

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"

# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

Vol. V - No. 16

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 1917.

\$1 PER YEAR,--No Premiums,  
Free List or Clubbing Offers

## INSIDE FACTS ON POTATO GRADING

Editor Slocum Finds That Dealers  
and Shippers Were Largely to  
Blame for Putting New  
Grading Rules in  
Practice

If we can but dispel the air of mystery which has befogged the several issues in connection with the untimely, unjust and unfair potato grading rules, we shall at least have accomplished something. And now get ready for a surprise: Neither the Department of Agriculture, the United States Food Administration or any of the other authorized national or state officials or departments, has established compulsory grades of potatoes. "Then," you ask, "why all of this trouble; this tremendous loss; the enforcement of certain grading rules by the potato buyers?" The dealers are acting upon the suggestion of the U. S. Food Administration; they are following the line of least resistance, regardless of the loss that may be borne by the potato grower.

Before me lies a little four-page bulletin issued by the Bureau of Markets, it was printed on September 10, 1917, and distributed about October 1st. "Potato Grades Recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Food Administration." Just keep in mind the word "Recommended," while we examine this little bulletin a little closer. The grades as recommended are as follows:

### U. S. GRADE No. 1.

This grade shall consist of sound potatoes of similar varietal characteristics, which are practically free from dirt or other foreign matter, frost injury, sunburn, second growth, cuts, scab, blight, dry rot, and damage caused by disease, insects, or mechanical means. The minimum diameter of potatoes of the round varieties shall be one and seven-eighths (1 $\frac{7}{8}$ ) inches, and of potatoes of the long varieties one and three-fourths (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ) inches. In order to allow for variations incident to commercial grading and handling, five per centum by weight of any lot may be under the prescribed size, and, in addition, three per centum by weight of any such lot may be below the remaining requirements of this grade.

### U. S. GRADE No. 2

This grade shall consist of potatoes of similar varietal characteristics, which are practically free from frost injury and decay, and which are free from serious damage caused by dirt or other foreign matter, sunburn, second growth, cuts, scab, blight, dry rot, or other disease, insects, or mechanical means. The minimum diameter shall be one and one-half (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) inches. In order to allow for variations incident to commercial grading and handling, five per centum by weight of any lot may be under the prescribed size, and, in addition, five per centum by weight of any such lot may be below the remaining requirements of this grade.

Three reasons are given for recommending the adoption of these grades:

(a)—The prospect for a record-breaking crop of potatoes this season and the general situation with regard to food supplies.

(b)—The over-taxed condition of the transportation facilities of the country.

(c)—The recent ruling of the Federal Reserve Board with reference to

### THE CAUSE—THE EFFECT—THE OUTCOME

Investigations to determine the responsibility for the putting into effect of the potato grades this year, disclosed the following facts:

FIRST—The potato grades were recommended by the Department of Agriculture and approved by the Food Administration, with no thought of their being put into effect this year.

SECOND—No attempt has been made to enforce the observance of these rules. The buyers of some states have acted upon the recommendations; the buyers of other states have not. The organized buyers of Michigan elected to observe the rules this year. The farmers of Michigan are suffering as a result, while the farmers of other states are putting every potato on the market that their conscience will permit.

THIRD—Mr. E. P. Miller of the commission firm of Albert Miller of Chicago seems to dominate the situation, and to date has succeeded in winning over practically all the dealers of the state. The farmers have had no say in the matter and probably won't have. Mr. Miller claims to have authority to compel observance of these rules; certain persons connected with the Bureau of Markets deny this.

FOURTH—The outcome is doubtful. The dealers of the state, rather than the government, seem to be largely responsible for these grades being adopted this year, and the growers will have less influence over the dealers than they have over the government. However, Michigan Business Farming has not yet despaired. If the potato growers of the state will stay by the ship we will corral all the forces and make one last mighty appeal to the Food Administration to alleviate the situation.

securing loans against warehouse receipts.

The first reason (a) given for recommending the adoption of grading rules, would do very well indeed, as a means of penalizing the potato growers for their obedience to the expressed wishes of the President of the United States, and the insistent demands made by the Food Administration, working through the Agricultural colleges and their agents. The farmers have worked early and late to loyally and patriotically comply with the nation's demands; they have, through the sweat of their brows, brought forth an abundant harvest; and this, too, without even a guarantee of a minimum price on the part of the Government. Shall we now dismiss the whole matter, by establishing new rules for grading, which will make from 20 to 40 per cent of the farmer's crop unmarketable? Has the general situation changed as regards the food supplies? Are the workingmen's families in the large cities provided with all of the potatoes they need, at

"record-breaking crop" prices? Well, hardly, when on the public markets of the City of Washington, I this day paid at the rate of \$2.40 per bushel for potatoes, and every potato in the purchase would have fallen headlong through the screen, the use of which Michigan dealers claim, in many instances, is required by the government.

We can dispose of the second (b) reason very quickly. In the name of common sense, what has the grading proposition to do with the "overtaxed condition of the transportation facilities of the country? No attempt has been made to enforce these grading rules. There isn't a single market in the United States today that is conforming to any established grades for potatoes. On the Washington market potatoes of all kinds and sizes were being sold; and if you wanted the large potatoes the dealer would pick them out for you; but invariably he would make this suggestion: "Most people like the smaller (Continued on page 12)

## BEANS RETAIL AT \$12.80 PER BU.

Farmers of Michigan Get \$7 per  
Bushel for Beans That Sell  
at 40 Cents per Quart in  
Washington

The lowly bean is selling in the city of Washington today for exactly 40 cents per quart, or \$12.80 per bushel. This was the discovery of Editor Slocum on his recent visit to the Capitol city.

It is apparent that the "huge" crop of Manchurian beans that have been on their way to this country since the first of September must have met up with a submarine and now repose on the bed of the ocean. Any way, they haven't reached Washington. Neither have any of those cheap California and Colorado pinto and kidney beans put in an appearance. About the only beans that are selling in Washington today are an un-picked, nondescript variety, which might have come, so far as our editor was able to determine, from Michigan. He bought a quart of them—at 40 cents good U. S. money—and shipped them home. If you watch these columns next week you will see an interesting photograph of these beans.

Mr. W. J. Orr has been sending out some more "bearish"—very "bearish" warnings to the members of the association. They read something like this:

Saginaw, Michigan,  
Nov. 30, 1917.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN BEAN JOBBERS ASS'N.:

Dear Sir:

I have just received the following wire from Washington, D. C.:

"Army and Navy have elected continue present bean prices until December fifteenth."

"(Signed) Food Administration."

The present bean schedule provides the following prices for Michigan whites in double bags—11 5-8. The Army and Navy have full requirements of colored beans for present use. Same are offered at any price the Government may care to make.

The Government price of 11 5-8 for Michigan whites to December fifteenth doesn't warrant present paying prices unless you have them sold as fast as purchases are made. December, 1917 may long be remembered by many bean dealers. All speculation eliminated, who will hold the BAG. Have frequent interviews with yourself as to the wisest course to pursue.

I unhesitatingly recommend buying only as you can sell. This will be most satisfactory to all interests concerned. In fact your license practically means that on this crop.

W. J. ORR,  
President.

Now the facts are that the government has made no attempt to requisition beans from dealers. They have been buying in the open market like any consumer, and to date have been able to purchase sufficient to meet their needs at their stipulated prices. We are inclined to believe that the numerous warnings that have been given to the jobbers to refrain from paying more than the government price to farmers is largely "bunk," and not based upon actual facts. In any case they do not seem to have much of an effect upon the dealers, (Continued on page 12)



Santa Claus finds that the Coal Situation interferes with the Pursuit of Business

Will You Help Boost—and add Ten Thousand New Subscribers to Your Farm and Market Weekly?



# CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

## THE MOTE IN MCBRIDE'S EYE

Attempt of State Market Director to Oust Grange Editor, Pure Spite, Declares "Jim" Helme.

There has been much ado about the attempt of State Market Director McBride at the recent state Grange meeting to oust Jas. Helme from the rudder of the *Michigan Patron*, the Grange's official publication, on the charge of disloyalty to the government, but a closer scrutiny of the affair shows that it was much ado about nothing. Mr. Helme claims that Mr. McBride is after his scalp for no other reason than because he is "sore" at some of the things Helme has been telling the farmers about McBride's administration of the State Marketing department. In a recent issue of the *Adrian Telegram*, Mr. Helme defends himself as follows:

"Newspaper dispatches do not give a full account of the proceedings of the late State Grange so far as it affected me. The inside of the whole matter is as follows: For the last two or three years *The Patron* and the *Gleaner*, official organ of the Gleaners have severely criticised the state market department, conducted at the Agricultural college by J. N. McBride. This has been irritating to the college board and a motion to dismiss McBride recently resulted in a tie vote. McBride was then called in and informed he must stop the attack or lose his job.

"McBride came to Jackson to get my goat, armed with an August *Patron* containing the ad. of a peace meeting which he claimed 'came near to treason.' He went to the state master and demanded that he appoint a committee to consider certain grange matter and threatened the state master that if he did not do this he would raise a row on the floor of the Grange. He also had a list of names to be appointed on this committee. This list was composed entirely of men who had been fighting me for years and most of whom were not delegates to the state Grange.

"The master very foolishly appointed this committee 'for harmony's sake' although he openly told the Secretary not to record it in the minutes.

"The master added to this list of names the executive committee of which I am a member and a meeting of this committee was called for 1 p.m. Thursday in the basement. At that time only four members of the executive committee showed up but nine of my bitterest enemies were there with their hatchets. McBride led the attack, flourishing the August *Patron* and talking about 'near treason.' Some bitter recrimination followed and it soon developed that the worst treason I had been guilty of, even more than the famous ad., was criticism of the Agricultural college. This committee finally passed a resolution deposing me as editor of the official organ and ordered it to be reported to the state Grange at its evening session. I told them to 'go to it' and arranged my forces for battle. During the supper recess an emissary was sent me advising me to 'resign and promote harmony.' I said, 'nothing doing.' Again I was approached and shown a resolution, which was afterwards passed, repudiating the ad. I told them I hadn't the slightest objection to their repudiating any ad. in the paper. I was next asked if I would control my hot-headed friends and agreed that they would not attack the resolution when it was presented. I told them I would try and did, although my friends thought I made a great mistake, as they thought I ought to show up the inside of the whole business. I was there when the resolution was presented and there was no discussion.

"A few minutes after a resolution was passed without dissent to continue the *Patron* for another year 'on the same or similar lines as at present.'

"Yesterday the executive committee by a unanimous vote appointed me manager of the paper for the ensuing year.

"At no time was there ever a discussion of me or the *Patron* at any session of the State Grange. All the so-called attacks on me were made in committee rooms and hotel lobbies by people who were not delegates to the state Grange. —J. W. Helme.

## BENZIE GLEANERS OFFICIALLY PROTEST GRADES

To the Secretary of the State Federation:

We, the members of the Benzie County Federation of Arbers of the Ancient Order of Gleaners do hereby

Resolve, that the present system of two grades of potatoes is unjust and not fair to the farmers.

Therefore, we respectfully petition our State Organization to further use their influence to correct the injustice of the present potato grading law.

Second, that the Government establish a minimum price to be guaranteed to the farmer for his products, and that such price be sufficient to cover the high cost of production and to guarantee the producer at least ten per cent profit on his products, the same as is now done for the manufacturer.

Third, that the Government take more vigorous steps toward providing transportation at marketing time for all farm products at a minimum price and also provide a penalty in case of failure to provide cars within a reasonable time.

Respectfully,

A. C. WILSON,  
F. WEIFENBACH,  
GEORGE SNELL,  
Committee on Resolutions

## BELLAIRE SUBSCRIBER AND HIS TRUSTY MULES

Subscriber C. W. Brunger of Bellaire sends us in the photograph that appears below of himself and his two trusty mules. "Follow these fellows

and the advice in MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING," says Mr. Brunger, "and you won't go very far wrong." Which leaves it up to us to prove ourselves as dependable and trustworthy as Mr. Brunger's mules.



It is always a pleasure to receive photographs of our readers or scenes about their farms. They brighten up the page, and add a spice to the otherwise rather dry and essential sameness of market reports and crop conditions. We wish every subscriber who's got a few kodak pictures tucked away in the bureau or writing desk drawer, would fish them out and send them to us for publication. All prints will be returned upon request in good condition. Let's hear from you, please.

## "You can see that the Elevators want to do the Speculating," says a McBain Subscriber

A McBain subscriber sends us the above clipping from his local paper and for the enlightenment and amusement of our readers we have reproduced in reduced size. Our subscriber

## DON'T SPECULATE On Those Beans—

The quality is not good enough, on account of excess moisture and heavy pickage.

There is too much difference between the price of Colorado, California and Manchurian beans and the price of Michigan beans. Either the former must go up or Michigan down and the odds are against Michigan.

We are buying both wet and dry beans, but we do not hold them. We are offering you more than the government will pay us.

GET THE MONEY WHILE THE GETTING IS GOOD  
When you have anything to sell, be friendly; come and see us.

THE RED ELEVATOR

**McBain Grain Co.**

Both Phones

McBain, Michigan

succinctly remarks: "You can see they want to do the speculating."

Now, dear reader, just read this ad. carefully and ask yourself if you are really the durn fool that the McBain Grain Company must take you for if it expects you to swallow such sugar-coated stuff and nonsense as this. Note that the elevator springs the same old gag that the jobbers have been chewing on the last three months about western and Manchurian beans. If that old threat won't jar McBain farmers into selling, why we'll use a little persuasion.

"We are offering you more than the government will pay us." What's the answer? You farmers are not supposed to know. You are expected to believe that out of the pure goodness of heart the McBain Grain Co., and other individually or corporation owned elevators, are willing to pay

you a premium price for beans and then turn around and sell them to the government at a loss. Well, do you believe it? Certainly you don't.

The McBain Grain Company wants your beans; they want them badly; they want them NOW. They are using subterfuge and playing upon your fears to get them. Why? Not to sell to the government at a loss; no, sir; but to fill some good fat eastern contract that needs immediate attention, or else to hold them as long as their government license will permit finally to dispose of them on an advancing market.

"Don't speculate on those beans, Mr. Farmer." Sell 'em quick before that huge Manchurian crop arrives and knocks the props from the market. The elevators don't want to see you lose any money, bless your soul, no. They want to get the beans off your hands; as long as you are safe, money they may lose. So, farmer friend, if you are moved by the pleas and the tears of the elevator men, perhaps you'd better sell those beans. They no doubt are looking after your interests in the same solicitous fashion as in years gone by. And you know how that was.

But if we had some beans to sell, and the McBain Grain Co. came to us with tears in their eyes and said, "Be friendly; sell us your beans now; we are willing to pay you MORE than the government will pay us; remember that huge crop of Manchurian beans; if there is to be speculating done, and losses to be had let us bear the burden."—well, if they said that to us we'd go home and put our beans under lock and key and buy an automobile on the strength of the additional profits which we would logically expect within the next couple months.

## FARMER CALLED "PROFITEER"

Public Unanimously Indicts Farmer of Profiteering Before Hearing the Arguments he has to Present for Higher Milk Prices

"I hold that the farmer is guilty until he is proven innocent," said a Flint consumer to the writer this week during a discussion of the probable increase in the price of milk to the producer.

This is the reverse order of criminal court procedure yet it is the very method Flint consumers are using in trying the fairness and reasonableness of the farmers' demand for a price for their milk that will equal the cost of production plus a legitimate and reasonable profit.

Instead of giving the farmer the reason of a doubt, the city consumer starts out charging him with guilt. Guilty of what? Profiteering. He must prove his innocence.

I know of no better, no more convincing method of establishing his innocence than to take every last consumer who maintains that the dairyman, who asks for a price for his milk that will equal the cost of production plus a reasonable profit, is guilty of profiteering, and put him out on dairy farms. Let 'em take care of the cows for a week. Let them pay the cost of the feed they consume. Let them set a price on the value of their labor. Let them get up at four or five o'clock in the morning and do the milking. Let them work on dairy farms that are short handed, and that will be almost any dairy farm in Michigan. Then, when they have done all this for a week, let them sit down in the house and figure out the cost of a hundred pounds of milk just the same as they would in their private offices back in the city. We know right well what the verdict would be. "Not guilty," of course.

But Flint producers are going to have a mighty hard row to hoe to prove their innocence. They laid themselves open when Leonard Freeman, one of the largest distributors in Flint, hired the best hall in the city and invited all his producers to meet with him. They fell into an unsuspected trap, cleverly baited, and attended the meeting About 200 of them got entangled in the fine mesh of this distributor's clever trap. He got them to say they were satisfied with his price. Just what enticing methods he used, I don't know. Some of the producers now think he used chloroform. He accomplished the feat and now he is chuckling to himself. He has detracted attention from himself and at the same time has cast an unjust reflection on the producers.

To the average consumer it looks as if the farmer was entitled to an increase in the price for his milk. Because the farmers are beginning to organize—co-operate if you please—for the purpose of applying business methods to the milk industry, they are adjudged to be guilty of profiteering. —D. L. Runnels.

## Dec. 1st, 1917

There is quite a few of our good friends who promised to send in their dollar on that date. It is now the 15th, and if you have neglected to do so before now, send a dollar bill today, either with the card we sent you or with the address label from the front cover of this issue.



## MAINE POTATO GROWER'S VIEWS

Maine Farmer Says That Crop Will Not Average Better Than 30 per cent of Last Year's

Below we republish a letter written by C. S. Griffin, a potato grower of Kingman, Maine, to the Bangor (Me.) Commercial. It gives Michigan growers a new light on the eastern potato situation and affords additional evidence that Government crop reports are not always reliable:

"The potato situation is at a standstill here with only now and then a carload going out. Those who were watching the market are of the opinion that those who raised gardens last summer must have put them largely to potatoes and that their crops are not yet exhausted, otherwise the shipments into the city markets would be larger.

"This state is shipping more potatoes this year than last compared with the size of the crop we have to ship from. It is a large estimate to say this year's crop is 30 per cent of last year's crop, and the shipments are 40 per cent of last year's shipments. By U. S. report of Dec. 5 Maine has shipped this year 4,871 cars. Up to this date last year Maine shipped 12,043 cars. The report that Maine farmers are holding back their potatoes is not justified. This locality did not raise over a 20 per cent crop as compared with last year. The farmers did their part and the fertilizer was probably as good as can be made when no potash is to be had. Only gravelly soils that would not hold water yielded well this past season. The season was so wet that witch grass grew unusually fast and to choke that off the farmer smothered much of his crop that will not survive deep burying with wet soil and no hot sun to force the top up through their first hoeing. Practically all seed planted came up well and had the soil been dry and hot when the tops were covered under at the first hoeing a normal crop would have resulted.

"Potatoes smothered at their first hoeing lost their entire top and are dependent upon new sprouting for a top and this cuts four weeks out of their growing season. Most of the reproducing power of the seed was lost in the first sprouting and the young tops smothered out. It pays and pays well to cover the young tops at the first hoeing, if this is done wisely, which means, cover only with dry, hot earth at a dry time. That is, try to be reasonably sure the soil will stay dry for 24 to 48 hours after the young tops are covered, then the tops roll out strong and put out new roots above the original roots. This practically doubles the vigor of the plant. The new gardeners probably beat the old farmers this year by not knowing enough to bury their young tops and made the hoe kill the weeds when the farmer smothered his weeds. This year's lesson will no doubt insure a better crop next year even with an equally wet season, but many of the farmers can not put in the usual crop next year without outside help in the way of finances. It takes five barrels of seed and about a ton of fertilizer to put in one acre. At present prices: Potatoes, \$3 per barrel, fertilizer, \$55 per ton, spray material, \$5, makes \$75 per acre for material alone. Our average crop this year was about 20 barrels large and small together and about half are marketable. If we planned to use next spring only marketable sizes for seed the state of Maine could not spare a single carload for shipment out of the state.

"No doubt many new seed will be shipped in from the North and West where the crop is said to be good and it is probable that some Maine farmers are selling now with that idea in view. Seed last spring were \$6 per barrel. Not half the farmers in this locality will get the value of their seed back if they must sell their marketable potatoes this winter at \$3 per barrel, and the fertilizer and spray must be a total loss. Maine farmers are justified in demanding a better price.—C. S. Griffin, Kingman, Me.



## OREGON HEN LAYS EGGS WEIGHING FOUR OUNCES

Dr. L. E. Straight of Eugene, Ore., is the owner of a hen that lays eggs weighing four ounces each. Dr. Straight states that an egg is produced every other day, and that all are of uniform size.

The hen is of the Barred Plymouth Rock variety. The eggs, when broken, apparently are normal in their proportions, aside from their great size. Dr. Straight said that he may experiment with a setting of eggs to see if a large egg laying strain of chickens can be developed.

This biddy must be a direct descendant of the "hen that laid the golden eggs."

## MILK PRODUCTION COSTS IN NEW ENGLAND

The Boston Chamber of Commerce has been making a study of the milk business of New England for several years on the various phases of production, transportation and distribution. The detail account of the results is printed in the Nov. 30 issue of *Board's Dairyman*, from which the following figures are taken:

Cost of milk production, September 15, 1917:

Maine	.....0696 per qt.
New Hampshire	.....0595 per qt.
Vermont	.....0619 per qt.
Massachusetts	.....0812 per qt.
Connecticut	.....0718 per qt.

These figures were compiled from

## ILLINOIS MILK COST INVESTIGATIONS SHOW POSSIBILITY OF \$4 MILK

Constantly Increasing Costs Make it Necessary That Farmers Secure More for Milk if They are to Continue in the Business

Continued investigations by the Food Administration's special milk price commission into the cost of producing milk in the Chicago area indicate a possibility if not a probability of milk prices going as high as \$4 per hundred weight.

"Prof. F. A. Pearson of the University of Illinois presented detailed results of cost accounting work on several dairy farms in northern Illinois, showing that it takes 44 lbs. of grain, 188 pounds of silage, 50 pounds of hay, 39 pounds of other forage, and 2.42 hours of man labor to produce 100 lbs. of milk. The value of manure, milk used by the family, and calves raised just about offsets the cost of horse labor, interest, use of buildings and equipment, insurance, etc. Later evidence on cost of labor and feed showed that the dairyman would have to get close to \$4 per cwt. for milk to break even. In order to secure a steady supply of milk the year around, it is necessary to pay a premium in the winter months, when production costs are higher. Prof. Pearson's formula gives the average cost for the year. To get the correct price for each month, it is necessary to multiply it by the following percentage for each month, which is based on the monthly variations actually paid for the past 10 years: January, 119; February, 114.3; March, 106.5; April, 94.2; May, 73.2; June, 70.6; July, 83.7; August, 94.2; September, 96.7; October, 96.7; November, 109.2; December, 118.3.

"Dr. C. G. Warren of Cornell University gave figures from New York state which verified those given by Prof. Pearson for Illinois. His labor figures were higher. He stated that it takes 150 hours man labor per year to care for an average cow, or three hours per cwt. of milk.

"On 56 average farms in New York,

850 farms, 15,000 cows, and 40,000,000 quarts of milk. They represent costs at the country railroad station and are figured on year-around basis.

## THE FRENCH WHEAT REPORT DISCOURAGING

Scarcity of workmen, poor climatic conditions and a large decrease in the acreage are chiefly responsible for the small French wheat crop which intensifies the agricultural crisis now confronting France. Reports gathered by the statistical division of the U. S. Food Administration show that annual wheat production in France has fallen to less than half of the pre-war average.

## COST OF POTATO GROWING IN GRAND TRAVERSE CO.

We planted two acres of potatoes last spring and here is the way it figures out: We got one hundred bu. and half of hose will go through the 1 1/2 inch screen. The price now at Traverse City is 60c per bu. for No. 1. Plowing and dragging.....\$ 8.00 20 bu. seed at \$2.50 bu..... 50.00 Land rent, \$4 per acre..... 8.00 2 lbs. paris green at 60c per lb.... 1.20 One day to paris green..... 2.00 Cultivate 4 times ..... 3.00 Digging and pitting..... 7.00 Man and team to market..... 4.00

Total .....\$83.20

Where do we come in?—D. H. C., Grand Traverse county.

Dr. Warren said 142,362 hours man labor was used during the year, 7,739 hours woman labor, and 8,531 hours child labor. Gov. Deneen brought out the point that about two-thirds of the man labor was the work of the owner of the herd, and was worth more than the prevailing wage for hired hands.

"Dr. Warren stated that because of greater profits in grain raising than in dairying, much hay and pasture land in New York is being plowed up. The annual normal slaughter of dairy cows is 17 per cent. The slaughter in New York last year was 14 per cent above normal. The exports of butter, cheese and milk were 33 million dollars greater this year than last. There is a world shortage of dairy cows and dairy products. We must pay enough for milk so that dairymen can afford to raise heifers to make good this shortage. The price of milk must be in proportion to the price of other farm products or we will get the other products instead of milk."

The developments in the Illinois situation are, of course, of acute interest to the producers of Michigan whose costs are doubtlessly just as high as those of their neighbors across the line. If the Food Administration commission finds that the producers of Illinois are entitled to \$4 per cwt. for their milk during the winter months, there is no reason why they should not similarly recognize the rights of Michigan dairymen for at least as high a price. The salvation of the Michigan dairy industry depends upon the developments of the ensuing few months. A price commensurate with the cost of production plus a fair profit will hearten the dairymen to stay by the ship and continue to build up their herds for milk production purposes, but failure to secure a sliding scale of prices in proportion to the advancing costs of feed and other raw materials will effectually smother the little spark of hope that has kept the producers going the last few doubtful months, and will surely drive them into some other branch of husbandry.

## UNFAIR DEALING INVESTIGATED

Grain Corporation Assures M. B. F. of Desire to See That Farmers Get All They are Entitled to for Wheat

A large number of our readers have referred to us instances where local elevators were not paying all they should for wheat. In all cases the matter has been referred to the U. S. Food Administration Grain Corporation who have been more than anxious to co-operate with us in securing better treatment for the farmers. A typical situation is that which exists at Buckley, Wexford county, and which was referred to us by Mr. John Seeley, as follows:

"The Buckley Grain Company, at Buckley, Wexford county, claims that the U. S. government gave them orders how to buy grain from the farmer. I would like to know if this is true, that they are to test all wheat and any wheat that doesn't test 60 pounds, to dock three cents off on the buying price for every pound that tests under 60. They say they are paying \$1.95 per bushel. This is where I get it on Mr. Farmer. They claim to pay \$2.75 per 100 pounds for buckwheat that tests 48 pounds, but they take off of the buying price for every pound that tests under 48. The way they clean it they can make the test whatever they want to. I heard the manager say so. If it tests more than 48, should they not pay five cents more per hundred? The same company tests beans; will clean them up and then take a test and charge a certain price per pound for picking. They take this out of the price they pay for the beans and then charge the farmer the buying price per pound for enough good beans to make up for all they pick out so they will have 60 pounds. They claim to pay a certain price but when they get thru our beans bring about half what they say they are paying. They say this is just as the U. S. government gave them orders. Is this so?"

The fore part of Mr. Seeley's letter was promptly laid before the Grain Corporation who advised us under date of Dec. 10th, as follows:

"Your inquiry covers Buckley, Mich., where rate of freight to New York for export is 21 cents per hundred, hence a shipment of No. 2 Red Wheat from there would net shipper about \$2.11.

"In elevator trade with farmers, they should maintain fair practices and reasonable profit. All their shipments are inspected, so they must maintain Government standards. For No. 2 Red Wheat, I think they should pay there about \$2.06 to \$2.08 and for No. 3 Red 3 cents less. I have written them to this effect today.

"I hope this will correct the difficulty of which you complain. Food Administration Grain Corporation."

For some weeks past we have been conducting an investigation into the alleged discriminating and unfair practices of many elevators in the manner which they ascertain the bean tests. This investigation is now near completion and all the facts will be laid before the bean committee at Washington. It will be to the advantage of all our readers who are dissatisfied with the pick given by the local elevators to lay the facts before us at once.

## FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION IN OSCEOLA COUNTY

Do you know whether there is a farm loan association operating in Osceola county?—C. B.

The Federal Farm Loan Bank at St. Paul advises us that an association has been organized at Marion, of which F. D. Elliott is Secretary-Treasurer.

—“OVER THE TOP” with ten thousand new soldiers means victory for Michigan Business Farming and the farmers of Michigan.



## WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON—The day that Christian and temperance men have worked for, that drunkards have hoped for, and drunkard's wives and children have prayed for,—the day when the fangs of the liquor traffic should be severed once and for all time,—seems now to have dawned.

By a vote of 282 to 128 the house of representatives on Monday passed the resolution which proposes an amendment to the Federal Constitution forbidding the manufacture, sale and importation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes in the United States and territories. To become effective the resolution must be ratified within seven years from date by two-thirds of the states.

There are already twenty-seven dry states in the union, where the dry forces expect to encounter little opposition in securing ratification, but they must win over nine additional states within the time allowed. This they anticipate little difficulty in doing.

Michigan may well be proud of her eleven congressmen who voted "yes" on the measure. They are as follows: Louis C. Cramton, Lapeer; Gilbert A. Currie, Midland; Joseph W. Fordney, Saginaw; Edward L. Hamilton, Niles; Patrick H. Kelley, Lansing; James C. McLaughlin, Muskegon; W. Frank James, Hancock; Frank D. Scott, Alpena; John M. C. Smith, Charlotte; Carl E. Mapes, Grand Rapids, S. W. Beakes, Ann Arbor. Charles O. Nichols, republican, and Frank E. Doremus, democrat, both of Detroit, voted against the resolution.

As soon as the vote became known the galleries rang with applause, and there was a wild demonstration of approval which centered about the figures of Wm. Jennings Bryan and Representative Webb, who have been among the most able leaders in the prohibition fight.

The measure was formerly voted upon favorably by the Senate who fixed a six year period for ratification. Committees of the two bodies will immediately confer and no difficulty is anticipated in securing the concurrence of the Senate to the longer period of time.

No political or moral issue of modern times has been fought more bitterly than that of prohibition of the liquor traffic. Thousands of men have dedicated their lives to the struggle against booze, and as many more have led in its defense. Organized booze has in times gone past controlled elections, dominated legislatures and muzzled courts. Backed by countless dollars, it has pursued its ruthless slaughter of characters and lives and laughed at the efforts of "reformers" to put it out of business. But the loyalty and perseverance of its enemies have at last triumphed, and booze has been finally brought to justice and condemned to pay the penalty of its crimes.

\* \* \*

EVER SINCE the overthrow of the Kerensky government in Russia and the succession of the Bolsheviks to the head of Russian affairs, your Washington correspondent has urged the advisability of the Allied governments taking the representatives of the new government into their conferences, if for no other reason than to prevent them from rushing into a German peace council, and to show them that our sympathies were really with Democracy. But the Allies have stubbornly refused to have anything to do with the struggling Bolshevik forces, believing, no doubt, that counter revolutions would shortly unseat them from power. But the principles declared by the new government appealed to your correspondent as of such sameness, conservatism and soundness, that it became his instant belief and contention that the revolution was the expression of something more constructive and enduring than anarchism, and that the power upholding these principles would survive.

Time has proven the wisdom of our opinions. The Bolsheviks have been left to fight their battles alone, without a single word of advice or friendship from the Allied nations. And now that it has proven itself stronger than all the combined factions arrayed against it, the Allies have been compelled to open their eyes to the fact that it has the support of the great mass of people and constitutes really the de facto government of that nation. Despite the charges that Lenine and Trotsky were the hired agents of Germany, sent to Russia to spread discontent and stir up revolution that the country might be reduced to a helpless state and made easy for German domination, events have proven the utter fallacy of such views. Had the Bolsheviks been accountable to German authority, a separate peace would have been formed weeks ago, and it is largely because Lenine refuses to let Germany dictate the separate peace terms that the Allies have awakened to the true state of affairs.

Many believe that nothing can prevent Russia from making a separate peace with Germany providing the latter guarantees the rights of Russian people. Russia is tired of the war, and there is no individual or political power in the country strong enough to revive the spirits of Russia's fighting men and get them back to the trenches. The main thing now is for the Allied nations to counsel with the de facto government, and exert all influence possible in saving it from a separate peace dictated by the Kaiser.

TEDDY Roosevelt has been heard from again. This time T. R. booms his disapproval of the recommendations made by Secretary Baker that the country make no provision for universal military training, and the ex-president charges that President Wilson supports the Secretary of War's views. The public at large is getting very tired of Mr. Roosevelt's frequent attacks upon the Administration. While no one questions the inference that Mr. Roosevelt and the Kaiser are the twin peers of war propagandists and the highest known authorities on how war machinery should be operated, it does not necessarily follow that we should be entirely subservient to their wishes with respect to the policies of the nations after the war is over. There

are lots of people who are contributing something more than criticism to help win the war, who do NOT want compulsory military training and throw up their hands in horror at the suggestion. The only hope that gives them comfort in return for the sacrifices they are making is that this war will be the last war. As long as instruments of death are manufactured and our youth are taught to use them, there will be war. Universal training, standing armies and navies can never give to smaller nations the power to protect themselves against the larger. Complete disarmament of all nations, large and small, is the ONLY insurance against war. And this may even be so in spite of Mr. Roosevelt's arguments to the contrary.

WASHINGTON is greatly heartened by the success of the Union candidates in the recent election in Canada, which gives assurance that the Dominion will stay in the war with her vast resources of men, money and food supplies. The biggest issue involved in the campaign was that of conscription. The Laurier forces were opposed to conscription, and had they won, Canada would have doubtless withdrawn from active participation in the war. For Canada early learned that armies could not be raised without conscription. Not only does Canada's decision mean unlimited material support to the war against Prussian barbarism, but it has the additional effect of strengthening the wavering morale of both the civilian and military population of the other countries. With Sir Robert Borden retained as premier of the Dominion, the United States may feel assured that her neighbor will be in at the finish—of Kaiserism.

Congress has adjourned until after the holidays, but will be back on the job January 3rd, to tackle some of the toughest problems yet laid before it.

### MICHIGAN DRYS TO PREPARE FOR BATTLE

Following immediately upon the action of the House of Representatives in adopting the national prohibition resolution, Michigan drys have already announced their intention of taking an active part in the election of men who will sit in the next legislature. It requires a two-thirds vote of both branches of the State legislature to ratify the national amendment, and the drys will leave nothing undone to secure such a majority.

## WAR WIRES

German troops are being massed on the western front, evidently with the purpose of launching a general attack and smashing the entente forces before American troops become an important factor in the situation. Allied airmen report great activity all along the German front, troop trains constantly arriving with additional German forces and huge supplies of ammunition being made ready for the attack. When this blow will fall only the German authorities know. The Allied forces are preparing to meet it and with unfavorable weather constantly increasing as winter advances, the success of any general offensive is a matter of doubt. The roar of big guns, somewhat lessened after the British offensive in the Cambrai sector, is again swelling into a continuous roar. The present winter promises greater activities all along the western front than have been witnessed at that season since the war began.

Despite occasional reverses, the Italian line continues to hold against the combined Austrian and German forces. These forces are being constantly increased with troops withdrawn from the Russian front. It is evident that the Austro-Germans are preparing for a resumption of the attack in Italy as soon as they have had sufficient time to consolidate the territory already won. With the reinforcements received from her allies, both men and guns, and with the time which her men had in which to recuperate and recover their morale, Italy is confident of her ability to withstand the coming renewed offensive and even to later take the initiative herself. Winter is expected to soon become an effectual ally of the Italian forces, making difficult the transportation of supplies from Austria, through the mountain passes to the Italian plains.

During the past week more than 1,100 additional men have been sent from Camp Custer to other camps. It is expected that about 3,000 more will leave in the near future. These men are being used to fill up the ranks of the regular army and the National Guard units. Thirty thousand pounds of turkey have been purchased for the Christmas dinner of the boys at Camp Custer. Many of the men will be given passes so that they may visit at home over the holidays and for those who will remain in camp special entertainments are being arranged. Owing to lack of fuel it is expected that "lightless nights" will soon be the regular thing in camp.

British forces operating in Palestine have not only taken full possession of Jerusalem but have advanced about one hundred and twenty miles beyond without meeting with any material resistance from the Turks. The time must be at hand when Germany will be compelled to send reinforcements to her Turkish ally. The effect of the steady British advance is now apparent in the morale of the Turkish troops and the Mussulmans generally. With reinforcements and fresh supplies the British forces will be in position to threaten Constantinople. The operations against Turkey should soon have an appreciable effect on other fronts.

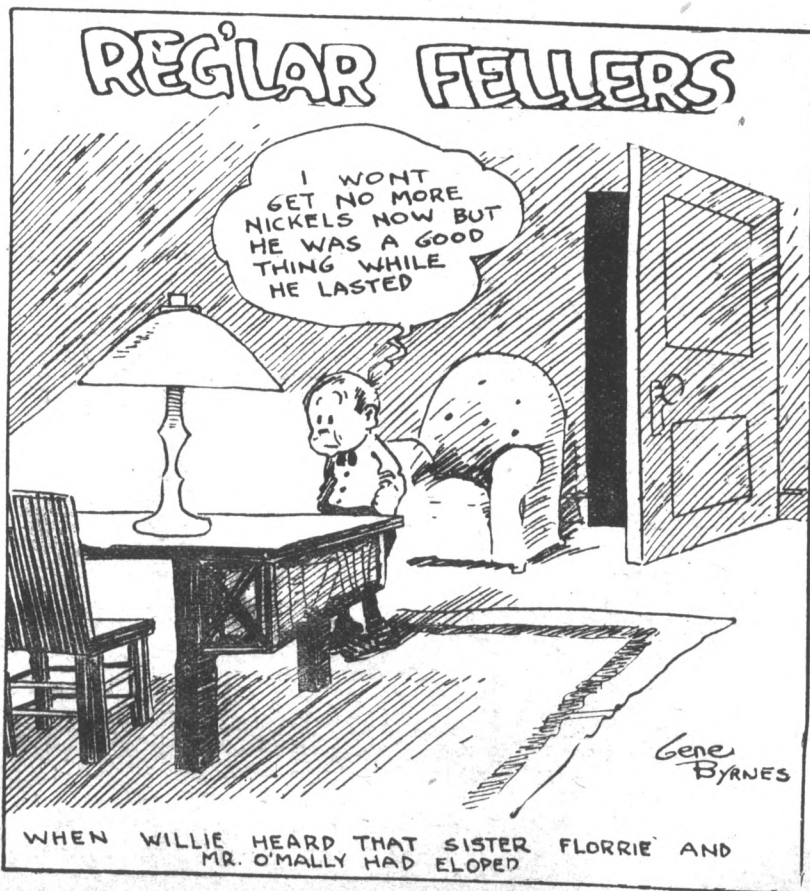
Latest reports from Russia indicate that the Bolshevik forces have defeated the counter-revolutionary forces under General Kaledines and that the general has himself been captured. General Korniloff, also a leader of the counter revolution, has been severely wounded and for the time at least the Bolshevik regime appears to be in the ascendancy. Japan is said to have landed troops at Vladivostok for the protection of war supplies stored there and deep significance is attached to this move by military authorities.

Major General Goethals has been recalled to active service and detailed as acting Quartermaster General to succeed Major General Sharp. Some time ago General Goethals resigned as head of the Ship Building Commission after a lengthy controversy with Mr. Denman as to the advisability of building wooden or steel ships. His present appointment again brings him into the limelight. His success in putting through the building of the Panama Canal undoubtedly qualifies him for the responsibilities of the present position.

Nineteen Americans lost their lives on Monday when the American submarine F-1 was rammed and sunk by submarine F-3. The collision occurred in home waters, the result of a heavy fog. One Michigan man was among those lost. This is the second serious submarine disaster in the United States Navy during the last few years, the other being the sinking of the F-4 off Honolulu harbor in March, 1915. The sinking of the F-1 is the first accident of the kind, due to collision, in the United States Navy.

Both houses of Congress are now engaged in a searching investigation of the conduct of the war during the 8 months since America's declaration of hostilities against Germany. Committees have been appointed to investigate both army and navy conditions, equipment of troops, progress made in the manufacture of airplanes, guns, and other munitions, expenditures on the various cantonments, and so forth.

The English Coast was again raided by German aircraft on the night of December 18. Some of the raiders reached London and succeeded in dropping bombs on the capital. Advances from the British War Department fail to state whether or not any casualties occurred.



WHEN WILLIE HEARD THAT SISTER FLORRIE AND MR. O'MALLY HAD ELOPED





# 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

Growers in Michigan are now confronted with the very situation we have feared, elevators filled so that no more wheat can be taken in until cars are available to move stocks now on hand. The coal shortage and the extreme winter weather which has come at an unexpected time, are adding to the difficulty caused by the car shortage. During the balance of the winter this condition will no doubt continue to give trouble.

Realizing that the price of wheat is established and will not change, growers generally are anxious to dispose of wheat now that they have time to haul it, wishing to avoid loss from shrinkage, mice, etc. We believe this is a good idea and advise our readers to get their wheat into the elevators as fast as it can be taken in and moved by the dealers. No additional profit can come from holding wheat. We wish to emphasize this because there seems to be some confusion in the minds of our readers. During the past week some of our farmer friends who live near us here have dropped into the office to discuss this very thing with the market editor.

We are not receiving so many reports of must in wheat now arriving as we did a week or so ago. No doubt the cold weather has helped this condition in a great measure. We do note that there is some difference in terminal markets and growers should familiarize themselves with this part of the business and watch their sales accordingly.



## OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White Standard	.80	.76	.89
No. 3 White	.79 1-2	.75 1-2	.88
No. 4 White	.78	.74	.86 1-2

Movement of oats is greatly interfered with at all points and until this condition is relieved no one need fear for the oat market. The price, under heavy trading and an exceptionally strong milling demand, has advanced. The condition is one hard to figure out and just what the future may hold for oats no one even tries to forecast.

There are enormous stocks in the country and the elevators have plenty on hand but the question is to get them to where they are wanted. In the meantime spot stocks are in such great demand that buyers bid up the market to get them. It would seem, the longer stocks are held back and the shorter the time left to dispose of them before another crop, the greater would be the decline when they do move.

To offset this is the fact that the restriction of wheat consumption is greatly increasing the consumption of oats for human food. Europe is also in need of great amounts and this export business will help greatly. The recent embargo will make it necessary for domestic users of oats of the Illinois-Indiana line to secure their supplies in Indiana and other states east of the embargo line until it is raised. This should help local growers and perhaps result in some further advances there. Just how this embargo and zone system will work out is a matter of conjecture and everyone having any connection with the oat market seems to be "up a tree," so to speak, and uncertain as to the future, although the general opinion is that lower prices will later prevail.

Corn is going to exert more influence over the oat market before a great while and it will be well to take this into consideration when figuring what the oat market will do later on in the season.



**CHICAGO WIRE**—The corn market is developing bearish tendencies, being strongly affected by the weak under-current on oats. Reports are current that cars are more plentiful in the oats districts and that shipments are increasing fast. Looks right now like a lower level in the oat market.

**PITTSBURGH WIRE**—Advise holding back potatoes until after Christmas as market is now well supplied and inclined to drag. More frozen stock arriving since the recent cold snap. Cabbage looking up but market is still far from active.

**DETROIT SPECIAL**—Potato market steady but no additional strength. Ruan-bagas and carrots slow sale. Apples moving well this week but supplies adequate for the demand. Hay still arriving in quantities too small for the demand.



## CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	2.97	Nominal	1.64
No. 3 Yellow	2.95	Nominal	1.63
No. 2 Mixed	2.92		1.60

The market on this grain continues to work down as the movement increases. The Government has been making a strong effort to supply cars and about ten thousand have been delivered during the past two weeks to the corn states. This will have a beneficial effect on the movement to market and enable growers to dispose of their grain while it is in a more marketable condition. The cold weather has helped the movement of the wet stock and with any kind of a car supply conditions should become more normal.

At the suggestion of the Food Administration the Railway War Board has placed an embargo on all shipments east of the Indiana-Illinois line. This will have the effect of forcing an accumulation of stocks at Chicago and other western points, where more liberal supplies are needed to take care of future demands. This is quite a change in the attitude of the Food Administration. This ruling will lessen the congestion on eastern lines and by keeping the cars in the west for a time will enable shippers there to get their stocks onto the primary markets.

There is a great deal of talk all around regarding next year's supply of seed corn. There is no doubt but what there is a supply available in certain parts of the corn belt where the weather conditions were not as adverse as in others. The problem is to have this supply properly conserved during the winter and made ready for distribution this coming spring. We advise our readers to give this matter attention at this time. Good seed corn will be worth some money next spring.

Should your corn not be such as to make it available for seed purposes, there is a possibility that your neighbor or someone within reach of you

has corn which can be used for this purpose. It will pay to look around.



## RYE

The market on rye shows very little change. Conditions are firm at present quotations but the demand is just about sufficient to take care of the daily offerings. The market at many points is rather uncertain. Detroit quotes No. 2 at \$1.82½ per bu. Chicago, on the other hand, makes no regular quotation at this time, the market being nominal.



## BEANS

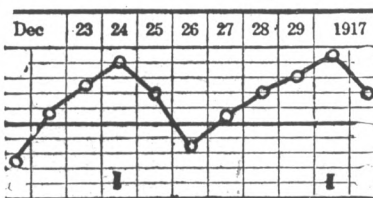
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	7.50	8.25	8.40
Prime	7.45	8.20	8.33
Red Kidneys	8.00	9.00	9.00

During the past week the bean market has dragged along, the price remaining about stationary. Buyers are taking on only such supplies as are absolutely necessary. Country elevator points are also slow buyers, some dealers having filled their house with the wet stock and are unable to take on more until present supplies are dried and out of the way. The wet condition of the stock has proven a great drawback to marketing. It is also causing much dissatisfaction between country buyers and the growers. It is an unfortunate condition all around, especially for a year such as the present when smooth relations and a satisfactory movement are needed.

It is now firmly established that the Michigan crop will be very heavy pickers, some dealers placing the average for the entire crop at around twenty pounds or more. We believe this is none too high. We have advised our friends who have wet beans to leave them in the straw until the good cold weather sets in. The additional time given them before threshing will assist in drying them. Many growers report that beans which have been threshed and placed in bins are now

## THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent Dec. 22 to 26, warm wave 21 to 25, cool wave 24 to 28. Moderate weather will prevail during this storm period with average temperatures inclined upward. No indication of severe storms or bad weather for the holidays. A lack of snow is expected. Of course northern sections always want snow for Christmas.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about Dec. 27 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Dec. 28, plains sections 29, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio-Tennessee valleys Dec. 30, eastern sections, 31, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Jan. 1. Storm wave will follow

about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

Temperatures of this storm will average above normal. Not much force to the storms and less than usual rain and snow. We are promised a long spell of good winter weather from December 22 to Jan. 12 and then no very bad weather during balance of January. Even February does not promise much bad weather.

Another warm wave will reach Vancouver about January 1 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Jan. 2, plains sections 3, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio-Tennessee valleys 4, eastern sections 5, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Jan. 6. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

Not much of a storm. A little increase in rain and snow, with downward trend of temperatures. Like the Missouri mule the weather is being good preparatory to a vigorous kick later on.

*W. T. Foster*

in bad condition and it looks as though many growers would stand a loss from this very cause. Our advice is to get these beans spread out thin wherever possible. Let the air circulate thru them freely and give them a turning every few days.

The bean growers over the country feel strong on the situation and after the first of the year the condition should become more established and a better market prevail. We are right at the time now where a quiet market is usually experienced.



## 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

Not much change in the hay market. Still light receipts at all points at about the former level. Some points have seen a slight advance but prices generally are such as to make a further advance just about out of the question. We have talked with a great many hay buyers and dealers and have sized up the situation thoroughly and we do not expect to see the market work much higher than it is at present. On the other hand we look for considerable declines whenever hay moves more freely. This may not come until late in the spring.

Looks right now as though all cars which can be put in condition will be used to haul grain, coal and war supplies and as though hay would have to take what was left. Growers are ready to sell and baling has been getting well along. Shippers are about at their limit so far as storage facilities are concerned and we are of the opinion that some of them have loaded up on this high priced hay will get their fingers burned before they get through with it. Even though the price at terminal points should keep up until spring, it will do them no good unless they can get the hay to market. Sooner or later there is bound to be a break. There is a large crop of hay which must move to market eventually. From now on growers will do well to dispose of hay as they may be able to haul it to market.

Some of the eastern markets have had a weak undertone this past week, caused by increased arrivals, but the storms and severe weather have further curtailed shipments and this should help some. This goes to show however, that there is no real strength in the market and that even slightly increased receipts will have a serious effect.



## POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	2.15	2.05 cwt.
Chicago	1.75	1.60
Cincinnati	2.20	2.10
New York	2.25	2.15
Pittsburgh	1.75	1.60
Norfolk, Va.	2.25	2.10

The potato market remains in much the same condition as it has been for several weeks. Still a great deal of off grade, frozen and decayed stock coming to all markets and a reluctant buying attitude evident with the buyers. We are now right into the dull period which the potato market has always experienced during the height of the holiday season. At the same time there is a stronger undertone. Shipments generally are not so plentiful since the real winter weather has come, and there will no doubt be less during the remainder of the winter. With a gradual cleaning up of markets and less of the poor stock of



ferred we should see better conditions all around.

Detroit prices continue about the same as last week and the same is true of Chicago. Some sales of practically good stock at a little better figure than formerly were reported this week but on the ordinary run of offerings there is no change. The severe cold weather of the past few days caught many shippers unexpectedly and some of the cars came in showing signs of frost along the bottom and sides.

Eastern markets are slow. New York reports much fewer cars arriving but still sufficient to take care of the limited demand just at this time. Not much Maine stock moving, shippers from that section being able to get better prices nearer home than on the New York market. Heavy snows generally over the state of New York have curtailed shipments from the near-by territory and as local stocks clean up we would not be surprised to see better conditions there.



## ONIONS

There is very little movement in the onion market. The prices remain about the same on all markets. We note however, a slightly better undertone at certain points and a clearing up of accumulated stock. Would not be surprised to see a better condition all around after the coming of the new year. Colder weather has cut off shipments and stock now moving is out of cold storage rather than the leavings of the fields and temporary storehouses. Good No. 1 yellow onions are selling in Detroit at around \$2.50 to \$3 per 100-lb. sack. New York is quoting the same grade at \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cwt. Chicago is about in line with Detroit.

### Better Onion Market

St. Louis—Receipts of onions are light and the market is firm with values higher. The demand is only fair. Sacked red Globes are quoted \$2.50@ \$3 per cwt., white \$3.25@ \$3.50, and Spanish onions \$1.50.

### Lost Money Storing Onions

Seattle—A few of the jobbing houses on Western avenue in late September and October stored California onions at a cost to them of 3@3½¢ a lb. The market has since declined, consumers refusing to buy at the high prices. In the meantime new stock is now quoted at \$2.10 to jobbers f.o.b. Seattle. For a time an attempt was made to hold the market at cost, but this failed, and every bag sold out of the stored holdings moved at a loss.



## APPLES

The apple market has been just a little inclined to drag during the past week. Arrivals have not increased to any extent but some stock has been caught in transit, by the cold weather, and has shown signs of frost. There is still a very good demand for the better grades of fruit and there is no reason for any serious decline. Detroit is quoting from \$5 to \$7 per barrel for spies, greenings, snows and baldwins. Seconds selling at \$3 to \$3.50 per bbl. Chicago market is just a little lower at the present time.

### Fewer Apples Held

Washington—According to the Dec. 1 report of the Bureau of Markets, holdings of apples on that date in 552 storages were 3,306,037 bbls. and 4,574,076 boxes. The 520 storages reporting for Dec. 1, this year and last, show present holdings of 3,031,941 barrels and 4,194,091 boxes, a decrease of 4.2 per cent in the barreled apples and an increase of 5.5 per cent in the boxed apples, which is equivalent to a total decrease of 1.4 per cent in the total apple holdings.

### Government's Apple Report

Washington—The Government Crop Reporting board estimates this year's apple crop at 58,203,000 bbls., which, on the basis of a farm value of \$3.66 bbl., is figured as worth \$213,057,000. The production in 1916 was 68,194,000 bbls., valued on the farm at \$2.74 bbl., or \$186,575,000. The 1911-15 average apple crop is 71,857,000 bbls., valued at \$152,399,000.



## FLOUR & FEED

The feed market in Detroit has been showing additional strength and prices have picked up a little. The demand continues strong both for local sales and for shipment. The wheat shortage which for so long a time was experienced at all mills, has affected the market up to this time. Supplies ran away low and in fact many mills were entirely cleaned up. Stocks have been slow to accumulate and at present many mills have orders ahead for all the feed available from day to day. Quotations at Detroit, jobbing lots, 100-lb. sacks: Bran, \$44; standard middlings, \$47; fine middlings, \$50; cracked corn, \$84; coarse cornmeal, \$77; chopped \$60 per ton.

Milwaukee—The tone of the mill-feed market continues strong and advances of \$1@1.50 per ton are noted all along the line. Milling operations still are restricted by the car shortage, reducing feed offers, while the traffic congestion makes it difficult to ship that which is available. The demand is active. Current quotations are: Sacked bran, \$42@43; standard middlings, \$43@43.50; white do., \$49; red do., \$57@58; cotton seed meal, \$53.50@55; oil meal, \$58@59; gluten feed, \$54.55 Chicago; all in 100 lb. sacks.

### Barley

Milwaukee—Barley prices in the Milwaukee market have advanced 8@10¢ during the week under a brisk demand for good malting, especially for milling and pearling. Receipts continued limited, although slightly in excess of the previous week, but far below 1916. Current quotations are: Choice big-berried Wisconsin and eastern Iowa, testing 48 to 50 lbs., per bu., \$1.45@1.48; 45 to 47 lbs., \$1.41@1.44; Minnesota, western Iowa and Dakota, 48 to 50 lbs., \$1.44@1.47; 45 to 47 lbs., \$1.40@1.43; all states, 42@44 lbs., \$1.35@1.39; feed mixing, \$1.25@1.35.

Buffalo—Barley dealers seem to have dropped the malster from his list and is working for the miller, who does not care a rap for germination or color. The malster will not listen to reason and is now paying the price when he can get the barley. At the close today spot barley was quoted at \$1.52@1.62 in store.

### Cottonseed Products

Cottonseed products manufacturers in the cotton states west of the Mississippi River, at the request of the U. S. Food Administration, have adopted a uniform mill price on cottonseed meal and cake as follows: Forty-three per cent protein, \$53.50; 41 per cent protein, \$51.50; 38 1-2 per cent protein \$51.50; 38 1-2 per cent protein, \$49; 36 per cent protein, \$46.50. Prices apply to carload lots, f.o.b. shipping mill wherever located in the specified territory. Dealers or other trade interests are allowed a commission not exceeding \$1 per ton over the fixed mill price.

With freight and taxes paid, the Food Administration price schedule will result in the following prices being paid in Kansas City: Thirty-six per cent protein, \$51; 38 1-2 per cent protein, \$53.50; cold pressed cake, \$49.50; linseed meal, \$59.

A large number of contracts made prior to agreement with the Food Administration, at higher prices, have not yet been disposed of, and millers are allowed to fill such contracts where buyers are willing to pay the old schedule of prices, according to assistants of Herbert C. Hoover.

The embargo against shipments of cottonseed meal and cake from Texas remains, except to the drought stricken territory of New Mexico.

### Toledo Seed Market

Cloverseed was active early in the week, but toward the close the prices eased off a bit. Alsike reported very steady, while timothy showed very weak during the week. The products seemed to be in a rut and moved with narrow range. Clover, prime, \$16.27½@16.30; closed, \$16.30; Dec., \$16.27½@16.30; closed, \$16.30.

Alsike, No. 2, \$13.75@14.00; No. 3, \$13.40@13.60; rejected, \$12.99@13.10.

Timothy, No. 2, \$3.40@3.45; No. 3, \$3.30@3.35; rejected, \$3.10@3.25.



## BUTTER

Detroit and Chicago butter markets continue about as they have been for some weeks. Detroit is quoting fresh creamery firsts at 43 1-2@44¢ per lb.; fresh creamery extras, 45 1-2@46 1-2¢; storage creamery, 41@43¢.

Eastern markets are in somewhat better shape this week than they have been for several weeks past. Freight blockades on account of blizzards have delayed shipments and this has helped the storage and held stock which has been moving more freely. There has also been some call by the Government for fresh and held for European export. It is said that now the Government is absorbing the entire output of some of the largest western creameries.

New York is quoting creamery as follows: Extras, 50@51¢; firsts, 44@49¢; held extras, 45 1-2@56¢. Philadelphia market quotes creamery extras at 50¢; firsts, 45@47¢; seconds, 41@43¢.

### Cheese

New York—The export movement this week was the heaviest in some little time, as 3,000 boxes were sent abroad. This was stock which had been here for export for about two months. Outside of 600 boxes of Young Americas shipped to Glasgow, the balance of the shipments were of skims. There were no new shipments exported because of lack of steamer room. The export outlet gave the trade a firmer tone, but business was rather quiet, although receivers are looking for an advance in held, which has shown freer movement. Nearly all of the state factories have closed for the winter and there will be practically no fresh cheese from now on. This has driven holders to used held.

Receipts for the first five days this week were 10,506 boxes, last week 5,622 boxes, and 12,574 boxes the same week a year ago.

State, whole milk, flats, held specials, 24½@24¾¢; average run, 23½@24¢; fresh, colored and white, specials, 23¾@24¢; Wisconsin, whole milk fine to fancy twins, held, specials, 23½@24¢; Young Americas, held, 26¼@26½¢; fresh, 26¢; State skims, twins and flats, held specials, 19@19½¢; twins and cheddars, fresh, specials, 17½@18½¢.



## EGGS

Egg conditions have greatly changed on all eastern markets and owners of storage stock are finding it possible to sell at better prices and in some cases to move stock at a reasonable profit. The storms of the past week and the cold weather which producing sections have experienced for some time are further cutting down production and decreasing supplies. At the same time the high prices are curtailing demand and many families have removed eggs from their bill of fare.

Detroit is quoting fresh-gathered firsts at 50@55¢ per doz. This, of course, is for the strictly fancy article. Ordinary run of firsts sell around 45@50¢ per doz. Storage stock is selling around 34@36¢.

### Western Market

Los Angeles—The egg market is firmer, with extras selling around 50¢. This is apparently 10¢ lower than at this time last year. Several dealers who have supply contracts are paying 42¢ for storage, whereas the same class of goods sold a few weeks ago for 36¢. There are quite a few eastern inquiries here for fresh eggs, that cannot be filled on account of the stronger local demand absorbing all of the receipts.



## POULTRY

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

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

Christmas buying this week has helped the poultry market at all

points and the trade has been very satisfactory. Stocks seem to have cleaned up well there is very little indication of such a heavy hold-over as was experienced after Thanksgiving. The Detroit market has proven satisfactory to shippers and at the time of writing this article dealers are having a good trade and all stock arriving, if in any kind of satisfactory condition, is finding ready sale.

Shipments to the east have been somewhat delayed and there is a chance that some shippers of carlots will not get them to destination at eastern points in time to catch the crest of the Christmas buying. At the same time there will be a fairly good market the following week to provide for the New Years festivities.

### Poultry and Rabbits

Pittsburgh—Four cars of live poultry were due to arrive here this week, but there was no assurance when delivery would be made on account of the cold weather and the congestion of the railroads. Prices of live poultry have advanced from 25¢ to 27¢ per pound. Live turkeys have also been advanced 30@32¢. There was no movement in this market during the early part of the week, but the receivers expect a heavy business starting next Monday.

There was a scarcity of rabbits early this week, and the supply was far less than the demand. The market advanced to 60@70¢ per pair. A lot of squirrels were received here this week, but had a very slow sale on a basis of \$1.25@1.50 per dozen.



## CATTLE

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	11 50-12 0	10 00-12 50	13 00-13 50
Steers, com. to fair	9 00-10 00	9 25-10 75	12 00-12 50
Heifers, good to prime	8 50-9 00	8 00-9 25	8 00-10 00
Cows, average	7 50-8 25	7 25-8 00	9 00-9 50
Canners, —Cutters	5 25-6 00	5 00-5 75	5 50-6 00
Bulls, average	7 00-7 50	7 00-7 50	7 00-8 00
Veal, fair to good	13 00-15 00	14 50-15 25	14 00-15 50

During the week the Detroit cattle market has been just a little dull at times, even on the best of the offerings. Much trouble has been experienced by shippers in getting in late owing to delays enroute. The storms and cold have had a decided affect and we would not be surprised to see a lighter run for a week or so. Canners have enjoyed a ready sale, over and above other kinds. The price has been well maintained despite the somewhat slow market and there is no indication of any material decline.

The Chicago market has been in a somewhat chaotic condition during the past week owing to embargoes, heavy receipts of cattle and the inauguration of the zone system. The market has declined irregularly, but sharply at times. Improved traffic conditions and moderating weather, together with the fact that the east is relatively bare of beef through being cut off, in large measure, from supplies during the past week, give promise of a healthier trade. However, cautious marketings are advisable during the holiday period. Chicago received 92,000 cattle the first five days of last week, or 15,000 more than during the like period of the previous week, a supply that proved very excessive owing to the restricted shipping outlet available. The market on beef steers closed the week in semi-demoralized and badly congested condition with prices largely 75¢ to \$1.00 per cwt. lower than on Wednesday of last week, high day of that period. With the storm and serious delays in transit sellers were at a decided disadvantage.

Light cannery steers are being taken by killers down to \$7 and \$9.25 to \$10 is taking a plain to decent killing class of warmed up steers and \$10.25 to \$12 a fair grade of short-feds. Most everything in the butcher cattle line showed for the week declines of from 50 to 75¢ from Monday's prices. Bulk of bologna bulls have slipped to \$6.75 to \$7.25. Canners are now selling around \$5.50 to \$5.75.

Country buyers of stock and feeding cattle have been in much smaller

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## BREEDERS DIRECTORY

This column has been established to give responsible breeders an opportunity to advertise their stock to thousands of business farmers who cannot be reached thru any other medium. The department will be gradually enlarged, and editorial features of particular interest to breeders of fine stock will be added. Every breeder in the state should be listed here. We have made a special low rate on breeders' advertising, and as an indication of the faith in the "pull" of our advertising columns we will give any responsible breeder one free insertion of his ad. providing it does not run more than one inch. Prove to your own satisfaction, without cost, that it pays to advertise in M. B. F.

**O. I. C. BOARS AND SOWS** of fine quality. Prices reasonable. Registered free and will ship C.O.D. Floyd H. Banister, Springport, Mich.

**REGISTERED HAMPSHIRE BOARS** and bred gilts for sale. John W. Snyder, R. 4., St. Johns, Mich.

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

### Howbert Stock Farm

Six year old granddaughter of "King of the Pontiacs" from a 231-lb granddaughter of "Sadie Vale Concordia's Paul-Dekol" that has 21 A.R.O. daughters. To freshen Feb. 20, 18 from "Maplecrest Dekol Hartog," a 30-lb. son of "Friend Hengerveld Dekol Butter Boy," that has many high yearly record daughters. Weight 1200 lbs., mostly black. Price, \$260.00 F.O.B., crated. Howard T. Evans, Eau Claire, Mich.

### Registered Hogs for Sale!

**DUROC JERSEYS**—3 Boars 10 weeks old. Sire, Hoosier, J. O. C., 77465; Dam, Vedna, Austindale, 210560.

**HAMPSHIRE**—2 Boars, 1 sow, August farrow; Sire, Goble, 20907; Dam, George's Girl 1st, 82232.

**HOLSTEIN BULL**—6 weeks old. Sire, Bell Boy Rosalind, 148544; Dam, Queen Caroline 2nd, 161807, H. F. H. B. Three-quarters white, well marked. Write for description.

Ready for immediate delivery. Please write for full description. All stock guaranteed.

HOMESTEAD FARMS, Bloomingdale, Mich.

**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.

**BARRED ROCK COCKERELS** from Thompson strain, \$3 and \$4. Yearling breeding hens, \$2. Well Barred. Sam Stadel, Chelsea, Michigan.

**JOHN'S BIG BEAUTIFUL BARRED** Rocks are hen hatched and sold on approval \$3 to \$10 each. 1 male and 4 females \$12.00. Good layers. Circulars, Photos. John Northon, Clare, Michigan.

**CHICKS** We have shipped thousands of day-old chicks each season since 1904, different varieties, orders booked now for spring delivery, booklet, stamp appreciated. Freeport Hatchery, Box 10, Freeport, Mich.

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**I HAVE FOR SALE** a farm of 86 acres, located in one of the best grain and potato growing sections of Lapeer county, warm gravelly soil, good dwelling house, fine barn, 32-44, with basement under entire barn; hog-pen, sheep-shed, tool barn, 5 acres of apple orchard, pears, peaches and small fruit, 7 acres of wheat on ground, also 7 acres of rye, over 80 acres of plow land under high state of cultivation; a bargain at \$4,000. Owner wishes to sell on account of poor health. For particulars write Box 82, Dryden, Mich.

attendance during the past week. Sales made toward the week end were largely within a range of from \$7.25 to \$9.25.

Merry Monarch, the pure bred Short-horn steer exhibited by Purdue University, which won the grand championship of the International, dressed 64.7 per cent, according to the figures made public by Armour & Co. The steer weighed 1,610 lbs., and the dressed carcass 1,042 lbs. Ed. P. Hall's yearling Angus cattle, which won the grand championship in the carlot division dressed 62.9 per cent. The steers averaged 1,090 lbs. and the dressed carcass 686 lbs.



## HOGS

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

The Detroit hog market has been slow all week and at times there has been a tendency for stock to accumulate. Pigs especially have been having hard going. Much off-grade stuff has been coming and it seems to run in bunches. It will pay to put a little more of the wet corn into some of these hogs before placing them on the market. We advise shippers to go just a little easy until after the holiday season.

The trade at Chicago was higher early last week despite curtailment of shipping demand by reason of rail embargoes, receipts running lighter than were expected and packers giving market excellent support. An expanding market movement, later, however with Thursday's receipts the largest for a single session since last February, liberal receipts at outside points and a break in provision futures, were strong bearish factors. At Friday's close sales were being made at a decline of 85c to \$1.00 per cwt. A general decline of 60 to 75c was shown for the week as compared with the preceding week.



## SHEEP

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Top Lambs	17.00-17.25	16.50-16.75	19.00-19.25
Yearlings	14.50-16.00	13.75-14.50	15.00-16.50
Wethers	9.00-11.00	12.50-13.00	12.50-13.00
Ewes	8.75-10.50	10.00-11.00	11.75-12.00

The Detroit sheep market is strong and has advanced since last week. There is a good demand for all grades and the well-finished offerings of top lambs are eagerly sought and paid for at a premium. Transportation conditions have prevented any extensive shipments to this market from others which are not quite so strong and this has added strength to the market. All arrivals have cleaned up fast all week, there is every indication of a good brisk trade the coming week.

Despite an increase in receipts of about 15,000 head, as compared with a week ago, the Chicago market shows little change from the close of last week. Owing to their inability to get cars for some localities, country buyers are not so active as they were last week, and feeding lambs are about \$1 per cwt. lower than they were a week ago. Butchers and shippers paid \$17 on Thursday's market last week for prime, handy-weight lambs though the bulk of such stock sold Friday from \$16.50 to \$16.75. Fair to medium lambs are bringing from \$16 to \$16.40 with culls and common kinds from \$13 to \$15.

Strictly prime handy-weight yearling wethers are selling up to \$14.50, the bulk of the kinds reaching that market, however, going from \$13.75 to \$14.25 with strong weight yearlings from \$12.50 to \$13.25 according to weight and quality. Choice matured wethers are selling up to \$13, the bulk of the good kinds going at \$11.75, but very few offered good enough to bring \$11.50. The bulk of the good ewes have sold this week at \$11.25 to \$11.50.

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THE FIRST

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Fair Grounds, Jackson, Mich.,  
Dec. 27, 1917

A consignment of about seventy-five cows, heifers and bulls of popular breeding. Advanced Registry cows with records of 675 lbs. of butterfat. Heifers open and bred and also many good foundation cows.

Among the bulls will be imp. Westmoreland, a May Rose; Golden Secret, a Hayes bull, winner of first-prize Wisconsin and Minnesota, 1912, also champion and grand champion Michigan State Fair, 1912; L'Aiglon of Bon Ayre 33664, a May Rose bull, winner 1917 shows. Young bulls by the above sires and by such sires as Walbridge's Glenwood Boy, first, champion and grand champion Michigan State Fair; first, champion and grand champion Illinois State Fair; first, champion and grand champion Missouri State Fair and first at Waterloo, Ia., 1916, and Pride's Hambro 35933, a May Rose, winner at Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, New York and Missouri State Fairs, 1916.

Several daughters of Glenwood's Champion, King Bell, George Washington of Fairfield Farms, Lord Waukesha, also rich in the blood of Stranford's Glenwood of Pinehurst, Glenwood Boy of Haddon, the Sequels and Governor of the Chene. Some of these females are from show herds of 1916 and 1917. Catalogs mailed on request.

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Sale starts at 1 o'clock

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With our three-story building fully equipped for the receiving and handling shipments and a force of competent salesmen, assures you of good sales and check right back the day following date of sale.

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DETROIT

## RAILROAD STATISTICS

### FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER

Gross earnings of all steam railroads for September ere 365 million dollars compared with 331 million dollars a year ago, the increase being more than 10%, while net earnings amounted to 116 million dollars compared with 124 million dollars a year ago, a decline of 6%. Preliminary reports for October show gross earnings of 89 million dollars for 43 railroads compared with 81 million dollars for the same roads last year, the increase being about the same as in September or approximately 10%. For the first nine months of this year, railroad gross earnings were 3,024 million dollars compared with 2,700 million dollars for the same period last year, an increase of 324 million dollars, while net earnings were 901 million dollars compared with 916 million dollars for the same period last year, a decrease of 16 million dollars. While gross earnings have increased tremendously, operating expenses have increased still more, bringing about a considerable reduction in the net operating income.

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"for all the farmers of Michigan."

# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, 1917

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

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EDITOR WOMAN'S DEPT.  
VETERINARY EDITOR  
LEGAL EDITOR

Published every Saturday by the  
RURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

GEO. M. SLOCUM, Sec'y and Bus. Mgr.  
Business Offices: 110 Fort Street, DETROIT  
Editorial Offices and Publishing Plant, Mt. Clemens, Mich.  
BRANCHES: CHICAGO, NEW YORK, ST. LOUIS, MINNEAPOLIS

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

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### The Farmer's Patriotism

THERE is no more misused and abused word in the English language today than "patriotism." It is used as a cloak to smother all argument in which the common rights of men are concerned; hypocrites and incompetents seek shelter within its protecting folds. Patriotism as practiced now-a-days is a habit and a hobby with the well-to-do, but a mighty expensive luxury for those who have their living to make.

The farmer is continually admonished to be patriotic. "Raise more crops" is the cry of the Food Administration; it is the patriotic thing to do. Take what the government offers for them; you'll be a slacker if you kick. We get sick and tired of the unjust subterfuges employed by the various governmental branches to enlist the farmer's aid in their worthy enterprises.

Does the government ask the laborer to work in the shipyards and munition factories without pay, in order to put his patriotism to the test? Not much. Mr. Laborer is hired and paid the biggest wages he ever received. He works eight hours a day, and so long as he performs his work satisfactorily is practically his own boss. It's a business transaction, pure and simple.

Does the government go to the steel manufacturer, and say: "We need your product; turn your entire output over to us at cost; you'll be unpatriotic if you don't?" Not on your life. When the government needs steel, bullets, arms and other war supplies, it calls in the manufacturers and says to them: "We need your product; turn your entire output over to us; we will pay you cost plus ten per cent." And the manufacturers, taking no chance, assured of their high salaries and a clean ten per cent profit, "patriotically" sell to the government.

Does the government go to the farmer and say: "The allies need your product to win the war; speed up your farm factories; we'll pay you cost plus ten per cent?" Well, we should say NOT. When the government needs food, it sends its hired specialists out over the country; it calls upon the agricultural colleges and extension departments, upon the press and pulpit, the lecture platform and the Chautauqua to spread the gospel of increased production. It says to the farmer: "The Allies need your product to win the war; speed up your farm factories; we'll pay you \$2 a bushel for your wheat, but you'll have to take your chances on the other crops. If you don't increase your production you are unpatriotic." And so if Mr. Farmer is a wheat farmer and luck is with him, he may make his ten per cent over the cost of production and mingle with the patriots; but if he is a potato, bean or sugar beet farmer, then about two million of his specie take chances of going into bankruptcy or being classed as slackers.

It is cruelly unjust to make the appeal for increased production solely on the grounds of patriotism. The crops the farmer raises are his bread and butter; no one pays him for the long, hard hours of labor which he must perform three hundred and sixty-five days out of the year in order to feed and clothe himself and family. The year's sustenance; the upkeep of the farm factory, the wages for labor, the profits must all come out of the crops and the livestock. No one can secure him immunity to disastrous weather conditions; no one guarantees him a profitable market for his crops.

If the farmer is a slacker, we want a new name for the so-called "patriots" who are working on

#### Bereaved

FOR THOSE who sit alone on Holidays  
And think "a year ago one loved was near!"

For those who give their mead of kindly cheer

With aching heart and brave unfaltering gaze;

For those whose household echoes never more

The sound of feet that wandered Heavenwards!

For hearts bereaved and comfortless and sore,

Thy pity give, oh God, on holidays!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

government contracts at cost plus ten per cent. If the farmer is a slacker, what do you call the able-bodied "increased production" experts who are running around the country spending the people's money to tell him so?

We want a new deal for the farmer. We want those who can't tell a sheep from a hog to mind their own business and quit libeling the man who feeds them. We want the government to forget increased production until it gets a distributing machine that will take care of normal production. We want the experts to build a short, straight road from producer to consumer, cutting out a half dozen jobbers and dealers and commission men and speculators who fill one pocket at the expense of the farmer and the other at the expense of the consumer. Then retail prices will automatically go down, and prices at the farm will go up. Result, increased consumption, increased production, and a lot of profiteers out of a job.

History does not afford a finer example of loyalty and patriotism than the spontaneous response of the American farmer to his government's pleas for increased production. It wasn't necessary to draft him into service or call him into conference and make him glowing promises of "ten per cent" contracts. No! The word was spoken that the American farmer must feed the Allies; without a grumble he shouldered the solemn responsibility and bent his back to the task. Seed was high, machinery was high, labor was high. But the farmer never wavered in the performance of his duty. If he didn't have the money he borrowed it. In many instances he put every last penny in his name into those crops, taking fearful chances against crop failure and low marketing prices.

And then what happened to this loyal soldier of the soil? A price was set upon his wheat; an attempt was made to set the price upon his beans; arbitrary rules were established for the grading of his potatoes; the labor on which he had depended to harvest his crops was drafted in army service. And if this were not enough to discourage any mortal man, he was spat upon and called slacker because he could not contribute all that a few city bankers and "ten per cent" patriots thought he ought to contribute to the Liberty Loan and Red Cross campaigns. He already had done his part when he put practically every idle dollar he possessed into crops.

The farmers of the United States are doing their best to be patriotic but it's up hill work. Theirs is a practical patriotism and finds expression—not in mere words—but in deeds, in service to

humanity. They don't get up on the hay mow and proclaim their patriotism to the world, which is probably the reason they are so little understood by their publicity seeking critics. But in the quietude of their environment, the farmers are working industriously, unselfishly and well, giving all and more to their beloved country than any other class of people, uncomplaining of many unjust discriminations and asking nothing more than the recognition of their common and inalienable rights.

#### A Note of Warning

WHILE THE various administrative departments at Washington are under the fire of congressional investigations, it might be well for the farmers of the United States and particularly of Michigan to urge their senators and representatives to find out why every branch of the Food Administration which is attempting to exert control over the production, grading and marketing of farm crops is dominated by representatives of organizations which prior to the war were inimical to the interests of the producers.

To clarify our point, we need only mention that the bean department is under the active charge of Mr. K. P. Kimball, formerly associated and still claimed to be affiliated with the Isbell Bean company of Detroit. The present active head of the department is Mr. E. P. Miller of the Albert Miller commission house of Chicago, buyers and shippers of potatoes. Associated with Mr. Miller, however, is Mr. Lou D. Sweet of Colorado, a capitalist by trade and a farmer by fad. Undoubtedly they are capable men, sincere in their desire to be of service to the nation and earnestly striving to perform to the satisfaction of all the work that has been laid out for them. But it is not to be expected that any of these men can appreciate the problems confronting the average farmer or know what is best for his interests. Not to our knowledge is there a single representative farmer sitting in the councils of the nation to give the farmers' viewpoint on the many important measures that are being passed from time to time affecting his welfare. Prices have been set upon his products, arbitrary grading rules have been established without his knowledge, counsel or consent, and the control that has been attempted over his products begins to infringe upon his rights.

The farmers of so important a bean and potato growing state as Michigan should have a representative upon the bean and potato committees at Washington, and all future control over these commodities should reflect the sentiments and policies of the growers.

The Food Administration had innumerable and stupendous tasks to perform during the brief period of its existence, and it is not surprising that mistakes should have been made. We can pardon the errors of the past, but there can be no further excuse for the Food Administration's failure to give the farmers of the country representation on the boards and committees which are attempting a control of the farmer's products. It is of the utmost importance that this be done. The farmers must have a voice in the control of their own business, less ignorance and the poor judgment of unsympathetic minds continue to heap injustice upon them and finally drive them to desperation. Mr. Hoover, the welfare of this nation depends upon the welfare of the farmers. Take them into your confidence, your conferences; give them a hand in the administration of affairs in which they are vitally concerned. Make them your partners, and you'll find what loyal partners they can be. But deny them longer their right to a voice in these important matters and production will surely slump. It is a note of warning we give.

#### Merry Christmas

THE PUBLISHER, the editors and all who have a hand in the making of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING wish you all, dear friends, a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are deeply grateful for the thousands of new friendships we have formed the past few months; no Christmas offering that money can buy could bring us greater pleasure than the expressions of confidence and approval which you have given us, and we will consider the new year especially kind if it gives us the opportunity to be of continued service to the men and women of the farms.

One Prof. Wilbur told a gathering of farmers at Lansing recently that they ought to forget prices and profits, and put every acre to work. If the Professor will hand his next pay-check back to the government, put a mortgage on his house, and get out in the fields and help to increase production on a commission basis, his judgment may be worth something.





## EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

## Milk Commission's Recommendations Hard on Jersey Men.

I will endeavor, as you requested, to give you some of my views on the milk commissioners' report. I have been very much interested in reading the report of the men appointed by the governor to investigate conditions and also to fix prices on market milk.

I think that the most of their findings and decisions are fair to all parties concerned, but there are some points that a great many of us who produce high-testing Jersey milk, are very much dissatisfied with; the main one is the limit of butter fat content for which they will pay, to 4.2 per cent. Now, while they have raised the price to one cent a point, yet the limit of 4.2 per cent makes a lower price than the old price of 3 cents a point for all there is in it. Butter fat is bringing a pretty good price at present, considerable more than 4 cents a point, which makes it only 40 cents a pound.

I, for one, should like to know why we should not get pay for ALL we furnish. If those commissioners have an idea that the consumer will get a better quality of milk on account of the change they have another guess coming, for the distributor will skim out that extra fat with the rest that he takes out, and Mr. Consumer will get the same old blue milk that he always has.

It is a pretty good boost for the Holstein breeders' Association, but a hard knock for us who have spent years in building up a herd of high-testing Jersey cows. I notice that the ——— gives the price decided upon as \$3.35, while MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING gives it as \$3.25; which is right?—J. H. S., Washington, Mich.

## Potatoes Once Too Big; Now Too Little

Would say that I am more than pleased with your paper. Enclosed you will find a one dollar bill for subscription. In regard to the grading of potatoes as No. 1 and No. 2, would say that I think if they would pay within a very few cents for No. 2 as they do for No. 1, it would be all right. I think if they will recall a few years ago, not more than 5 or 6, if the crafty buyers will think back that far; I can well remember, as I had 3,500 bushels of fine potatoes, but every load I drew to market they would pick out from 5 to 10 bushels that were too large for them. They said the consumers wanted smaller potatoes. It is just a game of the buyers to make a good big profit off the farmers. The farmers around here are up in arms over this grading business. I think if the government don't do something about it they will go hungry for potatoes another year. I read a little article in the Press the other evening that kind of pleased me, where there was a big gun giving a little advice to the farmers. He said they did not want to stop and consider the price of anything these times, that they wanted to grow more to win the war and I'll bet a bushel of potatoes that the sucker is getting from two to three thousand per.

In regard to the beans would say that they are a pretty poor crop. Was at the elevator today and saw a man bring in the yield from six acres in one bag. Some crop! Have not threshed my crop yet, hardly dare to. Ought to have \$10 a bushel for them this year. Here is good luck to you. Go after the speculators' hides.—C. H. W., Williamsburg.

## Must Have \$8 for Beans

Enclosed find my check for \$1 for M. B. F. for one year. We are very much pleased with the paper and are glad to read the letters of other farmers in regard to the potato grades, and also the price of beans

in the different localities of the state of Michigan. Now, I think the farmers are very anxious to cooperate with the Food Administration in every way and to increase their acreage where possible, but they certainly have got to be compensated for their labor or else they would not be able to farm more than one season, and it is sure that they can't raise potatoes at all, and have them run over an inch and seven-eighths screen with the price of No. 2's only 60 per cent of No. 1's, when the No. 2's are really the best eating potatoes. The majority of the farmers in Michigan this year will not make expenses out of their beans unless they receive at least \$8 for them very soon. Beans thru this part of the county went from 2 to 5 bu. per acre and some were not pulled at all. The wages this fall were from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day and help was very scarce at that, so it seems to me it would be very easy for anyone to see that the farmers are not asking anything unreasonable. They must make at least a living. The prices at the elevator here Dec. 6th were: Beans, \$11.75 per cwt.; potatoes, \$1.25 per cwt. for No. 1; red wheat, \$2.05 per bu.; rye, \$1.70.—E. H. G., Fairview Farm, Mecosta county.

## The Farmer Should Get a Profit

I enclose one dollar for the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. The farmers around here think it hits the spot. A farmer should try to get a good price and a fair profit and also help a brother farmer do the same thing, and do it without so much strife. I do not know so much about figures and details but will refer you to your paper where it tells about the champion cow. I keep from five to six cows all the time and I never had one that could anywhere near compete with her, and then I will ask our city cousins if they think the farmer is getting rich. I should think that some one has "put one over" on the spud raisers, as the one which goes thru the screen is the best. I have just threshed 12 acres of beans and they went over 14 bu. to the acre, a little better than the average.—J. V., Breckenridge.

## What About the Up-State Milk Problem?

I am an interested reader of your paper. I just noted in your last paper that the milk producers around Detroit were getting a raise in price of milk. They are organized. What about the majority of the farmers of Michigan who are unorganized and are selling their butter fat to the creameries? My question is are they getting paid for costs when they get 50c or less for butterfat? We'll take the Detroit commissioners' findings as a basis for costs and then allow a little, as it probably doesn't cost the average farmer quite as much as the man who sells milk for upkeep and the like. It takes a good bunch of cows to average over 47 per cent. At 50c per lb. it makes our milk bring \$2 per hundred. Then we have the skimmed milk. But we can buy a lot of midlings for the difference in price. Now, what I would like to have some one tell me is how we can afford to feed grain to cows at present prices of feed and butter? If this deserves attention I

would like to hear from others. Also I would like to know what the commission men are making.—D. S., Levering.

## A Splendid Editorial by a Woman Reader

Will you kindly tell us how we, who are living on a run-down farm, are to get our land seeded to clover, with clover seed at the price it is climbing to? We wanted to buy it with our potatoes, and have but a few to spare. There are several things we would like to do to help out in this undertaking, namely the increase of food for ourselves and also the supplies needed by other nations, but with the seeds of all kinds needed on the average farm, which we did not raise nor can we raise as yet, until land is properly fertilized, so scarce and high, where are we to look? The frost destroyed our seed corn entirely. We had no corn at all, and potatoes are a poor quality and only a small crop, owing to frost, wire worms and scab, and our hobby is good seed and good care. We hand-picked our own beans last winter, as I did the former winter; had excellent beans in 1916, but this year, with the frost and too much rain, the quality is poor and only 35 bu. from 10 acres; threshers' bill \$10. We have to give handsome prices for dry goods. The merchants cry, "Oh, but we will have to pay a big price to fill our shelves when these are sold." When these same goods were bought at the low prices. I suppose they think farmers don't think any farther than that. Of course they don't make any profit on the new goods. They compel us to send to the catalog houses, while they might have our trade by selling at a reasonable profit. They feel so badly at having to charge us such prices, "but boo-hoo, we can't help it." They do more complaining than the farmers so to make us feel good. I feel just good enough to say "please kindly lay the poor thing on the lowest shelf and give it another good smoking."

We are heartily glad of the chance to read such a stirring paper. We enjoyed the Jackson editor's side of farming. Our paper arrives promptly Saturday and you can write this down in your memory, that it don't get to be waste paper at our home, it's too crammed full of goodies like the ginger cookie jar. I think we could overcome the 1 1/4 inch potato screen trouble by using more of those good cheap(?) seconds for seed. Bring them home, they are generally free from scab and are a good size to cut or peel or to plant, or bake. You would think we farmers were Germans, the way we have to fight, with the difference that our backers are loyal to our interests instead of their own.—Mrs. W. A. S., Pierson.

## Many Farmers Will Cut Potato Crop

Give the farmer a chance and he will do what is right and fair. Last winter and last spring they urged the farmer to increase the acreage. We did, we plowed up our good meadows to raise beans and potatoes and had a bad summer, early frosts and a lot of bad weather. We paid all kinds of prices for help and did not get a half crop, and then to spring this potato grade on us was a rotten deal.—A. J. S., Rockford.

## Holdino for Higher Prices

In regard to the potato screen: This part of the country is quite a potato section, but the early frost did the crop up fully one-half, and 50 per cent would be No. 2 on an average for the whole country. The farmers are disappointed, they looked for \$1 per bu. and all the buyers are paying is \$1.25 per hundred for No. 1. Most of the buyers are holding for better prices. They say they will feed all of the No. 2 grade and cut down their acreage next year if something is not done soon.

Beans were poor, only about half a crop and they were badly damaged by wet weather. At \$8 per bu. we will only come out with a small profit.—C. L., Isabella county. (Readers' Editorials Con. following page)



A pile of dead taken from the ruins of Halifax. A large part of Nova Scotia city crumbled to earth from the impact of a terrific explosion on board the munitions ship, Mount Blanc when it collided with the Imo, a Belgian relief ship. The devastated district was thickly populated, and in addition contained many public and historic buildings. The greatest loss of life was among school children, a number of the school buildings being razed to the ground or burned from fires that almost immediately started up after the catastrophe.



## EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

## Thresher Report on Beans Not Reliable

The matter of two grades of potatoes has been "cussed" and discussed until there seems to be nothing original one can say on the subject, but I will say that I am opposed to the present method of grading. It is certainly detrimental to the grower and is of no benefit to the consumer; the only one benefitted is the buyer.

I have noticed that each man who operates a bean thresher has to send in a report each week of the number of bushels threshed, evidently to give the food commissioner a line on the number of bushels raised in the state this year. Now beans in this vicinity will test from 4 to 30 lbs. per bu. and I presume they are not much better in other parts of the state. When these reports are all in how much of an idea can they have of the number of bushels that will be fit for human consumption? It seems to me that each lot of beans should be tested by the man operating the machine and the test sent in with the report, then they would know how many good beans were produced, and if this method had been carried out all through the threshing season they would have found that Michigan had a very light crop of beans this year.—W. D. Tustin.

## Why Don't Government Set Price on Both Buying and Selling

It would be a good plan for the government to set the price on both buying and selling in our towns. Bread flour is selling for \$14.50; bran is selling for \$2.25 per hundred; middlings \$3.00 per hundred. Wheat is \$2.00 per bu., it should be \$2.10. Beans are \$6.50 per bu. We poor people have bills to meet and the banks will not renew our notes, and thereby force us to sell at these low prices. On account of corn and beans being a failure I have to sell my cows and some have had to hold auction sales to sell their stuff to meet their bills and notes and they discount the latter 5 per cent besides charging 7 per cent interest. If Mr. — had not promised the farmers \$6 per bu. for beans up in this country where it is not adapted to beans, we would not be so shy for hay, and I am one of the d—f— who plowed up 5 acres of good meadow, paid \$10 for seed and got 3 bu. This has caused a shortage in the hay and we have therefore been compelled to sell our stock.—F. A., Sears.

## What it Cost Me to be Patriotic

In regard to the potato grading, I think it is a hard blow to the farmers. Something has got to be done or the potato acreage will not run more than one-half another year. Last spring the farmers were urged by the government to increase their potato acreage which was done with a will, and now to be let down with the new potato grades and the price running far below a dollar a bushel, which we expected to get. At this writing potatoes are selling at Wyman at \$1.25 per cwt. for No. 1 and 70c per cwt. for No. 2. It is not an easy matter to raise 10 acres of potatoes when you planned on planting only five, as some of those fellows on the Food Administration think, as farmers all plant crops on a three and four-year rotation plan.

I will give the Food Administration a few facts about five acres of potatoes which I planted last spring in answer to their call. I turned down a crop of new seedling about the middle of June, which would have made me two tons of hay per acre, and planted it to late potatoes, and I harvested 900 bushels. Now, then, that may sound big to them, but that is not all. They must understand it is some expense to raise a crop like this. I planted 32 bushels of seed worth \$3.00 per bu. at planting time; used 30 lbs. paris green at 60 cents per pound and paid a boy \$2.25 for cultivating while I fought potato bugs. Then it came digging time, with ten acres of potatoes to be dug by hand with no help to be had (as the draft took a number of boys from around here.) I went at it myself and worked from daylight until long after dark through rain and snow, Sundays and all, until at last I got them taken care of with no time to market until I was through digging. Then came the new so-called government grading, and the price dropped from \$1.15 per bushel to \$1.35 per 100 pounds for No. 1 grade, which is good sound stock that will go over 1 15-16 inch screen. I am only one of many who have been caught like this. What we want is a square deal for this year's crop.

and we as farmers will do our best next year. I would recommend a 1½ inch screen for potatoes with no second grade.—J. D. McC., South Isabella County.

## Protests Against Potato Grading

I see by your last issue that Editor Slocum is going to Washington on business, therefore I am writing you a letter in regard to the potato grading. We, the farmers of Mecosta county, do hereby protest against the unjust and unfair way the potato dealers are grading and screening our potatoes, and as we understand, the Food Administration is back of the same. What we farmers demand in this grading business is just one grade, and the use of just one screen and that 1½ inch. The way it is now by using the 1½ inch for the No. 1 grade, most of our potatoes would screen half second grades, which we get just fifty per cent of first grade price for, and the second grade is the best stock. We would like to have the Food Administration show us how we can live by getting about sixty bu. to the acre and then have them screen half of them into seconds, and then get fifty per cent less per bushel for them than we get for the No. 1 grade.

I think I am safe in saying that I am speaking for the farmers of the State of Michigan as well as for those of Mecosta county, and I am sure if they do not change the grading the Food Administration will see the potato acreage cut fifty per cent next year. The farmer is not going to raise a crop and lose money by doing so. Now, Mr. Slocum, we would like to have you represent us at Washington, for we don't know of anyone who can represent us so well as you can, for you know by the many letters you receive just how unfair and unjust the farmers are being treated.—F. D., Rodney, Mich.

## Who is the Anarchist—Farmer or Speculator?

I noticed a small article in your paper about graham flour, in the Dec. 1st issue.

This is a fair sample of the condition the people of the U. S. are up against; it is also an example of the cause of Armageddon—PROFITS!

About a month ago you published an article, "Who Gets the Profit?" Prices were quoted by the Traverse City Milling Co., as follows: Selling price of Graham flour, 5 1-2c a pound, \$3.30 a bu. Buying price of wheat, \$1.90 per bu."

NOTICE! \$3.30 minus \$1.90 leaves \$1.40 for grinding a bushel of wheat! Nearly SIX TIMES as much as the law allows.

November 22nd a friend of mine went to Copemish to the grist mill. They charged six cents a pound for graham flour and were paying \$1.85 for wheat, which is \$1.75 for grinding a bushel of wheat, over SEVEN times as much as the law allows.

Who said "Anarchist?" I have understood that it meant a person or combination of men, who have utter disregard for the law.

The last price list of T. C. M. Co. gave graham flour selling at 5c a pound. Wheat, buying, per bushel \$2.00, which equals one dollar for grinding a bushel of wheat; that is, they add 50 per cent to the cost of wheat.

Now, if the government wants to add \$1 a bushel tax to wheat I don't kick, but to have our "commercial patriots" collect it, it don't look good to me. What's the remedy? Listen, Mr. Consumer in town and Mr. Farmer in the field, unless you

are willing to vote to have the state own the flour mills, pay your tribute to commercial piracy or go hungry.

P. S.—Did you say private ownership spells "SERVICE and EFFICIENCY?"

Yours for the rights of men and hungry children as against the rights(?) of man well fed.—F. S. H., Frankfort.

## All We Want is Just Compensation for Labor

For the benefit of a score or more of farmers in this section of the county of Osceola, I would most respectfully ask you: Is it a fact that this potato screen was first put into use this fall by the request of the government and is now in by and thru the order of the government?

"Is that a fact," or in other words, does this government sanction and advise the potato syndicate to deal with the poor farmers in such a damnable, ruthless, unmerciful way, as they have started in the past few weeks? We, as farmers, are a class of hard working men, our families as a rule are industrious and saving, and as free to give to the Red Cross, or to aid the government to help put down this unholy warfare as any other class of people on the face of God's green earth. We as farmers and loyal citizens did as we were advised by government agents last spring. We did all in our power to get the crops in and care for them, but as we all know, our season was most unfavorable for corn, beans, as well as potatoes to quite an extent. We have no corn at all, and a small crop of beans, considering the acreage planted. The farmers in this country as a rule, are in the worst plight for paying their taxes and getting through the winter with a decent shirt, that I have known for years. We do not want to sell poor, scaly, miserable potatoes by any means, but what we do want, is a just compensation for our labor and not be made to suffer at the hands of contemptible sharks.

I value the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING publication, the highest of any other paper I read. I glory in just such metal as is displayed in its editors. I would like you to publish my letter for it voices the sentiments of a score of my neighbors. We will not calculate on planting any more than potatoes enough for our own use next year if the devils succeed in carrying out what they are trying to this winter.

Now, we would like to hear what you think of our idea, hit or miss.—H. B. C., Dighton, Mich.

## A Thresher's Experience With Beans

As one of my neighbors and myself own together a threshing machine and are thus in a position to know something of the conditions of the bean situation of this community, I am taking this opportunity of stating the facts gathered from my experience, and since the new law which compels all persons operating threshing machines for hire to take out a license and report weekly to the Secretary of State the number of acres and bushels of such kind of grain threshed, I consider I have what may be considered somewhat of an inside track on the facts compared to what the individual farmer may have. On all beans threshed so far the average yield has been 5.06 bushels per acre, and with the exception of one job, my own beans, were the best we have threshed this year, and I sold 30 bushels of my best ones, for I had them graded into three different grades before threshing and those tested out 18 pounds to the hundred after running them over the bean machine in the elevator, which takes out all shrunken beans and fine dirt; then they docked me 13 pounds to the hundred for moisture. I think I am safe in saying that the majority of the beans we have threshed so far this season will pick away one-half.

I hope that the Food Administration will not only note these facts but also bear in mind that when we sell our beans the buyer not only deducts the amount of pickers but also charges the grower four cents a pound for hand-picking the beans and then turns around and sells the cull beans for nearly or quite as much as he allows the grower for the beans machine run. Now here are some of the figures on the beans I sold:

Five bushels, 24 lbs. deducted for pickers, \$12.96 deducted for picking 2.24 lbs. deducted for moisture, and remember, these were good ones and mine were about the best grown in this community this year.—E. A. B., Williamsburg.



The Absorbing Topic



# LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

## Milo D. Campbell Gives Review of the National Milk Situation

President of National Milk Producers' Federation Shows Why Farmers Must Receive More Remunerative Prices for Product

A few weeks ago the editors of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING wrote to Milo D. Campbell of Coldwater, president of the National Milk Producers' Federation, and asked his views on the National Milk situation and future developments. Our letter chased Mr. Campbell half way across the continent and back again, but finally overtook him, and we are pleased to give the following sensible and complete resume of the milk problem, from the pen of this very busy and able man:

Your request of some days since ought to have had attention before, but things have been moving so rapidly of late along the milky way, that time has not offered a minute for compliance.

You ask the outlook upon the milk situation and the probable outcome of the investigations now in progress. I would be inclined to shake my head, if it could be done in a letter. There are so many angles to the problem that must be considered that it requires some guessing of course. But here are a few facts to be considered by producers, for in them I am primarily interested.

Along in August this year, there were called together in Washington, representatives of Milk Producers, associations from all over the United States. At that meeting a conference was had with Mr. Hoover, and an agreement made that an investigation be made by the Food Administration into the cost of producing milk.

He insisted that the data upon which such investigation should be made must be in before the first of September, or within a very few days thereafter. The data was gathered from Agricultural colleges from experiment stations and from most reliable sources over many states, and was in on time. There was not a word of biased or unofficial testimony produced.

To consider this testimony, to weigh or reject it, Mr. Hoover appointed a committee of eminent experts, not one of whom was suggested by the producers. Within a few weeks this committee had found the facts as to the cost of milk production, but up to this day that report has never reached the public, though it is now in process of publication. As a matter of fact the cost was found to be so much higher than the consuming public

had been paying, that many producers, who had no means previously of knowing even approximate cost, would have quit the business, unless ascertained cost could be realized. It was for this, or some other unexplained reason that these cost figures were not given to the public, while the delay has caused widespread comment if not criticism.

Mr. Hoover had before him a great problem. In the cities there were the poor who must have milk for their children, and for their sick, and the charge was being freely made that the farmers were taking advantage of the war to profiteer. In some of the states elections were coming on and ambitious politicians seized the opportunity to make this a campaign cry. They filled the public press from day to day with columns telling the sins of the farmers and of their organized trust.

Suits were begun in Chicago and Wisconsin, and many others were threatened over the country. It is not through the ignorance of the consuming public, nor through their over credulity that they fully believed the farmers were undertaking to put one over on them. If the Hoover report had been published, as I believe it should have been, there would yet have been many doubters about the cost of producing milk. They would have charged the investigation as having been one-sided, and that it afforded the consumers no opportunity to be heard. To remedy this it was agreed that there should be regional hearings over the country, at various points, and that such hearings should be open to everybody, to producers, consumers, federal, state and local officials, and that the commissions should be appointed by the Food Administration. Such commissions have been appointed in the cities of New York, Chicago, and Boston. The hearing in Detroit was by agreement, out under like directions as those above, and just as fairly and openly conducted. No report from these three cities first above named has yet been made, but probably will be by January first.

It was thought that when such reports were made, that they would have the effect to control prices pretty generally over the country. These commissions are largely made up of men

who are not producers. They are men of high standing, and represent all classes of our people; and unless they shall be influenced by other considerations than the evidence produced, will render a verdict that ought to have great weight. The prices they will fix will be such as can be adjusted to varying conditions. This has already been explained in most of the farm journals. There will be a formula, making it easy to know what is the cost of producing milk, when grain, hay, silage, labor, etc., are different in value than they are at present.

No class of men in the country, now or ever before, who have made a fairer offer to the public, or to the public authorities than have the milk producers through their organizations.

Where is there another article of food, of clothing, of household use, of any class anywhere, that has offered itself to the ex-ray of investigation, and has said that all that was asked was simply the cost of production, plus such reasonable profit as the government should fix? Of course there are some profits over cost, guaranteed by the Government in other lines, but none where the business is put upon the gridiron for cross-examination and investigation as in this case.

I believe the public will accept willingly the result of these investigations. They must, or the world will lose the dairy cow and dairy products. Between thirty and forty millions of dairy cows have gone to slaughter in European countries since the beginning of the war and more will go. We have many less than we had a year ago, and they are rapidly going. Farmers are just like other manufacturers, for milk is a manufactured product. They will quit the business when it ceases to pay cost. Altruism with them is just as deep as with the other class, but no deeper. They will contribute as much as the people of the cities to provide starving babies with milk, but cannot afford to starve their own children by doing the whole business.

When the people of the cities find out that it really costs the farmer what he is asking and getting for his milk, they will be satisfied with him and willing to pay such cost plus a reasonable profit.

I believe that a day of better understanding is coming, and that it will not be long, before the demagogues who fatten upon the misunderstandings of people along such lines will be obliged to find other vocations.

Another very important matter is worthy of mention. The people are just awaking to the fact that milk at the higher prices is yet the cheapest food that the people can get. That it must be had for the children and sick, if not for all. That without an abundance of milk children cannot develop healthy bodies, that they will become stunted, sickly, predisposed to tuberculosis and many other ailments, and that the race demands the help and life producing assistance of the dairy cow.

When consumers know that the price obtained for milk does not begin to follow the advance in cost of production; when they know that the increase asked of them is fully justified, they will not only acquiesce, but will be reasonable, as the American people always are, when fully informed. Otherwise democracy would not be worth fighting for.

(Continued on page 15)

## Don't Wear a Truss



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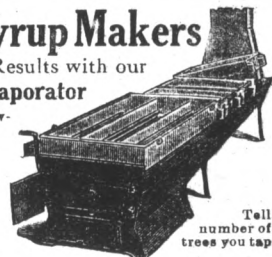
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## Veterinary Department

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

Will you tell us through the columns of M. B. F. what makes a cow give blue milk? It seems all right in all ways but that. She is quite thin in flesh all of the time. Was dehorned a year ago and was quite sick for a few weeks, but seems well now. She is 5 years old.—A Reader.

You failed to state whether or not the milk this cow gives is blue upon standing. If the latter it is due to a germ that gets into the milk usually thru the water that is used in washing the milk vessels or may be from the cow getting the teats wet with water that contains these same germs. If the milk is extremely blue this is no doubt the cause and if you will wash all the utensils with water that has been boiled and wash the teats before milking you can eliminate this trouble. If the milk is but slightly blue it may be due to the absence of fat or cream in it, thus it would look watery blue. I would advise a good diet for this cow and at each meal give her one tablespoonful of Fowler's solution of arsenic on the feed. This may be given on bran or chop.



The grand champion barrow and the grand champion pen of barrows exhibited at the International Live Stock Show, were purebred Berkshires shown by Hood Farm, Lowell, Mass. They were senior yearlings, and two of them weighed 625 lbs. each. The grand champion weigher 600 lbs.

The grand champion carload was a load of Berkshires bred, fed and shown by T. E. Bruner, Augusta, Ill., in class 250-and-under-350-lbs. This load averaged 331 lbs. and was the heaviest load in the Show. They sold for \$21.25 per hundred pounds. This is a new record price for all times. The price paid by Miller & Hart for this champion load was \$3.85 above the market price, and \$1.00 higher than any other load of show hogs.

In the carcass contest Berkshires won first, second and third in the heavyweight class on three barrows entered by W. S. Corsa, White Hall, Illinois, that were also the first prize pen of Berkshire barrows on foot, in the under one-year class and that weighed 1,435 pounds, an average of 478 pounds each.



## ANNUAL SESSION STATE GRANGE

### Large Delegation Helps to Make Forty-Sixth Annual Conven- tion a Splendid Success

The State Grange held its forty-sixth annual convention in the city of Jackson on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week with a large attendance of delegates. Unswerving loyalty to the government—the speeding of efforts, wealth and lives if need be, to win the war—were pledged to President Wilson by telegram. And this spirit of patriotism was further emphasized in Master J. C. Ketcham's address.

The routine of the convention was disturbed by the fireworks which Market Director McBride aimed at Jas. Helme, managing editor of the *Michigan Patron*, a full account of which is given elsewhere in this issue.

The Grange adopted resolutions urging international arbitration and disarmament after this war, indorsed equal suffrage and national prohibition, asked prohibition of exportation of whole grains or their products which are generally used for dairy or other live stock; and asked the secretary of agriculture to investigate at once the advisability of introducing some form of crop insurance.

The convention also indorsed all pure food laws and urged the labeling of perishable foods to protect the consumer. A demonstration agent in each county was also favored and it was recommended that a course in home economics be formed in all public schools.

A two per cent tax on the value of all unused or inadequately used land, urban or rural, was urged. As a means of obtaining money to carry on the war the grange also favored a tax on all incomes in excess of \$2,000 annually and especially a tax on war profits.

The convention also adopted a resolution urging the government to fix prices on products turned out by manufacturers and corporations, particularly products of grain mills and manufacturers of farm machinery. It was also asked that a representative of the agricultural interests be given place on this board.

Saginaw was selected as place of holding the 1918 convention which will be held for three days commencing the second Tuesday in December. Grand Rapids also sought the convention but Saginaw won by a small majority.

A. W. Thompson, Houghton; N. H. Hull, Diamonddale, and Burr B. Lincoln, Lansing, were elected trustees for two years.

A tonnage tax resolution which would tax copper and ore on a per-ton-mined basis, was tabled.

### INSIDE FACTS ON POTATO GRADING

(Continued from page 1)

and medium size." The same applies to Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, and other cities. So long as these grading rules are left in their application, to the conscience of the dealer and the local distributor, you are not going to relieve the transportation facilities, for the simple reason that all of the potatoes both first and second grades, go to the market. From my personal observation the second-grade "spuddies" will not have time to get lonesome, for they will soon join their big brother spuds after they leave the growers' hands and take a slide over the so-called government screen. 'Tis worse than folly to argue otherwise; buyers and dealers are human, that's all. Suggested grading rules, left to be arbitrarily enforced by men who profit through the handling of any product,

is worse than foolish—it's a crime against the interests of both producer and consumer.

Of all the lame and lamentable excuses the third (c) is the limit. Now get this: The ruling here made was secured by a member of the U. S. Food Administration, and your attention is called to the definite manner in which the proposition is handled:

"Potatoes, properly graded and packed and stored in a weatherproof and responsible warehouse, as evidenced by its receipt, would undoubtedly constitute a readily marketable, nonperishable staple within the meaning of the regulation. The member bank making loans against warehouse receipts for potatoes properly insured would, of course, have to satisfy itself as to the margin of its security and the conditions of warehousing, but after having done so, and making the loan, it could rediscount such paper with the Federal Reserve Bank for periods not longer than 90 days."

Get the words "would undoubtedly" and then consider the restrictions required. We submit that there is not a single section of the middle-west where the potato growers could take advantage of this provision of the Federal Reserve law. Possibly certain dealers might be able to hold their potatoes in "weather-proof and responsible warehouses" for ninety days in order to speculate, but how foolish to even suggest that the potato growers could in any way be benefitted through such a line-up.

So far we have been trying to locate responsibility; to find, if possible, the reason why the farmers of Michigan, and the middle west should be subjected to these new grading rules at this particular time. The origin of the recommendations have been traced to the Department of Agriculture, and all will admit that finally grades must be established on all farm products—in no other way can we determine values on terminal markets. But try as you may, you can't locate the fellows who started the campaign for grades, when the farmers were harvesting their crop. If new and untried grades were to be established for the 1917 crop of potatoes; the time to have announced the grading rules was before the farmers planted their potatoes; not after the work had been completed and the farmers had every reason to believe that former established grades would be adhered to.

This much responsibility the Food Administration must assume: "We recommend and urge the adoption of the following grades, which in our opinion will meet the needs of the Federal Reserve Board, as well as those of the dealers, growers and consumers." Surely the Food Administration was mild in its request; it stopped short with "recommending and urging." The needs of the Federal Reserve Board were thereby immediately satisfied; the dealers certainly would have no kick coming; all they had to do was to comply with the recommendations, and thereafter wash their hands from any and all troubles with the potatoes that found their way through the screen. And as for the grower and consumer, they could well take their chances between the

upper and lower mill-stones. The grower, if he finds a market at all, for his second grade, must take the price named by the buyer. No other way of escape; it's either "home to the hogs, or over the top into the dealers' no-price-land—for the second grades. And the consumer, poor fellow, all potatoes look alike to him; he never heard of grades, and he never will, unless the government establishes grades, makes them compulsory, and watches both the buyer and the dealer.

And now for a summing up. We have potato grades in theory, none in practice. The government suggested certain grades; the buyers adopted the suggestion, named these grades as those demanded by the government, and now sorrowfully look the grower in the eye, as they shake the screen; "W-a-l-l, if you have any kick coming, get after the government, the Food Administration established these grades." Four weeks ago a potato dealer over in Gratiot county was putting the potatoes from the farmers' wagon over a new screen. Isn't that mesh pretty large?" asked the farmer. "Nope," answered the buyer, "just bought it, it's Government screen." You will be interested in this little incident which occurred in the Bureau of Markets, during my interview. A bright young man, in Government employ, said: "I found many Michigan dealers were using the square screen. In one place a wagon load was run over this kind of a screen, and the percentage of small ones was quite large. I asked the dealer, after the farmer left, to run the screened potatoes over the semi-circular screen, and we saved just fifty per cent of the seconds for the first grade." The young man then apologized for making this investigation, saying that he realized that the department had no right to make suggestions as to shape of screens to be used. His superiors evidently felt that the young man had exceeded his authority, but changed the subject. Think of it! Authority to suggest grades! Authority to recommend the adoption of these grades; but—perish the thought—no authority to say how these grades may be legally and fairly secured!

Will the grades be modified or abandoned?

It is doubtful. I do not think pressure enough could be brought at this time to bring order out of chaos. The die has been cast; the injury, so far as the grower is concerned, is, in my opinion, irreparable. For years the Department of Agriculture has been working upon grades for all farm products. In the past congressional action could not be secured. Now the nation is at war and into the hands of the Food Administration has been placed full authority. It will be a bold step for the Food Administration to make grading compulsory, when no price guarantee is established, and yet, in my opinion that is what will be done.

I see no other way out of the dilem-

ma. This pussy-footing 'round will accomplish nothing. The Food Administration can not expect to solve a great problem by having half the states and half the dealers observing grading rules, and the other half paying no attention to their recommendations. The Food Administration cannot expect the potato growers to be satisfied when they alone are to carry the financial loss. When, if you please, grading is made compulsory to the grower, because of the united action of the dealers; and the dealers and grocers left to use their own discretion when it comes to dealing with the consumer.

From this hodge-podge, this belated, unwarranted and unnecessary grading will come something definite. Either the recommendations must be withdrawn, or enforced grading demanded. In my opinion the Food Administration will enforce the grades promulgated, and if such is the case, let the decapitation take place at once. Under present conditions the second grade is without a market, except where mixed with the first grade. There surely is no use of temporarily separating the spud family; if separation it must be let it continue on to the local grocery and into the homes, then No. 2 grade will establish its own price according to its intrinsic value, and not be subjected to the whims of the local buyer.

### BEANS RETAIL AT \$12.80 PER BUSHEL

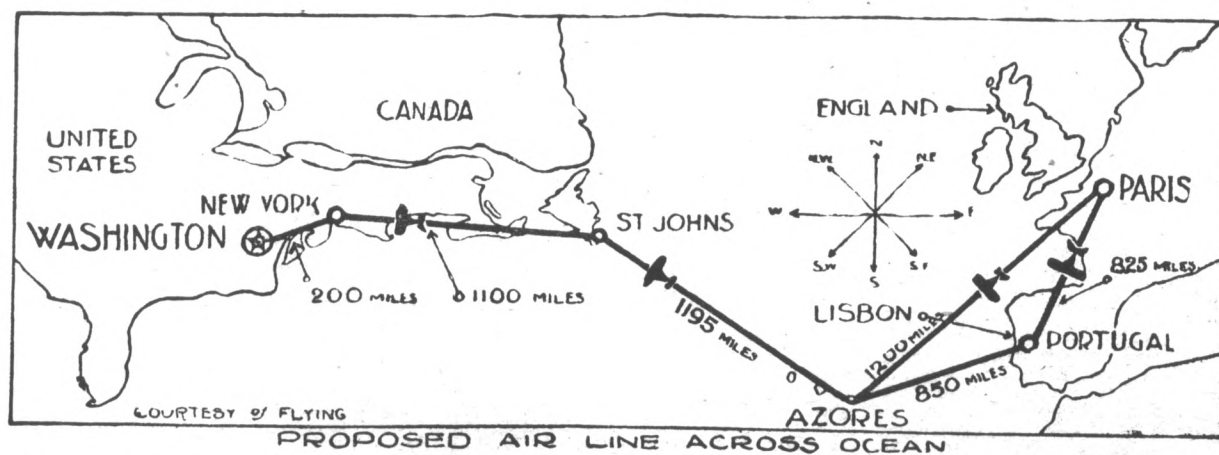
(Continued from page 1)

many of whom have been paying twenty-five to fifty cents more than the government's prices on its own purchases.

When beans are retailing at \$12.80 per bushel, it is pretty conclusive evidence that the supply is limited and the demand brisk. The only reason that beans are not commanding \$8 or \$9 per bushel today in Michigan is because enough farmers are disposing of their crops at \$7 per bushel to partially satisfy the demand. Were all the farmers of the state to suddenly cease selling beans, the prices would immediately mount. Dealers can safely pay more than \$7 when they can get \$10 and \$11 from the distributing houses. But in this connection, we wish to repeat what we have said before, that we believe it is the duty of the farmer who can make a fair profit on his beans at \$7 per bushel or less, to sell them at that figure instead of holding them for larger profits. But we as unhesitatingly say to the farmer who must have \$8 or \$9 per bushel for his crop, that we do not believe he is taking a single chance in holding for such an amount.

**—WILL YOU HELP BOOST and add ten thousand names to Michigan Business Farming? Every new subscriber is a boost for all of us.**

### AEROPLANES MAY CONVEY DISPATCHES FROM WHITE HOUSE TO GENERAL PERSHING.



Map showing Mr. Caproni's scheme to deliver General Pershing's reports to President Wilson and President Wilson's orders to General Pershing by air in forty-eight hours for each trip. The route would have five legs, as follows:—1. From Paris to Portugal. 2. Portugal to Azores. 3. Azores to Newfoundland. 4. Newfoundland to New York. 5. New York to Washington. A separate machine and crew would be used for each leg and there would be one machine and crew in reserve. The longest distance over water in this route is the leg from the Azores to St. Johns, Newfoundland, which is about 1,195 miles, therefore well within the flying range of the largest Caproni. The time of the trip could be reduced by flying straight from the Azores to Paris, which is a distance of about 1,150 miles without stopping in Portugal.



## County Crop Reports

**WEXFORD (Central)**—A full sized blizzard caught us last night and enough snow for sleighing caught us if it was equally divided. Some farmers are securing their winter's wood supply. Wood in this community will soon be a thing of the past. People are restricted in the way of buying sugar, at some places you can only purchase 25c worth at a time. I see where our county food commissioner C. R. Smith, is trying to make the consumers buy two pounds of meal with every pound of sugar. Meal has been selling at 10-lb. sack for 60c. Such extortionate prices are beyond anyone's comprehension. It is skimming the consumer out of the last cent. Now, in regard to the railroads, not being able to handle stuff, or the lack of cars; it is their own fault, as they have not repaired the broken cars until this fall. The last report we got was to the effect that they were 50,000 cars short. Evidently they collected the dividends, shoved them down and consequently there was nothing left to make repairs with. I presume they expected the government would take the railroads and then of course it would have to repair them. They are quite full of schemes, and they always have some excuse to ask for a raise of rates. The fact in the matter is they have fallen down on their jobs. As the president of the Santa Fee R. R. said, "If the government don't take hold of some of the roads the people will never get any service." And it looks that way to a man up a tree. Last year they had to resort to motor trucks to get stuff from New York to Chicago. Things that were shipped in January did not arrive until April. One of our farmers, Mr. Chas. Dehn, raised quite a few sugar beets and he is making syrup from them. It is real nice syrup and tests 90 per cent. Mr. Dehn says it beats paying \$1 per gallon for glucose. The way things look now quite a good many farmers will raise sugar beets next year in this vicinity; they can beat the sugar trust and the syrup trusts and that will help some. —S. H. S. Harrietta, Dec. 10.

**WEXFORD (South Central)**—A fierce storm has been raging since the 8th, the temperature on the morning of the 9th was 5 below zero, and we have had a heavy fall of snow. A few farmers are selling wood, which brings around \$3.00 per cord for 16 inch; others are cutting wood for their own use, while still others are just caring for their stock, and I think nearly all of them are doing some deep thinking these long stormy evenings about how they were taken in by the cry to plant all the potatoes you possibly can. They surely won't bring less than a dollar a bushel, they said and they also said "you can contract your crop right now for that." A lot of farmers that swallowed that kind of talk are feeling pretty sore at the present time, with falling prices and the two grade scheme that has been worked on them. I think the farmers would be satisfied with the use of a single screen of 1 1/4 inch mesh. At least I have never heard one of them object to it.—A. A. H. Boon Dec. 10.

**GRATIOT (Southeast)**—The farmers are not very busy these cold days. About three inches of snow fell last night and it is snowing quite hard this morning. Farmers are not selling much of their grain.—J. C. Bannister, Dec. 13.

**MONROE (West Central)**—We have had some real winter weather; the 9th it was 10 below zero with a hard wind blowing the snow in drifts, making the roads almost impassable in places. The farmers are busy doing chores and looking after fire wood. We are in need of a few car loads of coal, both soft and hard.—W. H. L. Dundee, Dec. 11.

**MACOMB (Northwest)**—The farmers are not doing much nowadays. Some are getting up buzz piles, as most all farmers have to burn wood now as coal is nowhere to be had. Farmers are selling a little wheat. Bean threshing is not all finished. Beans that were harvested early are not such a bad crop but late ones average about 3 to 5 bu. to the acre. A few farmers sold their hay a while ago for \$18 a ton, now it is \$21, but in another part of the county it is selling for \$24 at auction sales. Lots of farmers are selling out. Farm life is discouraging, three poor years and a big shortage of help for another year. A case of hog cholera has been reported on the county line, on the farm of Will Lobzain, several of his herd having died.—H. D. Almont, Dec. 12.

**MONTCALM (Northwest)**—The farmers are wading in snow now. The road work has slackened a little, but gravel is still being hauled. The potato crop has started to move a little and the price dropped again. It looks to me as though the buyers were afraid to buy, and they are trying to get all they can for less money, for they paid as high as \$1.75 in Greenville last week but went down when they got a load or two. Lakeview is a bum potato market. They will take your potatoes if you will sell them for from 25 to 50c cents less than they are at any other place. My potatoes will stay in the cellar until spring. I am not afraid of the price.—E. W. Coral, Dec. 11.

**BAY (Southeast)**—The prices here are about the same as last week. Coal is hard to get right here near the mines. They refuse to sell it to farmers and others at the mines. The last week was unusually cold here. The snow is making the roads bad.—J. C. A. Munger, Dec. 15.

**GLADWIN (Southwest)**—Public sales are the order of the day with feed selling at high figures, some hay going at \$24.00 per ton. Horses are not selling well, as some good young ones have gone at \$75 to \$100. The cold snap of Saturday and Sunday was felt as there is no coal and wood is getting scarce, but we will live

in high hopes as coal is said to be on the way.—V. V. K. Beaverton, Dec. 12.

**SAGINAW (Western)**—14 below zero and about 8 inches of snow. Not much doing at present except doing chores. O. W. Stevens, who settled here shortly after the civil war, died at his home in Owosso, Wednesday, the 12th.—G. L. St. Charles, Dec. 15.

**CALHOUN (West)**—Farmers are not moving much now except hay. Potatoes are at a stand-still just now, beans are not much good around here. They are paying \$7.20 a bushel. Hogs are a little slow now, there are not many A1 hogs left. Soft corn does not fatten hogs very well. Beef is also slow.—C. E. B., Battle Creek, Dec. 14.

**BENZIE (North)**—The weather since Sunday has been one continual snow storm; worse today than ever. Roads are drifted and trains all delayed. Farmers are drying their beans and holding them for \$8. The Federal Farm Loan Association is beginning activities thruout this neighborhood; refused loans on some of the best securities however, leaving some farmers very much discouraged indeed. I for one will be unable to farm next year unless I can raise the necessary capital.—G. H. Benzonia, Dec. 12.

**CHEBOYGAN (West)**—The ground is covered with snow to a depth of eight or ten inches, and the thermometer registers around zero much of the time. A great many beans are still in the stack and some fields of corn are still unhusked. L. E. B., Conway, Dec. 12.

**GENESEE**—Farmers have been threshing beans, husking corn and cutting wood up until last heavy snow, now they are not doing anything to speak of except their chores. The weather has been very cold for the past several days and we have had quite a lot of snow and in some places it has drifted in the roads so as to make them nearly impassable. Soils that had a cover crop or anything to hold the snow are well protected but those that did not are mostly without any protection at all. Farmers are not selling or buying anything at this time on account of stormy weather and condition of roads. Several hogs and other live stock were marketed the fore part of the week. A number of the farmers had their potatoes frozen in the cellars during the first of the zero weather.—C. W. S., Flint, December 13.

**MONTCALM (Western)**—Farmers are still threshing beans which are yielding poorly but are a nice quality in this locality. Most every home is in need of coal in this vicinity, also the city of Greenville which has not a supply of wood. Weather is very cold with a large amount of snow on the soil. Produce is moving very slowly. The meeting which was held at the D. B. S. hall last Friday evening was very interesting. Mr. Lord certainly hit these produce gamblers right and we all hope he will continue to do this and try to get the farmers together. There will be a farmers' meeting at the K. of P. hall Monday, Dec. 17, and we hope to see him there.—H. L. Greenville, Dec. 14.

**BENZIE (West)**—Most farmers are cutting wood. Bean threshing almost cleaned up. One machine operator says he threshed 7,000 bushels of beans with an average of about 4 bu. to the acre. 3,000 bu. of them were saleable. A big snow storm started Dec. 8 and continued until the night of the 14th, with the thermometer 7 below zero on the 16th, followed by almost continuous heavy snow, until there is now about 18 ins. of snow on the ground. Farmers are selling a little hay, holding beans and potatoes. Horses not selling at all. Cattle very slow. We see in the Press that the latest way for the government to economize is to do away with the R.F.D. If this proves to be true it is only one more slap in the face of the farmer, and that is all we are getting for our efforts. Where will they hit us next?—F. M. Elberta, Dec. 15.

**MIDLAND (Northwest)**—The weather has been very cold and stormy the past week. Farmers are not selling much of anything just at present. The hay is pretty well cleaned up around here. Most of the stock has gone into the winter in good shape. The farmers in general are busy getting up wood and hauling in feed.—F. A. L., Coleman, Dec. 13.

**BRANCH (North)**—Farmers are cutting wood and doing chores. Very cold; some report 15 below. Some snow. The farmers are selling some hay and grain, no stock this week. Farmers not holding much.—F. S., Union City, Dec. 15.

### CLEANING SEED GRAIN DURING WINTER MONTHS

Winter days when farm work is slack, can be well utilized in cleaning and grading the small grains for spring sowing (according to a statement just issued by the Seed Stocks Committee of the United States Department of Agriculture. This work should all be done before the spring rush in preparing the land and sowing the seed. Wheat, oats, barley, and flax for seeding can all be improved by running the seed through the fanning mill at least once to remove the weed seeds, chaff, broken straws and light shrunken kernels. The cleaned grain will run through the drill or other seeding machinery more evenly

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# THE FARM HOME

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



## Liberty Christmas Candies

**W**HAT ABOUT Christmas candies? Must candy be omitted from Christmas boxes for the boy at camp and the girl at school or from the little ones' stockings?

Before answering, let's face a few business facts. Our allies, France and Italy, are now dependent on the American sugar bin and the bottom of the bin is in sight. According to an authoritative bulletin, "the present period is one in which stocks are nearly depleted in the United States and the countries on which it draws."

Do these business facts mean no Christmas candy? Not if you are clever in combining fruits and nuts. Such sweets keep fresh a long time and are just the kind for Christmas boxes. They are delicious for deserts, are wholesome and universally liked. One cup of white sugar is enough for five pounds of these Liberty candies.

**Pop-corn Candy**—For making pop-corn candy either honey, maple syrup, molasses, white cane syrup or corn syrup may be used instead of sugar. To one cup of syrup allow one tablespoon of vinegar. Boil together until syrup hardens when dropped in cold water. Pour over freshly popped corn and mould into balls or fancy shapes for the Christmas tree. Little pop-corn men will please the children. Mark in the features and outlines with melted chocolate.

**Crystallized Fruits**—Use your own preserves. Peach, pear, apple, quince or watermelon rind will do. Drain from the fruit all syrup possible. Cut any size desired, sprinkle with sugar, and dry in the warmer or a very slow oven. It may be necessary to sprinkle the fruit again with sugar during the drying. When dry enough not to be at all sticky, sprinkle with sugar and pack in layers with wax paper between. This fruit may be used for dipping in bitter chocolate for bitter-sweets.

**Bitter-Sweets**—An attractive variety of candies may be made by dipping sweet fruits in bitter chocolate. Use for this purpose dates, citron, candied orange peel or crystallized fruit. Melt unsweetened chocolate in a double boiler. Keep the chocolate just warm enough to prevent solidifying. With a silver fork drop pieces of fruit in chocolate. See that each piece is completely coated, then remove to waxed paper to harden.

**Stuffed Dates**—Use the best dates. Remove the stones. Fill with peanuts, walnuts, hickorynuts or any nuts available. Peanut butter makes a good filling that is different. Press dates in shape and roll in granulated sugar, chopped nuts, or a mixture of cocoa and powdered cinnamon.

**Fruit Paste**—Put through the meat chopper enough cherry, peach, or quince preserves to make a half pint with the juice. Heat fruit and add two tablespoons of gelatin, previously softened in a very little cold water. Stir well and continue stirring until it begins to cool and thicken, then pour into oiled dish to make layer one inch thick. Let dry slowly, sprinkle with sugar and place in box with waxed paper between the layers. A mixture of dried apricots and dates may be used for this paste. Wash apricots and soak over night in enough water to cover. Pour off water, bring to a boil, pour over apricots and let stand until cool. Put apricots and dates through meat chopper, and proceed with the proportions as given.

**Chocolate Dainties**—Put through the meat chopper one-half cup each of dates, figs and nut meats. Add one tablespoon orange juice, a little grated orange peel, and one square of melted unsweetened chocolate. Mould into balls and roll in chopped nuts or granulated sugar. This mixture may be packed in an oiled tin, put under a weight until firm, then cut in any shape desired.

**Maple Creams**—Boil one cup maple sugar with one cup water until it forms a soft ball when dropped in cold water. Remove from the fire and stir rapidly until it becomes creamy. Form into balls the size of marbles and put nut meats on either side. Lay on wax paper to cool.

**Christmas Honeydrops**—Half cup butter, half cup granulated sugar, one cup honey, beaten yolks of two eggs, grated rind of lemon, three tablespoons lemon juice, the whites of two eggs beaten dry, three cups of sifted flour, one teaspoonful soda, more flour if needed. Mix as usual. Drop the dough by teaspoonfuls into a buttered baking pan, shaping into smooth rounds. A half cup or more of coconut added makes an edible cookie.

## Some Last Minute Christmas Gifts

**For Grandma:** A bag for her knitting. Wide satin ribbon, red, sewn into the shape of a Red Cross, makes attractive bags.

ANNE CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

## A Christmas Greeting

**D**EAR friends and neighbors, everyone,  
I wish you Merry Christmas,  
A heap of joy, a lot of fun,  
A merry, merry Christmas!  
Though trouble seems just everywhere,  
And war disaster's in the air,  
Let's us just pretend that skies are fair  
And have a merry Christmas!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

**For Father:** If you have not knitted a muffler for him for Christmas, start one for his birthday. This makes an ideal cold weather gift for a man. Father might like a bill-fold, and is always glad to get ties and handkerchiefs.

**For Mother:** A hot roll holder. This is made of five-eighths of a yard of linen, cut in the shape of a cross, pointed on each end. If you can crochet a piquet edge this makes a pretty finish; otherwise it can be scalloped or bound. Either the words, "Hot Rolls," "Biscuits," or "Toast," may be written or embroidered in blue at one of the ends of this hot roll napkin.

**For Big Sister:** A fancy corset cover would make a hit with big sister, who is very particular about her clothes. A yard and a quarter of crepe de chine makes four corset covers by combining with three-inch lace. Cut perfectly straight. Sew lace on upper edge of silk and hem down sides. Use narrow elastic at bottom and lace beading sewed on the under side of the top of the lace so as not to show where it is sewed on.

**For Brother:** A drum would please small brother, and a big brother always likes something in wearing apparel. A knife is always welcome, of course.

**For Aunt Lou:** There are six in Aunt Lou's family, including herself, so she would appreciate six single napkin rings made of linen. Cut the linen in strips three inches wide. Hem and feather stitch and embroider each with a small initial belonging to each one.

## Since the Boys Have Gone to War

**I**T doesn't seem like Christmas since the boys have gone to war,  
There aren't two happy giants to cook and bother for.

There's only Pa and I at home, and well,  
I must confess,  
There never was a darker seeming holiday, I guess.

**O**N that old worn-out mantel our boys' first stockings hung,  
And I played upon that organ the childish songs they sung.

Why the house is one vast echo of happy days of yore!

It doesn't seem like Christmas since the boys have gone to war.

**I**'VE baked and cooked and hurried to pack a Christmas box.

I made some home-made candy and I knitted them some socks.

I put in every goody I could think they would enjoy.

I hope 'twill make the trenches seem like Christmas to each boy.

**W**HY, it was just last Christmas we had such a jolly day.

All our relatives were with us; not a body stayed away.

Now our boys have gone to battle, and their cousins went before.

It doesn't seem like Christmas since the boys have gone to war.

**W**ELL, it doesn't seem like Christmas, But we're proud as we can be,

And we wouldn't have them home with us for millions, no-siree!

And though they're far away, now, Pa and I try not to mind,

For 'twould never be like Christmas if they were the slacker kind!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

**For your Girl Friends:** Tea or fudge aprons are always appreciated by young girls. Take two and one-half yards of linen eighteen inches wide, scallop or bind bottom. Cut hole for neck. Make box pleat and two side pleats at the back. Make a belt to cross in the front. A little design may be worked in the front and on the pocket. Natural colored linen worked in blue makes an effective combination.

**For your City Cousin:** A box of home-made candy, packed in a fancy little basket.

**For the New-Baby's Mother:** A very inexpensive gift for the new baby is a pad of bath aprons. Turn one-fourth of the material, or perhaps a little more down, and stitch across the top, allowing a half inch hem. Run this through with quarter-inch elastic. Hem the rough edges and featherstitch. Put ribbon on for ties. You see the idea is to lay the infant across the lap, using the under piece of flannel for a blanket, and the over piece to pat her dry.

## Cleaning Lamps

**T**HERE IS never any need of an odor from a kerosene lamp. Collect all your lamps. Have ready a basin of water with ammonia, a soft cloth, paper, and the kerosene in a can holding not more than two quarts. Remove all the lamp chimneys, and wash them one at a time, wiping and polishing each one with soft paper. Fill each lamp, using a small funnel for the purpose. Rub off the burnt portion of the wicks with paper. Do not cut the wick. Then every part of the lamp that can be reached should be washed off with soap and water, and dried. When one of the lamps begins to have a little odor, take the burner out, remove the wick and put into the stove to burn, and put the burner into an old pan with a solution of washing soda and water to boil until it is perfectly clean. Let it stay all day and put the wick in toward night.

If you wash lamps this way you will never be bothered with disagreeable kerosene odor.

## How Our Women Readers Can Help

**M**ANY LETTERS have been received from women readers of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING asking me to name some way in which they can help us spread the gospel of business farming and efficiency on the farm and in the farm house. To most of these I have said: "Your loyalty and friendship are enough; to know that you are with us in that heart gives us greater encouragement than the performance of any material act that I can think of."

But now I can suggest a way you can perhaps be of greater service. The editors have told me that they have decided to name a day on which every loyal reader who has expressed a wish to be of service will be asked to devote one or two or more hours in telling their neighbors about MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING and trying to get one or more subscriptions. And just as soon as I heard it I said to myself: "Well, here is a splendid way in which the women folks can do the thing they have wanted to do. I'll just tell them all about it."

Now, there isn't a doubt but what every one of my readers are as busy, busy, busy as they can be right now, but judging from some of the letters I've received from them, I know the most of them will somehow or other find a few moments to render this service to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING and the thousands of farmers and farmers' wives who read it each week.

So then I would suggest to those who want to contribute their mite to the great cause for which we are all working that they keep this Booster day in mind, and at every opportunity try to get someone who does not take the paper to become interested in it. If you find it impossible to get out of doors to do this, why not use your telephone? Call up some of your neighbors and tell them they ought to have this paper. Like as not most of them will say, "Why, yes, I do want this paper, but I've just neglected to send in my money." You will find it easy to secure new friends and subscribers to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, I am sure. And no matter what you do, whether you encourage one or a dozen people to become subscribers to this paper, your effort will be sincerely appreciated by the folks in the M. B. F. office. How many of my women readers can I count upon to help go "over the top" in that ten thousand new subscription drive? I'll be glad to hear from you at any time.—Anne Campbell Stark.



## MONTCALM FARMERS LAY PROTEST BEFORE HOOVER

Below is a copy of the resolutions passed by the committee appointed at a farmers' mass meeting at Greenville and sent to the Food Administration:

To the Honorable Herbert C. Hoover, U. S. Food Administrator:

WHEREAS: Your potato department has seen fit to make certain rulings relative to the grading of potatoes, and

WHEREAS: The potato growers of these United States were given no voice in the deliberations of this department, and

WHEREAS: At a meeting of five hundred potato growers of Western Michigan at Greenville, Michigan, on Dec. 7, 1917, the sentiment was unanimous that the rules of said department in regard to grading potatoes are unjust and unfair to the potato growers, and the potato growing industry of this country, and

WHEREAS: We, the undersigned, were appointed at the aforesaid meeting as a committee to place before your commission the protest of the potato growers of Western Michigan against the size of the mesh of the screen now in use in grading No. 1 potatoes, be it therefore

Resolved, That we respectfully petition your honorable body to make a rule requiring the use of a screen having a round mesh one and three-fourths inches in diameter for round potatoes to replace the large screen now required and to make it a misdemeanor to use a larger mesh in grading U.S. Government No. 1 potatoes for the purpose of removing the hardships imposed upon a great many growers having a large percent of potatoes that go thru the large mesh now in use, and for the purpose of getting a fuller co-operation of the growers with the Government in raising the 1918 potato crop.

Resolved, That in the future the farmers of this country be given a voice when radical changes are contemplated by our Government affecting the farming industry, in order that our Government may get a clearer idea of how the contemplated change will affect the representative farmer.

L. A. SIPLE,  
E. W. LINCOLN,  
CLAIR TAYLOR  
D. H. FISHER,  
J. E. TAYLOR.

## REVIEW OF NATIONAL MILK SITUATION

(Continued from page 11)

But consumers are not the ones most to be feared, it will be the fellows between the producers and the consumers. Not that they are bad fellows, nor because they are doing more than we would do if acting in their places; but from the very nature of conditions. When there are no organizations of producers or consumers, the rivalry, competition, and understandings are all with the middleman. They fix any price they please; and then go out to make their profit. And why shouldn't they? Why buy at the moon when the remedy is at hand? That remedy lies in organization, and in that alone. It has been only through organization that the dairy herds of this country have been saved through the present year. Had not many hundred thousands of milk producers organized for their own protection and obtained the hope of production cost, the cows of America would have followed the dairies of Europe to the shambles long before this. Those warring countries are almost without cows today; and ours, notwithstanding our increased price, have rapidly lessened in number.

The reports of these commissions will not be binding upon individual farmers, nor upon consumers, they will be advisory and directory only. Farmers without organization will again be at the mercy of the buyer and compelled to accept his offer, for milk is perishable and cannot be stored by the producer.

Organization is imperative. It may be interesting to the producers to know

that the organizations of milk producers in this country have been instrumental in saving, not alone the herds of the country from slaughter, but in bringing to the farmers for their milk and milk products during the last year, not less than two hundred and fifty millions of dollars that they would not have received without such organizations. This does not mean that so much profit has been made, for otherwise the cows would have gone to the butchers.

We produce about one hundred billion pounds of milk annually, and more than one-half of this is sold from the farm. If but one-half the increase in price be credited to organization, we will find that our estimate is low. No man who sells milk for distribution, for creamery, condensation or cheese should be outside an organization. It is his duty to encourage and support the organization that is working for him. He should not be a slacker and allow his neighbors to make the fight for him. If he has no organization near, he should form one in the neighborhood. The cost is nominal, and there can be no money so well and profitably invested.

The milk producers do not want inordinate profits, they only ask, during the period of the war, their cost of production and such reasonable profit as the government or the consumers themselves would approve.

If every other occupation and industry would show like patriotism and willingness, there would be little cause for complaint.

The hour is calling every man, woman and child to "face front;" to abandon selfish profiteering, to make sacrifices and to be considerate until facts are made known.

What we as milk producers have demanded of the consumers and of the public, we in turn must grant to Mr. Hoover and to the Government, in the conduct of the war. To do otherwise will create conditions approximating those of Russia. We need not overlook wrong-doing, nor fail to correct mistakes, but we must not breed national distrust, or lose sight of the ultimate goal.—Milo D. Campbell.



Philadelphia gets coal on physicians' prescriptions.

Colorado in 1916 produced 70,914,087 pounds of lead.

United States pays \$800,000 daily for food for soldiers.

Bermuda expects a 1917 potato crop in excess of 90,000 bushels.

Italy this year exported 67,204 boxes of lemons to the United States.

United States last year exported 128,755 tons of sulphur, valued at \$2,505,857.

Oak Park, Ill., prohibits automobiles being driven by children under 16 years of age.

Milwaukee will raise \$500,000 for a New Columbia hospital to be built immediately.

Up to November 1, United States has ginned 7,150,254 bales of cotton of the 1917 crop.

New Zealand's wheat crop has been purchased by the government at \$1.41 per bushel.

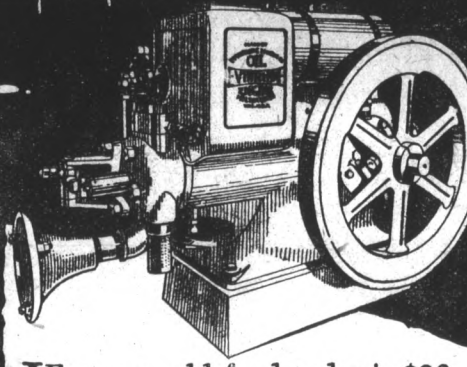
The Curtis Aeroplane and Motor Corporation is turning out eleven complete aeroplanes a day.

The island of Cuba offers every resource it possesses to the furtherance of a complete American victory.

Fifty-nine banks and trust companies were admitted to the federal reserve system during the month of November, raising the total of state institution members to 176.

The Food Administration advises that the sugar used in the United States for candy making alone, is sufficient to meet all the needs of England under the rationing system adopted there.

St. Louis has added \$19,498,364 to the manufacturing capital represented in the industries in the city. They have re-occupied over 2,200,000 square feet which was vacant during the first ten months of 1917 and have erected and occupy 3,300,000 square feet of industrial space in addition.



# SAVES 4/5 of the FUEL COST


**IF** you could feed today's \$20 pork on yesterday's 50 cent corn, your profits would automatically increase.

If you could run your gas engine today on yesterday's 10 cent gasoline, there would be another immediate increase in your profits because of an immediate decrease in your cost of production.

With the new Evinrude Oil Engine you use kerosene and low grade fuel oils—the cheapest fuels obtainable—and realize a clean saving of four-fifths of the fuel cost. Every atom of fuel is converted into energy.

Consider what that means. You get the same efficiency and power from these low priced fuels that you do from costly gasoline, yet four-fifths of the cost is saved, a four-fifths which goes directly into your pocket as added profit.

Combined with the economy factor are other features which make this the ideal farm power.



**EVINRUDE**  
ENGINE

(unconditionally guaranteed)

is heir to none of the usual gas engine difficulties. No carburetor or mixing valve, batteries, magnet, timer or spark plug to cause annoyance or create expense. It can be operated by the hired man or your boy as easily as by yourself.

The fuel is introduced directly into the cylinder by a patented spraying device and ignited by the high temperature generated by compression. The engine starts readily, even in zero weather and will run without attention as long as there is fuel in the storage tank.

**Tear out this page, write your name and address on the margin, and mail to us for catalog and fully descriptive literature.**

DEALERS. Responsible dealers are invited to write for full information as to exclusive territory.

**Evinrude Motor Co., 727 Evinrude Block, MILWAUKEE, WIS.**  
Also Manufacturers of the Evinrude Detachable Rowboat and Canoe Motor

## STARTS and RUNS on KEROSENE, FUEL OIL or ANY OIL THAT FLOWS

Canada has become a creditor nation since the war, although she is heavily indebted to the United States.

Thirteen Great Lakes steamers owned by American shipping interests and six ships of the Canadian Steamship Lines have been ordered to the coast. The thirteen ships, having a gross tonnage of 32,768 tons, will be cut in two in order they can be taken thru the Welland canal.

The Cadillac automobile concern is doing its bit to relieve railroad congestion by transporting completed cars to their destination under their own power. A regular driving schedule is maintained between their Detroit factory and Chicago and also Grand Rapids, not a car being sent by freight to either point.

Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, wife of the novelist, was the first woman to gain an air pilot's license in England, and she has now become the first woman head of an airplane factory. The factory employs girls and women almost exclusively. Girls and women cannot fly during the war as the planes cannot be spared to teach them but they can make planes, and they are doing so by the scores, according to Mrs. Hewlett.

St. Louis, Mo., is taking care of the fuel shortage by selling the entire output of two mines to the poor people of that city at 16c per bushel. A maximum of five bushels is allowed to each person and they are obliged to carry it home. The lease of these mines was originally made by that city for the supply of its civic institutions, but in order to relieve the in-roads have been opened for the distribution of this coal.

Enclosed find one dollar to pay my subscription to M. B. F. which is the best paper I ever took. Change my address from Harrietta, Michigan, to Franklinville, N. Y., R. No. 2, right away as I don't want to miss one copy. I am especially interested in the potato news as I have quite a few to sell. Why is it a government doings, grading the farmers' potatoes? They don't do it in all states. They do not here and the price is \$1.50 to \$1.75 a bushel. I hope you have good success with your paper.—H. A. R., Franklinville, N. Y.

## Late County Crop Reports

**ANTRIM (South)**—Farmers are kept pretty busy doing chores and getting wood these cold days; as snow is about eight inches deep and there is very good sleighing. Farmers are selling their hogs and cattle as prices are pretty good. Two carloads of hogs and cattle were shipped yesterday the 15th. There have been several cars of stock shipped from here this fall. Hay is selling here at \$22 per ton. Potatoes are being marketed at about \$1 per hundred, sorted over the large screen. Coal is much needed here in Alden, and wood is not very plentiful.—C. F. W., Alden, Dec. 16.

**ISABELLA (Central)**—Weather is very cold. Farmers keep busy cutting wood owing to the scarcity of coal. The farmers seem to be holding back their potatoes and beans, owing to the decrease in price. Some farmers beans crops were put in stacks so wet that hundreds of bushels have been wasted. A number of farmers in my immediate vicinity have not been able to get a bean machine to do their threshing as yet. I am one of these myself. Not much doing on farms at present.—F. W., Mt. Pleasant, Dec. 18.

**WEXFORD (South Central)**—One foot of snow and February weather has put farmers on the retired list, unless they have had to hustle for wood or run all over the country for a little sugar. The wheat and rye fields are covered well with snow. Potato buyers are moving out some stock which they have been holding for some time, but are not buying any new stock.—A. A. H., Boon, December 17.

**SAGINAW (West)**—Farmers are getting up wood, doing chores, attending auction sales which average three or four a week. 12 below zero this morning. Great deal of corn standing in the shock. Saginaw county goes under the county road act state road law, in January. Gleaner rally and installation of officers at Nelson Dec. 22.—M. S. G., Hemlock, Dec. 15.

**WEST CENTRAL MONROE**—We have had a week of old fashioned winter and it is with us yet. It keeps the farmer pretty busy doing his chores and looking after the wood pile. We are having fair sleighing at this writing. Some hay and stock being sold.



## FRENSDORF ACTS TO SAVE BEANS

**Jackson State Prison Head Wants  
Government to Give Him Au-  
thority to Can Wet  
Beans**

Some time ago Edward Frensdorf, acting warden of the Jackson state prison, sent to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carl C. Vrooman, a request that immediate action be taken to save Michigan's vast crop of moist beans by canning. He asked for authority to use the canning facilities of the state prison for this purpose. Mr. Vrooman referred Mr. Frensdorf's request to the Food Administration, asking that immediate action be taken. Such at least was the substance of a statement made by Mr. Vrooman to Grant Slocum upon the latter's recent visit to Washington.

In an interview with a MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING representative Mr. Frensdorf laid great emphasis upon the immediate necessity of taking steps to prevent the utter waste of these beans.

"There are \$5,000,000 worth of beans in this state which might be saved for human consumption," said Mr. Frensdorf, "if immediate action was taken to can them. Four months from now they'll be worth about five hundred thousand dollars as hog feed. These beans are slowly going to waste just because those whose business it ought to be to prevent it, are negligent of their duty. There are altogether too many men 'holding' a job in the Food Administration, instead of filling it. I'm willing, like all loyal Americans, to put in twenty-four hours a day if necessary to help Uncle Sam win the war, but it peeves me, and that is a mild word to express my feelings, when fellows who ought to be getting down to business and solving some of these production and conservation problems sit idle with hands folded.

"If the producers of this state are financially able to bear the loss of their wet beans, and if the consumers are so plentifully supplied with foodstuffs that they don't need these beans, why it's something I don't know anything about. I don't believe any such situation exists. But I can tell you one thing, that if the Food Administration doesn't get a hustle on itself mighty soon, there's going to be a tremendous waste of beans in this state which can't be prevented after another couple of months."

### A. B. COOK NAMED LABOR ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. A. B. Cook, president of the Michigan Bean Growers' Ass'n, has been named labor administrator for the state of Michigan. Mr. Cook's principal duties, it is understood, will be the solving of the farm labor problem, and the securing of sufficient help to take the place of farmers and farm laborers, drafted into army service. Another responsibility he will share, it is stated, is passing upon agricultural exemptions. Under the new draft regulations, skilled farm laborers are exempted from the first call, and it will doubtless devolve upon Mr. Cook to determine as between skilled and unskilled labor.

### "EAT HORSE, I DO;" URGES VETERINARY

Increased use of horse meat in place of the flesh of other animals as a means of lowering the cost of living was strongly advocated by W. Horace Hoskins, dean of the New York Veterinary college. He declared there were 2,000,000 horses in the west too small for army use which could be killed. Dean Hoskins said he served horse meat, which cost 15 cents a pound, at his own family table.



## OVER THE TOP FOR M. B. F. On Boosters Day, Monday, Dec. 31

Friends:-

Have you read the stories from "over-there", of how the tedious days and weeks and months of drilling—the ceaseless, monotonous grind of make-believe war behind the lines are finally rewarded by being brought down to the first-line trenches—of more days or weeks and often months that pass until finally one day down the line comes the thrilling command—"OVER THE TOP!"—and then how they rush maddened by months of waiting, headlong toward the enemy!

If you have, then you know what we mean when we ask every farmer or farmer's wife who believe in what Michigan Business Farming is fighting for to Go-Over-The-Top for this weekly, and bring back ten thousand new names before January first, 1918!

Can it be done Can we multiply the fighting force of Michigan business farmers by ten thousand in a single day?—From every corner of this great peninsular state have come the letters—the response that says "yes! you set the day and we will show what the farmers of Michigan can do for a proposition they believe in!"

And so the day has been set—we are going over the top, Monday, December 31st, and the new year will find Michigan Business Farming more fully entrenched than these four eventful months have made it!

Will you do your share—we know you will—We know we can count on every loyal supporter of this paper and the principles it represents—for after all a publication is not just so much white paper and black ink—at least, we know you will agree this weekly it not!

Michigan Business Farming is more than a paper—it is a living, breathing movement among the farmers of one great state in this Union to get honest prices for what they have to sell—to get part of the war-time prices which are being paid for what they raise—to be represented as a body at every council which concerns the farming interests and to have behind them a force in numbers so powerful that they can demand, not beg for that which is their rightful share!

So when you go over-the-top for Michigan Business Farming between the hour you read this and the Monday night you mail in your report, you work not alone that your neighbor may receive the same benefits as yourself, but that he, enlisted in a common cause with you, will help YOU get what you are striving for!

Every business farmer and farmer's wife in the state of Michigan are vitally concerned in the successful growth of this weekly and the cause it represents as you, yourself. They are as anxious to lend their hand—to help with their bit and therein lies the great secret of this Booster's Day!

We ask YOU between now and Monday night, December 31st, to show this copy of your weekly to every neighbor within riding or driving distance of your home! Tell them what we—and this includes you who already have lent your support—are trying to accomplish. How in these few months we have shown up how badly Michigan needed a real publication, around which all the farmers of the state, irrespective of their creed, organization or local interests could rally! What this kind of a paper is going to mean to every farmer in Michigan in dollars and cents!

You know what you like in M. B. F.—now tell your neighbors, for they want what you want and they will thank you for telling them!

Surely we do not ask that any business farmer or his wife should appear as a canvasser—you are not asked to act as our agent—we ask only in the name of the farmer's cause that you secure one, five, ten volunteers from among your neighboring farms who will in turn help furnish the ammunition for Michigan Business Farming!

We set the price at a dollar for a year, so that every farmer, rich or poor, can afford to take it and profit by it! The dollar a year will hardly more than cover the bare cost of paper and printing of the 52 issues, but we've dedicated the largest magazine press in Michigan to the farmers' cause and supplied with your ammunition in the shape of dollar-subscriptions it becomes a giant Howitzer in the defense of your rights.

In this December 22nd issue, an envelope is enclosed which you are to return with your report a week from Monday night. How many names can you be proud to have enlisted in this cause? We ask only that you do your best!

(P. S.—If any farmer you call on for any reason desires to pay later, 30, 60 or 90 days, simply have him write—"I want M. B. F. and I'll send you One Dollar on or before....." you can send his name so he will start receiving the paper right away and he can send his dollar later direct to this office.)

### BOOSTER DAY COUPON

(Pin this to your report mailed if possible before 1918)

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING,  
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

I've gone over the top for M. B. F. and the cause it represents!

Enclosed find check, or money-order or currency to amount of \$....., in payment of .....

subscribers whose names I have marked paid, also..... subscribers who have promised to send you One Dollar each on the dates noted.

Booster .....

P. O. .... R.F.D. No.....

County..... State .....  
(We will send each subscriber a receipt from this office)