

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"



MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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POTATO EXPERT "CONSIDERS" GRADE REVISION

Those Largely Responsible for Putting Grades into Effect This Year Asked to Recommend Measures to Save Farmers From Huge Loss

Ever since the present grading rules were put into effect in Michigan, without the consent or counsel of the growers, this publication has made repeated attempts to fix the responsibility and place the blame for the deplorable consequences that have followed their compulsory observance in this state and their almost total disregard in other states. Investigations completed some time ago lead us to believe that those in authority at Washington were not so much to blame as certain individuals more closely affiliated with the growers, who found the present a good opportunity to test certain pet theories at the expense of the growers.

Our first letter of protest on this matter was addressed to Mr. Lou D. Sweet, chairman of the potato committee, who advised us to confer with Prof. C. W. Waid of the Extension department at East Lansing. Our second letter of protest was addressed to Mr. E. P. Miller of the potato committee, who likewise advised us to confer with Prof. Waid, stating that Mr. Waid had been endeavoring for several years to secure better grading in this state. Letters received from both the president and secretary of the Wisconsin Potato Growers' Ass'n, written at the instance of Mr. Miller, also suggested that we talk the matter over with Prof. Waid. Apparently, Prof. Waid knew more about potato grading than any other individual connected with the proposition, and so we got in touch at last with Prof. Waid.

Before proceeding further we feel it is no more than fair for us to state that we believe Prof. C. W. Waid to be doing a splendid work in behalf of Michigan's potato industry. We believe his untiring efforts to secure eradication of potato diseases, and to improve the quality and increase the yield in the state, is producing results, and that his unselfish work along these lines should be encouraged. But when he attempts to decide matters of vital concern to the growers, without being so instructed by them, he far oversteps his authority.

The scene opens in a room at the Tuller Hotel, Detroit. The time is Saturday forenoon, Jan. 5th. Present: Prof. C. W. Waid, potato expert of the extension department of the M. A. C.; I. R. Waterbury, member of the State Board of Agriculture and editor of a state farm paper; and F. A. Lord, editor of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. The conference was held thru the courtesy of Prof. Waid at the suggestion of this publication. Mr. Waterbury, who as a member of the Board of Agriculture, has more or less influence over the actions of the men affiliated with the college and extension department, was present at Prof. Waid's invitation.

The purpose of the interview was to discover, if possible, the party or parties upon whom the responsibility of putting the potato grades into effect rested, and with whom the power to remove them lie. We sought to secure this information thru a series of questions. The questions and answers are substantially as follows:

"Do you know, Mr. Waid, who was responsible for putting the potato grading rules into effect this year?"

"The Food Administration. A meeting was held at Washington early last spring to which repre-

sentatives of growers' organizations were invited, and the matter was discussed. It was the unanimous opinion of all present that the potato grades should be put into effect this year."

"Is it not a fact that Michigan and Wisconsin are the only two states in the union in which the grading rules have been made compulsory?"

"To a certain extent, yes. I understand that most of the states are grading potatoes, but not as generally or effectively as in Michigan and Wisconsin."

"Is it not a fact, Mr. Waid, that Mr. E. P. Miller, of the Food Administration, organized the Michigan Potato Shippers' Ass'n and the Wisconsin Shippers' Ass'n last spring for the express purpose of securing the co-operation of the shippers in putting the grading rules into effect? Isn't it also true that he found this comparatively easy to do because he was in closer touch with the shippers of these two states than with those of other states?"

"The reason that the shippers of Michigan and Wisconsin were organized," replied Mr. Waid, "was because these two states were considered representative states and it was felt that if the grading was

Dealers Mix Potatoes

I have some news for you on the potato grading. A farmer who was in the warehouse at Bellaire saw a load of potatoes graded and when the farmer who sold the potatoes drove away, the warehouse man took the No. 2 grade and threw them all over the No. 1 potatoes in the car. Now if that is not robbery, I don't know what is. Do they all do that?—C. E. W., Central Lake, Mich.

made compulsory here, other states would fall in line."

"May I ask, Mr. Lord," interrupted Mr. Waterbury at about this juncture, "what is the object of this catechism. Don't you think that it is our patriotic duty to all turn in and help encourage increased production instead of doing anything that will keep the farmers from producing all they can another year? What is to be accomplished by stirring them up on this grading proposition?"

"Mr. Waterbury, I am amazed that you, a member of the Board of Agriculture, and editor of a farm paper, do not know the facts in this case or appreciate the great injustice against the farmers of Michigan. I should think that instead of counseling silence, you would lend your efforts to help remove these obnoxious grading rules for the present year, and thereby conserve the interests of the farmers."

"The interests of the country come first," replied Mr. Waterbury.

"Who constitutes the 'country'? Don't you consider the farmers a part of the country, and don't you think their interests should be looked after?"

"We are looking after the farmers' interests fully as much as you, Mr. Lord."

"That may all be, Mr. Waterbury, but apparently
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BEET GROWERS WANT TEN DOLLAR MINIMUM

State Association in Session at Saginaw Declare For Fifty-Fifty Division of Sugar Profit and Leaves Decision to Food Administration

Over six hundred sugar beet growers of the state gathered at Saginaw last Friday, January 5th, to decide what prices they should have for their sugar beets the coming year. The following recommendations were offered by State Market Director McBride, and unanimously adopted:

"The Michigan sugar beet growers recognize the national necessity of sugar production at the present time, and will go to the limit of acreage for the season that all the sugar factories may have their maximum tonnage on the basis that will allow adequate compensation as other crops. At the present time sugar beets cannot be produced at a minimum of less than \$10 per ton; we recognize the necessity of an adequate sugar price to be determined by the U. S. Food Administration, and with wasteful and uneconomic practices in handling the crop, resulting from established customs and competition.

We recommend the selection of a commission of sugar beet growers to negotiate with the U. S. Food Administration and manufacturers of sugar to secure adequate basic prices for sugar and sugar beets.

We recommend that this committee be authorized to act immediately and ask that deferral of sugar beet contracts for 1918, until this matter is determined not later than February 1st, or as soon thereafter as possible. In case of adequate provision being made for the production of beets that the Michigan sugar beet growers pledge themselves to aid in every way the sugar beet industry.

That the commission also provide ways and means for financing the sugar beet growers' organization and to co-operate with other states in their work to stabilize and maintain the sugar beet industry. We recommend that the growers contribute 1 cent per ton of beets for the maintenance of the Sugar Beet Growers' organization, and the details of this to be worked out by the growers' committee. We further recommend that this provision be made a part of the contract, and the sum deducted by the sugar companies for the purpose described."

The Michigan Sugar Beet Growers' organization found its inception in the Saginaw Beet Growers' Association, which was organized several years ago. Last year the state Grange took the sugar beet growers under its wing, and was largely responsible in securing the sliding scale arrangement under which the 1917 tonnage will finally be paid for, viz: \$8.25 per ton (based upon present sugar prices). This was accomplished partly thru the intervention of Governor Sleeper, and was partly the result of a resolution introduced in the legislature by a Detroit representative asking for an examination of the profits of the sugar manufacturing industry of the state.

In his report before the annual session, Chairman Ketcham briefly reviewed the work of the past year, claiming no little credit for the organization for what had been accomplished for the growers. He presented figures from the report of the Federal Trade Commission, made public last May to show that the manufacturers were operating a sufficiently wide margin to permit their paying a much higher price for beets.

Chairman Ketcham emphasized the point made in MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING several weeks ago that with a set price on wholesale sugar, a sliding scale proposal this year was equivalent to a flat rate.

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WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE WET BEANS?

IT IS CONSERVATIVELY estimated that there are a half million bushels of beans still in the growers' hands too wet to place upon the market. The drying facilities of the state are not large enough to handle them; already many have started to mould, and unless the beans are dried within the next sixty days they will be a total loss. Edward Frensdorf, acting warden of Jackson state prison, has been trying to get financial aid from the state to increase the drying and canning facilities of the prison, in order to save some of these beans, but to date without success.

However, one of the largest elevator concerns in the middle west has asked Michigan Business Farming to co-operate with them in saving these beans. We are investigating the proposition now; if found practical, we hope to be able to assist in saving bean growers of Michigan several million dollars. Complete particulars will be given in the January 19th issue.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

GLEANERS IN BIENNIAL MEET

Delegates From Thirteen States Gather at Kalamazoo for the Eleventh Biennial Session of Co-Operative Organization

The eleventh biennial session of the Ancient Order of Gleaners opened Wednesday, Jan. 9th, at Kalamazoo, with over 600 delegates present from the thirteen states in which the organization is now chartered. Men of national prominence took part in the program, and topics of both state and national import were discussed at length.

The Gleaner organization, founded twenty-three years ago in Michigan, is rapidly extending its influence into other states, and predictions are freely made that in less than another decade the organization will have established its branches in every state in the Union. The meeting at Kalamazoo, held as it was on the very threshold of the organization's greatest field of activity, is looked upon as one of the most important in the organization's history.

Mr. Grant Slocum, president of the National Gleaner Federation, presented the official address, touching at length upon the many important problems and duties confronting the farmers of the state and nation. He reviewed the past work of the order and showed step by step how it had met first county, and then state needs, until its scope had become of rational importance.

The speaker voiced the gratification of the Gleaner organization over a splendid advance of the prohibition and equal suffrage movements and prophesied complete victory of these causes in the near future. The advantages and defects of the parcel post were clearly explained, and the speaker voiced his regret that there seemed to be no satisfactory way in which producer and consumer could utilize this convenient mode of trade to advantage at the present time. The rural credits act, and government ownership of railroads, telegraphs and telephones were also favorably discussed.

Turning then to the specific needs of this state, President Slocum advocated the commission form of government for the state; the substitution of the site tax system for the present system of taxation which levies against personal property as heavily as against real estate; Torrens system of land transfers; increased taxes on mine products; and co-operative selling of farm products thru co-operatively owned marketing organizations. The speaker paid a merited tribute to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, much of the work of which is in charge of Assistant Secretary Carl C. Vrooman, a staunch friend of the farmers, and a far-seeing business man.

Criticisms were directed at the State Marketing department, and attention called to the fact that despite the length of time the organization had been in existence, only a single successful co-operative enterprise had been established along lines suggested by the department.

The speaker urged that something be done at once to define the duties of the marketing department, and either make it an instrument of value to the farmers or else prevent it from obstructing the co-operative efforts starting with the farmers.

By far the most important recommendation made by Mr. Slocum was

OFFICERS
John C. Ketcham, Master
Dora M. Stockman, Lecturer
Jennie Buell, Secretary
Frank Coward, Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
J. W. Hutchins
George B. Horton
N. P. Hull
Burr B. Lincoln
W. F. Taylor
J. W. Helme

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE OFFICE OF TREASURER

Bronson, Mich., Dec. 27, 1917

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING,
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Sirs:—through the courtesy of some of my friends I have been receiving your paper for some time and wish to have it continued. I am enclosing one dollar to pay for it one year. I certainly think it one of the best papers published for the farmer.

I can't help but think the farmer is getting it coming and going.

Very respectfully,
FRANK COWARD.

that the Government fix minimum prices on the leading farm crops, and he gave many excellent reasons why this should be done and suggested a plan of action.

An appeal was made to all Gleaners to continue the splendid co-operation they had given the Government in financing the war. He urged them to buy liberally of Liberty bonds and thrift stamps, and lend every effort to help win the war. In this connection he advocated a greater tax upon wealth.

"Let me add," concluded President Slocum, "that the men and women of this nation have a great work to do. We are nearing a period of reconstruction and all should have a part in the work. We must put personal ambition and selfish desires aside, and do our best for God, home and Native land. 'Co-Operation' means working together for a common end; and let that common end for which we are striving be for the preservation of a government 'of the people, by the people and for the people.'"

AUCTION SALE OF DAMAGED OATS AT CUSTER

F. M., an Elberta subscriber writes as follows:

"It is reported here that there are thousands of bushels of oats stacked up there in piles that have been damaged by rain and lots of hay damaged by water on account of a fire. Could you look this matter up and see if it could be purchased direct from the government. We could use it for cow feed if we could buy it for what it is worth."

We referred the matter to the commanding officer at Camp Custer and have received in response the following notice:

"Notice of Auction Sale at Camp Custer, Michigan. Under the provisions of paragraph 680 Army Regulations, 1913, and approved Inventory and Inspection Report dated December 29th, 1917, the Camp Quartermaster, Camp Custer, Michigan, will sell

for cash, to the highest bidder, at Camp Custer, Michigan, on Wednesday, January 30th, 1918, at 2:00 p.m. the following quartermaster property, viz: 245875 lbs. Oats. These oats are slightly damaged by water but have considerable value for feed for hogs, chickens, etc. Sale will begin promptly at 2:00 o'clock p. m. and bidders are requested to bring sufficient cash, as checks will not be accepted. M. M. Garrett, Major Quartermaster Corps, Camp Quartermaster."

MICHIGAN BEANS ARE ALWAYS IN GOOD DEMAND

A state bean authority is reported as having recently made the statement that the government was not in the market for Michigan beans, because it could buy the western and Manchurian beans at a lower figure.

"What keeps the price of Michigan beans up," says this authority, "is that certain trade demands them. For instance, I shipped only a few days ago three cars of beans to Heinz at Pittsburg. He wants and will have Michigan beans."

"We are at last getting nearer to the truth about Michigan beans. The attempt of the government to set a price of \$6.90 on its own purchases of Michigan beans because it could buy a poorer variety for that amount met with such resistance from the growers that the purchase of beans in this state was finally abandoned. Altho the government still has the authority if it so desires to come into Michigan at any time and buy beans, it is not that that it will do so. Therefore, the Michigan price will depend largely upon the prevailing market prices.

It is true that there is no other bean grown that compares with the quality of the Michigan bean, and canners will have this bean regardless of what they have to pay.

I think the paper will be a great help to the farmer. Push it along by all means.—Elizabeth Thompson, Osceola county.

MILK PRODUCERS OF DETROIT AREA

Important Message Addressed to All Milk Producers by State Secretary R. C. Reed

The Michigan Milk Producers' Association desires to call your attention to some very important facts.

First—Recently there has been a very great increase in the amount of milk coming into Detroit. The Detroit supply has increased over 20 per cent.

Second—Consumption has decreased about 15 percent, due to the following reasons:

The United States Government is advising the conservation of all foods, butter, cheese, cream and milk with the rest. The government has ordered the elimination of milk from some of the baked goods, such as bread.

The people of the cities have not been educated to the food value of milk and many think it is too expensive for family use at the price fixed by the milk commission. Consequently this surplus is growing larger each day.

The Detroit buyers cannot continue to store great quantities of milk in their refrigerators.

Remember that an over supply, especially of a perishable product, is a serious menace to any industry.

Another very serious fact is that certain producers have insisted upon ignoring the decision and finding of their association and the Detroit Milk Commission. They want to be independent and are selling their product to a party who is cutting the price to a ruinous rate in the city. If this continues, it will result in a milk slaughter the like of which you have never seen. The Detroit dealers cannot continue to pay the commission price for milk unless they can sell at the commission price. If you ignore the commission findings and sell independently, your losses will be your own choosing. We repeat to you again, that the producer and buyer who will not co-operate, who will not be governed by the commission findings, are a serious menace to their own interests. A stabilized industry is our only hope in this day of organized co-operation.

Milk in Detroit today, at the commission price, 14c per quart, is the cheapest food product on the market, but the people do not realize this. You have never laid before them the facts concerning the food value of milk. You have never advertised your product.

Other industries organize, advertise and co-operate. The farmer, in his desire to be independent, wants to go alone, and he does this always at his own loss.

To relieve the present unfortunate condition, every can of milk that can be, should be kept out of Detroit market for the next two months.

The Detroit distributors are now making contracts with our Association, by which they agree to accept no milk except that produced by members of the Michigan Milk Producers' Association. We advise all producers to sign the application and agreement of the Michigan Milk Producers' Association at once.

As, with a large surplus on hand, it is self-evident that a date in the near future must be fixed beyond which we can no longer ask the Detroit distributors to accept milk from producers who are not members of our association.

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This fine four-horse team is owned by Peter O. Peterson of Maple City, Mich.

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Nations hold once more the hope of peace. For the first time since the beginning of the war the chief belligerents have made public their war aims and let the whole world know what they are fighting for. President Wilson took the initiative, tho his "terms" were clothed in rather vague and uncertain language but

left no doubt as to his attitude upon the general propositions involved. Then came the Kaiser at the Brest-Litovsk conference, with honeyed words and subterfuges. The German people wanted no indemnities and no annexations; they were willing to let the peoples of the smaller nations now occupied by German troops determine for themselves their form of government, but when asked by the Bolsheviks to withdraw his troops from the disputed territory that the people might be left free to assert their voice without coercion, the Kaiser balked and refused. And the Great Opportunity was lost. Probably not again shall Germany have so promising a time at which to sue for peace. Lastly, comes Lloyd George of England, who in a recent great speech "opened the door to an early and permanent peace if the German nation desired to enter." The British premier avoided all generalities and told the specific terms and conditions under which the Allies would discuss peace terms. Here they are:

Complete restoration of Belgium.

Reparation as far as possible for devastated towns and cities.

Neutralization and internationalization of the Dardanelles.

"Reconsideration" of the "great wrong" done to France in 1871—referring to Alsace-Lorraine.

Establishment of an independent Poland—"comprising all genuinely Polish elements, because this is necessary to the stability of western Europe."

Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine—all entitled to separate national conditions.

Russia—the British statesman left the future to decision of the Russian people themselves.

Inhabitants of Germany's African colonies to be "placed under an administration acceptable to themselves to prevent exploitation for the benefit of European capitalists and of European governments."

A great wave of confidence now sweeps the Allied nations. Germany has already shown her desire for an early peace, but her selfish ambitions yet blind her to all justice and to the peril she is in. But the German people are awakening; peace promises have not materialized, and the German people want peace quickly. At the same time, the recent utterances of the Allied governments have cemented the confidences of the people, and the Allied forces now gather their resources for a great united campaign against the central powers. If Germany weakens from interior influences which now seems probable, she will fall before the impregnable offensive of the Allies. That is the hope and prediction of the day.

* * *

The Allied governments are expected to recognize the Bolsheviks within the near future. The refusal of Foreign Minister Trotsky to swallow the bait prepared by the German Kaiser and his subsequent demands for a genuine democratic peace and the right of smaller nations to determine their own form of government, has given the lie to the insinuation that the Bolshevik leaders were in the pay of the German government, and show that they may be trusted to direct the destinies of the Russian people in the present emergency. American agents in Russia have recently admonished this government to be very careful in its treatment of the Lenine representatives as the Lenine government has a much stronger hold upon the Russian people than generally supposed.

* * *

As a preliminary step in the government's operation of the railroads, the railway executives have been asked to submit a statement showing amount of capital required for the operation of their lines for the first six months of the year. They are required to show in detail what this money is to be expended for, and were asked to indicate what construction work they had under way could be stopped without detriment. This information will give Uncle Sam some idea, no doubt, of the immense amount of money involved in the railroad business, and show him what a stupendous job he has got into. Director General McAdoo has notified all roads of new demurrage rates to take effect Jan. 1st, on all lines. They are \$2 a car for the first day after the first two free days; \$4 for the second day; and \$1 additional for each succeeding day until the charge per day reaches \$10.

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As this is written plans are being made by the suffrage leaders to force a vote Thursday, the 10th, on the woman suffrage amendment. The result is in doubt, both sides predicting a very close vote.

* * *

Next Tuesday the Senate privileges and elections committee will resume the hearing on Senator LaFollette's alleged disloyal utterances during his address before the Non-Partisan League at St. Paul last fall. Wm. Jennings Bryan will be a witness, and will deny, it is understood, the statements made by Sen. LaFollette regarding Mr. Bryan's attitude toward war, and his remarks about the sinking of the Lusitania.

Representative Jeannette Rankin, the lady congress "man" from Montana, caused a mild stir in the house the other day when she introduced a resolution providing "that this government recognize the right of Ireland to political independence and that we account Ireland among those countries for whose freedom and democracy we are fighting." The resolution was referred to the foreign affairs committee, before which Miss Rankin will seek a hearing. Miss Rankin also spoke briefly in favor of the measure authorizing the secretary of the treasury to buy farm loan

bonds. All in all, Miss Rankin seems to be deporting herself quite capably, and is making splendid progress for a novice. She professes to be a trifle lonesome among so many of the sterner sex, but if the equal suffrage amendment, carries Miss Rankin will have company of her own sex in the next Congress.

URGES ESTABLISHING OF COMMUNITY MILK PLANTS

"The more I study the milk problem," said E. S. Brigham, Vermont commissioner of agriculture, in a recent address before the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association, "the more I am convinced the foundation of success lies in the co-operation of dairymen of a local community in owning a community milkplant."

"This is the time when business is done in large units. The farmer who has thirty or forty cows may be the most efficient producer because of the personal attention he can give to his herd, but he is not the most efficient marketer. The product of the individual milk producer will make little impression in the city market, but the product of 100 producers, brought together at a central plant located on the railroad and processed to satisfy all health requirements, is a large enough unit to command attention in any market."

"Again, this is a time when an article, to be readily marketable, must be of standard quality, so that it will pass rapidly through the channels of trade. Our problem is to make standard dairy products just as available as standard oil, or any other standardized commodity, the quality of which no consumer questions. A dairy commodity which will take the necessary steps to bring together at a central plant a marketable volume of standard milk has practically solved its market problem." Which remarks are in direct line with M. B. F. argument on the same subject.

An Illinois farm paper recently made the statement that it was the first farm paper to publish a summary of the new draft rules and regulations approved by the President in October. The paper in question published the article on November 3rd and was not therefore, the FIRST farm paper to use it, as M. B. F. carried the summary of the rules under its Washington letter on October 27th. However, we shall forgive our contemporary, *The Prairie Farmer*—for it's one of the few farm papers which we believe is really fighting the farmers' battles.

WAR WIRES

Major General Parker, Camp Custer commandant, states that he has but eight field guns to train three regiments of artillery, while eighty guns are needed for the work. The division is also short of trench mortars. A British officer has been detailed for the work, and he brought a number with him when he came from France. These mortars have not been delivered and there is not a single one available. The division also needs additional machine guns, the number on hand being inadequate. It is now expected that 17,000 men from Custer will be moved to Waco, Texas, sometime during February or March. The men will be used to fill to war strength a skeleton unit of the regular army. It is also expected that the men who go to Waco will be sent to France early next fall to finish their training behind the lines. The last 25 per cent of the first contingent will be called to camp early in March.

* * *

Latest reports from the Western front indicate that unfavorable weather conditions have brought a period of comparative quiet. The usual artillery activity goes on from day to day but trench raiding during the past week has been reduced to the minimum. The Germans are said to be constantly adding reinforcements to their forces there but whether or not they contemplate an attack in the near future is a matter of conjecture. The British campaign in the East continues to meet with success and military authorities expect that the Austro-German authorities will soon find it necessary to send reinforcements to the Ottomans. There is also a great deal of speculation at the present time relative to a rumored Austro-German drive on Salonica. That this drive is an imminent possibility is realized by Allied authorities and all possible steps are being taken to meet it.

* * *

The Bolshevik delegates to the German peace conference have returned to Brest-Litovsk, accompanied this time by Leon Trotsky, bolshevik foreign minister. The Russian delegates are endeavoring to have the negotiations carried on at Stockholm or other neutral territory. Turkey has also presented her peace terms to Russia, the document on its face appearing to be a one-sided affair favorable in every way to Turkey. Germany is reported to have temporarily suspended the negotiations with Russia owing to their request for a change of location.

* * *

Austro-German efforts in Italy are about at a standstill and the Italians are again taking the offensive along certain portions of the line. While the danger to Venice and the Italian plains has not been entirely removed and will not be until the invaders are driven back, still it is generally felt that the crisis has passed.

From all parts of a busy World

The National Food Administration asks that Americans who want to be really patriotic and helpful to the Government in the prosecution of the war limit the use of sugar to 36 pounds per person a year. The French average 16 pounds per person each year, the English 21, while Americans are averaging 80 pounds per person since the war broke out. The French prior to the war averaged 64 pounds per person.

* * *

More than 1,250 colored men who completed the course at the reserve officers' training camp at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, have been commissioned as officers, physicians and surgeons have received commissions as officers in the Medical Reserve Corps. A full fighting force of 30,000 colored soldiers, including representatives in all branches of military service, will constitute the Ninetysecond Division, to be detailed for duty in France under General Pershing.

* * *

The retail price of milk in England has been advanced from 14 to 16 cents per quart. The sale and use of cream has been prohibited except for invalids, infants, and butter making.

* * *

After July 1st, 1918 all locomotives must be equipped with high-power headlights. Engines placed in service after that date must be supplied with new lights and old engines must be so equipped the first day they are placed in the shop, for general repairs after that date.

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Gasoline production in the United States has increased from 35,000,000 to 70,000,000 barrels a year since 1914.

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The Government is soon to have announced the price to be paid producers for silver. It is said to be satisfactory to them and will in all probability be \$1 per ounce.

* * *

Discarded civilian clothing of National Army soldiers will be shipped to Belgium for relief of sufferers.

Guatemala city, capital of the republic of Guatemala, Italy, was completely destroyed by an earthquake on Christmas day. The American Red Cross is rendering aid.



SHOULD THE ELEVATORS RETURN CULL BEANS TO THE GROWER

**Much-Mooted Question Revived
This Year Because of Large
Bean Pick and Farmers
Ask M. B. F. Opinion
as to "Who Owns
the Culls."**

There has been a great deal of discussion for years as to whether the elevator should return the cull beans to the farmer or whether, under the Reardon schedule, the elevator pays for the beans and is entitled to keep them.

The question has been agitated this year more than ever before because of the unusually large percentage of culls. Many farmers are protesting strenuously against having ten to 20 pounds of their beans picked out, they pay for the picking only to have the elevators keep the beans. Here is one of a score or more complaints that have been laid before us since bean harvesting began:

"The elevators bean pick charge takes all the profit. Is not that the way most of the elevators do, buy on the Reardon schedule, deducting price of beans and 4 cents for hand picking them, and some are bold enough to say they pay for them."

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING put this question straight up to the manager of one of the most successful co-operative elevators in the state, the other day: "Should the farmers receive back their cull beans, or else get pay for them?"

"Yes," replied this man,—and we wouldn't hesitate a moment to accept his opinion.

"The farmers ought to get paid for their culls. They never knew it until the farmers themselves got into the elevator business. The elevator men claim, you know, that the culls are practically a dead loss to them. Of course, I'm in the elevator business but I don't mind telling you that one of our best sources of profit is in the cull beans."

Ask an elevator man this same question and what would you get? Why, he'd begin at once to talk about the "Reardon Schedule" and tell you the thing had been all figured out by someone and that of course the elevator ought to have the beans.

We have examined the Reardon schedule, but nary a word have we discovered in it about cull beans. As near as we can figure out, the only useful purpose the Reardon schedule serves is to establish a uniformity of prices throughout the state. It effectually removes any temptation whatsoever for any elevator man to pay more than his competitor for beans of similar pick.

Under the old Reardon schedule, the elevator men were supposed to dock 4 cents per pound for picking, but now the elevator men claim that the cost amounts to about 5 cents per pound. Let us suppose that Bill Jones has one bushel of beans he wants to sell. He takes them to the elevator. The prevailing price, just for instance, you know, is \$3 per bushel, or 5 cents a pound, and the beans prove to be one pound pickers. By taking out the one pound of culls, there are left 59 pounds of good beans, worth 5 cents a pound, or \$2.95. But the elevator man charges 5 cents a pound for picking, a legitimate charge which he also deducts, pays over to Bill Jones \$2.90, and keeps the culls. Immediately, Bill puts up a holler and why shouldn't he. He grew the culls, they originally belonged to him, and he pays the elevator 5 cents for separating them from his good beans. The elevator buys the good beans but not the culls. He just keeps the culls and says nothing.

It's as plain as the nose on your face. When the bean pick is light

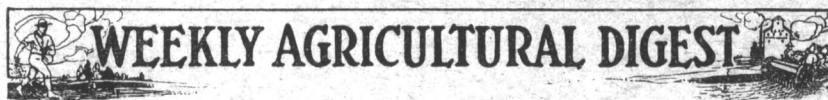
the farmers do not care much about the cull beans altho by right they belong to him. But when the pick is heavy the culls are worth considerable money as hog feed, and the farmer should have them back by all means.

The elevators this year are going to make some good fat profits out of the farmers' cull beans unless something is done to prevent it. Ordinarily, the farmers would have no protection. The dealers are organized and the farmers aren't. The dealers can indulge in practically whatever practices they desire, and the farmer is helpless. But we can promise our friends that an attempt will be made, at least, to compel elevators to either pay for the culls they keep or return them to the farmer.

MILK PRODUCERS OF THE DETROIT AREA

(Continued from page 2)

A very large proportion of the Detroit dealers seem disposed to treat you fairly, and we are hoping in years to come to secure to them a more uniform supply through the months of the year, so as to avoid



INCREASE OF HORSES IN THE BRITISH ISLES

The effect of the war on the horse industry in the British Isles is strikingly shown in figures announced by the U. S. Food Administration. The number of horses in England and Scotland increased slightly from 1916 to 1917, while in Ireland there was a small decrease.

The figures show a striking increase in horses used for agricultural purposes and a decrease in the number used for pleasure and in mercantile lines. In 1916 about 1,288,600 horses were used for agriculture and in 1917 the number had increased to 1,320,383, which is nearly two-thirds of the total. The number of colts decreased considerably, indicating less breeding.

THE CHEAPEST FOODS ON ENERGY BASIS

Studies of retail prices for food and the amount of vital energy obtained from different foods are being made by the U. S. Food Administration. The last monthly summary, including 57 commodities, shows that 17 are cheaper than bread (which is used as a convenient basis for comparison) and 39 are dearer than bread.

Staple foods, which form an energy point of view, are relatively cheaper than bread, and which American people have been urged to use freely, include corn meal, rye flour, rolled oats, hominy grits, corn syrup, rice and sweet potatoes.

FOOD FIGURES OF WORLD-WIDE SCOPE

Owing to difficulties in transportation from India, Great Britain is suffering from a shortage of cottonseed. Oil cake is to be sold only as food for dairy cattle and pedigreed cattle. Although the Egyptian crop of cottonseed has been bought by the British government for distribution in England, the general scarcity of cottonseed has caused a steady advance in oil prices. Many of these prices long ago reached the maximum set by the Food Controller and a higher schedule of prices is expected soon.

New Zealand's wheat acreage for the

a serious surplus and waste at any period of the year.

It has been and is the policy of the officers of the Michigan Milk Producers' Association to be broad minded and fair in the treatment of the producer and buyer. We propose to continue this policy, for upon such action only can we hope to stabilize the dairy industry in the Detroit area.

And, in pursuance of this thought and purpose we fear we will be compelled to change our advice to the farmer.

We have conscientiously advised in the interest of food production and soil conservation, the maintenance of dairy herds, but we fear that the best way available at the present time to avoid serious loss, is to follow the example of all other successful industries and to curtail production until a point is reached where the industry is stabilized and put on a paying basis.

We hear much about the farmers' obligation to supply cheap food to the poor children of the city, but we hear nothing about the city man's obligation to supply cheap shoes or clothing to the children of the country; it seems to us at the present time that our only available recourse is to be interested in our own over-worked wives and children, remembering that 'Charity begins at home.'

Trusting for your co-operation, I remain,

Very truly yours,

R. C. REED.

Field Secretary.

RESUME OF WORLD CROPS

**Responsibilities and Opportunities
of American Farmers Much
Greater Than at First
Supposed**

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT PROSPECTS

Due chiefly to the shortage of labor at seeding time, the new wheat crop in South Australia is estimated at 26,000,000 bushels as compared with last year's crop of 43,000,000 bushels. Harvesting of the new crop has already commenced.

Official reports received by the United States Food Administration show 120,000,000 bushels of Australian old wheat still in reserve but much is liable to damage from improper storage, nor can it be marketed in Europe because of insufficient ships and the great distance. This condition prevailing in one of the world's most important wheat-growing countries increases the responsibility of the United States for producing a large wheat crop this year.

DEPRESSING RUSSIAN CROP REPORT

Discouraged by low prices and government action on last year's crops, Russian farmers have reduced their activity toward food production. The acreage is less than last year and crop conditions are classed as unfavorable.

FRENCH POTATO PRICES

Scarcity of food in France has resulted in advanced prices for potatoes beginning January 1, 1918, and continuing to the next harvest. Prices to growers range from \$2.87 per 100 pounds, for the fourth quality, to \$4.76 per 100 pounds for best quality.

Wholesale dealers are allowed a profit of 92 cents and retailers a profit of \$1.84 per 100 pounds of potatoes. Before the war the total retail price paid by consumers ranged from \$1.56 to \$2.60 per 100 lbs.

SWEDISH CONTROL OF WOOL

An official report on wool production in Sweden states that the average wool clip per sheep is 3.3 pounds. The owners are allowed to keep only 2.2 pounds from their entire clip for each member of the family. The remainder must be delivered to the government.

RECORD CROP VALUES FOR U. S.

Values of 1917 crops in the United States based on prices paid farmers have exceeded all previous figures. Final reports also show that the following crops have established new high production records: Corn, oats, rye, white potatoes, tobacco, sweet potatoes, beans and onions.

Because of the abundance of the foregoing products, especially corn, potatoes, beans and onions, the U. S. Food Administration is urging their liberal use. An important part of its activities is to keep the public fully informed of the amounts and kinds of foodstuffs in the country.

What the Neighbors Say!

Best Farm Paper on the Market

I am sending you my dollar for subscription to Michigan Business Farming, which is the best farm paper on the market.—Floyd M. Cole Jackson county.

Corn, beans and potatoes all cut by frost. Will send it if I can. Think the paper will be all right. You have always tried to help the farmer.—Wm. R. Brace, Newaygo county.

The best ever for farmers.—J. S. Husted, Antrim county.

This is the best market paper I ever took. I appreciate it very much.—Adam O. Fox, Saginaw county.

Your paper is all right. I wish everybody read it.—J. Martin Schonz, Washenaw county.

Just what I want.—Bunell Martin, VanBuren county.

Am enclosing two other names.—W. D. Taylor, Isabella county.

I am sending one dollar for my subscription for M. B. F., the best farm paper in Michigan. Am also sending my neighbor's subscription for one year.—O. S., Cedar Springs.

Enclosed please find one dollar for my subscription to M. B. F. I think your paper is the most practical farm paper in circulation. I also think the farmer who is not reading it is losing money. I am wishing you success the coming year.—P. W., Charlotte.

We think that the Business Farming is what every business farmer needs.—Frank Egloff, Isabella county.



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

Movement of wheat in this country and Canada at this time is very slow. Cold, stormy weather and the car situation are retarding shipments and many mills are having difficulty again in securing sufficient supplies for their daily needs. Government control of the railroads is expected to give relief, not only in the movement of wheat but of all other grains.

The new Government milling regulations are expected to add 16,000,000 bus. more wheat to the amount the United States has available for export. Mills are now working on the new war flour but it will be some time before it comes into general use. There were quite extensive supplies of flour held before the new milling order went into effect. Bread made from the new flour is of excellent quality although a little darker in color.

The Allies have arranged to take the Argentine wheat surplus, the principal contracting parties being France and Italy. They are also to furnish the tonnage to transport the grain. It is expected that free shipments from Argentina will be moving during the present month.

Many reports of crop damage come from the winter wheat belt since the recent zero weather. The reports will not be confirmed until growing time comes in the spring. The crop had little snow protection during the cold wave and the chances are that some damage has resulted.



OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	.83	.83	94 1-2
No. 3 White	.82 1-2	.82	93
No. 4 White	.81	.81	92 1-2

The past week has seen a great revival of the export demand on oats. Sales for export during the last two days of last week totaled close to 1,000,000 bus. Coming right now when storms and transportation difficulties make deliveries from the country light, the effect on the market has been marked. Under ordinary conditions the advance would have been much greater but the price now is up where further additions are hard to secure.

Opposed to this export trade is the lighter buying of mill and feed men. They have not been active in the market for some days and this would have had its effect were it not for the shortage of stocks at all terminal markets. Buyers generally feel that the oat market is too high and that with a freer movement we will see lower prices. Personally we do not look for a much of an increase in the movement until well on toward spring.



CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	1.96 1-2	Nominal	1.89
No. 3 Yellow	1.95		1.87
No. 2 Mixed	1.90		1.83

There is a weak feeling prevailing in corn. Dealers generally feel that with any kind of an increased movement the price is bound to work lower. There has been a modest decline during the past week but not of any consequence. We are liable to see immediate efforts on the part of the Government to move that portion of the corn crop which is in bad shape and which must move before the warm weather of spring.

Stocks of corn at terminal markets



LAST MINUTE WIRES

DETROIT SPECIAL—Poultry firm with slightly advancing tendencies. Hay market just a little easier. Potato market slow and steady. Butter receipts increasing and demand somewhat lighter.

CHICAGO WIRE—Potatoes looking up just a little under lighter receipts. Corn market quiet. Not much speculation as conditions are too uncertain. Oat market lively, with some of the large dealers free sellers.

NEW YORK WIRE—Export demand for beans is rather quiet but there are indications of renewed interest soon. Corn market uncertain and buyers holding back. Expect lower range of prices. Potatoes in fair supply but market in better conditions. Hay not moving in such large quantities and market firmer.

are light. There is an increased anxiety on the part of growers to move their holdings but elevator men are refusing to buy unless assured of cars for quick transportation. This indicates a feeling on their part that much of the corn will not keep after warmer weather arrives. We feel that this assumption is correct and that there is bound to be some loss on corn later.

There is very little future trading at the present time. There is some talk of government regulation of the corn market, mention having been made of a minimum price of \$1 and a maximum of \$1.30. With the present spot prices far above that figure it looks as though this talk might bear influence on the market. Added to the fact that there is certain to be a greatly increased movement in the near future, we do not see how a further decline can be prevented.



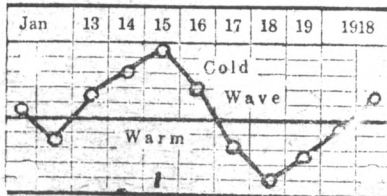
RYE

Coinciding with our opinion of last week, the rye market during the past few days has shown more activity and has gathered strength. The price has advanced 1 cent. Millers are on the look out for cars and there is also considerable of an export demand. The demand would be greater were it possible to secure cars to transport the grain. The market seems able to hold any advance and there appears at this time no reason why it should not continue to do so in the future. Detroit is quoting cash No. 2 rye at \$1.84; Chicago, quotes the market as nominal, indicating a shortage of supplies.

I wish a sample copy of the paper could go into the home of every farmer in Michigan. I do not think there would be much trouble in getting subscribers. Several I spoke to had already sent in their names. This is just the paper we need.—A Reader.

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 12.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbance to cross continent Jan. 13 to 17, warm wave 12 to 16, cool wave 15 to 19. Not a great storm generally but its force will largely increase in the northeastern states and eastern Canada and the cool wave will be a cold wave of about average force. Most rain and snow in northeastern sections, on the east side of the transcontinental low.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about Jan. 19 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Jan. 20, plains sections 21, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio-Tennessee valleys 22, eastern sections 23, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Jan. 24. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.



BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	7.25	7.95	8.70
Prime	7.17	7.87	8.55
Red Kidneys	8.00	8.25	7.50

The bean market continues to run along at about the same pace as it has for some time. Country elevators are slow buyers owing to the high moisture content of the greater portion of the stock being offered. Not only is the stock wet but as time goes on the offerings seem to be increasing in pickage. There has been some additional movement since the Government issued the permit to canners to use a certain portion in that way, but this movement as yet has not attained nearly the volume necessary to take care of what stock must be moved before the warmer weather.

While up in the Thumb country during the past week the writer saw some very good stock, but it is not plentiful, by any means. One lot in particular, standing just as it came from the machine, would not pick over one pound, and was very dry and hard. We advised the owner to hold this stock for seed and we feel quite sure he will realize a nice little profit on it. We found that many of the farmers up there are bringing their seed beans into the house and drying them, a few bags at a time, by the kitchen stove. They are then being hand-picked and stored for the future. We venture to say that these beans will sell for \$10.00 or better when seeding time comes. We believe this is a good plan to follow, wherever possible, rather than to sell the wet stock on the present market.

With so much wet stock being offered, it is only natural that the market should be stagnant. It is a deplorable condition all around just at present. As this stock is disposed of there will come a better market and those who have dry stock or who have been able to dry a certain portion, will receive the benefit of the advance.



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	24 00 24 00
Richmond	31 00 32 00	31 00 31 50	31 00 31 50

Reports from the majority of the hay markets this week indicate that there has been just a slight increase in the movement and that stocks are larger than for some time but still far short of an accumulation. Conditions at Detroit remain as before, with fair arrivals and a good demand. Shipping inquiry has been somewhat lighter during the past week but the local demand has kept the tracks clear. Buyers in Michigan report a good demand by the Federal Government. When sales are made to the Government much less difficulty is experienced in getting cars. The Government furnishes the Bill of Lading and the cars are spotted promptly. The hay must be up to the grade in every way or it is not accepted.

The Chicago market is just a trifle easier under more liberal supplies. The holiday season, together with the heavy snows of recent days, cut off buying somewhat, but there is no doubt but what the market will again resume its strength until such time as the movement becomes much stronger.

The St. Louis market quotations remain about the same although there has been a better supply of timothy and clover mixed. The market there on prairie, clover and alfalfa remains firm. The market on off grades of all classes is just a little slow.

Cincinnati is calling for hay and the market there seems to be pretty well cleaned up on all grades. Storms are delaying the movement of shipments in that direction and there is a prospect of a very good market unless shipments in transit should accumulate and be dumped on the market in a bunch.

Philadelphia has only a light stock of hay from day to day and there is very little chance of a change in value until such time as receipts are greatly increased. Some dealers there seem to feel that this great increase will be slow in coming. That of course, remains to be seen. We are of the opinion that it will come later in the season but still many things may occur to keep the market up.

Arrivals on the New York market have been lighter for the past ten days and accumulations there are rapidly cleaning up. The market seems to have a stronger tone than it had last week. They have been having heavy snows there during the past few days and this may again limit the movement throughout the city.



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 different potato markets are now in much better shape than they have been for some time. Demand is good and prices are firm and is some cases, inclined to advance. Shippers should bear in mind however that this condition has been brought about mainly through lack of transportation facilities and recent heavy storms. There is a great deal of stock back in the country and this will have to move to market so that to say the least,

W. T. Foster

higher prices are not to be expected until much later, if at all.

The Detroit market has cleaned up well with the present good demand is in a healthy condition. The extreme cold weather and storm of the past week have delayed shipping and this lessening of arrivals has also had a bracing effect on the market. It seems to be the general opinion among receivers and retailers there that a lower market will prevail when the movement becomes more general again.

The Chicago situation is very similar to that at Detroit. The same conditions have effected that market. The prices are just a little better for first class stock. Loading at country points has been much less during the recent cold spell, arrivals have been light and the jobbing markets have been just about cleaned up.

Eastern markets are stronger altho the prices being paid there are in many cases away under those of the middle west.

Seattle—Some inquiries for potatoes have been coming in from Eastern buyers within the last few days and local operators look for a brisker shipping movement soon. Quotations for Western Washington potatoes f. o. b. Seattle, graded and selected, are \$25 per ton, carload lots.

Jobbers anticipate a good increase in the volume moved early in the New Year. A fair Eastern movement, damage to pit holdings on the West side of the Cascades and suggestions by the food committee in advising greater consumption of potatoes are expected to cause a better trade.

Contractors who in October bid \$29.80 per ton f. o. b. for graded Puget Sound potatoes to be delivered to the army cantonments are making money. Prices have declined to \$20 @22.50 at shipping point.

St. Louis—The potato market is unchanged. The demand is indifferent for the moderate holdings but a steady tone is noted. Northern white stock sacked is quoted track basis at \$1.80 @ 2.05 per cwt., and Western at \$1.80 @ 2.15.



APPLES

The apple market is fairly active at prevailing prices. The first grade and box stock sell to good advantage. The severe weather of the past week has tended to keep peddlers off the streets and has eliminated this source of disposal of off-grade stock.

Detroit quotations remain at about the same level: Spv. \$6@6.50; greening, \$6@6.25; snow, \$6.50@7.00; Baldwin, \$5@5.50; No. 2 \$3@3.50 per barrel.

Chicago quotations for the week are as follows: Baldwins, \$5@5.50; Kings, \$5@6; Spies, \$5.50@6; Starks \$4@4.50; Greenings, \$5.50@6; Ben Davis brought \$2.50@4.25 per barrel. Winebans, \$4.50@5; Talman Sweet, \$4.50@5; Golden Russets, \$5@5.50; Twenty Ounce, \$5.50@6; Grimes Golden, \$5@5.50; York Imperial, \$4.50@5.

St. Louis—A slow demand was shown for apples this week and the market was dull. Offerings were not large and the tone was about steady. Ben Davis brought \$2.50@4.25 per barrel. Gano \$2.50@4.50, Rome Beauty, Wineban, Black Twig and Willow Twig \$3 @5.50 and Gano in \$3@4.



BUTTER

The local Detroit market has been somewhat better supplied with butter during the past week than for some time past. There has also been a good movement of held stock. The creamery has held up to about the former price but in some cases held stock has sold lower. Detroit quotations follow: fresh creamery, firsts, 47 1-2c; extras, 49@49 1-2c; storage creamery, 43@44c per pound.

Eastern markets have seen renewed activity and the demand has been stronger for higher scoring lots than for extras. This caused some surprise on the part of the dealers. The demand for undergrades and held stock has also increased and the market is in a very satisfactory condition. Arrivals have been delayed and this has

caused somewhat of a shortage. There is a wide range in medium grades, due to the great variety of butter coming. Fresh receipts continue to show a light proportion of fine stock being made up principally of ordinary and poor grades.

There is at the present a great deal of competition between creameries and condensaries. In many localities the latter are getting the greater portion of the milk and the creameries are not receiving sufficient to warrant their continuing operations. This is all having its effect on the butter market and it would seem only reasonable to expect present prices to continue on until spring brings new pastures and in increased milk supply.

Washington—In November 2,781 creameries produced 32,068,334 lb. of butter. In 1916, 2,784 creameries churned 33,030,106 lb. Process factories numbering 26 produced 395,101 lb. in November and 1,397,804 lb. in November 1916. This is a decrease of 1,002,703 lb. or 71.73 per cent.

Uncolored oleomargarine in 30 factories totaled 22,355,863 lb., compared with 17,663,939 lb. in November 1916. This is an increase of 26.56 per cent, or 4,691,924 lb. Reports from 20 factories on colored oleo show 1,876,714 lb. and 1,553,710 lb. in November, 1917, or a decreased production of 339,612 lbs., or 18.09 per cent.



EGGS

It has been many a long day since fresh eggs were as scarce on all markets as they are at the present time. This condition prevails at all points and as a result there has been an exceptionally heavy movement of storage stock. There has been a small advance on the better grades of storage. Detroit is quoting fresh Michigan receipts at 53c; storage at 40c @ 42 1-2c.

Chicago has experienced a rapidly advancing market on storage stock and the demand has been so great that enormous amounts have been removed from the coolers. Receipts of fresh eggs are so small as not to be considered. It has been a sellers market and prices on fresh have gone out of sight. No straight lots are coming, only small lots. Strictly fresh offerings are bringing 54c@55c; firsts are quoted around 51c@52c; ordinary firsts, 44c@48c.



POULTRY

LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Turkey	27-28	25-26	30-32
Ducks	27-28	25-26	27-28
Geese	26-27	24-26	28-31
Sp.ingers	25-26	3-24	25-27
Hens	22-25	20-21	23-25

There have been fewer arrivals of poultry, both live and dressed, since the holidays, and all markets seem to be well cleaned up and at some points the demand is away beyond receipts and prices have advanced accordingly.

Detroit has had a fairly active market all week and receipts have cleaned up rapidly. There is a good demand for all fowls, ducks and geese. The turkey demand has let up just a little but there is still a very satisfactory movement.

Chicago has not received nearly sufficient stock to meet the demand and as a result the market has advanced. The market has cleaned up from day to day, even at the advance. Dressed poultry has been having a good sale, with the exception of turkeys, which have been rather slow.

Eastern points report a great deal of difficulty in getting shipments delivered, also a firm market with advancing tendencies.

Kansas City—Poultry dealers cleaned up their stock well early in the week with a good demand in evidence, and since the market has remained firm under light receipts. Fowls, chickens, ducks, and geese show an advance over a week ago, with other varieties selling about unchanged. Quotations were as follows: Fowls, heavy, 21 1-2c; light, 18c; chickens, 18@21 1-2c; turkeys, 22@25c; geese 18c; ducks, 20c; old roosters, 15c; broilers, 25c.



FLOUR & FEED

Detroit dealers recently made a big reduction in the price of feed stuffs not on account of any great increase in the supply or decrease in demand, but at the behest of the food authorities at Washington. Current quotations at this time are as follows: In 100 lb. sacks, jobbing lots: bran, \$34.40; standard middlings, \$36.40; fine middlings, \$43.40; cracked corn, \$81; coarse cornmeal, \$77; chopped, \$60 per ton.

The New York feed market is in a very unsettled condition as is shown by the following report:—No feed prices are available. According to the new Government regulations, the mill price on western middlings would average \$37.85 a ton, which is about \$10 below the recently prevailing levels, but as yet no offerings have been made at this figure. Mills here are unwilling to quote under any circumstances and probably will stay out of the market until something definite is done to regulate flour values. Mills are working on old orders, but shipments are held up by the traffic situation, although with Government regulation, a better movement is looked for. All quotations have been withdrawn.

Hides

No. 1 cured, 19c; No. 1 green, 15c; No. 1 cured bulls, 14c; No. 1 green bulls, 12c; No. 1 cured veal kip, 22c; No. 1 green veal kip, 20c; No. 1 cured murrain, 19c; No. 1 green murrain, 15c; No. 1 cured calf, 26c; No. 1 green calf, 25c; No. 1 horsehide, \$6; No. 2 horsehide, \$5; No. 2 hides, 1c and No. 2 kip and calf, 1 1-2c off; sheepskin, as to amount of wool, \$1@3 each.

Cheese

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

Furs

No. 1 skunk, \$4.30; winter muskrats 80c; No. 1 mink, \$7.50; No. 1 racoon, \$4.50.

Toledo Seed Market

Clover—Prime, \$17@17; closed \$17 bid; Dec., \$17@17; closed \$17 bid; Jan., \$16.70@16.70, closed \$16.70; Feb., \$16.75@16.75, closed \$16.75; March, \$16.40@16.50, closed \$16.50 bid. No. 2 \$16.15@16.35; No. 3, \$15.80@16; rejected, \$15.40@15.70; N. E. G., \$3.60 @15.30.

Alsike—No. 2, \$13.75@14; No. 3, \$13.40@13.60; rejected, \$12.90@13.10; N. E. G., (mixed with clover, timothy, etc.), \$3.60@12.85. Prime, \$14.50@14.60, closed, \$14.60; Feb., \$14.50@14.60; March, \$14.60@14.65, closed \$14.65.

Timothy—No. 2, \$3.40@3.45; No. 3, \$3.30@3.35; rejected, \$3.10@3.25; N. E. G., 45c@3. Prime, \$3.72 1-2@3.80; Dec., \$3.72 1-2@3.80, closed \$3.80; Mar., \$3.95@4, closed \$4.



CATTLE

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buttalo
Steers, good to prime	10 3/4-12 0	12 0-13 50	13 00-13 50
Steers, com. to fair	9 50-10 75	10 15-11 50	11 50-12 00
Heifers, good to prime	9 00-9 75	9 15-10 00	8 00-9 00
Cows, average	7 75-9 00	8 00-10 50	6 75-8 50
Canners, -Cutters	5 75-6 7	5 50-6 00	5 25-6 10
Bulls, average	6 50-7 60	7 50-8 25	8 00-9 00
Veal, fair to good	13 00-15 00	13 00-15 00	14 50-1 5

Most of the vicissitudes that overtook the live stock market during the month of December, 1917, may be safely charged to crippled transportation facilities. During part of the month competition was virtually eliminated and during all of the month it was more or less curtailed because Eastern shippers were unable to get cars needed to move their purchases. This not only greatly restricted the output of fat cattle, hogs and lambs on foot to Eastern killers, but also kept many prospective stock and feeding cattle buyers off the market, and to an extent interfered with the proper distribution of dressed meats to the eastern consuming centers. Toward the latter part of the month the situation as regards railroad traffic condi-

tions improved somewhat and aided by receipts that were materially curtailed for the time being by holiday influences the market registered strong advances on both cattle and hogs. The sheep trade failed to respond very materially, however, because of bad dressed mutton markets, while subsequent to the Christmas holiday hog values receded fully 60c per cwt. from the Christmas week high spot.

The December receipts at Chicago totaled approximately 370,000 cattle and calves; 800,000 hogs and 340,000 sheep, compared with the actual arrival of 316,278 cattle and calves, 1,128,004 hogs and 346,993 sheep in December last year. The year's receipts at Chicago will total approximately 3,835,000 cattle and calves, 7,175,000 hogs and 3,600,000 sheep, against 3,249,800 cattle and calves, 9,188,224 hogs and 4,292,024 sheep for the year 1916. Receipts of cattle, calves included, at ten leading markets for 1917 will total (in round numbers, 15,500,000 head which is by all odds the heaviest run in a numerical sense in trade history and around 3,200,000 more than for 1916.

The December run of beef cattle consisted very largely of warmed up and short fed stock, the bulk of which sold within a range of from \$10 to \$12.50, the general average for the month figuring around \$11.25. Fortunately for the selling side, very few prime long fed bullocks were left in feeders' hands after the first ten days of the month, during which period demand for such beef for Christmas trade was satisfied. Buyers got their fill of such cattle, however, from the International Exposition entries, the sale of which although at new record prices, was more or less disappointing in the main to feeders in view of the fact that the cost of production of such fancy beef cattle was extremely high. A few of the chief prize winners from the show pens made excellent prices, the grand champion car load of fat steers selling at \$42.50 per cwt., and the single grand champion steer at \$2.10 per pound, but these figures were of course, no criterion of open market values. Bulk of the carlot show cattle sold at \$16.75 to \$18.00. The month's top, however, on regulation market cattle was \$16.50 and subsequent to mid-month the limit was \$14.50, while few steers showed class enough to pass \$12.50. Demand centered largely on the cheap and middle priced classes, yet the market was generously supplied with such stock laid in by feeders in the late summer and fall at high prices to salvage soft corn and in numerous cases the market failed to remunerate feeders for their labors and expense of feeding, as weight gains on soft corn were below normal. At the end of the year the trade was looking forward to a continued free movement of short fed cattle for another sixty days and market conditions were not such as to appear to justify those who have cattle on hand that they expect to market within this interval of carrying them along. However, if the signs read aright, the man who will have a goodly number of well-conditioned beef cattle to sell on the late spring and summer markets will have cause for jubilation.

Feeder cattle trade was of much smaller volume during the past month than that of November. The car shortage being a handicap in the distribution of supplies and the action of the fat cattle trade such as to restrict investment demand. Killers' needs for cheap beef, however, was a sustaining influence on the price list and the trade is of the opinion that better country action will be had following the holiday period. It is generally conceded that stock and feeding cattle will be scarce and high next spring, and that those equipped to take on supplies now and rough the stock through the winter economically are likely to nurse regret if they fail to do so. Most of the stock and feeding steers during the past month sold between \$7.75 and \$9.75, although some fleshy selected feeders suitable for a quick turn went out early in the month costing as high as \$11.00.

Butcher cattle trade has been notoriously erratic, but the close of the range cattle season put buyers in a position to use a greater quantity of "cheap" native stuff and at the month end the market was showing ability to absorb generous supplies at prices relatively higher than prevailed for good beef steers. Most of the fat cows and heifers sold during the month

under review at \$6.75 to \$8.75, although ripe heavy kosher cows sold in instances as high as \$11.255 with individuals still higher. Canner and cutter trade was mostly on a \$5.75 to \$6.50 basis, though at the month's low spot \$5.75 bought the best canner cows.

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HOGS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Bufalo
Heavy 240-290	16 00 16 25	16 40 16 75	17 10 17 15
Medium 200-240	15 75 16 00	16 10 16 50	17 10 17 15
Mixed 150-200	15 50 16 25	16 10 16 50	16 80 17 00
Packers 100-150	15 40 15 80	15 25 16 00	16 50 16 75
Light 100-150	15 00 15 50	12 50 15 50	16 25 16 50

An expected swelling of the supply of hogs, but a remarkably well sustained market during the first half of the month followed by some wide price swings later, featured the December hog trade. From a \$17.35 top at the month's opening the market advanced until \$17.75 was paid, early in the second week. About that time the partial elimination of shipper demand and liberal receipts caused the trade to show sharp reversal in form and at midmonth for the first time since the government's tentative minimum price of \$15.50 was established, average packer droves at Chicago were shoved dangerously close to that level, while the top on the low day was \$16.30, a break of \$1.45 from the month's high spot. Curtailment of supply following sent prices back rapidly and on light runs around the Christmas holidays the top was \$17.30 from which there was a reaction and at the month's closing only choice butchers could make \$17.00. The month's general average price of hogs at Chicago will figure about \$16.85. The trade is looking forward to an enlarged run of hogs during January and the market is not expected to hold current price levels. Trade advice is generally to let hogs come as ready.



SHEEP

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Top Lambs	17.00-17.35	14.50-17.50	18.40-18.50
Yearlings	16.25-16.50	14.00-16.00	15.00-15.75
Wethers	10.00-11.00	9.50-13.25	12.50-13.00
Ewes	9.80-10.80	8.70-12.00	12.00-12.50

Live mutton trade during the final month of 1917 was disappointing. Feeders who had laid in lambs at a cost of \$17.00 to \$18.50 were not able to hold their money together. Consumptive demand was materially restricted by meatless days, although just why sheep and lambs should be included in the government's programme for meat conservation is not clear to the producer and market man. In view of the fact that lamb and mutton are not being exported and do not enter into the rations for the military. Supply was moderate, yet but for a strong wool market it is doubtful if prices paid could have been secured. The run carried a generous proportion of strong and heavy weight lambs and discrimination against them was severe. The top for the month on killing account was \$17.10 but on the low spot a lot of heavy and medium weight lambs of good choice class had to sell at \$15.50 to \$16.25. At the month end however, few were selling below \$16 and the best handy weights were making \$17.10. This figure compares with a \$16.35 top at the low time and \$16.90 at the month's opening. Investment in feeders was discouraged by the action of the fat lamb market and by the car shortage and that trade was of small volume. Early in the month some feeding lambs went out at \$17.50, but toward the month end \$16.00 was considered the limit. Sheep and yearlings were scarce and hold a remarkably steady basis. Most of the fat ewes sold during the month at \$11.25 to \$11.75, the best at \$12.00 while \$13.00 was reached by matured wethers and \$14.50 by light weight yearlings. A better acting market is looked for in the near future, although the trade is not advising the holding back of lambs that are fat and ready to come, especially if they carry any weight.

MILLION LESS SHEEP IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Between the years 1916 and 1917, the number of sheep in the British Isles decreased slightly more than a million head. More than half of this decline, according to reports from the U. S. Food Administration, occurred in the class under one year old, showing diminished breeding operations.

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MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 1918

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

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Minimum Prices and Increased Production

"IT IS the patriotic duty of every farmer in this country to increase production of crops next year to the maximum." This is the substance, if not the exact wording of statements that are being made by those who have been entrusted with the responsibility of meeting the food demands of our own and allied countries. On similar grounds the agricultural press has been admonished to preach the gospel of increased production.

Before rushing headlong into an increased production campaign, let us pause to consider its dangers. Were every acre of tillable soil in the United States made to yield its maximum possibilities during 1918, there would be an overproduction of foodstuffs and a consequent demoralization of markets never before equalled. It could not be otherwise.

Even in such abnormal times as these there is a very definite limit to the amount of foodstuffs that should be grown. It is possible to overproduce; it is very probable that we will overproduce some commodities if we continue on our reckless production revival.

In solving the problem of feeding the world, we must look not alone to the interests of the non-producer, but to the producer as well. If 1917 uncertainties as to supply and demand, marketing and distributing, prices and profits are to surround the farming business in 1918, the present increased production campaign,—if followed to its logical conclusion,—conducted as it is, recklessly, haphazardly and without plan or a due regard for the consequences—will inevitably lead us straight into an era of overproduction and low prices that will spell ruin for many farmers.

Even in war times, no manufacturer of a necessary article is unwise enough to manufacture that article in larger quantities than the market can assimilate at a profit to him. Nor does the government require or urge that he do this, even tho the probabilities that he might manufacture more than sufficient to meet the anticipated demand, seem very remote. The government gives the manufacturer a contract which guarantees him a profit, and permits him to go ahead on his production campaign intelligently and without any uncertainty as to the outcome.

Shall it be said that the government should give to the farmers of the nation any less consideration than this, merely because the farmers have always shown their willingness to respond to a national emergency without the certainty of a profit for their labor? As long as the government has the power within its hands to provide against an overproduction, to facilitate the marketing of crops, to make provisions against financial loss to the farmer, it is manifestly unfair to throw the entire burden of responsibility upon the farmers.

Congress is now in session; it has the power if it so desires, to place a minimum price upon next year's crops. Such action would immediately restore the confidence of the farmer, give him a credit basis for the borrowing of money to put in his crops, and be a stimulus for increased production. MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING believes that this should be done before another planting, and will bend its every effort to secure such legislation. Next week we will present a plan for the successful putting into effect of minimum prices.

The Dollar a Year Men.

SOME OF UNCLE Sam's costliest helpers are the dollar-a-year-men. Rich men they are, —gone to Washington, the most of them, to saddle their hobbies onto the government. Patriotic? Yes. Practical? For the most part, no. Some of them are earning their salaries; others are doing more harm than good to the cause. Frequently, a ten-thousand-dollar-a-year executive is dirt-cheap compared to a dollar-a-year man.

It has been said and it is true that the success of the United States arms in this war demands in large measure upon the united and enthusiastic co-operation of the people. A lack of sympathy with their viewpoint chills their ardor; a disregard of their interests turns them from active supporters to indifferent if not active antagonists. If the present friendly morale of the American people is to be maintained and strengthened their interests must be carefully safeguarded and no obnoxious control should be placed over the conduct of their business or persons to secure a desired end which could just as well if perhaps not a little better be secured by a direct appeal to their patriotism.

The majority of the dollar-a-year-men who are directing the various branches of the Food Administration at Washington are out of touch with the common folks. They all have their theories of how this and that should be done, but they have been almost wholly oblivious, in many instances, of the people's wishes and welfare, in putting these into effect. The dollar-a-year-men, it should be remembered, have not been chosen for their special fitness, but because their services were offered free.

It would seem that a nation which spends twenty or thirty billion dollars on its first year's war preparations could afford to hire the BEST brains of the nation, regardless of the cost, to direct the war work. It is false economy to leave the administration of important affairs in the hands of bungling theorists merely because their services cost nothing.

Uncle Sam should give his dollar-a-year-men who have proven their incapacity for their jobs, an honorable discharge to take effect at once. He should then hire the best men he can get, regardless of their financial conditions. He should pick representative men,—those who have lived close to the people, who know their problems and respect their opinions. He should pay these men the full worth of their services. He should throw the entire responsibilities of their jobs upon their shoulders. If they make good, he should retain them; if they failed, he should "fire" them and make way for better men.

Not until Uncle Sam puts his war business on a business basis, and surrounds himself with men who measure up to the full responsibilities of their jobs, will the war preparations go forward smoothly, rapidly, and efficiently.

The Next Liberty Loan

THE THIRD Liberty Loan campaign will be launched early in February. War costs are rising; the demands of our Allies for additional loans become more insistent. Money, money, money is the need and the cry of the hour.

Money must be had; money will be had. If it cannot be borrowed from the people of the United States, it will be raised by direct taxation. The



The New Train Dispatcher

war will be financed, either by the sale of bonds or the levying of taxes, and every citizen will contribute his share.

In spite of the fact that the people of this nation have already loaned seven billion dollars to the Government, the savings deposit vaults of the country have scarcely felt the drain. There is plenty of money yet lying idle in the banks, bureau drawers and family mattresses that might just as well be used by the government as long as the government is willing to give a high-interest bearing bond against the resources of the country as security.

The farmers of Michigan are not as well fixed in a financial way as some of the city folks believe. Moreover, most of the farmers this year are going to need pretty nearly every cent they can get their hands on to buy fertilizer, seed and machinery for next year's crops. If their means are too limited to permit them to buy both Liberty bonds and farm machinery, they will render a far greater service to their government by investing their cash in machinery and letting the other fellow buy the bonds.

It is going to cost the farmers of the United States more to grow crops next year than ever before. Machinery is high, fertilizer is high, labor is high. Lack of hand labor necessitates greater use of mechanical labor, and if production is to be increased, it will be only at a very greatly increased cost per acre.

We do not believe that the farmers of the nation are going to buy very liberally of the next issue of Liberty bonds. It is not that they are unpatriotic or unsympathetic with the government's war aims,—not at all. If they do not buy as many Liberty bonds per capita or in proportion to their estimated wealth as their city cousins, it will be solely because they need their money and credit to grow foodstuffs. All other things being equal, however, the farmer will invest as loyally and as largely in the third issue of Liberty bonds as anyone else.

Time and a-half for Over-Time.

THE FEDERAL milk commission which has been in session at Chicago for the past several weeks listening to the arguments of producers for higher milk prices, has conceded the justice of allowing the farmer to figure time and a half for over-time, and will recommend that such be made a part of his legitimate costs.

Think of it,—time-and-a-half for over-time,—for the farmer! Lord bless us, what's this world coming to, anyway? Since time immemorial the farmer has labored from twelve to fifteen hours a day, without even knowing where he was going to get enough to feed and clothe his wife and children, let alone to pay him common day wages for his labor. Altho in more recent years he has begun to figure how to make a profit on his labor and investment, he never dreamed of a time when he would be able to dispense with the manual help of his wife and children or draw his own salary for his own work at the end of the week. Yet for many, this time has also come.

And now, time-and-a-half for over-time! How do you figure it? Simple enough. According to regular eight-hour-a-day time, you're not supposed to begin work until eight o'clock. But for some reason or other, nature decrees that you must be astir long before that hour. If you attempt to keep union hours, what happens? There's a terrible hullabaloo from the barnyard. The calves bawl, the horses neigh; the cows moo, the sheep bleat, and the hogs and chickens put up an awful howl because breakfast is late, and so you are obliged to infringe upon the union rules and get up and feed the animals. But you charge it to over-time. And despite union rules, you have to put in a couple of hours over-time at night. No doubt somebody will complain that you loaf on the job during the day time for the sake of that extra over-time pay, but you know that it can't be helped, and so when Saturday night comes you draw a check for your overtime, with a clear conscience. Now you can consider yourself a full-fledged union man, drawing union pay and time-and-a-half for over-time. The only difference is that the union man cashes his check, and you don't.

In the business of growing foodstuffs that the world may be fed the farmer takes all the chances. Fortunately and providentially the cost of production and the supply and demand have varied but little, so that the farmer has been able to survive with few losses,—and small profits. Now that we are facing abnormal conditions and a most uncertain economic future, it is no more than fair and right that the world should share with the farmer the chances of unprofitable prices due to a possible overproduction,—and guarantee him a minimum price.

EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

Unqualified Exemption to Farmers

I have read the M. B. F. regularly and find it is the best farm paper I have ever heard of or read.

Have been very much interested in the matter of organizing the farmers and also about drafting the farmers for military service. It surely seems absurd to make such a "fuss" and tell the farmers to put out so many crops and then take the help away when they are needed the most. When Secretary of War Baker wants to solve the labor problem on the farm by sending the boys from the army back to the farm during planting, growing and harvesting season he is far short of using brains. Doesn't he know that if beef and pork are to be had, someone has to stay on the farms during the winter to care for them and feed them. The only way the army can be fed and the rest of the world also, is to give unqualified exemption to all registrants who are farmers, whether they are owners of land or not. Many farmers' sons who are needed badly have been taken and those farmers are not going to work harder because their sons have been taken. In fact, nearly all farmers who have boys of draft age are not able to do a day's work every day in the week, much less than taking a man's place on the farm. Some say that one man on a farm is sufficient, why not have one elderly man do all the clerking and managing in a large department store? How many farmers would be bothered with other help and especially city help? All the city help want short hours, good meals and lodging, easy work, big wages and a rig or the car nearly every night a week. A profit to the farmers, is it not?

A great many farms are going to lay idle and grow up to weeds, also the stock will be sold off. Most of the farmers will do only sufficient work to make a living and nothing more, many would not be able to do more.

Then also having a town fellow who never was on a farm as county agent. He doesn't even know what a good crop of hay, wheat or oats is, much less be able to advise the farmers what to do. At least the one our county had was of no benefit and a farmer isn't willing to take advice from one who has had no experience.

Some registrants near here are not claiming exemption—not because they don't deserve it—but because they are afraid that the local board will be harder on them if they do. Is that right?

The papers are full of talk telling everyone to save. Just leave the average farmer out, because anyone who lives on a farm has to save or go to the county house. The farmers are not getting rich in a year or two. At the end of 25 or 30 years of hard work they may have enough to keep them the rest of their lives, if they have been very saving.—A Reader of M. B. F. from Osceola county.

Wheat Prices vs. Flour Prices

I appreciate your paper very much and think every farmer should be a subscriber. Now, as to the wheat situation, our Grand Rapids mills are paying \$2.04 for white and \$2.09 for red. They say the balance of 11c and 16c is taken up by freight. When the farmer delivers his wheat at the mills why should he pay the freight? It seems to me that the freight should go the other way and be called the price of wheat when the consumer goes to the mill to get his flour. The same song is sung to him and they are told the wheat costs them \$2.15 and \$2.20 f.o.b. somewhere, and the same must be charged up to them for flour. It seems the miller should get along all right and be patriotic if he is allowed his percentage and freight charges both ways.

Is there a new law that will prevent a farmer from feeding

his wheat to live stock? I am feeding mine and while I wish to be a law abiding citizen, I don't want to see the miller get one kernel of my wheat unless I get what I should have for it. I think it is just as fair for the farmer to feed his grain as it is to be patriotic and take same to the mill, pay the freight to somewhere, then buy the bran and pay the freight on that, too. This thing of wheatless days is all right. I don't care if there are 7 wheatless days a week as far as I am concerned. We getting \$2.04 for white wheat and the miller getting \$3.60 per barrel for flour and \$44 per ton for his bran doesn't look good to me. We can raise wheat at \$2.04 this year if we count our time about 50c per day and I believe if it would help out the poor farmers would not complain, but to see the price our wheat is worth after it goes through the mill and see the miller get what belongs to someone else, doesn't look good to a man up a tree.—J. B., Grand Rapids, Mich.

We need the Boys on the Farm

In regard to the farm labor problem, I think we need all boys to work on the farm because it is so difficult to get farm help.

Town 140 acres of good land in Saginaw county, township of Chesaning and have two boys, ages 14 and 21. The youngest attends school while the other boy and myself work the farm and I don't see how I could spare him, for he runs all the machinery.

Last year we raised 40 acres of hay, 28 acres of wheat, 25 acres of oats, 23 acres of beans and 15 acres of corn. We tried to produce all the crops we could in order to help win the war, for "the boys" have got to be fed and we want to help all we can.

I hope the government will exempt the farm-

er boys for I can't help but see that my neighbors will need their boys very much in the spring.—G. H., Chesaning, Mich.

They Pay Us What They Please

Inclosed find one dollar for renewal of subscription for your most valuable paper. You are the pulley on the main shaft to drive business when it is necessary. The farmers should be thankful for men to express the sentiments of all Michigan farmers at the right time and place.

Michigan farmers seem to be the target for middlemen to fire at. Milk, potatoes and beans seem to be the main things. The biggest graft is on potatoes and beans, because of the potato grading and bean picking. Farmers in going to market, feel and know they will get beat. On beans, 17c per pound is taken off for every pound they pick, and the elevator man keeps the "pick." So you see they pay us what they please and make things come their way at the same time.

Potato grading is a great loss to farmers in this county this season as a large proportion are No. 2. That means that there will be less acres planted next spring unless something is done to encourage and protect the farmers so that they may derive some profit from their work.—A. D. B., Remus, Mich.

The Buyers Don't Like the Grading Rules

In this section we had an early frost in September which cut the size of tubers and also the yield. I know of several farmers whose potatoes, if sold under the present grading system, 1-4 to 1-2 would go in the No. 2 grade. I sold one load of 32 bushels and sorted them the same as always or better if anything and out of a load that size I had four crates of No. 2 all of a size and as nice a bunch as could be wanted. It is the grading that hurts here and farmers are not inclined to sell. But hardly any would kick on a 1½ in. screen. But the buyers don't like it. One told me that he did not believe he could handle over 550 or 600 bushels a day, where he has taken in nearly double that amount in the old way.

Thanking you for what you are doing for the farmer. Yours truly, C. C., Coral, Mich.

"I am not Getting Enough of the Consumer's Dollar."

Marketing is one of the greatest problems that the farmers have to think of. Production is an easy question. A man goes to work in the spring with hopes of a good crop and a good price, and spends all of his time, money and energy. The government asks the farmer to put in all the crops he can, but they do not make a clear market for the farmer in the fall. I do not believe it is possible to produce enough on a farm to put it on a permanent profitable basis under the present marketing conditions. If every farmer should increase his production to the maximum, the present conditions of the market will answer that question. I don't believe I am getting enough of the consumer's dollar to pay for the chances I take and the profit on my labor. The consumer pays enough all right but it never reaches the farmer.—E. C. C., Hart, Mich.

Farmer Does the Work; Middleman Gets the Money.

Will say in regard to the present situation that it is the same with me as it is with others. I went in debt \$2755 for a team, \$2 for a harrow to put in spuds for the U. S. Bought my seed from the man I rent of and paid him \$3 a bushel. He said they were "Beauty of Hebron," but they turned out all kinds and very small at that, so at the present price of \$1 per hundred I do not get my seed back. That is the way the farmers have made money this year. Some are trying to lumber and haul but it has been up-hill work as there has not been enough snow. The poor farmer is the man to stand the brunt and the middleman gets the money.—F. H., Gaylord.

(Additional editorials by our readers on following page.)

APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RAILROADS



WILLIAM G. MCADOO
Director General of Railroads
PHOTO © BY PACH BROS., N. Y.

William Gibbs McAdoo, who in becoming Director General of Railroads assumes the greatest responsibility in the history of transportation management, has a reputation for achieving vast and difficult tasks. Having only small experience as a politician, he took a large part in the management of the campaign that elected Woodrow Wilson President, and with limited experience in finance he became Secretary of the Treasury, and, in addition, floated the two greatest loans ever subscribed in this country.

EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

The Truth Shall Make You Free

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is read with interest. I am delighted to note the facts given on marketing and handling of produce. When Henry Ford returned from his "Peace Trip" I endeavored to reach him by letter, urging him to establish a great independent newspaper by a permanent endorsement, whose sole purpose would be to tell the truth, to the people of America and the world: as the greatest deed of helpfulness to humanity that could be accomplished.

The truth in politics, the truth in finance, in business operations, in everything concerning humanity's interest, but of course, the under secretary to the assistant secretary replied that Mr. Ford was too busy with greater matters to give any consideration to such a proposition.

You will understand something of my pleasure that there is at least one paper in Michigan which endeavors to ascertain and tell the truth about the greed of organized capital in its endeavor to speculate upon the necessities of life. May the scope and power of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING constantly increase till the welcome day of universal enlightenment arrives.

Till we are able to read each month the receipts and holdings of the great sugar companies, the details of the costs of manufacture and transportation and the sale of the products with the actual net profits made by the stockholders, these facts we, the people, are as much entitled to concerning all the great corporations, as they are entitled to government reports on farmers' stock and grain.

The bringing of these facts to light soon enough for intelligent remedial measures before America's millions become exasperated with high prices of sugar, coal, flour, meats, etc., means the prevention of the greatest blaze of Anarchy vs. Capitalism that ever staggered the world.—H. L. Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

Farmers Should Have \$9 for Beans

I saw in my last issue that you have been at Washington just recently to look after the farmers' interests concerning potatoes, beans, etc. Altho I raise some potatoes, I am more interested in the price of beans. Let me give you my experience with beans in the past three years, since I have worked my father's farm and my own.

In 1915 I drilled 18½ acres of beans and one piece failing to come up right I was compelled to drill them twice and as I believe (from experience in fighting weeds and raising beans which go hand in hand) in heavy seeding it required about twenty bushels of beans at \$2.60 per bushel or \$52.00 for the seed, and now for the result:

The beans got an enormous growth of vines and plenty of pods to yield, as the neighbors said, 30 bushels per acre and along came anthracnose or blight and turned the pods about all black and they brought \$53.00 for the entire crop.

In 1916 I raised on nearly 5 acres, 28 bushels, bringing \$6.00 straight, \$168.

In 1917 I raised 12 acres of beans and by working day and night and drawing some of them in the rain and putting them in every little cubby hole, finally have them secured in good condition. As I have not threshed, could speak no further. The neighbors' beans are yielding with honest acreage from 4 to 9 bushels per acre. So will conclude by saying that farmers should receive at least \$9.00 for No. 1 beans in order to live at all.—W. B. Fowlerville, Mich., R2.

Can't Help Being a Business Farmer With Help of M. B. F.

I think the most interest to me would be marketing. I have farmed about forty years in Saginaw county and I have never seen the time yet when I raised a good crop of any kind. Most every farmer would raise a good crop and whatever it was the price would drop and the middleman would get the most of the profit and the consumer get a very little. I often thought it was a fright when the middleman made as much in one day as the farmer made in one year. I would draw my wheat in a day or two and the elevator man would handle my wheat and beans in about four hours, what I raised in one year. I have known wheat, beans and oats to come up one-third

after they got out of farmers' hands. Then I could see what the middleman made in four hours, as much as I made in one year and I don't know what the market would be if we could raise as much as they want us to, we would get Cleveland times right in war times. The M. B. F. protects the farmer more than anything I ever ran across. I don't know whether I am a business farmer or not, but I know I am a busy farmer and if I keep on reading the M. B. F., which I surely will, I can't help being a farmer. I raised 28 acres of wheat last year, threshed 326 bushels; 23 acres of beans, threshed 207 bushels.—G. H., Chesaning.

Potato Grading Legalized Robbery

I am a subscriber and interested reader of your valuable paper and am a potato grower, having raised 2,000 bushels this year and am very much in favor of your stand on the present system of grading. Nearly every field in this part of Oceana Co. was more or less damaged by the early frosts, and many fields did not yield over 20 to 60 bushels to the acre and I do not think the average would be any over 100 bushels, much of which is second grade according to the new grading rules.

The price in Hart at the present time is \$1.25 per cwt. for No. 1 and 75c for No. 2 and much of the stock around here will grade as low as 50 per cent No. 2, which means that 50 per cent of the farmers must sell at an actual cash loss to say nothing about their own time.

To me it appears as legalized robbery of the farmers who responded to the President's call for an increased average of farm crops.

I anticipate a much smaller acreage next season unless we get a fairer deal than at present.

Assuring you of my utmost support in your fight for a square deal and wishing you a most Happy and Prosperous New Year.—E. L. H., Walkerville.



Stumping the Retail Grocer

"I Think Your Paper Will Help a Lot"

I take three other farm papers but yours beats them all. You paper is what the farmers have been needing for the last 25 years. I am on a farm of 200 acres and produce a lot of stuff but no corn this year. There is not one good field of corn in 20 in Lenawee county. Not much wheat, but a good oat crop. I think your paper will help me a lot. It makes me sick to hear the county agents telling the farmers what to do. They need not worry, the farmers are not all fools, if they will pay the price, they will get the goods.—F. S., Clayton, Mich., R 3.

The Farmer Stands the Brunt

Will say in regard to the situation of many who are the same as myself, went in debt \$275 for a team, \$20 for a harrow so as to put in spuds for the U. S. Bought my seed from the man I rent from and paid him \$3 per bushel. He said they were Beauty of Hebron, but they turned out all kinds, and very small at that, so at the present price of \$1 per cwt., I do not get pay for my seed. Now how about the \$295 debt? Of course the moneyed men have to have their money, or the potatoes, or beans, and that is the way the farmer makes money. The snow is now about 14 inches above all of the roads. Some are trying to lumber and haul but it is up hill work and the poor farmer is the man to stand the brunt and the middleman gets the money.—F. H., Gaylord.

Glad You Are Trying to Get Us Square Deal

I received two sample copies of your paper. It is the best farm paper I have seen yet. I

have been a subscriber to the Michigan Farmer for years and look through its pages every week to see if there is anything of interest for the average farmer, but find very little—mostly stories. I am in the dairy business. Glad to know that you are trying to get us a square deal, both milk and beans. We have sold the beans. The first load we sold to a dealer who bought by the hundred. He beat us out of \$1.00 on each bag. The second load we sold by the bushel to another man and got better treatment. We need a farmers' elevator at Owosso. Sincerely yours—U. G. S., Owosso, Mich.

Plenty of Production Advice, But Little Marketing Advice

My idea about the production and marketing.

I dare say there are today thousands of people that don't know what a potato or bean looks like. We read every day about somebody telling the farmer what to raise and how to plant and grow his crops. But do you read anything from anybody telling the farmers how to sell his produce and get all there is in it.

I can't understand why we as farmers and tillers of the soil don't wake up and get together and have a little something to say what we shall have for our produce, not let the fellow sit in his easy chair smoking good cigars "and we paying for them" set the price on our farm produce. The farmer knows best about what he ought to have for his produce. He should have a reasonable profit over and above the cost of producing his produce.

I hope the M. B. F. will get the farmers woke up so they will try and do something for ourselves.

For the past thirty years the farmer has been between H—ll and fire trying to make a living and pay expenses.—Subscriber.

Farmer and Consumer Should Get Closer Together

Farmers, did you ever stop and think a minute if we could get together, pull together, and stick together, we would have something to say.

I took a sample of beans to the elevator at Pontiac the other day. They said they would pick out about six pounds to the hundred and would pay me \$6.30 per bu. Why I told them there was nothing doing; I would grind them up and feed them to the hogs before I would take that price.

Now the whole thing is, can't we get this food stuff to the consumer? Yes, I say, if we pull together. Keep on with your good work, and we as tillers of the soil will stand by you. I for one will stand by you.

I think we can tell our consumer if they will meet us half way we will go fifty-fifty with them and then cut out some of the middleman's profits.

I grew apples and spuds for 14 years in the Yakima, state of Washington. I could tell you many interesting facts during that time with the commission man and brokers. I can talk better than write, some day it might be convenient for me to meet with some of you old farmers. I'll bet we would have some time. I am farming 100 acres close to the Asylum —W. J. S., Pontiac.

Farmers All Disgusted With Potato Screen

In answer to your inquiry in M. B. F. in regard to the problem of production and marketing of produce, which is of the most importance, would say if production was doubly increased in the United States, the farmer would get no more money for his bushels than one half the amount produced now, and greatly increase the amount of his labor and expenses and decrease the fertility of the soil greatly. I say no, a thousand times no. Seed down. Build up your land and raise hay and stock. That was a good illustration of the consumer in porch with flat iron in hand talking with the producer. But why did she not throw it at the head of that middleman? Farmers all disgusted with the potato screen. M. B. F. is all right.—A. H. E., Sand Lake.

A Man With Few Words

Enclosed find one dollar for paper. I am a little late, but I had to earn this dollar with saw and axe, and potatoes. Say I aim feeding my stock potatoes in all different ways. I am going to plant a very large part of my farm to potatoes—about half an acre, 10 acres was a lesson at 65 cents at this writing.—F. M., Levering.

How New Conditions Affect the Dairy Industry

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the high prices of everything connected with the production of milk and its products have resulted in serious losses that only time and good management can make good, is going to be the making of a better business in the years to come. Economic changes are fast developing in which the dairy farmers of the United States must play a much more important part in furnishing sustenance to the civilized people of the world. Dairy conditions, in common with other branches of the great live stock industry, were vastly aggravated by the war situation, and complicated by the key factors—the high prices and shortage of grain feeds and labor. The selling of dairy cows followed to a degree that caused economists' alarm. The dairy farmer, thinking only of the one year's profits, sold cows for beef at high prices. He did not reason into the future; his vision was circumscribed. The economist takes world surveys, having in view the vital necessities of all populations. The dairy farmer who has sold himself short of good cows has been shortsighted. He may have obtained good prices, but the final accounting will show that good cows kept on the farm where the bulk of the food supply is grown will prove more profitable.

Wartime conditions have resulted in creating new demands and markets for such products as canned milk and cheese that contain a maximum of nutritive elements in a form that can be transported long distances at a comparatively low cost. Strict economy made necessary by the soaring prices of milk and its products is also emphasizing the fact that the city consumer can purchase his milk in cans cheaper than he can pay excessive city delivery charges to the men who stand between him and the farmer. It will prove a blessing to both consumers and farmers if the whole rotten gang who control prices of bottled milk in some of our big cities can be put out of the running. The dairy situation in close proximity to all of our big cities is in a chaotic condition. It was developed on a basis of cheap grain and by-product feeding materials and it has not paid a legitimate profit in the past twenty years. It has not only failed to pay decent profits, but it has resulted in encouraging poor farming methods and depleting our farms of the best cows and sending them to premature slaughter, thus preventing the development of more profitable and satisfying systems of farming and handling dairy cattle. As it is the change is going to hurt a few dairy farmers, but it is going to result in encouraging many more to adopt other types of farming. It is encouraging builders of condensaries to go ahead at full speed in building new plants and making their old ones more efficient. In fact war has resulted in putting an economic pressure on the whole milk industry in proximity to a big city that threatens to do away with bottled milk and substitute the grocery store for the milk wagon.

As a natural result of war-time economy in placing cheese at the head of economic dairy foods, hundreds of creameries, especially in New York, Wisconsin and other sections, have been transformed into cheese factories. These plants, however, could be changed back if necessary, at small cost. Butter, on account of the competition of condensed milk and cheese and the increasing encroachments of substitutes that take advantage of every advance it makes, has had to assume a comparatively humble position. There is every reason to believe that cheese and butter will be shipped to the warring countries in large amounts after peace has been declared, although, of course, cheese will sell more readily than butter, because it is regarded as an article of everyday diet among the English, French and German people.

For years Denmark, Holland and Belgium have largely furnished dairy products for the European markets, but the dairy industry of these countries has suffered as a result of the war, and many thousands of the remaining cows in the herds of these countries will be killed in a short time, now that America has put an embargo on the shipment of grain feeds to neutrals. So long as it was possible for them to buy American grain feeds for their cows and sell butter, milk, eggs, cheese, bacon and beef to blockaded Germany they could make enormous profits, regardless of what these feeds cost them. Now that all this is ended news comes from Holland that an order has been issued to slaughter half a million cattle for beef. In Denmark the same condition must prevail so that its herds must be reduced to a self-feed-

High Prices of Feed and Labor, Incident to the War have Compelled Dairymen to Organize and Stand for Higher and More Profitable Prices

By W. MILTON KELLEY

ing basis. Even then if conditions become more acute in Germany there is every reason to believe that a further slaughter of cattle will be ordered, to say nothing of the high prices which will tempt many farmers to sell their cattle from now until after peace comes. It is going to take a long time for these countries to put their dairy industry back on a normal footing, and this will give American cheese and butter makers an opportunity to get their products well known and markets established.

Among the dairy products which have been particularly boomed during the war has been condensed or evaporated milk. This product, put up in sealed cans, is used in increasing amounts by the armies in the field, as well as by the people in civil life. Millions of European people are depending entirely upon American condensed milk. Our canned milk has made an excellent reputation for itself in England, France and Italy, but of course the industry will be forced to develop new markets for their product when the war is over. Just now there is an interesting fight on in many regions between the condensaries and cheese factories for the milk produced by the farmers.

New York, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and sections of the Pacific Northwest are the centers of the condensed milk industry. The milk from thousands of farms is used, but in most cases its production is carefully supervised by dairy experts employed by the companies. The farmers are expected to keep their cows under sanitary conditions and deliver the milk as soon as possible so that it is perfectly fresh. Immediately after it is weighed in at the condensary it is tested, filtered and sterilized.

In making sweetened condensed milk 16 pounds of sugar is added to each 100 pounds of milk. Then the milk is run into tanks from which the air has been withdrawn, and is held at a temperature of 120 degrees. As the water is drawn off, the milk gradually thickens until only one-third of its original bulk is left. It then passes into cooling tanks and the whole temperature is lowered sufficiently for canning and sealing. This sweetened milk is not fully sterilized during the process, but the sugar which is added acts as a preservative. Condensed milk will not keep as well as that which is put into the cans unsweetened because the latter is heated to a temperature of 235 degrees which completely sterilizes it in the process. This unsweetened condensed milk is sold under the trade name of evaporated milk.

Condensed skim milk is a more recent product and finds a ready sale among bakers and confectioners. It is cheaper than condensed whole milk, and is really a valuable product, as it contains all the nutriment of whole milk, only the fat being removed. Many creameries use the skim milk in making condensed milk. In fact it is the only way that a creamery can successfully compete with the cheese factories for their supply of milk. For many years there has been more or less prejudice against skim milk in any form, because of the possibility of it being mixed with whole milk, but when sold under its true name its use should be encouraged in times like these when every pound of human food is needed to feed our people. Skim milk is not suited for infant feeding and one of the prime objections to its use has been the fact that many ignorant families might be induced to buy it for infants. It has great value when used for cooking and is beginning to find a ready market among hotels, bakeries, and confectionary manufacturers. There is no reason why it should not become a staple

article of diet for sale in all grocery stores of the country. It can be put on the market at comparatively low cost and it would be the saving of many tons of valuable human food.

Powdered milk, which can be put in cans or glass jars, is gaining in popularity. It is particularly useful in camps and for those who live some distance from transportation lines. It is made by removing all the water, the result being so much solid matter. Powdered skim milk is finding a more ready market than powdered whole milk. Bakers and confectioners who have a barrel of powdered milk on hand are independent of milk men and delayed trains. They can simply put some of the powder in the required amount of water and proceed as with skim milk. Most of the powdered milk plants sell their cream or make butter and use the skim milk for the manufacture of the powdered article. In these days of expensive transportation such products are sure to gain in popularity and find a ready sale in European countries. Malted milk is somewhat different than powdered milk, but it has reached tremendous popularity in hospitals, sanitariums, soft drink fountains and many homes. Many invalids who do not like whole milk are very fond of malted milk. Malted milk is produced by blending condensed milk with grains, particularly barley, which has gone through the malting process, which is a fermentation. Some of the best managed dairy farms in the country supply milk for the manufacturers of malted milk.

The ice cream industry and the soda fountain demand for whole milk, butter milk and cream is a lusty giant that has been growing at record speed. Then, too, the great wave of prohibition that is sweeping the country is certain to result in greatly increasing the demand for these palatable and stimulating soft drinks. The great bulk of commercial ice cream is made from milk, cream and whole milk condensed. Figuring the annual output of about 150,000,000 gallons of ice cream in terms of these commodities, the industry uses in one year 30,000,000 gallons of cream, 255,000,000 pounds of whole milk and 155,000,000 gallons of condensed milk. Figured on a basis of gallons of whole milk, the industry used a total of more than \$455,000,000 worth of dairy products allowing an average price of 20 cents per gallon for the whole milk. The ice cream industry divides honors with the cold storage industry in preventing the slump of prices that formerly took place during the summer months when there was a surplus of dairy products to dispose of. Few dairy farmers realize to what an extent the ice cream industry has exerted its influence upon the value of dairy products. It has equalized the value of dairy products during the season of the year when the absorption of the milk surplus would otherwise be at a standstill. In other words it has steadied the milk market clear round the circle, stabilizing values and putting them on a substantial economic basis. By affording a market for great quantities of milk and cream it has raised the market price of other products. The milk and cream used by the ice cream manufacturer must be absolutely sweet and of high grade, so the industry has created a higher standard for the entire dairy industry.

Another milk product that is beginning to use enormous quantities of milk is milk chocolate. This delicious and stimulating confection is becoming commercially important with all sorts and conditions of people. The sale of milk chocolate throughout the country is reaching almost fabulous figures and the business is constantly increasing.

While wartime conditions have worked hardship to thousands of dairy farmers, the increasing demand for canned milk, cheese, powdered milk and other products in soaring prices for all these commodities. The result of this tremendous demand and higher prices for milk is already speeding up dairy movements which have tended to check the sale of dairy cows. The higher prices for grain feeds is causing a lot of dairy farmers to do more thinking; it is convincing breeders of dairy cattle that economical production is of more importance than increased production at greater cost; and it is disciplining farmers in ways of crop growing, feeding and management that effect economies never dreamed feasible.

The dairy cow must be uncovered. There must be a way out. There will be a way out. In subsequent articles I shall present some conclusions of how the changing demands for milk products must result in the making of a better dairy business.

NEW YORK MILK PRODUCERS INDICTED

MILK PRODUCERS, be on your guard. These are trying times for the cause of organized farming. Those who have become fat and sleek from the profits on your products in other years view your progress in the marketing end with alarm, and are ever watchful to catch you napping. Less than three months ago, the officers of the Illinois Milk Producers' Ass'n were indicted for violation of the anti-trust laws, and now the old gang has banded the New York producers the same dose. It is claimed that officers of the Dairymen's League had arbitrarily fixed the price of milk and that producers who violated the agreements were penalized. The milk combine is making one last desperate stand against the advance of the organized producers, and stop at nothing to gain their ends. Therefore, be on your guard, milk producers of Michigan. "The boogey man will get you if you don't watch out."



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LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE

DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS



RAISING POULTRY FOR PROFIT ON THE FARM

At the present time poultry can be kept on the farm at a profit, but it is necessary to keep high-grade chickens, house them properly and feed systematically if profitable results are to be secured. Scrub chickens, draughty houses and careless feeding will absorb any profits from the keeping of poultry.

The average farmer prefers to keep poultry for both egg and meat production. Several breeds are ideal for this purpose; Rhode Island Reds, Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes are good layers, and at the same time are excellent fowls for the table. It is not necessary to go to heavy expense to get good chickens. A few pure-bred hens, mated with a thoroughbred rooster, will furnish enough eggs to start a good-sized flock.

The care of chickens during the autumn, winter and early spring is of particular importance. At this season disease is almost certain if the fowls are housed improperly, while it is impossible to get many eggs during cold weather if the hens are confined in cold quarters and receive a poor ration.

A serviceable hen house can be built without great expense. The first essential is to select a suitable site. A southern slope is the best, as it is warmer in winter. If there are small trees or brush in the vicinity of the chicken yard so much the better.

The size of the poultry house will be governed by the number of chickens on the farm, or the number expected to be raised or purchased. In all cases enough room should be provided to prevent crowding. It is a good plan to erect a scratching room where the fowls can exercise during cold weather. If the hens are to be confined the most of the winter season, at least five square feet of floor space should be allowed for each bird in the scratching pen or house. Where the hens are confined only part of the time, three or four square feet will generally be sufficient. If the farmer doesn't care to go to the expense of providing a separate scratching room, the house where the chickens roost can be utilized for the purpose. Put in a dropping board about thirty inches above the floor, place the perches eight or ten inches above the dropping board, and the need of a separate scratching shed is eliminated. Hens must get adequate exercise if they are expected to lay. For this reason about eight inches of straw should cover the floor of the scratching room. The hens will be obliged to seek their grain in the straw, and will exercise vigorously while scratching for the feed.

Roup, etc., can usually be prevented by ventilating the chicken house properly. There are no set rules for ventilating the building. As a general rule the curtain front method gives best results. During cold weather the openings are covered with muslin, which admits air and checks cold draughts. Cold draughts of air must never strike the fowls. Ventilators placed on top of the house will carry off the impure air as fast as it accumulates.

Both lumber and concrete are used for building the chicken house floor. A board floor is satisfactory; although a concrete floor will give longer service. One advantage of the concrete floor is that it prevents rats, skunks, etc., from entering the building.

Enough perches should be provided to allow the fowls adequate room at night. Six or eight inches of perch for each fowl is not too much. Best results are secured if the perches are not set closer than fourteen or sixteen inches. Overcrowding has a tendency

to cause colds and roup; this is why plenty of roosts are needed. The roosts can be made of 2 inch by 3 inch boards and the boards should be free of cracks, otherwise mites are likely to gain a foothold.

Enough nests should be provided so the hens will not be crowded when laying. It is a good plan to fix lids on the nests which can be closed at night to keep the interiors clean. A nest fourteen inches square by six or eight inches deep will give satisfactory service.—Clement White.

Veterinary Department

We had a Holstein calf about 12 months old, which we intended to butcher for beef. She always ate her feed heartily each day, and did not seem to strengthen up. After butchering, we have found something similar to warts on her small intestines by turning them inside out, they were brown and about 1-4 inch in diameter. By cutting them open I would find a hard substance of matter in each one of them. Can you please tell me what this was? I will watch for my reply in your next issue.—J. F.

The enlargements you referred to were small lymphatic glands and no indication of disease.

THIS COMMON "BIDDY" PROVES WORLD BEATER

With eggs rapidly nearing the dollar-a-dozen mark, there comes before the public a hen which is no slacker, and in spite of the cold weather which usually makes hens stop laying, this remarkable chicken is trying to break all records for egg laying and at the same time cause the egg market to slump.

"Goldie" during the month of December, laid 26 eggs in 30 days, only missing one day each week, and from last reports she is still laying eggs at this unheard-of rate.



In November this buff leghorn hen produced 21 eggs, November being a warmer month than December in her locality, this cold weather layer improves as the thermometer recedes. When other hens in the flock refuse to do their bit on cold days, Goldie keeps right on the job of laying 7-cent eggs.

This remarkable hen is the property of Mrs. Henry Grever of Cincinnati, who keeps a few chickens in her backyard to supply fresh eggs for the family. She would like to have a few more hens like Goldie.

I surely feel like expressing my approval of the M. B. F. I read the most of the leading farm papers, but can truthfully say that M. B. F. stands first in my estimation and the reasons are so many I haven't time now to explain all of them, so here is hoping your arm continues strong in throwing out the life-line in time of storm.—L. B.

ONE WAY TO CURE A BALKY HORSE

No habit which horses contract is more intensely provoking than balking though it cannot be classed as a dangerous vice. A horse that is a confirmed balker has not much selling value. Very few want him and those who think they do are likely after a hard experience with him to change their minds. There is something in the unbounded personal assurance of the horse that quietly and sneeringly refuses to do his work which is very exasperating to his owner. The vice however is not hard to treat or cure. There is no question that there is a great deal of truth in the saying that "there is always good stuff in a balker". Let us consider how the vice is first formed. It is as a rule contracted by horses of considerable nervous energy, dull lazy animals not being much subject to it. The horse perhaps from standing still too long or from mere excess of energy is impatient. He starts before his driver is ready, is sharply reprimanded and very likely jerked by the reins which serves only to increase his impatience and irritation. The same thing happens several times. By this time his brain has been worked up to a mixture of excitement and resentment and he is in poor condition to understand clearly what is required of him or to carry it out cheerfully if he does understand. Consequently he jerks himself backwards or sidewise occasionally leaping into the collar and flying back but not going ahead as desired. All this is more likely to occur if he is harnessed to a wagon that is heavily loaded but it may also occur when he is hitched to a light load. Let the same thing happen several times and a confirmed balker is the result.

Horses are of so many temperments that the same treatment for this vice is not best for all. It is certain however that palliative treatment should always be given a fair trial before coercive measures are used. A man should be quiet deliberate and gentle in his movements when with the horse, avoiding that nervousness and irritability in himself which if exhibited is certain to be communicated to the animal. When the horse is started it should be done with as little delay as possible after he is ready and always with a very easy rein. If in this way he can be induced to start and the procedure is repeated several times half the battle is won for his temper will improve and in time he will forget to balk. If he stops on the road try to foot him by saying "whoa" then get out of the vehicle and pick up his fore foot as if looking for some trouble there, hammer upon it from time to time with a stone holding his foot up until his other leg is somewhat wearied. Then get in the wagon or buggy and start him up.

The treatment I have above suggested is by no means always successful scarcely fifty per cent perhaps of the really bad cases of balking being cured in this way but since it is the best kind of treatment if it does the work it should be given a fair trial before coercive measures are resorted to. I have owned many balkers during my life never hesitating in fact to buy a horse on account of this vice and a very considerable number of them have been cured with no other than the simple palliative treatment that I have here described.—John Underwood.

County Crop Reports

GENESEE (Southwest)—Farmers are busy threshing beans, filling their ice-houses and working at their wood supply. The weather has been cold and we have not had much snow for the past several days. Livestock and hay are moving quite lively, but on other things the markets are slow and dull. Hogs are being marketed before they are finished, due to the high cost of feeds. No feed of any kind is being bought this year in any quantity. A few auction sales are being held and the prices received are good with the exception of horses, which are going cheap.—C. W. S. Fenton, Jan. 3.

IONIA (East)—Threshing and marketing beans is the order of the day. The weather is dry and cold, 10 below zero this morning—so that even the wet, frozen beans thresh nicely. Probably not more than 75 to 80% of those harvested will be worth marketing, as the weather during the fall was so cold and damp that it was impossible to get them dry. Many were put up so wet that they are not worth threshing, and farmers are leaving them unthreshed, in the stacks rather than pay the high price for labor and 25c per bu. for threshing. Very few cattle and hogs are being fed as the corn crop except for ensilage, was a failure. The larger sheep feeders have their pens well filled, but the smaller farmers sold their lambs during the fall or early winter rather than to run any chance on profits in feeding so high-priced feeds. Everyone seems to have plenty of coarse feeds though the prices on same are steadily advancing. Concentrates, viz. oil meal and cottonseed meal have been retailing around \$70 per ton, but since the government began regulating the price of mill stuffs the prices on dairy feeds have retreated some. Several of the larger farmers will tractor farm the coming season. They think they will be able to accomplish more per man-labor than formerly with horses alone. There are one hundred or more tractors in the county at present, but the number will undoubtedly be doubled during the coming season. The tractor has come to stay until kerosene buys an airplane and goes soaring the same as gasoline has the last two years.—S. W. K. Lyons, Jan. 3.

JACKSON (South)—Zero weather and storms. There is no sleighing as the snow is drifted, but it is affording good protection to wheat which has suffered from the open winter. Coal and wood difficult to get, and the farmers who were forehanded and laid in their winter's supply of coal last fall were fortunate. There seems to be a shortage in sugar, but most of the grocers can supply customers from 1 to 2 lbs. Some grain is moving, but no beans. Poultry was in good demand New Years; dressed chickens sold readily at the meat markets for 23c per lb. Help of all kinds for the farm is scarce.—G. S. Hanover, Jan. 3.

ANTRIM (Southwest)—The old year went out with cold and snow. The markets are quite dull, as the cold weather has shut down the potato market and beans are not being threshed very rapidly, and those who have threshed them find they are turning out very poorly and also of very poor quality. Stock is wintering very well thus far. Hay and feed very high. Hay in the Alden market is selling for \$24 per ton. Wheat bran is selling for \$2.65.—C. F. W. Alden, December 31.

HILLSDALE (Southwest)—The farmers are drawing hay and wood to the market. There is not much snow, not enough to make good sleighing.—L. B. Camden, Jan. 4.

SANILAC (Southeast)—Our snow was all gone the last of the week. Wheat and rye had a very poor covering. Farmers are busy getting wood; no coal to be had at any price. Bean threshing is going on; very poor yield in most places; some beans on tile-drained land yielded 22 bu. to the acre; others yielding from 2 to 4 bu. Grain moving very slow; farmers doing very little contracting for sugar beets and chicory. Labor very scarce. Hay moving very good. There is no seed corn in this section, and potatoes are very scarce.—H. B. McGregor, Jan. 4.

BAY (East)—Weather has been steady cold with not very much snow. This cold weather is hard on the coal bin. The bean market is not very strong, and not many are being marketed. In fact all markets have been rather quiet the past few weeks. There is not much sale for horses, and what are being sold are not bringing a very good price.—G. C. Linwood, Jan. 5.

BAY (Southeast)—There has been no change in the prices here the past week, except oats and barley. Oats at the elevator at Bay City is 78c and barley is \$2.50 per hundred.—J. C. A., Munger, January 4.

CASS (Central)—Plenty of snow, the temperature around zero. Farmers here are flailing beans and cutting wood. Local potato buyers are still using 1 1/2 inch square mesh screen, which they call the "government screen." They are paying 75c per bu. for No. 1 and 40c per bu. for No. 2. Quite a number of bean and potato raisers are going to try corn and hogs the coming season. The small yield per acre and poor quality of beans and a set price certainly will reduce the acreage this coming season to about 50 per cent of the normal. The potato raisers had to pay \$3.50 per day and dinner for help at harvesting time. The 1 1/2 inch screen will take out at least 40 per cent of the crop raised in this county. "I wish I could raise crops and be paid cost of production plus 10 per cent profit."—Selah.—A. J. W. Cassopolis, Jan. 5.

LAPEER (Central)—Farmers are busy getting up wood and hauling manure for top dressing. The weather has been

real cold and the ground bare until the past few days, when a light snow fell. It has been a poor winter for wheat in this section. Little produce is being marketed at present. Some hay being sold but most of it being stored by the dealers. This county has lost one of its pioneers by the death of Mrs. Loughnane, mother of the postmaster of Lapeer and also the mother of the principal of the high school, Miss Emma. She was 84 years old.—O. E. P., Lapeer, Jan. 5.

CALHOUN (Northwest)—Farmers are getting up wood and doing chores. There is little moving at present. The weather has been very cold.—C. E. B., Battle Creek, Jan. 4.

CASS (Northwest)—The weather has been pretty cold; not much snow. Farmers are cutting wood. Not much produce being sold. Some are selling wheat to pay taxes. Farmers are holding potatoes for a higher price. Not many hogs left, and they are going to market in a pretty thin state; corn will not fatten them on account of the poor quality. Cattle are looking fair; horses are looking thin.—W. H. A., Dowagiac, Jan. 55.

CASS (Northwest)—Farmers in this locality are kept busy this winter cutting wood and hauling feed out of the fields. In some cases it is taking about the last scrap of timber the farmer has to keep the fires going on account of coal shortage. Green swamp wood is bringing \$3 to \$3.50 per cord in Dowagiac. Practically all of the corn not put in the silos is still in the fields on account of the frosted condition and is being hauled and fed as needed, much of it not having any feeding value. We have had some very cold weather and no snow and fall crops generally are very backward. Rye in many cases not up. About all that farmers are selling at present is a few hogs and some wheat. But very few potatoes were sold last fall, farmers holding for a price commensurate with the cost of production. This locality produced about two-thirds of a full crop per acre and the cost was nearly double that of previous years on account of high priced everything required to make a crop. We had to fight the blight and wilt, bugs and lice early and late, and now they want to screen them, taking out about a third of the marketable stock and pay the farmer about \$1.25 per hundred for same. Every potato raiser in this locality is standing with Michigan Business Farming in its fight for better conditions in the potato market. Cass County is to have a farm agent this year. Mr. David Woodman who began his duties on Jan. 1st.—M. R. P., Dowagiac, Jan. 4.

MONTCALM (Southwest)—Farmers are not very busy at this time, many are cutting and hauling wood to use during winter, owing to the shortage of coal. Produce is moving more than last week as prices are more favorable. A few potatoes are being sold, but farmers are still thinking that the price may increase and are holding on that account. Wheat, oats and rye are moving slow. Weather is very cold with snow remaining on the soil.—H. L., Greenville, Jan. 4.

ARENAC (East)—Ground covered with snow and it was needed by the fall grain. The weather has been steady and cold. Farmers are cutting ice and wood and doing chores. Taxes are high and along with poor crops it is a tussle for the farmer. The army draft is taking the cream of our young men and scarcity of help is sure to follow next spring.—M. B. R., Twining, Jan. 5.

CLARE (South)—The farmers are doing chores and getting up wood. The weather has been very cold. There is nothing moving in the way of crops. The bean threshers have just finished threshing here; the yield was from one to four bushels per acre. Farmers are very discouraged.—D. B., Lake, Jan. 4.

MIDLAND (Northwest)—The weather has been very cold, not much snow on the ground. The roads are good. Beans are moving to market quite freely. The farmers are busy getting up wood and doing chores. Stock is looking good and most everyone seems to have plenty of feed.—F. A. L., Coleman, Jan. 4.

ALLEGAN (Southeast)—Farmers are busying themselves mostly with chores and getting up wood. Weather very cold.—W. F., Otsego, Jan. 5.

BRANCH (North)—Farmers are cutting wood and doing chores. Weather is very cold. Some stock and grain are moving to market. Farmers here are not building or buying.—F. S., Union City, Jan. 5.

HURON (Northwest)—We are having steady winter weather this week. Bean threshing about all done. Farmers are getting up wood and doing chores. Some grain is going to market. Auction sales have ceased for a time. Everything is coming to a cash basis; credit suspended; banks have refused to loan money to new customers.—G. W., Elkton, Jan. 5.

SANILAC (Central)—Farmers are now busy gathering up tax money. Weather is cold; not enough snow for sleighing. Wheat and meadows are suffering from lack of covering. Considerable hay and stock are being shipped. Some potatoes are being held for higher prices, also beans. Considerable milk is going to Uby to the condensary. Many are buying bran, gluten, cottonseed and arcade. A good many have silos, and they came in good for the soft corn this year. Very little coal to be had.—J. C. F., Decker-ville, Jan. 5.

SANILAC (Southeast)—Farmers have not been very busy after the holidays. The weather has been cold and clear and not very much snow. Some farmers are selling some grain and hay; others are

MORE CROP From LIME!

How Soil Becomes Acid

When you consider acidity, think of lemon juice, strong vinegar, muriatic acid or oil of vitriol. But think further—Can you imagine the thousands of bacteria of growth so necessary to plant life flourishing in a soil saturated with these acids? Unquestionably not, for the BACTERIA SIMPLY WON'T LIVE.

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2nd—Rotting leaves and grasses, to the yearly influence of which your soil was subjected hundreds of years before put under cultivation, have made the soil sour—for rotting vegetable matter produces acid just as silage becomes sour when it decomposes.

3rd—The turning under of green and stable manures, in order to supply necessary plant foods, continually produces sour soil thru its decomposition. Poor drainage often aids this acid-producing process, but careful cultivation and rotation delays the process.

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holding for higher prices. A few horses and cattle are being sold. Beans are selling at \$11 per cwt. Some beans are threshed with a yield of from 2 to 5 bu. to the acre, and they are of poor quality.—N. J. V. C., Crosswell, Jan. 5.

IOSCO (East)—Farmers are doing the chores and getting up wood. The weather is cold and not much snow, which is hard on our fall grain. Most of the fall grain did not come up in the fall before it froze up. Farmers who have beans are holding for a better price. Wet beans are being sold to prevent spoiling. No potato market at present. Hay is the only commodity that is selling. Farmers here have little grain to sell.—A. L., Tawas City, Jan. 4.

SANILAC (Central)—Some farmers are threshing beans and buckwheat this week around here. Beans are turning out from three to five bushels to the acre, buckwheat is turning out about fifteen to twenty bushels to the acre. Some beans are a better grade than others and some will pick heavier than others. Taxes are high this year, some farmers being taxed about one dollar an acre. We are having some pretty cold weather at this time. Stock eating lots of feed, and there seems to be lots of rough feed, such as straw and corn fodder. The oats crop was a large crop here. The potato crop was not very large here.—A. B., Sandusky, Jan. 4.

LAPEER (Northeast)—Wheat in this vicinity is looking bad, very small but it is covered with snow just now. Clover also is small, especially new seedling. The farmers are not doing much but chores and cutting wood. A little hay is being sold. Cows and sheep selling high at the auction sales. Breeding ewes are selling as high as twenty-two dollars each; cows as high as ninety dollars each. Hogs are scarce.—I. S., North Branch, Jan. 5.

ST. CLAIR—Farmers are drawing hay, cutting wood and doing chores. The weather has been cold and dry. The roads are in fine condition for drawing heavy loads. The ground is frozen solid and a very little snow would make sleighing.

Farmers are not holding much; not much to hold. Fuel is scarce and nigh; no dry wood to be had. Help is so hard to get old people who have wood to cut can't find anyone to cut it for them. Quite a number of our farmer boys have gone to war. A great many farms will lay idle next year. Lots of Red Cross work going on.—I. J., Smiths Creek, Jan. 5.

INGHAM (Southwest)—There is not enough snow for sleighing. The continued cold weather makes fuel, dry or green, at a premium. Hard, green wood is \$4.50. Farmers are selling stock on account of the shortage of feed.—B. W., Leslie, Jan. 55.

FRESQUE ISLE (Central)—The past week has been very cold, and on the 6th a regular blizzard visited us with lots of snow, which has piled up now. Farmers are not doing much. Some are drawing logs and mine props. Some are hulling clover. A few cars of potatoes have been shipped from here recently.—D. D. S., Millersburg, Jan. 7.

ANTRIM—As I have never seen any news from this part of Antrim county I thought I would give you a report of the crops here. Most farmers are holding their potatoes until something is done in regard to the methods of grading. Beans are not threshed here yet as there is about two feet of snow and the machine is unable to move. The beans are only averaging about 8 bu. to the acre and most of them a poor quality. The local buyers are only paying \$10.50 per cwt. and the farmers refuse to sell at that price as most of them paid from \$9.00 to \$10.50 per bu. for seed. The farmers of this neighborhood held a meeting on Dec. 17 and formed a company to be known as the Mutual Threshing Company. The company consists of 21 stockholders. They also purchased a threshing outfit consisting of traction engine, two grain separators and one self-feeding bean separator. The farmers here have hard work to get their threshing done as there is only one machine in this section of the county. By buying this outfit they will get their threshing done earlier in the year.—G. A. D., Charlevoix, R. 1.



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



This Week's Tested Recipe

Creamed Oysters

Drain liquor from a pint of oysters and add to it enough water to make a pint of liquid; follow directions for white sauce using this liquid instead of milk; season with pepper, salt and bits of celery top; add oysters and cook until the thin edges wrinkle; remove from fire and serve at once with rice.

Creamed Fish

Wash one-half pound fish and soak several hours; flake, cover with boiling water and cook 15 minutes; drain and cook a few minutes in two cups white sauce. In preparing white sauce for fish, cook a chopped onion in fat before adding flour; dish into the hollow of rice, sprinkle top with paprika and chopped parsley and serve very hot.

A Farm Girl Who Married a "City Feller."

Dear Mrs. Stark:—

I am visiting my folks in the country; we went over for the Holidays, and they take MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. I was interested to read Mrs. M. T. C.'s letter, and thought I'd add my "bit." My experience is just exactly like her's, only it is twisted right around, because I am a farmer girl, and I married a "city feller." You have read in books how the "city feller" with the soft hands comes to the country and wins the farmer's daughter! Well, that's something like my case. My to-be-hubby was not well, and the doctor ordered him to take a rest in the country. He boarded at a neighboring farmhouse, and I met him there. We sure enjoyed the summer, though of course, I was busy with farm duties most of the day. But after supper we took drives, and he sat on our porch and talked to the folks, (and looked at me!) Well, when he asked me to marry him, I certainly was happy, because I had learned to care for him, but figured that he would just go back to town, and forget all about me. I had never been to the city. I had often been to our village six miles away, but he lived in a city of almost a million, and I must confess I was scared to think of it. But I married him at the end of the summer, and he has recovered his health completely. We spent our honeymoon right on the farm, because my folks hated so to have me go away from home. Then we started on our great-adventure, at least it was an adventure for me!

I was as green to the city as Mrs. M. T. C. was to the country. I know very well my clothes were not up to snuff. Mother had made them for me, and while I had always given Mother credit for being a good dressmaker, I could see that there was something "different" about me when I got to town. The women sure did dress extreme, and after five years of it I have never been able to put paint on my face or wear as loud clothes as some folks I see, nor would my husband want me to. Tom was an adding machine salesman, and made good money. However, he knew scarcely any married folks, but often had his men friends up to dinner. Tom was proud of my cooking, and I surely could get up a meal that made their mouths water. I know I was more lonesome in my new environment than Mrs. M. T. C. was in hers, because it seemed so strange to me to live there and not have one of my neighbors call on me. At home we hardly waited for folks to settle before we went in and offered our services, or brought over a cake or invited them to dinner, or something, but I had never yet moved into a neighborhood in the city where anyone has come to call on me. Another thing that bothered me was the "hand-to-mouth" way most city people lived. Of course I made friends after a while. I met the few friends Tom had, and the people at the church we attended were very nice, particularly two couples of whom we grew very fond. Well, when I got to know these girls, and visited at their homes, and helped them do dishes, and saw into their pantries, it reminded me of "Mother Hubbard's bare cupboard." They just bought from day to day a can of this, a loaf of bread, a store cake, a piece of meat, a half a dozen pickles—well, I never have been able to get used to it. I can lots of stuff in the summer, and just have to have a slab of

ANNE CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

bacon and a ham or something on hand, or I would think I was going to the poor house!

Well, I don't believe my hubby has ever regretted marrying a little "Rube." We have two dandy children now. The baby is just ten months old. We have bought a nice little home in the suburbs—I just had to have as much ground and as much air as possible. It is terrible the way some city children are brought up. They live in apartments—just think, four and five-room coops, perhaps fifty of them in one great big building—no room to play, and they just have to keep quiet. I told Tom we would have to bring our kiddies up to be as sturdy as their country-bred mother; I wanted air and sunshine, and ground for them. So we bought our little home almost outside of the city limits, where in the summer, they can have a

First Footsteps

*MY baby walked alone one day!
He started off so suddenly
It almost took my breath away,
And he was proud as he could be!*

*I watched his steps so timid, slow
And trembling, and I knew he'd fall
And soon he did; was hurt, I know,
But not a tear was shed, for all!*

*He picked himself right up again,
And started in once more to walk.
A half a dozen steps, and then—
A bit of jabbering baby talk,*

*And down he went, just to perform
The same thing over patiently.—
The downfall of the baby form
And then on two proud legs stood he.*

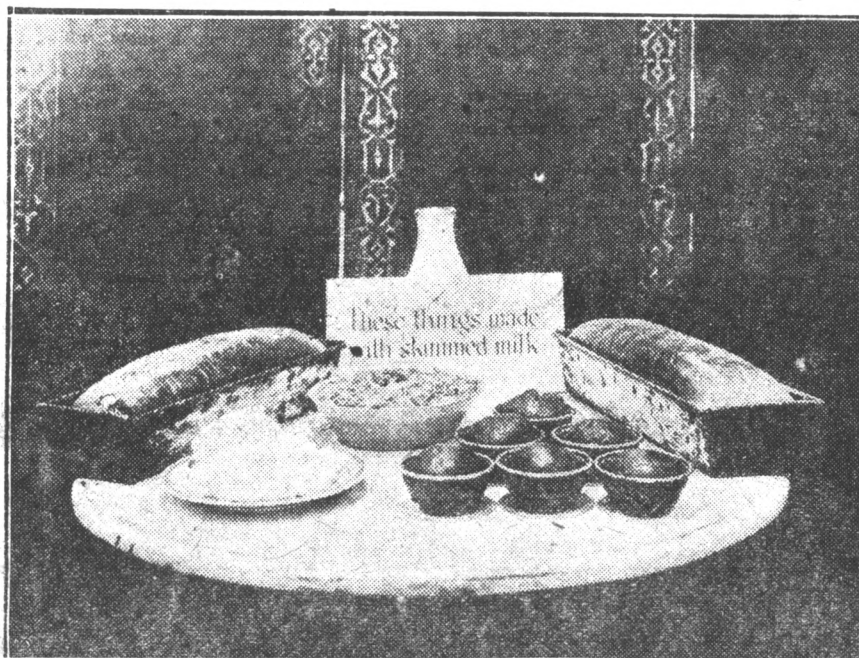
*And every day he'll practice now,
And fall and right himself once more.
Determination on his brow,
He'll conquer that old slippery floor!*

*And when he's grown to man's estate,
If he should falter now and then,
I hope he'll conquer every fate,
And pick himself right up again!*

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

sandpile in the big back yard, and almost as much room to run as if they lived right on the dead old farm.

I know this, farm folks seem lots kinder than city folks. They are certainly neighborly, but when you get to know city folks you find out that after all we are all "sisters under the skin." The city folks are kind too, and I have made some good friends. Of course, there are so many of them, and lots living lives you and I wouldn't live; striving for nothing but amusement, and unworthy things. But the people we know are people like ourselves, with children, and sweet home lives,



Some of the Delicious Foods that may be made with skimmed milk. Recipes for making will be sent to any reader upon request.

Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

RICE CAN DO A SUPER-BIT.

Ring around the meat, instead of the posy, a ring of rice with each grain expanded to the fullness of white perfection. Rice combines well with any sort of fish, flesh, or fowl—so let meat do its bit and rice a super-bit in these dishes. The combination furnishes the nourishment of both bread and meat. Nothing more is needed for a dinner but a dessert of stewed fruit or a green salad.

Boiled Rice

Wash a cup of rice in several waters. Drop rice slowly into a quart of boiling water, salt to taste, boil for 15 minutes, then cover and place on the back of the stove where it will finish swelling without burning. Do not stir.

Arrange rice in a ring on a hot dish and place in the center any meat hash, stew, creamed fish or chicken.

just as good and kind as country folks—and that is saying a great deal.

We are going back home next week, after the loveliest Christmas and New Years with my folks. I agree with you, Mrs. Stark. "When love comes into the window," everything is adjusted, and it doesn't matter who you marry, if you care enough for him to try to get his point of view, and swing your life in harmony with his.

Wishing you a Happy New Year, Sincerely.—
Mrs. A. E. M., Cleveland.

* * *

Thank you for your letter, Mrs. M. Mrs. M. T. C. will particularly enjoy it. We are certainly fortunate in getting letters on so many angles of this interesting subject. I hope everyone else with a like experience will write and tell us how they managed to squeeze happiness out of marriage with some one whose upbringing and tastes were widely different.

Address, Mrs. Anne Campbell Stark, Woman's Department, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Prune Pone in War Time

Put this recipe in your new economy cook-book at once. These cheap cakes are deservedly popular.

1 cup cornmeal, 1 cup rye flour, 1 cup wheat flour, 1 cup washed chopped prunes, 1-2 cup molasses, 1 cup sour milk, 1 teaspoon soda. Scald meal with enough boiling water to make a very stiff batter; stir in flour; add other ingredients, then fruit. Steam in mold three hours or bake two hours or bake two hours in moderate oven. Serve with sweet sauce or hot molasses.

Some Helpful Ideas from a Reader

Dear Mrs. Stark:—

Here are some ideas which may prove helpful to our readers:

I have kept house for fifteen years, and have learned many things during that time. For instance I have found that common laundry starch wet with cold water will take out iodine stains and will not hurt the fabric and color. That baked beans with a pinch of ginger in them are much easier digested. The ginger cannot be detected. That wood alcohol on a soft rag will polish mirrors and pictures. When I dust doughnuts with sugar, I place the doughnuts and sugar in a paper bag close the top of it and shake well. The result is perfect and very little sugar is used. The doughnuts are covered evenly, a dozen at a time. When I bake pumpkin or custard pies I take a long strip of cotton cloth, about an inch wide, and bind it around the outside of the crust when the pie is ready for the oven. The crust will keep its shape and is not easily scorched. I always keep a small wash board, just a ten cent one, for washing out small articles. For the mother of a small baby this is very useful.

Perhaps some one else will send in some labor-saving hints and exchange them for these, in Mrs. Stark's columns.

Wishing everybody a Happy New Year, your sincere friend—Mrs. W. A. C., Avoca.

BEET GROWERS WANT TEN DOLLAR MINIMUM

(Continued from page 1)

Other interesting points brought out in the discussion follow:

1. The cost per acre of producing beets on 97 Michigan farms in 1913, excluding depreciation, rental value, taxes and supervision was approximately \$42.00. The cost for 1917 is estimated by your growers' committee to be \$54 per acre, not counting depreciation, etc. This 1917 cost is distributed as follows: Preparation of seed bed \$7.00, hand labor \$22, lifting and hauling \$13, fertilizer \$3, seed \$3. Including depreciation at \$5 per acre, rental at \$6, taxes at \$1.25 and supervision at \$2.50, the total 1917 cost would be \$68.75 per acre.

2. The average yield of Michigan beets for the eleven years period, 1904-1914 was 8.23 tons per acre. This is the lowest average yielding section in the country. The average extraction of sugar for the same period was 11.98 per cent. This is also a low mark for the country with one exception.

3. The cost of producing sugar from beets in 14 Michigan factories for the five year period 1910-1914 was \$3.93 per cwt., without counting depreciation or \$4.18 per hundred counting it.

4. The selling cost of 37 companies for 1913-14 was \$4.54 per hundred lbs.

5. The cost of beets averages 72 per cent of the cost of manufacture of sugar.

6. In 1912-13 the cost of manufacturing beet sugar in 71 factories in the U. S. was \$3.5488. For the same period the N. Y. wholesale price of sugar was \$4.278, leaving a margin of \$.7292 per hundred pounds. On this margin the companies reported a 10 per cent profit on an average over-capitalization of 8.3 per cent. Granting a 40 per cent increase in factory cost to meet 1917 conditions we have practically \$5.00 as cost of sacking sugar.

With N. Y. sugar prices at \$7.25 and a consequent margin of three times that of 1913 what ought the factory profit be for 1917?

In 1913-14 94 per cent of Michigan's sugar was sold from October to February inclusive. In 1912-13 the figures were 73.6 per cent.

"Our contention is as it has been from the first," said Chairman Ketcham, "that there should be such a price paid to the growers as will secure for them at least a fifty-fifty division of the net proceeds of this great Michigan crop. The capital involved is practically an even thing. The labor cost is heaviest upon the farmers and the risk is much greater to the farmer now that the selling price is fixed so that the factory knows what its product is to bring."

"Taking the two prices that have been suggested, \$8 and \$10 per ton, the comparative figures are as follows with 8.23 tons as the average yield: At the \$8 price the farmer would receive \$65.84 per acre, which would allow him a profit of \$11.84 without counting depreciation, etc. With these counted his loss would be \$2.91 per acre. The factory would fare as follows at the \$8 figure. Cost of the beets \$65.84. This being 72 per cent of sugar cost the total factory cost would be \$91.44. From this 8.23 tons of beets 1972 lbs. of sugar would be obtained worth \$6.80 with selling charges out or \$134.00, leaving net profit of \$42.65.

"At the ten dollar figure the farmers would receive \$83.30 per acre, or a net of \$13.55 with depreciation figured in. The factory would have a factory cost of \$114.33 or a net of \$19.76."

"So the ten dollar figure does not reach the ideal fifty-fifty division that the industry should give to the farmer."

The meeting was fairly representative, growers being present from Saginaw, Tuscola, Shiawasee, Eaton, Livingston, Gratiot, Genesee, Huron, Bay, Lapeer and a few adjoining counties. A representative grower was also present from the beet growing sections of both Indiana and Ohio, and gave testimony showing that prices of beets in their sections were much lower than in Michigan because they had no organization to enforce their demands. Mr. George Miller of the Gleaner Co-Operative Elevator at Chesaning, was also on hand, gave the growers one of his straight-from-the-shoulder ten minute speeches and pledged the hearty support of the Gleaner organization in furthering the interests of the beet industry of the state.

There was a ripple of excitement when State Market Director McBride asked the growers to give their consent to a plan for districting the beet growing territory according to the location of the several factories, and compelling growers to sell their beets to the factory within their respective territory. It was felt that such a scheme would place the growers at the mercy of the manufacturers and perhaps subject them to annoyance and unfair treatment. The plan was therefore, vigorously opposed.

The proposal to raise an expense fund by levying one cent per ton against all beets was given unanimous approval. This plan will raise a sum of between \$6,000 and \$7,000.

There was little discussion among the farmers during the course of the meeting. Everyone seemed to be pretty well satisfied with the \$10 price proposed and no objections were offered. One grower patriotically proclaimed that he would be willing to grow beets for \$5 a ton if that would mean 5 cent sugar to the consumer. Another farmer, however, declared that he wouldn't be satisfied with \$10 if it did not represent a fair proportion of the profits. He wanted a straight 50-50 division or nothing at all. Asked as to why Michigan growers were talking about \$10 beets when western growers were asking \$12, State Market Director McBride explained that Michigan beets were not worth as much as the western product

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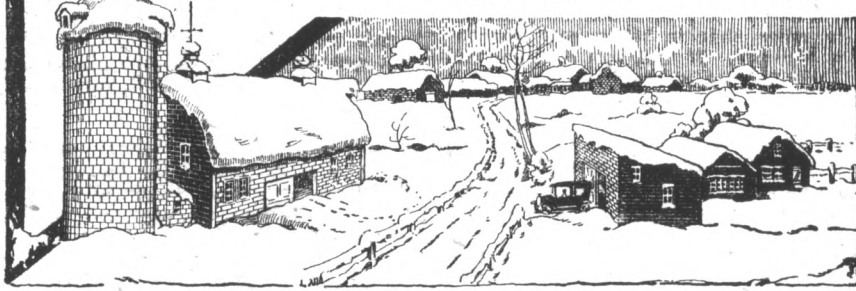
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JAN. 1, 1916

\$4,000

JAN. 1, 1917

\$7,000

JAN. 1, 1918

\$27,000

That's where our cash surplus stands today and how we have grown in three years, although through 1917 we paid out an average of over \$8,000 per month to cover losses from Fire, Theft or Liability to our members.

470 CLAIMS PAID LAST YEAR

No wonder members are paying up promptly when we saved auto owners outside the cities, more than a Million dollars in premiums during 1917!

If you own an auto tell us make and model on a postal-card to-day addressed

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HOWELL, MICH.

because of their lower sugar content. Considering the fact that the Market Director is in very close touch with W. H. Wallace, member of the board of agriculture and manager of the Michigan Sugar Company, it is apparent that some tentative agreement had been made with the sugar manufacturers as to what price the growers would be the most liable to receive. If this be true then the holding of the meeting to discuss the proposition was a mere formality.

J. C. Ketcham was named chairman of a committee which he was authorized to appoint to go at once to Washington and present the growers' claims. Those named on the committee are:

L. W. Oviatt, Bay City; Fred Gosen, Saginaw; R. P. Reavy, Caro; C. H. Bramble, Lansing; A. B. Cook, Owosso; Jas. N. McBride, Burton; J. C. Ketcham, Hastings.

It is not believed that there will be any difficulty in the growers securing a minimum of \$10 for their beets. The difficulty will be encountered when it comes to getting an additional percentage in the event of sugar prices going higher. But for all of that, no fair-minded grower will complain at getting \$10. The most of them will realize a fair profit at this figure.

Exactly the thing needed.—John R. Hudson, Gratiot county.



UP-TO-DATE FASHIONS

No. 8577. Isn't this a pretty as well as rather odd waist? It's made in the popular Russian style, closes on the side, and may be made with a high, close fitting waist. There are two kinds of sleeves given. Sizes 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 bust measure.

No. 8562. We were fortunate in getting this coat pattern. We have been looking for one like it for some time, because all of the expensive ready-to-wear coats are made after this style. It is double-breasted and has a large convertible collar, warm and handsome. It hangs straight from the shoulders, the most comfortable style for a heavy coat, and is belted in at the normal waist line. Comes in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure.

No. 8592. Here's a Russian style dress for a girl 8, 10, 12 and 14 years old, which is very effective. It has the regulation Russian side closing, and is gathered into a wide band of the material. The skirt may be gathered or plaited.

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

EXPERT 'CONSIDERS' GRADE REVISION

(Continued from page 1)

you and Prof. Waid decide for yourselves what is best for the farmer, whereas we consult his own opinion in such matters. The opposition to these grading rules did not emanate from us; it came first from the farmers; they asked us to take up this fight and when we found what an injustice was being perpetrated against them, we did so."

"Mr. Waid, you are secretary of the Michigan Potato Growers' Association, are you not?"

"Yes."

"How many members have you?"

"One hundred and twenty-five."

"I assume that Mr. Miller conferred with you because he considered you representative of the potato growers of the state."

"Yes."

"Do you think that you represent the opinions and interests of the majority of the growers of Michigan?"

"Yes, the progressive ones."

"Your opinions do not represent the sentiment of the growers of Montcalm county—those who were present at that meeting at Greenville, do they?"

"Well, not all of them, but the progressive ones."

"Do you know whether the two grades of potatoes are being sold on any market to the consumer?"

"Not as such, because they haven't been marked yet. As soon as possible they will be marked and the consumer educated to buy by grade."

"But what is the farmer, who is obliged to grade his potatoes to do in the meantime?"

"I find that the farmer isn't so much opposed to the grading as he is to the low price that is being paid for the No. 2 grade. If that can be remedied, he won't have so much cause to complain."

"But when will that be remedied? Isn't it true that the organized dealers have determined what price they will pay for the No. 2 grade, namely 60 per cent of that offered for the No. 1?"

"Yes, I believe they have."

"Now, Mr. Waid, if the farmers of Michigan and Wisconsin are being compelled to grade their potatoes and the farmers of Pennsylvania and New York, for instance, are permitted to sell their potatoes ungraded, are not the farmers of this state being discriminated against?"

"The rules are being put into effect in the other states as fast as possible," graded Mr. Waid.

"Don't you think that the grades work an injustice to the farmers of Michigan?"

"Yes, but only in those sections that were hit by the early frost where there are large quantities of small potatoes."

"But you think that the majority of the farmers of the state favor the present grades?"

"Yes, I have been to a number of farmers' meetings and explained the grades and except for the meeting at Greenville there has been no opposition."

"If I told you that out of several hundred letters I had received on this proposition from every potato growing county in the state, all but one condemned the grading rules, would you still say that the majority of farmers were in favor of the rules?"

"Well, you know people are more apt to tell you when they are opposed to a thing than when they are in favor of it."

"I would like to know, Mr. Waid, if you and Mr. Hicks of Wisconsin recommended the adoption of these rules the present year."

"No more so than other growers' representatives who were at the Washington meeting."

"But, if Mr. Miller considered that you represented the opinion of the growers of this state, your opinion would go a long way wouldn't it?"

"I suppose so."

"Now then, you have admitted that the grading rules are not being as effectively enforced in other states as in Michigan, and that the rules do work an injustice against the farmers, who were hit by the early frost. This being true, why wouldn't you be willing to recommend either the abandonment of the grades for this

year, or the reduction of the larger screen to an inch and three-fourths?"

"I am afraid if that is done, we will have a hard time getting the grades into effect again."

"Which is more important, Mr. Waid, the establishment of these grades another year, or the immediate saving of a million dollars to our farmers?"

"I think the farmer will find eventually that the grades are to his benefit. If we abandon them now we'd have to admit failure."

"I don't think so. Here's the proposition: These grades were established without the farmer's knowledge or consent, and those responsible knew that it was physically impossible to make them immediately compulsory in all the potato growing states. Over three months of the marketing season has passed, there are millions of bushels of potatoes still in the growers' hands, held there because of the grades. The public has not been educated to buy according to grade and cannot be in time to affect the consumption of the 1917 crop. Now, why wouldn't it be the fair and sensible thing to do to admit that the time was opportune for putting the grades into effect and abandon them. If grades are to the growers' benefit let us have them, but let's consult the growers as to what kinds of grades they want, and give them time to think it over. If this publication finds that grading is to the benefit of the farmers, you'll find us most willing to co-operate in the movement at the proper time."

"I have already written to the Food Administration urging that the rules be put into effect at once in all other states. I shall take your suggestions under consideration, and if the Food Administration advises me that it is going to be impossible to operate the grades effectively in the other states, then I shall recommend what you suggest."

"You'll take it under consideration," again interrupted Mr. Waterbury, "and act according to your own judgment, but you won't be pushed into it; is that it?"

(Curtain)

And there you are, Prof. Waid holds the key to the situation; he will take the proposition to save the farmers of Michigan from a great loss, "under consideration," and if in the course of a month or more, after all the potatoes left on the growers' hands have rotted or their place on the market has been taken by New York's ungraded stock, he may recommend the abandonment of the grades. Ye Gods, this is the thing they call Justice!

AVERAGE MICH. PRICES WEEK ENDING JAN. 5, 1918

Wheat, \$2.60; oats, 75c; rye, \$1.68; potatoes, \$1.19; butter, 42c; eggs, 46c; hens, 16c; hogs, 15c.

BINDER TWINE NOW UNDER U. S. CONTROL

Under arrangements completed early in December, the U. S. Food Administration will control the binder twine industry of the United States, including the distribution of the entire sisal supply of Yucatan. Binder twine comes under the scope of food control, being necessary equipment for the production of food, especially wheat, which is now such an essential commodity.

Commercial activities, including shipbuilding, have greatly increased the demand for manila hemp, and higher hemp prices have been reflected throughout the entire fibre industry. While unable to assure American farmers low-priced binder twine in 1918, the Food Administration declares that profiteering will not be permitted. Under agreements which all of the binder twine companies in the United States have signed, prices will be based on cost of material, plus cost of manufacture plus only a reasonable profit. To administer binder twine control, the U. S. Food Administration has selected Henry Wolfer, who established the binder twine plant in the Minnesota State Prison, where he was warden for 22 years, and developed its output of twine to the third largest in the world.

Be a Business Farmer!

Most farmers know how to GROW stuff, but few of them know how to SELL it. What about YOU, Mr. Farmer? Are you sufficiently posted on the market conditions and prices to know when to sell your crops to the best advantage?

15,000,000 bushels of potatoes, 2,000,000 bushels of beans, and thousands of bushels of wheat, oats and rye, yet remain in the growers' hands.

What are they worth today? What will they be worth six months hence? If you hold them, will you lose or will you gain?

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

helps farmers solve the problems of marketing. 30,000 farmers now read and profit by the crop and market reports and advice given in this farm weekly. Are YOU one of them? If not,—and you have a single bushel of potatoes, beans, wheat or oats yet to sell, you ought to become a subscriber AT ONCE.

Look thru this issue. Note for yourself that MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is trying to render a real service to the farmers of Michigan. We need YOUR help.

HESITATE NO LONGER

Do NOW the thing you've said you would do, but have neglected—sign the coupon below and send it TODAY:

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Dear Sirs:—Send your weekly to the following address for one year, for which a one dollar bill is enclosed:

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County State

(This coupon is from issue of Jan. 12, 1918)

Remarks

L.....

1917 PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF COAL

Testifying before the Senate Subcommittee, Harry A. Garfield, U. S. Fuel Administrator, announced facts concerning the nation's fuel situation that are of public concern and should especially interest persons having an available supply of wood.

Production of anthracite coal for 1917 is estimated at 84,000,000 tons, an increase of about 11,000,000 tons over 1916. Bituminous coal mined in the United States during 1917 was approximately 552,770,400 tons or 50,000,000 tons more than the previous year. The total increase in supply was about 61,000,000 tons, but the demand increased 100,000,000 tons. Most of the extra demand has arisen since April 1917 when the United States entered the war, and is largely for the needs of the government, munitions plants, and public utilities supplying power to war industries.

The Fuel Administration has used its powers to stabilize labor conditions and prices so as to insure a large steady coal output for the future. But because of excessive demand, Dr. Garfield is also urging conservation of coal in every way possible and asking for a widespread substitution of wood as a fuel particularly in rural districts.

Late County Crop Reports

BARRY (Northeast)—As I have not seen any crop reports sent in from our county I will send you a few so you may know what we are doing. Jan. 6 one of the worst blizzards of the year visited us. The majority of the farmers in these parts are just husking their corn and are feeding it out as fast as they husk it, as it would not keep to crib it, however there is some hard corn so that most of the farmers have enough for seed. Beans were very poor, running from 2 to 14 bu. to the acre but the majority averaged from 3 to 5 and all are heavy pickers. We planted 17 acres and rowed them 3 feet apart each way so that we could keep them free from weeds and that the

drouth would not affect them as bad as it did the year before, but we were left again. We put \$90 in cash into the crop besides all the work and the weather was so bad at harvesting time that they laid in piles on the ground for five weeks. We took a sample to the elevator and they would not buy them, and as we have a grandpa and grandma in the family we are hand-picking them. As ours went 2 bu. to the acre you can figure out what we will make from our bean crop. As we could not draw our potatoes at digging time we put them in the cellar thinking we would get \$1 per bu. for them anyway. We had about 300 bu. and we hope we are not going to be left because we paid attention to M. B. F. and held them for \$1.00. Farm help in this section is very scarce. A great many men are alone on their farms now, so we don't think there will be as much beans and potatoes raised next year especially if our experienced help has to go to war, and we have to depend on city school boys. The farmers' wives nearly all have to help in the fields or else see crops spoil. Eggs bring 44c now and milk testing 4 per cent brings \$3.15 at the condensary at Hastings. Hay is selling at \$25 a ton at auctions, sheep from \$15 to \$20 per head. We are very much interested in M. B. F. and like to read the crop reports from different parts of the state. Think you are doing your best for the farmers all right.—H. C., Hastings, January 7.

CHEBOYGAN (South)—Quite a blizzard is raging here at present. About 10 inches of snow has fallen and a heavy wind has blown it into large drifts. Walter Reeves, who died at Camp Myers, Va., was buried here Friday, Jan. 4; he died of pneumonia after a short illness. This is the first soldier boy from Cheboygan to pass beyond. John Donnelly, of Cheboygan, who was at Camp Custer and came home for Christmas, died at his home in Cheboygan Sunday from the same malady. A local dealer is shipping a few cars of potatoes from this place. We had 0215 in one of our best farmers, Frank Ford, one of our best farmers, has bought four head of Shorthorns.

OCEANA (North)—Bean threshing and getting up wood seems to be the main business in this part of the country. Dry wood sells at \$4 a cord. Green wood from \$3 to \$3.50 a cord. Most of the farmers around here have lots of corn out yet. Corn was too green to keep if it had been husked. Beans are in the same condition, green and wet. Potatoes are not being moved yet on account of cold weather and the low price. Many of the farmers are complaining of feed being so very scarce.—W. W. A., Crystal Valley, Jan. 5.

SAGINAW (Northwest)—Farmers are cutting wood hauling coal, husking corn. Ice harvest has commenced. Practically no sugar beets have been contracted. Ten dollars a ton is not enough for beets if they average the same as last year.—M. S. G., Hemlock, Jan. 5.