eat more, for they would have to handle more to make as much money.—C. B. L., Otsego county.

Believes in Grading, but Not Kind Proposed

Permit me to say that while I am heartily in favor of a standard grade for potatoes, I am opposed to the two grades as proposed. I believe the proposed forty per cent difference is too great and is unfair and unjust.

I also believe there is a graver side to the question, and that is, by establishing a No. 2 grade of all that will pass over an inch and a half screen. It will have a tendency to lower the grade of seed used on many farms, for although the difference in price is too great, many farmers will be tempted to sell their seconds, leaving only the small and inferior stock for seed, which cannot help but have a damaging effect on future crops. Establish a standard grade of say 1½

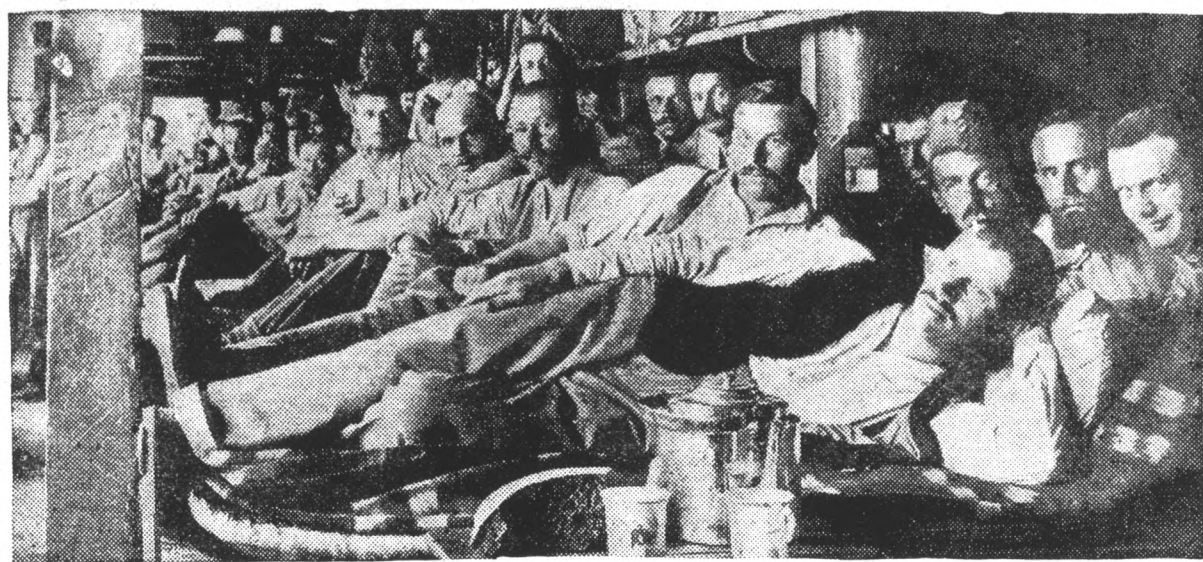
inch for round stock and one a trifle smaller for long. Adhere strictly to them and I believe the ultimate results will be much more satisfactory to both producer and consumer.—C. J. F., Otsego county.

Serious Loss to This Farmer

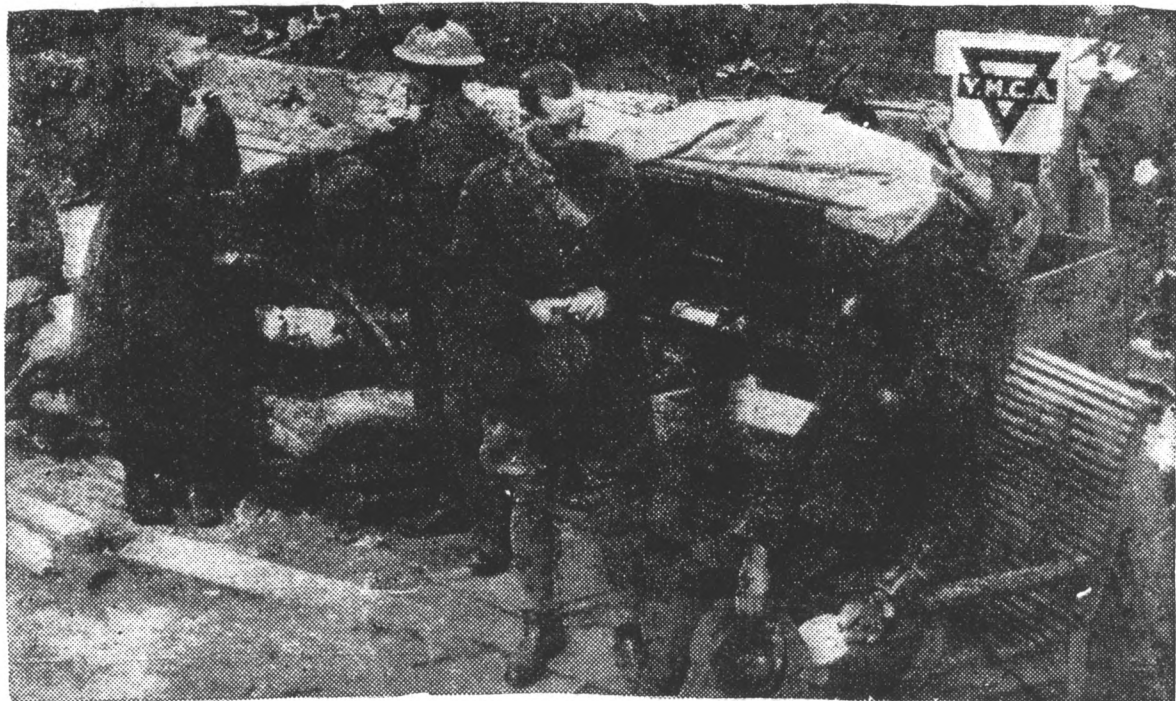
I am enclosing one dollar for my subscription to your splendid paper. There's none better. I noticed the article in M. B. F. regarding the grading of potatoes. Will say that I for one, have planted about eleven and one-half acres and dug seven hundred and ninety bushels of which about sixty bushels were field frozen. I paid as high as three dollars a bushel for seed and \$3.50 and dinner for digging. Now, if these were made into two grades, there would be about sixty per cent of them No. 2. The market here is full and they are not buying at all, but they say that all they could pay is 87c for No. 1, and 60 per cent of that for No. 2 grade. So you can readily see that I for one, would come out at "the little end of the horn" at the price they are offering and making two grades. There are dozens of other farmers around here who are situated the same as myself and worse. The making of the two grades is highway robbery of the farmer.

Seeing that you have done so much for the

Y. M. C. A. WORK UNDER SHELL FIRE AND CARE FOR GERMAN PRISONERS



GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN SIBERIA.
AMERICAN Y. M. C. A. WORK IS CARRIED ON HERE



Y. M. C. A. WORKERS UNDER SHELL FIRE

The Y. M. C. A. is doing work all over the world. One of the illustrations shows the prison war camps at Irkutsk-Voenno-Gorodok, Siberia. The German prisoners here are looked after by the United States Y. M. C. A. workers. They also do good work under shell fire. The Y. M. C. A. on the British western front shows one of the typical Y. M. C. A. stations.

farmers on the bean proposition, could you not get justice for us on the potato deal? That's all we ask—justice. If the farmers here could get \$1.50 per bu. for potatoes, they could make a fair profit, but no great fortune. Thanking you for giving us such an excellent paper.—F. R. D., Antrim county.

Doesn't Know What Farmers Will Do

The fall work is almost all done; the potatoes that were in the ground after the frost were badly frozen. Some potatoes are fairly good and some were not worth digging; they run from 50 to 90 bu. to the acre. I don't know what farmers are going to do when they are cut in two with the potato grades. They will have to leave the farm when they can't make both ends meet. Isn't there something that can be done?—E. M. G., Antrim county.

Claims Dealers Mix Grades

In regard to grading potatoes, will say I haven't many to sell but the worst is that in some of the elevators is that when they ship they mix No. 1 and No. 2. One of my neighbors whom I can rely on said he saw them at the _____ at Falmouth loading a car of potatoes, two men carried No. 1 grade and one man carried No. 2 grade and spread them over the top, mixing them in. I will say I think your advice on markets is the best in the state and I will do anything I can to boost the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER.—W. T. B., Wexford county.

Cannot See Where Farmers Will Make Profit

I received that great paper again; can hardly wait until it gets here each week as it is one of the best papers that I get, and I am telling my friends about it, and also hand them the paper to look over. I had 12 acres of beans and got 54 bu.; 33 bu. will pick 10 pounds and the rest will pick half, and my potatoes were frozen badly; about every eighth bushel is frozen around here. There were many fields of beans that were never pulled. I do not see where farmers are going to make any profit, potatoes 75c and graded at that, and beans \$7.00; no ripe corn around here. I hope we will get better prices for potatoes and beans. I am not going to plant beans next year.—A. D. R., Leelanau county.

Will Plant Only for Own Use Next Year

Please find enclosed postoffice order for one dollar for one year's subscription for the best farm paper I have ever taken, and will say I have taken from two to five every year for twenty years, and I think the M. B. F. is more help to the farmer than any of them. My opinion of the potato grade is I do not think the farmers are getting a square deal. Most of the farmers of this and near-by localities think the same. I know of different farmers, and many of them, who have always planted from 5 to 7 acres every year, who say they will only plant for their own use next year on account of this grading. After grading they would have from ten to fifteen bushels out of every fifty to take home. After paying \$4 per bu. for seed last spring and the high cost of labor in getting them out this fall, with other expenses of taking care of them, I cannot see where we farmers can get "by" on this year's crop.—E. W. R., Cass county.

High Prices All That Saves the Farmer

In regard to the grading of potatoes, I had 2 acres and dug them and had 79 bushels, little and big, and if I had to put them through a 1½ inch screen two-thirds of them would drop through and the other third would stick in the mesh. The two grades in beans would be a good thing for us here for the elevator here is financed by a Mt. Pleasant concern and our beans are shipped out and picked so that we can't even buy our cull beans back. Our corn was a complete failure; the potatoes 35 bu. to the acre and beans 6 or 7. That looks as though the farmer would get rich on his crops. If it had not been for the high prices there would have been a lot more who would have had to quit the farm. Here is an example: I borrowed \$450 to buy 40 acres, which makes me 136 acres in all, and for the last 3 years we have not been able to pay the interest on the \$450. We can not get money through the Federal Land Loan for they claim we can not give such paper as they want.—C. H. C., Clare county.

Antrim County Man Opposes New Screen

I consider the M. B. F. the best paper I have ever read of its kind and I wouldn't do without it for twice what I paid for it. In regards to the potato grading I have figured it a great big graft. There are farmers around here whose potatoes are large enough so that the grading does not affect them much, and then I also know of some whose potatoes will sort out 50 per cent. At Rapid City the buyers are paying 60 per cent of

the No. 1 price for No. 2 grade. At Alden the buyers are paying 50 per cent for No. 2. Today they are paying 80c for No. 1. Now I would like to ask what the buyers could pay today.

The potatoes around here turned out less than was expected they would, although there was a number of fields that yielded 250 bu. per acre, the great majority ran from 50 to 125.

I would like to say further that 96 per cent of the farmers around here are bitterly opposed to the 1 15-16 inch screen and the 1½ inch screen.—R. E. L., Antrim county.

A Heavy Loss to Wexford Man

Am very much disappointed to find that potatoes will be graded as firsts and seconds. To dispose of my 1917 crop on this basis will mean a heavy loss to me on account of the tubers not being fully developed. Out of nine acres I have harvested three hundred bushels. About 50 per cent of these I expect will sell as No. 1. It will readily be seen what my profit will be if I have to sell under these conditions.—F. A., Wexford county

No Money in Potatoes This Year

Here are a few facts concerning my own experience with potatoes this year: Out of 12 acres planted I harvested 460 bu., (and they were well taken care of too). Two loads were taken to the market and fully 65 per cent sold for No. 2, which at the present rate brought 42 cents a bu. Those having frosty land and cannot depend upon a full growth of their potatoes will find it hard to meet expenses under these conditions. Half-grown crops and 1½ in grading will make it impossible for me to lift the mortgage from my farm.—G. W. T., Wexford county.

Putting Lots of Farmers Out of Business

I wish to say a few words in regard to the potato grading business. It is just putting lots of farmers out of business. Fifty per cent of their crop was on the small side owing to September frosts. The majority of growers borrowed money at local banks to plant large acreage and can't get clear of those notes. The banks are not renewing notes for only 30 to 60 days does not give the farmer any chance to recover. Other years notes could be renewed for 6 months. It looks like some organization against the sun-burnt heroes of the country. Hoping you will succeed in getting a reconsideration on the part of the Food Administration.—F. S., Mecosta county

Will Cut Acreage in Middle

I want to tell you in as few words as possible what I think of the potato grades that are being foisted upon us farmers.

It's the same old story and we farmers are the "goat." It is plain to me that the Potato Buyers' Association has passed one over on the Food Administration at Washington. The farmers of this township, Sidney, will tell you to a man that unless this grading is straightened out and made much more satisfactory, and that mighty soon, they will cut their acreage in the middle next year. I am in favor of a certain grade for potatoes, but two grades is a little too much for me. If a buyer will screen out of my potatoes everything up to 1½ inch he and I will have no quarrel. I grow from 1,000 to 2,000 bu. of potatoes every year and I want to go on record as saying that if I have to put up with this kind of a deal my next year's acreage will be mighty few. In fact I am getting disgusted with farming anyway. Having these harpies of hell digging into me at every turn doesn't appeal to me.—W. P. L., Montcalm county.

Industry Will be Seriously Threatened

It was with much interest that I read your article in the issue of Nov. 17, entitled "Potato Grades Serious Loss to Farmers." It is nothing short of robbery, as I can say I have had some experience with the so-called government screen. My advice is this: See the screen and measure it before you consent to sell on a government screen basis. One of my neighbors had about 350 bu. of potatoes and wanted me to put in enough with him to make a small car. He said the buyers would give us \$1.10 for the good No. 1 and we could keep the seconds. Well, I agreed to put in 250 bu., and out of the first load I drew back home 18 bu. of the second grade. They were a good grade for table use, but of course, I had agreed to keep seconds so I couldn't kick; they went through the 1½ inch screen (which was really 2 inches, as I found when I measured it with a caliper rule, and were classed as second grade. Well, I sorted over, by hand, about 550 bu. to get 156 bu. toward the 250 I promised and now I will have to re-grade what I have in order to realize much out of them. Go after the guilty parties on this grading business and I will guarantee that the potato growers of Michigan will stand by you to a man.

I have raised potatoes as my chief crop for 20 years, and know that in late years when there were a good many over-sized potatoes on the market, that the buyers all claimed that the medium sized ones brought the best money in the big markets. Now they talk the opposite, and why? Just because Michigan's crop this year did not attain their growth, and it leaves a chance for some one to make a lot of easy money off the poor producer. I predict this much: Unless this potato grading is made more fair that the industry in Michigan will be seriously damaged. Of course the growers don't expect the consumer to buy every potato he raises for No. 1, but how can anyone expect the grower to take second money for from 40 to 60% of his crop, as is the case this year.

I repeat again, go after the ones responsible for this state of affairs, and I can assure you the hearty co-operation of Michigan growers. Thanking you for your timely article on this matter.—H. A. H., St. Joseph county.

"I Will Cut My Acreage 50%"

I read with much interest Mr. Bale's article on potato grading. Mr. Bale seems to be very much alarmed about brother B. E. S not understanding the position of shippers and consumers, as well as good honest growers. To my best opinion Bro. B. E. S. saw daylight in the two potato grade proposition.

Mr. Bale states he is a grower and a shipper. If he was a grower only he could not help but oppose the 1½ inch potato screen, and he would not have been called to Washington, and he would not have given his own time and paid his own expenses as he says "for the benefit and the best interests of the country." He meant to say, "best interests of our shippers and buyers," for these are the men that are coining money on the two-grade potato proposition.

Mr. Bale goes on to say that it is very easy to get 10c more for No. 1 stock. Yes, it is easy to say, but not so easy to get—I mean that 10c.

Mr. Bale is calling my attention to the consumer's place, and about two bushels of potatoes side by side, one graded and one field run, and at the cost of ten cents to twenty-five cents more per bushel than the other. When Mr. Bale talks about graded bushel and field run he doesn't say anything about the No. 2. I am thinking about how much more is he getting per bushel than for field run. I am opposed to selling field run, but I am in favor of selling graded stock, but in one grade and culls. The culls go to the grower and the graded stock to the consumer, and the consumer will pay as much if not more, for this stock. For this reason that the No. 2 which you claim you sell for 65c a bushel, are the best eating potato in the bunch, and therefore I say it is strictly wrong to grade potatoes for market in two grades.

Mr. Bale says "now is the time to put Michigan on the map, while our stock is good and we can make them extra fine by sorting them according to the Government request." Our stock was just as good 30 years ago as it is now, and the shippers had no reason for dumping everything in the sack that the farmers brought to the market, dirt and pebbles and scoops up the sand of the floor, dumps it into the sack in order to make the load hold out. Michigan can be put on the map with one-grade stock and the growers will plant just as many potatoes as they can take care of, but every farmer who has had the experience of the two grades of potatoes says he will cut his acreage 50 per cent and that is just what I will do. And if that is the kind of a map Mr. Bale is trying to put Michigan on that's easily done.

Mr. Bale says it is no trouble to get a good price for good stock. He is right. But I know too, that there is no trouble in getting a good price for good stock when the culls are screened out and all sound tubers left in one grade, and I know that neither Mr. Bale nor anyone else who is in favor of the two grades of potatoes is on the right track.

I am always ready to stand by our government if it is to the best interests of all, but this rule of grading is a long ways from being to the best interests of the farmer. If I am not right in my remarks, then I wish some good farmer brother would convince me where I am wrong.—H. K., Leelanau county.

A Great Injustice to the Farmer

We have been reading the articles in the M. B. F. on the potato and bean situation with much interest. It is my opinion that the Food Administrator has surely been misinformed regarding the situation from the standpoint of the "poor farmer." In our locality farmers are protesting strongly against the use of screens at our local market. I feel that such a practice is a great injustice to the farmers. The expense incurred in the buying of seed at last spring's prices and the price of labor ranging from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day

(Continued on page 12)

LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

CO-OPERATION MEANS GREATER DAIRY PROFITS

Co-operation is the big thing in modern farming today. And it cannot help any class of farmers more than those who are engaged in dairying. The greater part of the 5,500 creameries and the 3,500 cheese factories in the United States today should be owned and operated by the men who supply the milk and cream to them.

In organizing a co-operative creamery or cheese factory the number of cows that will be available for the enterprise should be considered. At least 600 cows are needed to make the venture a success. It is safe to start with this number because the success of the co-operative factory or creamery will encourage dairying and the number of cows will be increased. I have seen it work out this way several times.

There is no place for the man who makes a business of promoting a co-operative creamery or cheese factory. Farmers who understand local conditions can do the work much better than a stranger can. And too often the promoter is more interested in selling a lot of expensive equipment at high prices than he is in the welfare of the farmer and the community. If there is need for a business of this kind talk it over with your neighbors and go at the work as you would to make a profit in any other line, and keep it always strictly business.

In organizing a venture of this nature men who are known for sound business judgment should be selected for officials. There should be a president, secretary, treasurer and four or five practical dairymen as a board of directors. The secretary should be a man of experience, sound business sense and have a thorough knowledge of the selling end. The success of the work depends on the men who are guiding it. If the officials are farmers in the community and shareholders they will work to the best of their ability for its success.

When organizing, enough capital should be secured to make it a success. Too many promising things of this kind fail because of lack of capital. If possible the milk or cream should be paid for at the prevailing market price every two weeks. This will enable the men who look after the selling end to hold the product for a time when the market is at a low ebb. The profits can then be put in the bank as they are made and a quarterly or yearly dividend paid to members. This is by far the most satisfactory and business-like method. Enough money should be put in a sinking fund each month from the profits to enable the officials to take advantage of a favorable business chance. It is possible to purchase the needed material at a good discount for cash at certain times of the year and these things help to make the dividends larger at the end of the fiscal year.

It should be conducted as a truly co-operative business and on the one-vote plan. A great deal of trouble

will often arise if it is run on the plan of one share one vote. Let each member have only one vote on the affairs of the business.

There are great possibilities in these co-operative creameries and cheese factories, at this time especially. There is a good market for all kinds of dairy products and there is no reason in the world why the producers should not get the largest possible part of the consumers' money. Farming today is a very complex business, more than simply raising the products for market. In order to make the best profits the farmer has got to take the leading part in the marketing of what he produces. The sooner we wake up to this fact and act accordingly the sooner we will get the money that we should for our labor and money invested.

Another side to this that will be a means of a great saving each year is that the farmers in a community can buy their feed and material together by the carload at a great saving. This can often be done through a local dealer who can make the deal or thru the co-operative company. Fertiliz-

or clover hay, corn fodder, oat straw, cow pea hay and silage. In feeding silage or other green feeds we must be careful, however. A little green feed is good but too much succulence is just as bad for the ewes as too much grain. It will in most cases lead to the production of paunchy, flabby lambs. The flock likes a widely diversified supply of roughage. Oats bran, a little corn and oil meal make a good grain ration. Sheaf oats make a good grain and fodder ration. If the ewes are provided with plenty of alfalfa or clover hay, sheaf oats and corn fodder they will not need much grain.

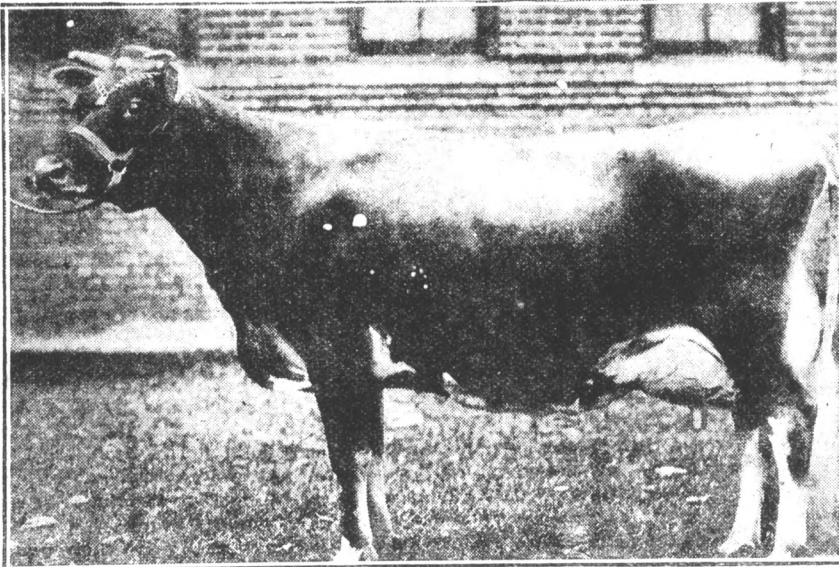
Regular feeding is a great help to the ewes. They expect to receive their food at a certain time every day, and if disappointed they become restless, which upsets their digestive system to a certain degree. I try to get around to do the feeding at the same hours every day. The sheep must be fed and it takes no more time and labor to be regular than otherwise.

Exposure to variable weather conditions during the winter influences the development of the fetus and in some instances is a cause of weak lambs at birth.

Sheep can stand much cold, still, dry weather, but cold, drenching rains, and windy snowy weather is very trying on them. When the fleece becomes thoroughly soaked from rain or snow and wool fibers mat and form a cold blanket, which lowers the temperature of the body and retards the escape of waste matter from the skin. The animal requires more feed under such conditions to keep it warm, thus imposing additional labor upon the digestive system which weakens its activity and retards the proper development of the fetus. Hence the importance of proper shelter for the ewes in bad weather. The shelter ought to be well ventilated, admit plenty of sunshine and be kept in such condition that they will occupy it from choice rather than from compulsion. The yard should be spacious and dry and if possible have a southern exposure.

During favorable weather in winter I let my ewes run out in the pasture field. Exercise they must have and there are very few days in winter when they cannot get all they need. Exercise keeps the circulation free, the muscles strong and digestion good and the ewe energetic. It is one of the most important things in avoiding weak lambs at birth. A little salt should be given the ewes. My method of supplying this is to sprinkle it over their roughage two or three times a week. The drinking water for the animals ought to be clear and clean and given at least twice a day in case it is not within their reach all the time. Sheep need little water but they need it often. It is essential to keep the sheep as quiet as possible all the time for they are very timid. Dogs and all other annoyances should be kept out of the sheepfold.—John Underwood.

While we are conserving let's save the wool and mutton by tying a can to the sheep-killing dog.



Oxford Majesty's Gipsy, who won first Ribbon in the Aged Cow class at the National Dairy Show, held at Columbus, Ohio. Among the 212 Jerseys on exhibition were Sophie 19th and Springfield Owl's Eva, who have each made records of 1200 pounds of butter in one year. Oxford Majesty's Gipsy is owned by L. V. Walkley, Southington, Connecticut.

ers and machinery can be purchased by the carload at wholesale prices, saving each member a considerable amount of money.—Bernard E. Coffin.

HOW TO AVOID WEAK LAMBS AT BIRTH

On my farm I have for a good many years maintained a flock of about 30 breeding ewes and have found that in the management of them it is not always easy to determine the causes of trouble that sometimes arises. Weak lambs at birth are one of the most perplexing troubles. The cause may be traced to various sources. Lack of proper food assimilation by the ewe may weaken the growth of the fetus during its development. This condition is more prevalent among old ewes which have lost teeth than it is among the younger ones. Lack of thrift may however be brought on in young ewes through weak digestive organs. Loss of flesh is one of the most apparent evidences of this and can generally be remedied in young animals by feeding them extra with a variety of foods until the system regains its normal condition. The cause of weak lambs at birth can frequently be traced to a too limited ration during gestation.

To properly mature their unborn young the ewes need to be supplied with a nutritious and varied ration. For roughage they should have alfalfa

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BARRED ROCK COCKERELS for sale, \$2.00 to \$5.00 each for strain with records to 290 eggs a year. Circular free. Fred Astling, Constantine, Mich.

I OFFER FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON a limited number of Strong Vigor—our Registered Shropshire ram lambs, good size, well covered and ready for service. C. Lemen, Dexter, Mich.

FARM EXCHANGE LIST

Send for our list of Detroit properties offered in exchange for farms. We may have something you want. WALTER C. PIPER, 410 HOLDEN BLDG., DETROIT

and board must be met with a fair crop and a square deal in the marketing of it.

The early frost here damaged the potatoes until on an average our locality has about 60 per cent of a crop. The potatoes are running small and after being screened about 25 per cent of every load is hauled back and is a total loss. *With the nation-wide campaign for food conservation the screening of the short potato crop is also apparently inconsistent. As for me, I think the potato screen is a public nuisance and should be ousted.*—E. H., Emmet county.

40 Per Cent Went Thru Screen

In regard to the potato screen I might say that myself and brother harvested 15 acres of potatoes of which about 40 per cent went thru the 1½ inch screen, while if we could have used the 1½ inch screen only about 15 per cent of them would have gone thru. Now, the price of potatoes at Williamsburg on the 19th was \$1.30 per hundred for firsts and 75c for seconds. I hope you can do something to improve the situation as most all the farmers in this neighborhood find the same condition. Hoping your paper, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING will continue successful, I remain,

—C. H., Grand Traverse county.

A Rotten Deal for Farmers

I have received several copies of your paper and to say I am pleased with it is putting it mildly. It is just the kind of a paper we farmers need. I believe you are truly trying to help the farmer. So long as you carry out your present policy you can count on me as a life subscriber. I certainly enjoy your editorials. I think this potato grading is giving the farmer a rotten deal. I enclose a list of names, as I think every farmer in Michigan should have your paper. Wishing you the best of success and hoping the Kaiser gets canned, I am,

—E. T., St. Joseph county.

Farmers Are Discouraged

Will say that this is the first year that potatoes have ever been run thru a screen here and all farmers are discouraged over it. The best grade of potatoes are selling at \$1.00 per bu. and the second grades are sold at a great loss to the farmers of this state. The early frost of September making so many medium and small potatoes. Beans were badly frozen, not half a crop, and some fields were gathered only for feed, while corn has never ripened and apples no crop at all. We are all very grateful to the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING for all it is doing for the farmers of Michigan.—C. W. G., Alcona county.

One and Seven-Eighths Mesh Very Unfair

I have been a reader of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER for a short time and am well pleased with the interest the editors take in us as farmers. We think the grading of potatoes with 1½ inch mesh very unjust, as this takes out a very desirable grade for table use free from hollows, yet valued at a much lower price. We also think the government report as to yield too high, so far as this, Cass county, is concerned, which is one of the best potato counties in the state. The final yield will be between 50 and 60 bu. per acre. Also think the yield of corn greatly enlarged by many writers, as they call the present crop a "bumper" one. Now, if these same writers will take the trouble to ride out in the country and examine a few fields or converse with a few honest, conscientious farmers they will find the opposite condition of things to exist, or the most worthless crop we have had for years; too soft to keep when stored in crib and when frozen too hard for stock to eat.—T. J. S., Cass county.

Grand Traverse Farmer Opposed to Grades

I wish to state that the two potato grades are opposed here, the Grand Traverse region, to a man by the farmers that I have seen. We were promised altogether different things at planting time, and expected a fair minimum price, \$1.00 per bu., graded the old way. It cost us that to raise them, and what we get below that is actual loss. One farmer told me that they don't buy the smaller grade at all. He said that he sold his around town for what he could get, mostly 25c a bu., rather than haul them home. There has been a big harvest of medium and undersized potatoes, and quite a good many will get practically nothing for their crop. It is safe to say that farmers on the average will lose about 1-3 of what they would and should have received. These are the facts.

Now, as to opinion: It is a shameful thing to say: but coercion and intimidation has done its work—and people are afraid to have such things around. It appears that might is right, as put in practice, no matter what the powers that be profess. The lid has been put on the h. c. of l. and capital has, as it always will, found a way of squirming out from under and secured standing room on top, and is loud in denouncing those as

traitors who jolt the lid in squirming below. They are making the world safe for capitalism. We appreciate your efforts in our behalf, but are well aware that you labor under the same disadvantage as the rest of the liberal press. Some relief is better than none, so here's more strength to your arm.—R. H. B., Leelanau county.

"Middle" Skins Both Ends

I very much appreciate the work which you aim to do for farmers and I want to help the good effort along. I enclose clippings from the *Cadillac Evening News*. No. 1 shows price paid by potato buyers for potatoes in Cadillac. You will figure that the average of No. 1 and No. 2 grades is 60c per bu., 78c and 42c, average, 60c. Now what does the consumer pay? Look at clipping No. 2. "Special" is \$1.25 for No. 1 potatoes; 47c above what the grower gets. "Special" reaps only 32c on No. 1, or "fancy" and in 150 lb. sacks, 90c per bu., probably No. 2 potatoes; 42 from 90 leaves 48c over the grower's price. How about a "reasonable profit" we hear about? And note what this weighing and grading does to the grower and the potato eater in Cadillac. Here is a matter for the Food Administration to think upon. How would it be to pass this exhibit along to Washington? Note how the "middle" skins both ends.—A. T. S., Wexford county.

Thinks Mr. Bale Should Not Class Himself as Grower

In regard to this potato grading I just could not let it pass after reading Mr. J. J. Bale's letter in the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER, where he has tried to state for your benefit that he can handle the potatoes as fast as any man can shovel them in. Perhaps he can, but what about it when the man has to stop and stand there and freeze while he weighs the potatoes after he has got 5 or 6 crates full and carry them off down to a basement to empty. Another thing that man has not the least possible chance to see how those potatoes are weighed. He just simply has to stand there and take the dealer's word for it. Another thing, why should those restaurants and eating houses have potatoes at any lower rate than any other consumer, at the expense of the farmer? Yesterday my husband and I went to our little city of Scottsville. There were loads of potatoes all the way from the dealer's warehouse out to the street and standing along the streets. We went in about noon and came out about 4 p. m. and the loads still sat in the streets. What time would those men get home? Perhaps some of them came 10 or 12 miles. They have got to stand there and abide their time.

Now, if they would have a reasonable size screen to run the potatoes over and would then weigh the load as they used to and let the farmers keep the screened potatoes and weigh the rig back again, I believe the farmers would be satisfied; but they are not going to stand to be robbed right before their eyes any more than one year.

I don't think that Mr. Bale ought to be allowed to class himself with the growers. I say the farmers should combine and stand up for their rights; but they spring such things on him when he is too busy to defend himself. If all farmers should drop everything and run to Washington to have their wrongs righted every time there is need of it I am afraid some one would go hungry. We had a little over eight acres of beans and they went 4 bushels to the acre.—Mrs. P. O., Mason county.

Most People Want Smaller Size

One word about potato grading. Will say that we grow from 5 to 10 acres every year and figure on taking a carload to some distant city to sell the load to grocers, or any person who cares to come to the car for them, for instance in 1913 the buyer would only offer 25c, so we sacked and went to Kensington, Ill. The stores were retailing them at \$1.25 per bu.; I sold them at the cars for 75c, and after paying all expenses and allowing \$1.50 per day for myself and return trip they netted me .63 7.10 per bu. It is my experience that the most people want the smaller size. Now, as we have poor land as well as good land there must be some one living on both, hence it takes lots of money and time to bring the poor land up to a point to raise 100 bu. per acre, and it costs just as much to plant, plow and take care of a yield of 100 bu. as it does to take care of 425 bu., except a small matter of picking and hauling; who would not rather pick up large ones than small ones. I can pick them 3 to 1 in favor of the No. 1. It is very plain to see who benefits by the grading, the big man who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, not the one who buys a run-down farm and has a mortgage and a family to say nothing about sickness. We had ten acres this year and got only 622 crates, such as they were. Will have at least 150 bu. too small for

No. 2 and at least 100 bu. of No. 2; after allowing shrinkage of 1-10 would leave only 312 No. 1. Where will I get off at at \$1.00 for No. 1 and 60c for No. 2, allowing \$3.00 per bu. for 150 bu. of seed? We have a neighbor, Mr. _____, with 6 acres with 2,500 bu. It is claimed you can very easily see that fat comes on top. The little fellow should be only too glad that he may live at all. I think it one of the greatest outrages this country has ever known.—A. N. L., VanBuren county.

Not a Square Deal for Farmer

I am very much against the grading of potatoes. I can only see the man man selling the screens that is making any money. It is not giving the farmers a square deal at all, and something will have to be done.—T. A. B., Mecosta county.

Seconds Sell Higher Than Firsts

In regard to the grading of potatoes will say that a neighbor paid \$60 for 20 bu. of seed and he sold 40 bu. and got 14 bu. of seconds from the same, and could have sold them in our town for 35c per bu. My potatoes run about the same. I worked in the market in Indiana one winter and seconds, such as these are here, would go at first price, and they would ask to have them sorted from the No. 1, and would buy them as firsts. I ate dinner at a first-class hotel and they had seconds for dinner, and they charged me a No. 1 price; not but what the potatoes were good, but it made no difference with the price of the meal. Why can't they give us more for firsts and seconds as long as hotels and families buy them as firsts? One and a quarter inch is large enough screen to screen potatoes through. I have bought and sold both, and have never had a kick. This is a robber's game against the farmer.—F. A., Osceola county.

Will Help Keep Acreage Down

In regard to the two grades of potatoes will say that it is not taken very favorably up north here, and I think it will help keep the acreage down next year more than anything else. Two grades of beans would be all right, but of course we can't get that for that would be a good thing for the farmer. Will say that I planted 12 acres of potatoes. Could have sold the seed we used for \$2.50. We harvested about 400 bu. Planted 15 acres of beans, got 45 bu.; they will pick about 20 lbs to the bu., and the potatoes will grade close to 150 bu. There are three potato houses in Buckley, two at Glengary and one in Mesick, all full, waiting for cold weather so they can fill them again for spring delivery. Now it seems to me that if the U. S. government wants to co-operate with the farmer that they could put buyers in here and see that they get a square deal. I have talked with a lot of farmers around here and they all think that unless they do get a square deal that they will farm enough for their own use another year and not go to so large an expense again to grow potatoes for 60c.—F. E. B., Wexford county.

Grading Means Stupendous Waste of Good Food Stuffs

You are getting onto the potato proposition all right, as you usually do on all questions affecting the farmers. At McBrides the buyers are using the 1½ screen, and all that goes thru it are sent back to the hogs. I sorted and sold what came back from one load of well sorted potatoes, and got two bushels of mighty nice stuff which a carpenter working for me begged for, saying he would rather have them than larger potatoes, and I let him have them at the regular price. One of my neighbors borrowed a screen and run his potatoes over it and had over 50 per cent of them left on his hands. If this sort of grading is going on all over the land the waste of good food stuff is going to be very heavy, and that too, when we are being urged to have "wheatless, meatless and eatless days," so that soldiers may have enough to eat. *If this grading is not stopped not less than 30 per cent of this year's crop will go to the hogs.*

I have talked with a good many farmers and we are all sore. It looks as if the government was handing us the hot end of the poker wherever it touches farm interests. We are urged to grow bumper crops and when we do our best and come out with small yields from one of the worst years from a weather standpoint, that we have ever experienced, we are turned over to the tender mercies of the gang of d—d sharks like the Bean Jobbers' Ass'n and the Potato Buyers' Ass'n., that have been skinning both the grower and the consumer of these products for years. With their past experience, and the Government and agricultural colleges behind them we expect to be skinned right,—scientifically. They can't run any of my potatoes over two screens unless the government forces it at the muzzle of a gun. The seconds are sold to the south for seed at high prices.—C. M. C., Montcalm county.

County Crop Reports

TUSCOLA (West)—Farmers are doing a lot of fall plowing the past two weeks. Weather has been fine for two weeks, but is snowing now and quite cold. Soil has been in good shape for plowing but is frozen too hard now. Farmers have been selling potatoes in car lots; about one-third of the crop being disposed of and the balance will be held for later sale. Lots of sales here. Horses are not selling well, but cows are selling around \$50, hogs in good demand. Hens, ducks, turkeys and geese selling at good prices. About 40 Gleaners went from here to the Gleaner federation meeting at Cass City. All say they brought home some good information with them.—R. B. C., Caro.

BAY (Southeast)—The fall plowing is nearly done. Farmers are delivering hay and sugar beets.—J. C. A., Munger.

BAY (East)—Farmers are threshing beans which are averaging from 10 to 15 bu. per acre. Some as high as 20 bu. while other fields produce only 5 to 8 bu. Some corn is being husked. Not much plowing done.—G. G., Linwood.

TUSCOLA (Northeast)—Some farmers are husking corn. Not much corn ripe, not over 25 per cent. Some are selling beans because they are too soft to keep. Not much stock will be fed, feed being too scarce. Ground is frozen too hard for plowing. On account of the stormy day the Gleaner rally on the 22nd was not well attended, but it was far from being a failure.—S. S., Cass City.

HURON (West Central)—The hard freezing nights seem to be hurting wheat. The cold and stormy weather has started the feeding of cattle from the winter supply.—A. F. C., Pigeon.

CALHOUN (Northwest)—Farmers are trying to finish corn husking, which is a very poor crop, most all soft.—C. E., B., Battle Creek.

OTSEGO (West Central)—The weather has been nice until Wednesday, the 21st, when it rained all day, and since then winter has been with us. There are some potatoes out in the fields yet, and farmers are still waiting for the market to rise, because they do not want to dispose of any at the present price.—C. A., Gaylord.

HILLSDALE (Southwest)—The farmers are busy with their crops, especially corn. There is quite a lot of fall plowing being done this fall. Wheat is looking pretty thin, but there is quite a large acreage this fall.—L. B., Camden.

LIVINGSTON (Northwest)—Farmers are busy caring for their stock and getting fixed up for winter. The weather has been good until Thursday when it turned cold and blustery with ground frozen hard. Two different parties were here from the east. One bought a car of registered Holstein cows and shipped to Pennsylvania and the other bought a carload of grade milk cows at prices ranging from \$90 to \$130.—G. A. W., Fowlerville.

ARENAC (East)—Beans are being threshed and are averaging so far about 4 bu. to the acre, and the price has dropped 50c per bu. Potatoes are selling around a dollar. Beets are small and are only half a crop. Farmers are very much discouraged over the business this year and many are holding auctions and selling their farms and moving to the cities. It looks like a scarcity of labor for next year.—M. B. R., Twining.

VAN BUREN (East)—Corn husking is the general work; some road grading is being done. The nice weather is helping to finish up the fall work. Shortage of coal is causing inconvenience. Grapes that were frozen and are still on the vines are being sold.—V. T. G., Mattawan.

OSCEOLA (Northeast)—Weather has been very cold the last few days, but is warmer now. Fall plowing is about all done in this locality. Butchering for home use is the order of the day.—W. A. S., Marion.

MIDLAND (Northwest)—The weather has been real cold the last few days. The farmers in general are holding their beans for higher prices. Hay is moving quite freely at present prices. As a rule crops are all taken care of. Most all farmers are busy fall plowing.—F. A. L., Coleman.

GRAND TRAVERSE (Southwest)—A very hard feeling exists about the screening and grading of potatoes here. There is none of them that make two grades here as the warehouses have not the room for the second grade. There are a lot of potatoes that were frozen here and very few were large enough to make the first grade. These potatoes cost the growers about \$1.25 per bu. at least to raise. If they could be sold at all now the price would not be over 60 cents a bu. for firsts. In my opinion all potatoes should be screened with 1 1/2 inch screen. The idea of the two grades came from the shippers, because they know they can sell the second grades for seed for a bigger price than the firsts. Also there are a good many buyers buying for the hotel trade which would rather have this grade at the same price. The fact in the matter is the dealers saw a good chance to make a piece of change at the expense of the farmer. I have been in the potato business for several years and I know what I am talking about.—W. W. C., Buckley.

WEXFORD (West)—The rain of last week has turned to snow and about one inch has fallen and it has frozen quite hard. The potatoes are all out of the ground. Some farmers have been hauling in their corn fodder. They have stopped buying potatoes for a few days. The last price was 78c. I think by what I can read of the other markets the dealers are about doubling their money on potatoes.—S. H. S., Harrietta.

MIDLAND (Southeast)—Weather is very cold. Bean threshing has started in this neighborhood, and while they are yielding poorly they are of good quality. The price is very unsatisfactory since the government has been dickering with the market. A small acreage will be planted another year.—A. B., Midland.

BRANCH (North)—Farmers are getting ready for winter. Weather fair and cold. Farmers are selling stock and hay; holding nothing at present. No building going on.—Union City.

HURON (Northwest)—Since the storm which started last week the farmers have not been able to do anything. Cattle are housed. All the beans are harvested that were worth harvesting. Some grain is going to market. Cows are selling very high at the auction sales, and young cattle sell high, but horses are not very good sale.—G. W., Elkton.

MONROE (Northeast)—Farmers are husking corn and drawing stalks. The weather is cold. The farmers are selling grain and hay, and are holding corn but there is not much to hold. Farmers are buying steers and a few hogs. Where can farmers get good seed corn?—R. H., Carleton.

PRESQUE ISLE (West)—Weather is cool and fine for fall plowing. Beans are harvested and some are threshed, they average from three to ten bu. per acre in this locality. Farmers are holding potatoes for better prices. Milch cows are selling at from \$50 to \$80.—E. L. B., Onaway.

IOSCO (Southeast)—Most of the farmers are plowing at present, while some are threshing beans. Seventy acres of beans on ten farms threshed last week yielded 214 bushels and some of these will pick one-third to one-half. The best yield heard of so far was 44 bushels from 6 acres. Buckwheat is only bringing \$2.75 per cwt. Don't think this is price enough. Potatoes sold quite freely this week at \$1.00, but many are being held for more.—W. K., Tawas City.

WEXFORD (West)—Some farmers are plowing for spring crops. The weather was nice until Sunday. The soil seems to be in good condition. A good many farmers are holding some crops for better prices, that is some farmers who are not compelled to sell. Potatoes are low at present but it looks as though they would be up again by the holidays. Some farmers here will have to buy seed potatoes for spring on account of the damage by frost.—S. H. S., Harrietta.

WEXFORD (South Central)—Another week of fine weather has enabled farmers to continue plowing and also to get potatoes stored, gather wood, and make general preparations for winter. Nights have been cold, too much so to allow a good growth of wheat and rye. Potato buyers are not doing much, too much frosted stock on the market, they say.—A. A. H., Boon.

CHEBOYGAN (Southwest)—The potatoes in this section are all dug. Beans are mostly very poor and but a few are threshed. The weather has been fine but is now cool and cloudy. Fall plowing is in progress with soil in fine condition. Farmers are holding potatoes for better price. Dissatisfaction over the new potato grading rules is widespread. Even though beans bring \$10 per bu. most farmers in this section will lose money on the crop.—L. E. B., Conway.

MONROE (East)—Corn does not dry out for husking and there is fear that a great deal of it will not keep. Wheat has been very slow in coming up, and the most of it is very small to winter well. Some fall plowing is being done.—E. H. M., Monroe.

WEXFORD (North)—Some husking corn, all soft. Some beans on the ground, not worth harvesting. Some bean threshing done, they are yielding from 2 1/2 to 4 bu. per acre. One man pulled 22 acres and threshed 51 bu.—S. R. D.

MIDLAND (Southeast)—Farmers are busy plowing, for the weather is fine for this time of year. What they do this fall will put them ahead next spring. Some of the farmers have sold some beans and some of the farmers have beans to thresh yet.—J. H. M., Hemlock.

GENESEE (Southeast)—Farmers are not doing much at this time as it is too rainy and cold. The soil has been in good shape for working until this last spell of bad weather. The farmers are selling potatoes, hay and hogs in considerable quantities. Grains are moving steadily. The last couple of weeks of good weather has helped the farmers out with their work. Beans and potatoes are all harvested and quite a large amount of corn has been husked.—C. W. S., Fenon.

GRATIOT (Southeast)—Farmers are busy drawing beets, yet about a third of them have been drawn. A little corn has been husked. Farmers are selling wheat, oats and a few beans. Beans are the only thing the farmers are holding for more money. Some of our boys were called to Camp Custer last week and left here on the 21st.—J. E. C., Bannister.

GLADWIN (Southwest)—Farmers are doing a fine lot of plowing, thanks to the good weather we have been having for the past two weeks. Some fields of fall grain are showing up fine, and some are not up yet. Some farmers are drilling rye yet. The bean threshing is about half over and the average so far is 4.4 bu. per acre and picking heavy at that. Not many are being sold as the price dropped to \$7 last week. We would be glad to have some of our brother farmers tell us where we are going to get our seed corn for next spring.—V. V. K., Beaverton.

MACOMB (Northwest)—A few of our farmers are threshing beans which are about half a crop. Husking corn is also being indulged in, and picking apples, fall plowing. Cold weather; ground is in good condition to plow. Farmers are selling their lambs. Hogs are not fattening very fast as corn is soft, there were not very many fields of hard corn. The farmers are not selling any potatoes, are waiting for higher price.—H. D., Almont.

NEWAYGO (Northwest)—The farmers threshing beans; they are turning out very poorly. Farmers are selling beans, stock and hay. The county agent has unearthed a marl bed here.—J. E. J., Walkerville.

MECOSTA (Southwest)—Potatoes are harvested and they were a fair crop in this vicinity. The farmers are not satisfied with the 1 1/2 inch screen. The potatoes that go thru the screen are the very choicest cooking potatoes, and they feel that it is simply a rotten deal, and I for one will take all of my second grade home. They will be glad to get them next spring. The warehouses are all full and the buyers are not buying any more than they have to. Beans were almost a total failure, one man had 140 bu. on 35 acres, one had 43 bu. on 22 acres. I am expecting 40 bu. on 12 acres, and that is about the run here. Corn is a failure in this vicinity; there is none for seed and scarcely any that will keep.—F. M. E., Millbrook.

OAKLAND—The fine weather of the last three weeks has given farmers a chance to clean up their fall crops except corn, which they do not know what to do with, but very little of it is fit to husk.

Beans badly damaged. Potatoes going to market as fast as possible. Hay is being marketed.—N. E. F., Clarkston.

GRAND TRAVERSE (Northeast)—Potatoes have been dug since the frost, from 10 to 30 per cent frozen. Price is \$1.25 per hundred lbs. Buyers will not take them if there are any frozen ones. Very few being sold. No beans threshed yet. I sold a load of potatoes and they were run over the government screen. They were a good size run too. Here are the figures: Load, 4,420; tare, 1,940; net, 2,780. I had eight bushels which were seconds and I hauled them home. I received \$41.70 for the firsts, 46 1-3 bu. at \$1.50 per cwt. I brought home five bu. of good eating potatoes for which I was offered a little less than 60c per bushel. I don't mind bringing home the sand and pig feed, or selling good seed potatoes at half price, but I don't see the sense of selling good-sized eating potatoes at half price. We have been trying for years to grow a medium-sized, smooth, round potato, but it looks as though we would have to go back to raising "pumpkins" again.—A. H., Acme.

MONTCALM (Southwest)—Farmers in this locality are threshing beans and preparing grain and other produce for winter. Weather is cold as snow is received every day and the ground is still covered. A small amount of grain is being held, except oats, for higher prices, potatoes are moving slow, as price is lower than last week, \$1.60 per cwt. was paid on last Thursday, Nov. 22, at Miller's Station.—W. L., Greenville.

OTTAWA (Northeast)—Everybody is selling. No market for potatoes at present; beans not yet threshed. Car shortage is hindering potato sale here. Only a few crops bringing the farmers a fair income, such as fruits, hay and livestock. Fruits in this vicinity were a scarcity. Farmers are selling their poultry for what they can get. I don't think there will be much if any poultry held by the farmers to sell after Thanksgiving. There are some auction sales and cows are selling high and horses cheap.—R. J. K., Conklin.

JACKSON (South)—Weather cold and stormy. Corn molding in the shock. Very little being cribbed. Hay scarce. Farmers are receiving \$16.00 per ton at their barns, and the prospects are that it will be much higher by spring. Clover seed about all threshed. Poor yield and inferior quality. Not much of a demand at present for turkeys, no market. Buyers for the Thanksgiving raffles were obliged to cancel their orders. Farmers are puzzled over the bean situation, not knowing whether it would be best to sell their beans or hold them for higher prices. The sugar shortage has been relieved; you can buy 10 pounds from any grocer now, but it is still difficult to secure a supply of hard coal. When you can secure any dealers are asking \$9.50 per ton. There is much thieving going on; potatoes left in the field at night have been stolen. Reports have come in of the loss of chickens, fat hogs out of pens, even cattle have been taken out of the fields. No clues.—G. S., Hanover.

ST. JOSEPH (North Central)—Farmers have fall work done except taking care of the corn crop. It is a question to know what to do with it, as it will not keep in the crib, and this freezing weather fixes the most of it so stock can hardly eat it. It is surely discouraging, and next year farmers in this section will sow more barley and plant less corn. I hear good words about M. B. F. everywhere I go, and will send in some new subscribers soon. It seems good to have one farm paper that really is a farmers' paper, and one that backs the farmer and routs the grafters. Here's hoping your paper will be a weekly visitor in the home of every farmer in Michigan.—H. A. H., Mendon.

Watch the Potato Market!

No one actually knows what will happen this year in potatoes on account of abnormal conditions due to the war. Only the farmer who watches the trend of the market will be able to dispose of his crop intelligently and at the highest prices.

Why Prices May Go Lower

1. The government has forecasted a large yield which if authentic may lower the price before spring.
2. Car Shortage. If shortage continues thru winter, there will be difficulty in getting balance of crop moved to market.
3. Bearish influences such as padded reports put out by dealers and commission houses, and cessation of war.

Michigan Business Farming Gives the Facts!

It is our opinion that the potato production has been greatly overestimated. We base this on crop reports which we receive from all the leading potato states. It is our judgment that the slump in potato prices is temporary due to frosted stock flooding the markets and a heavy movement incident to the marketing season. We don't guarantee that this is so; we can only give you the facts and let you judge for yourself. Every farmer who has potatoes to sell needs MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING right NOW and ALWAYS. Hundreds of farmers testify to the soundness of our reports and market advice. Don't let a dollar stand between you and your potato profits. Don't delay another day. Clip the coupon and fire it right back by the next mail.

Don't let a Dollar stand between You and Your Potato Profits!

Why Prices May Go Higher

1. Rotting of huge quantities of Maine, New York and Pennsylvania crop, and spoilage due to frosted stock.
2. World-wide shortage of food elements, and high price of meats forcing people to use more potatoes.
3. Tendency of dealers who bought before slump to hold potatoes in storage until market strengthens.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING,
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

I am a potato grower, and need your crop and market reports to guide me in selling my crops. Enclosed you will find \$1.00. Please send the paper one year to the following address:

Name

Address

Remarks



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



This Week's Tested Recipe

STEWED TOMATOES WITH RICE

One cupful of cooked rice; one can of tomatoes; one-quarter pound of cheese; a small onion. Stew until well mixed, and bake for a half hour. This is a delicious dish.

Pre-Natal Care

EVEN OLD-FASHIONED folks, who never have been known to change their opinions, are beginning to see that care during the pre-natal period does great things for the child. The expectant mother knows that she must take good care of her body, the temporary home of such a precious burden, and pays special attention to her diet and the state of her nerves. The anxious, overworked, underfed woman, we will all agree, cannot expect to have strong, vigorous children.

As soon as you know the little one is coming, engage the best nurse and doctor you can afford. Many lives have been lost, and many women made permanent invalid; because of false economy at this time. With the help of your doctor, get yourself in the best physical condition possible, yes, and the best moral and mental condition too.

You must have plenty of simple, nourishing food. The quality of your food is what counts, not the quantity. That and the condition of your digestion will strengthen you and build up bone, muscle and nerves for your child. Make up your mind to nurse your child, as God intended you should. In order to do this, your body must be strong. "God makes us wise to know how strong the stalk must grow that bears so fair a flower."

Leave pork, pie and fried foods alone. Tea and crackers alone do not make milk. You need meat, fish or chicken once a day; bread and cereals which are thoroughly cooked; plenty of milk and eggs, cocoa, broth, soup, lemonade, and plenty of pure water. Avoid strong tea and coffee. Plenty of oranges, peaches, melons and in fact all fruits which you like are good nourishing food. Corn bread, buttermilk, sweet potatoes, peas, and beets will make you and your baby strong and well.

Be sure that your bowels, skin and kidneys act freely. Be sure and let your doctor know if there is any sluggishness on the part of these organs. A warm bath at night, followed by a cocoa-butter or cotton-seed oil rub will add greatly to your comfort.

If you feel that you need corsets, wear them during the first six months. Be sure, however, that they are maternity corsets, and do not bind or cramp you in any way.

You need more sleep now than usual. Be sure and have plenty of fresh air when you sleep, and see that you get nine hours every night, and take a nap after luncheon every day. Do not do heavy work. There is nothing better during this time than exercise and the exercise received doing your general housework will not hurt you, however, be sure that you do not over-tire yourself, or work so hard that you strain your muscles. Walking is a splendid exercise. Don't overdo, that's the main thing.

Keep happy! Don't worry! Don't listen to tales of woe, or stories about other women's experiences. Put no faith in cravings, markings, signs or superstitions. If you have swelling of the hands or feet, puffing about the eyes, nausea, headache, or pain send at once for the doctor. Do not anticipate trouble, be sane and cheerful, and try to be as well-balanced and self-controlled as you want your child to be.

A New Kind of Bread

IT HAS just been discovered that the home-made bread that mother makes and the kind that grandmother and great-grandmother used to make is altogether wrong. Every method of making bread is wrong and even the bakers don't know how to make it. As for the wholesomeness, that great home-made bread that mother makes is deadly to anyone whose digestion is not good.

It is all because mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and the bakers insist that the one thing necessary to good bread making is the one thing that absolutely must be avoided in the new method. IT MUST NOT BE KNEADED. makes nice-looking bread but it also preserves the raw starch, and raw starch in bread is bad. To hosts of people it is deadly. And 90 per cent of starch in bread is raw.

It has been discovered that in the ordinary pro-

cess of making bread, the minute granules of starch in the wheat flour were gathered in small cells, hundreds of them in each cell, they became coated with a gelatinous substance which formed the cell, and they were protected so carefully in these cells that the heat in the baking of the bread never disturbed their raw state. All manner of experiments have been tried for years to change this state of affairs but even chemists were baff-



Mrs. Heis making bread according to the new method which requires no kneading.

fled and we continued to eat unwholesome bread.

Now we have the perfect bread-making method and it was worked out by a woman in her own kitchen. She received her idea from the way paper hangers mix their flour paste. She mixed her flour, water, yeast, etc., as quickly and deftly with as little handling as possible. Then she set it aside to "raise." When the mixture was "raised" she did not knead it. She merely shaped it

Real Folks!

THEY'RE such real folks!

They've made their pile,

But they ain't forgotten how to smile

Or ask about your kid and all,

And oftentimes they come to call

On us old neighbors who've stayed poor,

And we are welcome at their door.

They're just real folks!

THEY'RE just real folks!

Real folks is rare.

Seems just as if folks didn't dare

Be real no more, as once they did

When I was just a little kid.

It's all for show now, and put on,

The dear old simple days are gone,

But they're real folks!

THEY'RE just real folks!

Real folks! And say

To meet and pass the time of day

With folks like they are warms my heart.

They shed their goodness and impart

Such happiness to all who come

Within the circle of their home!

They're just real folks!

THEY'RE just real folks!

Their grip is warm;

Their every thought is free from harm;

Their voice is friendly, and their eyes

Look straight in yours, without disguise.

Their like on earth is scarce, I feel

But Heaven is filled with folks as real!

They're just real folks!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK

into loaves quickly and deftly with as little handling as possible and baked it in the usual way. The new kind of bread showed, when examined under a microscope, that the 90 per cent of raw starch which had heretofore remained undisturbed in the little cells had undergone a wonderful change. The cells were burst open and the heat had cooked the raw starch granules. The bread at once became twice as nutritious and could be

Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

SUGAR-SAVING DESERTS

Saving sugar is imperative at this stage of the war, and the U. S. Food Administration offers the following recipes, tested by practical housekeepers, as ways for the thrifty housewife to aid in the national sugar economy campaign:

Pumpkin Pudding

Two cups stewed pumpkin, half cup brown sugar, half cup honey or maple syrup, two eggs, one tablespoon flour, one teaspoon cinnamon, half teaspoon nutmeg, eighth teaspoon clove, eighth teaspoon ginger, one teaspoon vanilla, pinch of salt, two cups milk. Mix all ingredients and bake in greased pudding dish. Serve hot or cold.

Indian Pudding

Five cups milk, third cup cornmeal, half cup honey, teaspoon salt, teaspoon ginger. Cook milk and meal in double boiler 20 minutes. Add honey, salt, and ginger. Pour into buttered pudding dish and bake two hours slowly. Serve with tart jelly or preserves.

eaten heartily by anyone no matter how weak his stomach.

There is no secret about this new method of making bread. The secret lies in just doing it quickly and not kneading it. The whole idea is to disturb the dough as little as possible. The new kind of bread is not as pretty and white as the ordinary bread. But it is wholesome, real bread.

Many housewives are now making bread according to this new method. It can be made in half the time and all the drudgery of bread making has been removed. Here is Mrs. George B. Heis in her kitchen making bread according to the new quick method. She says, "I have been making bread for the past 15 years, ever since I have been married, I have tried all the new methods and all the old ones, but of all the bread I ever made this is the finest."

Here is how Mrs. Heis makes two loaves:

One quart of flour, 1 cake of yeast, three tablespoons of sugar, one quart of lukewarm water. Mix and let stand about 15 minutes until it resembles pancake batter. Stir in salt, add another quart of flour; stir until stiff; form into loaves handling as little as possible; let stand until about half raised and then bake as usual.

Taking Care of Baby's Milk

IF your baby is a bottle baby, be sure of four things: That the cows are healthy; that the barn is clean; that the milkers are clean, and wash and dry their hands before milking; that the milk pail which holds the milk is clean.

Folks who live in town are not always sure of these things, but in the country you may be positive. In large cities, inspectors are paid to see that milk is handled in a clean, safe way.

Be sure that the milk you save out for baby is cooled at once. The cooling helps preserve it; and bacteria will not have as good a chance to grow in cooled milk. When it is allowed to cool slowly there is more danger of germs.

Baby's milk should always be covered. Be sure that it is always put into a clean bottle, and never let it stand five minutes without a cover. If the milk is kept in an ice box, be sure the ice box is clean and washed out at least twice a week with hot water and soda, and thoroughly aired. However, no doubt you will keep baby's milk in the cellar.

Baby's milk should not be more than twenty-four hours old in summer and forty-eight hours old in winter. If you are not sure that the milk is pure, you can sterilize it, or what the dairies call "pasteurize" it. Put the milk into a clean double boiler or agate pan. Heat to a temperature of 150 degrees F. and keep it at this temperature for twenty minutes. This temperature kills all germs and doesn't affect the taste of the milk.

It is of the utmost importance that baby's bottles are kept clean. Much disease is caused from dirty bottles and nipples. Set the time each morning to wash and sterilize the bottles and prepare the feeding for the entire day, having as many bottles as you have feedings. Rinse the bottle with cold water after each feeding. Some folks fill the bottle with borax water and let it stand until the next morning when it is sterilized again. A large necked bottle is the most sanitary. Never buy bottles with tubes. Plain nipples are best. Scrub them with soapsuds and water after they are used and let them stand in cold water, in which a little boracic acid has been dissolved. Be sure that the hole of the nipple is just right so that the milk will not come too fast or too slowly. To sterilize the bottles thoroughly, boil them for twenty minutes.



From Farm to Market

Twenty years ago turnips were sold for not more than 40c a bu. and were worth about 1 cent a pound, as against 5 cents a pound, or about \$2.40 a bu. today. But still, we can't win the war on turnips.—*Cedar Springs Clipper*.

Robert Schaaf of Forestville says his potato experience is as follows: He planted 40 bu. of seed that he could have sold for \$3 per bushel. His crop amounted to 300 bushels. While his yield increased seven fold, he finds his market value reduced to one-third, almost.—*Minden City Herald*.

Homer Kentner reminds us that 48 years ago snow to the depth of 18 inches fell in this section on the seventh of October and the ground was not bare until the 15th day of May, and the people dug potatoes all winter through the snow as the ground did not freeze.—*Benzie County Leader*.

With an advance of 5 cents per doz. on the price of fresh eggs at Columbus, Ohio, retailers and wholesalers boosted their prices at the same time. On the wholesale market 53 cents a dozen is being asked. Retail merchants ask 55 and 60 cents. Storage eggs are unchanged at 45 cents per doz.—*Ohio State Journal*.

The bean vine noticed last week as having been grown by John Kipp was threshed this week and 365 healthy beans secured from it. This is the yield from one bean and Mr. Kipp purposes planting the growth of this year to see how many he will get from the one bean in two years.—*Crosswell Jeffersonian*.

Rev. S. J. Hall maintains his reputation as an apple picker. Last Saturday he gathered 47 bushels in 8 hours at the Warne orchard north of town. A few days before he picked 13 trees and secured 8 bushels off the first tree, 9 off the second and 11 off the last, 9 of them in an hour, showing the kind of whirlwind finish this preacher put up. Who can equal his record?—*Moranci Observer*.

The Flanders Co. received three carloads of cabbage at their plant here on Tuesday and the same will be made into kraut at once. The cabbage came from the Saginaw valley, where large quantities of it are grown for the market. There are nearly 500 tons of kraut in 11 big tanks at the factory and the company expects to have about 1,400 tons of kraut this season.—*Decker-ville Recorder*.

The Nels Johnson property in Watson township, including a fine farm of forty acres, was sold at auction Monday. The farm was bought by two daughters of the late owner, Mrs. Minnie Johnson of Chicago and Miss Tina Johnson of Watson. They paid \$5,555 for the forty acres. The timothy hay in the barn sold for \$24 per ton right there. It is further confirmation of the belief that hay will be worth \$30 per ton before spring.—*Allegan Gazette*.

The supply of coal held by dealers in Allegan is very low and shipments are few and small. The state authorities are urging these and other local dealers to sell just as little to farmers as they can and try to influence farmers to burn wood. Hard wood is retailing at the yards for \$4 a cord and there are only a few cords to be had at that unprecedented price. Pine stumps split into stovewood size are selling at \$3 per cord.—*Allegan Gazette*.

It is quite certain that there never was produced in this vicinity celery of the quality marketed here during the past few days. Both Ernest Miner and Martin Blair sold here stalks and bunches that beat anything ever seen for size, and the quality is very high. Moreover, though these growers both have very good crops there is little probability that much of it will come to Allegan, for the Ploiaty company of Grand Rapids this week made Mr. Miner an offer of \$1.25 per dozen bunches and he will doubtless let them have his entire crop. The variety of the Miner product is Henderson's Early Blanching.—*Allegan Gazette*.

William Beery of Trowbridge is rejoicing in the success of his onion crop. He had a field that brought him \$700.—*Allegan Gazette*.

The largest yield of potatoes that has come to our notice is that of Wm. McLane who got an average of 150 bushels to an acre from a 20-acre patch.—*Constantine Advertiser*.

Wm. Bailey, the champion bee man of South Haven has performed a miracle in his line of work. He located a tree containing three swarms of bees, and got 95 pounds of honey. The first swarm was about 18 inches from the ground with 41 lbs. of honey. Second swarm about 12 feet up with 32 lbs. and the third swarm in a big limb with 23 lbs.—*South Haven Tribune*.

The Perry Serrine Co., dressed and shipped east during the past ten days about 2,000 turkeys, not so many as last year and of not nearly so good quality though there were many choice birds in the shipment. The season was very much against the turkey business and the birds have been slow in maturing. For the fowls in good condition of growth and fatness, raisers have been paid 23 cents per pound live weight. The Serrine company expect to make a profit on their consignment, but they are not at all certain that they will because of the startling news from the east that the government has ordered all turkeys held in cold storage placed on the market before Nov. 30. That brought out the fact that in New York alone there are 6,000,000 pounds of 1916 turkeys in storage. There are similar amounts, doubtless, in other eastern cities, and that is where all the Allegan turkeys go. The situation is so bad that the government has notified Texas growers not to kill their turkeys until December. This is to permit the fowls to come to full maturity and to prevent a great waste and a ruining low price on the birds now on the market and those soon to come out of storage. All this means that Thanksgiving and Christmas turkey will not cost the housewives fifty cents per pound as was feared. Instead, about the same prices as were paid last year will prevail. Had it not been for the turkeys in storage it seems certain that the prices would have soared to unprecedented heights and they probably will next year, depending upon how hard the owners of stored fowls are hit now by the government order.—*Allegan Gazette*.

GROUND LIMESTONE vs. HYDRATED LIME

Which do you consider best to put on land, ground limestone or hydrated lime?—*A Reader*.

All things considered finely ground limestone is better to use than hydrated or burned lime.

Hydrated lime is fine and a little more available; contains less moisture but it is disagreeable stuff to apply, it is caustic and will make a man's hands and face, and especially his eyes sore. It will make a horse's eyes sore at work on the distributor. Ton for ton it is worth more than ground limestone just because the burning of it concentrates the product, gets the carbonic acid out of it and the water.

Ground limestone should be as finely ground as possible. As a matter of fact, its effectiveness depends upon the fineness with which it is ground. However, portions of it that are not finely enough ground so that they are effective at once become effective afterwards and the ordinary product placed on the market contains a sufficient amount of finely ground limestone to produce the desired effect the first year and the rest of it becomes available afterwards so nothing is lost. It costs very much less by the ton than the hydrated lime.

We usually apply about twice as much limestone as we do hydrated lime because we want the effect the

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Stop where you are if you are about to buy a Separator. Let Galloway prove absolutely that you don't have to pay double prices for separators. Farm implement prices are going up and up—but if you act at once you can save big money on my new sanitary model—the separator that holds the world's records for close skimming. My big free book gives separator facts and figures. Write for it today.

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I have demonstrated time and time again that dealing direct with Galloway means money in your pocket when you buy a Separator, Engine, Tractor, Spreader or any Implement. Thousands of farmers profit big by my policy. Advantageous shipping points save you freight too.

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We want a local agent to represent us in every community in Michigan.

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Write for information.

Colon C. Lillie, Pres. and Supt. of Agts.
Harmon J. Wells, Secty. and Gen. Mgr.

first year. However, if we apply twice as much ground limestone, the application doesn't have to be made as often as it would with hydrated lime. Where a smaller amount is used the effect is the same which ever product you use, only you must apply more ground limestone to get immediate effect—*Colon C. Lillie*.

SEC. OF AGRICULTURE ON DRAFT PROBLEM

David F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, discussed briefly but succinctly the farm labor problem in the course of an address delivered at the convention of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment stations at Washington, November 14, 1917. So much of his address as refers to this subject is as follows:

"Attention has been given without cessation to problems in the field of labor. It was obvious that difficulties would be presented and that apprehension would run beyond the actual condition. An army could not be raised without taking men from every field of activity; and it would have been unfair to any class of workers in the community to have proposed its exemption. It was impossible in the haste of the first draft satisfactorily to work out in detail the principle of selective service; but, nevertheless, under the regulations, consideration was given throughout by exemption boards and by the officers of the War Department to the needs of agriculture. With ample time at its disposal, the War Department has worked out a system of classification which gives due regard to the necessity of retaining skilled farmers and expert agricultural leaders on the farms and ranches and in the educational and administrative services. No less a burden in certain sections was imposed by the redirection of industry and the

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large calls made for skilled labor in essential manufacturing enterprises.

"The problem confronting us in this field was not, and is not, an easy one. To its solution the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture, and many state agencies are giving constant thought. The Department of Agriculture has placed in each state an officer whose duty it is to assist in the mobilization of labor in the rural districts, in the distribution of it from places where it is not temporarily employed to places where it is urgently needed, in the fuller utilization of forms of labor not heretofore fully employed, and in securing more perfect co-operation among farmers in the same district. The Department of Labor has undertaken to make available not only for industrial but also for rural undertakings urban labor which is at the time disengaged. The problem is one for constructive handling. I am confident that with the assistance of all the organized agencies and the alert and co-operative action of the farmers of the Nation the situation can be met and that those remaining on the farms can produce as much as or more than has heretofore been available. This is the aim before us and it must be attained."

GRADING FACTS BEFORE GOV'T

Michigan Business Farming Takes
Action in Effort to Secure Re-
vision of Potato Grades
and Spare Farmers
From Heavy Loss

As the marketing of Michigan's potato crop continues, it becomes more and more apparent that the farmers are facing a tremendous loss by reason of the new grading rules. For the last two weeks this office has been deluged with letters from indignant farmers in every section of the state, protesting in no uncertain manner against the injustice that has been meted out to them, and urging us to make some immediate effort to secure a revision of the grades.

This we have promised to do, and on this page will be found a copy of our letter to Mr. Lou D. Sweet, chairman of the potato committee of the Food Administration. Accompanying this letter with a transcript of the letters we have received from farmers upon the subject, a number of which are published complete on pages 9, 10 and 12 of this issue. We cannot promise our readers that our efforts will meet with success; the opposition is powerful and well organized, but we can at least try.

There are several reasons why our efforts to secure a reconsideration of this matter may fail. In the first place, the grading is not confined to Michigan; it is being encouraged in all the potato states by the government and the dealers, the ultimate purpose being the standardizing of the entire national crop.

But there are likewise good reasons why the government may deem it wise to protect the farmers in this matter when the complete facts are laid before them. It is the expressed wish of the Food Administration that farmers this year realize a profit on all their crops. There are thousands of farmers in this state who will lose heavily on their 1917 crop because of the double screening of potatoes, and many of them declare that they will never again take such long chances by planting so large an acreage as they did this year. In view of the fact that even now the Administration is talking about increased crop production for 1918, it may be willing to investigate the Michigan situation and offer some suggestions for relieving it. Whether or no anything is done this year, every effort should be made right now to convince those responsible for the present grading that it can be vastly improved upon to the greater benefit of both producer and consumer. To bring this about however, will require the combined co-operation of the readers of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMER, and every grower of potatoes is urged to write us their experience with the new grades.

COMMISSION FAVORABLE TO HIGHER PRICES

(Continued from page 1)

products are left free and unhindered by municipal, state or federal authorities to enter into agreement with each other for the purpose of controlling the supply, price and distribution of a commodity, no commission on earth without legal authority to carry out its decisions can possibly solve the problems that arise from

An Open Letter to Lou D. Sweet, Head of Potato Department U. S. Food Administration

Mr. Lou D. Sweet,
Chairman Potato Committee U. S. Food Administration,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: As editors of Michigan Business Farming, representing upwards of 25,000 potato growers in the state of Michigan, we respectfully call your attention to the great injustice that is being perpetrated against the farmers of this state thru the grading of potatoes under the rules which we understand were approved and recommended by you. We have conducted a careful and painstaking investigation into the large number of complaints that have come unsolicited to our attention, from farmers in every important potato growing section of the state, and find that the majority of growers are facing great loss, and in some instances, positive financial ruin, because of the new grading methods.

We enclose herewith transcripts of some of the large number of letters received from potato growers upon this subject. These are representative of the complaints and cover in a vastly more complete manner than we could possibly do, every objection which may be made against the present method of grading potatoes. We trust you will give these letters your unprejudiced attention; they come from the men upon whom this nation is depending to feed our armies and win the war; their rights MUST be respected.

In behalf of these soldiers of the soil, we respectfully petition you to investigate the situation in Michigan, and to exert every effort within your power to secure a revision of the potato grading rules, reducing the size of the larger screen and eliminating the second grade altogether, or taking such other action to remedy the situation as your judgment may direct. We are convinced that unless some effort is made to protect the farmers' interests in this matter, there will be a serious reduction in the amount of potato acreage next year, in not only this, but other potato growing states as well.

It is the earnest desire and intention of this publication and its readers to co-operate with the government in every manner possible that the end of the Great War may be hastened and peace brought to the suffering world. And it is only in simple justice to those who have responded so well to the government's call that we lay these facts before you today, trusting and believing that you will appreciate the gravity of the situation and endeavor to ameliorate it.

GRANT SLOCUM,
FORREST LORD,

Editors Michigan Business Farming.

the operation of such a monopoly.

The Detroit distributors have surprised everyone by their willingness to arbitrate and no strings have yet been discovered to their promise to abide by the commission's verdict. Regardless of this, however, the fact must not be overlooked that if the distributors become dissatisfied with any arrangement to which they become a party thru verbal understanding, there is nothing to prevent them from breaking it.

The present attempt to patch up the differences between producers and distributors, is therefore, only temporary. It cannot be otherwise. With the country at war and such unusual conditions obtaining in practically every industry, there is probably no better way of arriving at an immediate adjustment of these differences. Whatever the outcome of the commission's findings, it will be vastly preferable to the tug of war contest which the producers and distributors have engaged in every year to prove which had the greater power.

In our judgment there are only two practical methods of settling the milk problem to the end that the consumer may not have to pay exorbitant prices for the mere service of distribution.

The ultimate solution of all difficulties now met with in the equitable and economical distribution of farm products will be the entire elimination of the useless middleman, the commission man and speculator. Not until the farmer takes over into his own organized hands the function of marketing his products will the present wasteful methods be eliminated and the cost of the products reduced.

But that day is still far off. Something will happen before then to give the producer and consumer equal and more equitable rights. Some day, in the not distant future, the government will create boards and commissions with plenipotentiary powers to control the distribution of food stuffs. Distributors will be obliged to throw their books open to the public gaze, costs will be scrutinized and the charge to the ultimate consumer will be the sum and total of the cost of rendering the service plus a fair profit.

AGENTS WANTED

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING wants representatives in every county of Michigan. Liberal commissions. A chance to make good money during spare hours. Write for particulars.

BEAN PRICES ADVANCING

Wednesday Quotations 25 Cents
Higher Than Tuesday's, With
Supply Slow and Demand
Very Active

Just as we go to press we are able to give our readers some very encouraging news on the bean market which has been in more or less doubtful condition the past several weeks.

The Detroit market on Wednesday, Nov. 28, quoted beans at \$13.25 per cwt., or \$7.95 per bushel, which is 25 cents higher than the prevailing prices for some days previous. The market notes that the demand is active, while farmers are slow to sell.

It is believed that from now on the bean market will show greater signs of activity and the price will slowly advance. Farmers all over the state are holding for \$8 at their local elevators which means that the Detroit market will have to advance to about \$8.50.

We again advise our readers to watch these columns closely and to have confidence in the bean market. The price may not advance to \$8 before Jan. 1st, but as soon as winter has come on in earnest and the trade learns the real facts about the Michigan supply there will be a scramble among dealers for beans, and the price is bound to go up.

WHAT GRAHAM FLOUR SHOULD BE WORTH

A subscriber recently asked us if graham flour should sell as high as 7 cents a pound, with wheat at \$2.20 a bushel. It should not. Graham flour is worth about 4 cents a pound, and no one should pay more than 5 cents.

BREWERS MAKE PLEA FOR THEIR BUSINESS

The brewers of the United States have begun a national advertising campaign to convince the people that they have never really been in sympathy with the open saloon and that their product should not be classed as an alcoholic and intoxicating drink. They want the dear people to extend forgiveness for the sins of the past, and take their product into the family circle, right along with grape juice, bevo and other soft drinks.

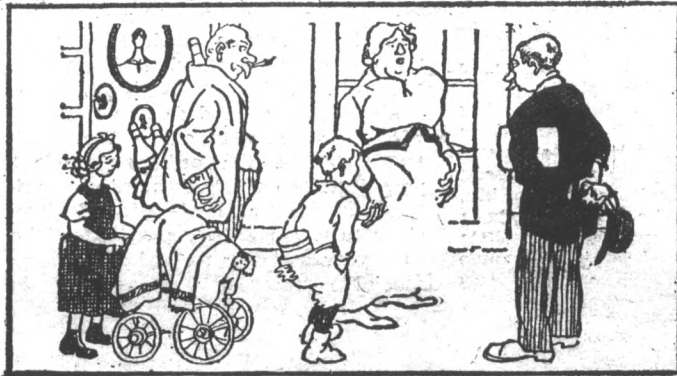
Can their last minute prayers save them? With the world hungering for food, manufacturing plants lying idle for want of coal that is being burned up to stoke the brewery factories, can they hope at this eleventh hour to convince the people of this nation who have suffered such horrible wrongs thru the drink traffic, that their business should be spared. The people should not forget that the brewers have had ample time and warning to divorce themselves from the whiskey business, but being convinced that the old world needed a booze tonic, they have refused to part company with their more evil brothers. But now that the handwriting is upon the wall, and the end of the open saloon in sight, the brewers have spurned their

old love and ask to be saved from the fate they deserve.

Sentiment is growing stronger and stronger against the manufacture of beer; the government is besieged with petitions and resolutions from farmers, manufacturers and merchants demanding that it end the business.



"THE FOOD INSPECTOR IS COMING"



"WE HAVE NOTHING, SIR!"

—Nebelspatter (Zurich)