

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"



MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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GROWERS ENLIST AID OF SEN. WM. ALDEN SMITH IN GRADING FIGHT

**Grand Rapids Senator Promises
M. B. F. He Will Use His In-
fluence Toward Relieving
the Farmers of Michigan
from Injustice**

Senator William Alden Smith has stated positively to this publication that he would use his influence to secure a revision of the potato grades. In an interview with an M. B. F. representative at Grand Rapids last week, the senator said:

"Yes, I have received a number of complaints from the farmers about this potato grading matter, and referred them to the committee. I have not realized the seriousness of the situation until this moment. If what you have told me is true, the farmers of the state are certainly being imposed upon, and you can rest assured that as soon as I return to Washington I shall investigate the matter thoroly. You have to use a hammer on some of those fellows. You may rest assured that I shall not let the farmers of Michigan suffer such injustice if it is within my power to prevent."

Senator Smith realizes that as long as the growers of other states are not being compelled to sell their potatoes in an ungraded condition, the farmers of Michigan are being discriminated against, which is both a monstrous imposition on the farmers and a rebuff to the state's senatorial and congressional representation. We have taken Senator Smith at his word; we believe he has the interests of the farmers at heart and that he will do all he says he will to relieve the situation. By reason of his long service in Washington and his wide acquaintanceship, Senator Smith should be able to exert sufficient influence to help the farmers out of the present mess, and we are hopeful he will succeed. It would be well for every reader to write Senator Smith a letter encouraging him to do his very best.

Some astonishing developments are looked for in the near future. The growers haven't yet been told the whole story of how these grades happened to be foisted upon them this year. Of that we are convinced. Neither do they know the two or three gentlemen who were at the bottom of the whole thing. We may be obliged after all to exonerate those in charge at Washington and place the responsibility nearer home. And if that responsibility can be placed, we think the gentlemen in question will be only too glad to make such late amends as possible to undo the damage they have caused rather than to have their short-sightedness and unfriendliness to the farmers' interests exposed. But of that—more later.

Reports have been circulated in a number of the state papers that M. B. F. had been converted to the government method of grading and had abandoned the fight. It is an abso-

lute lie, and we are thankful that the majority of our readers who read these reports had the good sense to recognize it as such. It was started by those who are trying to force these grades down the farmers' throats, in hopes that it would weaken the opposition. In due season we shall tell our readers the names of those who are responsible for these deceptive statements.

This publication has led the growers' fight against the unjust grading rules right from the start; it has represented the sentiment of fully 90 per cent of the growers of the state, and has been the ONLY representative

medium to send forth to Washington a protest against the rules. Every development that has taken place since we first voiced our protest nearly two months ago, only serves to still further convince us that the grading rules are arbitrary and in effect, constitute one of the most arrogant disregards of the farmers' rights we have ever seen. Our fight has been consistent and aggressive, and we want to say to our farmer friends right here and now that we are in this fight, as we always have been, every hour and every day of the week, and we don't propose to falter or to retrench so long as there is a single hope of accomplishing something. The grievances of our readers are our grievances; their protests are likewise ours, and so long as the farmers of Michigan stand behind us, we shall lead them steadily on,—we hope, to victory.

FARMERS RECEIVE \$6.60 FOR BEANS; WHILE CONSUMERS PAY \$12.00

**The National Food Administration
Should Get Busy on the Bean
Situation—82 per cent Pro-
fit Hardly Permissible
These Days**

It has been said, that experience sheds a ray of light over the past; but never illumines the future. True, but there is no excuse for striking the same rock the second and third times. And it isn't always necessary that we go through the school of experience from kindergarten to college! It is possible to profit by the experience of others.

England attempted to "reasonably control" the food manipulators for nearly two years, and then finding the food hogs with their feet still

in the trough, established maximum and minimum prices, and solved the problem. France tried to curb the war profiteers by appealing to their loyalty and patriotism, but was finally obliged to put a ring in their noses and give them a limited amount of rope. Canada, too, had its experience, and an investigation showed that the fellows who talked loudest about "patriotism and the fatherland" were raking in one hundred per cent profits on war necessities.

The Federal Government has been having its experience, but strange to relate, we go stumbling along; talking patriotism; advocating "meatless and wheatless" days, while certain patriotic "cusses" are going through the pockets of both Uncle Sam and the consumers. The Food Adminis-

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GOV'R MUST ACT TO SAVE BEANS

**Up to Chief Executive to Force
Action by U. S. Authorities
to Can Moist Beans
and Save Growers
From Loss**

Governor Sleeper can render the bean growers of Michigan, and the people of the State, a splendid service by at once investigating the bean situation, and getting the machinery into operation which will save a million dollars worth of Michigan white beans. From the best figures obtainable it is estimated that there are more than a million dollars worth of beans in this State which contain all the way from ten to forty per cent moisture, and this valuable food product will all be lost unless something is done to relieve the situation.

Sixty days have passed since Edward Frensdorf, senior member of the Board of the Jackson prison, suggested that the canning department of this great institution, could be used to save the million dollars worth of beans, which could not be handled by the dryers and must therefore prove a total loss. He at once communicated with the Department of Agriculture, at Washington asking that all restrictions as to canning be eliminated, and that sufficient tin be released so that this much needed food product might be saved. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Vrooman, acted quickly, and passed the matter on to the food administration. Several weeks elapsed before action was secured, but finally all objections were withdrawn and a way made for action.

Thus the whole matter was put directly up to the State of Michigan—and there it stands. The last legislature passed, as an emergency measure, a bill authorizing the issuing of five million dollars worth of State bonds to be used in war emergency cases, and already \$920,525.00 of this sum has been used and more bonds have recently been placed upon the market. Money has been spent from this fund to pay for a highway to aviation fields, army cantonments, for guards and for many other necessary war-time necessities. Now the bean growers, the army and navy and consumers generally are up against a proposition that means not only a saving of a million dollars worth of food, but what is more necessary—the real food, which at best is a mighty scarce article.

In what way can Governor Sleeper relieve the situation? The Governor can ask the Michigan war board to appropriate twenty-five thousand dollars from the war emergency fund to be used solely and wholly for the purpose of enlarging the canning equipment at the Jackson prison so that five hundred bushels of beans may be canned each twenty-four hours. If this

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A Good Time to Keep Cool and Use Judgment

THE NEXT three or four weeks are probably the most uncertain and trying of the entire marketing season. Farmers who have held their crops over into the new year are quite prone to get on the anxious seat and fidget and worry and wonder if they've made a mistake not to have sold earlier in the season even at a loss, and if the market is going up or down or what it's going to do. Many farmers are forced to sell their crops with the going out of the old year in order to secure money to pay their taxes. The sudden marketing rush almost always causes the market to fluctuate and perhaps lose a few points, but almost always it recovers and advances stronger than ever. There are at least five more months in which to market potatoes and other root crops, and there is no limit to the marketing season for dry beans or peas. The potato market is in a more or less chaotic and uncertain state at the present time, but a few weeks more should tell the story of whether over-production or lack of transportation facilities are to blame for the condition. All in all, these are trying times; but food products are mighty staple articles today and we cannot see where any farmer will be justified in selling a single crop at a loss right now just because he is a little skittish of the future. Keep cool and use your head.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

FARMERS MAY SECURE REPRESENTATION ON BEAN COMMITTEE

Efforts are Being Made by M. B. F. to Make Place for Ingham County Farmer on Federal Bean Board

This publication has felt for many months that the farmers of Michigan have not been properly represented in the councils of the nation which have to do with the regulation of the production, grading and marketing of farm crops. At every opportunity we have sought to impress this fact upon those in authority on the Food Administration at Washington. In a recent letter to this paper, Mr. F. P. Kimball, chairman of the bean committee, admitted that the farmers were not properly represented and suggested that some organization might be interested in sending a grower to act on the committee.

Immediately thereafter, we received the following letter from a well-known Ingham county farmer:

"I read with interest Mr. K. P. Kimball's letter in the December 8th issue of the Michigan Business Farming, and would gladly give my services free, if my expenses were paid.

"I am a young farmer 27 years old. I started without a dollar 5 years ago. I am fully aware of what the farmers of this state and other states are up against, see all sides of farm questions, farm views in regard to crop movements, cost of production and regular farm difficulties that only a farmer can see.

"I gladly give my services, believing myself to be fully capable of handling the situations giving all farmers their just due for their share and co-operation in the feeding of our own people and those of the Allies.

"I will deem it very highly if the farmers of Michigan, and the United States Food Administration would consider my application as a farmer to act with them in regard to the idea advanced to you in Mr. Kimball's letter."—J. C. J., Mason.

We referred the letter to Mr. Kimball, asking him if provision could not be made to accept the writer's generous proposal. Mr. Kimball has replied as follows: "All of the different departments here are not only contributing their time but their entire expenses in the work of the Food Administration, and the only people receiving remunerations are employees such as stenographers, clerks, etc. who are under the Civil service rules. I will try and advise you in the near future however. In the meantime I wish you would have your correspondent write me advising what experience he has had in an office or clerical way in order that we might enter thru the civil service."

We believe that the presence of such a man upon the bean committee would have an important moral effect in determining its future policies. It is not contended that those in charge at Washington are willfully negligent of the farmers' interests, but it is believed that in the stress of emergency, they frequently overlook important considerations and that their oversight is most derogatory to interests of the industry. The counsel of a man who has been actively engaged in farming, based upon firsthand knowledge of the growers' sentiments and needs, should be worth considering.

ARE DEALERS PLAYING FAIR WITH FARMERS?

I would like to know a few facts regarding the wheat deal from reliable authority. If the government is not playing fair with the millers and elevator men I would like to know it. On the other side if the latter are not doing justice to the farmers I would like to know. I do not believe in being turned off with a lot of mis-

representations. On Nov. 30, 1917 I sold some wheat to Mayville Milling Co. for which they paid me \$2.00 per bushel. Wheat was red and weighed over sixty pounds per bushel. Moisture test was O. K. but they claim they can not get enough to keep it separate. Your scale a few days ago showed that farmers should get about two dollars and ten cents for this kind of wheat. Now I am not making any complaint but I want the facts. Will you please advise?—C. S., Mayville, Michigan.

The instance you have cited is typical. We have absolute knowledge that many elevator men of the state are using unfair practices in their dealings with farmers and are not paying what they should for wheat. The Grain Corporation has advised us that "elevators are required to maintain fair practices in their dealings with farmers," and the inference is that they will be compelled to do this in specific cases. Your complaint has been laid before the Grain Corporation who will undoubtedly take the matter up with your local elevator. It is our judgment that, even allowing the greatest possible latitude for higher expenses, peculiar to the locality, this concern should pay not less than \$2.08 for 60 pounds of No. 2 Red Wheat.

AVERAGE MICHIGAN PRICES WEEK ENDING DEC. 29th

Hay, \$25.50; oats, 75c; rye, \$1.65; wheat, \$2.00; potatoes, \$1.29 per cwt.; hogs, 15c; eggs, 45c; butter, 42c; hens, 15c.

GREENVILLE DEALERS MIXING TWO GRADES

"We have taken the position" says the Greenville Independent "that the establishing of two grades of potatoes would lead to the retailer or wholesaler mixing the grades and getting a No. 1 price for No. 2 stock, and thereby swindling the producer out of his just proportion of the cost of pro-

duction. We hardly thought when we took this position that anyone would have the nerve to even attempt to take a No. 1 price for a No. 2 stock, but that appears to be what has been done, and not in Pittsburgh or Cincinnati, but right here in Greenville.

"We do not propose at this time to say where these potatoes were bought or who bought them, but we have the potatoes and if necessary can substantiate every statement we make. The consumer got just as much food value out of these potatoes as she would had they been No. 1's, (that is she would have if the potatoes had been good No. 2, but they weren't), and therefore was not swindled, but that is not the question. The question is why should the farmer be obliged to take a No. 2 price for his potatoes when someone else is allowed to sell them at a No. 1 price? We hardly expected to have such reliable and competent evidence right here under our nose, for of all places, the greatest potato market in the state, we should teach the outsider the way to handle our great farm product that we may aid in maintaining the highest market price.

"This is what the opponents of two grades have contended right along and it is possible these statements have shown the way to those who are willing to take a chance.

"So far as we know there is no legal liability assumed by any person selling No. 2 potatoes for a No. 1 price so long as they are not represented as No. 1 stock, but this is what has occurred and what will constantly occur as long as there are two grades of potatoes. When Mr. Lord was here he made a statement as to what he found in the retail stores, some people were inclined to doubt him, but there can be no doubt but what this is going on everywhere and will continue so long as there are two grades."

"WHY GRADE POTATOES?" ASKS U. S. BULLETIN

"Because it is progressive" answers the same bulletin "Tis also progressive to ride in aeroplanes, but we don't believe in compelling people to do it against their will,—not by a long shot!

1918 WILL BE EXPENSIVE YEAR

War-Time Conditions Expected to Make New Year Most Strenuous and Probably Most Costly in State's History

Go down into your jeans; the cost of self-government is going up!

The new year which the state, as a unit of government has just entered, is likely to be the most strenuous and most expensive in its history. The high cost of living has hit the various state institutions as hard as it has hit the individual and the cost of maintenance is going to be considerably increased. Then, too, there is also \$100,000 interest to pay on the \$2,500,000 worth of war bonds which the legislature voted at the last session for the purpose of raising money to enable the state to take care of its part in supporting the national war work. These are only hints at some of the largely increased expenses the state will be called upon to pay this year, but enough for now.

Please turn your attention to the executive departments which see that the laws are enforced—some times. Remember, please, that Michigan has an absolutely bone-dry prohibition law going into effect the first day of the coming May, less than four months hence, and that somebody is going to have the cute little job of making Michigan as dry as a desert, after being soaked for years in booze. "Tisn't going to be easy, but when we are reminded that the burden of responsibility rests upon the broad, capable, shoulders of Dairy and Food Commissioner Fred L. Woodworth, we don't worry a bit. If this "dry" farmer from the Thumb district can't "dry up" Michigan there's no man living who can. And he will. Michigan's prohibition law will never be a farce as long as Mr. Woodworth has a hand in its enforcement.

It has been understood until a few weeks ago that Edmund L. Rawden, former attorney for the Michigan Anti-Saloon league, who was the foremost lawyer in drawing up the law, was to be appointed by Attorney General Groesbeck, as assistant. Of late, however, Rawden's appointment has been doubted, because of the opposition to him of the entire Sleeper administration. Politics is likely, as a consequence, to figure more than was at first supposed. The candidate of the Sleeper wing of the Republican party is Walter S. Foster, former prosecuting attorney of Ingham county, brother of the present senator from this district, Charles Foster.

Late County Crop Reports

WEXFORD (South Central)—Business is very quiet with the farmers at present. Wheat and rye have a light covering of snow. No potatoes are being sold and the two grades matter is still meeting opposition.—A. A. H., Boon, December 31st.

MONROE (West Central)—The old year went out and the new one came in with good cold winter weather. Farmers are not doing very much but their chores and cutting a little wood. The wheat prospects are not good on account of the light covering of snow on the ground.—W. H. L., Dundee, Jan. 1.

CHEBOYGAN (North Central)—Most of the farmers are cutting wood in this locality. The weather is very cold here, being down to and below zero, which is hard on fall grain. The farmers are selling hay and some potatoes, but most of them are holding potatoes and beans for higher prices. Some of the farmers here have threshed their beans and many were disappointed for they did not get even as many as they expected. The yield runs all the way from half a bushel to ten bushels.—O. W. B., Riggsville, December 31.



Creamery companies are making a bogey man out of Uncle Sam in an effort to scare the farmer into taking a reduced price for butter fat.

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



Washington—The war may end sooner than any of us think for,—if the invention of one Garabed T. K. Giragosian of Boston will accomplish all that its founder claims it will. This gentleman declares he has made a discovery whereby it is possible to obtain and use energy without limit, except the capacity of machinery to receive it, and without cost, except the wear and tear due to operation.

Whether the inventor plucks this mysterious force out of the air, as did Franklin his electricity; whether it is an element of the soil; a resuscitated magic of the ancients, or plain fraud, doth not yet appear, but Congress has been "sold" sufficiently on the invention to advocate an appropriation to give it a thorough investigation and trial, on the grounds that in a great international emergency as now faces the Allied nations, nothing should be left undone to uncover and utilize every agency to meet the emergency and bring the war to a speedy close. Garabed claims that this mysterious energy will permit ships and aeroplanes to cross the ocean without fueling; gives power to automobiles, and will produce nitrates in abundance for fertilizer and ammunition. Aside from these glowing and astounding promises, the curiosity of the public must go unsatisfied until the government officially investigates and accepts the marvelous invention. The committee on patents and the secretary of the interior have both examined the device or the element or appliance, or whatever it may be called and have reported that it is worthy of investigation. So do not be surprised if you wake up some fine morning in the near future to hear flashing across the wires: "Kaiser dead; Germany surrenders; war ends."

The "cost plus profit" plan under which manufacturers are making war supplies for the government is not working out very satisfactorily. Countless costly delays and exorbitant charges for much of the material has convinced the various ordnance heads that many of the firms are putting unnecessarily large amount of time on war orders in order to run up the costs, and incidentally the profits. There are some firms fully as patriotic as they claim to be and are spending every effort to give the government good service, high quality goods, and at reasonable prices. But this cannot be said of the majority working under the "cost plus" plan, and it is anticipated that the Government will conduct a rigid investigation into manufacturing costs and compel makers of war supplies to confine their charges to certain specified limits.

Representative Edward Keating, of Colorado, a member of the house committee on labor, recently declared that some action must be taken immediately toward equalizing and leveling wage standards. If this is not done workmen will be leaving their own trades and seeking positions in war industries because of the higher pay offered. Practically all government enterprises are paying premiums today for skilled labor, and men are leaving their life-long jobs to accept positions which in spite of the high wage, can outlast but a half dozen years at the outside. Civil industries are already feeling the pinch of labor shortage and the condition will become gradually worse unless the government makes some effort to equalize wages the country over.

Many Congressmen have cut their holiday vacations short and have already returned to Washington to get ready for the most strenuous lap of the session. The senate sub-committee which is investigating the shortcomings and irregularities of several of the departments are planning on hearing testimony this week by Major General Crozier chief of ordnance, in reply to criticisms of Colonel Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun; Secretary of War Baker, who has been charged with incompetency and by various persons held accountable for delays in the ship building program. The day before this was written a telegram was sent by the committee to Herbert C. Hoover who had very discourteously and unwisely left for New York on the day he had been notified to appear before the committee, demanding that he testify before them on Wednesday of the current week, and give his version of the fuel and sugar shortage.

The proponents of compulsory military service are working tooth and nail to get the Chamberlain bill which provides for universal military service before the present session of congress, believing evidently that now or never is the time to secure its passage. Despite the present mood of the country, there is some doubt as to whether the people want universal military service; certainly they would not have thought of such a thing five years ago, and it is questionable as to whether the people are in a sufficiently normal frame of mind to pass upon the subject at the present time. Opponents of the bill are asking its advocates to explain the need of universal service inasmuch as this is to be the last war, and ask if 'twould not be wiser to leave the matter for discussion and decision until the war is over and the people are in a less prejudiced frame of mind. It is extremely doubtful if ten per cent of the farmers of the country would vote for compulsory military training. Your correspondent would like to hear from M. B. F. readers upon the subject. Tell me whether you think legislation upon the subject should be postponed until after the war.

BUY THRIFT STAMPS AND HELP YOUR UNCLE SAM

What are you doing to help your Uncle Sam win this war against brutish Prussia? We can't all go into the trenches and fight; we can't all knit for the Red Cross; we can't all buy Liberty bonds, but we can buy a Thrift stamp, and it only costs 25 cents. Read the following and enlist in the Thrift Stamp army.

Q. What is the War-Savings Plan?

A. It is a plan by which you can lend small savings to your Government at 4 per cent interest, compounded quarterly.

Q. How may this be done?

A. By purchasing War - Savings and Thrift Stamps.

Q. What is a War-Savings Stamp?

A. It is a stamp for which the Government will pay you \$5 on January 1, 1923.

Q. What does it cost?

A. Between \$4.12 and \$4.23 during 1918, depending upon the month in which it was purchased.

Q. What is a Thrift Stamp?

A. It is a stamp costing 25 cents, to be applied in payment for a War-Savings Stamp. It does not earn interest. The purpose of its issue is to enable people to accumulate in small sums the amount necessary to pay for a War-Savings Stamp.

Q. Why should I buy them?

A. Every dollar loaned to the Government helps to save the lives of our men at the front and to win the war.

Q. I want to begin to save on the War-Savings Plan. What is the first thing to do?

A. Take \$4.12 to the postoffice or a bank or any other agency, buy a War-Savings Stamp, and ask for a War-Savings certificate.

Q. What is a War-Savings Certificate?

A. It is a pocket-sized folder containing 20 spaces upon which to affix War-Savings Stamps.

Q. Is the War-Savings Certificate a Government obligation?

A. It becomes an obligation as soon as one or more War-Savings Stamps are affixed to it. Continue to buy War-Savings Stamps every week or month and put them on your certificate until you have filled all of the 20 spaces. When this is done you can buy another War-Savings Stamp, and you will receive free of cost another certificate to which you can attach new stamps as you buy them.

Q. When I have filled the 20 spaces on my certificate what do I do with it?

A. Keep the certificate until January 1, 1923, and the Government will pay you \$100 for it.

(NOTE—War-Savings Stamps increase in value 1 cent per month because they are earning interest.)

Q. If you do not have enough money saved up to buy a War-Savings Stamp and can only save in small amounts, what should I do?

A. Buy a 25-cent Thrift Stamp at a postoffice, bank, or other authorized agency and ask for a Thrift Card, to which you can attach your Thrift Stamp. This card holds 16 stamps and represents a value of \$4.

Q. What security is behind the War-Savings Stamp?

A. The United States Government promises to pay \$5 for each Stamp on January 1, 1923. This promise is backed by the faith and honor of the United States and by the taxing power of this country, which is the richest nation in the world.

Q. Why does the United States borrow the money?

A. To pay the expenses of the war.

Q. When I lend my money to the Government, would it be safer to buy a government bond rather than these War-Savings Stamps?

A. When a War-Savings Stamp is attached to a War-Savings Certificate it becomes a Government obligation with the same security as the Liberty bonds, now held by more than 10,000,000 Americans.

Q. Is the 4 per cent interest, compounded quarterly, on War-Savings Certificates paid in the same way as the interest on Liberty bonds?

A. No. The Liberty bond interest is paid every six months, but the interest on the War-Savings Certificate accumulates and is paid to you in one sum, on January 1, 1923.

WAR WIRES

Germany and Russia continue plans for a general peace, if possible, and if not, a separate peace. Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, has repeatedly urged the Allies to join in the peace conference about to open at Brest-Litovsk, and on Dec. 29th he notified Allied nations that if they did not agree within ten days to become a party to the negotiations, the Bolsheviks would proceed alone. It is stated that Trotsky believes an official decision from the Allies to the Bolsheviks would constitute recognition of that government, which in the minds of many, is the most important consideration of the Bolsheviks at the present time.

Conditions at Camp Custer have been in a more or less deplorable condition until very recently. The commissary department had not prepared amply or quickly enough for the influx of recruits into the camp just as winter was coming on, and consequently large numbers of the new soldiers have suffered from lack of clothing, rubbers, etc. So serious has the situation become that the state has been asked to provide the necessities most needed. Thanks to the industrious fingers of the Red Cross knitters, most of the men are well supplied with sweaters. Additional helmets and socks are needed, however.

The preliminary peace plans being laid by Germany and Russia are being used by both governments to satisfy the demands of their people for early peace. In fact, the German people believe that the end of the war is near and peace in sight. The German soldiers have been solemnly advised that Germany has laid her peace plans before the Allies and that fighting will go on only in the event of their being rejected. As the old year came to a close the German people rejoiced in their homes and public places that peace was so near. Alas, what confidence they have in their Kaiser!

Latest dispatches from Russia state that the U. S. Rail Commission, which was sent to Russia last June to help rehabilitate the railroad systems, have been arrested by Bolshevik agents. It is believed that the Bolsheviks are retaliating for the failure of the United States to recognize their government. Additional advices indicate that the Bolsheviks continue to strengthen its hold upon the Russian people, and it is that that recognition of that government by the Allies will be but a matter of course.

Fires, originating from three distinct explosions believed to have been set off by German agents, have destroyed \$3,000,000 worth of property at Norfolk, Va. The fire destroyed the finest business section of the city. Federal agents believe the explosions were intended to wreck the harbor, but the attempt was foiled in some manner or other.

According to an official announcement just made public there are 46,712 British soldiers held prisoners by the Germans. The recent Italian successes of the enemy, which netted over 150,000 prisoners has increased Germany's prison population to a large extent, and presents a housing, feeding and disciplinary problem of no mean proportions.

The Germans have shown renewed activity in the Cambrai district, but were repulsed along the entire front by Haig's troops. General Allenby continues on his successful march thru Palestine, and several towns have recently fallen into his hands.

Publicity has just been authorized by naval authorities of the capture of four German submarines during the month of December by American destroyers. In what waters the encounter took place is not stated.

The Pope has sent a letter of protest to the Austrian and German governments against the dropping of bombs by German airplanes on unprotected hamlets of Northern Italy.



SPUD MARKET IS SLUGGISH

In Spite of Fair Demand on the City Markets Potatoes Move Slowly from Country Districts and Buying in Some Sections has Stopped

"The present potato situation is one of the most puzzling in my experience," was the statement which a well-known farm and market authority made to this publication a few days ago. And we had to agree that we ourselves were completely "stumped."

We have repeatedly advised our readers that under the conditions prevailing this year they should receive \$1 per bushel for their potatoes. At that time, of course, we were in as much ignorance of the new grading rules as the average farmer. We weren't "in" with the bunch that concocted that dose. Nevertheless, we still stand by our statement. Michigan growers should be receiving TO-DAY not less than \$1 per bushel for their No. 1 potatoes, or if there were no so-called No. 1 stock, for their ungraded spuds.

Are we wrong or not? Perhaps the government experts who decided for the poor, dear farmer that he ought to have his potatoes graded this year, can explain why farmers living a hundred miles from Detroit should not have more than 70 cents a bushel for his No. 1 spuds when Detroit consumers are paying from \$1.40 to \$1.50 per bushel for the same potatoes mixed in with No. 2's. Of course, we farmers aren't supposed to know why somebody else is permitted to make a clean one hundred per cent profit on our spuds; we don't even know how to grade potatoes; why should we be expected to know how to sell 'em? And apparently the powers that be take it for granted that we don't know anything except to raise the spuds, and are doing both our grading and marketing for us,—kind fellows!

When potatoes are selling in the city of Detroit for from \$1.50 to \$1.70 per bushel as they have been for over a year, why should the farmer be expected to take LESS than ONE DOLLAR from his local dealer? There's no economically sound reason why potatoes should be selling today for an average of about 70 cents throughout the state. But it's the same old story, the "interests" control the markets and the farmer has nothing to say.

Millions of potatoes are yet in the growers' hands. Millions of bushels will stay there and rot there unless those who preached production get a hustle on themselves and devise ways to get the spuds to market. The forcing of the new grades down the farmers' throats; the shortage of cars; the war gardens and kindred other causes are to blame for the present condition. It is high time that those who have been wishing to experiment a little bit with grading and other pet theories at the expense of the farmer, should realize the gravity of the situation, throw personal opinions to the winds and get down to the business of saving the farmers from a huge financial loss.

The situation is bad enough to be sure, but there's no occasion for alarm as we see it. The difficulty seems to lie in the lack of efficient and economical distribution as it always has, but this year, there's every probability that the government will take some kind of remedial action. Having been about nine-tenths responsible for the present conditions, it behooves the production propagandists to get busy NOW. But don't sell any more spuds for the next 30 days.

ELEVATORS' BEAN PICK CHARGE TAKES ALL PROFIT

I have some beans which will pick about the same as my neighbor, who just sold his. His beans picked 20 pounds. He took a sample to three different elevators which I had just as soon give the names of, if you wish. They offered \$3.50 at one, \$3.75 at another, and \$4.03 at the place he sold them. They were sold on a \$7.25 basis. They dock us 16c on every pound picked. Now since the largest majority of these beans are picked by machinery, I do not think it necessary to charge us such an outrageous price for picking. If we are mistaken, and the elevators have a right to charge this, kindly let us know by letter. And if we are right, please see if you can get an adjustment thru the government, so we will have fair chance.—H. D. W., Potterville.

If you have given us all the circumstances in the case, it is our opinion that these dealers have violated their licenses and should have them revoked. We have told the bean committee that many elevators were not giving the farmers fair treatment and have been advised as follows: "If you will give us a list of the elevators indulging in unfair practice in picking beans and the methods they pursue, you may rest assured that they will be given immediate attention."

If H. D. W. will give us the names of these elevators we will see what can be done to induce them to give the growers better treatment.

FARMERS BEAN YIELD NOT SO BIG AS STATED

Several weeks ago M. B. F. published a statement taken from the *Charlotte Republican* that Augustus Harmon, an Eaton county farmer harvested 700 bushels of beans from 8 acres and sold them for \$9 a bushel. The editor queried the statement at the time, and several of our readers wrote in asking how Mr. Harmon did it. We have just discovered that Mr. Harmon didn't "do" it. There was an error in the printing of the original story. Mr. Harmon actually harvested 200 bushels, which isn't so bad, especially considering the fact that the beans picked less than a pound.

MECOSTA GRANGE FAVORS CHANGE IN TUBER GRADE

A discussion started on potato grading when Mecosta County Pomona Grange was the guest of Pleasant View Grange at Big Rapids recently resulted in a resolution being sent to the State Grange that the second grade of potatoes be eliminated and the size of the screen reduced from 1 15-16-inch to 1 and 1-2 inch.

STATUS OF SON WHO WORKS FOR FATHER GRATIS

A son remains at home and works on his father's farm for four years

after he is twenty-one and then leaves. The father dies twelve years later leaving no will. The son presents no bill to the father in his life time. Is his claim outlawed or good?—A Subscriber.

Under the brief statement of facts the claim never had any validity. If there was any agreement to pay wages at the time the work was performed it has been outlawed. If there was an agreement to pay after the death of the father it has not been outlawed. A son remaining at home and working without any bargain as to payment of wages is not entitled to collect wages from his father. There must be an agreement to pay wages before the father is liable to the son for services rendered. This is by reason of the family relations, and is presumed to be gratuitous.

GOVERNOR SHOULD ACT TO SAVE BEANS

(Continued from page 1)

appropriation is made without delay Br. Frensdorf, who is now acting Warden, says that he can have the machinery ready for business in less than thirty days. When the canning factory is ready, the growers can ship their beans direct to the prison, where they will be tested and paid for at their actual value. Then these beans will be canned by the prisoner's who will work in night and day shifts—and presto: "a million dollars worth of beans; now headed for the stock food bin, will be saved for the 'humans' who are likely to want canned beans mighty badly before another crop can be harvested.

Let it be remembered that at the present time, there are less than twenty elevators in the State equipped for drying beans. Thousands of bean growers have their beans in bins, or on the barn floors, with absolutely no market for them because of excess moisture. Elevator men can't handle them because they are not equipped to dry beans, and as a consequence these beans have frozen and when a thaw comes, look out for a total loss.

Canning experts claim that the moist beans are all right for canning, and when properly cared for are in every way equal to the best. Mr. Frensdorf is willing and anxious to get busy, but one delay follows another until, it begins to look as if the growers and consumers would be obliged to pocket the loss.

Governor Sleeper should put this matter right up to the proper officials and suggest immediate action. The organized cannery and many elevator men will "kick" but let them wiggle. The Federal Government has had to do many things which did not meet the approval of the interests, but war time measures are the rule, not the exception, in these days, and if some one don't act to save the Michigan bean situation, the responsibility for this tremendous loss must be shouldered by the present administration.



The drouth in a portion of Texas has caused losses this year aggregating \$400,000,000.

Hygiene is being taught to the less civilized natives of the Philippines with motion pictures.

Crude rubber exports from the Amazon district to the United States in July were 2,154,715 pounds.

In Chicago, 1,100 saloons have closed their doors, owing to the war and the Sunday closing law.

County councils in the midlands and west of Ireland released their employees to help save the harvest.

The British Food Controller has decided to take over gradually the entire provision trade of the British Isles.

A brewery in Mobile, Ala., is making vinegar from watermelon juice, and the rinds, seeds and residue are used for cattle fodder.

Fifteen nations have severed relations with Germany or declared war on her since the United States entered the conflict on April 6th.

Japan has 110,000 railroad employees receiving an average wage of 31c per day. The average wage of an American engineer is \$5.40 per day.

England's co-operative movement owns its own tea gardens in India, and Ceylon, palm oil plantations in West Africa and wheat fields in Canada.

A company has recently been organized to build a fertilizing plant at Arnheim in the upper peninsula. The material to be used for the fertilizer is the black muck of which there is a vast acreage in what is known as the Tamarac swamp, which has only recently been drained.

Eighty million bushels of damaged corn in Indiana, standing in the fields, led to the formation recently of a committee of grain men and distillers after harvest to devise a plan whereby distillers could convert this grain into alcohol for use in connection with war industries.

HURON SUBSCRIBER WANTS TO JOIN FARM LOAN ASS'N.

Can you tell me if there is a farm loan association in Huron county? I would like to join one.—W. T., Pigeon.

As yet no National Farm Loan Association has been organized at Pigeon, Huron County, Michigan.

We will be glad to have Mr. _____ undertake the organization of an Association at Pigeon, and if he wishes to do so, we will send him the necessary blanks to organize and complete same upon request.

(Signed) H. K. Jennings, Secy.
(EDITOR'S NOTES—Here is a good chance for ten or more M. B. F. readers in the vicinity of Pigeon to secure financial aid from the Government Federal Loans may be secured for a period extending over 40 years. The interest rate is low, only 5 1-2 per cent. Money may be secured under the farm loan act to liquidate indebtedness, buy additional land, live stock, equipment, etc., or to make improvements. The M. B. F. editors will gladly assist Huron county farmers to organize an association if a sufficient number so desire.

CALIF. PROVIDES FRANCE WITH SEED BEANS

Five and one-half million pounds of seed beans and 1,500,000 two-year-old French prune trees are being gathered in California for shipment to Northern France to rehabilitate the fields and orchards devastated by the Germans in their retreat.

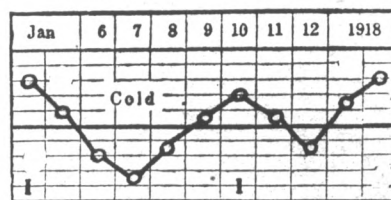
The beans are pink- and black-eye varieties, and the quantity is sufficient to plant 69,000 acres. The prune trees will convert 15,000 acres into bearing orchards within two years.

There is a bit of sentiment in California's sending young orchards to France, as it was this war-torn republic that gave the state its first prune trees. This was in 1856 and since that time the prune orchards cover nearly 100,000 acres and bring to the growers more than 10,000,000 a year.

If an average crop is raised from the California seed it will mean an addition to the food supply of France of more than two and one-half pounds of beans next summer to each of the 40,000,000 residents. Shipments will begin immediately after the new year.

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent Jan. 8 to 12, warm wave 7 to 11, cool wave 10 to 14. This will bring average temperatures, colder than usual at beginning and warmer than usual at end of the seven days. Not much force to the storms and not much precipitation. Trend of temperature upward.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about Jan 12 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of 13, plains sections 14, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio-Tennessee valleys 15, eastern sections 16, reaching

vicinity of Newfoundland about Jan. 17. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

This will be of greater force than the preceding, high temperatures will be followed by a cold wave, more rain and snow than in the preceding but will not be a very severe storm and none of its effects will be radical. Temperature trend will be upward from near Jan. 18 in far west, a little later eastward.

January, February and March will average from about normal temperatures and rainfall to a little below; severe storms will not be numerous, we have had worst part of winter. All this indicates that less feed for live stock will be required the influences of which will be to put prices of grain lower. Indications are that corn and oats will go to lower market values by last of February unless there are unexpected greater demands from other countries.

W. T. Foster



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

The government report, issued last week gives the seeding last fall as 42,179,000 acres. With the exception of 1915, when the acreage was 42,457,000, this is the largest acreage on record. At the same time it is about 5 millions under the acreage desired by Mr. Hoover. The condition, 79.3, is the lowest on record and judging by present conditions and reports this will not be improved later.

There has been a tendency on the part of certain individuals to belittle the efforts of the Food Administration along the line of conservation of wheat and wheat products. The fact of the matter is that every single pound of wheat will be needed, and at that there will be a great shortage before another year. After all is said and done, the winning of the war will depend on the food supply available to the allies. Wheat reserves in England are running low and even before the present Austro-German drive the Italian Food Controller was in London seeking food.

The acreage in Europe, with few exceptions, shows a further reduction. Supplies from South America depend entirely upon available ocean carriers and until our new ship building program is well along there will be great difficulty moving from there.

Spring wheat farmers should, not only from a patriotic standpoint, but from a business one as well, plant every possible acre next spring. There is a guaranteed price of \$2.00 at terminal markets, and should the war end and restrictions be removed, the chances are that prices would go higher. North America will be called on to supply a great amount of food stuffs to Europe for some time after the war.

We all realize what the loss of this war would mean to every American. We are in it to win and we are going to win. The market editor knows the kind of stuff the Michigan farmers are made of. He receives many letters from them each week. He is also in touch with the wheat situation and here is his urgent request to everyone of them: Conserve every pound of wheat; don't feed an ounce of it where any other grain may be substituted; make this your first resolution of the New Year. It is not a matter of dollars and cents, men, it is of vital importance in winning the war. As time goes on and the demand increases while the supply grows less, the realization of the truthfulness of this assertion will come home to every one of you. Our boys, yes, our farmer boys, if you please, are about to offer their lives that we may continue to prosper. Let us do our part.



OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White Standard	.82	.79 1-2	.91 1-2
No. 3 White	.81 1-2	.78	.90
No. 4 White	.80 1-2	.76 1-2	.89 1-2

Oats remain at about the same level as at the time of writing our last article. There has been some fluctuation of the market but it has worked around the same general price. The supply of oats at terminal points does not increase to any extent and there is a good demand, both domestic and foreign. Government control of the railroads has been taken as a bear factor by certain interests, but we doubt very much that this will materially affect the situation for some time to come. There is a good supply of oats back in the hands of growers and elevator men but the question is to move them.

The milling interests are active in the oat market and this activity would



LAST MINUTE WIRES

CHICAGO—Demand continues strong for good grades of hay. Beans and potatoes continue quiet.

DETROIT—Vegetables of all kinds are in moderate supply and demand continues light. Potato prices have taken slump of from 10 to 15 cents per cwt. Bearish conditions normally prevail at ending of old year. Continued cold weather and demand should stiffen with upward trend of prices.

Federal control of railroads is expected to relieve car shortage resulting in freer movements of crops and consequently better prices.

be more marked were supplies more available. The wheatless days are having a certain effect and this will increase, as these days are having a certain effect and this will increase as these days are more and more generally observed.

The Federal Government is also a good customer and these purchases will no doubt increase. Europe and the East are increasing their buying, the only draw-back being the difficulty of moving the stock from primary points to the seaboard and then of securing sufficient tonnage to transport cargoes.

We do not expect to see greatly increased prices but at the same time we are just a little stronger on oats and believe they will hold up to present values just a little longer than has been expected up to this time.



CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	2.01 1-2	Nominal	1.93 1-2
No. 3 Yellow	2.00	1.84	1.92
No. 2 Mixed	1.95		1.87

A further general decline in the cash corn market has occurred but unless the movement becomes more general there is every chance of an advance. Stocks during the past week have not been moving as freely as they had previously and at certain points the market is just about bare of offerings. Federal control of the railroads may have a very decided effect on the corn market. The embargo has been removed on eastern shipments of corn and other grain will be given immediate attention and cars supplied wherever possible.

The warmer weather has again been bringing forth reports of loss from the wet corn and much of it must be moved in the very near future if it is not to become a total loss.

We are receiving inquiries from our readers as to where they may secure seed corn for the next planting. Just at this time we do not know where to direct them. Those

who have seed corn are still speculating as to the probable price and in the great majority of cases are not as yet offering to sell. The agricultural colleges of different states are giving the matter their attention and we may expect to see a general movement along the line of supplying seed. We have taken the matter up with several different sources of supply and hope before a great while to be able to offer something definite. In the meantime keep an eye on the advertising columns of M. B. F. We will endeavor to have those who have seed corn to offer, set the facts before our readers so that they may secure a supply at the earliest possible moment.



RYE

The rye market has been inactive all the week with very little demand and supplies amply sufficient. Certain conditions have worked to this and we would not be surprised to see some additional call for this grain in the near future. The Detroit market is quoted at \$1.83 and Chicago at \$1.82½ for No. 2.

There has not been a heavy movement of rye at any time since the first few weeks after the harvest and this has been the saving grace of the whole situation. There is very little chance of any material increase in the movement from this time on and shippers can hold rye with less concern than any other grain.



BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	7.20	8.00	8.85
Prime	7.12	7.95	8.80
Red Kidneys	8.00	8.50	7.50

The writer has visited a number of country elevators during the past week and we find that at many points buying has ceased entirely owing to the wet condition of the stock offered

and the lack of drying facilities. At such points dealers are afraid to take on more than their present supply until such time as they can secure cars to move the same. It is hoped that present transportation conditions may be speedily relieved for their is no doubt but what many growers must move their stock and get it into driers in the near future if it is not to be a dead loss.

The Food Administration has advised canners of beans throughout the country that they will be permitted to can 25 per cent of their pack of white and colored beans as indicated in the estimates of their requirements up to March, 1918. Permits to this effect have been made to the canners, but pending their receipt canners who filed application were permitted to go to work. It is our opinion that this limit is too low. Michigan growers in particular have a crop this year which will require immediate attention and much of it should go into cans before the warm weather.

The bean market has been just a little slow during the holidays as is always to be expected. Domestic demand should pick up greatly from this time on. Just a word to those who have beans which will make good seed; It is going to be in great demand in the spring and we advise putting it in good shape and holding until planting time. Despite all talk to the contrary, when the demand for seed starts those who have it will receive a price which will in some small measure compensate for losses already experienced.



HAY

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

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

In the very near future hay shippers and receivers will be licensed by the Food Administration the same as dealers in other lines have been licensed. This action is being taken to prevent excessive profits and speculation. Shippers and receivers of hay will be required to follow rules to be formulated by the Food Commission, perhaps reporting monthly as is now being done in other lines where license is required.

The Detroit market has seen very little change and prices continue at about the same level as for some time. Demand is good and supplies are just about sufficient to take care of it from day to day. Offerings at Chicago have been running lighter during the past week and values there are very firm. The demand is good on all grades although somewhat lighter during the holiday season. Very little prairie hay moving there as the western demand is such as to cut off supply.

Very little hay has arrived at Pittsburgh during the past week and the various embargoes are retarding the movement to a great extent. The market there is strong and shows advancing tendencies.

Baltimore reports a good market with very little hay in transit. There is an excellent straw market there with arrivals away short of the demand. The embargoes are causing shippers a great deal of trouble and should this condition be remedied the market should prove a very attractive one for some time.

The Boston market is somewhat firmer owing to light receipts. The better grades continue in light supply and receivers are holding for higher prices. There is somewhat of an accumulation of the poorer grades and

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Name _____

Address _____ R. F. D. _____

Address _____

Remarks _____

the demand is slow. Not a great deal of stock reported in transit to this point, and they should have a good market, especially on the better grades for some time to come.

The New York market seems to be receiving just a little more hay than can be readily absorbed and values show some inclination to work lower. Heavy snow has interfered with track sales to some extent. Our correspondent reports that prices are somewhat irregular and fixed values are hard to make. We would not advise shipment to this market until such time as present stocks have had time to clean up. There is usually a very good demand for all grades but arrivals have been a little too heavy, especially from nearby points.



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

The Detroit potato market is somewhat firmer although it is too soon after the holidays to expect much of a change. Stocks are cleaning up and as the market becomes more free from the off grade stuff which has troubled it all fall, we should see better conditions.

Arrivals at Chicago are very light. The holiday season always brings rather a dull potato market there and this year has been no exception. Shipments in transit are lighter than for some time and as the market cleans up we expect to see a firmer condition. That market has been in about the same condition as others during the past thirty days; too much frosted and otherwise affected stock.

Supplies at Pittsburgh are none too heavy, but buyers there have had so much trouble with frosted stock that they are afraid to buy in any quantity. Great delays have been experienced in getting stock to that market and a great many shipments which were apparently in good condition at the time of shipment, have arrived in a bad way.

Receivers at New York say they are at a loss to understand the continued activity of that market. But New York has been no exception to other markets and has suffered the same from an overdose of frosted stock. At the present time it is almost impossible to get stock there free from frost. Maine shippers have not been satisfied with conditions and have been holding back shipments, claiming they could do better at other points. We believe there is bound to be a reaction there before a great while and in the meantime would not advise very extensive shipments.

What all markets need is a chance to clean up the poor stock with which they have been flooded. We advise holding up on shipments for a time and feel quite sure that this advice, followed generally, would result in a permanent improvement.



APPLES

The apple demand following the holidays, has been rather light as was only to be expected. Buying was very heavy for several weeks and many buyers supplied their wants for several weeks ahead. The Detroit range of values remains about the same. Spy, \$6@\$.65; greening, \$6@\$.625; snow, \$6.50@\$.70; Baldwin, \$5@\$.55; No. 2, \$3@\$.35 per bbl.

The Chicago apple market is quiet after the increased buying of last week. The market is fairly good for fancy goods but there is much poor stock being shipped to that market. Prices this week have been about as follows:

No. 1 to fancy Baldwins, \$5@\$.525; Greenings, \$5.50@\$.6; Jonathans, \$6@\$.65; Starks, \$4@\$.45; Spies, \$5@\$.6; Ben Davis, \$3.50@\$.375; Ganos, \$4@\$.45; York, \$4.75@\$.5; Wagners, \$4@\$.45; Grimes, \$4.50@\$.50; Willow Twigs, \$5.50@\$.6; Twenty Ounce, \$5.50@\$.6; Kings, \$5@\$.6; Golden Russets, \$4.50@\$.5; Talman Sweets, \$4.50@\$.6; Winesaps, \$4.50@\$.5; large green Pip-

pins for cooking purposes, \$4.50@\$.5; Twenty Ounce, all varieties, \$1.75@\$.275.



BUTTER

The butter market has been rather quiet during the past week but the limited supply has prevented any decline in price and there is very little chance of the market working lower until such time as spring brings an increase in the production. The held butter market has been more active than for some time, lack of the fresh article having proved a decided factor in this improvement.

Detroit quotes fresh creamery extras at 49c; firsts, 47 1-2c; storage creamery, 41c. New York is quoting creamery extras at 50c; firsts, 44 1/2c @49c; Philadelphia quotes creamery extras at 50c; firsts, 48@49c.



EGGS

There is no change in the egg market, nor is there liable to be any. The demand for fresh continues away in excess of the supply. Even with increased receipts from now on, and they will not be worth considering until the latter part of February, the market is in such shape that it will hold its own for a long time. This, of course, applies to the fresh article. There is still quite an amount of storage stock to move and some of it may have to move at a lower figure than is now anticipated.

Detroit is quoting Michigan firsts at 50c per doz. Storage at 38 1/2@39c. The Chicago market is running along at about the same figure.



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

The poultry market generally continues firm and strong and all arrivals find ready sale. The holiday trade was more than satisfactory and very little stock was left over. Poultry arriving this week has found a better market than was expected after the heavy buying of the past two weeks.

Chicago and Detroit both experienced the best holiday trade they have had in years and shippers and receivers generally express entire satisfaction. Turkeys are somewhat scarce. Ducks have also been scarce while the supply of geese, despite the heavy buying, has been better than on either of the others.

The dressed poultry market is in good condition despite a rather heavy run since the holiday buying first started. But the market appears to be in condition to take care of all arrivals. The meatless days are having a favorable effect on the poultry market as they come into more general observance.



FLOUR & FEED

Detroit—The mill feed market was given a small advance in parts of the list, more particularly in wheat products, and while quiet is firm at the advance. Bran, \$44; standard middlings, \$47; fine middlings, \$50; coarse corn meal, \$77; cracked corn, \$84; chop feed, \$60 per ton.

Milwaukee—An easier feeling has developed in the millfeed market, due to expanding offers and a moderate demand, mainly for immediate shipment. Deferred business is almost entirely absent, probably because of the prospect of lower prices. Current quotations are: Sacked bran, \$41@\$.4150; standard middlings, \$42; white dog, \$48; red dog, \$57@\$.58; cotton seed meal, \$53.50@\$.55; oil meal, \$60; gluten feed, \$53.55, Chicago, all in 100 lb. sacks.

New York—Feed prices are more or less nominal with the situation undergoing considerable readjustment. For city feed there is understood to be a good demand but trade is hampered by poor transportation. There is also some export demand. Western mills are understood to be well sold up and spot offerings are limited. Under the ruling of the Food Administrator a readjustment of values will soon take place and a much lower level will prevail. The tendency on the part of consumers, therefore, is to limit their purchases. Western spring bran in 100 lb. sacks is quoted at \$46.50 standard middlings, \$47.50; flour in 100 lb. sacks, to arrive, \$53.00; red dog, \$62.00; City feed bulk bran is quoted at \$45.00 and in 100 lb. sacks, \$46.00; heavy feed bulk, \$48.00; 100 lb. sacks, \$49.00; red dog, \$64.00, and flour, \$63.00.



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	13 00-15 00	14 50-16 00	14 50-15 25

Receipts of cattle at ten leading markets for the year will total approximately 15,500,000 head, by all odds the heaviest run in a numerical sense in trade history. Various causes are to be assigned for this big increase in cattle marketings. Prices have been at unprecedented heights, a condition that always exerts a magnetic influence and, especially west of the Missouri river there has been need of liquidation. Texas has experienced one of the most disastrous drouth periods in its history. Montana and the Dakotas have been forced to liquidate owing to the scarcity and advancing cost of feed, and even in inter mountain region has been under the same necessity. The corn belt was in condition to take care of many of these refugees, stocker and feeder trade having been of large proportions. During the first eleven months of 1917 nine principal feeder markets sent 2,989,974 stock and feeding cattle to the country, an increase of 214,194, or 7.62 per cent over a like period last year. The November movement from these nine points was 528,516, a November record, and an increase of 171,963 head or 48.22 per cent over the same month last year.

Values at the market have been much the highest on record. At Chicago a new record on corn-fed bullocks was made at \$17.90 on the high spot in September, while heavy range grass cattle sold as high as \$15.50 to \$16.00.

War demand and industrial activity were responsible for these imposing price levels, but agitation for meatless days and meatless meals so reduced beef consumption the last quarter of the year that an abrupt decline of \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cwt. on good to choice corn-fed cattle occurred during the October to December period. Medium and low grade cattle, however, held up remarkably well because of the insistent demand for the product of such cattle for army use. High prices attracted low grade cattle from all parts of the compass, but scrubs realized more money than prime long-fed bullocks were worth a few years back, and the \$10.00 and lower priced grades sold to even better advantage than good bullocks when intrinsic value is considered.

War requirements have so swelled demand for all meats, fats, hides, etc. that canner cow trade has been on a \$6.00 or higher basis much of the time, and all grades of the stuff have found a relatively better market than steers. An abnormal demand for sausage material kept good bologna bulls on an \$8 to \$8.50 basis much of the last half of the year and veal calves reached the unprecedented price of \$16.50 per cwt. on both a September and December high spot.

Maving received a sample copy of your paper, and believing you are working for the best interests of the farmer, am enclosing \$1.00 for 1 years subscription. I take several farm papers, but judging from the sample copies sent me, imagine I will like your paper better than any of the others.—F. W., Lake City, Mich.



HOGS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buttalo
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

Startling supply shrinkage at the time when trade requirements were vastly broadened by the world war, phenomenal prices, sudden and severe fluctuations in values and finally the action of the government through the food administration, in taking steps of an unprecedented, yet of an apparently well times and well warranted character designed to stabilize the market and to stimulate production, featured the 1917 hog market.

Early in the year now closing the Chicago hog market was on a \$10.00 basis and at this level of prices bearish sentiment existed in many quarters. That supply and demand condition gave no warrant for other than rampant bullishness, however, soon became evident. The opening market of the year proved the lowest of the 12-month period. It produced a \$10.50 top. On the closing session of January the top was shoved into the \$12.00 notch for the first time. During February a new high spot was chronicled when at the close of that month a \$13.55 top was reached. March witnessed an even more pyrotechnical trade the final sessions of that month again saw the trade at new record levels, the top at \$15.55 being an even \$2.00 per cwt. higher than February's wind-up and showing the remarkable advance of \$5.05 per cwt. over the opening level for the year. The second week of April produced a \$16.50 top before the buying side succeeded in checking the run-away market. By mid-May, however, \$16.65 was reached. From this point the market broke a dollar by the close of June, while the July trade showed a range from \$15.50 to \$16.30. Then came to sensational August market. The Food Administration's expose of the alarming shortage in the world's stocks and hogs and fats, imitations of contemplated action fixing a minimum hog price and guaranteeing producers remunerative prices for hogs based on a ratio with corn. The market shot upward from \$16.30 to an \$18.00 top within a two-week's period and on August 21st the bell was rung at the \$20.00 figure. Then began a series of wildly fluctuating markets. Five days after the \$20.00 figure had been scored the top had dropped down to \$17.65 and four days later, the closing day of August, it was back to \$18.75.

The top on low and high days of the September market ranged from \$18.25 to \$19.70, the month's closing limit being at \$19.60. After hovering around this level the fore part of October the trade hit the toboggan, a belated but not unexpected packer drive forcing the trade down to \$16.62 1/2 on the low day of the month, from which point there was recovery to \$17.00 at the month-end. Early in November the Food Administration announced the setting of a tentative minimum of \$15.50 for average packer droves of hogs at Chicago as a measure of protection and encouragement to the grower. The movement of immature young hogs was checked. Top hogs on the November low and high days were \$17.20 and \$18.10, respectively, closing at \$17.70. December receipts expanded materially, though continuing below normal. The market broke to a point close to the government's tentative minimum price on packing hogs about mid-month, and top on the low day last week dropped to \$16.40 from which recovery was made early in Christmas week to \$17.10.

Less than two years ago hog droves were put up around \$6 per cwt. by Chicago packers, making a striking contrast with the high-flying markets of 1917. The war, which has increased both domestic and foreign demand for the products is one big factor that has helped make 1917 prices possible. Decrease in supply owing to the greatly increased cost of production and the fact that not so long since the market was on a basis that prompted curtailment of breeding operations.

The year's hog receipts at ten leading markets were approximately 23,500,000 head, a decrease of 5,000,000 from 1916.

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CATTLE

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HOGS

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.

Registered Hogs for Sale!

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

HAMPSHIRE—2 Boars, 1 sow, August farrow; Sire, Gobbe, 20907; Dam, George's Girl 1st, 82292.

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

HOMESTEAD FARMS, Bloomingdale, Mich.

FOR SALE Registered Duroc Jersey Swine. All ages. Both sex. W. U. Barnes, Wheeler, Mich., R. F. D. No. 1, Box 31

PEACH HILL FARM Duroc fall pigs, either sex. Can furnish unrelated pairs or trios. Cherry King and Col. breeding. We are pricing these at \$15.00 each for immediate delivery. Registered free. Inwood Brothers, Romeo, Michigan.

SHEEP

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

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

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

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

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STRAWBERRY PLANTS Postal will bring complete and nicely pictured book, tells all about my vigorous stock grown best way. Mayers Plant Nursery Merrill, Michigan. Bohemian Nurseryman.

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	12.00-13.00
Ewes	9.00-10.00	10.00-11.75	11.50-12.00

Although deprived in large measure of the stimulus given the cattle and hog market through the greatly increased need of beef and pork products to maintain enormous armies, other than the admitted benefits it derived through the enlarged requirements for wool and skins and the sympathetic strength is absorbed from high beef, pork and other food products, the sheep and lamb trade for the year 1917 was hardly less spectacular than the cattle and hog markets. Supply was materially curtailed the decline of the sheep-raising industry in this country for several years previous having been a matter of common knowledge. Sheep and lamb receipts at the ten leading markets of the country for the year now closing decreased approximately 1,250,000 head from the run of the year previous a shrinkage of about 9 per cent, this despite prices that proved a powerful magnet in drawing supplies to the shambles and conditions as regards a shrinking range area and climatic vicissitudes that served to further reduce large flock holdings in some sections of the western sheep country, although such strenuous efforts have been made by western sheepmen this year to build up the industry and increase their breeding activities that, taking the trans-Missouri country as a whole a material increase in the western lamb crop next spring over last, in the event of favorable lambing results, is indicated, particularly as the lamb crop last spring was so seriously reduced by adverse climatic conditions. Owing to the strong efforts made to revive mutton and wool producing in the corn belt and eastern states an increased supply in these sections next year may safely be predicted. There seems, however, no possibility of the supply catching up with demand for several years at least to come, so far behind the requirements the industry has lagged. Comparing prices paid by months with those corresponding months of preceding years, 1917 established higher levels in every instance, on the high spot last May and shearing lambs went out as high as \$17.25. Shorn yearlings reached \$15.00, shorn two-year-old wethers \$14.75, shorn ewes \$14.25 and woolled ewes \$16.00.

IDLE MANURE MEANS LOST SOIL FERTILITY

To derive the full benefits from farm manures it is necessary to get them onto the land as quickly as practicable after they are made. In this way there is practically no loss from fermenting in the yards, and any leaching that occurs carries the elements of plant food into the soil and not away from it. When it is not practicable to spread the manure immediately both liquids and solids should be kept in a tight pit or under cover.

Unless the grass crop, no crop responds more profitably to farm manures than corn, and the fact that corn is usually planted in soil ground makes it especially easy to manure

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that crop. Corn is a rank growing crop and makes its most rapid growth at the time when the manure has decayed sufficiently to give up its elements of plant food. Only after the soil has become thoroughly warmed up does the coarser manure become suitable for nourishing plants. This is the time when the corn is making its most rapid growth. In a crop rotation practiced at the Ohio Experiment Station it was shown that manure applied to corn land will help the corn crop and still be of as much benefit to the succeeding crops of wheat as it will when left in the yard and hauled directly to the wheat crops immediately after the corn crop is removed from the field.

This experiment proved that farmers cannot afford to leave the manure lying in the yards waiting for the wheat crop when it might have been used for the corn without impairing its value for the wheat crop. On the writer's farm the bulk of the manure is applied to the clover and grass crops as soon as practicable and re-

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sults plainly show that the benefits to subsequent crops of corn and wheat are almost as great as when the manure is applied to the corn crop. This is, undoubtedly, due to the fact that the increased growth of the roots and stubble of the clover and grass crops makes good the loss of the fertilizing elements in the manure removed by these crops. No crop seems capable of making quite as efficient use of small amounts of manure as the clovers and grasses; besides these crops supplying the needed organic matter makes them doubly desirable places to apply farm manures. If a definite system of applying the manures to the meadows is established the value of the manures will be increased at least twenty-five per cent, and more acres may be kept in cultivation at a profit.—W. Milton Kelly.

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Government Control of Railroads

BY PRESIDENTIAL order the entire transportation facilities of the country came under government control on Wednesday of last week, with Wm. G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury and son-in-law of President Wilson, as managing director. This does not mean government ownership,—yet, but a three-quarter stride in that direction.

The immediate cause of this drastic action was the apparent breaking down of transportation lines and equipment all over the country as evidenced by their inability to relieve the constantly increasing congestion of freight at principal distributing points.

War-time burdens have placed an enormous strain upon the already over-taxed strength of the railroads. Crippled thru the lack of sufficient trackage and equipment, and weakened by costly competitive practices, they have failed utterly to respond to the national emergency. In spite of largely increased receipts, operating expenses have been so high in many cases that railway companies professed financial inability to renew their equipment and make adequate preparation for handling the additional volume of freight.

Manifestly something had to be done, and at once, to relieve the congestion and prevent national transportation from piling up into a hopelessly chaotic state. That something was, of course, government control, which places expediency and service above costs and profits.

The majority of the transportation systems welcome government intervention. Some of them were headed straight for the rocks of financial disaster, and others were skidding that way. The heads of a few of the larger roads, however, are skeptical of the government's ability to solve the problems which have baffled private owners. But they are willing that the government should try.

But how about the people? Do they rejoice that the government has gone into the railroad business? Are they perfectly willing to become a party to an agreement which guarantees a round billion dollars profits to the railroad companies and to meet the deficit of a hundred million dollars which experts predict the first year of government operations?

From government control to government ownership is a short step. The amalgamation and federal operation of the lines the current year should certainly prove a criterion of the desirability and success of government ownership. It is worth a hundred million dollars,—five hundred million dollars,—to make the test. If the government finds from its first year's experience that it cannot operate the roads successfully, it will have learned a valuable lesson and should know just what to do to help the railroads rehabilitate their properties and put them once again on a permanent, profitable basis. But it is generally believed that government control will reveal the practicability of government ownership, and that when the war is over these public utilities will come into the permanent possession of Uncle Sam.

Demand High Taxes on War Profits

CONGRESS will be called upon during the present session to provide additional funds for the constantly increasing expenses of war. The twelve or fifteen billion dollars that have already been raised by taxation and the floating of government bonds are but a pocketful compared to the enormous sums that must be raised to finance the war during the year of 1918,

to say nothing of subsequent years.

The people have already complained, and justly, we believe, that those who have been making money out of the war have not contributed a just share of the expenses. The first war taxation measure passed at the previous session took only about 20 per cent of excess war profits, whereas burdensome taxes were placed upon the most ordinary and necessary commodities of life to be paid by the wage-earner and the farmer. During the few short months since that bill was passed, thousands of new millionaires have come into existence by reason of profits derived from the manufacture of war supplies.

There is a very definite limit to the amount of taxation which the wage-earners can stand, as other countries engaged in the war have already discovered. The brunt of the financial burdens of war must be borne by wealth, and there is sufficient in this country to pay ALL the cost of war and still leave ample to satisfy the whims and pleasures of the rich.

Although the Government assumes that the farmer should provide foodstuffs for the warring nations without positive assurance of profit, it is an unsound policy and we should not expect manufacturers to take similar chances. Under present conditions, the farmer is forced to take these chances; the manufacturer is not. Every man is entitled to a profit on his labor and his capital invested, but during these times of war and sacrifice profits should be reduced to the lowest possible minimum. The wage-earners cannot stand much heavier taxes than they are already paying; wealth can and must stand them.

England and France conscript 80 per cent of excess war profits; Canada takes everything over 15 per cent from her powerful packing institutions, and treats her other corporations who are waxing fat from war profits, in much the same manner. The United States has a super-abundance of millionaires, more than all three of the countries named above,—and yet American wealth pays probably less than half of what that of other countries contribute to the war cost.

Since Congress passed its first war appropriation measures, the people have done some earnest thinking and have determined that the next bill will bear more heavily upon wealth. Every M. B. F. reader should write his congressman and insist that he urge and vote for smaller bond issues and taxes on commodities, and larger levies against large incomes and excess war profits.

Stay on the Farm

LAST YEAR'S crop failures and the continued uncertainty of prices on farm products, resulting in enormous losses in some sections of Michigan and other big agricultural states, have given farmers just cause for discouragement, and many of them are even now selling or renting their farms and seeking employment in the cities, where the wage is high and a more stable income assured.

Don't leave the farm; you'll regret it if you do. Distant pastures never looked more green to any of us than right now. War and the abnormal conditions incident to war stir up unrest everywhere. Last summer the green fields of the country and the belief that farm life was one continual round of cream and honey, fruit and flowers, pleasure and profit, led many poor deluded souls to give up good positions in the cities and "hit the dusty trail" for the countryside. They are returning now to the cities, to look for new jobs and recuperate from the strenuous, and in most of their cases, unprofitable labor of the summer and fall.

No man can make a success of his work unless he be interested in it. Those who have grown to manhood and womanhood in the cities will never be contented upon the farm; those who have seen the silver lining and the rugged seams of farm life will find only husks and chaff in the city. It cannot be otherwise,—and thousands of farmers who have returned to the soil, weary and weakened from the ceaseless strife of the cities will bear testimony to our statement.

The war has visited many unjust discriminations upon the farmers of the nation. President Wilson himself has said very recently that many inequalities exist as between industrial and agricultural pursuits. He acknowledges that prices have been set upon the products the farmer sells and the prices of the raw material he must buy left unmolested, but he promises that these disparities will be remedied as soon as possible.

The farmers of Michigan have special grievances. Injustice after injustice has been heaped upon them. Their loyal response to the needs of the hour has been unappreciated and unremunerated. Discriminatory grading rules have been established. Attempts have been made to set profitless prices upon their beans. The pleas of the farmers have met with rebuff; and there seems to be no redress. Millions of bushels of potatoes still re-

main in the farmers' hands; hundreds of thousands of bushels of moist beans are rotting in their hands, simply because the nation is too busy with other more important things to provide for their utilization. We could cite instance after instance where the most precious rights of the tillers of the soil have been trod upon, and yet we say, "Don't leave the farm."

Brighter days are coming. The mistakes and inequalities of the present will be rectified. Of that we are convinced. Another year comes,—we hope, and believe in some respects at least,—a better year. This and other publications having the interests of the farmers at heart are already preparing to demand representation for the farmers on the various boards at Washington which have been given practically unlimited authority to control the production, grading and marketing of farm products. And this will come to pass before another planting. Stay on the farm; another and a brighter day is dawning.

Universal Military Training

NATIVE MILITARISTS are going to take advantage of the abnormal mood of the country to force a compulsory military training bill thru the present session of Congress. Compulsory military training has been the popular war preventive argument of war propagandists from Caesar down to the Kaiser. It has never yet succeeded in keeping a country out of war, or in failing to contribute in a large measure to drawing a country into wars of aggressions and conquest.

If military training is a preventive of war, we cannot understand why it has the enthusiastic support of munition makers, retired generals, heads of naval and military departments and others who have found war a profitable and pleasant pastime; neither can we understand why it is vigorously opposed by those suffering most from war.

We have been positively assured that the Allies are fighting for the utter extinction of war and the causes that lead to wars. If this is not the dominating incentive, why in God's name have we entered the horrible conflict. Surely, we do not offer the last cent of the nation's resources and the last ounce of her blood for anything less priceless than universal and permanent peace.

America's part in this war will have been the most senseless of the centuries if the only thing she reaps is vengeance. The Great Opportunity is before her to raze the institutions of war and tear out the desire for war in not only Germany and Austria, but in every country engaged in the combat, our own included. If America does her duty to herself and the world, this war shall never end until every nation, large and small, makes provision against the maintaining of armies, and navies, and pledges her work to submit her differences to an international court of arbitration.

We don't believe that the present is any time to discuss compulsory military service, and were the Congress in a normal frame of mind the Chamberlain bill wouldn't have a ghost of a chance in passing. But the only thing that can prevent action upon the bill at this time and probably its passage is determined opposition from the people. Were there any advantages at all to universal service which might benefit our arms or the morale of the country during the present conflict there might be some argument for legislating it into existence as speedily as possible. But as we understand it, the advocates of the measure have solely in mind the preparation of the country's youth for service in future wars. Is it possible that we won't have time enough after this war ends to train our youth for the next war, that we must begin to train them now?

The booze interests have been pleading for a longer lease of life for old John Barleycorn on the grounds that John is a convivial comrade of the soldiers and helps to relieve the monotony of life in the trenches. We have been led to believe that all countries at war encourage the moderate use of alcoholics by its fighting men in order to stimulate them under depressing conditions, but recent dispatches direct from General Pershing's headquarters in France reveal the utter falsity of the earlier reports and indicate that efforts are being made by both French and American authorities to discourage all use of alcoholic stimulants among the soldiers. Another body blow for the tottering form of John B.

Do the farmers of Michigan want Congress to pass a law which will compel their sons to render military service in times of peace? If they do, their wishes will undoubtedly be gratified; if they don't, they would better write to their congressmen and senators at once and voice their protest. We would like to have an expression from our readers upon this subject.

EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

Has the Government kept Faith With the Farmers of the Nation?

I wish to congratulate you because of the excellent editorial on the "Farmer's Patriotism." And possibly I may add something that may help to show just where the Farmer stands today in regard to this awful tragedy of tragedies.

In April last the President expressed himself to the people of America in a proclamation entitled "Do your bit for America," and a few expressions from that proclamation I wish to call your attention to. He assured the people engaged in all kinds of industries, and especially the farmer and the hired man that worked for the farmer that they were "soldiers behind the firing lines," and gave us much encouragement to go ahead and "push" farming to the fullest extent; put every available acre of land in crops and thus greatly swell the food production to the very limit! He told us that the Government would help the farmer "to buy seed" and "to buy fertilizer," and farm implements, and all other necessary equipment to successfully accomplish this great end. Result: Among the very first men drafted were the hired men on the farms, and farmers within the age limit, and when you take from the farms the skilled labor, men of years of experience in work on the farm, and the men that owned and operated successfully their own farms, those within the age limit, you literally rob the farm of its productiveness and put a ban on farming that effectively combats the very end sought.

Increased production again? Fertilizer has not sold for such high prices in years as the last season. Farm machinery has nearly doubled in price. EVERYTHING a farmer has to buy costs about double what it cost before war was declared. Now, added to these troubles, came the more serious one of all, weather conditions. For three years the farmers of Michigan have greatly suffered because of extremely bad weather conditions. How little the general public know of the trouble, and sorrow and disappointment and great loss caused the farmer by not having favorable weather to grow and harvest a crop! Little do the people of the great cities understand the grief, and heartache caused to the farmers and their families when they plant a crop and expect to harvest enough to pay the interest on the mortgage and pay for some farm machinery needed to successfully work the farm, and then have enough left to clothe and feed the family, and at the end of the season find they have run behind. In this connection let me say that a great majority of the farmers of Michigan especially the small farmers, those who own 40 or 80 acres of land, have farms that are mortgaged. A money lender told me a few days since that he held a mortgage on a man farm which had been running for the last forty-six years. A glance at the loans being made to farmers by the Federal Loan Agency will fully convince you on this subject.

To return to the subject under consideration. The President said, "thousands, nay, hundreds of thousands, of men otherwise liable to military service will of right and necessity be excused from that service and assigned to the fundamental, sustaining work of the fields, etc., etc." Now, I do not wish to infer that the farmer should be exempt from military service, unless this government can best advance its own interests by keeping him on the farm. Undoubtedly there are hundreds of young farmers that would gladly serve their country in a military capacity; yes, and perhaps would much rather serve that way, than serve on the farm—but can this government afford to take them from the farm, the place they are best fitted to fill? Again, "the Government will cooperate with the farmers in securing labor to help harvest the crops, and to sell them, etc., etc." Here are the facts: The Government took the skilled farm labor and it has never, so far as I know even attempted to help the farmer obtain labor to secure his harvest. All thru the

Thumb of Michigan, the old, worn-out farmer (for his boys have recently been taken) and his faithful old wife, have been obliged to work in the field all day and many times well through the night to secure their crops. Many a wife, whose place is in the house, where she can attend to her many household duties, has been obliged to go to the field and work behind the hay loader and in the hay mow and help dig potatoes and husk corn, and draw stalks—work that the American woman is incapable of doing, and work she has never been educated to do. This was absolutely necessary or the crops would have rotted in the fields.

The promised help never came; the "Excused Farmer" has been taken to Custer and is in training. All that are left on the farms of Michigan are old, worn-out, played-out, decrepit has-beens. Can such farmers furnish the food necessary to win the war? Has the Government kept faith with the farmer? Has it kept its agreement?

Now a word in regard to what the farmer receives for his produce. The most money the farmers ever made from the bean crop was the year that we received \$2.40 a bushel, and they picked about five pounds to the bushel; this netted us \$2.15 for our beans; but that year the weather conditions were normal, and our beans went about 23 bushels to the acre. This past season I sowed on this farm seed that cost \$10.00 a bushel. I put in 23 acres; I never did so much work in cultivating as this past season. The weather was such that it was hard to get on the ground to put them in in season. Then it was too cold for them to germinate as they should. The result was slow, very slow growth. When the harvest time came we had rain, rain, rain. It was absolutely impossible to secure the crop. A good hard snow storm came just in time to snow them all under after they were in the bunch. This snow froze on to some extent. I personally worked in the fields, as many others did, shaking the snow off the bunches. How many times we turned them over and shook them out, and spread them out, only to receive another soaking rain, I will not venture to say, but at last they were secured. While I have not threshed yet, I feel confident I will not receive from my 23 acres over 46 bushels of badly spoiled beans. My beans are a fair sample of the average all over the Thumb of Michigan. My yield is a fair estimate of the yield all through this part of the state. In work and cash I have put into my bean crop about \$300. Any of our readers can figure my profit(?) The bean crop is a fair sample of every crop raised on the farm this past season. Is the farmer a slacker?

Now, the inevitable result of this Government using the farmer as it has is as follows: Many

of the farmers are seeding down their farms, and many are renting, and others are selling them. And a still greater number will just try and raise sufficient crops to enable them to live, and no more. Their help is gone, and unjust discrimination in regard to the Government refusing to pay the farmer a fair profit for his hard work has brought this about.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I have been on the farm for 14 years and I feel perfectly capable of presenting these facts, because I have passed through all the various experiences of farm life, and I am forced to the conclusion that the farmer is NOT appreciated as he should be.—A. M., Caro.

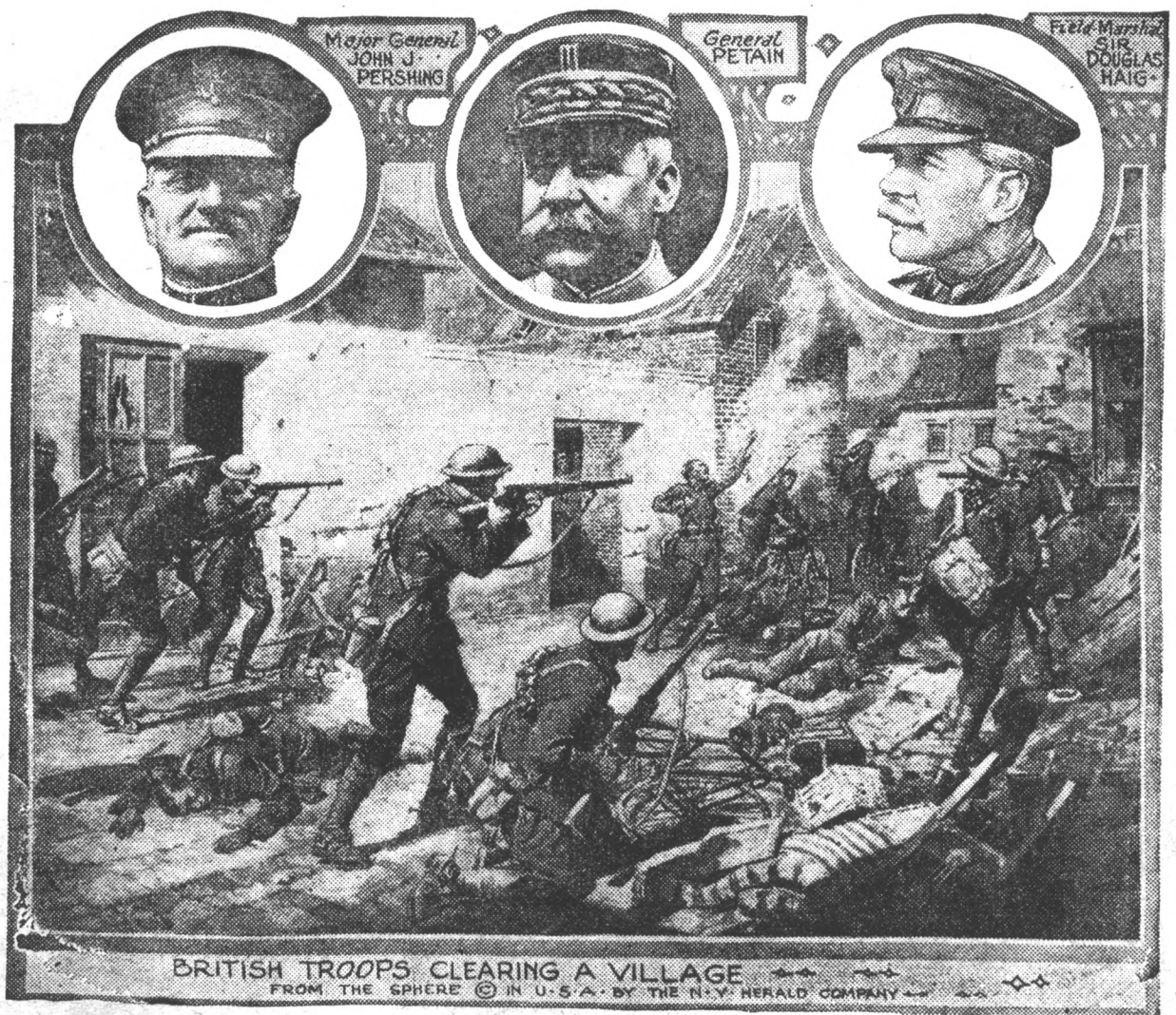
Makes Difference Whose Foot Shoe Pinches

Will have to congratulate you on the stand you took with Administrator Miller, if you ever told the truth they don't know how to judge the farmers needs. As to protests will send you some clippings from the *Grand Rapids Herald*. Would like to have Mr. Miller drop in some time to the Farmers Clubs and then he could see if they were kicking. They have got to give the farmer relief some time before long. But am afraid it won't come in time to help the crop for next year. It was not but 2 or 3 years ago that they made the farmer sort out all the big potatoes and keep them at home. Now they want them, the bigger the better. Don't know how the farmer can suit them. Next year when they don't get enough to go around they will call the farmer a slacker. The bean men at Mesick told me the other day he bought some beans shipped them and lost \$6.00 on the deal. Said he could not stand that kind of a deal. I asked him what he thought about the farmer sort out all the big potatoes and keep or 3 bushels per acre and then getting \$6.50 a bu. for them. He thought the farmer ought to be patriotic and help win the war. But of course, they could not be patriotic and lose \$6.00 on a car of beans and asked him what he could do about it, he said he would have to pick them closer from the farmer. Ha! Ha! First, last and all the time.—F. E. B., Sherman, Mich.

No. 2 Potatoes are Best

The No. 2 potato is a better grade than the No. 1. This is my judgment and am not willing to take less for No. 2 than No. 1 as in other words I am not in favor of two grades of potatoes and a screen 1 5-8 inch is plenty large enough if the government wants to furnish the greatest of all ammunition (food stuff) then let the farmers have protection in this line and its only a just demand that the government should protect us.—S. T. G., Fife Lake, Mich.

(Readers' Editorials continued on following page)



EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

Have You Had This Experience?

Farmer Brown has a bumper potato crop to sell. He has had a good year, and he is ready to dispose of his spuds. Commission merchant Smith in Chicago or Kansas City wires him to "Send 2,000 bus. to such and such a place at once. Will pay one dollar per bushel." Farmer Brown busies himself and arranges for moving his crop. He gets his cars and the potatoes are sacked. A few days later he hears from Commission Merchant Smith. The telegram reads "Potatoes are at railroad siding, cannot accept them as they are not of best quality." Farmer Brown is desperate. He has gone to great expense. He has worked all summer. He has paid good money to have the potatoes dug. He has purchased sacks. He has been charged a fat freight bill and here the whole matter is going to the dogs.

The commission merchant knows that farmer Brown cannot afford to argue very long. Farmer Brown is going to wire an offer to part with the potatoes at a reduction per bushel of five or ten cents. That is what the commission man has been waiting for and we will therefore rob the farmer of considerable money, possibly the farmer's entire profit in the crop. That is an everyday scheme. This does not apply to potatoes alone. Men in the corn belt know what happens when they fill an order for corn in a distant place. Wheat men have been stung again and again until they are becoming to take heroic measures to keep their crops away from such parties. On December 11th Food Administrator Hoover made charges before the Federal Food Commission that dishonest wholesale and retail merchants and food brokers have been criminally responsible for food shortage and rising prices. One of Mr. Hoover's co-workers, M. Victor Murdock, also declared on that day speculation in food was having far-reaching results in causing unrest. Mr. Murdock added that unprincipled brokers and dealers are said to order goods beyond their requirements on a rising market believing they can make money if prices continue to go up and can at least prevent loss by rejecting the shipment.

Mr. Murdock cited a typical case. He said a man from Indiana ordered a carload of perishables, say potatoes, from a Minnesota man. By the time delivery is made, prices have dropped and rejection of the car on a flimsy pretext results. While settlement is being made the potatoes are out of the market, transportation is delayed by failure to unload and sometimes the food deteriorates, says Mr. Murdock.

"Such pernicious business practices, which net the men a little extra blood money must be stamped out. I am going to give my entire time to this job, if it is necessary to get results and put some of these unpatriotic camp followers and war leeches behind the bars where they rightly belong. So far as I am concerned I do not see how profiteering of this character can be bettered by use of a feather. It requires a club."

And no one will welcome such action quicker than the farmer, for they are the goats. The farmers are the ones made to suffer most by these practices and where as a result, the potatoes do rot it is the farmer, and not the commission man who is the loser through high prices that are caused by these speculators.—S. H. S., Harrietta

Why Raise More Until We Can Sell What We Have

What is wrong? The cry is to grow more and we can't sell what we have. We do not wish to complain but we can't understand. There is no market here for either beans or potatoes, so to say the least it is not encouraging for we farmers to increase in this community. We thought we were to get \$1.00 for potatoes and what few are sold here go at from 65 to 85 cents and again before we entered the war they used an inch and a half screen and since they have began to cry save, they use a 2 inch screen. Can you explain to me please?—O. P. C., Cross Village, Mich.

Organize and Cut Out the Fellow Who "Stands Between"

Enclosed you will find \$1.00 to pay for the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING one year. I consider the M. B. F. the best farm paper printed in the state of Michigan or any other state for that matter. Mr. Lord's answer to Mr. E. P. Miller in the last issue is worth \$1.00 to me and every farmer of the state. It is a clear, logical argument against the present grading of potatoes and can't help but accomplish what Mr. Lord intended it should.

The Michigan potato buyers association under their cloak of helping the Government are trying

to get laws passed that will only help them to grade potatoes closer claiming they have lost money in the past by present grading. We do not need them any more if they are losing money why let them go to farming and make some real easy money.

They are trying to scare every farmers warehouse to join their association so they can control the price and they shall pay for farm produce and thus cut out competition. Since they were organized several years ago an outsider could not buy a car of potatoes in this town, but now with our Gleaner Farmers Produce Co. doing business we are selling direct to the consumer thus cutting them out of a nice fat commission. What is true of this place is true all over the state. Brother Farmers go out and look yourself over and then ask yourself why you should not sign for the M. B. F. and go down in your jeans and help to boost the nearest Farmers warehouse both by stock in same and handling all your produce thru a place you should have an interest in. I say three cheers for Slocum, Lord and Jim Helme, three of a kind, and a good kind, I'll say.—G. M. W., Fife Lake.

Keep the No. 2 Off Market

I think that your paper is a God send to we farmers for it is going to help us out of a lot of things and I think every farmer will try and do all he can for the paper. If we had kept the No. 2 grade off the market we would have had as much money for we would have received more for the No. 1 and the market would have been better than it is now.—W. M., Bolton.

Why Such a Difference in Price

I wish to call your attention to the potato situation of this part of the state. What I wish to

Lay Your Problems Before Us.

WITH THE coming of the New Year all good farmers begin to make their plans for next season's crops. Many of them have already decided about what crops they will plant and what fields they will use. All of them, however, will be confronted by problems of more or less perplexing nature in determining how they shall best prepare their soil to secure the largest possible returns from the money and labor invested. It is a problem, to be sure, to decide four months ahead of the planting and nine months ahead of the harvesting what crops to plant and what methods of fertilization and cultivation to use. Nevertheless, the business farmer is the forward man who makes his farm plans months in advance of the seasons and equips himself with fertilizer, seed and tools instead of trusting to luck and the weather man to arrange the seasons to suit his convenience. M. B. F. want its readers who are bothered with any production problems to write us; perhaps we can help them out of their difficulty.

say is that the buyers here are offering 60c per bushel or \$1.00 per 100 pounds when they are buying at all. I notice the price at Chicago to be \$2.00 per 100 pounds or slightly lower and Greenville quotes the price around \$1.75 per 100. Most years the price here is about 10c per bushel lower than at Greenville and 15c to 25c per bushel lower than Chicago. Why so much difference this year? Is there any way of bettering this condition? Hoping that there is, I remain,—J. N. S., Nessen City, Mich.

No. 2 Grade Potatoes Win Prize

Note the cut of No. 2 potatoes in your Dec. 15 issue. Reminds me of the potato show that was held at Scottville Dec. 15, there were quite a good display of potatoes shown but like myself many did not know what size they wanted, so took quite large ones and C. W. Waid was the judge and the prize was awarded to a lot about like the cut of No. 2 in your issue. In regard to potato grading would be in favor of doing away with the No. 2 grade and make the screen smaller and have nothing but No. 1. If Mr. Waid gives prizes on small potatoes I don't see why they want to call them No. 2 for. At digging time we were getting \$1.00 and \$1.10 a bushel ungraded as quick as they went to grading they dropped to 80c for the buyers had to get extra help and they took it out of the farmers by lowering the price. I have failed to see any quotations on No. 2 potatoes in any of the markets, so what becomes of them. If these great potato specialists will control the elements for us we might raise a few bushels that would suit them.—D. L. R., Mason County.

Suggests That Farmers Set Price on Crops

I am very much interested in the way the farmers are speaking up for themselves in the potato situation. I read in the M. B. F. of the large number of potato growers gathering at the meeting held at Greenville, waking up to the fact that the farmers are being imposed upon by the method of screening. We also held a meeting here in behalf of the petition you sent here to the Wayne Arbor. I am a member of the committee of the Farm Loan board and have had a chance to talk to a large number of farmers of this locality, also have read a great deal of the opinions of many other farmers in different states, which convinces me that they would be glad to unite in some such a way as I am about to lay before you.

The potato growers are dissatisfied with the way they have been used in answer to the Government's call for a large crop that unless something is done to protect the grower from a financial loss, the acreage will be so small next spring that it will put the country in a serious condition at this critical time. Let potato growers form a union and grow their crops, estimate the cost of production, add a reasonable profit as the manufacturer does to his product; also from year to year set the price according to the cost of production. We will then raise the war crops if we organize and assure ourselves against financial loss.

We manufacture the water at the head of the stream; if we don't let it run their wheels won't turn, the same as the other manufacturers. If we don't pay their price we have to leave it alone.

One of the many arguments of forming a union and holding the product for a price so we don't suffer a loss is that the poor man is obliged to sell. Form a nation-wide union, with local unions; let each local union have a secretary and a treasurer, or such officers as deemed advisable so that if any member of the union needed money to carry him through until the price came up to the union price. If his credit was not such as to secure money, the local union could secure the money for the grower, and the union would be secured by the crop on hand.

The growers are now stirred up over the way they have been dealt with in this year's large crop, and there ought not to be one to oppose such a union.

Dear editors, my sincere wish is that you modify my plan and put it to the growers in your columns, also send out papers to secure signers enough to form a potato growers' union, large enough to control the market. When these thousands of petitions come in the dealers will back up the growers to satisfy the growers at the present time, only later on to crowd him back into the old rut. It is now high time the growers awake and get busy.—A. W., Hersey.

Thinks Buyers Responsible for Grading

I like the stand you take on the potato grading. You have done more to stand up for the farmers rights than all of the rest of the farm papers I ever have taken. I think the present potato grading was done to skin the farmer and was hatched by the potato buyers. It was certainly not done for the farmer and I can't see how it will help the consumer. I would have to see the consumer buy the No. 2 potatoes for 60 per cent off the No. 1 price before I will believe they will get them for that price. Mr. Miller said that they did not make any recommendations as to the difference in price between No. 1 and No. 2. Perhaps the potato buyers can fix that part so it will suit him. I have not talked with one farmer but was sore about the present method of grading. I have often heard the remark if the government wants the potatoes graded that way let the government raise the potatoes if the present grade stands. I think somebody will be hungry for potatoes next year. Many of the potatoes that go for No. 2 are better than some of the No. 1, for instance, medium sized potato grown on sandy soil are far better than larger potatoes grown on heavy soil are nicer and smoother and cook more dry. Will enclose clipping from our local paper, a letter from a potato grower from Lakeview, John J. Bales' town where potatoes were quoted at \$1.50 to \$1.60 in Greenville. Our local buyers were paying \$1.25 per 100 pounds for No. 1. I think the middle-men need regulating instead of grading the potatoes.—G. D., Mecosta.

M. B. F. has Received over 2,000 Letters Like this the Last Three Months—They Help

I firmly believe that your little paper stands for "MORE" to the farmers in this state, than all other farm papers put together, for you fearlessly proclaim the TRUTH from the House Tops, and EVERY FARMER in this state ought to "see to it" that he helps you along with his subscription, also with his sympathy.—A. M., Caro, Mich.

LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

THE SELF-FEEDER FOR FATTENING SHEEP

In fattening sheep the self feeder is a great time and labor saver. Before I used the self-feeder I had mangers with tight floors. These had to be cleaned out twice a day before the sheep got their grain. That took some little time. Then in addition the grain ration had to be measured and mixed twice a day, and as soon as they had the grain cleaned out the roughage had to be hustled to them.

With the self feeder it is an entirely different proposition. The self feeder has to be filled two or three times a week, but then we take time enough off to do it right, and after the job is done we are all free to do something else. In the granary we have a floor above where all the grain and mill feed is thrown and the corn and cob meal as it comes from the mill.

We have a large grain box holding nearly one hundred bushels. All that there is to do is to throw down as many scoopsful of this and so many of that. The oats are kept in bins just below. All the feed is then mixed in the wagon box and the horses do the carrying for us. In the sheep shed there are two feeders along the sills. Windows are cut in the sides of the sheds. We drive along side and the feed is scooped through the window.

When the shed is full of sheep we have to have more feeders than these so some portable ones are kept on hand, but these are placed as near the doors as possible, so the matter of filling becomes an easy one.

Many object to the self feeder on the ground that the gains so made are not economical enough, but I have never been able to see any difference unless it has been in favor of the feeders. Of course, when the feeder attendant is at all careless he is likely to lose a few lambs, when starting them out, and again if he does not watch pretty carefully they are liable to go when they are on full feed. If the water is off for a day or two and then they get a chance to fill up on it all at once common sense tells you that something will be doing. You must watch to see for a day or two and then to have so much all at once will nearly always give trouble. Any man who is fattening lambs, wethers or old ewes, must be careful and the man with the self feeder need not be more careful than any other ordinary feeder should be if he is out for the most profit.

This is what I keep sheep for profit. To be sure, I like them, but my love for them is not strong enough to cause me to keep them unless there was profit in them.

When starting a bunch on the self-feeder one must not feed too much concentrates. We use oat hulls at the start to lighten up the ration, gradually lessening the amount and substituting some other feeds as the time goes on. Of late years corn and cob meal combined with oats has been one of my principal feeds, but lately I have been adding a few sacks of this molasses feed since wheat bran and shorts have gone so high. It is very hard to get mill feed at a price which will return profit.

Screenings and that sort of thing are now being utilized for fancy chicken feeds and cheap flour at prices which the farmer cannot afford to pay, so it is best to try to have feeds of your own growing and then mix them yourself.

The self-feeder as a rule, results in quicker gains than any other way of feeding, and even though the gains are no greater, if they are some quicker this often means much when the market gets fickle on your hands.

It also means just as much when you care to stock up again as soon as the first lot is off your hands, and if you are not careful you will be anxious to stock up again soon when you once try the self-feeders out thoroughly. During the summer when it is desirable to feed the sheep some, nothing is quite so handy as the self-feeders in the field so they can go at will when you are busy in the fields with the crops.—R. B. Rushing.

Veterinary Department

We have a cow that seems to be in perfect health, yet in a couple of days time she quit giving milk almost entirely, but has now begun to return to her milk quite slowly, but it does not look as though she would give as much as before. She has not been sick, and eats and drinks and acts all right. What is the cause of this and what can be done for it?—C. P., Kent City.

This condition is caused by a temporary paralysis of the trophic nerves that supply the secretory portion of the udder and should have been treated at once. It is not likely that this cow will give as much milk any more this lactation period as she was giving but she will be all right the next freshening period. Take one-half oz. fluid extract of nux vomica and one-half oz. fluid extract of pilocarpus or jaborandi and divide into three equal doses and give a dose every three or four hours. Milk the udder just the same as though milk was being produced.

I have a mare which I bought one year ago but she had one sore eye. The man I bought her of said he thought she had gotten some chaff in her eye. For about five months the eye has discharged a thick yellow matter, quite offensive in smell and looks. There seems to be something growing on the other eye, and it begins to look like the worst one did in the first place. The growth is pink on the worst one and it started by growing across the front point of the eye and now it lays along the under lid, but the discharge seems to be at the front corner. I have had her to three veterinarians and nothing helps it. Would you think it needed anything on the outside? She is getting very sensitive to having the eye touched. Her water is milky. I gave her salt peter, 1 spoonful night and morning, but it does not do the good it should. Her front legs swell sometimes. She acts as though she was in distress and stamps her hind feet some times. Her weight is about 1400. What disinfectant could be used on the eye? She is not fed high. I have good hay. I do not feed much oats this year, she sometimes backs up from that for awhile and appears to be sick. I give her a few drops of J. K., which generally helps her and she goes to eating. Her eye seems to itch as she rubs it with the manger. Would you think Absorbine Jr. would help? Would it be safe to put some of it, diluted, in the eye?—W. A. S., Pierston, Mich.

Drop a few drops of a 5 per cent solution of Argyrol in eyes twice daily and give one tablespoon salt peter morning and night. Have growths removed from eyes should they protrude. Complete recovery may be impossible. Advise me of further developments in this case.

COTTONSEED CRUSHERS REDUCE THEIR PRICES

Cottonseed crushers of four states have voluntarily agreed to reduce prices of their products from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per ton, the exact amount depending upon the grade. This action was taken at conventions held the first part of December.

The cottonseed industry has shown hearty co-operation with the Food Administration and the reduction in the prices is regarded at Washington headquarters as a splendid example of business patriotism that should be reflected in an increased production of meat and milk besides making possible the wintering of a large number of cattle in the west. Branches of the industry agreeing to the reduced prices are the Mississippi and Louisiana Cottonseed Crushers, the Tennessee Crushers' Association and the Arkansas Crushers' Association.

Members of these associations agreed that they would not ask for their cottonseed cake the remainder of this season a price exceeding the basis of price agreed upon by the Texas Association, which is as follows, f.o.b. their mills at shipping points:

43 per cent protein bagged, ton \$53.50
41 per cent protein, bagged, ton 51.50
38 per cent protein, bagged, ton 48.50
36 per cent protein, bagged, ton 46.50

Purchasers of cottonseed throughout the country should not pay exceeding these prices plus transportation and a reasonable profit to any dealer through whom they may place their orders.

POULTRY WARRIORS WILL HELP TO WIN THE WAR

The humble hen can play a prominent part in preventing the progress of the Prussian peril. The quickest and cheapest way of adding to our meat supplies is to increase poultry and egg production. To double this production next year will give us 6,500,000,000 pounds of meat food in the form of poultry and eggs. By having this amount of poultry food for domestic consumption we will eat less pork and beef, and can send almost that many pounds of meat to Europe to feed our soldiers, the armies of the Allies, and the destitute civilians.

The United States Department of Agriculture wishes every farmer to understand the importance of doubling our poultry production next year. It is a vital part of the general food production campaign, and that campaign must be carried out in all its details to insure victory in this war. The chief poultry increase must be made on the general farms of the country—on every farm in the country. It must be made as a by-product of general farming. The farmer must get his flock to such size, in proportion to his farm, that all the waste and scraps, and land available for chickens to run on will be used, and the fowls kept up from these sources and a reasonable amount of other food. The Department does not suggest that extensive poultry enterprises be taken up by the general farmer. In fact, it warns against that very thing. But it urges every farmer to keep just as many hens, and produce just as many chickens and eggs as he can economically and as a by-product of his general farming.

The average size of the farm flock in the United States now is forty hens. If the average is increased to one hundred hens next year the desired increase in proportion should be obtained. Many farms, of course, can have flocks of several hundred, and some farms will have to keep less. But the effort is to increase the farm average to at least 100 hens.

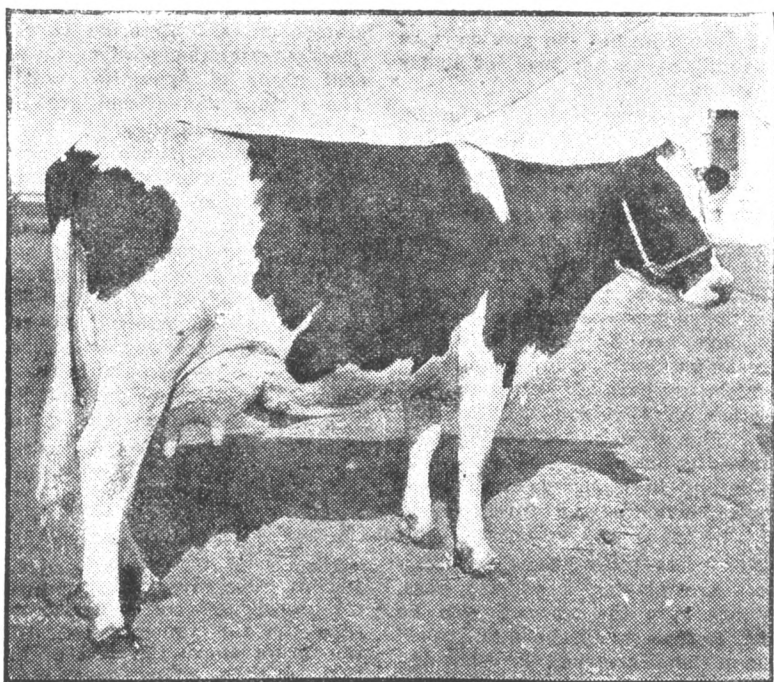
It is an astounding fact that there are a million and a half eggless farms in the United States—an economic anomaly and an agricultural absurdity. Out of a total of 6,371,502 farms, 1,527,743 report no egg production in the last census.

Even if we had never been forced to go to war with Germany this condition would be one demanding every effort at correction—for each farm can, at least produce sufficient poultry and eggs for home consumption, and thereby be a more profitable farm. It would be to the self-interest of every one of these million and a half farmers to commence poultry production, if there were no war. But because we are at war is a more important reason why they should do so—the fact that they will be helping win the war—helping to preserve their own free existence in a free country.

Early hatching next spring is necessary if the desired increase in production is attained. It is also necessary, during the winter, that farmers save young hens and pullets, so they will be on hand for stock in the spring. The stock of the Nation has been reduced considerably this fall by a widespread sale, for market, of young hens and pullets. Therefore it is necessary to conserve stock now, or else the shortage may interfere seriously with the production program. In view of the stock shortage, to kill a good hen now is to reduce the potential egg production next year anywhere from five to twelve dozen eggs.

Summing up the situation, these are the things for the farmer to do in order to increase poultry production:

Stop marketing for meat this winter the young hens and pullets that have potential egg production value next year. Save stock now to insure an adequate supply of layers for next spring.



Aggie Acme of Riverside 2d.

Helping Solve this Year's Marketing Difficulties

(Continued from last week)

Why is it that farmers have been unable to take advantage of the parcel post and the sweeping reduction in rates made by the express companies in handling food products? Not long ago the writer had an interview with the general manager of one of the express companies in his New York office. In reply to the question of how his company was prepared to serve the individual farmer and the small co-operative society he replied: I can best answer your question by explaining the conditions which make this problem a difficult one. It is so obvious that a tremendous gain to both producer and consumer would be brot about if the two could deal directly with each other, that the alluring prospect of mutual gain leads one to dwell upon the desirable results rather than upon the great difficulties that prevent a speedy realization of such a condition. But experience and a close analysis of the situation reveals obstacles which must be overcome before it will be possible to bring about a general movement of food products directly from producer to consumer. I do not mean by this that many progressive farmers and groups may not forge ahead of the rank and file and make it profitable to themselves. This is now being done in many cases. But in order to achieve success, the drawbacks must be understood and allowances made.

The lack of general standardization of farm products is perhaps the thing about all others which deers the individual from dealing directly with the farmer. The individual wants to know what he is to get before he places his order. The absence of standards to which the farmers conform makes it impossible for the consumer to know with any certainty what kind of eggs, butter, fowl or fruit he will receive when he orders from the country. Then, too, the seasonal nature of the farmer's business gives rise to other problems. He must have a steady supply. He must never run out of produce, but must always supply it promptly on demand. How can he expect to compete with the city store which draws its supply from all parts of the country and from all lands of the earth? Even in regard to eggs, a commodity which is produced as nearly the year 'round as any there are seasons in which the supply of the individual runs short and in which he would lose his customers.

"In order to secure an even distribution of food products thruout the year for the great masses of people storage facilities are necessary so that in the season of greatest production products of various kinds may be stored for the season of small or curtailed production. Otherwise an entire crop will often have to be disposed of when it matures, to people who are prepared to hold it. For the farmer to build storage plants would, in most cases, be impossible. Many co-operative societies are doing so in some of the progressive communities. The fact that many foods are of a perishable nature, makes dealing at a long distance difficult. Some food necessarily deteriorates in transit and is eliminated by the retailer before it reaches the consumer. In direct selling the consumer would receive all such food. This would also be a big source of dissatisfaction to most people. For these reasons, it is difficult for the individual to market his produce to fill orders secured by the food department of our company. With but few exceptions those furnishing our orders are produce companies, creameries and storekeepers.

"Co-operative societies among farmers could easily deal direct with consumers. This seems to be the only way in which the problem of distribution from the farmer's standpoint can be worked out with any degree of suc-

W. Milton Kelley, Authority and Writer of National Reputation, tells Michigan Business Farmers Some Valuable Facts on Grading and Standardization of Farm Products

"I want to tell you that a fellow who takes any pride and interest in his writings prefers to write for a paper which has a definite mission and the editorial backbone to stand by the farmers in these days of business changes and government price-fixing. Personally I am disgusted with many publications that are attempting to serve both God and mammon, and doing a mighty poor job at both."—W. MILTON KELLEY.

cess. A capable business head should be employed to relieve individuals of the details of marketing. A high-class man would be necessary, one who has had some general experience in making sales and advertising and who has had a good training in detail work. One thing our company is doing for those who can use our devices is endeavoring to bring about standardization of food products. We are experimenting with different forms of carriers. One is a box which will carry eggs safely in large or small quantities. We hope the inventor will soon be in a position to manufacture it."

In discussing these difficulties in marketing the writer holds no brief for the crooked commission merchant. But a whole lot of the wrong kind of criticism has been directed at

these firms by writers, editors, Granges and women's clubs when the fundamental trouble is on the farm where the products are produced. Honest packing and grading will eliminate the necessity for service and make it impossible for the commission firms to make excessive charges for service. A little careful study of the selling problem will convince you that there are many capable and honest commission houses that will be glad to carry your account and look after your interests properly, if you will put up your products so honest and trustworthy that they will sell and create a demand for more of the same kind.

A few dollars invested in railroad fare and hotel expenses in a large city where one could visit the markets and commission houses and spend a few days studying and investigating the

methods of buying and selling produce would prove a good investment. The man who could see shipments graded and sold at these markets would have a different idea about service and commission charges. Visit your commission man and tell him what you want to know, and he will be glad to take pains to show you how to put up your produce so that it will bring the top market price. He is there to do business and he can tell you of men who send him such dishonest stuff that he frequently has to dig down in his own pockets to make good part of the purchase price when his customers come back with a protest. He can also tell you what days are best for shipping and if you have storage facilities he will keep you informed of market conditions and advise you when you had better sell or hold your products for higher prices.

Select one reliable commission merchant and ship everything you have to sell to him. Try and put your products up in packages suited to his trade. Plan to use the cull stuff at home. In this way you can get better prices than by doing business with several houses. The more shippers a commission man can get to ship products of high quality the better prices he can obtain for them, because he has the opportunity to hold a high-class trade where quality is first and price the second consideration.

Farmers are Receiving \$6.60 for Beans; Consumers Pay \$12.00

(Continued from page 1)

tration felt that the staff of life was quite necessary; and with one swoop, set the price on wheat. When the axe was raised, wheat was quoted at \$2.90 per bushel, and the old boys were speculating in future and looking forward to a "killing." Down came the axe, and prices tumbled to two dollars per bushel, and since that time there has not been a ripple in the wheat market. Wheat growers soon learned that their wheat was worth; accepted the decree, and the good work was accomplished.

But for some reason, no doubt good and sufficient, the Food Administration has refused to act in connection with the bean situation. We have been advised that when the growers set the price at the arbitrary figure of \$8 per bushel, Mr. Hoover shook his head, and said they were not worth it, and he would let the market take its course.

Well, be this as it may, the Michigan white bean, the peer of all beans and the best and most valuable food product, has been kicked and mauled about until no one knows what to do or how to unravel the tangled skein. We are willing to a wager any reasonable amount that ninety-eight per cent of the bean growers of Michigan are willing right now to accept a price for their beans which will give them the same profit, as will wheat at two dollars per bushel. We claim that Michigan white beans are worth eight dollars per bushel; that bean growers can not make a reasonable profit at less than eight dollars per bushel—and we believe that an investigation will prove these figures to be right.

If they are not right, then the growers will take less. But right here is the proposition as viewed by the grower. It has cost time, anxiety, trouble and money to raise beans, and the growers do not propose to sell their beans to the bean jobbers and allow them to hold up the consumer, and make their thousands as they have done in the past.

Would the jobbers and dealers hold up consumers? We shall see:

Throughout Michigan last week, the elevator men, who were members of the bean jobbers association were pay-

ing farmers, on an average, \$6.60 per bushel for Michigan No. 1 white beans. We know of many elevators that were selling small lots of beans at eight dollars per bushel, f. o. b. loading station. We will admit that the farmers were not selling many beans at that price, neither was there an active demand—but the above statement can be fully substantiated.

Now let us get right down close to the consumer! In the City of Washington, within four blocks of the food administration building, authorized dealers were selling white beans at 40c per quart. Yesterday in Detroit the writer asked for quotations on beans at seven local stores. At the Broadway Market I paid twenty cents for a pound of beans. At F. A. Minnie's grocery store, the same price was paid. And out of the seven stores, just one quoted a price less than twenty cents. John Blessed's grocery handed out a pound of beans—wrapping paper included—and the charge was eighteen cents.

What do you think of the proposition Mr. Hoover? There are sixty pounds in a bushel of beans. The grower gets \$6.60 for his bushel; and for the same bushel the grocery gets twelve dollars—a net profit of eighty two per cent.

Are the growers asking too much, when they try to get \$8, with a selling price to the consumer of \$12? Here's a profit of thirty-and one-third per cent to be divided between the bean jobber and the local grower. What do you think of this for "war profits?"

The Food Administration should follow the suggestions made more than sixty days ago by this publication, and make an impartial investigation of the Michigan bean situation and set the price on Michigan No. 1 white beans. The growers are willing that the investigation should be made, Mr. Hoover, and in justice to these loyal patriotic farmers, the investigation should be made and at once.

Under present conditions the bean jobbers are playing a waiting case. They are sure the growers will be obliged to "loosen up about tax time" as one of them remarked the other day and they are trying to either freeze them out or smoke them out with strange and weird stores of what

the "Food Administration will do." Bean growers are not holding their beans to "hold up the Government" they are trying to keep their beans out of the speculators' hands and they are amply justified in doing so. It's a long time before another bean crop will be harvested, and in the mean time the grower should remember that the consumer is paying \$12 per bushel for beans.

HOW MORE FOOD CAN BE PRODUCED

There are opportunities where the farmers can increase the crop output and at the same time provide a future fruit supply. On many farms we can find waste land such as second-growth, swampy land and land strewn with boulders that are useless in that condition.

All such land should be cleared and reclaimed. If planted to fruit trees, cultivated crops can be grown between the tree. When we do that the food supply is augmented and provision is made toward the future fruit supply. The writer had a piece of land that was in such condition. There were stumps on it. In order to clear it quickly stumping powder (a 40 per cent grade of dynamite) was used. The stumps and second growth was easily blown out.

After blasting, the soil was plowed, trees were planted and potatoes were planted between the trees. The harvested crop of potatoes off this patch paid all expenses and then some. There were forty trees planted. No doubt there are many such places just like this one was before it was cleared. If all such places would be reclaimed it is easy to be seen the benefit to be derived for the present and future. The demand for food is so great that it is important that 1918 must show an increase of food production. The American farmer can do it.—Fred A. Kuhn.

I see in the Clio Messenger, the Detroit Creamery Co. is putting in machinery for condensing milk because the Government gives them a fair profit above the cost of production. Who is going to set the price of production up here where ensilage costs \$15.00 per ton this year? No coin in it at that price.—J. D. T.

County Crop Reports

BAY (West Central)—Weather is very cold; ground bare of snow. Wheat and rye so very small you can barely see them and the ground is frozen to a depth of 18 inches. Farmers not doing much only their chores, and getting their ton of coal occasionally (that is what we can get at a time at local mine; if we get on more than a ton we have to throw the surplus off when we weigh out). The majority of the farms here have no wood, so we have to get coal or freeze. The other day I went to the mine to get coal and counted 42 wagons lined up waiting their turn, and those that came last could not get any. Some of these wagons came 20 miles. The government allows the mine to charge \$4.40 per ton at the mine. Now, according to late reports the Government is going to run the railroads, and it ought to go a step farther and take possession of the coal lands and develop them. There are millions of tons of coal right under the county which is bought up and held by the coal barons, which should and also could be producing coal for a suffering public. If this coal land was developed it would supply a large part of Michigan and stop congestion of railroads on coal shipped from the south. Hay is very scarce in this county, not near enough for home use. Most farmers had a good-sized straw stack around here and considerable corn fodder, and this helps out on the hay shortage, and the most of the farmers are saving their hay for their spring work and feeding their horses straw and corn stalks, with a little grain. Considerable poultry has gone to market and some hogs have gone the same way the last few days. The bean business is at a standstill as far as the farmers are concerned. By the time the elevators get done with your bean testing and picking you may have \$4 or \$5 a bushel left. There are quite a lot of corn shocks in the fields yet with soft corn in them frozen up like icicles; we have to thaw it to feed to the pigs. No contracts signed for beets as yet. We have got to have \$10 for beets this year or quit. One way beets were handy this year, growers could get 300 pounds of sugar on their contracts, and all growers availed themselves of this privilege and got 300 lbs. I got mine at \$7.35 per hundred.—V. T. M., Auburn, December 30.

OCEANA (East)—Weather is cold. Not much snow. Wheeling is fine. Farmers doing their chores and cutting wood and hauling some to town, getting about \$3 per cord. No potatoes moving.—F. M., Hesperia, Dec. 28.

FRANCH (North)—Farmers are doing chores and cutting wood. Weather dry and cold. Ground bare and frozen hard. Farmers are selling stock mostly. Oats selling at sales at 78c and hay at \$24.—F. S., Union City, Dec. 28.

PRESQUE ISLE (Central)—The weather has been very cold the past week. A number of the farmers are complaining of having potatoes frozen the past week. It looks as though the acreage would be considerably cut next year if the present conditions prevail. There would be a big acreage of sugar beets planted here next year if the farmers could get \$10, but they will not contract for \$8.—D. D. S., Millersburg, Dec. 29.

HURON (West Central)—We have been having some snappy weather the past few days. Farmers are selling beans quite freely. Two cars of coal have arrived this week. Pine stumps are all the style this winter; dry wood is in good demand. Very few hogs or cattle being fed for the market. Beans are not all threshed. Farm labor is going to be scarce the coming season.—G. W., Elkton, Dec. 28.

INGHAM (Central)—Cold. Farmers are busy getting wood, doing chores, etc. Some hay being sold, local buyers are paying \$20 at barn in small lots to feed on farms, for shipping they are paying \$18 to \$20 per ton. One farmer shipped 260 lambs to Buffalo this week. Stock doing well. Ground is bare and dry, and wheat looks poor and small. Most of the hogs here have been disposed of, feed too high to feed and farmers are short. Some talk of planting neither beans nor potatoes for sale next year.—C. F. M., Mason, Dec. 13.

WEXFORD (West Central)—Cold and snappy. Everyone in town seems to be crying for wood and the farmers are all crying for sugar except those who send to the mail order houses for it. Some of the grocers will tell you they haven't a bit when they are known to have it, and this is no josh as we are prepared to prove it.—S. H. S., Harrietta, Dec. 29.

LAPEER (West Central)—Farmers not doing much but their chores and cutting wood on account of the shortage of coal. Some beans and oats being sold. Farmers pressing hay but not much being sold. Beans not all threshed yet. No clover seed in this locality. Some farmers are hauling gravel on the state roads. The weather has been very cold.—C. R. S., Lapeer, Dec. 29.

OTSEGO (West)—The weather is very cold; this morning the mercury registered 28 below. The farmers are getting rich on the 50c potato crop.—C. A., Gaylord, Dec. 29.

GENESEE (Southeast)—Farmers are threshing beans, cutting wood and husking corn. Several are also butchering hogs for home use. The weather has been cold and we have not had any snow. The fields are not protected by snow at all, and the ground is frozen to a depth of several inches. Several of the farmers are getting their icehouses ready for filling. Hogs are being rushed to the market, but other livestock is moving slowly. Grains and hay are also moving slow. Several farmers who were holding potatoes lost them by the cold spell. Farmers are not buying feeds of any kind. There is still a shortage of coal. The farmers are selling quite a lot of wood, which is helping out in the cities and towns.—C. W. S., Fenton, Dec. 28.

BAY (Southeast)—Bean threshing and hay baling about finished. Beans yielded 6 to 7 bu. per acre, some small pieces doing better. Good dairy feed is scarce on account of the poor corn crop.—J. C. A., Munger, Dec. 28.

ALLEGAN (Southeast)—Quite a number of old orchards are being cut down around here for fuel, this being about all the wood available to some farmers. A good many farmers are hauling their corn from the field as needed to feed. Zero weather with no snow on the ground. Roads are rather rough. Farmers nearly all holding potatoes for higher prices.—W. F., Otsego, Dec. 29.

MONTALEM (Southwestern)—Farmers are busy attending to the beans which were recently threshed, on account of not being ready to harvest, also wet weather when taken care of. A small amount of wood is being sold but cannot get men to work at cutting. A large amount of hay is wanted, the price received is \$22 per ton at the barn. Weather is very cold with no snow on the ground. Potatoes are moving slow owing to the cold weather.—H. L., Greenville, Dec. 28.

MANISTEE (Northwest)—The farmers have been taking things easy lately. The most of the beans are threshed and they averaged from one to twenty bushels to the acre; only one job that I have heard of going as much as the latter figure, and lots of them going from one to three bu. to the acre. The most of the farmers who have threshed their crops are sitting on the bags—nothing selling in that line. Potatoes are not moving, either. Cattle and hogs are being shipped all the time, and in all probability they will be scarce in this vicinity next spring. The weather has been bad for fall grain the past week as the fields are covered with ice. Auction sales are the only things going these days; milk cows have sold higher, horses low, hay high, the latter at \$29 per ton.—C. H. S., Bear Lake Dec. 25.

GLADWIN (Southwest)—The snow is gone and we are getting some good cold weather again. Not much doing, only getting up wood and doing chores. Some farmers are selling beans to pay their taxes, but most are holding what few they have in an effort to try and come out even anyway. Mr. Jones, a pioneer thresher of this section, died at his home in Beaverton last week.—V. V. K., Beaverton, Dec. 26.

OCEANA (Southeast)—The farmers of this vicinity have sold out about all they have had to sell, as they were unable to hold their produce and longer. There is no snow on the ground at all and it looks as though some damage would result to fall grain, as it has no protection and it is freezing very hard.—H. V. V. B., Hesperia, Dec. 27.

MONROE (East)—We had no snow for Christmas but the ground was frozen very hard; not very good for wheat and meadows. The roads are rough.—E. H. M., Monroe, Dec. 27.

MONROE (West Central)—We are having some soft weather; snow almost gone. Freezing nights and thawing during the day. The farmers are busy husking corn to feed, and baling hay; some are selling oats. No. 1 hay is selling at \$20 per ton, No. 1 oats at 76c.—W. H. L., Dec. 24.

WEXFORD (West Central)—Ground frozen hard. Has been very foggy for two or three days. Rain Sunday night and snow is very near off. It leaves the ground bare for winter grain, cutting wood is now the order of the day. Some have been so busy that neglected some of their potatoes that were in piles in the fields which resulted in a general freezing up.—S. H. S., Harrietta, Dec. 22.

KALKASKA (West Central)—The weather is quite mild. The farmers are hauling wood to town. They are holding potatoes for a higher price. All the farmers in this part of the county have to sell is potatoes and they are slow sale. The farmers are getting rid of some of their horses and cattle on account of having to buy most all their feed and it is so high priced they cannot afford to buy it, so they are selling at slow sale.—R. E. B., So. Boardman, December 23.

ARENAC (East)—At this writing no snow; fair and cold. Farmers are getting out wood, baling hay and marketing some produce. Some auction sales are being held and everything going good except horses. Livestock looks good. No price for beans and farmers are holding. Some farmers clearing land, getting out material for barns.—M. B. R., Twining, Dec. 29.

IOSCO (Southeast)—The weather is cold and the farmers are not doing much of anything but their chores and getting out wood for their own use, as coal is scarce and hard to get. Good wood is selling in town for from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cord. Farmers haven't much to sell; some have a little hay, which is selling at \$16 per ton. Bean threshing is about done and it proved a very poor crop. The average was from 2 to 6 bu. per acre, with the bigger share of them wet and not marketable. The talk among the farmers is not so many beans next year. I threshed my beans last week and they were pretty wet. I spread them on a floor about 3 inches thick. Do you think they will dry? Some of the farmers are selling their wet ones at \$2.50 per bu.; they are afraid they will spoil. I wish you would tell me what to do with mine, whether to keep them on prospects of them drying or sell them at \$2.50 for wet beans. I have 40 bu., and they are frozen hard as stones just now; never had any experience with wet beans and don't know what to do.—A. B. L., Tawas City, Dec. 28. [Why don't you take, say a peck of them, and dry them out in the house, and see what happens? If they dry out all right and you have any way of drying the rest of them it would certainly pay you to dry them before selling them at \$2.50 per bu. If they dry out in fair shape you could no doubt make

some way to dry your forty bushels in the house, at any rate it would pay you to try it.—Ed.]

TUSCOLA (Central)—Farmers are cutting wood and doing chores. It is very cold with little snow. Farmers are selling some hay and oats, no stock this week. Horses are going very low, one man selling a five-year-old colt this week for \$40 and some going for less than that. Farmers are not holding much. Beans most all sold here; farmers will not put in many next year, can't get the price or the help, as most all the men are drafted, and many have gone to the cities to work.—R. B. C., Caro, Dec. 29.

OTTAWA (Northeast)—The farmers in this vicinity are patiently waiting for some bean thresher. Lots of beans here have not been threshed yet. Those who have threshed and had wet and spoiled beans sold right away for what they could get. The weather is pleasant but very cold with no snow.—R. J. K., Conklin, Dec. 28.

ST. JOSEPH (Northeast)—The farmers are cutting wood and butchering, selling fat hogs and wood. Some farmers have had to hold hogs on account of not being able to get cars to ship in. Plenty of stock—horses and cows—for sale on account of the scarcity of feed; corn was a poor crop, soft.—W. W., Colon, Dec. 29.

INGHAM (Southwest)—The weather is around zero and going lower. Farmers are cutting wood. Some beans yet to thresh here, one farmer went back to the old flail to thresh his. Hay is in demand at \$20 per ton and hard to find. Very few farmers are feeding lambs, corn is high and hard to get at \$3 per cwt.—B. W., Leslie, Dec. 27.

SAGINAW (West)—The farmers have just finished threshing their beans, they yielded from 3 to 5 bu. to the acre. Some were of very good quality and others will pick heavy. The snow is all gone and the cold weather is hurting the wheat a good deal. We are doing chores and cutting wood. Stock is looking good so far but feed is going to be scarce before spring.—G. L., St. Charles, Dec. 28.

CHEBOYGAN (South)—A Happy New Year to all. We are having real Medicine Hat weather up here, 30 below on the morning of the 28th. Not much snow and ground frozen to a depth of two feet. Many potatoes in cellars and pits frozen. Some farmers say as many as 90 per cent

frozen. Bean threshing still in progress. Beans very poor both in quantity and quality. Wood market remains active at \$2.50 to \$3.00. Dealers are paying \$21.00 per thousand for maple logs. Considerable hay to bale yet, selling at \$20. Oats at 90c.—Wolverine.

ST. JOSEPH (North Central)—We are in the grip of zero weather, and as the ground is bare it is surely bad on wheat, rye and clover, as a rule wheat and rye in this vicinity went into winter with a small top. Hundreds of acres of rye that never showed up at all on account of extremely late seeding. Farmers are cutting some wood for market, hauling very sparingly of grain, especially of oats. Of course there isn't any corn moving on account of its being a complete failure. Some farm sales with all stock selling exceedingly high excepting horses and they are moving slow. Every farmer who raised beans or potatoes is surely at sea about what to do. Some elevator men will make an offer on the former and some will not buy a bushel of beans at any price. How can we get them on the market to help Uncle Sam? Of course the potato deal is at a standstill on account of the weather, and it seems as if to have a little time to make some extra bins in the cellar for the dozen or so different grades we hauled back from the patriotic(?) buyer and his disreputable screen. We have responded to the call of "bigger production," now is it asking too much if we say, "buy our beans that we may pay our taxes." Personally I am not worrying whether they buy mine or not as I only had 25 bu. from 12 acres and they are at least 20 lb. pickers. I intend to hand-pick them, for I hate to pay 5c a pound for picking to elevator men, and after being docked 20 lbs. lose the picking.—H. A. H., Mendon, Dec. 31.

BENZIE (North)—Farmers are getting up wood. Cold and stormy; some snow. Selling some hay, the surplus all or nearly all gone; half of the farmers buying feed. Farmers are holding potatoes and beans for better prices. No sale for horses. Cattle very slow. The only thing farmers are buying is feed and then more feed. Several farmers have killed old horses and some cattle, although they are not good beef. Beef selling by peddling it out 10c per lb. by the quarter.—F. M., Elberta, Dec. 29.

Am so glad for your little paper, and have read with interest your articles on the potato situation. The one to date, Dec. 15, is alone worth the price you ask for a year's subscription.—W. D. O., Lakeview, Mich.

"Carry on!" M. B. F. is the best paper in our home. The paper we should have had long ago. Yours successfully.—J. De B., Marion, Mich.

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THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



This Week's Tested Recipe

Boston Roast

2 cups dry kidney beans, 1 cup bread crumbs, 2 cups grated cheese, 3 teaspoons salt, 1-2 cup liquid, 1 tablespoon chopped onion. Soak beans 24 hours. Cook in salted water until soft. Drain! put through food chopper, add onion, cheese, crumbs, more salt if needed, enough of the water in which beans were cooked (about 1-2 cup to moisten). Form into loaf. Bake in moderate oven for 40 minutes. Baste occasionally with hot water and fat. Yield: 10 servings.

A City Girl Who Married a Farmer

Dear Mrs. Stark:—

On the subject "Should a girl from the country marry a farmer," about which you wrote me, I can only give you the benefit of my experience. All I know is what my life has been. All I can judge from is the misery my own choice brought me. You may publish this if you like, but of course, I do not want you to use my name, or town, or state. I have kept my feelings to myself all these years, and naturally don't want anybody to know now.

Fifteen years ago I was as frivolous and light hearted a girl as you could imagine. I worked in a large department store, with a lot of other girls as filled with joy of living and with the happiness which merely being young brings, as I was myself. I loved to dance, to go to the theater, and all the pleasures which the city affords. At noon I liked to walk about and look in the windows, and eat my luncheon in some little place with some of the other girls. Or we would lunch in the big department store lunch room, and fill the air with gay chatter. I lived at home, and every cent I made I could spend for clothes and for pleasure. My mother was one of these kindly mistaken women who bring their children up without any sense of responsibility. I was never taught to even keep my own room in order, and never washed a dish before I was married. If I threw something down, there was always mother or two older sisters to pick up after me. I was the pet of the family, and wouldn't have had to work only that I found it too dull at home, and liked the ride down-town every day, the companionship of the other girls. I loved my work, too. I was in the art department, and grew to know and love all the good pictures.

One afternoon, a tall, good-looking chap came up into my department, and wanted to buy a picture to take home to his mother. He was very friendly and got to chatting. He said he was in the city on business; was selling some cattle, I believe he said. He wanted a picture an old lady would like. He lived on a big farm, he told me. I helped him select a picture which I believed would please his mother, and he left, and I thought no more about him. That night, as I was leaving the store, I met him accidentally. He smiled and bowed, and I bowed, too. The next night it was the same thing, and he spoke to me. I have thought since that farmer boys have the reputation of being bashful but he certainly was not. He walked on with me a piece, and said his business was almost transacted, that he was certainly lonesome, and I, out of the kindness of my heart, after he had told me his name, and apologized for his boldness for talking with me, invited him up to meet my family, and have a homey evening, as it was one of his last. He said he had always heard that city folks were lacking in hospitality, and that he certainly was glad he had met someone like me. He said he would accept the invitation. He said he had wanted to talk to me, and in the country anybody meeting anybody else along the road always said "Howdy" to them, and gave them a lift. This seemed strange to me who had always been warned not to talk to anyone on the street.

Well, my folks liked him, and he postponed his return for several days, while we did the theaters together, and he made his acquaintance with restaurants and other city attractions. When he returned, he wrote me, and the correspondence kept up for a year. Then in his letters he told me that he had fallen in love with me at first sight, that he wanted to come and see me again. Flattered, I consented. He came, and carried my heart by storm. I had never been in the country, but I thought if all the folks there were like him it certainly must be a fine place. We had such a jolly time together. Of course, he enjoyed the city as it was so new to him, and I enjoyed it all over again in the light of his enthusiasm. Nothing should do than we must get married right

away, and go to his home. Although my father mother objected to my going away with him to a strange place, among strange people I had never seen, we were determined and overrode every objection. We were married within two weeks of

ANNE CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

A Woman's Day

*It was off season on the farm,
And John thought it would do no harm
To jump into his roadster Brown
And take a little trip to town.*

*"Will you go?" he said to Mrs. John,
As he watched her tie her apron on.
"Oh no, my dearie," answered she,
"I'm just as busy as I can be."*

*So Johnnie kissed her on the brow
And cranked the car and dodged a cow,
And merrily to town he flew.
To have some fun as fellows do!*

*And Mrs. John, who stayed behind,
And every Mrs. John will find
For her with all her thrift and charm,
There are no off days on the farm!*

*While Hubby gayly sped away
Here are some things she did that day:
She found she left a chore or two,
So finished these. What could she do?*

*She put the children's lunches up,
And washed each breakfast plate and cup
And dressed the kids and washed 'em good
And they left for school as children should.*

*She fed the calves and pigs and chicks;
She filled the woodbox up with sticks.
She swept the house and made each bed
And changed the sheets and changed the spread.*

*She dusted then, and by this time,
She heard her baby's wakening chime.
She washed the lad and combed his hair
And set him in his red high chair.*

*She cooked him porridge and fed him too
And gave him a piece of toast to chew.
She warmed his milk and gave him that
And sat him down to stroke the cat.*

*And then she stirred a one-egg cake,
And put it in the stove to bake.
Three pies she baked and set some bread
And then once more her babe she fed.*

*She sang to him while she worked on
For she was wild about her son,
And gave him all her loving care
As she watched him creeping here and there.*

*She grabbed a hasty bite to eat
And ate it standing on her feet
And then she sewed on the machine
And telephoned to Mrs. Green*

*And others of the Ladies' Aid
About a quilt that she had made.
She knitted on her soldier's things
And thought that surely time had wings.*

*So quickly had the day gone by,
She met the children with a sigh.
A weary sigh, and heard them tell
That school and play had both gone well.*

*As John was late she milked each cow,
And ran the separator now.
And fed the pigs, and calves and chicks
And cleaned the lamps and cut the wicks.*

*A task she'd left undone before,
(We do so much and then no more!)
She watered all the stock and then
Came in to household tasks again.*

*John found a supper piping hot,
It would have bothered him a lot
If he had found it otherwise.
He stretched his arms and rubbed his eyes.*

*"By golly, but I'm tired," he said
"I am so tired I'm almost dead.
I had a busy day down town,
So many of the boys were down."*

*"What did you do, my dear, all day?"
He asked his wife, and heard her say:
"Oh, just the same old things, dear John."
"Well, I'm glad you had it easy, Hon!"*

*Said he, and I guess it was a joke,
For she smiled as she put the clothes to
soak.*

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK

Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

Apple-Raisin Marmalades

To one cup ground seeded raisins add one cup chopped apples and one cup water. Cook until thickened. A little orange and lemon juice and grated rind may be added if liked. Cook dried fruit, as apricots, pears, peaches, or prunes may be used in combination with the ground raisins in any proportion desired, and three fruits combined as apricots, apples and raisins. Catsup added to the marmalades makes a simple fruit relish to serve with cold meat.

his arrival, and after a brief honeymoon in town, we left for his home.

Will I ever forget the cold gray dawn when the train stopped at the outlandish little station ten miles from his farm! A straggling village which, had we arrived in summer, I might have thought beautiful, confronted me. However, it was in the dead of winter, and "God-forsaken" was the only description that seemed to fit the place. My heart sank into my boots, as clinging to my husband's arm, I entered the bus. We went up to the hotel, and then walked about looking for the hired man who was to meet us. We met him coming into town with a Democrat. We sat on the back seat and he in front, and traveled ten of the weariest miles I ever traveled over muddy roads that I never would have believed existed. I hung tightly to my husband's hand, and tried to think it would all be worth while when I once got there. On the way in my husband asked me not to mention to his mother that we had been to any theaters. She was a strict Methodist, he said, and if she had dreamed he would frequent such places, she would think him headed straight for the bad place. Of course, that scared me more than ever, but I said nothing, but I believe at that moment I began to regret that I had been so hasty, and had allowed him to paint in such glowing pictures our future happiness. Only my youth and inexperience to blame.

I don't have to tell you how hard it was for me to accustom myself to life on the farm. By temperament and education, upbringing, and everything else I was totally unfitted for a farm life. I believe, tho, that we had not lived with my husband's thoroughly exacting and bad tempered mother life would have been a little more bearable. However, I stuck it out for ten weary years, my only real happiness being the yearly visit to my own folks and to the home city I loved. Then five years ago some lucky investments placed my husband on easy street, and we moved into town, where I am more contented, but he is not. I know very well that he pines for the farm, and that is the worm which is eating into my happiness. I sometimes think he too regrets his ever having met me. He would have been far happier with someone else. If children had blessed our union, we might have been more contented, but I can truly say that for ten years I did not draw a contented breath. Now that we are alone tho in town, and I have a circle of friends whom I care for, and whose interests are mine, I am passably happy, but as I say, my husband is like a fish out of water, and I sometimes think that for his sake, we will have to arrange to spend at least part of our time on the farm.

You ask me, "Do you think a girl from the city should marry a farmer?" I say, in the light of my own experience, emphatically "No!" I have always cared for my husband, but—had I my life to live over again, and know as much now as I did then, I certainly would not marry him. How much happier would I have been had I married one of my own kind, and settled down to a happy life near my own folks in my home city.—
M. L.

What do you think about this subject, dear folks? Do you know any one who has had a like experience? Last week, one of our clan told us about her happy married life, so different from Mrs. L's. Are you inclined to think that happiness comes from within, and some folks will be discontented with heaven? Don't you sometimes believe that a contented heart can be cultivated? I would like to hear from other city girls who have married farmers. Their experience will be interesting and helpful to all of us, particularly to our younger readers who may be contemplating a similar step. Your names will be kept absolutely confidential.

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Made of plaid material with plain sleeves and collar, the long waisted dress numbered 8572 would be becoming to almost any child. It comes in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. The dress is to be slipped on over the head and the neck may be cut round or square. The skirt may be side plaited or gathered.

No. 8603 gives the long lines which are so essential to the good figure. The novelty of this little dress is the center back closing and the two-piece skirt with side draperies stitched to the waist. This comes in sizes 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure.

Anyone who has shopped around for a coat this year knows that it pays to oil up the sewing machine and stitch away, instead of putting a lot of money in a ready made garment. The girl's coat numbered 8565 has a new and very practical collar. It is called the submarine collar, and can be arranged so that the tab ends cross and button. Some of the most expensive ready made coats are made with this style collar. It comes in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years.

These patterns are only ten cents each. Send orders to Pattern Department, Michigan Business Farming, Mt. Clemens, Mich.



George Kniesel of Ogden recently sold a Holstein bull to the Co-operative Co. which weighed 1950 pounds.—Blissfield Advance.

It is said the Wayland condensary will pay their patrons one dollar less per hundred weight for milk hereafter, owing to a new government regulation.—Hastings Journal-Herald.

Walters Bros., meat dealers at this place had a fine beef hanging in their market for the Christmas trade. The animal weighed about 1200 and dressed over 700 pounds.—Belleville Enterprise.

A number of the farmers in this vicinity are thinking strongly of raising sorgum the coming year and plans are being made for a mill to be located near the village for making molasses.—Belleville Enterprise.

Several Negaunee farmers have been bringing wheat to the Cloverland mills for custom milling. One of them tells the Mining Journal of the value to the farmer of such a plant. He estimates that besides his labor, flour costs him \$3 a barrel.—Gladstone Delta.

We believe that E. L. Osterhout, of Ferris township is the champion hog raiser of this section. He claims to have killed an 18 months old hog which dressed 540 pounds.—Gratiot County Herald.

Jack Burns of Emmet brought to the Commercial Milling company, two loads of beans, in payment for which he received something over \$1,085. He also sold the milling company 1,100 bushels of oats and 300 bushels of rye to be delivered later.—Lenox Standard.—Memphis Bee.

A lady in Cassopolis bought a load of wood, four cords of stove wood, paying therefor \$12. A few years ago such a load of wood could have been bought for the cost of cutting, 50c a cord, and the cost of hauling, 50c a cord, or \$4 for the load. The cost of cutting is more than twice as much. Joseph Lybrook, two miles north of Cassopolis, has been advertising for wood choppers for \$1.25 a cord for a month, and has only succeeded in getting two, and all the time it is a cold day when you can not find from

What the Neighbors Say About M. B. F.

Enclosed find renewal for Michigan Business Farming, the best paper for the farmer, be he great or small, amateur, practical, scientific, or just plain barnyard variety! Because it safely guards his interests, tells him what he should get for his products and isn't afraid to tell him why. May its shadow never grow less.—M. L. Cummings, Mecosta county.

Please find enclosed \$1 for the Michigan Business Farming. I like the paper fine. Best farmer's paper ever printed.—Mark E. Worden, Montcalm county.

I have you one more signer for your paper. Will do more if I can for it is what we need, a paper we can depend upon.—F. S. McConnell, VanBuren Co.

I am sending in a few names, for which send the Michigan Business Farming. It is the best farm paper I ever read and if there were a few more papers similar to it to show up those sharks and political crooks it would be a good thing.—I. E. Stevenson, St. Clair county.

I enclose you list of papers I take: Detroit Free Press, daily, Michigan Farmer, Michigan Business Farming, Pathfinder, Saturday Evening Post, Farm Journal, So. Lyon Herald, Post, Review, and one or two others, the names have gone from me, but I get more state news from your paper than all the rest. Perhaps because I read it more.—T. E. Johns, Oakland county.

I am well pleased with the paper. If I had taken it a year ago and listened to it, would have saved me \$300 on beans.—W. F. Litchfield, Eaton county.

Don't want to be without the Michigan Business Farming. Depend upon the markets in this paper.—Albert Badour, Montcalm county.

God bless you.—R. W. Helmboldt, Oscoda county.

Thanking you for giving me the privilege of subscribing for your paper.—Ella E. Kelly, Washtenaw county.

I shall watch for my paper every week. It's certainly what farmers want.—Arthur Brounley, Arenac county.

It is the finest market paper in the world.—L. C. Cole, Alpena County.

Enclosed you will find three signers for Michigan Business Farming. I think more of them would take your paper if they saw it. Will try and get more signers.—Clarence Doolittle, Montcalm county.

fifteen to twenty loafeds in the pool rooms complaining of hard times. The cost of hauling has more than doubled, and the timber must be paid for instead of being given away. At this price coal is the cheaper fuel, but it is hard to get.—Gratiot County Herald.

The Union Co-operative Stock Shipping association of Shiawassee and Clinton counties has shipped since Nov. 1 the following stock: 99 cattle, 1217 hogs, 1366 sheep and lambs, 106 veals. Total number of pounds 397,620, amounting to \$55,280.38. The largest shipment was made on Tuesday, Nov. 27 and consisted of 40 cattle, 415 hogs, 359 sheep and lambs and 25 veal calves. Total weight, 121,830 pounds, for which a check of \$16,712.50 was received.—Lansburg News.

Horatio Brain of Germfask, has invented a new stunt to beat the high cost of living and help out the food situation at the same time. He proposes to plant sugar beets, milk weed and strawberries in alternate rows when they will become mixed and one can gather well sweetened strawberries and cran to his hearts content. Anyone having any better suggestion is invited to send it in.—Manistique Pioneer-Tribune.

The elevators at Watertown, Marlette and Brown City are filled to capacity and can handle no more grain until cars can be secured to ship some of the stock on hand.—Lexington News.

Several of the farmers who have wood are asking \$5 and \$6 per cord for it. One load thrown loosely on the wagon sold for \$7.—Fenton Independent.

Harry Franklin sold one spring lamb that brought him \$23.60. Len Attridge sold a hog the week before that brought him \$77.25.—Brown City Banner.

Mr. Briggs sold three hogs last week that netted him \$158.—Charlotte Republican.

When it comes to raising hogs, hats off to George Geiger. One he sold to L. W. Longwell weighed 670 pounds and brought \$93. Those five of ours four months old, weighing 150 pounds apiece, will compare favorably with the most of them.—South Lyon Herald.

I am enclosing one dollar to pay my subscription to Michigan Business Farming. I think it the best farm paper that ever came into my house. I appreciate very much the way you are campaigning the farmer's cause. With best wishes for your success.—H. W. Cochran, Montcalm county.

Renewal. Fine paper. The only paper for a farmer. Send it along. Got them all beat.—Hugh Unwin, Saginaw county.

I have been getting your valuable paper since you started to print it and I find that it hits the spot every time.—James Fenlon, Cheboygan county.

Saw a copy of Oct. 13, 1917, and it's just my style. Go to it!—Castle-Cliff Poultry farm, Berrien county.

I certainly think your paper an invaluable aid to the farmer and hope you have the success you deserve.—James H. Elkins, Mecosta county.

Dear friends in the Michigan Business Farming office: Here is my dollar for my paper, a trifle late, for which I am sorry. I am a farmer though do not work for myself. M. B. F. is full of information that I think every farmer should know. It is the best farm paper I ever read. I take three but I am going to drop the other two. They are good, but Michigan Business Farming is "goodest," as the kids say.—Leonard Daniels, Van Buren county.

Enclosed is my dollar for your paper for one year. It is worth many times the price to me. I certainly appreciate the work you are doing in behalf of the farmers of Michigan.—Clifford Langwell, Branch county.

I am with you. The paper is fine. Send it right along. Will do all I can for you. The farmers need all they can get, but it is hard for us to get it around here.—Allen J. Mains, Calhoun county.

I found the envelope in my issue. Will I use it? Yes, just as quick as I get my milk check, the 20th, I will send you the dollar I promised to pay this fall, altho I haven't sold my crops yet, but your paper is too valuable to neglect that long. Don't miss me, for your paper is too good to be without.—W. A. Korndorfer, Livingston county.

I like the Michigan Business Farming just fine. I think it is the best farm paper I ever read.—Leslie V. Derhammer, Calhoun county.

You bet I want it. Just the paper the farmer needs.—Frank Lay, Clare county.

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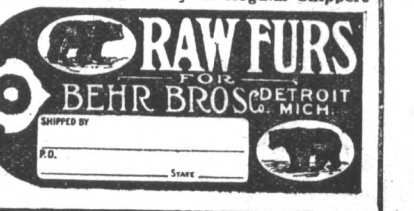
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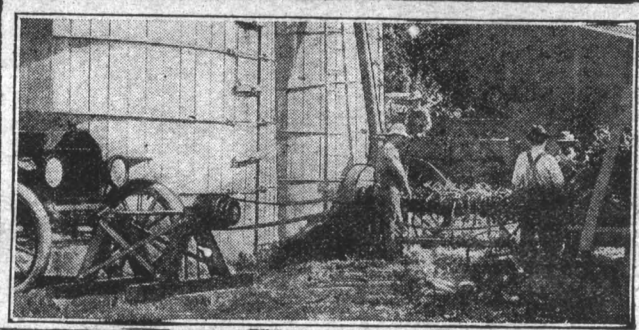
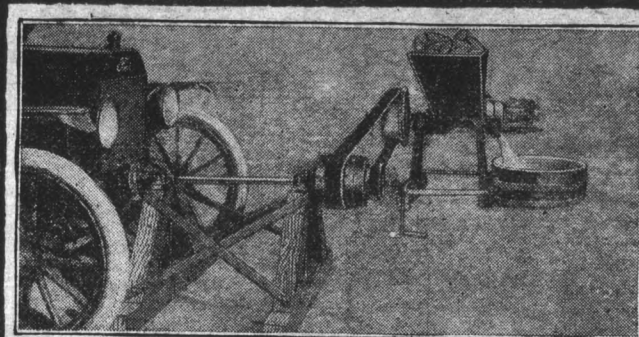
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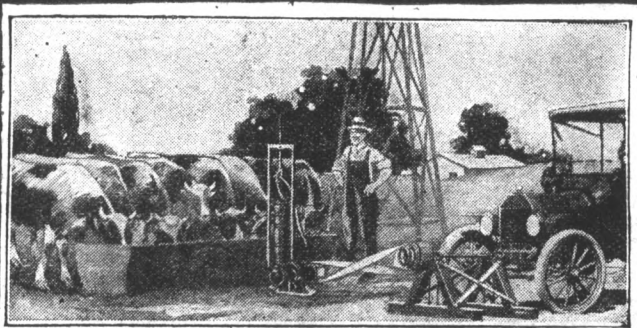
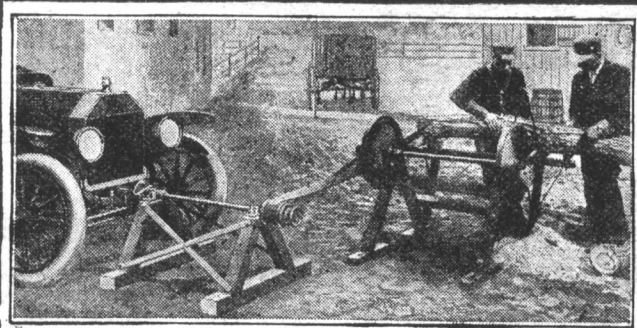
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