

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"



MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

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Free List or Clubbing Offers

BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF POTATOES MORE IMPORTANT THAN GRADING

**Problem of Unstable Markets and
Unprofitable Prices for Farm-
er Lies in Distribution
Rather Than Stand-
ardization**

Below we give a reproduction of the "graded" potatoes the Food Administration and its experts have been telling us about the last few weeks. Editor Slocum brought 'em back from Washington and they cost him something like a cent apiece. Leastwise the price he paid for them was at the rate of \$2.40 per bushel. And No. 1 Michigan spuds were bringing at that time around 80 cents per bushel, with the No. 2 grade selling at 40 per cent less.

Editor Slocum would no doubt have invested his money in U. S. No. 1 grade of potatoes, had there been any on the market. But when he asked for them the shopkeeper scratched his head and said, "That must be another new-fangled notion, ain't it? I never heard tell of any U. S. No. 1 grade," or words to that effect. So our editor brought home the measly, little shriveled-up and diseased potatoes shown below to show M. B. F. readers the

kind of stuff that poor people are paying \$2.40 per bushel for, and no doubt cussing the farmer every time they buy a peck of them.

Other investigations that have been recently made by M. B. F. confirms our previous statements that there are very few city markets offering graded potatoes for sale; the dealers in some instances never heard of the U. S. Grade No. 1 and 2, and there is NO demand for graded stock from the consumer. In all the statements that have been submitted to this publication by the Food Administration and its traveling experts, by Prof. Waid of the Michigan Agricultural college; by Mr. J. W. Hicks, president of the Wisconsin Potato Growers' Ass'n; by Mr. Mulward, secretary of that organization, and divers other individuals, both selfishly and unselfishly interested in the continuance of the grades, there is not one scrap of evidence submitted that potatoes are being sold to consumers in a graded condition, nor has there been any explanation of what becomes of the few No. 2 potatoes that have been placed upon the market.

Neither has there been any proof submitted that other states would be

compelled to follow in the footsteps of Michigan and Wisconsin in the acceptance of these grades, and no effort has been made by those who are supporting the grades to explain clearly why the farmers of these states are not being discriminated against.

There are no new developments in the opposition that is being rapidly organized against the present grading methods. The feeling among the farmers of Michigan, and from what we can gather from letters received from Wisconsin,—which will later be made public,—the farmers of both states are becoming more and more incensed over the matter. Many local Gleaner, Grange and Farmers' Clubs organizations have passed resolutions condemning the grades in no uncertain manner, and there are instances, even where boards of trade of towns located in potato growing sections are exerting every effort at their command to secure a remedy for the deplorable and unjust situation. In addition to this hundreds of individual and organized farmers have publicly agreed that they would not sell a single potato to be graded under the present system.

The first squall of dissatisfaction has grown to a veritable storm of protest, sweeping the state from one end to the other. That it will swoop down upon the Food Administration at Washington and move them to some kind of remedial action is our firm conviction.

WEST MICHIGAN WHEAT IS UP 3c

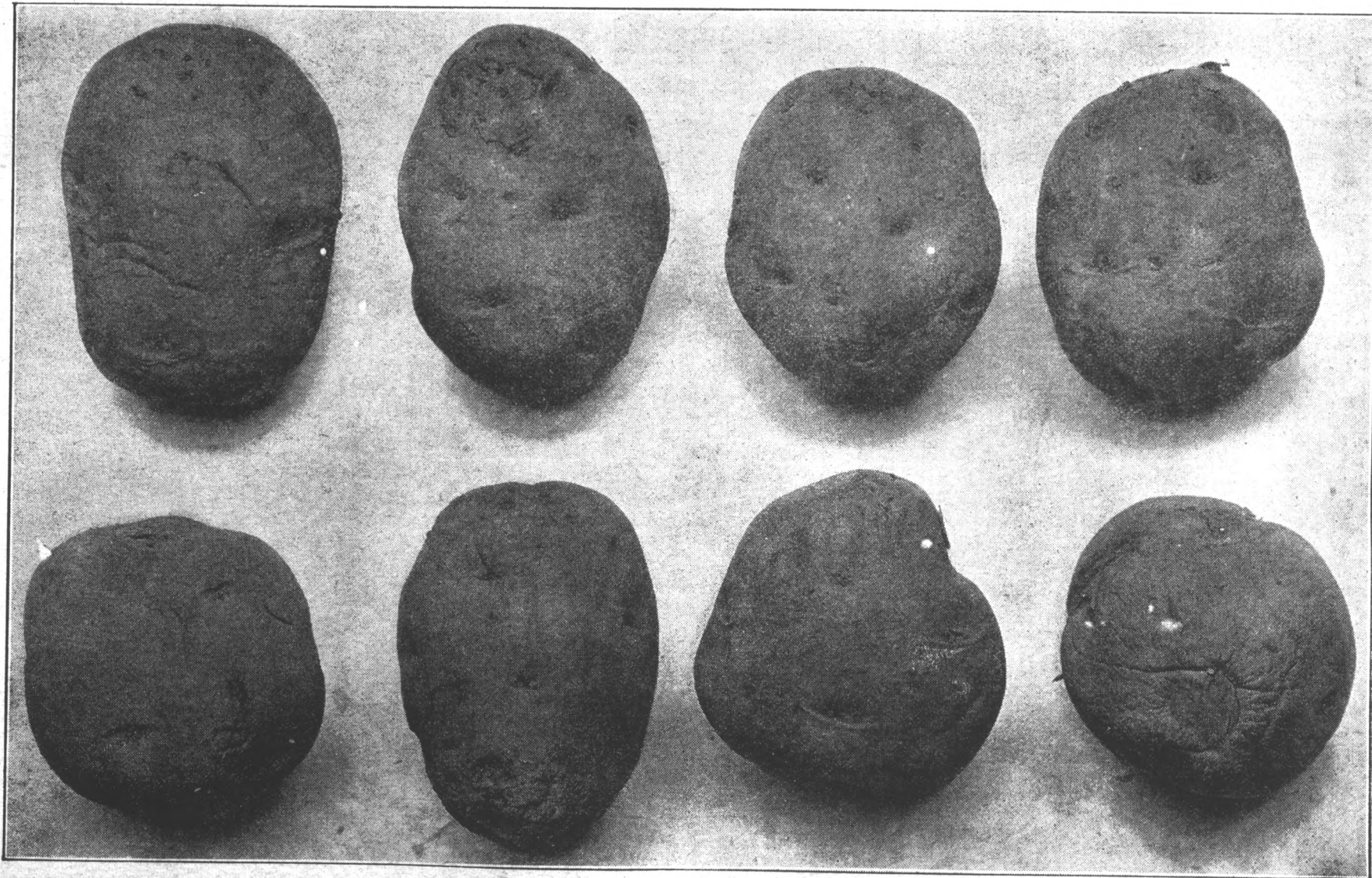
**Grain Corporation Induces West-
ern Michigan Millers to Ad-
vance Price of No. 2 Red
to \$2.09.**

United States Food Administration
Grain Corporation
Philadelphia, December 21, 1917
Editor Michigan Business Farming,
Mount Clemens, Mich.

Dear Sir: Replying to your favor of the 18th, Voight Milling Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. is paying \$2.09 for No. 2 Red wheat. I am writing the Grand Rapids press.—Food Administration Grain Corporation, H. D. Imrie, 2nd Vice President.

The foregoing letter is the result of a complaint laid before MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING several weeks ago by a Kent City subscriber, over the price of \$2.06 that was being paid by Kent county dealers for No. 2 Red Wheat. It was the opinion of our subscriber that this grade of wheat should bring a higher price to the Kent county farmer as long as the same wheat was quoted at \$2.17 at Detroit and

(Continued on page 4)



Photograph of Potatoes which Grant Slocum bought at a Washington retail store, showing their exact size and condition at the time of purchase.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

STATE BEET MEN TO MEET

Important Gathering of Michigan Sugar Beet Growers to be held at Saginaw, Friday, January 4th

Members of the Michigan Sugar Beet Growers' Ass'n will meet Friday January 4th, in the auditorium of the Bancroft hotel, according to information just received by MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING from Mr. A. B. Cook, an officer of the state association.

The meeting will be an important one in many respects, and every grower is urgently requested to be present.

Many growers are refusing to sign up 1918 contracts on the old sliding scale basis of \$8 per ton with the wholesale price of sugar at 7 cents per pound, and one additional dollar per ton for every cent increase of the wholesale price over seven cents. On account of the strict control which the government is attempting over sugar prices, it is very doubtful if wholesale sugar will advance over seven cents during the period of the war, so that the farmer who signs such a contract may as well make up his mind right then and there, that he'll get \$8 and no more.

On account of the greatly increased cost of growing beets, there is a general sentiment among the growers that they should have ten dollars per ton the coming year, and it is believed this is one of the matters that will be discussed and possibly decided at the coming meeting. There is the feeling that if the growers make a united demand, the sugar manufacturers will be willing to grant it without their usual opposition, in view of the fact that so long as the government exerts a control over sugar prices, it will see to it that the manufacturers receive a fair profit.

Western growers have already announced their demands for \$10 contracts, claiming that they cannot and will not grow beets another year for less than that. Testifying before the senate investigating committee, C. G. Patterson, representing the Inter-Mountain Territory Sugar Beet Growers' Ass'n, said that 75 per cent of the growers in that district would go out of business if next year's price was not increased. He said they could not afford to raise beets for less than \$10 a ton. His organization, he said, represents an acreage of from 125,000 to 140,000 acres of which 90 per cent are in Utah and Idaho.

California beet growers state that their acreage will be decreased fifty to seventy-five per cent unless they can get a more profitable price for their beets.

The time for the Michigan growers to take decisive and united action has come. \$10 beets are within the range of probabilities for next year, and it all depends upon the growers whether or not they get it.

PARCEL POST PROVES A COSTLY MARKET MEDIUM

Recently a shipment of 1,000 lbs. of butter was sent from Big Rapids to Detroit by parcel post, at a total postage cost of \$13, and war tax of 75 cents. The shipper was the Farmers' Co-Operative creamery.

"Economy cannot be a chief motive in using the mails for a half ton of butter," says the *Pioneer*, "for the express rate is \$7.50, with a war tax of 38 cents, while the freight rate is \$3.47, with a war tax of a dime. The best explanation obtainable here is

that the mail shipment is quicker, insuring delivery of the butter in splendid condition."

Parcel post is the cheapest and most satisfactory medium for the transportation of parcels under 50 pounds in weight, but above that its economy decreases rapidly owing to the fact that the graduation of charges according to weight ends at 50 pounds. It costs less per pound to send a 50 pound package than it does a 25 pound package by parcel post, but it costs just as much per pound to ship 100 pounds in two 50-lb. containers as it does to ship one single 50-lb. package. This is not true, however, with express. The heavier the article, the less per pound is the transportation charge, so that generally speaking it is not economy to ship extra heavy articles by parcel post.



Milo D. Campbell, of Coldwater, who is President of the National Milk Producers' Federation, and one of the best posted men in the United States on the problems of milk production and marketing. Mr. Campbell has agreed to keep readers of Michigan Business Farming advised upon national developments in the milk situation.

FARMERS SHOULD WATCH PRACTICES OF BUYERS

It has been reported that buyers in a number of small towns have been mixing No. 1 and 2 potatoes together and shipping them in this mixed condition. In view of the fact that there is very little demand for graded potatoes, in spite of the Food Administration's inference to the contrary, shippers are tempted to mix the two grades, and they take little chance of being detected. The Food Administration has asked M. B. F. to report any such practice as this which may be brot to our attention, and investigations are already under way in one such instance. Perhaps if it were made impossible for buyers to mix these two grades, they would be more anxious to have the second grade eliminated. We would advise our readers to keep their eyes open and report any instances of this kind with which they may be acquainted.

MICHIGAN SUGAR BEET CROP A SHORT ONE

Few if any of the sugar beet factories of the state will have a normal run this year. Several of the factories have already finished slicing their beets, and others will complete their run within another fortnight. The unseasonable weather during the growing season is to blame for the poor crop, which is estimated as only 60 per cent of normal. The sugar content was considerably higher than the average, which means larger profits

for the manufacturers. Unless farmers can get a price another year which will pay them at least a small profit, we are very much afraid the run of the sugar factories will be still shorter.

RODNEY GRANGE PROTESTS POTATO GRADING

Members of Rodney Grange, Rodney, Mich., voiced their opposition to the potato grading rules at a recent meeting. The discussion plainly showed how disgusted the potato growers are in regard to the potato grading. Many of those present said they would plant only enough for their own use next year.

The department of marketing says that from 40 to 80 per cent of potatoes that go to the No. 2 grade are put there on purpose or otherwise by the men manipulating the screen. Farmers should acquaint themselves with what kind of screens they sell their potatoes over. There are a few good screens throughout the state. If necessary measure the potatoes with calipers after they go over the screen.

MECOSTA FARMER SAYS "ORGANIZE"

Declares Secret to Better Prices on Farm Products Lies in Co-operative Organization and Marketing

Many farmers thruout the state have often wondered why potato prices at Greenville always range from 10 to 20 per cent higher than on any other market. Some authorities claim this is due to the reputation Greenville dealers have as shippers of good clean stock. But this can hardly be the reason, as there are dealers in many other localities who are just as particular in their shipping operations.

Mr. Jas. Edgar of Lakeview, in a recent letter to the editor of the *Mecosta News*, has, we think, hit upon the real reason for the "top" prices at Greenville. He says:

"We are posted on the Greenville market and have noticed that many times when they are paying \$1.25 per bushel in Greenville, they are paying from 90 cents to \$1.00 in Lakeview. If the Greenville buyers can make money at the price they pay, what are the buyers in Lakeview doing?"

"It is not competition that makes the difference in price, it is the Farmers' Alliance."

"Because of this association, the Greenville buyers have to pay what potatoes are worth."

"These same buyers have warehouses in all the little towns on the line of the P. M. R. R. and if the farmers in the vicinity of these towns were organized as they are at Greenville, they could govern the price instead of having to take whatever the buyer may offer. Then, too, every farmer should weigh his potatoes before going to market, as it is a common thing for a load of potatoes to fall short from 50 to 100 lbs. Now brother farmers, I hope you will get busy and organize."

Send Me Some Subscription Blanks

I am very anxious to receive your market publication, and if you will send me some subscription blanks, I know I can get you some subscribers as there are quite a number here who wish to subscribe.—Geo. A. Dennis, Charlevoix county.

FARM BUREAUS ARE ORGANIZED

Progressive Farmers of Montcalm and Oakland Counties Pledge Financial Support to Farm Bureau Organizations

Montcalm and Oakland are the two latest counties to organize farm bureaus, and make financial provisions for the hiring of agricultural experts. Following the action of the board of supervisors in voting against the county bureau plan, the progressive farmers of Montcalm county got together and pledged enough funds to pay the expenses of an agricultural agent, the salary expense being borne by the federal government.

The organization was formulated at a mass meeting of farmers held at Greenville and the following officers were elected:

Pres.—Clair Taylor, of Greenville. Vice Pres.—Franz S. King, Howard City.

Sec.-Treas.—Lawrence A. Siple, of Greenville, R.F.D.

Executive committee—Crops, W. J. Wilson, Carson City; potatoes, Wm. J. Nielsen, Trufant; dairy, Roy Rossman, Lakeview; live stock, C. W. Crum, McBride; soils, W. G. Herrick, Carson City; horticulture, Ed. Lincoln, Greenville; rural life, Rev. H. B. Johnson, Greenville; boys' and girls' club work, E. B. Stebbins, Carson City; home economics, Mrs. N. Rossman, Lakeview.

The organization starts off with a membership of about 250 thruout the county, which is expected to be increased to 500 by December 31st and to 1000 by January 1st.

The Oakland county organization has the backing of the Board of Supervisors, so that no individual farmer is required to bear any of the financial burden direct. The organization was effected at Pontiac, and the following officers were elected:

Pres.—Chas. Bingham, of Birmingham.

Vice Pres.—H. J. Broughton, Bloomfield.

Secretary—Geo. H. Kimball, Pontiac. Treas.—R. J. Coryell, Bloomfield.

A. L. Ross of Avon, J. Halsey Sayre of South Lyon, Geo. Newbound of Novi, A. L. Nelson of Avon, G. R. Thompson of Highland and Walter Terpenning of Pontiac were named as executive committee.

The action of the Federal government in assuming the salary expense of county agents providing the counties take care of the other expenses in connection with the work, has added popularity to the farm bureau movement, and it is anticipated that other counties of the state will elect to take advantage of this offer and get in the van guard of other progressive counties. The county farm bureau and agent won't solve all the problems of rural life, but they will go a long way toward doing it, and experience has proven without a doubt that the county agent is a valuable helper to those who are open-minded enough to co-operate with him.

MISSAUKEE (North Central)—Farmers are getting their winter wood and doing their chores. The weather is somewhat warmer than it has been. Nothing is being sold at present. No market for potatoes. No beans threshed yet and there will not be many when they are.—H. E. N., Cutcheon, Dec. 22.

CALHOUN (North Central)—Weather is very pleasant but rather unfavorable for wheat and meadows; the ground has thawed out about two inches. Nothing being marketed in this locality just now. This community lost one of its oldest and most highly-respected residents when Mr. George Gray died Tuesday morning, Dec. 18 from apoplexy. Mr. Gray was 69 yrs. old and had resided here many years, clearing the farm where he lived and died.—G. R., Olivet, Dec. 22.

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



Washington—When the modest J. Ogden Armour proclaimed to the world a few weeks ago that Uncle Sam could have Armour & Company, "yes, and J. Ogden Armour himself," he probably didn't think that his Uncle Samuel would "get" him so soon. Recent disclosures of the federal trade commission which is investigating alleged irregularities in the conduct of "Big Business" show that Armour & Company and other Chicago packing concerns control a multitude of industries, leather, fertilizer, canned vegetables, dairying and dairy feed, grain and butter from which they make enormous profits. Criminal manipulation of funds and false entries on the books of the companies to conceal excessive earnings from the eyes of prying government investigators are also charged against Armour & Company. Further charges are made that the packers own the great stockyards, and have practical control over the operatives, by reason of which they are able to dictate the market prices. If the accusations are true the packers are playing the biggest game of "freeze-out" and "squeeze 'em" ever attempted by an American trust. They dictate that the farmers shall pay for dairy feeds and then when the farmers are obliged to kill their dairy herds for beef, the packers dictate the price, they shall receive. And according to the government's investigators this is but one of many cut-throat practices of the packing companies to fill their money vaults with war-time profits. The investigation is only fairly under way, but will be vigorously pushed immediately after the holidays, the commission having adjourned until that time. We urge our readers to watch the further developments; they promise to be highly interesting.

GENERAL KALEDINES, military leader of the opposition against the Bolshevik government, has resigned because of his growing unpopularity with his troops. The enemies of the Lenine regime are attempting to consolidate their forces for a powerful offensive against the Bolsheviks, realizing apparently that they must act in unison and at once if they are to stem the growing popularity of the new government. The initial peace negotiations being conducted between Russia and Germany would seem to still further give the lie to the statement that the Bolsheviks are dominated by Berlin, as Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister has rejected the terms offered by the Kaiser, and insists Russia wants a "democratic" peace and will not be satisfied with less. This diplomat has given the Kaiser to understand that Russia is not in sympathy with his imperialistic ideas and lust of conquest. The cessation of hostilities during the peace negotiations has resulted in considerable fraternizing between the Russian and German troops, and some writers claim that nothing could have a more weakening influence upon the morale of the Germans than this exchange of confidences with a nation that has taken its first sips of democracy's overflowing cup. The Allies, in the meantime, "watch and wait." Some diplomats urge immediate recognition of the Bolshevik government and a determined action to turn it against Germany's peace offers; others hesitate fearing that the de facto government will be soon overthrown by a coalition of the numerous opposing factions. If the Allies are in sympathy with the new Russian democracy, it is the contention of many authorities that they should immediately make it known; if the Allies are not in sympathy with Russia's new democracy, with what political party do their sympathies lie, and what assurances do they have that a successful contender against the Lenine government would give to Russia a better administration or one more friendly to the cause of the Allies than the present one? It appears to many that the Allies should immediately declare their views upon the Russian situation, and help to bring order out of the chaos in which the country seems to be floundering.

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS are sending committees to Washington to plead for the exemption of farm laborers for military service. A New York delegation recently appeared before Secretary of War Baker and protested vigorously against the drafting of men from the farms. The committee told the Secretary that it was folly for the government to expect increased production as long as it continued to take the laborers necessary to increase production. In spite of the pleas by these committees, it is highly improbable that the government will modify the draft regulations to exempt unskilled farm laborers, but Secretary Baker has suggested that the government might "draft" men from the training camps to help on the farms during planting, growing and harvesting seasons. Other equally as chimerical and insufficient schemes have been advanced for the solution of the farm labor problem. To our mind there is only one satisfactory solution,—unqualified exemption from military service of all laborers who are needed and now working on American farms. Either the Government needs these men on the farms or it doesn't. If they are needed on the farms, then they will be performing as patriotic and effective service if compelled to stay and labor on the farms as they would in the trenches. Your correspondent would be pleased to receive letters from readers of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING setting forth their ideas on the farm labor problem. Such letters should be sent in care of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Investigations have been afoot for nearly sixty days to fix the responsibility for the coal shortage. The public was first assured that the operators were to blame, and everybody cursed the mine owners. Then it was hinted that the shortage was due to huge exports to Italy. The dear public had no sooner resolved that war WAS hell, when the burden of blame was shifted to the coal dealers. And now that we have just come to the conclusion that the coal dealers are a bunch of robbers and profiteers, along comes the positive assurance that the railroads are to blame. "Federal rail control is the only real remedy," says Dr. Garfield, the fuel administrator. If

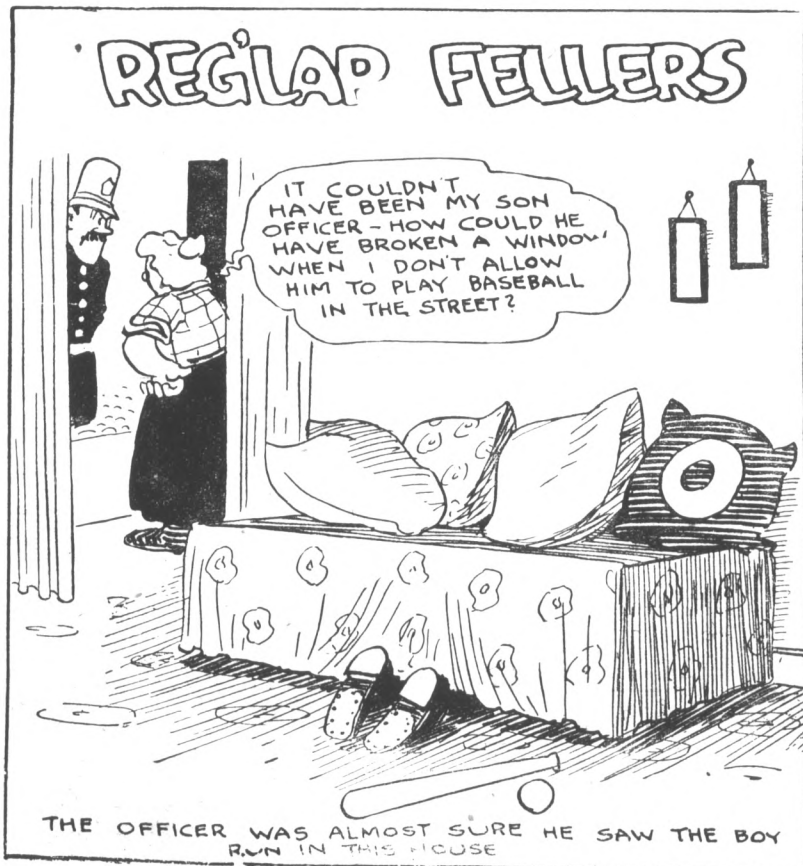
you will only have patience, dear reader, we can promise you government ownership,—and coal,—next June, or if not, we ought to be able to tell you who is really to blame for the shortage

GREENVILLE EDITOR RAPS

"FARM SPECIALISTS"

Editor B. E. Bryant of the *Greenville Independent*, who says he has had several years' experience at Washington, unburdens his thoughts upon the "farm specialist" in the following unique manner:

"We have often read with much interest and sometimes considerable information articles in our state and national farm reports written by persons signing themselves 'specialists' or 'scientific experts' and other affixes which are intended to create the impression that the writer is possessed with a large amount of technical knowledge. When we believed these expert essays would prove of advantage to the farmer we have given space to the articles, but when we felt they contained little information or poor advice, we have left them out. We had the speech of Mr. Allewelt, who signed himself 'scientific assistant,' several days before he delivered it at the Coliseum, but inasmuch as we did not feel it would be of benefit to our potato growers, we did not print it. We have just received another agricultural bulletin telling the farmers how to save pork costs. We do not print it because we have an impression that most farmers know how to butcher a hog. Here is a sample of the information sent out by this 'specialist.' Among other enlightening information he tells of 'equipment needed.' The first article mentioned is an '8-inch sticking knife.' Now this was thoughtful on the part of the specialist because the average Michigan farmer might have tried to get the wife to kill the animal with the broom and brooms are too expensive just now. Again he says: 'a barrel makes a very convenient receptacle in which to scald a hog.' How thankful we should be for this new idea. Hereafter no intelligent farmer will ever think of such a thing as taking the animal into the kitchen and pouring boiling water over it with the tea kettle. Even with the barrel idea probably most farmers would never have thought of tilting the barrel at an angle of 45 degrees if the specialist had not had the forethought to tell us so. We had several years' experience in Washington and saw many letters from the different departments, but never knew of a plain ordinary everyday clerk. All were specialists, or chief clerks, or had charge of some special work or special desk or department, so the habit of being a specialist has grown up with department work. We therefore should not be surprised to read such elucidating information from some person in charge of a desk on hog killing."



WAR WIRES

The War Department rescinded the order barring Camp Custer men from visiting home over Christmas and many of them took advantage of the new ruling to spend the holiday with "the folks." Those who remained in camp enjoyed a royal feast, followed by various kinds of entertainment. On December 21st, 507 men from Custer arrived at Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas, to replace men sent there a few weeks ago and discharged since for various reasons. The boys at Custer are much in need of additional supplies in the way of clothing, and especially overshoes. Major-General Parker has made an unofficial plea to the citizens of Michigan, either as a state or individually, to supply rubbers or overshoes at this time as it seems impossible to get them from Washington. Individual donations of rubbers, even of worn slightly, will be greatly appreciated. The training at Custer even though hampered by lack of equipment, is progressing rapidly.

Conflicting reports continue to come from Russia. It is evident that conditions there border on civil war, if such conditions actually be said to exist. The Ukraine has decided it will aid General Kaledines in his counter revolution, rather than Lenine, the head of the Bolsheviks. The Cossacks have captured the town of Restovon-Don after six days of fighting. The Bolshevik chiefs fled from the town on warships. The Cossacks are also having trouble, the hill tribes of the Caucasus having risen against them. Valuable property in Petrograd has been plundered by mobs and a disorganized condition bordering on anarchy exists throughout the country. While the different factions struggle for supreme control, the rank and file of the populace face starvation, in a country fairly well stocked with food, owing to lack of any organized effort to transport the same where it is most needed.

Conditions along the British and French fronts continue relatively quiet although heavy artillery fire is kept up all along the line and trench raids are of nightly occurrence. Just when the next offensive will take place is a matter of conjecture. There are indications of another British advance and on the other hand the German commanders are increasing the number of their forces all along the Western front. Whether they will launch a general attack before severe weather sets in is a question being much discussed by the Allies. Every preparation is being made to meet such an attack and expert military authorities claim there is little chance of their being able to make more than a slight impression on the Allied front at any point.

The Italians continue to hold all along the new front, despite the most determined efforts of the Austro-German forces to break through and reach the rich Italian plains below. The Italians are making counter attacks in an attempt to regain Monte Asolene. Military authorities now consider the Austro-German drive as definitely halted and believe that the Italian army will be able to take the offensive again in the near future. Preparations are being made to that end and additional reinforcements have arrived from France and Britain. The Italian morale is all that could be desired and their air forces are constantly active over the enemy lines.

As a result of the publication of additional telegrams sent by Count von Luxburg, Argentine is again seething with demands for war on Germany. At Buenos Aires it has been necessary to call out the mounted police to disperse the crowds. Argentine has already broken diplomatic relations with Germany and a declaration of war appears to be a matter for the near future.

Relative to the new German peace propaganda, one of the highest officials of the Government states that the United States will not discuss any abstract suggestions of peace or peace terms, and adds that the position of this country is too clear to necessitate any such action. Officials are not interested in any of the present peace feelers, not considering them sincere.

Before abandoning their defence of Jerusalem and allowing it to fall into hands of the British, the Turks looted the Church of the Holy Sepulchre sending a great amount of plunder to Germany, and also mistreated priests, missionaries and other representatives of the Christian religion.

WHAT WAS IT you were going to remember Monday, December 31st?—to send in at least one new subscription, and more if possible, to Michigan Business Farming. This will not only be a service to us, but a service to over 200,000 farmers of Michigan. Can you think of any easier way of helping the farmers' cause than by adding one or more new soldiers to our army of readers?

NEW DRAFT RULES QUERIES

What Farmers of Draft Age Are Asked About Their Claims for Agricultural Exemption

Below we publish some of the questions that are being asked farmers, under the new draft classification rules which were outlined in these columns several weeks ago.

Series XII. Agricultural Occupation

[Every registrant must answer the first question. If he answers "yes," he must answer all the remaining questions, except as stated in the interlined instructions, and must sign his name. If the registrant claims deferred classification on the ground of engagement in agriculture, he must secure the two affidavits at the end of this series of questions of two persons, in conformity with the following rules: 1. If the registrant is an employee, affidavit No. 1 must be made by his employer and affidavit No. 2 by a near neighbor. 2. If the registrant is the sole managing, controlling, and directing head of the agricultural enterprise, the two supporting affidavits must be made according to the following rules: (a) If such head of the agricultural enterprise is the owner of the land, both affidavits shall be made by near neighbors. (b) If such head of the agricultural enterprise leases the land, affidavit No. 1 must be made by the owner of the land, or the latter's agent, and affidavit No. 2 by a near neighbor. All affidavits and other proof in support of claims for deferred classification on agricultural grounds must be filed with the local board, except such proof as the district board may directly require; and all additional affidavits and other written proof must be legibly written or typewritten on one side only of white paper of the approximate size of this sheet.]

Q. 1. Are you engaged in any agricultural enterprise? (If your answer is "No" do not answer any other questions and do not sign your name.)

Q. 2. Are you an employee, or the owning or managing head of the enterprise?

Q. 3. Do you claim deferred classification on the ground that you are engaged in such enterprise?

Q. 4. State the kind of farm.

Q. 5. Are you engaged in all branches of work on the farm?

Q. 6. If you answer "no" state what branch of work you are engaged in.

Q. 7. State in general terms (not as quantity) (a) What is produced by the entire agricultural enterprise and (b) What is produced by that branch of the farm in which you work.

Q. 8. Name postoffice of the farm.

Q. 9. Do you give all your working time to the farm?

Q. 10. If not, what other work do you do?

Q. 11. What is the name of your job on the farm (for instance, "overseer," "manager," "foreman," "laborer," etc.)?

Q. 12. What do you do on the farm?

Q. 13. State (a) how long you have been working on the farm and where you are now working.

Q. 14. State the nature and extent of your education and training as a farmer.

Q. 15. How many persons are engaged, both as owners and workers on the same farm with yourself?

Q. 16. State the following facts concerning the particular farm on which you work; (a) the number of acres of the land; (b) the number of acres under cultivation at the present time; (c) the kinds of crops raised in the last year or now being raised; (d) what use is made of the land not cultivated?

Q. 17. State the number and kind of livestock on the land.

Q. 18. State (a) how many persons live on the land and (b) how many of them actually work on the farm?

Q. 19. State in terms of money value, how much the products of said farm exceed the amount consumed by all persons working on it, and their families.

Q. 20. State the approximate cost of production, including labor, fertilizers, etc.

Q. 21. State why you can not be easily replaced by another person.

Q. 22. State fully the actual condition which would result from your removal.

Q. 23. If you have any person re-

lated to you by blood, marriage, or contract who is in any way assisting, or can assist you, state why he can not take your place.

The following questions are to be answered only by a registrant who is an employee:

Q. 24. By whom are you employed?

Q. 25. What are your earnings, in money value, as an employee, on said farm, whether in money or produce, or both, per day, per week, per month, as the case may be?

The following questions to be answered only by a registrant who is head and owner of a farm.

M. B. F. SMOKES ANOTHER "NIGGER" OUT OF THE "INTERESTS" WOODPILE

Has the government set a price on butterfat? Not that we know anything about. Of course, certain "interests" have been trying to make the farmers believe it has, but—well, read the following correspondence:

The Complaint

Chesaning, Dec. 7, 1917.
Michigan Business Farming,
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Has the Government regulated the price of butterfat? I have found letters like the enclosed in nearly all places where cream is bought by the large city creameries.—C. R. W.

The "Enclosed Letter"

TOWAR WAYNE COUNTY CREAMERY
Detroit, November 13, 1917.
Mr. (An Up-State Butter Maker.)

Dear Sir: The prices you refer to on your memorandum received here today are for direct shippers and these prices are always considerably above the station price as there is no expense in connection with direct shipments.

We have just received written instructions from the government which will not permit us to pay more than one price which this week is 44c, so you will have to pay that. Do not get discouraged, all our men are up against just the same thing that you are, but now that the government has taken control you can look for a decided improvement.

Do not under any consideration either raise or lower your price without instructions from us as the Government is liable to impose a heavy penalty on you for that.

Yours very truly,
Towar Wayne County Creamery,
D. Atkinson,
Butter Department.

M. B. F. Investigates

December 15, 1917
Towar Wayne County Creamery,
Detroit, Michigan,
Attention Mr. Wm. J. Kennedy,
President and Manager

My dear Sir: If convenient and agreeable we would like to see a copy of the written instructions which you claim were given you by the government forbidding you to pay more than a certain stipulated price for butterfat. Specifically, I am interested in knowing what this so-called set price was for the week ending November 20.

Very truly yours,
F. A. Lord, Editor,
Michigan Business Farming.

Pres. Kennedy Answers

TOWAR WAYNE COUNTY CREAMERY
Detroit, December 15, 1917.
Editor Michigan Business Farming,
Mount Clemens, Mich.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of December 13th, asking for a copy of the written instructions which I claim were given to me by the Government forbidding us to pay more than a certain stipulated price for butterfat.

I beg to say that I have no such instructions nor has the government given this concern any such instructions that I know of. Your letter is quite a surprise to me as I have no recollection of ever making such a statement that I had a copy of such instructions. I have taken this matter up with our superintendent of our cream stations. I thought possibly he may have had such instructions sent him by Mr. McKay, Secretary of the American Association of Creamery Butter Manufacturers, but he has never heard of any such ruling.

Will you kindly advise me by return mail where you got the idea that I had issued any such instructions? We are sending out our prices to our station agents based on the Chicago market, the same as all other buyers.

Kindly give me more information as to what you mean by the so-called set price for the week ending November 20th.

Towar Wayne County Creamery,
Wm. J. Kennedy,
President and Gen. Mgr.

Our Letter to the Government

December 12, 1917
U. S. Food Administration,
Dairy Division,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen: Is it true that the Government has the authority or is attempting to usurp authority to dictate to the creamery companies through the country what they shall pay farmers for butter-

Q. 26. Are you the sole managing head and owner of the farm?

Q. 27. Do you own the land?

Q. 28. What is its value?

Q. 29. How long have you owned it?

Q. 30. State value of personal property owned and used by you on the farm.

Q. 31. If you lease the land (a) upon what terms; (b) name and address of owner, and (c) when present lease expires.

Q. 32. State (a) how many persons are in your employ and (b) the total you have paid during the past year to all of said employees, whether in money or in produce.

fat? There has just recently come to our attention a notice sent out by a Detroit creamery concern to one of our subscribers, advising him that the Government had ordered them not to pay more than 44c per pound for butterfat for the week ending November 20.

We would appreciate an early and complete reply.

Very truly yours,
Michigan Business Farming.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION, Washington

December 15, 1917
Editor Michigan Business Farming,
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Dear Sir: We are in receipt of your communication of December 12 asking if it is true that the Government has authority or is attempting to usurp authority to dictate to the Creamery Companies throughout the country what they shall pay for butter fat. In reply will say that it is not true. The Government is not attempting to dictate to the Creamery Companies throughout the country what they shall pay farmers for butter fat. We would thank you to send us the notice your letter refers to.

Awaiting same, we are,

Very truly yours,
United States Food Administration,
By George E. Haskell.

Our Reply to Mr. Kennedy's Letter of Dec. 15th

Mr. W. J. Kennedy,
Pres. Towar's Wayne County Creamery,
Detroit, Michigan.

My dear Sir: There is no doubt a misunderstanding on the part of some one concerning a statement supposed to have been made by your company that you were forbidden by the government to pay more than a stipulated price for butter fat. I quote as follows from a letter sent out under date of November 13 by your butter department:

(See letter No. 2)

I shall be pleased to have you advise me at your earliest convenience the exact meaning of the above letter, and in what manner the subscriber who referred it to us and we ourselves have misunderstood its tone.

Very truly yours,
Michigan Business Farming.

Mr. Kennedy Makes a Confession

TOWAR WAYNE COUNTY CREAMERY
Detroit, December 22, 1917.

Editor Michigan Business Farming,
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Dear Sir: Replying to your favor of Dec. 18th, beg to say that I have made a complete investigation of the facts as outlined in your letter and I find that our Mr. Atkinson, manager of our Butter Department did send out a letter such as you state in your letter.

In taking this matter up with our Mr. Atkinson he states that there was a meeting called in Washington by Mr. Haskell of the Butter Manufacturers to give the Food Administration suggestions as to what could be done to cut out the expense of duplication of stations, commissions, etc. and also to offer suggestions that would reduce the price of butter to the consumers in the city.

Unfortunately this concern was not represented as the writer was tied up at the time with the milk investigation in Detroit which lasted five days, so that I could not be at both places at one time.

Shortly after this meeting in Washington, the Swift & Company of Alma, Michigan, sent out the enclosed letter to all the creameries operating in the State and who are members of the Michigan Creamery and Butter Owners' Association. On receipt of this letter, our Mr. Atkinson took it for granted that this was the result of the meeting of the Food Administration and consequently sent a copy of the Swift letter to all our stations.

I have instructed our Mr. Atkinson to get his authority direct from the headquarters in the future before he sends letters of this nature to any station men. Had this matter been brought to my attention, I would have immediately taken the matter up with Mr. George Haskell of the Food Administration to have these facts verified before sending out the letter.

I trust this explanation will be satisfactory to you and if I can be of any further service to you, do not hesitate to write me.

Yours very truly,
Towar Wayne County Creamery,
W. J. Kennedy,
President and Gen. Mgr.

Here is the Guilty Party

SWIFT & COMPANY,
Alma, Mich.

Creamery Department

November 10, 1917.

Detroit Creamery Co.,
Detroit, Mich.
Attention Mr. Ross

Gentlemen: As you undoubtedly have read, the creamery companies are now operating under license from the Federal Government since the first of November.

Want to call your attention to one particular requirement in this law which states that variation of price is not pererating under license from the Federal mitted by a creamery between two points.

As there is quite a heavy penalty attached, both for the agent and for the principal, we must insist both for your interests and ours that you pay only the price sent you each week from this office—no more and also no less, regardless of what your competition is paying.

If you find that your price is out of line with your competition, get in touch with this office promptly. Butterfat prices are made on Saturdays, and as we are more centrally located it is possible that certain Detroit creameries will not get their prices to their agents, with the present mail service, before Tuesday morning; so if you find on Tuesday that your price is still out of line, get in touch with this office before taking any step to advance price or to lower it.

Yours respectfully,
Swift & Company.

JEC-ES J. E. C.

And the end is not yet. MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING wants an explanation of this deliberate falsehood that has been set afoot by Swift & Company to keep the price of butterfat down. And if we are not mistaken, the senate investigating committee which has been showing considerable interest in the affairs of Swift & Company and other big packing houses, will want some disclosures also. Just watch for future developments.

WEST MICHIGAN WHEAT IS UP THREE CENTS

(Continued from page 1)

correspondingly high in other sections.

Knowing that the government had the farmer's interests in view when it established the minimum price on wheat, and that it was intended that country elevators should receive only a normal profit on wheat transactions, we promptly laid the above case before the U. S. Food Administration Grain Corporation, requesting them, if they had the power to do so, to compel western Michigan dealers to raise their wheat prices to the level of those prevailing in other sections of the country, similarly situated with respects to markets, etc. The Grain Corporation showed great interest in the case, and advised us that the price of No. 2 Red Wheat in Grand Rapids should be \$2.12½. They promised to take the matter up immediately with the Voight Milling Company, who, it would appear, has a virtual control over the grain markets of that section of the state, practically dictating what the country elevators shall pay for grain.

Following an exchange of correspondence upon the subject, the Grain Corporation advised us on December 21st, as above.

If No. 2 Red Wheat is worth \$2.12½ per bushel in the Grand Rapids market as compared with the Detroit quotation of \$2.17, M. B. F. knows no reason why the dealers of that section should not be compelled to pay that price. To a certain extent, the government finds it possible to prevent unfair practices by dealers in wheat and other farm commodities, thru the power of license, but dealers who are so inclined find it comparatively easy to show that their costs of doing business is too high to pay the price recommended by the government. This is no doubt the case in the Kent district, and it is not probable that the Grain Corporation can secure any further advance in the price. However, a half loaf is better than none, and even an extra three cents per bushel means something to the average farmer this year.

M. B. F. acknowledges the indebtedness of its readers to Mr. H. D. Imrie, 2nd Vice President of the Grain Corporation for his efforts in bringing about this advance.



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

Mills are running to capacity at present but recent storms and adverse weather conditions have delayed movement of wheat and at the time millers have experienced difficulty in securing the necessary additional supplies, which are purchased from day to day to keep stocks on hand up to normal. The general condition of wheat now being offered is better than at any time this season. The greater portion of deliveries are grading up well and it would seem that the poorer grades had been moved first, a good idea.

Canadian wheat is coming into the United States through every customs district on the northern border in greatly increasing volume. For the nine months ending with September this country imported from Canada 21,490,269 bushels more than 14,000,000 bushels which came in free after April 16. This was the date on which Canada removed its import duty on wheat which resulted automatically in letting Canadian wheat enter the United States free under our tariff law. During these nine months wheat flour imports reached the total of 403,270 bbls., of which 297,000 bbls. came in free against a total of 157,279 bbls., during the same period in 1916. The heaviest of this traffic was through Buffalo. Some Canadian flour is also moving to the west coast. American exports of wheat, for the twenty-three weeks ending Dec. 6, were 111,089,008 bushels, against 169,565,178 bushels during the corresponding period last year. This is a considerable reduction but it should be remembered that much of the wheat is being made into flour and transported that way to save cargo room. Exports to Europe must be increased however, and every bushel of wheat in this country and Canada will be needed before the coming of another crop.



OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	.82	.79 1-2	.91 1-2
Standard	.81 1-2	.78	.90
No. 3 White	.80 1-2	.76 1-2	.89 1-2

The oat market has been rather erratic for some time. The Government decided to remove the embargo on grain going east and for a time this was taken as a bull factor and there was spirited bidding for grain. In the course of a day or so, however, this movement was discontinued when it was seen that it was not going to have any decided effect on conditions generally. Since that time the market has been more or less of a see saw with a weaker feeling prevailing on the Chicago board. Chicago dealers believe the movement of oats will increase and are working carefully on that basis.

The price has worked up a little, having remained at a somewhat higher figure since the flurry caused by the first lifting of the embargo. Deliveries on December sales are slow and movement of grain is much restricted by shipping conditions. Considerable export business has been done via the Gulf since the embargo was placed on shipments to Atlantic ports. The Allied governments must have around 12,000,000 bushel of oats per month and they must either secure them from this country or Canada. Prices in Canada are higher than those prevailing in this country and as a natural result the bulk of the buying is done here. The movement from Argentina is restricted by lack of ocean tonnage and this surplus is turned our way. The question right now is will shipments from country points increase sufficiently to overcome the existing demand or will present conditions continue with a slight ten-



LAST MINUTE WIRES

CHICAGO WIRE—Last few days have seen increased demand for good timothy and No. 1 mixed. Other grades somewhat slow. Beans quiet. Potatoes not showing much strength and condition will perhaps remain same for next week or so, until stocks clean up.

PITTSBURG WIRE—Somewhat better inquiry for potatoes but embargo restrictions make local trading slow. Still some frosted stock coming and selling at a great reduction. Hold potatoes back until more satisfactory shipping conditions exist.

DETROIT SPECIAL—A fairly good demand for potatoes but supplies amply sufficient. General produce market in satisfactory condition. More of the better grades of hay wanted.

dency for the price to work just a little higher from week to week until such time as spring weather conditions increase the movement.



CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	2.08 1-2	Nominal	1.70
No. 3 Yellow	2.07	Nominal	1.69
No. 2 Mixed	2.03		1.65

The movement of corn is increasing as shippers make use of the 10,000 cars delivered to western points by the Government. The cold weather of a week ago also helped the quality and receipts at originating points show a great improvement. It looks now as though there was more good grain in the country than was at first supposed. During the first week or so of the present season we stated it as our opinion that corn would not move freely until after the first of the year or perhaps along the middle of February. This has largely proven to be the case. The corn which has moved has been such as must find a market quickly or spoil on the growers hands. A lot of this stuff has been disposed of for local feeding purposes and to driers and the balance of the movement should show better quality and no doubt will, judging by the condition of offerings during the past week.

The final Government crop report gives this year's corn crop as 3,159,494,000 bushels, as compared with 2,566,977,000 bushels last year, a gain of 592,567,000 bushels. But we must also take into consideration the fact that this 1917 crop was about as poor in quality as we have had in years. Much of the corn will never reach market. At the same time we have a great surplus over last year and when this gets to moving freely it would seem that lower prices might be expected. There is a good strong export demand however, greater than ever before, and with an increase in ocean carriers, something we all hope for, this foreign trade should prove a big factor in keeping prices at a level above normal for such a crop as we have this year.

We are receiving many inquiries

from our readers as to where good seed corn may be had. Offerings so far have been few and here is a good chance for those who have seed corn to do a little advertising and help out their friends. We feel that growers are wise in giving this matter attention at this time and as soon as we get a more definite line on the supply we will be glad to do all we can to assist them. If a supply of old corn is available at any point it should be conserved by all means. We reproduce here part of an article on this subject, by C. C. Massie of Minneapolis:

"Much of the seed corn that is to be used next spring must be taken from the supply of old corn, where any such supply is available; and it is of the utmost importance that such corn should be saved, tested, and carefully stored. Unfortunately, there is very little old corn to be obtained and consequently every farmer should test whatever corn he has and select all that he can possibly use for seed. He must select the good looking ears of corn and immediately examine them by breaking the cobs in two to see that no mould has attacked the germ. The sound ears should be carefully dried out, even if it is necessary to put them in the parlor, so priceless will they be found when seeding time arrives. Every ear should be tested for germination, and all available ears of seed corn stored in a dry place so that the kernels may be seasoned, and saved for next year's planting."



RYE

There is very little rye moving and the market continues unchanged and dull. During the past week the demand has lessened greatly unless there is a change in the near future there is very liable to be a decline in price. Elevators report quite a stock on hand, in the aggregate, and this is increasing owing to the lack of shipping facilities. It is liable to move in volume later on and about all that can save the market is a greatly increased demand. It may be however, that the lull in the demand is only temporary that the buying will increase after the

holidays when people get back to war time fare and increase the consumption of rye products.

The report shows that up to Nov. 17 there was threshed in Michigan 4,469,241 bushels of rye, and a considerable portion of this grain has moved from growers hands but there is still a large amount waiting transportation to primary markets. This grain, and some still to be threshed, must find a market and will need a greater demand than now exists if it is to maintain its present position.



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

We are constantly receiving letters from our friends over the state, asking our advice as to the advisability of holding for higher prices. To all of them we must say that this is a question which must be dealt with by each individual separately. Many conditions enter into this proposition and no hard and fast advice can be handed out to suit all cases collectively. To judge this matter the first thing to take into consideration is the condition of the stock. We are not advising anyone to hold wet beans. To do so is to invite disaster. Beans which do not contain a great percentage of moisture may be held during the cold weather, but should be disposed of before the first warm weather of spring. This may seem like trifling advice to some of our readers who have given the bean situation plenty of study from year to year and realize the importance of watching the condition of their stock. But we can see from many of the letters which are coming in here that this advice is needed right now. We say now to our readers who have wet stock and who have written that they will hold until next summer if necessary, don't attempt to do it unless you have some way of drying your beans.

We have seen some beans delivered which were actually frozen in chunks. This class of stock cannot be sold and run through the driers any too quickly. We believe the time will come when some arrangement will be made for community driers to meet just such conditions as exist this year. But until that time comes, discouraging as it may be, the best thing to do is to get such stock off our hands at the best possible price. It will rapidly deteriorate in the bins, even in cold weather. There is a lot of such stock in Michigan this year.

We have repeatedly stated it as our belief that the great majority of Michigan bean growers must have not less than \$8 per bushel for their stock in order to come out with any profit at all. We believe the market will eventually reach that figure and that good seed beans will be worth a great deal more in the spring. If you should be so fortunate this year as to have beans containing only a slightly increased percentage of moisture, spread them out so that the air can have a chance at them. Most growers have a space somewhere where this may be done. But unless you are sure they are dry enough to keep, don't attempt to leave them in the bins indefinitely. By spreading beans out and using a rake on them frequently the moisture content may be greatly reduced. We have followed this system many times in the past, with good results.

There is a good strong undertone to the bean market at present, notwithstanding the bear reports being handed out. If your beans are in condition to keep, don't let this kind of talk bother you. There will be a steady market for beans right along, and the wet stock will move first so that conditions should constantly grow more promising. Growers in other states have their eye on the situation and they will be looking for a little better price the same as Michigan growers. Let's see how things move after the first of the year.

Is Your Biggest Problem one of Production or of Marketing?

Michigan Business Farming wants to know whether the immediate problem of the farmers of Michigan have to do with production or marketing.

Do you think it possible for you to increase your production enough to put your farm on a permanently profitable basis under present marketing conditions.

What do you think would happen if every farmer of the United States should increase his production to the maximum?

Do you think that you are getting enough of the consumer's dollar to pay you for the chances you take, and to insure you a profit on your labor and investment?

Without first simplifying the present system of marketing do you think it would be good business for the farmers of the United States to double their production?

Michigan Business Farming wants your ideas on this important subject. Tell us in your own words which problem you think ought to be solved FIRST, the problem of production or the problem of marketing.

We offer no prizes. Every letter will be published, and the exchange of ideas will be worth dollars to every man reading this paper. Write today.

"Is your biggest problem one of production or marketing?"



HAY

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

Hay at all middle western points remains firm and steady. There is no let up in the demand and while supplies have increased to some extent, still they are not in excess of the demand. No material change in the Detroit market and dealers feel satisfied there will be none until such time as supplies are greatly increased.

Chicago reports offerings still restricted and all arrivals being taken up quickly. Values are held firm at the present level and are expected to continue so well into the new year at least.

The market at St. Louis is very strong for all kinds of hay and while prices remain about stationary, still they are relatively better, considering the poorer class of hay which has been arriving there and selling at the top. There is a good demand for all grades of clover and alfalfa, those grades being in the majority on that market. Many shipments from the north have gone to St. Louis to take advantage of the market on the coarser kinds.

Arrivals at Cincinnati during the past week have increased considerably of many cars held back in transit. For a time the market seemed to weaken but rallied later and at the time of writing this article conditions are again close to normal. The demand there shows no sign of decreasing and until such time as shipments greatly increase, which will perhaps be far in the future, present prices should rule.

Looking farther east we note that Pittsburgh is having a great deal of trouble to move cars with the Pittsburgh district. A special permit is necessary and this has a depressing effect on the market. It has caused demurrage to accrue in on cars and in order to get away from higher charges on this account, values in some cases have been reduced.

Supplies have continued to increase on the New York market but the price is being maintained remarkably well. The best shipments are about over for the season and embargoes are bound to cause some trouble. We look for lighter supplies on that market and perhaps somewhat better prices later on. There has been very little really No. 1 hay available there. There is a good demand for rye straw, the right kind of offerings selling at \$17 and some of them as high as \$18.



POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	2.15 cwt.	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

Our conservation with potato dealers during the past week, and our own investigations leads us to think that the turn of the year will see better conditions in the potato market. We believe that much of the frosted stock has already moved and been disposed of. With this out of the way the consuming public and dealers generally will be more willing to buy in larger quantities. We have had a slow market now for some time and the pendulum should be about ready to swing back.

Conditions are becoming much more settled and buyers now have a fairly good line on the actual crop. They are beginning to realize that even though the crop did give promise if surpassing the expected yield, still the general condition is such as to greatly cut down the amount available for commerce.

In many sections the tubers show a great deal of decay and this will become more noticeable from now on.

This one thing alone is going to effect the Michigan crop much more than is generally believed at this time. The high cost of meat and other articles of food will increase the potato consumption greatly.

It is well to take all these points into consideration before letting stock go at a sacrifice. Let's have faith in the potato market and let others know it. There has been altogether too much bear talk. With so much frozen stock on the market and so much talk of a bumper crop, it was the most natural thing that we should have a slow market. The wonder is that it has been able to keep up as it has. Conditions are going to improve with the new year and should keep on improving as spring draws nearer.



ONIONS

Onions are steady and firm at about the same range of prices as existed last week. No. 1 yellows sell at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per 100-lb. sack. The Detroit newspapers are quoting onions at a higher figure than this but we find on investigation that the prices as given here are about in line with what can actually be secured on sales at the present time. We try to give our readers the correct prices so that they may not be disappointed with returns on shipments as they would be at the present time, basing their expectations on the quotations of Detroit daily papers.



APPLES

The week has seen active buying of apples but shippers and dealers generally had foreseen such conditions and the supply has been at all times equal to the demand. Some apples have moved out of storage to supply the demand for fancy box stuff, and barrel stock has found a large sale with stores and dealers who cater to the trade in small quantities. A certain class of trade has been calling for the poorer grades, the demand for these perhaps being stronger during the present week than at any time since early fall. This has enlivened holders of this class of stock to rid themselves of stock which was causing them some worry. Retail shipments of apples generally are falling off and it is only a question of a very short time until the greater portion of Michigan stock will have moved, with the exception of what will be held at loading points for the early spring trade.



FLOUR & FEED

Detroit quotations on feed remain about the same as those of last week. The demand continues to take care of all offerings and should there be any additional demand after the inventories are off the hands of the buyers, there is very liable to be a further advance in prices. This is true of wheat products especially while the tendency of corn products may be downward should that grain work lower as some anticipate. 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.

Eastern markets, while reporting a somewhat lighter demand the past week, remain firm owing to small offerings. Dealers are not anxious to force sales by concessions, under present conditions. As a result values are well maintained. Quotations at Philadelphia are as follows:

Winter bran, 100-lb. sacks, spot and to arrive, \$45.50 @ 46 per ton. Spring bran, 100-lb. sacks, spot and to arrive, \$45 @ 45.50 per ton. White middlings 100-lb. sacks, spot and to arrive, \$55 @ 56 per ton. Standard middlings, 100-lb. sacks, to arrive, \$45.50 @ 46 per ton. Red dog, 140-lb. sacks, to arrive, \$61.50 @ 62 per ton. Shorts, 100-lb. sacks, to arrive, \$45.50 @ 46 per ton. Mixed feeds, 100-lb. sacks, to arrive, \$45.50 @ 46 per ton.

Barley

Advices from Duluth indicate demand has been very active, looking toward supplies before the close of navigation. The price advanced from 7 to 10c per hd. Navigation has now closed for the season and supplies in elevators at the head of the lakes has been just about entirely cleaned up. The Milwaukee barley market continues very strong at about the former range of prices. Choice barley testing around 48 to 50 pounds per bu. is quoted at \$1.45 to \$1.48. Buffalo quotations run \$1.52 to \$1.55.

The recurrent rumor that barley flour is being milled in increasing quantity makes interesting the announcement in the Chicago market that several mills here have bought one car each for experimental purposes. It has been known for some time that Minneapolis mills were grinding barley and with the considerable supply of milling barley on hand it is a very wise move, as the resultant flour is proving entirely satisfactory.

Clover Seed

The Toledo seed market is firm and steady at prevailing prices. Much seed is being sold abroad at prices greatly in excess of normal and the demand continues strong. Current quotations are as follows:

Prime, cash, old \$16, new \$16 17, December \$16 17, January \$16 17, February \$16 20, March \$15 97. Alsike: Prime, cash, \$14 30, December \$14 30, February \$14 40, March \$14 50, Timothy: Prime, cash, old \$3 60, new \$3 67, December \$3 67, March \$3 87.



BUTTER

Under a continued short supply of good fresh creamery firsts the butter markets of the country have advanced slightly. At many points the condensaries are paying such a price for milk that they are unable to get out anywhere near their usual amount of butter for this time of the year. Many of them closed altogether for the winter months and it looks as though we would have a great shortage of fresh butter from now until spring. Detroit is quoting 47 1-2c for fresh creamery firsts and sales are reported at even higher prices fancy offerings. Extras are reported at even as high as 49c. Storage creamery is quoted at 44c per lb.

Eastern points report a good strong trade on all grades and the movement of a great deal of storage butter on account of the shortage of fresh. Fancy extras are quoted in New York at 50 1-2 @ 51c. Extras 50c and firsts 49c per lb.

Cheese

There has been a good export outlet all week for cheese and holiday buying seems to have increased the domestic movement. Detroit quotes the market as follows:

Michigan flats, 23 1-2c; New York flats, 25c; brick, 27 1-4c; long horns, 27 1-4c; Michigan daisies, 24 1-2c; Wisconsin daisies, 25 1-2c; Wisconsin double daisies, 25 1-4c; domestic Swiss 35 40c for prime to fancy; limburg-er, 28 @ 29c per lb.



EGGS

There is no change in the egg market worth considering. The supply of fresh continues away under the demand and there is no immediate prospect of any increase in shipments. If anything could be said other than has already been pointed out in these columns it is that the shortage of fresh stock is causing a much needed movement of held stock and this will have a beneficial effect on the market in the weeks to come. With even a moderately plentiful supply of fresh the movement of held is restricted and as this stock must come on the market eventually it would be sure to effect prices later on. It is a good sign to see it moving now. The first of February will see a greater supply and this will increase toward spring as is always the case. With a good share of the held out of the way the markets generally will be in better shape to pay the price for the fresh.



POULTRY

LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Turkey	30-31	30-31	28-30
Ducks	26-27	24-26	25-27
Geese	25-26	23-25	27-28
Springers	23-24	23-24	24-25
Hens	19-22	19-23	22-24

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

Toward the end of last week poultry arrivals were heavy on all markets but the demand increased greatly, even more than was expected, and no great surplus of supplies has accumulated as was the case during Thanksgiving week. In fact, under the spirited buying the price advanced. This was expectedly noticeable on geese, ducks and turkeys. During the early part of last week it was feared there would be a shortage of geese, owing to the strong demand and the limited supply. It soon became apparent however that shippers had been waiting the opportune time shipments increased toward the close of the week, but there was at no time a noticeable surplus. The same was true of ducks only the supply was more even thru out the week. Turkeys took a very good advance and held it steadily despite the arrival of good sized shipments.

The market on springers and hens was brisk all week and has continued good so far this week, supplies being secured for the New Years festivities. Shippers who were careful to put their fowls in good condition and get them in at the right time were more than repaid for their trouble. Well finished fowls were in demand especially with those who did not feel able to buy the more expensive geese and turkeys. We saw some guineas sold at a sacrifice because the shipper had picked them. Guineas to be sold on the general market should be shipped with the feathers on. The meat looks too dark to be attractive to buyers, after the feathers have been removed. Where sale is made direct to hotels or other special trade, of course it is proper to remove the feathers, not otherwise.



CATTLE

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	11 50-12 00	11 00-14 00	13 00-13 50
Steers, com. to fair	9 00-10 00	9 00-13 00	12 00-12 25
Heifers, good to prime	8 50-8 75	7 00-9 00	7 50-9 50
Cows, average	7 50-8 00	7 00-8 00	7 25-8 50
Canners, -Cutters	5 50-6 00	5 00-6 50	5 00-6 00
Bulls, average	7 00-7 50	7 00-8 00	7 25-8 00
Veal, fair to good	43 00-15 00	14 50-16 00	14 50-16 25

The cattle market during the Christmas week was just a little slow at times and especially so on light stuff, of which there was usually a free supply. Outside buyers have been numerous and as they are able to get cars more easily than for several weeks, they proved active competitors on the Chicago market until such time as their wants were satisfied. Real prime lots were scarce all week. On Thursday one load of prime steers, averaging upward to 1400 lbs. sold at \$14.25. Two loads, nearly 1300 lbs. went at \$14.00, while some, averaging upward of 1500 lbs. but lacking in finish, sold at \$13.35. A few other loads went at \$12.50 and \$13.05. A good share of the run was of the \$11 @ 11.50 kind, although \$12.00 caught a lot of them. Many of the other less desirable offerings cleared \$10.00 to \$10.75.

The market for cows and heifers was irregular all this week, but a generally better demand for cattle and somewhat lighter receipts toward the end of the week caused a better feeling for this class. The Bull trade showed uneven tendencies all week. Choice heavy bolognas found a fairly market but the plain, lighter kinds at times found a draggy market.

Rather an uncertain market has prevailed for canners and cutters. The supply most days was large enough to meet all demand and then some. One or two days saw the run a little lighter and buying more spirited. Canners of fairly good quality sold around \$5.75 to \$5.90. Cutters of plain fair quality sold around \$6.25 to \$6.40.

When buyers were able to get cars the demand for stockers and feeders was fairly good. Receipts were rather liberal at times and toward the end of the week the grade was mostly medium to plain. Good to choice feed-

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.

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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.

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DURC 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, 82292.

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

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JOHN'S BIG BEAUTIFUL BARRED Rocks are here 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.

ers sold up to \$9.00 to \$9.50. Medium to good kinds sold around \$8.00 to \$8.75 and plain grades down to \$7.00 and lower.

calf market was generally steady and sales were satisfactory in most cases. The heavy stuff found rather a slow market. Plain to average grades sold up to \$15.00 or better.



HOGS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Bufalo
Heavy 240-290	15 80 16 40	16 30 16 85	16 65 16 85
Medium 200-240	15 80 16 40	16 25 16 85	16 50 16 75
Mixed 150-200	15 60 16 20	15 25 15 85	15 50 16 25
Packers 100-150	15 20 15 60	14 00 14 50	15 00 16 00
Pigs 100 down	15 00 15 25	12 00 13 80	15 00 15 75

The hog run has been lighter on all markets during the past week. A very light run was experienced at Detroit and the market remained firm and active throughout. During the latter part of the week, at Chicago, small packers, shippers and yard traders bought hogs freely and the market was inclined to work up just a little. Desirable offerings sold considerably higher toward the close of the week but the poorer, light kinds remained about stationary. The market was effected also by sharp demand from eastern markets and active trading reports from those points. The general quality of arrivals for the week has been only fair.

Conditions appear favorable for the first of the new year and with a great deal of the wet corn going in to hogs the general quality should become steadily better. At times during the fall the offerings have run too much to poor, under weight stuff and this has had rather a bad effect on the general condition of the market. The run at times has been away above normal, indicating that shippers were anxious to get the stock off their hands. Under such conditions it is more difficult to get top prices, the market being discounted by buyers who note the tendency. They are always quick to take advantage of any anxiety on the part of shippers to unload during a given time.



SHEEP

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Top Lambs	16.50-16.75	15.25-16.35	17.25-17.60
Yearlings	15.50-16.00	12.50-14.50	13.00-15.00
Wethers	9.00-10.50	12.50-12.90	12.00-13.10
Ewes	9.00-10.00	10.00-11.75	11.50-12.00

Sheep have been in good demand all during the past week and receipts only moderate. Well finished offerings of top lambs continue to hold the call. Yearlings have been coming to all markets only in small lots. Ewes of good to prime class have found a ready outlet and the quality has been good on most of the offerings in this line.

Prime western ewes have sold at \$11.75 or better. Most of the native ewes sold around \$11.50, altho some sales were reported around \$11.75. Inferior to plain kinds sold around \$9 to \$10.50. Culls went at \$7.00 and lower.

Receipts generally were much less than last week and away short of those of a year ago for the like period. This has been accounted for in a way by the lack of transportation facilities and a desire on the part of feeders to add the finishing touches so as to get the long price. This shows good judgment as the well finished article is bringing the fancy price now as it has not done before in a great while.

EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT PRICES ON FENCE WIRE

The Bond Steel Post Company claims that as a result of the government's fixing a price on steel its prices will advance the first of the year. Do you think it would be better for me to buy my fence wire now or later?—Subscriber.

The Government price on plain wire has been reduced considerably from the prices of the independent mills. There was such irregularity in prices that it was almost impossible to state what the market was prior to the fixing of prices, but it is a fact that all independent manufacturers of wire

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You can hold your cows to full milk flow during a cold snap—if they are housed in Natco Barns and fed from a Natco Silo. The dead-air spaces in the hollow tile walls keep out the cold yet prevent dampness and frost from gathering.

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products made considerable reductions in their products. The Bond Steel Post Company may have had a contract extending over a year at very low prices, which made their products on a proportionately low basis. The new price which will become effective on their new purchases may effect their selling prices for this reason.—J. L. Replogle, Director of Steel Supply, War Industries Board.

[EDITOR'S NOTE:—In other words, the War Industries Board can't answer your question, and we know of no other authority to whom to turn.]

A good Business Farmer with the accent on "Business." It performs its mission every week. The straight and forwardness of the principles for which it has stood is to be commended to its editors.—M. L. R., Alamo.

Enclosed please find one dollar for subscription for one year to your paper, which I feel every farmer should take, as it fills a long felt want. Your kicks reach the tender spot on old Billy Greed.—P. McG., North Branch.

I think Michigan Business Farming is the best farm paper ever published in the state of Michigan. I never saw a paper that came up to it. It is worth \$2 a year to any farmer.—J. S. R., Pigeon.

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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 29TH, 1917

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

EDITOR
EDITOR
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VETERINARY EDITOR
LEGAL EDITOR

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The New Year

THE NEW YEAR comes. The old year has been a year of terrible calamity and tragedy; we are glad to see it pass away into the dark recesses of oblivion; but we do not turn the pages of the new year with our customary eagerness, for we know that the chapter we have just completed is but the introduction to darker pages just beyond. We enter the new year with dark misgivings. We sense the awful tragedies that lie before us; we visualize the fields of France where our youth will fight and fall; we clench our hands and set our jaws as our minds flounder in utter helplessness to conceive of a way to bring sanity and satiety to the war-mad nations.

But a deeper sense, a renewed conviction that our cause is just and that God will make the right triumphant strangely soothes our resentment, revives waning hopes and steadies us for the trials that lie ahead.

We have been a complacent people all thru the war. Even the entrance of our own country into the awful conflict has failed to move the mass of our people to a full realization of the solemn responsibilities this country has taken up. Minds have been pretty much divided over the wisdom or need of our entering the war; there have been demands for a clearer definition of the objectives; there have been countless minor criticisms. Division of opinions and efforts, not only in the civilian ranks, but even in the administrative departments has sadly interfered with the preparations for war. But these things could not have been avoided. It is not easy for a "great, peaceful people" like ours to accept our government's decision to take part in the war, without a mental and moral struggle. But the regrets and differences of the past should be buried with the past, and every loyal man, woman and child resolve now to make an effort to harmonize their own opinions with what our President and Congress have deemed best for the welfare of the nation.

This can be done, by a constant re-affirmation of our faith in the ultimate outcome. Individual opinions count for nothing today; the nation will see the war thru to the end whether you would have it or not. And there's no better way for those who remain at home to help bring this conflict to its earliest possible close than by harmonizing their own opinions with the conclusions as set forth in the President's several messages. Therefore, let us resolve, as we enter upon the new year to be a little less critical, to seek a deeper realization of the priceless principles that are at stake, and to lend our every reasonable effort to advance the great, tho tragic, work our government has undertaken.

Where is Their Patriotism Now?

MANUFACTURERS the country over are up in arms against the U. S. fuel administration which has been threatening to close up their plants for a limited time to conserve coal. At a mass meeting recently held in Detroit to protest against any such action, industrial heads denounced W. K. Prudden, fuel administrator for Michigan, charging him with inexperience and incompetency. They refused to close up their plants a single day in order that coal might be diverted into empty bins and actual suffering prevented.

Does our memory play us false? Are these the same gentlemen whose "patriotic" co-operation with the government has been extolled from one

end of the country to the other; who have turned their plants over to the government without protest to be operated at cost—plus ten per cent? Are these the same gentlemen who have been criticizing the farmer for his apparent lack of sympathy with the Liberty loan and Red Cross campaigns; who have called him unpatriotic because he objected to a price being set upon his products, to the drafting of his help, to the arbitrary grading of his potatoes? Yea, verily, the very same.

Where is their boasted patriotism now? Has self-interest—the fear of losing their "ten per cent" profits for a single week that the demands of public needs may be satisfied—already given the lie to their boasted obedience to governmental wishes? So says the evidence.

It's easy for the city folks to be tolerant and patriotic as long as their own rights are rigidly respected, but what a howl they put up when even public necessity compels them to sacrifice. It always seems to make a difference whose foot the shoe pinches.

Better Keep Away From Washington

WASHINGTON has become the war-time mecca for people from all parts of the United States. Every train coming into the city is crowded; there is no chance to secure accommodations, unless reservations have been made far in advance, and once in the Capitol city it is mighty hard to get out. Sleeping car reservations are made weeks ahead, and the arrival and departure of trains is mighty uncertain. If only those who have business at the National Capitol would congregate there it would be different, but it seems that every man above draft age, who has the cash and the time, just naturally drifts toward Washington to find out "how the war is coming on." It is estimated that more than fifty thousand strangers are within the gates of the city; a portion of this number, to be sure, includes the extra clerks and other government employees needed because of extra war work, but a great majority is made up of the idle rich, who like the plug-hat brigade of the sixties, want to know how things are "comin' on," and to give their own ideas of how the war situation should be handled.

As might be inferred, the several departments are crowded with work, and the officials have neither time nor inclination to go very deep into the non-essentials. Let it be understood that every citizen of the United States will get a respectful hearing no matter what department he may visit, but all else but war preparations must naturally be considered as "little things" when compared with the one great issue. And too, Washington is not a place where you can dispel your gloom. The fellows who know, are confident of the final result—but the cost in dollars and lives to achieve that result, cannot be figured, and the prospects are not encouraging. It's going to be a hard fight and a long fight, and the Government is going at the work with commendable determination, and making good progress. Ten thousand grave questions confront the administration. Senators and congressmen are giving their best thought and energy to the situation, and the people at home must bear with patience many annoying things, which later, in the natural course of events will be corrected. In the meantime, the suggestion: "Keep Away From Washington," should be heeded.

Questionnaire.

QUES. Why are obnoxious restrictions placed upon the farmers without their knowledge and consent? **Ans.** Because the farmers are not properly represented at the conferences which decide such matters.

Ques. Why are not the farmers so represented? **Ans.** Because they are not organized and in a position to present a statement of consolidated opinion.

Ques. Why are not the farmers organized? **Ans.** Because they have never fully realized the advantage of co-operation and united action.

Ques. When will the farmers be ready for organization? **Ans.** Ask the potato grower who has just renewed his note at the bank after he had run his last load of potatoes over a government screen.

The editors wish that every woman reader would turn to the farm home department in this issue and read carefully the letter which Mrs. Anne Campbell Stark recently received from a Kalamazoo county subscriber. And then we wish that every one of you would hustle thru the dishes some evening this week and devote a single hour to writing Mrs. Stark a good, long heart-to-heart letter on any subject you may choose. We hear a great deal about the drab existence of the farm woman, but we know that her thots are as great, her trials as burdensome, her happiness as abund-

ant and her hopes as inspiring as those of her city cousins. Mrs. Stark wants to hear from all you folks; take her into your confidence; tell her of your experiences and your problems. We are very sure that she can be of great help to you. Oh, yes, send her pictures of the children and their pets; she'll print them in the paper and write a clever little poem about them. Now don't delay,—nor forget.

So many of our good friends have written us that they were going to get one or more new subscribers to M. B. F. on or before Monday, December 31st, that we have good reasons for believing that our Booster Day is going to be a big success. We wish we could make it the BIGGEST Booster Day on record, and we CAN if every reader who wants to help in the common cause will only boost for two or three new subscriptions. Wouldn't we be proud if even one-fourth of our loyal army of readers would enlist in the ten thousand circulation drive; and help take MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING safely "over the top." How we wish that we could come out to the farm today and sit and talk with you about the problems that confront every farmer in Michigan today; how we wish we could have the chance of showing you what it will mean to YOU and to every man who farms in Michigan, when ONE-HALF of the farmers of this great state have joined hands with this publication and become prepared to act in unison in the settling of those problems! For remember, dear friends, the farmers' problems will NEVER be solved until you are willing and equipped to think and act together. MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is your champion and your spokesman. Its influence for good has already been felt, and every new subscription that is received adds another round of ammunition for the fight we are making. Do your "bit" on Booster Day and we know you'll never regret it.

The newspaper that would sully its pages with horrible and lying stories of how soldiers have been crucified and their throats cut by Germans, isn't fit to enter a home where there are children or men and women who have any regard at all for truth and righteousness. The only purpose of such yellow journalism is to arouse the hate of the American people, and is wholly contrary to the policies of the government. Every story of alleged barbarity on the part of the enemy should be scrutinized by the government and its truth verified before being given over to the public, and any hireling and unprincipled newspaper that failed to observe the censorship should be barred from the mails. If irresponsible news gatherers are permitted to spread at will the loathsome and malicious inventions of morbid minds, fanning the smouldering embers of a people's long pent-up passion into a hot, vicious flame of vengeance, we may well expect the other gates of hell to be opened up, and vomit the consuming poison of hate and murder over all the earth.

W. Milton Kelley, the well-known agricultural writer contributes a timely article on marketing problems in this issue of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. Every farmer should read it. In view of the fact that farmers in this state are receiving \$7 for beans and 75 cents for potatoes that are retailing at \$10 and from \$1.50 to \$2.50 respectively in the cities, we must take exception to Mr. Kelley's inference that those engaged in the distribution of farm products make only necessary and nominal charges for the service they render. But there are so many illuminating facts and sound conclusions in Mr. Kelley's article that we are glad to present it to our readers.

They all come to it. Even Theodore Roosevelt who has been suspected of being an anti-prohibitionist for many years, now climbs into the dry band wagon. He is reputed as saying that the physical, moral and financial resources of the nation cannot be best conserved if the sale and use of alcoholic drinks are continued. Why do we have to go to war to prove the demoralizing effect of booze on individual and nation?

Will someone please tell us if the patriotic manufacturers who are working for the government on a cost plus ten per cent basis, figure in their war taxes as part of the costs. And if so, how many of our farmers do likewise when they determine the cost of production and the selling price of their article?

There is no gainsaying the statement that the present unfair and obnoxious potato grading rules would never have been passed had those most vitally concerned been given a voice in the matter.

EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

Eaton County Beans go About 8 bu. to Acre.

Enclosed please find \$1.00 to apply on subscription to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. I think it is one of the best papers that comes into our home. I am out of the potato district so far as raising them to sell is concerned, but I think what is for one farmer's interest is good for us as a whole, so my heart is with the potato growers and I am enclosing coupon with my opinion given on same, and I will do all within my power to see the potato riser properly used. We try to raise a lot of beans in this section; the crop this year will average about 7 bushels to the acre with about 75 per cent heavy pickers and no man can raise them at present price of \$11.00 per hundred and have anything left. In my opinion there is something decidedly wrong in the price of beans at the present time. The most of us paid \$9.50 to \$10.00 per bushel for our seed and supposed we would be taken care of and get a good price for them when our crop was ready for market, but it seems to be up to the bean jobber to make the price just the same as it has always been. We have a live stock association at Vermontville and do a fine business; shipped 57,000 lbs of cattle, hogs and sheep last Saturday. Price of feed seems to be rather high at terminals and am sending you clipping taken from the *Buffalo Stock Record* so you can see for yourself what commission they charge. I think it is high enough at the least, and the facts in the case are I think they are too high. Wishing you and M. B. F. all kinds of success, I am,—S. A. A., Vermontville.

Buyer Says No. 2 Grade Should Bring as Much as No. 1 Grade

This potato grading proposition is a hard one for me to get at as there is so much to take into consideration. If farmers select seed from the main crop the second grade would make good seed by sorting out the long ones and the affected ones. I never saw any of the third grade. I think there must be some good seed in that grade, too. I went into a warehouse at my loading station and the buyer showed me some No. 2 potatoes. They were very nice and should have brought the No. 1 price, but he said they only brought half price. The buyer told me himself that he thought the dealers would be glad to get rid of the sorter, as it takes too long to sort the potatoes.

If the screen is left as it is it will favor the man with a good crop and be a detriment to the man with a poor crop. The man with a poor crop will have to sell his No. 2 for what he can get, while the man with the good crop will have but a few. If the No. 2 grade are all as nice as those I saw I think the No. 2 screen should be eliminated entirely. The buyer told me the potatoes would have to wait so long before being unloaded that there was great danger of their being frozen, and you see it favors the dealer at the expense of the producer. I want to say here that the buyer said the No. 2 potatoes were just as good and ought to bring as high a price as the No. 1 grade.

I would favor the elimination of the No. 2 grade entirely. If this can not be done, I would favor a No. 1 price for No. 2 grade. —B. E., Cedar Springs.

Series of "Defeats" for the Farmer.

I deem it my duty, as well as a privilege, to try and explain to you and whoever it may concern, what the farmers of this section of the state are up against. I do not take it upon myself, however, to act as spokesman for all, as I have not been requested to do so, but I feel that it is absolutely essential that the Government know the immediate and

positive need of the farmers in this section, and according to reports, the whole state.

To begin with we have had three very bad seasons. Three years ago, 1915, there was a considerable acreage of beans, and with almost continuous rains beginning about the first of June, the bean crop was a flat failure. Anthracnose rust also added to the failure, and beans sold that fall for \$4.25 as the highest mark.

The farmers, like the great armies of Europe, reorganized after their "defeat" and prepared for a great "drive" the next spring, 1916. They sought to increase their acreage of beans to such an extent as to remunerate themselves for their vain efforts of the year before, but lo and behold, the drouth came, hence another defeat.

About this time the farmers began to lay back into the harness of uncertainty. They began to think that if the year of 1917 did not prove more successful than the two previous years, the slogan "back to the farm" would be reverted, as he would "turn his back to the farm." Now, for the spring of 1917. The declaration of war on Germany, and the flood of requests from all government and state officials that every farmer should plant every available foot of soil to such crops as the soil was best adapted to, and which would increase the food production of the country to the greatest possible extent.

The farmer saw "the light," and encouraged by all that he would be fully rewarded for his untiring efforts. But he was without seed—beans, potatoes, corn and oats. He must buy hay and grain to do his spring work and get the "war crop" in. Mr. Farmer paid the elevators \$10.00 per bushel for beans for seed, and in some cases more; \$1.75 per bushel for corn to feed; 82 cents per bushel for oats to feed and \$25.00 per ton for hay, and he also paid from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per bushel for potatoes at the commission houses. These were the conditions the farmer had to face last spring. He paid the price plus 6 per cent interest on good approved notes, or go without.

The farmers started to retrieve their "depleted line" and face the "enemy" again, putting every possible bit of energy and snap in their efforts. They followed the bean drill across the field, mocking the enemy's "goose-step" to perfection. The crop looked fair until the early frost changed their appearance, so with uplifted eyes and broken spirits they beg for mercy.

They have come to one conclusion, and one

only, that they must get \$9 or \$10 per bushel for beans on the perfectly dry system, which would not be any better than \$8 per bushel last spring (beans were selling in some instances at \$13.00 per bushel last spring for seed.) Beans are so easily affected by unfavorable weather conditions that it is a very uncertain crop. So the farmer says that whoever wants beans will have to show him that they appreciate his three years of fruitless labors, by paying him \$9 or \$10 per bushel for the 1917 crop which averaged about 7 bushels per acre for the whole state, and a guarantee of a like profit for 1918 in order that he might make a living and pay expenses, otherwise he will have to grow sugar beets and chicory another year.

You will please find enclosed \$1.00 for a year's M. B. F. It is too bad that every farmer in Michigan does not join the M. B. F. "lodge," and be united in fact and also in principle. Yet the farmers of Michigan know, through your paper, the position we should take as per above.—A. B., Auburn.

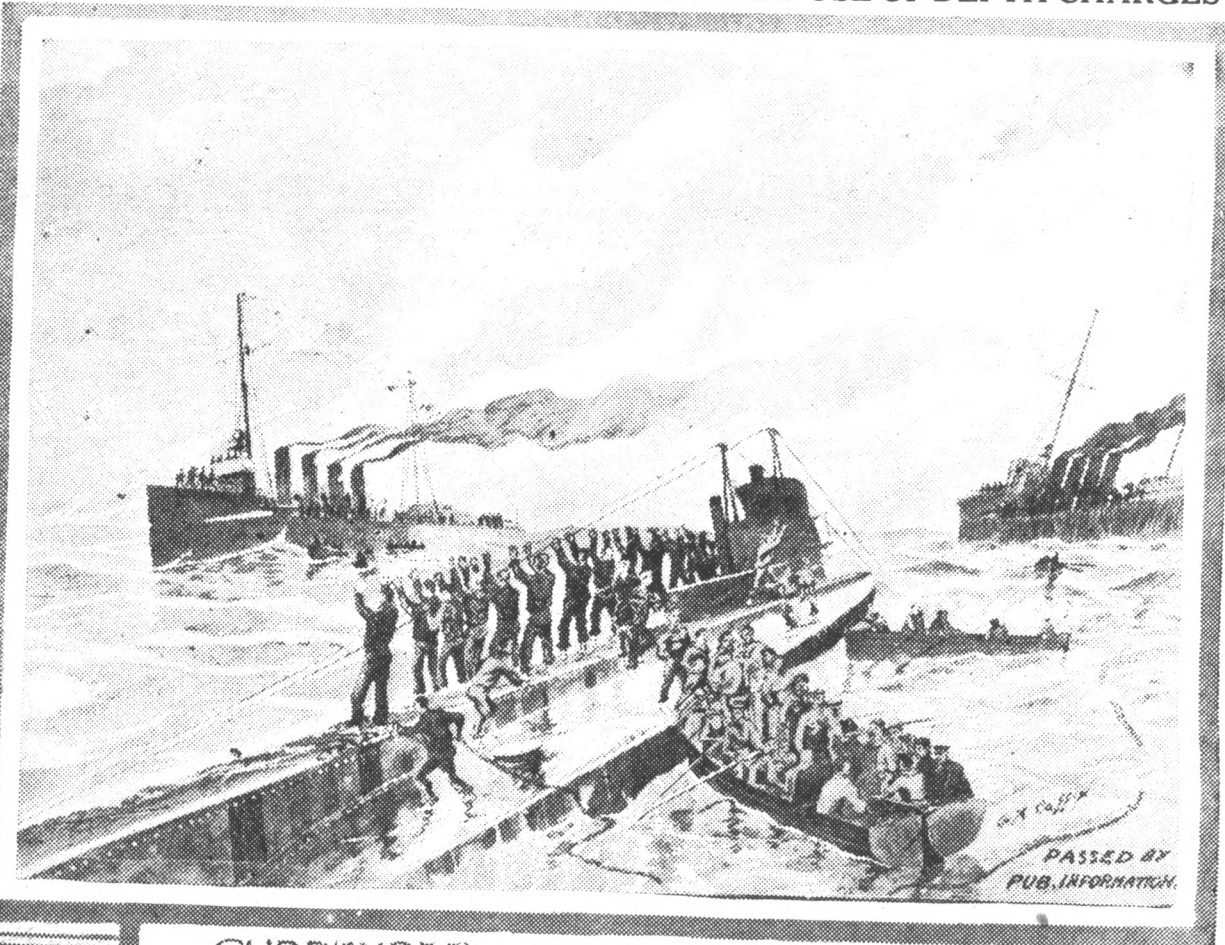
Doesn't See How Farmers Can Sell Beans for Less Than \$8.

As to the bean crop in Newaygo and Osceola counties, I live on the county line, and thus am in a position to know something about the bean crop in both counties. There were hundreds of acres of beans that were not harvested at all especially those on heavy land and planted late on, account of the late wet spring. Many of the beans are shriveled and the largest crop I know of was 8 bushels per acre, but the majority yield was from one bushel to six bushels to the acre, and they will pick heavy. A good many of the farmers failed to get their seed back and a good many are yet in debt for the seed. I can't see how we farmers can sell for less than \$8.00 per bushel, for it will be very little we will receive from our labor and use of land along with the high priced seed. If you could get the threshers' reports at Lansing you could see where we are at on the bean deal, as all threshers took down the number of acres planted and the number of bushels threshed and sent these reports to Lansing.

As I said before, the farmers will have to have \$8 per bushel for their beans this year or come out losers in their efforts to grow a bean crop to help feed the nation and the nation's allies.—W. E. C., Fremont.

(Readers' Editorials continued on following page)

AMERICAN DESTROYER CAPTURED U-BOAT BY USE OF DEPTH CHARGES



SURRENDER OF A "U" BOAT

(Exclusive Drawing).

Recent despatches by cable have told how American destroyers have captured German submarines by use of depth charges. The particular incident, so graphically pictured by C. A. Coffin, was one of the most dramatic of the present war. All of the men were taken off but one, who was drowned. Before the Germans abandoned the vessel, however, they had opened the water cocks and it began to sink shortly after they had been taken aboard the destroyer. Within a short time it disappeared.

EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

Bad Enough to be Blindfolded and Robbed;
But to be Chained Hand and Foot —

I am a new subscriber and glad of it. I shake hands with you on your attitude toward the farmer. I raise potatoes for a cash crop and voice my resentment with my farmer neighbors at the way we are being treated to potato hash. During the past three seasons I have stored my potatoes in common with my local dealer. This year my potatoes were a large run. I put in storage 499.30 at Karlin. The land around Karlin is light and low, so the potatoes were of small run, from one-third to two-thirds going through the new screen. Where I live it is high and heavy soil, potatoes were of a large run. Now they are putting these over the sorter and purpose to proportion the seconds out according to the number of bushels each one has in common. It isn't necessary to say that the man with the large run of potatoes loses and the man whose potatoes grade one-third to two-thirds gains.

My question is, is there a cause for legal action, there being no contract. If so state the case fully in a near issue of M. B. F.

I am only one of many thousands in the same boat in the state. To be blindfolded and robbed is bad enough but to be chained hand and foot with your eyes on the deer gets my goat. My potato crop will be cut 50 per cent next year.—R. L. B., Nessen City.

Beans Yield 2 to 12 Bus. in St. Clair County

In regard to the bean situation in Water township, St. Clair county, I would say there are farmers here who planted from \$75 to \$200 worth of seed beans, who were pleased to have the ground dry up so they could plow the weeds down to put in fall wheat where their beans were planted. I count myself lucky. I planted 17 acres and harvested 14 acres. I have not threshed yet. Some high ground beans are turning out from 2 to 12 bushels per acre. I think I would be safe in saying that two-thirds of the crop was not harvested at all. We have a rich clay loam here that has raised some premium crops of beans in dry seasons. I am very much pleased with your paper.—C. C., Goodells.

Dealer Sells Spuds to Government at Double Price Paid the Farmer

Farm life is the thing. We farmers are selling our potatoes at \$1.25 to \$1.35 a hundred and one buyer says he sold a car for \$2.50 a hundred to the government. Now I would like to know why the farmer can't sell potatoes to the government for that price, and who is making the most money, the farmer or the man that buys from the farmer. I planted 7 acres of potatoes last spring. Some seed I could have gotten three dollars a bushel for, and the rest two dollars. At that price my seed would have been worth \$125. I cultivated them 7 times and double disced the ground twice and harrowed the ground twice before planting, and twice after planting. I spread manure before plowing, paid 55¢ per lb. for paris green and used 30 lbs.; paid \$2 a day and board for man to help paris green them which took three days three times. I paid from \$4 to \$5 a day to get them dug and received 675 bu. Now if I have to run them over 1 15-16 in. screen. I will have about 500 bu. of No. 1 potatoes. Now, maybe potatoes ought to be graded, but 1 15-16 in. screen is too large; if it was 1 5-8 inch I am sure nobody would kick, and then do away with this No. 2 grade.

Thanking you for your good paper and advice.—A. C., Wyman.

Why Not Fix Prices on Potatoes as Well as Wheat

I received a sample copy of your M. B. F. and the Potato grading scheme, as you may call it by its right name caught my eye, and I read both sides thru. Now, to begin with we should call those salaried grafters that are always after the poor trodden farmer. To begin with, what vested power has this

Waid and Miller to jump on the Michigan farmer alone for a No. 1 and No. 2 grade of potatoes, as I have never read a protest from the consuming public yet. Last spring the papers were full of requests urging the farmers to bend every effort and put in every acre of potatoes available. Some cities went so far as to ship in carloads of seed to plant their lots with. The Food Administrator even went so far as to ask the farmers to pay \$50 to \$60 a month and board for help, but thank God there were not many in our territory who did it; if we had we would have had to join the dinner pail brigade or get a job at the agricultural college and be an expert on eggs or some other staple article, anything that would draw a fat salary for the farmers to pay taxes for. But of course, he could pay it out of his No. 2 potatoes.

It looks to me as though they were after the farmer because he is not in a union, like other labor. But if we don't get some sort of a paid deal I am of the opinion that there will not be an over production in 1918; here's hoping. I have noticed in my papers all winter of the food proposition and what the administration has done to relieve the situation. They simply waited for coal and for the railroads to take their time. Maybe they will take over the mines, but it takes miners to mine coal, but they will be a worse proposition than the farmers with his No. 1 and No. 2 potatoes.

Why don't the potato growers get the same consideration as the bean and sugar beet growers? They have had a hard battle, but they beat the Kaiser for they have not had an expert to tell them as we have on potatoes. Why don't the government fix the price on potatoes the same as it did on wheat, through the period of the war. I should think our Food Administrator would be vested with the same power to fix the minimum prices as he would to curb the price when it went out of sight. There is one thing that is certainly hurting the farmers, by storing their potatoes in warehouses before sold. It has been published in most all papers that the consumers would get their produce at cost, with a reasonable profit after it left the farmer's hands. Now potatoes are bringing about 60¢ to 75¢ to the farmer and I see in my Saginaw paper they are selling to the consumer for \$1.50 to \$1.60 per bu. Where is our Food Administrator who lets them pay that little profit for potatoes and Saginaw is less than 135 miles from here. But we should worry and get up early next summer and put in twice what we did in 1917

so they could grade them over a 2 1-2 inch screen. The farmers won't care for they are patriotic cusses. Some paid as high as \$4 a bu. for seed last spring and paid as high as \$3.50 and \$5.00 for digging, and now they are reaping their reward. But never mind, they tell us we are going to get cheap corn next January.—F. B. N., Gaylord.

Here's a Man "From Missouri"

I saw an item in the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING stating that Augustus Harmon raised 700 bu. of beans from 8 acres, and he sold the yield at \$9 per bushel. Now, we are all here for the purpose of helping one another, and if this worthy gentleman would come forward and tell us how he raised them we would all rise and thank him. I live in Saginaw county, where the land is good, and many farmers have tile drainage and do not raise more than 50 bu. to the acre. I would like to have Mr. Harmon tell how he sowed them to get such a big yield.—S. G. B., Chcsaning.

Co-operation is Farmers' Only Weapon

Co-operation, both in selling and buying, is the farmers' only means of meeting and successfully coping with the greed of middlemen and the strictly enforced "trade agreements" of manufacturers and jobbers. These agreements make it difficult and in many instances almost impossible for farmers or farmers co-operative associations to buy in carload lots, for spot cash such items as, coal, lumber, flour, fence posts, spraying material, fertilizer, etc., etc. What we farmers need, and what we can also get, if only the farmers organizations of the country would go after it, is a Federal Law prohibiting the manufacture, producer or jobber of any commodity discriminating against any would-be-purchaser, who buys in car lots, for cash. Provide a heavy penalty for any such discriminations, either in price, quality or the filling of the order.

It seems to me that now, considering the present mood of the Government, is a most opportune time to push this demand.

It is susceptible of proof that dealers here have been selling coal for a price 40 per cent to 60 per cent in excess of mine cost plus freight. C. P., Bridgman.

A Word From a 60-acre Bean Farmer

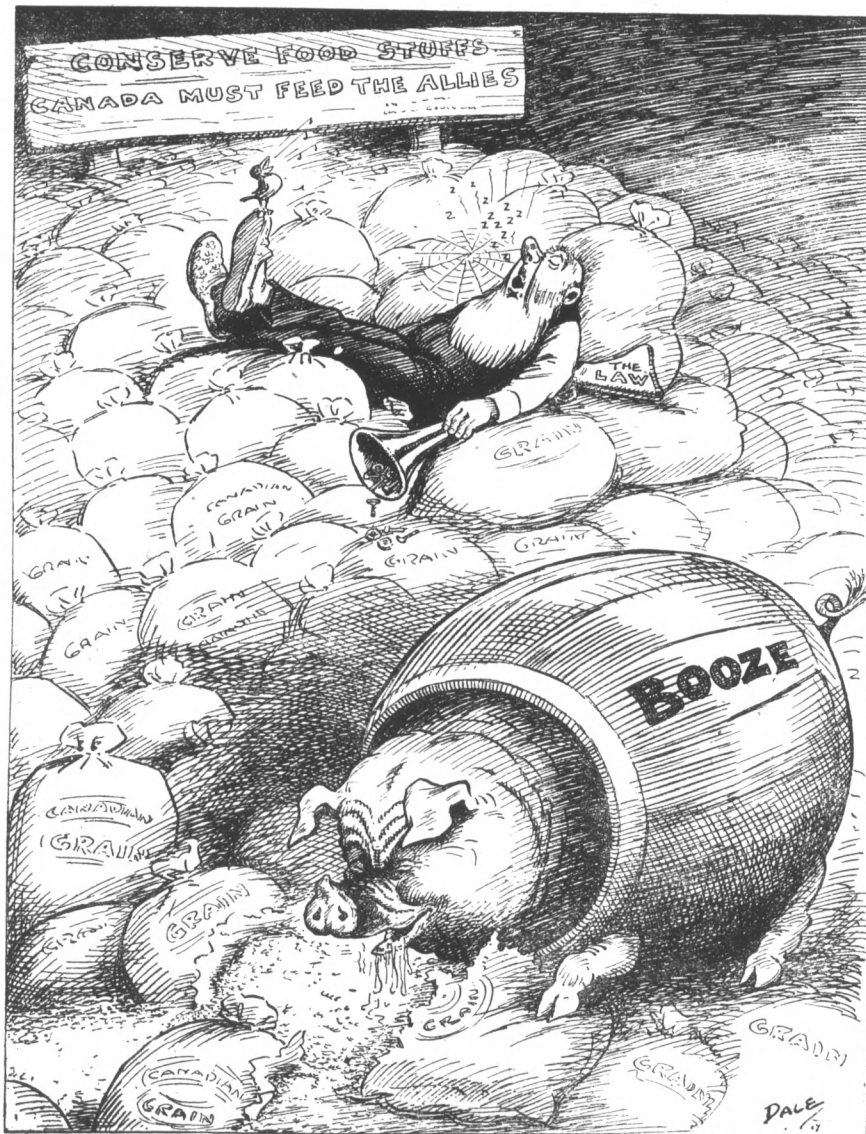
I am told that you are endeavoring to place the real bean and potato situation before the Food Administration and that you are representing the side of the farmer.

I raised sixty acres of beans this year. I bought the best seed obtainable and re-hand-picked all of it. The cut worms were very bad in this region and I had to replant a considerable amount. The beans were given the best of care up till the first of August when we stopped all cultivation as is recommended. It was necessary to pay \$3 per day for very mediocre help at time of harvest. I was more fortunate than the average in yield which was 400 bushels. The man who threshed my beans said that up till then his average threshing was about 4 to 5 bushels to the acre and a good many farmers would not harvest at all. This man sent in his yield data to the State Department of Foods and Markets and the very most important detail in his report was not given, namely, the beans. My beans are so soft and green that no buyer would touch them at present. We have prevented a general mouldy condition by spreading them out 4 to 5 inches thick on all the floor space we have and shoveling them over nearly every day. This has meant an additional expense in the cost of production that a good many lose sight of.

A great many of the beans in this vicinity will "pick" from a third to two-thirds on account of mouldiness and immaturity. In other words the reported yields of the threshers will shrink in many cases a hundred per cent.

It appears to me that if the government is to fix a fair price for food stuffs, it should base its figures of yield on quality as well as quantity.

Our yield up here will not be the yield reported by the threshing men.—A. J., Jr., Beulah.



ASLEEP ON THE JOB

This is the way the Grain Growers' Guide of Canada sizes up the booze question. Since the above cartoon was drawn, however, Premier Borden has announced that the importation and manufacture of all alcoholic drinks containing more than 2½ per cent of alcohol will be prohibited.

LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

START A LIVE COW TESTING ASSOCIATION

The first cow testing association was organized in Michigan several years ago. Since that time the idea has spread till there are organizations of this kind in nearly every state in the union. It is impossible to estimate the great amount of money they have saved dairymen but it is one of the best things in the business.

There are a great many counties in Michigan as well as all through the United States where a cow testing association would pay big dividends. This work costs each farmer but a very little cash outlay and the knowledge it brings him pays for all he spends in a short time. In our herds there are a few cows at least that do not pay a profit. And if you have a herd of twelve cows or more, one or two "boarders" lowers the record of the rest without some work of this kind. A live cow testing association is the best and quickest way of breeding up and increasing the number of high producing cows in any community that is at the command of every dairyman.

Feed, labor, land and cows are going up in price right along. There never was a time in the history of American dairying when business methods and extreme care in selling, breeding and feeding was as necessary as they are right now. It is next to impossible to make a profit with cows by the old methods of guess work that we used to practice. We have got to know that every pound of feed we put into the feed box will come back to use with a little profit in the shape of milk or butter. The only way of knowing this is by weighing the feed consumed and belonging to a live testing association.

This is a work that the rural schools could take up with excellent results. Agriculture is taught in a great many country schools and work of this kind is worth much more than simply a study of agricultural subjects from book alone. Teachers can serve their community by starting work of this kind that will be worth while. It needs a little leadership and work to make the work a success.

Farmers in a neighborhood who keep cows can get together to the mutual benefit of all in this. You don't need to keep fancy, high bred dairy cattle in order to make a profit from a testing association. In fact a live association will benefit the man with only ordinary cows more than it possibly could help the man with cows of high breeding, because the latter usually make a good profit. This is not the case with common or grade cows.

The time to start this work is now.

There is a great demand for all kinds of dairy products at good prices. Be sure that you are getting a profit for the feed you use and the money invested and labor expended. The only way to be sure is to know that your cows are all producers. This is the first and most important step toward profitable dairying. After you produce dairy products at a profit the question of selling them at a profit is another matter.

Veterinary Department

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

We had a calf about eight weeks old that suddenly developed a swelling on each side of the throat under the ear and back of the jaw bone. It could hardly eat or drink and it breathed quite hard, but it slowly recovered and is almost well now. What was this and what should we have done for it?—S. T., Traverse City.

The condition you speak of—here was parotitis or mumps. An animal so affected should be placed in a well ventilated and comfortable box stall and have water placed where it could reach it at all times. Should be fed only on thin slops and no fodder or hay should be given. The swelling should be painted three times daily with tincture of iodine for the first two or three days and after that once daily. As soon as a soft spot is found it is evident that there is an abscess within the cavity and it should be opened preferably by a veterinarian.

We have a horse that needs a tonic. He is run down and out of condition. We have had his teeth dressed. What would you advise?—J. Mc., Alpena.

There is positively no better tonic for a horse than Fowler's solution of arsenic of which one tablespoonful may be given in the feed three times each day. Try it.

We have a cow that is giving bloody milk. She is a very heavy milker and we are feeding her quite hard at this time. What is the cause of this and what must be done for it?—Wm. A., Sherman.

This condition is no doubt brought about by the feeding of large amounts of rich nutritious feed and is caused by the rupture of the small vessels in the udder. If there is much blood present it would be well to use a milk tube for a few days to draw the milk from the udder, as you will want to manipulate the udder as little as possible. The milk tube should be boiled each time before using and the teat should be washed with a mild antiseptic solution before the tube is inserted. Change the feed for a few days and do not feed so much.

SOPHIE 19th, WORLD'S MOST WONDERFUL COW

Having just completed her seventh official record under Register of Merit rules, Sophie 19th of Hood Farm not only establishes a record for the Jersey breed, but for all breeds when cumulative production is taken into consideration. There is no cow of any breed, living at the present time, which bids fair to eclipse Sophie's record for several years to come. It will be noted that Sophie's seven years' production exemplifies the outstanding characteristics of the Jersey breed—early maturity, persistency and longevity.

In her thirteenth year she has made 15,948 pounds of milk and 1,059 pounds of butter, which added to her six previous records, gives her a total production in her seven lactations of 91,869 pounds of milk, or over forty tons, and 6,600 pounds of butter, or more than three and a quarter tons. She became champion cow of the Jersey breed on completing her fifth lactation, when she made 17,557 pounds of milk and 999.1 pounds of fat. This record has never yet been equalled by any other cow of the breed.

One of the things that her records fail to show is the fact that Sophie is not only a wonderful producer, but a most remarkable reproducer. Besides being a champion herself, she has produced champions. One of her sons, Pogis 99th of Hood farm, is the sire of twenty-six officially tested daughters whose average production for one year is 620 pounds of butter. Two of these cows are champions in the three-year-old and four-year-old classes. At this age they have even surpassed the production of their granddam, Sophie 19th. The first of these, Sophie's Adora, who is four-year-old champion of the breed, made 15,852 pounds of milk and 1,110 pounds of butter in one year. The second is Sophie's Bertha, three-year-old champion, with a record of 14,954 pounds of milk and 1,036 pounds of butter. Another granddaughter, Sophie's Dolly Mimple, recently completed a record of 10,813 pounds of milk and 860 pounds of butter, which made her champion two-year-old Jersey cow of Ohio.

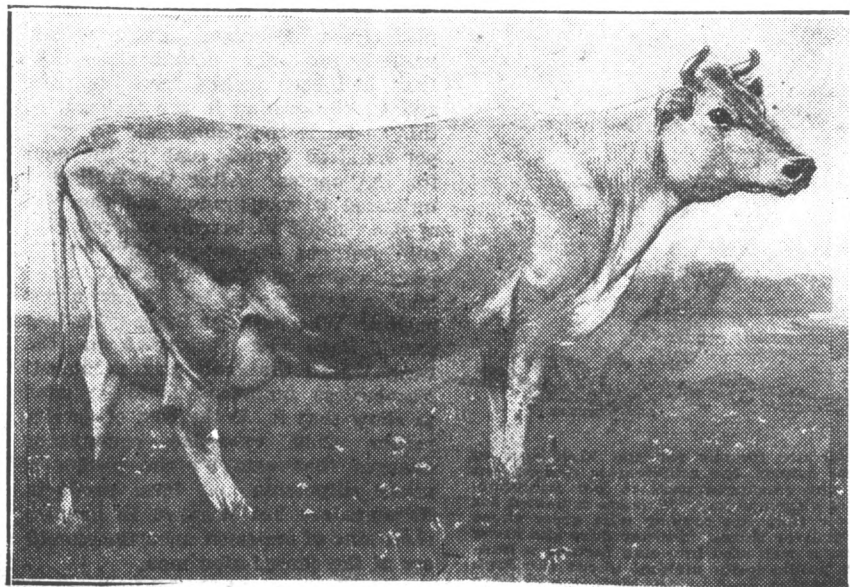
Had Sophie made but her one great record of 999 pounds of fat, it would probably have been said that she was forced to her limit in doing so, and that her future as a dairy cow had been sacrificed to gain this end. The records which she has made since that time has, however, set aside all these conclusions. The following table gives Sophie's great records in the order made:

Milk lbs.	Fat lbs.	80% Butter lbs.	Age yrs. mos.
7050.2	395.9	494.8	2 2
9924.8	570.8	713.5	3 8
14373.2	854.8	1068.5	4 11
15099.4	931.9	1164.8	5 7
17557.8	999.1	1248.8	7 11
11915.4	680.5	850.6	9 7
15948.2	847.8	1059.8	11 9
91869.0	5280.8	6600.8	

Sophie 19th is still in good physical condition and she may yet contribute other records to supplement the great work that she has already done as standard bearer of the Jersey breed.

During the past two years Sophie has traveled to the National Dairy Shows, where she has held the attention of crowds of admirers who were anxious to see "The World's Greatest Cow."

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Shortening Road between Farmer and Consumer

THIS IS certainly a year of difficulties in marketing farm products. The lack of efficient labor, together with the shortage of suitable barrels, boxes and baskets has made the sorting and grading of fruit and vegetable crops unusually expensive and difficult to the farmers and commission dealers. Every community where fruit and vegetable crops are grown for market has faced a shortage of help and packages. As a result thousands of carloads of farm produce reached city terminals in a mixed, uncouth condition.

Apples, pears, peaches grapes, cucumbers, potatoes, onions and tomatoes have been loaded into ordinary freight cars or shipped in boxes, crates and barrels of various sizes and descriptions, so that the shipments on arrival at city terminals have had demoralizing effects upon prices. Fruit and vegetable crops shipped in bulk or in slimsy, ill-shapen containers cannot be put onto the markets in good uniform condition; besides such shipments involve a tremendous amount of work and expense on the part of commission men and city dealers. It is also very difficult for commission houses to supply the demands of a high-class trade with products of mixed quality.

In discussing this phase of bulk shipments, and of shipments made in misfit barrels, crates and boxes, a member of one of the leading commission firms in Buffalo, N. Y., said: "For more than ten years we have been endeavoring to induce our shippers in the country to properly grade their products and ship them to us in boxes, barrels, crates and baskets adapted to our trade among grocers in the best residential sections of the city. So long as the shipments reached us in good condition we could make prompt deliveries to our trade and keep our operating charges down to a minimum. This year we have had to employ more help, buy packages when we could get them and make every possible effort to supply the demands of our trade from bulk and mixed shipments. On account of the shortage of standard containers we have found it utterly impossible to make prompt daily deliveries and put the products on the market in as good condition as we have in former years. The handling of bulk shipments, and of poor quality mixed shipments, has forced us to handle large quantities of inferior products in order to get enough products to supply our regular trade. To dispose of these lower grades of perishable fruit and vegetables, left on our hands after sorting and grading the bulk and mixed shipments as they arrived at our storage rooms, we got busy and organized a system of selling and distributing them thru Italian and Jewish peddlers who take wagon loads of the produce from our storage rooms and sell it in the factory and tenement districts. In this way we find an outlet for vast quantities of perishable fruit and vegetables at a very low expense. Under ordinary conditions on a large city market these peddlers handle only such produce as has been damaged or deteriorated in package shipments, but this year we find it an important factor in selling bulk shipments, cutting down the expense for packages, and grading many kinds of produce."

The fact that such vast quantities of farm produce arrives at the city terminals in such poor condition is going to make the problem of putting it into storage more difficult than in former years when better grading and sorting was done in the country. The freight, sorting charges and the cost of disposing of the refuse from shipments must be paid by someone. Sorting on the farm saves these middlemen's charges and the cost of storage, which ultimately fall back on the pro-

Farmers' Co-Operative Marketing Organizations Equipped to Grade and sort their Products will Help Solve Marketing Problem

By W. MILTON KELLEY

ducer. There is a great saving in freight when the produce is sorted and graded at the original shipping point so that it may be put into storage without rehandling. All of this work costs more in the cities than it does in the country. And in addition to these losses there is a great amount of produce occupying perfectly good car space and storage room that is absolutely worthless for food. Almost any carload of produce unloaded in a commission house today will contain a vast amount of waste. The railroads receive freight and the storage houses receive pay for the space this waste occupies; besides waste produce has a tendency to spoil the better grades mixed with it in the shipments. Farmers, country shippers and commission dealers must pull together now as never before to get the year's food supply onto the markets with as little waste as possible. Every sort of product that is fit for human food must be saved and put into the market in condition to bring good prices and furnish a maximum amount of human food. It is no time to wrangle about standard packages or fancy products; our people need the food and they are willing to pay reasonable prices for it.

When prices are unusually high there is a tendency on the part of both farmers and consumers to have unholy thoughts about the commission dealer and to look upon him as an economic parasite rather than a public necessity. The farmer insists that he has suffered many things of many men standing between himself and the consumer, and that the time has come when it is up to the consumer and himself to get together and eliminate the middlemen. So far as the commission man is concerned, he has the facts and figures to show that will demonstrate to any fair-minded man

that he is a public necessity, and that his part in the grading, classifying and distributing of farm products is just as real and important as that of the producer or the retailer. The average farmer and consumer has a vague general notion that the commission merchants simply receive farm products at one door and shove them out at another—taking from 10 to 100 per cent toll for their trouble in the course of the transaction.

To spend a few hours on a large city market and study the activities in a large commission house is to realize instantly the absurdity of this supposition. A careful inspection of the inside working of a great commission house let us trace a shipment of eggs from the farm to the city and find out the amounts paid out for commission and service. Brown ships 200 dozen of his eggs to his commission house. The eggs are a mixed lot of various shapes, sizes and colors. For this reason the commission man remits 25 cents per dozen, less 10 per cent commission and 80 cents express charges for the entire shipment, or the price of mixed country eggs on the market the day he received the shipment. Brown gets his check for \$44.20 and the incident is closed so far as he is concerned. He has received the wholesale market price for his eggs. But let me say right here that the amount remitted is invariably based upon the market quotations for the lower grades in the mixed shipment.

Now, let us see what actually occurs after Brown's eggs reach the commission house and how they are sold to the trade. The commission merchant either sells them to some friend

who is an egg dealer, or he proceeds to grade, repack and distribute them to his trade. By going thru Brown's shipment carefully he sorts out 120 dozen clean white eggs, which are graded and sold as strictly fresh White Leghorn, to large hotel for 44 cents per dozen; and 50 dozen graded and strictly fresh country eggs to a groceryman in a residential district for 36 cents per dozen; and 30 dozen of the ill-shapen, soiled eggs to an Italian shop keeper for 28 cents per dozen. In this instance someone is paying about \$30 for service which should have been performed at the farm where the eggs were produced. It is the charges for service and not the excessive commission charges that stand between the city consumer and the farmer, and so long as farmers persist in shipping their produce in mixed, uncouth lots to the big city markets, just so long will they be compelled to pay for this service in getting their products before the consumer. In tracing a shipment of grapes that had been carelessly picked and packed in an Ohio vineyard and shipped to Chicago it was found that the commission house remitted \$34 a ton for the shipment, less 10 per cent commission and freight charges. At their storage rooms the entire carload was repacked and 1,000 baskets weighing about 10 pounds each sold for 20 cents a basket to a small groceryman and the balance of the shipment sold in the Italian and Greek settlements at \$2.20 per hundred pounds for wine manufacturing purposes. In this transaction the service, as in the



The consumer blames the farmer for the high cost of foodstuffs, while the real culprit, the middleman, dodges out of harm's way. When the consumer goes to her neighborhood grocery store in the city and pays 20 cents a pound for beans, she does not know that the farmer who grew those beans that the peck of potatoes for which she paid 50 cents was sold by some farmer a hundred miles away for 20 cents. When the buying public quits kicking about the high cost of food and makes an effort to find out what makes food prices high it will be a happy day for both producer and consumer.

shipment of the mixed eggs, had to be paid for.

Not many years ago the writer visited a large commission dealer in Chicago and saw several carloads of apples from Michigan unloaded and packed for city distribution. The fruit had been picked from the trees and off the ground in the orchard. In this instance the house paid 80 cents per hundred pounds cash at the door for the apples. After the fruit was unloaded it was graded and the best apples packed in barrels and put into cold storage; the seconds sold to the retail stores and the culls sold in the foreign settlements for 40 cents per bushel. Who paid for the service that should have been performed on the farm where the fruit was produced? Numberless instances could be cited to show that it is the cost of service rather than excessive commission charges that eats up the profits of many shipments of farm products. Farmers are not justified in heaping their sins of omission upon the shoulders of the commission men.

(Continued next week.)

County Crop Reports

GRATIOT (Southeast)—Most farmers are busy at present getting up buzz piles or are cutting wood with the cross-cut saw. There is not a bit of coal in the coal yards. Wood is selling at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cord. The weather is mild and the snow is going away slowly.—J. E. C., Bannister, Dec. 19.

WEXFORD (West)—About the same old story, farmers are getting up wood. Some are looking after their beans. A little more snow has fallen and at the present time there is pretty fair sleighing, the roads have been blocked in some places. It has been necessary to resort to the snow plow in order to get the youngsters to school. The school was closed down a couple of days last week on account of the drifts. Yes, I am in sympathy with Mr. Mason. The government and most every big fellow said last spring "plow up your back yard, put in something in every foot of ground to feed everyone across the pond," which we have done for years. Now this fall they are taking our hide. The fellows who do nothing get it all, or very near. Most every farmer raised enough in one year to last him ten years and it don't last him one season. Did you ever stop to meditate as to where it went to. Then if one poor fellow gets the start of one of the big fellows he is dishonest and they try to blackmail him, when they have been setting the example—teaching him to be crooked. It has been a wonder to me that there are not more dishonest men than there are.—S. H. S., Harrietta, December 15.

CHEBOYGAN (South)—Our severe cold for the past week has taken a thaw and the weather at this date is quite mild. Some beans to thresh yet and some are still in the fields. Considerable work is being done on the county roads. It gives many farmers a chance to work their teams cutting down hills and hauling gravel. A number of farmers are cutting wood for which there is a very good market at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cord for 16 inch wood. The market for stock is quite brisk and many farmers are selling closely on account of the scarcity of feed.—Wolverine, Dec. 18.

KALKASKA (Southwest)—The farmers are kicking on the two grades of potatoes. The weather has been down to zero brand. The farmers are not able to do any work out of doors, as it has been so cold; there is about 18 inches of snow. Farmers are holding most of their potatoes. Nearly all of the farmers have to buy grain to feed their stock.—R. B., So. Boardman, Dec. 17.

PRESQUE ISLE (Central)—Weather has been very cold the past week and aside from getting up wood the farmers are not doing much.—D. D. S., Millersburg, Dec. 17.

MANISTEE (Northwest)—The farmers in this county have their farm work about completed for this season. Corn is about all taken care of and beans are all threshed. In this county beans were a light yield and a poor grade. Some test as high as forty per cent and the price is \$6.40 per bu. hand-picked basis. There are not many being marketed, at present. Hay is bringing from \$24 to \$30 per ton. There is nothing doing with potatoes. The weather has been the coldest the past week I have ever seen it at this time of year.—C. H. S., Bear Lake, Dec. 16.

GENESEE (Southwest)—There is not much of anything being done on the farms at this time. A few are husking corn and threshing beans. The weather has been warmer with a few light showers, making the fields bare and the roads muddy. The soil is thawing out and the snow is nearly all gone. Hogs and other livestock are moving quite lively. Hay and grain are moving steady. Potatoes that were frozen some during the last cold spell are being put on the market. Fall seeding is looking poorly. Farmers are selling a bit of wood for fuel, especially in the cities, on account of the coal shortage. Beans that have been threshed are turning out very poorly as a rule, some picking as high as 35 lbs. per bu.—C. S., Fenton, Dec. 20.

OAKLAND (North)—Not much to tell in this report; not much business being done. The potato market is off and not much produce moving; most of the corn is out in the fields. Some hay going to market. A lot of poor stock going to market on account of the scarcity of feed. E. F., Clarkston, Dec. 20.

HURON (Northwest)—We are having soft weather this week. Bean threshing is in progress yet. Some are yielding fair, and there are a good many acres that are not worth threshing. Farmers are marketing some grain and stock to raise funds for taxes. Flour, \$13 per bbl.; wheat, \$2.05, test 58. Soft coal, \$8 per ton and hard to get. A lot of young farmers are discouraged and are selling out and moving to the cities to work. They are discouraged over the way the government wants young men to do farming. Something will have to be done.—G. W., Elkton, Dec. 21.

MASON (West)—Weather severe. Not much produce moving to market at present. The fact that wheat treated with the formalin solution produced a very poor stand while untreated seed produced a normal stand is causing comment among the farmers. The difference is not due to inexperience or poor seed as some of the farmers have been using the solution for a number of years, and some of the fields seeded with the treated seed were finished with the untreated. Hogs and poultry are moving freely; the demand is good. Friday, Dec. 14, a potato show was held at S. Attville which was well attended. Out of 18 varieties exhibited Late Petoskeys won first place, receiving 21 out of 29 votes.—B. M., Ludington, Dec. 14.

OTSEGO (West Central)—The weather has been changeable lately, cold and warm, with about 8 inches of snow. The farmers are getting up their winter supply of wood. Some of the farmers are hauling logs to town.—C. A., Gaylord, December 22.

BAY (East)—Farm work has been finished for this winter. Bean threshing in this community has been finished, some of them are of very poor quality and the farmers are holding them for \$8. Corn is being shredded but the weather is not very good for shredding. The cold weather has caused a great scarcity of coal and farmers are able to secure only a ton at a time, and it is hard to get at that. Hay is moving now. Land that was tiled has shown a great increase in crops compared to undrained land. The advanced \$5 per thousand within the last two months. Some pork and beef is being sold and a few oats. Wishing M. B. F. a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.—G. G., Linwood, Dec. 22.

JACKSON (South)—Farmers are not marketing grain at the present, too busy getting up wood and trying to keep corn husked for their fattening hogs. There seems to be some difficulty in getting cars enough to ship stock. Many are holding their beans for higher prices. It is almost impossible to secure hard coal and soft coal in only small amounts. You can buy two pounds of sugar now at some groceries, but not over the two-lb. limit.—G. S., Hanover.

CALHOUN (Southwest)—Our snow all gone; ground frozen again; not very good for wheat and rye. Farmers are drawing wood to town and they need it as the coal is just about as scarce as can be. Most all of the hogs are marketed. Some wheat going to market. A good many farmers are selling out and some are going off their farms. Looks like a good many auction sales another spring.—E. B. H., Athens, Dec. 22.

INGHAM (Northwest)—We are having nice warm weather after twenty below. Farmers are cutting wood. Those who have timber can't get coal. They are cutting and hauling wood to town, get \$4.50 per cord for green maple and hickory. Elevators are full; paying \$6.50 for beans. Hay \$16 to \$20 per ton; hogs off \$2 a hundred. Taxes just a little higher than last year, \$13.90 per thousand.—W. B., Williamston, Dec. 21.

TUSCOLA (Northeast)—After a week of extreme cold the weather is mild again. Farmers are selling some grain. Farm help is very scarce. Many old men are left alone on the farm. Coal is scarce, what can be had is selling at \$14.50 per ton in 500 lb. lots. Popple wood sells at \$2.50 per cord. Many are using old pine stumps for fuel.—S. S., Cass City, December 21.

BAY (Southeast)—Farmers have been selling hay, are waiting for cars now, the hay is mostly baled. Not much can be done now, crops were too poor to admit of improvements.—J. C. A., Munger, December 21.

MIDLAND (Northwest)—The weather has been very cold up to a few days ago. Now it is quite warm and the snow is fast disappearing. Farmers are getting up wood and doing their annual butchering. Not much produce moving from the farm except live stock and a few beans. The farmers are very much dissatisfied with the new beet contract and very few are signing up.—F. A. L., Coleman, December 20.

MONROE (East)—Last week it was cold and there was snow to protect the wheat, but it is all gone now. Wheat and rye are small. Lots of corn in field.—E. H. M., Dec. 20.

MIDLAND (Southeast)—Some of the farmers are hauling tile to be put in in the spring. They are holding their beans for higher price. Coal is scarce, and the chemical plant at Midland is at a standstill for want of fuel.—J. H. M., Hemlock, Dec. 22.

OSCEOLA (Northeast)—Farmers not selling anything. Some would sell potatoes but they can not be sold at any price.—W. A. S., Marion, Dec. 21.

INGHAM (Southwest)—The weather is cold; snow about all gone. Beans are about threshed, they pick from 2 to 40 lbs. per bu. Farmers cannot get coal and green wood is the fuel today.—B. W., Leslie, Dec. 21.

TUSCOLA (West)—After two weeks of zero weather we are having spring-like weather. Farmers have been threshing, and it is most all done now. They are selling mostly wheat and beans to get money to pay taxes which are the highest the farmers have ever had. As to beans, the farmers who sell to the small country elevators unless it be a farmers' co-operative elevator, loses from \$1.00 to \$2.00 on every 100 lbs, which is too much these hard times. One week ago I took a small load to a small town, which brot, after water shrinking and pick were deducted, \$7.04. The next week I took two loads to Saginaw which brought me, after water test and pick was deducted \$8.64, a difference of \$1.60. Oh, yes, I can draw beans 16 miles for that price. My neighbor tried country elevator and city elevator and says he made three dollars on every bag he hauled to Saginaw. Hurry the farmers' elevator along so the farmer gets out of the clutches of the elevator sharks.—C. B., Reese, Dec. 21.

NEWAYGO (Southwest)—Farmers are cutting wood getting ready for winter. Beans have taken a drop and all products of the farm are moving slowly. Farmers are badly discouraged about the bean crop this year, and I don't think there will be many beans planted next year in these parts. The weather is fine for this time of year.—C. B., White Cloud, Dec. 22.

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MONTCALM (Southwest)—Farmers are mostly through threshing beans which are in a poor condition owing to the late rains received in this locality. Weather is more moderate than last week, as no snow remains on the soil. A few loads of potatoes are being sold at the price of \$1.55 per cwt. at Miller's Station.—H. L., Greenville, Dec. 21.

SAGINAW (Northwest)—Weather is milder and pleasant. Farmers are cutting wood, hauling up corn, etc. Markets are well supplied with hogs and poultry. Present weather conditions are unfavorable for wheat as the ground is freezing and thawing.—M. S. G., Hemlock, Dec. 22.

PRESQUE ISLE (Central)—We are having good winter weather this week. Nothing doing much; some are selling hay and most all are getting up wood.—D. D. S., Millersburg, Dec. 22.

WEXFORD (South Central)—Some of the farmers have gone to the lumber camps to work, others just caring for stock. Weather mild. Sleighing getting thin in places. Not much farm produce moving.—A. A. H., Boon, Dec. 24.

ARENAC (Northwest)—The farmers are cutting, hauling, and selling wood at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per cord. This is the first green Christmas we have had in 16 years. The weather is damp and rainy. The farmers are holding what few beans they have for \$8. Some farmers are selling and shipping hay. The farmers are not buying or building anything on account of material being so high. We enjoy reading all the reports in the M. B. F. because we know it's the gospel truth. The writer gave one narrow contracted pin-head a good trimming for calling the M. B. F. pro-German.—A. D. F., Alger, Dec. 24.

BENZIE (West)—Getting up wood and working on gravel roads when they can get a chance. Beans are on the downhill and potatoes at a standstill at 60c per bu. for best grade. Nothing moving except hay, and this is nearly all gone.

FOR SALE—80 acre farm in Lincoln township, Isabella county, 6 1/2 miles southwest of Mt. Pleasant and 7 miles west of Shepherd and 5 miles northeast of Winn. It has a good 8-room house with a good large stone cellar and a good well and windmill by the back door and a good barn with basement with cement floors and a silo; room for 7 horses and a large box stall in horse stable and the cow stable has tie room for 9 or 10 head with a large box stall also. A large apple orchard, some cherry, pear, plum trees and strawberries. There is a small pond in pasture quite well fenced and about 2 acres of cedar, about 15 acres seeded to June clover and 5 acres of rye, 3 walnut trees, one butternut in the dooryard. Price is \$7,000. Frank Egloff, Shepherd, Mich., R.F.D. No. 1. The reason for selling is that we want to buy in Branch or Calhoun county, Michigan. The mail goes by the door.

Farmers are selling it at \$20. The bean situation is bad, the average pick is 30 lbs per bu., and this is the way they work it here: pick 30 lbs., leaves 30 lbs to pay for at 10 1-2c per lb., \$3.15. Charge 5c per pound for pick, \$1.50; \$3.15 less \$1.50 leaves \$1.65 per bushel, and as the yield was an average of four bushels per acre it makes an income of \$6.60 per acre, and the seed cost \$5.00 per acre, you can see where we get off at. The feed situation is serious here. No rough hay to be had at any price, too many people went into beans and potatoes. It will serve as a check on the bean and potato acreage next year. There are but very few beans that will be fit to plant next year, and lots of potatoes were chilled. There is no seed corn here and southern seed corn is no good for us.—F. M., Elberta, December 22.

LIVINGSTON (Northwest)—Most of the farmers are busy caring for their stock and getting fire wood. Snow about all gone. Not much being marketed.—G. A. W., Fowlerville, Dec. 22.



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



ANNE CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

This Week's Tested Recipe

RISEN CORNBREAD FOR SUPPER

The spoon breads are equally good for supper and always make a substantial dish with a meat stew. When company is coming on you want to surprise the family, try risen cornbread for supper. It is not advisable to attempt it for breakfast because meal ferments so rapidly with yeast that the product is likely to be sour by morning.

One cake compressed yeast, two cups sweet milk, scalded and cooled, two tablespoons brown sugar, two tablespoons lard, two and one-half cups white cornmeal, one cup sifted flour, one teaspoon salt, two eggs well beaten.

Dissolve yeast and sugar in lukewarm milk and add melted fat. Stir in the cornmeal, flour, salt and add well beaten eggs. Beat thoroughly. Fill greased bowl two-thirds full. Set to rise in a warm place for about an hour. Be careful that it does not over rise. It should be baked as soon as light. The baking will require from twenty to thirty minutes, according to thickness of pone.

Have You Had This Experience?

My dear Anne Campbell Stark:—

I have enjoyed every issue of the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING and particularly our own page. However, the entire paper has interested me. I have always thought the business end of farming fascinating, and my husband says that is because I came to the farm with a fresh viewpoint.

I was a city girl. Had lived there for twenty-two years of my life before I went to spend a vacation where I met my big, fine farmer husband. I worked in an office, and made good money, and my husband says my business training has helped him many times. That remark always makes me proud, because I believe a woman should be an all 'round partner in her married life. Many women think if they prepare their husband's meals and keep his house, their duty ends. I have tried to be a partner in the business end of it too. As a special reward of merit I always have a pig or two, a calf, and some baby lambs all my own, which I care for faithfully, and the money they bring is my very own to do with as I please. My husband is not at all "tight" in money matters. I have a regular allowance—a salary just as I did when I was working. He never questions my expenditure of this money, and he does not know that in the ten years of our married life I have put away \$2,500. I remember sometimes the plays I saw when I was in town,—how the son lifts the mortgage from the old home, and have had a vision of a run of hard luck sometime, when my unexpectedly having some money of my own might help a great deal. I am really saving my money for the youngsters, though, two boys whom it is the dream of my life to send through college.

When I first married and moved to Maple Grove Farm, many of my husband's relatives questioned his wisdom in marrying a city girl. They said it was impossible for a girl who had been used to the life and gayety of town to be happy on the quiet farm. They were afraid I would not be practical enough to manage the butter, and the hens and fowl, but the joke so far has been on them!

I may not have the light pleasures I had when I was in town. We cannot go out of an evening to a show; that is, very often, though we do occasionally take the interurban to a town nearby where some good productions are often staged. But we have a machine, and in the summer I take the children for drives, and in the evenings we go together. We have all the latest books and magazines and we both are very fond of reading. We are ambitious for ourselves and for our children, and I am proud to say that since my marriage Maple Grove Farm has grown far more prosperous than it ever was before. My husband says that is because he has the inspiration of myself and our boys.

Now, dear Mrs. Stark, don't publish this letter. I know you must come in touch with other women's lives occasionally, and it occurred to me to write you and tell you how much I enjoy your poems and your real helpful articles. And when I got started I just rambled on. I feel like visiting today! Write me and tell me something about yourself. I have always wondered about the personality of the woman who runs our page. Are you young, old, married or single? Don't be stingy! (I hope you won't think this is too personal.)

My very best wishes to you for Christmas and the New Year.—Mrs. M. T. C., Kalamazoo.

I certainly enjoyed Mrs. C.'s letter and I was dis-

appointed when I came to the paragraph where she told me not to publish it, because I knew you would all enjoy it too. However, I wrote her such a pleading letter that her heart melted and she sent me word that I could publish it.

The subject of a city girl on a farm, or the farmer girl in town has always been a matter of interest to me. I have heard folks say that the only way to be happy was for a farmer to marry a farmer, a city man a city girl. However, when love comes into the window the memory of other folks' opinions flies out of the door, and many brave young people have braved the displeasure of their relatives by marrying whom they pleased.

I wonder if some more of you folks have had an experience at all like Mrs. C.'s? Did everyone think you were foolish to marry and "bury" yourself on the farm? And did your new interests bring you happiness? I think some letters along this line would interest everyone of us.

Do let's swap experiences, and have a real gossip, visitity time!

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

The New Year

*O H, the New Year may be a blue year,
A sick-and-sad year; the worst
we've had year.*

*It could scarcely be a glad year
With so many fellows fighting over there.
But the new year can be a true year,
A dare-and-do year; a help-a-few year.
Yes, it surely can be a do year,
When we'll do a little bit more than our
share.*

*O H, the next year may be a vexed year.
A full-of-pain year; an all-in-vain
year.*

*It could scarcely be a sane year
With so many fellows missing every-
where.
But that same year can be a game year.
A smile-or-bust year; in God-we-trust
year.
Yes, it surely can be a game year
When we learn to, as the Spartans, grin
and bear.*

*O H, the New Year may be a blue year.
A weary long year, a go-at-it-strong
year.*

*And it somehow will seem a wrong year
With so many fellows dying over there.
But the New Year will be a true year,
Forget-yourself year; don't lay-up-pelf
year.
And we're sure it's a fight-em-through
year.*

A help-us-win-the-war year, everywhere!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

A New Year's Party

A CALENDAR contest affords a great deal of amusement for an informal New Year's gathering.

Each guest is provided with water color paints and drawing paper, calendar pads, paste, pens, ink, pencils and brushes. Each is allowed to make his own selection of pencil or pen and ink design or water colors.

A half hour is allowed for this work—or three-quarters at the outside. After that time has elapsed each guest writes his initials on the back and the calendars are collected and carried away by a committee of two or three "artists" to decide upon.

Prizes may be awarded for the funniest, the most original, the poorest and the one best executed. A pretty calendar makes an appropriate prize.

For a young high school crowd the "Bell Game" will prove fascinating. Young folks like to exercise their wits! Each guest is given a paper and a pencil. At the top of this paper or card is sketched a string of bells and beneath was written: How many of these bells can you name? Then came the following descriptive phrases:

1. A bell that is never peaceful; 2. a sea bell; 3. a noisy animal bell; 4. an unsubmitive bell; 5. an architectural bell; 6. a literary bell; 7. a scolding Biblical bell; 8. a flower bell; 9. a city (bell) in Ireland; 10. an herb; it means "beautiful lady."

The answers which the guests are supposed to figure out, of course, are as follows:

1. belligerent; 2. bell-buoy; 3. bellow; 4. rebel; 5.

Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

MEAT SUBSTITUTES

Impelled by economy and war duty, housekeepers are collecting meat substitute dishes. These dishes are high in protein value and should be served in place of meat and in combination with fresh vegetables. Potatoes and tomatoes combine well with bean dishes. Corn bread and a green salad make an excellent combination with the fish kedgeriee.

Beans and Rice

Two cups cooked kidney beans, two cups of cooked rice, four cups tomato sauce.

To make the tomato sauce, brown three tablespoons of flour in one-quarter cup of drippings of vegetable oil and mix with one quart of strained tomatoes and one tablespoon grated onion. Cook sauce five minutes; combine hot rice and beans, pour over them the hot sauce and serve.

Creamed Peas or Beans

One pint dry beans or peas, half cup milk, teaspoon drippings, two teaspoons syrup, teaspoon salt, pinch red pepper.

Soak beans in cold water over night or until hulls rub off easily; rub between hands until all skins are removed; boil slowly with just enough water to cover them until thoroughly done; pass through a ricer; add other ingredients; whip as for creamed potatoes; serve hot.

Fish Kedgeriee

One and one-half cups flaked cooked fish, one egg, four tablespoons rice, one teaspoon chopped onion, salt and pepper to taste, two tablespoons drippings.

Wash rice and drop slowly into fast-boiling water, with a teaspoon of salt, and boil fast until tender (about 20 minutes.) Drain well and dry in colander. Boil the egg hard, cool it in cold water, and chop it coarsely. Melt the fat in a saucepan, stir in the cooked rice, add the fish and seasoning. Make it very hot, then add the chopped egg, and serve at once. If onion is liked, fry it slightly in the fat before putting in the rice.

Corbel; 6, Belles letters; 7, Jezebel; 8, bluebell; 9, Belfast; 10, Belladonna.

In Russia the girls play "fortunes" at New Year time. A large dish of water is put into the center of the table. Into this each girl puts a bit of jewelry, and then covers the dish with a napkin. A series of verses is then chanted, and at each verse, the leader takes out one of the bits of jewelry at random. The particular verse being sung tells the fortune of the owner.

The maiden fair who wears this thing
Soon shall wear a diamond ring.
The owner of this piece in sight
Shall soon be decked in bridal white.
The little maid who wears this gaud
As a Red Cross nurse will go abroad.
And the next one we do find
Will always have a contented mind.
Riches will never come thy way.
Thou wilt earn thy bread from day to day.
Friends will be thine throughout thy life
To keep thee ever from want and strife.
She whose jewel now comes in view
Shall have her dearest wish come true.
Joy will be thine for evermore.
A welcome waits at every door.

Midday Dinner Cornbreads

WHEN THERE is so much corn and not enough wheat, it is worth while to learn to eat cornbread the American woman serves. She may make her dinner cornbread plain or make it with eggs, but if she wants to create a cornbread appetite in her family, she should make it of fresh unbolted meal and make it crisp and golden brown.

Corn Pones

Two cups white meal, two cups buttermilk, half teaspoonful soda, teaspoonful salt, tablespoon melted fat.

Put fat in biscuit tin or iron griddle on top of the stove. While it is heating, sift meal and add salt. Stir soda into the buttermilk, mixing thoroughly. When frothing reaches its height, pour milk into meal and stir together. Add the smoking hot fat. The mixture should be a very stiff batter. If too thick, more milk or water may be added. Drop from spoon in small oblong cakes in the hot pan. Leave the pan on top of the stove until the bread begins to rise, then cook in moderately hot oven. The crust of the cornbread should be thick, crisp and golden brown.

Cornmeal Sticks

Two and one-half cups cornmeal, half cup flour, teaspoon soda, teaspoon salt, teaspoon baking powder, 1 egg, 2 cups buttermilk, 1 cup sweet milk.

Sift meal, flour and baking powder together. Add salt. Stir soda into the buttermilk until thoroughly dissolved, and while milk is frothing vigorously, mix with meal and flour. Add sweet milk. Beat thoroughly and add well-beaten egg. Have ready irons well greased and very hot. Flour mixture in at once and bake in quick oven until crisp brown.



Hawaii has 14 volcanic craters.

Canton, Ohio, workhouse inmates are knitting for soldiers.

Peru was the first country to add instruction in aviation to its public school curriculum.

United States has added twenty thousand persons to Washington Department payrolls on account of the war.

European factories each week make about sixteen million pounds of artificial butter with coconut oil as a base.

John McCormack, foremost tenor of America, will sing around the United States until he has raised \$100,000 for the Red Cross.

In order to conserve coal, Washington, D. C., has ordered two "lightless nights" every week in which all street signs, lights in stores not opened, except such as are necessary for protection of safes, will be turned off and only street lights turned on. Detroit is co-operating in this matter also, and is observing to a large extent, "lightless nights" every night.

Congress in its present session, will be asked to obtain more of Niagara's power to help make war munitions. In order to do this, it will be necessary to amend the British treaty with the United States, known as the "Britten Bill" passed a year and a half ago in which the horsepower allowed the United States was reduced to 160,000 while Canada was allowed 700,000 horsepower. It is stated that millions of horsepower are now going to waste, and the United States will be urged to develop this waterpower as Canada has done.



UP-TO-DATE FASHIONS

This begins a new feature which I know will interest every woman who reads this magazine. The old poems tell us that we can live without everything but cooks. How does it run? Anyway it ends: "Who can live without dining?" We'll paraphrase it, and say: "Who can live without dressing?" Not we women, at any rate, and most of us couldn't live happily without sewing either.

Numbered 8575, the little dressing sacque, of "matinee" as it is called, and the cap, would make a pleasing addition to the bride's trousseau. This comes in sizes 34, 38, and 42 inches bust measure. The sacque is in one piece, with graceful points at the sides and on the sleeves. The cap may be made to correspond.

Even those of us who have not the courage to sew for ourselves indulge in the art for our small children. At the price of readymade children's clothes we find it pays. The child's dress numbered 8584 is cut in one piece and comes in sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 years. It is made with panels at the front and back and the sleeves may be long or short. The neck may be finished with or without the collar, but I would never think of leaving the collar off would you?

A very pretty style indeed for the misses or small woman is that numbered 8570. It comes in sizes 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 years. The waist has the Russian side closing, and the two-gored skirt is gathered all around to the slightly raised waistline.

These patterns are only ten cents each. We have been careful in choosing them, and I know you will all be pleased with them.

Any suggestions as to color or materials will be gladly answered through these columns.

Address, Fashion Department, Michigan Business Farming, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

J. L. Patton urges Pennsylvania to aid farmers in early spring plowing.

Government loans to farmers in October amounted to \$7,374,044, practically double the amount paid out during the previous month. Applications for loans in the twelve federal banks total \$193,250,945.

An increase of ten cents per hundred pounds on beet sugar has been authorized by the Food Administration in order to put this sugar on a level with cane sugar. This should not affect the retail price, however.

Within the last month 77,500,000 one-cent pieces have been coined to relieve the penny shortage caused by war taxes. Demand for small coins for holiday shoppers has been anticipated by the coinage of 18,700,000 dimes and 11 million nickels.

After much hesitancy and against the wishes of its officers, the Carnegie Steel Company has acceded to urgent requests of the navy department to take over and operate the Alloy Steel Forging Company, of Carnegie, Pa. This is the first instance known where government has taken over a plant for operation by itself or agents.

Henry Ford has notified France that that country could have 12 thousand Ford tractors. He is now pushing an order of six thousand for England and these and the French supply will be delivered before the demand for America is met. All Ford tractors are now being constructed with fittings to create their own light for night work. Test of these tractors will be made in the south during the winter months.

Land along the old Illinois and Michigan Canal that is being seized by squatters and is worth ten thousand dollars an acre according to valuations placed by real estate men acquainted with southwest side property, states the Chicago Journal. They estimate that the filled-in land in the 60 foot channel and the ninety foot strip on each side will average about 33 acres per mile, making it possible to greatly increase the population in this region.

Another payment of 25 million dollars has been made to Italy on her credit of 500 million dollars, bringing the amount actually paid on this credit up to date 320 million dollars.

A new coal mining tract has been opened in the Matanuska field, Alaska, and the government has extended its tract to a point nearby and hopes to be able by next summer to mine enough to supply the Pacific coast and the navy. Applications for lease are being received at the present time.

RAISE MORE SHEEP; HELP CLOTHE THE ARMY

The wool from twenty sheep is used to make the clothing and other equipment of one soldier.

Six farms out of every seven in the United States have no sheep.

Sheep can be produced profitably on almost every farm.

What about your farm? If you keep twenty sheep you are outfitting one soldier who is risking his life for your freedom. If you have a flock of 200 sheep you will clothe ten men who are fighting in France. And if you have no sheep you are failing to do all that is in your power to help win the war.

Get some sheep.

They make both meat and wool—and both are badly needed. By proper management they can be produced on the average farm without entailing a reduction of other livestock, and without interfering with any other agricultural plans.

More than the entire wool production of the United States will be used for our armies. Where will we get the wool to make clothes for the civilians? Every ship is needed to transport men and supplies from America to Europe. Unless the necessity is extreme we can't spare ships for long voyages to Australia, South Africa and South America to get wool. Furthermore, those countries have not increased their production. The problem must be solved by the production of more sheep on farms throughout the United States. We must produce our wool at home instead of hauling it from the other side of the world. We can do that if the six farms out of seven that have not kept sheep will begin to build up flocks in proportion to the size of the farm—at the ratio of one sheep to each three acres. We can do it if you will put some sheep on your farm.

You will be helping produce clothing and meat for our soldiers and for yourself. You will be helping win the war. You will be making more money from your farm.



Like a Thief in the Night

—an over-heated exhaust pipe, a "back" explosion, and your car ignites. There is no chance to save it—too much gasoline and oil around. The car goes up in smoke, and then what? No automobile owner can afford to take the chance of his car burning on the road or in the garage when he can buy

CITIZENS MUTUAL FIRE, THEFT AND LIABILITY INSURANCE

at so low a cost to you.

Tell us what car you own on a postal today!

\$65,000
CASH
ASSETS

28,400
MEMBERS



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

300
Claims Paid.

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

Sheep, in proportion to the value of their products, are produced more economically on the farm than any other live stock; the feed and labor requirements are less. They fit in with practically every kind of farming; get much of their subsistence from forage, from grazing weeds and grass that would not support other stock. They eat almost no feed that has a value as human food, and need less grain than other animals. They add materially to the farm revenue but add very little, relatively, to the farm expenses.

Since 1914 wool and mutton prices have doubled and some grades of wool have trebled. Those who are in close touch with the sheep industry believe that attractive prices will continue. During the war over-production seems impossible.

The United States now has 1,200,000 fewer sheep than in 1914. Our production of wool has steadily declined since 1910, when it was 321,326,750 pounds, to 290,192,000 pounds in 1914, 288,490,000 pounds in 1916 and 285,573,000 pounds in 1917. But while our production decreased our manufacturing consumption increased from 550,356,525 pounds in 1914 to 737,679,924 pounds in 1916. In 1917 the amount manufactured will be even larger, and it seems certain that it will continue to increase during the war.

The difference between the amounts we produced and manufactured represents our wool importations from other countries. We have gotten into the habit of using a great deal more wool than we produced—we'd just send over to Australia or South America or perhaps somewhere in Asia and get what we needed. But the ship shortage now interferes with that uneconomic arrangement—which, in the long run will be a very valuable thing for America. Present war necessities will teach us the lesson we would have had to learn at some time

THE ORIGINAL CHEMICAL
Indoor Closet
30,000 SOLD—FIFTH YEAR
**More Comfortable,
Healthful, Convenient**
Eliminates the out-house, open vault and cess pool, which are breeding places for germs. Have a warm, sanitary, odorless toilet right in your house. No going out in cold weather. A boon to invalids. Endorsed by State Boards of Health.
ABSOLUTELY ODORLESS
Put It Anywhere In The House
The germs are killed by a chemical process in water in the container. Empty once a month. No more trouble to empty than ashes. Closet absolutely guaranteed. Guarantee on file in the office of this publication. Ask for catalog and price.
ROWE SANITARY MFG. CO. 52-1 5th ST., DETROIT, MICH.
Ask about the Ro-San Washstand—Hot and Cold Running Water Without Plumbing

—to establish sheep production permanently as a part of general American agriculture.

EXPERTS TO SAVE LIFE OF FAMOUS CALIF. TREE

A battle for the life of Southern California's most famous tree began last week with the most noted citrus culture experts of the world on the firing line. After bearing the first navel oranges ever grown in the United States and being parent to groves producing \$67,600,000 in choice fruit annually, the tree at the head of Magnolia avenue in Riverside is believed to be dying. A. D. Shamel, of the United States experiment station, Dr. H. J. Webber, of the University of California horticultural department, and consulting experts are making every effort to diagnose the disease that threatens death to the pioneer among millions of citrus trees now spread over the state.

The tree was planted in 1873 by Mrs. C. L. Tibbetts, who obtained it from the government horticultural gardens at Washington. It came originally from Bahia, Brazil. The variety of fruit was named Washington Navel, in honor of the national capitol.

MILK CHIEFS "DESPERADOES"

Illinois "Sleuth" and Prosecutor
Declares He Will Round Up
Villainous Farmers Who
Dare to Protect Rights

Mister Hoyne, the Illinois State Attorney and prosecutor,—your pardon,—persecutor, is a regular fire-eater. He's a brave man, too. For the last three months he has been on the trail of a band of "desperadoes", as Mister Hoyne has just characterized the Illinois milk producers, in his most recent denunciatory remarks on the clash between the farmers and the Chicago distributors.

"This gang of desperadoes" have not only violated the conspiracy laws of the state and nation, but have also been guilty of violence, the destruction of property, and have threatened to take life. The great army of Chicago milk sellers, (poor fellows) have gone unrepresented except for my office at the hearings of the price inquiry commission." So says Mr. Hoyne.

If the gentleman from Illinois continues much longer in the above erratic and libelous fashion, those whom he charges with having threatened to take life, should take him out some dark night along the lake shore and give his shivering bones a protecting coat of tar and feathers.

If the State Attorney is trying to curry public favor, it shouldn't be necessary for him to trump up charges against the farmers; there's plenty of actual vice conditions right in the heart of Chicago that need investigating mighty bad, and then there's the packing companies as well. Why not go after big game, Mister Hoyne, instead of trailing the poor farmer who is fighting for his bread and butter? Or maybe you are not equipped to handle the big fellows. How about it?

DOWAGIAC GLEANERS OP- POSE GRADING METHODS

Unanimously opposing the present methods adopted in Michigan by the shippers in grading potatoes for market, over 60 members of Cushing Arbor of Gleaners and farmers generally met at the Silver Creek town hall and discussed the situation and measures to change it, according to the *Dowagiac News*.

Men from all parts of the township, and especially potato growers, were present and voiced their protest against it, and so earnest did they become that every farmer present showed by a rising vote that he was ready and willing to pledge himself to not sell a potato under this method.

This was the most enthusiastic meeting of farmers ever held in Silver Creek township. They were convinced in their own minds of the unfairness of the grades, and many cases were cited to show that the potato growers of Michigan were being discriminated against, as the markets were not offering graded stock.

It was cited that buyers in nearby towns were buying potatoes graded over but one screen, and local buyers came in for censure for the extra grading. There was not a farmer present who opposed a fair grade, or who objected to sorting his stock, but they refused to sell under the double grading system.

AVERAGE MICH. PRICES WEEK ENDING DEC. 22.

Wheat, \$1.99; hay, \$19.58; potatoes, per cwt., \$1.25 2-3; rye, \$1.63; oats, \$.70; butter, \$.43 1-2; hens, \$.15; eggs, \$.44.

"YOU CAN BANK ON ME"

December 20th, 1917

Dear friends of the farmer:

I take several farm papers but there isn't a one of them that can compare with yours. I don't believe there is a farm paper in the United States that's trying any harder to help the farmer than M. B. F. I have received just four copies of the paper and I consider they alone were worth the dollar I have paid for a year's subscription. We couldn't get along without the paper now.

The farmer who doesn't read M. B. F. cannot realize what he is missing. It ought to be in every farm home in Michigan, and I for one, will help put it there. I notice you are going to have a Booster Day. Well, you can bank on me to send you in five new subs, and more if I get the time.

With best wishes for a prosperous new year, I remain,

Your friend,

HARRY CLINTON,

Eaton County.

"OVER THE TOP" for M. B. F.

Next week Monday, December 31st., tells the story!

We asked for 10,000 new names, to be sent, if possible before 1918. Did YOU send YOUR share?

If not, there is still time to get one, two, or more of your neighbors to hand you a dollar, or tell you when they will send it for Michigan Business Farming!

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!"

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 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 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. Ho win 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!

Pin this to Your report, mail it if possible in Monday nights mail, if not mail it sometime during the week of Monday, December 31st., 1917

(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)