

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"



MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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THIS IS WHERE ALL THE MONEY GOES

Bean Committee at Washington Explains Why
Farmers' Beans that He Sells for \$11 per
Hundred Jumps to \$17 and \$20 per
Cwt. Before Reaching the City

Ask the average city dealer who is to blame for the high cost of living and the invariable answer will be "the farmer." You smile at his ignorance and seek to set him right, but you might as well talk to the winds. Mr. Consumer KNOWS, the city papers say the farmer's to blame and besides "look at the high price of potatoes in spite of the bumper crop. The farmer's a profiteer, and that's all there be to it; b-gosh."

The writer has a few bushels of potatoes in excess of his own needs, and a few days ago he called up a local groceryman and asked what he would pay for them. That same day potatoes were retailing at Detroit stores for \$2 a bushel. "Well, you know," confided the storekeeper, apparently not knowing that I was more or less familiar with the marketing situation, "I don't dare load up on high priced potatoes. (I had 28 bushels for sale, enough to last the retailer probably a week.) These high prices are only temporary. They're going down in a day or two. There's a whopping big crop of potatoes this year, you know. But the farmers are holding on for \$3 and \$4 a bushel and that's why the price keeps high. But just you wait, when spring comes and those fellows see that they aren't going to get any such price, the market will be swamped. In another two months I'll be buying potatoes at 75 cents a bushel."

Honest, folks, it was no use arguing with that man. He knew all about the potato situation,—from reading the daily newspapers.

When will the consumer ever learn that the farmer is not to blame for the high prices of foodstuffs? When will they ever show enough interest in the economies of food production and distribution to learn the truth? This publication has for months been trying to discover why consumers should be compelled to pay 20 cents a pound for beans when the farmer was getting 10 cents, or \$2.00 a bushel for potatoes when the farmer was getting only \$1.00 and less. We finally asked the bean and potato committees of the Food Administration to supply this information if possible. The bean committee advises us as follows:

"It might be interesting to you to know that this Division has been investigating several complete transactions from the Grower to the final consumer on beans, and when we have found a high retail selling price, in checking it back through its various channels we have generally found that they were old beans carried over from last year.

"One particular investigation that has been made here in Washington, in which the retailer was selling Michigan Pea Beans at 17c per pound, the checking back listed up about as follows:

Cost of Beans to Grower.....	\$11.00
Elevator expense and profit about 10%....	1.10
Freight 40c per 100.....	.40
Brokerage 10c per 100.....	.10
Wholesale grocer's profit about 12½%....	1.55
Retailer about 20%.....	2.85
Total net selling price to consumer, per cwt....	\$17.00

"On another transaction we made, wherein an elevator took a profit of \$2.40 per hundred, in investigating his complete cost, we found in an investment of an elevator of \$14,000, salary to owner and one man, and a superintendent in the picking room, so far this year they had only bought and shipped 1100 bushels, and the total expenses ran about \$4,600, or a little over \$4.00 per bushel, so that even in charging \$2.40 per hundred, as he did, he was losing nearly \$4.50 to \$5.00 per hundred on the transaction.

"If you know of any particular instances where goods have been high we would be very glad to have you give us the exact names and we assure you that

we will take pleasure in investigating it from the producer to the consumer."
"UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Per K. P. Kimball"

POTATO AND BEAN MARKETS SHOW CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH

As we go to press, the potato and bean markets show signs of renewed activity. The Detroit market on potatoes was still quoted at \$2.70 per hundred and beans had advanced to \$12.50 per cwt. Demand was strong and supplies light in both instances, and market authorities look for no immediate slacking of either demand or prices.

It is our firm conviction now as it has been since the opening market that beans will continue to advance slowly as the season grows old. Despite the alleged increase in production of this commodity, the demand is greater than the supply, and with the wheat shortage becoming more pronounced, both the civilian and military population will be obliged to turn more and more to beans.

No two authorities seem to agree upon the potato situation. Some believe that spring will usher in a period of low prices, while others are as firmly convinced that the demand will take care of the entire supply. MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING wants to be frank in saying that it has no suggestions to offer this week as to the future of the potato market, but we are now conducting a series of investigations which should give us sufficient information upon which to base an opinion within the next couple of weeks. If there is an over-production, and cars are to be had to move the stocks to market, we may as well resign ourselves to lower prices, but if the production is only normal, as we have contended right along, prices should rule comparatively high. Before another fortnight has passed we hope to show our readers in what manner the government has over-estimated the production, and why a more vigorous demand may be looked for with the approach of spring.

TO OUR LOYAL CROP REPORTERS

We weren't prepared to handle the avalanche of crop reports that swept in upon us this week from nearly every county in the state, and were obliged, much against our will, to leave out some which were received after Jan. 28th. So if you don't see your report in this issue you'll know it is because we just couldn't use it. Next week we are going to get out our usual "bang-up" issue and we want a report from every county. We'll promise to use every one that comes in on or before Tuesday, Feb. 5th, but get them in before then if possible. PLEASE mail your report not later than Saturday morning, so we'll get it Monday. And if your supplies are running low, write for MORE.

AVERAGE MICHIGAN PRICES, WEEK ENDING JANUARY 26

Wheat, \$2.05; oats, 79c; rye, \$1.69; hay, \$24.74; beans, \$11.11; potatoes, \$1.37; hens, 18c; butter, 45c; eggs, 49c; hogs, 15c.

WE WANT EVERY FARMER

who is a reader of this paper to tell us by next mail what stocks of potatoes are being held by the farmers in his vicinity. We are making a comprehensive survey of the stocks still in growers' hands, not only in this but in other states as well. Please tell us approximately what percentage of the farmers you know still have their potatoes in pit or bin, and how do their holdings compare with those a year ago. You can render us, our readers and yourself an inestimable service by giving your careful and immediate attention to this matter. Co-operate with us in finding out the TRUTH about the potato situation. There's been guessing long enough.

MR. HOOVER "STIRRED" BY BEAN SITUATION

But Food Administrator has yet to Make
Practical Plans for Saving Michigan's
Million Bushel Crop of Wet Beans
Altho the Warm Weather is
Dangerously Near

It is reported that Food Administrator Hoover was greatly "stirred" by the reports that a million bushels or more of wet beans would go to waste in this state unless something was done at once to save them. That was fully two weeks ago, and so far as we have been able to learn, nothing has materialized by way of a remedy.

State Food Administrator George W. Prescott recommends the canning of these beans for army and navy use and says they are as good when canned as the dry product. Under the commissary regulations, however, wet beans cannot be purchased by the government, and the rules will have to be altered if Mr. Prescott's suggestions are to be carried out.

There is no question but that the utilization of the wet beans in this state is a matter for the federal government to settle. The large acreage was planted, in the first place, in response to the government's pleas, and now that so huge a quantity are in imminent danger of going to waste, prevention methods lie with the federal conservation authorities.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING would like to gain some idea of the number of farmers having wet beans. Write us this information, will you?

The State Food Administrator is much concerned also over Michigan's alleged surplus of potatoes. There is considerable talk about Michigan's enormous spud crop, but we have never yet seen any reliable figures to show that the crop was in excess of the demand. However, it will do no harm to look about for additional markets, and we commend Mr. Prescott's efforts in this respect.

One suggestion has been made by Robert D. Graham, chairman of the state board of agriculture, that the state place an embargo on southern potatoes until the Michigan crop has been consumed, and the proposal has been taken under serious consideration by the state food administrator, it is stated.

GREAT FLOODS ADD TO GRAVITY OF THE COAL SITUATION

Millions of dollars worth of property have been destroyed in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia from the flooding of the Ohio river and other streams tributary to the Mississippi. Warm weather had converted billions of tons of ice and snow at the source of these streams into water, and broken up the ice in the rivers, changing them into torrents that have destroyed everything before them.

The catastrophe is not local by any means. Scarcely twenty-four hours had elapsed after the breaking of the ice gorges before the fuel administrator was sending out telegrams all over the country conveying the tragic news that no more coal could be mined or shipped out of these states until the flood had subsided and the damage repaired. Reports from the upper sources of the flooded streams indicate that melting snows will add to the danger and nothing short of extremely cold weather will stay the progress of the unloosed flood.

What effect the temporary suspension of coal shipments from that region will have upon an already acute shortage situation can hardly be estimated. The nation's coal bins are very low; hundreds of Michigan towns have used their last pound and wait in shivering and fear for additional supplies. Detroit factories are shutting down by the scores, public utilities of every description are in a bad way, and unless relief comes soon Michigan will be wholly coalless.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

PARTIAL LIST OF NEW OFFICERS OF BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Not all of the associations which make up the Michigan Improved Livestock Breeders and Feeders Association were able to elect officers, for snow-bound trains and waist-deep country roads prevented most of the breeders organizations from convening a quorum. In all cases where this happened, the old officers continue in service.

Those associations, which were able to elect chose the following:

Michigan Improved Livestock Breeders and Feeders Association—President, I. R. Waterbury, Detroit; vice president, Colon C. Lillie, Coopersville; secretary, Geo. A. Brown, East Lansing; ass't. secretary, W. E. J. Edwards, E. Lansing; treasurer, C. P. Reed, Howell; executive committee, J. Fred Smith, Byron; Jacob De Geus, Alicia; H. H. Halliday, Clinton; P. P. Pope, Mt. Pleasant, Geo. Prescott, Tawas City.

Michigan Horse Breeders' Association—President, Jacob De Geus, Alicia; secretary, R. S. Hudson, East Lansing.

Michigan Holstein-Friesian Association—President, M. W. Wentworth, Battle Creek; vice president, Peter Buth, Grand Rapids; secretary and treasurer, Chas. Daniels, Okemos.

Michigan Aberdeen Angus Breeders' Association—President, A. Minty, Ionia; vice president, G. A. Prescott, Tawas City; secretary, Ward Hathaway, Ovid; executive committee, C. Buttles, Lewiston; M. Kelley, Charlotte; Sidney Smith, Pontiac.

Michigan Guernsey Cattle Club—President, Harry Ballard, Niles; secretary, C. G. Parnell, Jackson.

Michigan Hereford Breeders' Association—President, Lewis Norton, Quimby; secretary, Earl C. McCarty, Bad Axe.

Michigan Sheep Breeders' and Feeders' Association—President, E. G. Read, Richland; vice president, Amos Welsh, Ionia; secretary and treasurer, W. A. Shantz, Hastings; executive committee, H. E. Powell, Ionia; shropshires, R. A. Kyser, Lowell; Hampshires, S. S. Wing, Kinderhook; Ramboules, H. H. Halliday, Clinton; Feeders, Bert Smith, Charlotte; Lincolns, I. R. Waterbury, Highland; Oxford, E. M. Ball, Hamburg; American Marinos, Carey V. Edwards, Hastings.

Michigan Swine Breeders' Association—President, J. B. Hibbard, Bennington; secretary, O. F. Foster, Ann Arbor.

Poland China Swine Breeders' Association—President, P. P. Pope, Mt. Pleasant; secretary, Wm. J. Clark, Mason; executive committee, W. E. Livingston, Parma; L. L. Chamberlain, Marcellus; E. H. Leonard, St. Louis.

Duroc Jersey Swine Association—President—F. J. Drott, Monroe; secretary, C. F. Foster, Ann Arbor.

County Crop Reports

MONROE—Farmers are cutting wood and butchering. Weather cold, damp and snowing, ground frozen. Farmers selling hogs cattle and grain; those who have any are holding corn. No building going on. Some are buying hay and straw. There is not much sugar here and we can only get ten cents worth at a time. No coal; some have a little but not enough to last very long. Herman Heemsoth had a very mysterious fire some time ago. He buys steers and feeds them. His corn crib caught fire about midnight and burned the contents, about one thousand bushels of good corn; also his granary, some machinery, half a beef and different articles which were stored in the building.—R. H., Carleton, Jan. 26.

EMMET—The weather is cold with lots of snow. Beans are not all threshed around here yet and are a very poor grade. Farmers are holding their potatoes for a better price; also they are feeding lots of potatoes to their stock. No logging is being done. Our vicinity is well supplied with wool—16 inch sells for \$2.50 a cord. There seems to be a good demand for good seed oats here.—H. W., Levering, Jan. 25.

MONTCALM—Most of the farmers are shoveling snow at the present time. Some are hauling spuds to Greenville, but not very many. They are paying \$1.50 down there and only \$1.20 at Lake View. Some of the big farmers around here are talking about this dealer grab and say they will not raise any more than one-tenth of the spuds they raised last year.—E. W., Coral, Jan. 24.

CALHOUN (Northeast)—The farmers in this locality seem to be weather bound. Can hardly get one to do anything. The weather is very cold and stormy now with snow about 18 inches deep in woods; roads in bad condition, not much traffic. A small amount of hogs and cattle are going to market, a few being held for better prices which don't come very fast.—G. R., Olivet.

BAY (Southeast)—There is not much doing now among the farmers. Taking care of stock, shoveling snow and some are selling their wheat. Hay is in good demand now but some farmers can't haul it now on account of the bad roads as it would tip over. I hope the farmers will try and have a law passed to make sleighs and wagons track the same. We would have better winter roads for all kinds of rigs.—J. C. A., Munger.

ST. JOSEPH (North Central)—Where is the fellow that predicted an open winter? We are having the time of our life shoveling snow (gratis) for the township, as our highway fund has been over-drawn, and of course the farmers haven't much else to do this time of the year, at least this is the way it has been doped out to us. It has been reported that a good many farmers have had stock perish from the severe weather of the past week. The fuel situation has assumed more severe proportions from day to day.

and there is actual suffering for want of coal and wood. People are anxiously waiting for the promised relief. Some farmers are putting up ice, and it measures about 20 inches and it free from slush. Very little grain being marketed, on account of car shortage, beans are moving slowly too. It is my opinion that the farmers of Michigan will lose heavily on the 1917 bean crop both on account of the wet condition and price. They surely ought to bring no less than \$8.00 and even at \$10.00. Seven-eighths of the growers would lose money. Farmers in this part of the country are short of feed, as a rule, and it looks like a hay famine in this section later on. Most of the people in this section visited the scene of the big passenger wreck last Tuesday which occurred on the G. R. & I. 20 miles south of Kalamazoo, and the way cars were smashed, derailed, etc., is a miracle that out of the 200 passengers, only four were injured, and these not seriously. The coaches were being drawn by a double header and a broken rail caused the trouble. Oh, yes, keep after the founders of potato grading, and I might add that I don't see how those county agents could speak for the farmers they represent, if they don't see each other often than I see our county agent. Here's hoping you have a little coal, and warmer weather than we are having.—A. A. H., Mendon, Mich.

KALAMAZOO (East)—The farmers are all busy shoveling snow, but as the snow keeps coming and blowing, they make but little headway. The snow is so deep that it stops the wood cutting, and we are having another blizzard today. All business is at a standstill on account of the snow. Some think that we had a cloud burst, but it was full of snow instead of water. I saw a piece in the Battle Creek Inquirer that after February 1st at Manistique, Mich., each person will be entitled to three pounds of sugar and 20 pounds of flour per month. I wonder how they think a hard working man can live and raise more food stuff at that rate. I was always told from nothing remains nothing, so if they want the farmers to raise more food stuff, they ought to be willing to put the food to the farmers so as to keep them strong and willing to do their part towards raising more. There is quite a talk that if the camps would be more saving it would be quite a help to the people, but might make a shortage in their hog slop. If you want to get the measles, mumps, or chicken pox send in your order to Climax and have it filled.—H. H. F., Climax.

CALHOUN (Northwest)—Roads pretty well blocked with snow and roads are made in the fields through the door yards or anywhere it is convenient to get through. One of the mail carriers came through our yard stopped and inquired the way to go. Said he needed a blue print to know where to make his route. The farmers are harvesting ice and cutting wood, some hauling wheat. The beans that were grown in this section have not been threshed yet.—V. H. J., Battle Creek.

ARENAC (East)—Farmers shipping wood and receiving \$2.00 per cord at switch. Weather cold making it ideal for lumbering. Some farmers are selling hay receiving \$20.00 per ton at track. Some are getting out logs and timber for barn frames, some trading their farms for city property. I am sending you \$1.00 for M. B. F. for Arza Pennwick, who says he has received a few sample copies which has made him believe that the M. B. F. is the best farm paper ever printed.—A. D. F., Alger.

CHEBOYGAN (Northwest)—The farmers in this vicinity are hauling logs and wood and some are hauling hay for which they are getting \$20.00 per ton. Yuell Bros. of Vanderbilt are taking out about 2,500,000 feet of hard wood logs in Munro township this winter. It is very cold here at present. It was 20 degrees below zero this week and we had a severe storm the 25th of this month. It piled the snow up in the roads in some places to the depth of eight feet so that it stopped the traffic for a couple of days.—O. W. B., Riggsville.

HURON (Northwest)—The even winter weather has not hurt wheat this month. A lot of farmers are picking their beans instead of giving them to the elevator and then pay three cents per lb. for their culls back again. The shortage of coal is causing the farmers to get out and dig up wood in the drifted snow and blizzards, with no regard for the amount of chores there are to do.—A. F. C., Pigeon.

The following are the officers of the U. S. Boys' Working Reserve in Macomb county:
Director, R. G. Potts, Washington; Vice Director, V. E. Chase, Romeo. Enrolling officers, Principals of schools: B. B. Ellsworth, Richmond; C. H. Mann, Mt. Clemens; R. C. Lunger, Utica; V. P. Peirce, Memphis; S. Dick, Washington; V. E. Chase, Romeo; W. H. Hart, Armada; A. H. Clark, New Baltimore. Enrolling begins Monday, February 25th. One hundred Macomb county boys received Federal recognition—1917.

MACOMB COUNTY MILK PRODUCERS WILL MEET

Announcement is made of an important meeting of the local branch of the Macomb County Milk Producers' Ass'n, on Saturday Feb. 2, at Lowenstein hall, Mount Clemens. The meeting will be called to order at 2:30 o'clock. Every dairyman in Macomb county whether a member of the association or not is wanted to be present.

At Apology

OWING TO a number of combining circumstances wholly outside of our control it was necessary for us to issue a smaller sized paper this week than usual. One of these causes is a shortage of paper stock. A carload of paper that was shipped out of Minnesota over a month ago is still enroute or tied up in some snow-bound siding. The coal situation is also partially to blame. We know that our readers who have appreciated something of the tremendous amount of work connected with the publishing each week of a paper like MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, will pardon us for the temporary shortcoming, and will watch with their usual interest for the coming week's number, brimming over with good things for Michigan business farmers.

WHY MAY DEALERS USE A SMALLER POTATO SCREEN

I have read in the M. B. F. very much about the great injustice done to the farmers of Michigan, and I thought I would let you know what is being done at Woodville, Newaygo county; and I expect this is being done at other points also. A certain produce dealer has bought several thousand bushels of potatoes before the so-called government screen was used and has now loaded out two carloads of these potatoes and has been re-grading them over an inch and three-fourths screen for the first grade and an inch and one-half screen for the second grade. If a potato company can use a smaller screen for their own potatoes and abide with the law, then why should the farmer be compelled to use an inch and fifteen-sixteenths screen?—A Subscriber.

The Michigan dealer who ships stock not conforming to the U. S. rules, takes about one chance in a thousand of losing his license. Many dealers in this state have shipped ungraded stock, much of it undoubtedly having been purchased as such, but there is ample evidence to prove that many of them have mixed the grades in loading out. Because of the fact that there is no demand for graded stock, and that the majority of the commission houses, retailers and consumers don't give a hoot whether they get graded or ungraded potatoes, those who are doing their darnedest to compel people to buy by grade, have found it necessary to send inspectors into leading terminal markets to detect any violation of the rules by the country dealers. This method is admitted by the Food Administration's representatives to be haphazard, as only a very few of the cars are inspected. Consequently a loophole is left for any dishonest dealer who's got the nerve, to ship ungraded stock.

You might be surprised to know that it has only been within the last few weeks that dealers have been compelled to ship stock ungraded. Up to that time, they were free to buy stock graded, which they did, and to mix the grade in the car if they so desired,—which many of them did.

Answering your specific question, a potato dealer cannot use a smaller screen than an inch and fifteen-sixteenths and abide by the rules. He can demand grade stock from the farmer, because, he holds the whip-lash over the farmer, and if the latter doesn't want to have his stock graded, he's got a perfect right, of course, to haul 'em back home ungraded. But when it comes to shipping the spuds, Mr. Dealer can use his own discretion as to whether he ships by grade or not.

HOW DO YOUR POTATOES GRADE, MR. FARMER?

There has been considerable discussion and difference of opinion as to the proportion of the Michigan potato crop which is graded as No. 1, No. 2 and cull stock. Prof. Wald of the extension department estimates that the crop will not run higher than 15 per cent. The average for the state is, he believes about 12 per cent. Members of the Michigan Potato Shippers' Ass'n. also try to delude themselves that a percentage will not run any higher. But the FACTS are that the 1917 crop will grade anywhere from 10 to 60 per cent, with a state average or probably 30 to 35 per cent. This is the average which we estimate from various statements that have been received from farmers telling of their own experience.

We have something more authoritative than this however, which comes from the leading and most representative potato county of the state, Montcalm. A few weeks ago, Mr. L. A. Siple, one of the most prominent farmers of Montcalm county, sent out a questionnaire to several hundred farmers asking them to report the percentage of their crop grading No. 1, 2 and cull, respectively. We asked Mr. Siple for a report of his findings, and he writes us as follows:

"I averaged sixteen of the statements I received from the growers scattered thru this section and find their potatoes grade an average of SIXTY-FIVE percent No. 1, THIRTY percent No. 2 and FIVE percent culls."

On this basis Michigan's thirty million bushel crop will grade as follows: 19 1-2 million bushels No. 1; 9 million bushels No. 2 and 1 1-2 million bushels culls. The 19 1-2 million bushels of No. 1 stock will be sold as low as the ungraded stock from New York and Pennsylvania, if they ever get to market, and the 9 million bushels of No. 2,—sound, edible food,—will be fed to the hogs or left to rot in the cellar.

Perhaps some of our "friends" at the college and on the potato committee who are directly responsible for this enormous waste of food, will come forward now and further explain why grading is such a benefit to producer and the country at large.

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The storm of partisan discontent that has been brewing in Washington for months has broken, and all Congress flounders in its seething bosom. Ambition-bloated politicians scramble for a hold on the oars of the ship of state, seeking nothing but personal honors and self-gratification by guiding whence their own concealed judgment directs. Of all the lot, the pilot—the President—stands serene and unmoved directing the craft safely thru the troubled waters. It now appears that the meddlesome senate investigation was hatched some months ago, and was a part of a well-preconceived plot to harass the President and his cabinet and to place them in bad repute with the people. Despite Senator Chamberlain's erstwhile apparent friendship to the administration, it now develops that he had been gathering stray data and "evidence" for months tending to show that the war preparations had been badly handled. He had submitted photographs taken at training camps showing soldiers practicing with wooden equipment for want of something better. It is pat that these photographs were gathered for a very definite purpose, and that the Senator, backed up by Roosevelt, is playing them now to discredit the government. It is not exactly clear what the politicians expect to gain by their sudden onslaught. They certainly cannot blind the people to the marvelous progress that has already been made. The military department heads cannot quite be the personification of inefficiency that Citizen Roosevelt would like to have the people believe. It need cause no one to wonder that mistakes have been made; the unexplainable thing is that greater mistakes have not been made. The enemies of the administration take great care in avoiding any mention of what has been accomplished; they play up the trifles that have been overlooked simply because physical limit was reached in solving the monumental problems that hamper war progress in every nation. I do not question that the President has been a bit hasty in dismissing so peremptorily the very suggestion of a super-war cabinet. Possibly the creation of such a body might have much to do toward silencing the government's critics. On the other hand, the President may have had absolute knowledge that the agitation was purely of a political character, and his opposition was therefore justifiable. The clash had to come. Better by far that these personal, partisan differences, between the egoists, the cranks, the office-seeking politicians be settled now while we are only on the verge of the war, than six months hence when we will be bearing the brunt of the conflict. We have no fear of the outcome. The shake-up will bring the big men to the top and those mean in spirit and shallow in patriotism, will rattle to the bottom.

We now have a clear and concise statement of the German war aims. They coincide almost exactly with the conception we formed some time ago of that nation's ambitions. They give the lie to Germany's repeated assertion that she was fighting for her existence. They are expressed in bold wordings that cannot be misunderstood. Germany is after more land and more subjects, and it is for the attainment of these ambitions that half the world has been brought into the inferno of war. Discussing resident Wilson's latest remarks on this country's peace terms, Count von Hertling, the imperial German chancellor, asserted before the German reichstag that there would be no difficulty in coming to an amicable understanding on the President's first four proposals, viz., abolition of secret treaties, freedom of the seas, equality of trade conditions and reduction of armaments. But the Count was sure difficulties would be met in the adjustment of territorial claims along the lines laid down by Pres. Wilson. Germany does not intend to force the incorporation of Belgium as a German state, but believes that the disposal of Poland's future is a matter that Germany and Austria should decide without interference from the Allies. Settlement of boundary disputes between France and Germany and Russia and Germany should be settled by the nations immediately concerned. Stripping the Count's speech of all camouflage, we have the substance that Germany will be perfectly willing to concede the wisdom of President Wilson's recommendations on all matters generally conceded to be of international

interest, but the fixing of the new boundary lines is a matter for Germany, and Germany alone, to decide. The people of the United States can now dispel any idea they may have that Germany wants peace, or that the war will soon end. If it is for the protection of the smaller nations and for democracy that we fight, Germany must be pushed back on every front and decisively beaten so that there may not be a single question as to the fate of the unhappy nations now writhing under the Kaiser's heel.



The eyes of the world, during the past week, have been turned toward Austria-Hungary, and the internal revolutionary conditions prevailing there. That the dual monarchy has reached a critical stage in the great war can not longer be doubted. Conditions there are such as to make the most stringent measures necessary if the present war government is to continue as an ally of Germany, and not be overwhelmed by the rising tide of revolution. The censorship is so strict that reliable information is difficult to obtain, much of it being obtained through the Bolshevik government at Petrograd, coming from Austro-Hungarian soldiers on the eastern front. Some of the leading factors contributing to the present unrest are hostility to the government's servility to Germany, famine and distress caused by the war, and last, but not least, socialistic influence exerted by the Russian Bolsheviks.

The Teutonic-Bolshevik peace conference has been adjourned until Jan. 29. It now appears that no definite settlement can be made except thru a complete breakdown of the Russians. Gen. Hoffman insists on Germany's annexation terms and while reluctantly consenting to the adjournment stated that it would be the last postponement, and that failure to comply with Germany's terms would result in the occupation of the Russian city of Revel, within a week. He also insisted that the future Russian frontier be the shores of the gulf of Finland to the east of Moon sound islands, thence to west of Minsk and thence to Brest-Litovsk. This means loss to the Russians of a large territory and such terms are not likely to be accepted. One redeeming feature of the Brest-Litovsk meeting is the fact that Germany has revealed her lust for conquest and desire to retain enemy territory now in her hands.

Count Terauchi, Japanese premier, speaking at the opening of the Diet, outlined Japan's position in the following way: "Japan holds herself responsible for maintenance of peace in this part of the world, and consequently in the event of that peace being endangered to the inevitable detriment of our interests, the government of Japan will not hesitate a moment to take proper measures. As the friend of Russia, Japan earnestly hopes that country may successfully settle its difficulties without much further loss of time and establish a stable government."

Official reports indicate unusual activity for winter months along the western front. Intensity of artillery fire has increased and raiding parties and air fighting are of daily occurrence. Ten German airplanes were brought down in two days by the French. The Italian war office reports intense artillery fire along the entire front, also several minor engagements along the right bank of the Piave river.

Belgium, in her reply to Pope Benedict's peace note, has laid down her final peace terms. They include, "a just peace, so far as concerns Belgium, her integrity and that of the colonies. Reparation for damage done, and guarantees against a renewal of the aggression of 1914."

WEEKLY MAINE LETTER

The potato situation in Maine at the beginning of 1918 shows many perplexities. The prices received by the growers are not enough to tempt them to a large production the coming season, and if a further decline sets in as the season for planting draws near the plant in Maine will be materially cut down.

I have talked with growers from pretty much all over the state during the last six weeks and if the plant is cut as per the opinion of these growers at the present time the matter will be a serious one. This will be especially true in our eastern markets if the congested freight situation is not cleared up before the winter of 1918 and 1919, allowing a freer movement from western points to our eastern cities, which usually get the bulk of their supplies from Maine. Not one of the growers I have talked with but what believes the government report as to the 1917 crop in Maine is very much too large. My own judgment would be that the Government report of our 1917 crop is at least 30 per cent too high. Neither do the market conditions warrant a belief that there is the enormous crop as given out by the Government report. If this report is true the growers stand to lose very heavily as the amount up to date that has moved out of Maine is way below that of a year ago and the time is coming near when the old crop must be moved or lost.

Let the reader take a map of Maine and draw a line westerly from Bangor through Farmington and that portion of the state south of this line did not begin to produce enough potatoes for its own use. This was true also in 1916. A few years ago this section produced hundreds of car loads for export besides feeding its own people. From the present indications I doubt very much if it ever again becomes an exporting section.

There is but little doubt but what the acreage planted to potatoes in Maine the coming season will be much below the past few years. Several Aroostook growers have informed me that the cut in acreage in that county will be in their opinion 40 per cent of 1917. Some claim as high as 60 per cent decrease but this figure will not be touched unless the market goes all to pieces and the growers lose outright a large portion of the stocks they now have on hand.

There are several reasons for the great decrease in acreage that will undoubtedly take place. Some farmers claim that the local draft boards with a desire to make a good showing as to exemptions, are refusing to exempt many young men who are badly needed on the farms if production is to be maintained. But little help can now be obtained from over the line and hundreds of Aroostook growers have got to cut their acreage on this account. It is little use to get a large acreage planted and be unable to take proper care of it, or worse still, be delayed in the harvesting of the crop. Aroostook weather cannot be depended upon after the middle of October. Two years out of the last fifteen has the temperature dropped to nearly zero before October 20th, practically ruining all underground tubers. This makes it necessary if the grower is to play safe, to have his crop dug before October 15th, and he must be reasonably sure of having competent help.

This shipping of city labor to help harvest a potato crop may appeal to theorists in the city but hardly one out of every dozen of such help is worth the food they consume; their backs simply won't stand the strain of picking up potatoes all day. Next the fertilizer shortage is a very serious one to the Maine grower. The great majority of Maine growers use a ton of fertilizer per acre. Before potash got so high in price from 6 to 10 per cent was used. This grade of commercial fertilizer cannot now be had at any price and the growers must content themselves with one or two per cent, and at a price more than twice as much as before the war. It takes some courage to apply from sixty to seventy-five dollars worth of fertilizer for an acre and at even the present prices from twenty to twenty-five dollars more for seed. Most Maine growers use from 14 to 20 bu. of seed per acre, probably an average of around 16 to 18 bu. when seed is reasonable cheap. Add to this the cost of materials for spraying for blight and insects and we have around a hundred dollars per acre without figuring any labor cost. Were this all he had to contend with the Maine grower would not cut his acreage 40 per cent as now seems probable; there are two other serious reasons which I will take up next week. At present there is no frost in Maine fields. Snow came early 18 inches along the coast to 4 feet of snow as one goes north.

(Editor's note: The above is the first of a series of weekly letters that Mr. E. A. Rogers, of Brunswick, Maine, has agreed to write for the readers of Michigan Business Farming, on Maine crop and market conditions. Mr. Rogers is secretary of the Johnson Seed Potato Co., which operates eight big potato farms in the vicinity of Brunswick, specializing in the culture of seed potatoes.



SIDELIGHTS ON SUGAR BEET SITUATION

Manufacturers with Customary Short-sightedness and Bull-headedness would Compel Growers to Raise Beets Without Profit

The annual tug-of-war between the beet growers and the manufacturers is on. The farmers, thru their committee, have said that they would not take less than \$10 a ton for their beets, and the manufacturers are equally positive that they won't pay a cent more than \$9 minimum, with a sliding scale attachment, which represents about \$1 per ton over the price paid for last year's crop.

"The growers' committee cannot endorse the nine dollar contract and will not endorse it," said A. B. Cook, of Owosso, one of the members of the committee. We failed to get an offer from the manufacturers that we believed good enough to assure a fair profit on our beets, and we refused to accept any offer made by them. We did succeed in getting an increase of one dollar over the first contract submitted, and I believe that about one more meeting will get us what we should have."

State Food Administrator George A. Prescott has been quoted as saying that he was not in sympathy with the "\$10 contract or no beets" ultimatum of the growers. In Mr. Prescott's judgment this is the time to think only of patriotism and not of profits. It is our candid opinion that Mr. Prescott has either been misquoted or that his knowledge of the sugar beet industry is very limited. Mr. Prescott is too good a business man, we know, to argue that a manufacturer of munitions of war, for instance, should conduct his business at a loss or charge him with being unpatriotic if he threatens to close up his plant unless he be assured of a fair profit, even tho the article he manufactures may be indispensable to the conduct of the war. Why Mr. Prescott should ask that the common rule of business be suspended when applied to the farm factory, is totally beyond our ken.

We would like to ask if Mr. Prescott knows what it costs to grow an acre of beets, or if he has any idea of the profits that accrue to the manufacturers from the slicing of \$9 and \$10 beets respectively. We don't believe he possesses this knowledge. It looks very much as if Mr. Prescott in the role of mediator, did the easy, rather than the just thing, and recommended a price half way between the price asked by the growers and that offered by the manufacturers, irrespective of whether it paid the growers a profit or not. If Mr. Prescott, as state food administrator, believes that the farmers of the lower peninsula should accept \$10 per ton for beets, it's a dead sure thing that the manufacturers won't pay a cent more than that unless they're absolutely obliged to.

The government's price on sugar enables the manufacturer, if assured of a good acreage, to figure to a "T" just how much he can afford to pay for the beets and still come out with a fair profit. The growers have ascertained from reliable sources that the manufacturer can make a very good profit on \$10 beets. They know that it will cost themselves, even in a normal season, very-nearly the \$10 they ask, to produce beets, and they are merely asking and with fairness that the manufacturers give them a portion of the profits.

Here are two facts that the growers of beets should keep constantly in mind. The manufacturer knows what his selling price is to be, and he can estimate very closely what it will cost him to convert beets into sugar. He bases his cost figures very naturally, upon a conservative estimate of the probable acreage and yield, so that if the acreage and yield be larger than anticipated his profits are increased in proportion. But consider the farmer. His selling price of \$10 per ton is based on an average yield. Any yield even slightly under the average, may mean a big loss on his crop. In asking \$10 for his beets, the farmer not only fails to secure an even fifty-fifty share of the profits, but he takes a mighty long chance of being left in the soup without any profit at all.

Manufacturers of other beet producing states are offering growers \$10 and better for 1918 beets. Growers of Colorado and California are getting \$12 per ton, of Wisconsin \$10 a ton, and it is stated that the Menominee River Sugar Company of Menominee, Mich., has its own volition offered upper peninsula growers \$10. George W. McCormick, manager of that concern, has been quoted as saying that the farmers were entitled to \$10 per ton and that he had given contracts at this price even if he did not make a cent of profit from the factory. It was this same George W. McCormick, who a year ago, voluntarily paid over to the growers 50 cents per ton more than his contract called for, on 1916 beets. Such acts as these inspire confidence and friendship, and aid very materially in the upbuilding of the sugar beet industry. We cannot refrain from drawing a comparison between this constructive policy of Mr. McCormick's and the narrow and arrogant attitude of the lower peninsula managers.

It would appear to us that the demands of the growers are just and reasonable, and we see no reason for their backing down on the ultimatum they have given. If the abnormal conditions mean abnormally high production costs and there is no profit in growing beets at less than \$10 per ton, it is silly to argue that farmers who prefer to grow some other crop in their stead are unpatriotic. One of the reasons why the beet growers have been so much at the mercy of the manufacturers is because so many of them have pinned their faith to beets year after year as their sole "cash" crop. We honestly believe that the best thing that could happen to Michigan's sugar beet industry would be for the growers to turn to some other crop for a few years and show the manufacturers that they are not altogether dependent for their living upon sugar beets. There is a great demand today for beans and wheat as for sugar, and these two staples can be grown in many of the sugar beet sections with equal success and possibly greater profit.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE BEAN MARKET?

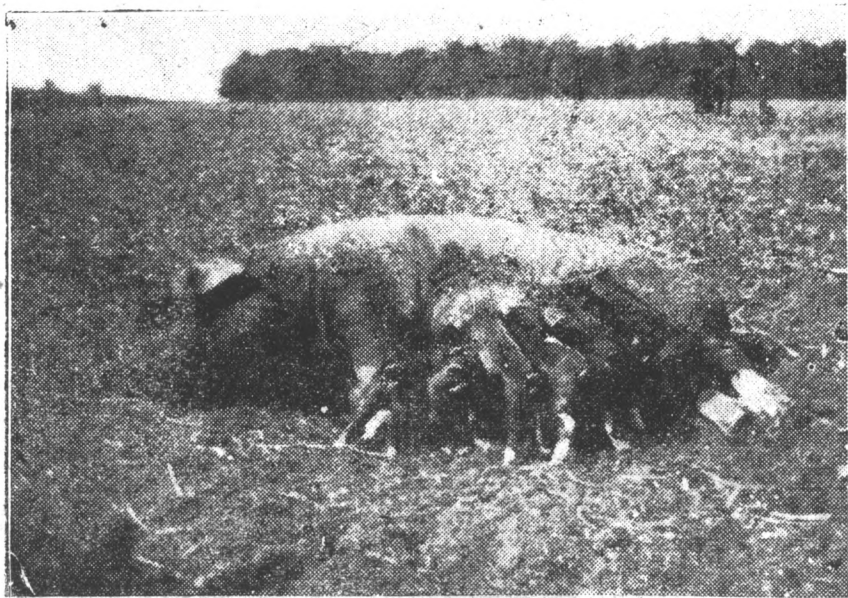
How does the bean market look to you? Do you think they will advance in price before March 1st? The market seems weak now, but I can hold my crop until March 1st, but I am undecided whether I had better sell now or not.—N. G., Alma.

We always hesitate to advise a man definitely one way or another when it comes to holding his product, but it is our personal opinion that the bean market will be better later on. There is a great deal of wet stock at the present time and after this has a chance to clean up we believe the market for good dry beans, except those which may be used for seed, will show material advance.

FROZEN BEANS SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR SEED

I would like to ask the question about wet beans that are frozen. Is it safe to plant them for the next year's crop?—J. N. R., Ithaca.

We do not advise the planting of wet beans which have been frozen. During the spring of 1917 the writer saw this tried out in a number of cases and it usually proved entirely unsatisfactory. The beans would frequently germinate and grow for a few inches above the ground and then seemingly lacking vitality, would shrivel up and die. We advise the planting of good beans in all cases, and while wet beans may be dried out and used as seed, we believe that after a bean has been frozen the germinating qualities, or at least the vitality, has greatly deteriorated.



Where's Mr. Hoover? "Lady Giant 2nd" at home with her family of nine. Her ladyship is owned by M. A. Newton, a prosperous farmer of Liberty Township, Van Wert, Ohio, and the picture was "snapped" by Miss Ilo White, of St. Louis, Mich., to whom we are indebted for its use.

WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL DIGEST

MILL FEED REGULATIONS BY FOOD ADMINISTRATION

By new regulations covering mill feeds, the U. S. Food Administration has established a relation between the price of mill feeds and the price of wheat. The plan guarantees to farmer a direct relationship between the price he receives for his wheat and the price he pays for feed. The regulations apply to all mills engaged in the business of milling flour and feed from wheat and licensed by the U. S. Food Administration.

The price of bran, bulk, f. o. b. mill, in carload lots, for one ton (2,000 pounds) is in no case to exceed 38 per cent of the average cost to such mill of one ton of wheat at the mill. The price at the mill is determined by the average cost to the mill of the wheat ground during the previous month plus an administration fee of 1 per cent paid by the mill on the wheat so purchased and ground.

The regulations provide further that on all invoices the price shall be on the basis of cash or draft. This is the price, in bulk at the mill in carloads. All invoices, moreover, shall show the bulk price at the mill plus the price of sacks, items of freight and interest, if any, when goods are sold on extended terms or credits.

The other grades of mill feed are established on a fixed differential taking bran as the basic price. For shorts or standard middlings, the maximum charge may be \$2 per ton over the price of bran. Mixed feeds may be \$4 per ton over the price of bran. Flour middlings may be \$9 per ton, and Red Dog \$15 per ton over the price of bran. In the case cited, the maximum price for these feeds per ton bulk, f. o. b. mills in carload lots, would consequently be as follows: Shorts and standard middlings, \$28.60; Mixed feeds, \$30.60; Flour middlings, \$35.60; Red Dog, \$41.60.

Until further regulations are issued, a maximum of 50 cents per ton differential on feed sold and shipped in less than carload lots will be permitted.

In arriving at the price several things should be borne in mind. While the price for grade wheat at the point where price determination is being estimated should be the Chicago price of \$2.20 per bushel, with proper freight adjustment, at the same time it may be necessary to move this grain from a source involving heavier transportation charges. This may be due to difficulties in transportation or the lack of wheat supplies. Further, mills not operating under voluntary agreement with the Food Administration are not obliged to observe the basic price. It is absolutely essential therefore to know the price paid for the wheat by the mill. If your miller is not working in agreement with the Food Administration, use your influence to help him to do so.

NO, MR. FARMER, THEY DON'T GRADE POTATOES IN N. Y.

Do they grade potatoes in New York? What-dyumean, grade potatoes? That's a new one on old New York state. Judging from the tone of the following letters, one might judge that they never heard of graded potatoes "back east." Mr. Garry A. Root of Franklinville, New York, asked the county agricultural agent if farmers would have to grade potatoes. Well, that was a poser for Mr. C. A. He never had heard anything about grading potatoes, and so he asked the New York Bureau of Markets for the information. Below is the correspondence. The first letter was written by Mr. H. K. Crofoot, Agricultural agent for Cattaraugus county:

"Some little time ago you wrote me asking if there was a law here on the grading of potatoes. In this communication I beg to enclose copy of letter received from Mr. G. G. Atwood, chief bureau of plant industry, state department of farms and markets. I think this answers your questions and GIV'S YOU NO CAUSE FOR WORRY."

Mr. Atwood's Letter

"There is no statute (potato grading) in this state that I am aware of; however, the Federal government has been attempting to get a standardization of grading of potatoes and may have made rules to that effect. I think possibly the Board of Health of the city of New York may have had some regulations on this subject on what No. 1 potatoes should be."



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 has been much lighter during the past week and it will perhaps be another week, with favorable weather, before shipments will move as they did previous to the recent storms. Flour movement also has been restricted although mills are turning out their regular quota.

With two wheatless days per week, and the introduction of war flour, it becomes more and more apparent that America is going to be called upon to relinquish claim on every possible pound of wheat which can be spared to Europe. Few people outside of government employees, really realize the seriousness of the situation. Let our watchword be conservation of every pound of wheat.



OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White Standard	.89	.87 1-4	1.02
No. 3 White	.88 1-2	.86 1-2	1.01
No. 4 White	.87 3-4	.85 3-4	.99 1-2

During the past week the oat market has advanced and the end is not in sight. Our readers will remember that in our last article we stated it as our opinion, despite the opinion of many dealers on the different grain exchanges to the contrary, that oats would reach a higher level before supplies would be sufficient to seriously effect the market. That we were not far wrong is shown by the latest advance in the market. Under present conditions we do not see how supplies can possibly increase sufficiently to effect the market before the last of February, and perhaps not then. We believe there will be a still further advance in the price of this grain, before any decline takes place.



CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	1.85	1.61 1-2	1.82 3-4
No. 3 Yellow	1.84	1.60	1.81 1-2
No. 2 Mixed	1.80	1.56	1.77

Storms have again delayed corn shipments and at the time of writing this weather conditions are far from favorable. The market for the next thirty days depends entirely on the weather and the clearing of eastern terminals. With better weather conditions in the corn belt, there will be a greatly increased movement to primary markets. Dryers there are running now about to capacity and will continue to do so, providing the grain reaches them. With the present congestion in the east, and the inability of the Eastern roads to move further stocks until this is removed it will not be long until western points have a surplus of sufficient proportions to effect the market. During the next six weeks a great portion of the corn crop must move or become a loss with the coming of warmer weather. This would indicate a lower market and we believe improved transportation conditions will bring this about.



RYE

The rye market is exceptionally strong at this time. Not much grain moving, and the increased use as a wartime substitute for wheat has placed it among the most active on the list. The Detroit market has advanced until now No. 2 rye is quoted at



LAST MINUTE WIRE

DETROIT SPECIAL—Oats are showing additional strength on a purely supply and demand basis. Supplies not sufficient to meet consumers' needs. Good demand for rye and supplies insufficient to meet same from day to day. Hay prices up \$1@2 per ton.

CHICAGO WIRE—Corn market quiet under light receipts. Improved weather conditions give promise of an increase in stocks and perhaps an easier market. Hay in good demand and supplies only moderate.

NEW YORK CITY WIRE—Butter market firm and receipts lighter. No increase in egg supply although same is expected. Hay arriving only in moderate quantities and market satisfactory.

\$2.05 per bushel. This advance has been mostly by bids as but few cars have actually changed hands. The Chicago market is quoted nominal.

Barley

The barley market continues very firm and receipts at all points are extremely light. Barley is being used now in many different ways and more extensively for domestic consumption than ever before. There is every prospect of higher prices, considering the limited supply moving and the constantly increasing demand.

Choice barley is bringing around \$1.59@1.60 on the Chicago market. Buffalo prices run from \$1.60 to \$1.79.



HAY

Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	25 50 26 00	24 50 25 00	23 50 24 00
Chicago	29 30 30 00	28 00 29 00	27 00 28 00
Cincinnati	31 00 31 50	30 50 31 00	29 00 30 00
Pittsburgh	30 00 30 50	28 50 29 50	27 50 28 00
New York	38 00 37 00	37 00 37 50	35 00 36 00
Richmond	32 00 32 50	31 50 32 00	31 00 31 50

There is still a very light movement of hay to most markets, the effects of recent storms still being felt. Right now the weather is the determining factor in the hay situation. Good weather and a liberal movement would undoubtedly mean somewhat lower prices. At the time of writing however, heavy snows are reported and weather conditions give promise of little improvement during the next week.

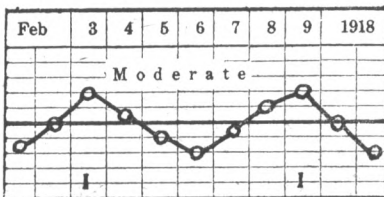
Supplies at Detroit are only moderate, storms preventing the hauling of hay to loading points. The market is firm at prevailing prices.

Offerings at Chicago are very light, that part of the country having been exceptionally hard hit by recent blizzards. For days the movement of freight was almost entirely at a standstill. The market is inclined to be somewhat irregular, depending on the supply moved from day to day.

Eastern points report a somewhat easier situation and receivers state it as their belief that any material

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



Washington, D. C. Feb. 2.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbance to cross continent Feb. 1 to 5, warm wave Jan. 31 to Feb. 4, cool wave Feb. 3 to 7. This will have a little greater force than usual, with moderate precipitation, most of which will be on the northern parts of Pacific and Atlantic slopes.

Next warm waves will reach Vancouver about Feb. 6 and 11 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. They will cross crest of Rockies by the close of 7 and 12, plains sections 8 and 14, meridian 90, great

increase in supplies would result in lower prices.



BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	7.50	7.75	7.65
Prime	7.45	7.65	7.58
Red Kidneys	8.75	9.30	8.75

Conditions generally for some time have been such as to make the bean market quiet. Lack of transportation facilities has made trading difficult. Any improvement along this line would undoubtedly result in a much better bean market.

State authorities are co-operating with canners with the idea of getting as much of the wet stock as possible, into cans before the coming of warm weather. Present prospects are that a great deal of this stock will be left on the hands of growers when spring comes and it is almost certain to spoil. Driers in the state are running to full capacity. The trouble is there are not enough of them to take care of the crop.

Don't lose sight of the fact that good dry seed beans are going to be worth some money next seeding time. Those of you who have them will do well to hang onto them.



POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	2.65 cwt.	2.55 cwt.
Chicago	2.15	3.02
Cincinnati	2.60	2.47
New York	2.90	2.80
Pittsburgh	2.90	2.78
Baltimore, Md.	2.70	2.60

The potato market, the same as all other markets, has been effected by recent severe weather conditions. Receipts on all markets have been much lighter than during the early part of the winter. This has given accumulations an opportunity to clean up and most markets have shown an advance in prices. A continuation of present conditions will no doubt result in further advances.

Considerably more stock went into pits last fall than is usually the case. There is much speculation as to what

the condition of this stock will be when it comes out. Many seem to think that the proportion of wastage will be great owing to the severe weather. This would have an effect on the market and the outcome will be closely watched.

There is still much stock back in growers hands and held at originating points. Dealers feel that the price is too high and that as soon as this stock moves freely there will be a decline in price.



ONIONS

The onion market is steady and firm at prevailing prices. There is no oversupply at present at either Detroit or Chicago. Eastern points report rather free supplies but prices there are satisfactory and conditions fairly firm. Detroit is quoting yellows at \$3.75 to \$4.00 per 100-lb. sack. Red stock at \$3.00 to \$3.50.



APPLES

The apple market remains firm, receipts being light on account of blockades, while the demand is fairly good. Detroit quotations: Greening, \$6@6.25; Baldwin, \$5; No. 2, \$3@3.50 per bbl.; western, \$2@2.75 per box.



BUTTER

New York Letter, Jan. 26, 1918
Butter receipts have been much lighter than for last week. This has undoubtedly been due to congested traffic conditions and to severe storms in the central west. Quotations on all grades of butter advanced one cent during the week and the market remains firm with a rising tendency. Buyers have been extremely anxious to get fresh goods but have been unable to secure enough to supply their needs. The demand is so keen that prices will without a doubt remain firm even with the influx of considerable quantities of butter that has been enroute for several weeks.

Suggestion to Creameries.—The appearance of some of the tubs of butter coming into the market prejudice buyers against the butter. Many tubs coming in are without one or more hoops and in some instances some of the staves are out of place. Tubs should be soaked thoroughly before putting butter into them and it would be advisable under present transportation conditions to put one or two small tacks through the hoops to keep them from falling off. Tubs should be filled level full with the top and smooth, as a rough or concave surface detracts from the appearance and hinders sale.

Quotations for the first half of the week beginning January 21 were 54c for extras and 54½@55c for higher scoring grades. The range of firsts was 50@53½c, seconds, 46@49½c and there were few lots in that grade to be had below 47@48c. On Thursday because of a considerable influx of butter all grades declined one-half cent in price, that, however, being considered temporary.



POULTRY

LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Turkey	26-27	18-24	20-25
Ducks	27-28	25-26	28-30
Geese	26-27	24-25	29-30
Springers	27-28	25-26	28-30
Hens	25-28	24-26	27-30

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

Receipts of poultry on all markets is very light just at this time. Country roads are in such shape as to make delivery to shipping points very difficult. (Markets continued on page 8)

W. T. Foster

"for all the farmers of Michigan."

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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Michigan's Sugar Beet Industry's Future

AS BETWEEN the grower of sugar beets and the manufacturer there is much needless friction. Each seems blind to the fact that the other is indispensable to the success of the respective enterprises. This conflict of opinion and lack of co-operation has put a clamp on Michigan's sugar beet industry, and while the industry of other states has developed rapidly, encouraged by a sympathetic understanding between grower and manufacturer, that of Michigan's has lapsed.

We do not hesitate to place the onus of this condition upon the shoulders of the manufacturers. They have not viewed the industry with any breadth of vision; their plans have been made to meet the needs and opportunities of the present; they have failed to appreciate that future success depends upon the ability of today's foundation. The only thing that can possible insure the perpetuity of Michigan's sugar beet industry is the payment of a profitable price to the grower of the beets. There have been many seasons when the farmers lost money on their crop and the manufacturers made good profits, but the latter have never been disposed to encourage the growers and protect the future of the industry by sharing their profits with them. A succession of unprofitable years not only hurts the grower of beets but eventually spells ruin for the manufacturer.

Last year the farmer was paid the highest he ever received for his product. Need we remind the manufacturer that it was only after numerous conferences, both costly and worrisome to grower and manufacturer alike that the farmer finally received the price he asked last year. Altho at that time, the manufacturers protested that they couldn't afford to pay that price it is now a matter of record that their profits on last season's acreage were ample and satisfactory. What would their profits have been and what would have happened to the grower had he not demanded and received the larger price?

Comes another season. The growers want \$10 for their 1918 beets. Their price is fair, based upon the largely increased cost of production. The manufacturers refuse to pay the price, even tho the price set by the government on the manufactured article would permit them to do so and still have left a fair profit on an average acreage.

What will the outcome be? To whom shall the growers turn to champion their cause and lead them to victory? State Food Administrator Prescott has already spoken for the federal government, and urged the growers to compromise on a \$9 basis. Last year the growers sought the governor's aid but it is unlikely that Mr. Sleeper will care to make any recommendations this year supplementary to those of Mr. Prescott's. And the legislature is not in session, so there can be no threat of a legislative investigation into the profits of the sugar business.

This thing must be fought out between the growers and the manufacturers themselves. We will not speculate on the outcome. No matter who wins the other over, both lose by the long delay and the attendant bitterness.

The farmer who is convinced that it is necessary to have \$10 to pay him a nominal profit on his venture, is a poor specimen of a business man to accept a penny less. Mr. Prescott's contention that the farmer ought to compromise on \$9 beets whether that price affords a profit or not, is in our

judgment, wholly unsound. Manufacturers of other states are paying \$10 and more for beets, and no good reason has been advanced why those of the lower peninsula should not do likewise. It is significant that the manufacturers have made no mention of how the \$10 price would affect their profits. They have merely said that they won't pay it, and let it go at that.

There are sufficient farmers of the sugar beet sections in sympathy with the demands of the organized growers to force the manufacturers to pay the price asked. But the manufacturers will be extremely short-sighted to permit the issue to be decided in this manner. If there is profit in \$10 beets, they should for the protection of their own interests, agree to that price and quit quibbling. If there is no profit in \$10 beets, the growers will be glad of the chance to examine the proof.

There are two courses open for the manufacturers. They can follow blindly the path they are now trodding and force hundreds of sugar beet growers to turn permanently to the growing of some other crop. This will cut down the season's acreage and have a bad effect generally upon the industry in this state. But the constructive, patriotic thing for them to do is to take the growers into their confidence, pay them a sufficient price for their beets that will insure a fair profit, and show thereby that they are willing to co-operate in making sugar beet farming a desirable and profitable pursuit to follow. Let the manufacturer do this thing and this publication and every other agricultural agency in the state would co-operate in every way possible to secure the biggest acreage of sugar beets ever planted in this history of the state.

There need be no fear of a sugar famine. Michigan's sugar beet industry, if given any kind of encouragement, can double, if not treble its production the coming season, despite the labor shortage. The opportunity lies broadly before the manufacturers to give the industry the impetus it needs. We hope for the sake of everyone concerned that they will not ignore it.

The Cat that Came Back

MEOW! The old black cat that the voters of Michigan threw out of the back door by the tail last fall, has come mewling back and scratches once more to be let in. Talk about the cat that had nine lives; it hasn't got anything on the demon rum.

Last fall something over 70,000 sane sober citizens of Michigan pronounced booze a public nuisance, passed sentence forthwith, and supposedly consigned it to a permanent grave. But they reckoned without their host.

Booze wants to come back; its friends are making strenuous efforts to resuscitate and restore it to its old position of power and prestige in the social and political affairs of Michigan. Petitions will be sought to bring about the re-submission of the question to a vote of the people, in the hopes that they may have repented their action last fall and will forgive the scapegrace for his crimes.

The proposed amendment is full of pitfalls for the unwary. To delude the farmer, a provision is made that \$250 of the license money be turned over to the state highway department for expenditure on the roads. This is a bribe, pure and simple for the farmer's vote, and is an insult to his intelligence. That he will recognize it as such when an ex-saloonkeeper of his nearest village sticks a petition under his nose, is our candid opinion.

Booze can't come back. County after county and state after state have black-listed it. Congress has put a ban upon it. All the constructive forces of the world have reared themselves against it. But be ever watchful. Like the bedraggled cat, it slinks along under cover of darkness, purrs plaintively upon the threshold and rubs a soft paw against the door. But look out for the claws when it gets inside.

Military or Physical Training

THE ADVOCATES of military training are putting in their best licks these days to convince Congress that it ought to pass a universal, compulsory military training law just as soon as the ponderous wheels of our legislative machinery can be set in motion. No doubt remains but what they will take advantage of an unnatural state of the nation's mind to saddle a dangerous doctrine upon our law books, unless the opponents of the proposal bestir themselves.

The proponents of military training argue that the enforced drilling of our youth will develop his physical powers and assist in the building of a stalwart and courageous race. If this be the only motive of the military propagandists, why not substitute the word "physical" for "military", and we will have all the advantages of the one without the dire possibilities of the other.

Let us have compulsory training, in country school, high school and university. Let our boys and girls be taught discipline, self-denial, regular habits, and the functions of their bodies. But keep the system free from any suggestion or semblance of the military idea. Taboo every instrument of warfare, instill into our youth that they are being instructed in physical welfare that they may develop into strong men and women to perpetuate a race of strong-minded, strong-minded, peace-loving people. We want a nation of strong, people,—strong in resolve and reserve, but weak in the arrogance of the militarist.

When the City Editor Writes

WHEN the average city editor wanders off into a dissertation on the cost of farm products and the reasons therefore, we are instantly reminded of the bull in the china shop. There are undoubtedly some metropolitan editors who can write with intelligence and unbiased judgment upon the problems of food production and marketing, but they are few and far between.

A Lincoln subscriber wrote us recently, enclosing a clipping from an up-state paper, which laid the blame for the high cost of potatoes against the farmer. Writes this subscriber, "It would be proper to acquaint the Michigan farmers how that sheet feels toward them, so that when they send their solicitors thru the state looking for subscriptions they will meet the reception they deserve."

Now we don't feel at all like that toward our fellow editor up-state. The bovine who wandered into the open door of the crockery store had no grievance against the bricabrac nor its owner. And so it is with our city editor. He really has nothing against the farmer, and we rather admire his courage for his convictions, even tho they are wrong. Our editor friend has merely stepped out of his sphere, and he writes error instead of truth without knowing it.

The sum and substance of this editor's cry is that the farmers held back their potatoes last fall expecting to get exorbitant prices before spring and now that they have failed to materialize, the owners of the spuds are crying for help from the consumer and the government.

Our editor friend wholly overlooks the fact that the farmer like any other business man, must secure a price for his product that will pay him a profit, and he is certainly justified in holding his potatoes on the chance that the price will go high enough to give him this. Most of the buyers, like the city editors and consumers, believed that the prices would be lower before the first of the year, and the prices they have offered have ranged far below those paid in other states, and did not hold a profit for the farmers.

It is proof enough of our city friend's ignorance of the potato situation that he failed to mention the fact that this year 35 per cent of the farmer's crop is graded as No. 2 stock and taken back to the farm, so that it was necessary for him to have much higher prices than formerly in order to save him from loss.

We challenge this up-state editor to show us a single dealer in the state of Michigan who had cars in which to ship potatoes when he had no potatoes to ship. We would like to have him point out these "profiteering" farmers who refused to sell when a fairly profitable price was offered them. We'd like to have him analyze his statement that "these farmers who are now complaining will get no sympathy from consumers." Brother editor, the farmer doesn't need or want your sympathy or the sympathy of the consumer. If you and your fellow editors will tell the truth just occasionally about the crop and market conditions, the costly and wasteful marketing methods over which the farmer has no control, the arbitrary grading of his product, and a few other "ins and outs" of the farming business which are total secrets to the average consumer, much of this bitterness between producer and consumer will be swept away and you will be performing a real service to the public.

The federal trade commission is slowly uncovering the sinister influence that the giant packing concerns exert over many of the nation's most important utilities and financial interests. It is said that they own railroads, street car systems, and control many large banking institutions. A few weeks ago a number of prominent Detroit bankers sent a telegram to President Wilson urging that the investigation into the packing business be abandoned, as they were having a detrimental effect upon trade conditions. It is now charged that this telegram was inspired by the packers. It is not probable that the administration will be frightened into abandoning the investigation, however. That it will lead to government control, if not ownership of the big packing concerns, is the consensus of opinion.

EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

Funny Deals are Blanketed With the Words
"Patriotic Duty."

Have read your many articles which uphold the farmers' claims and thought over their truthfulness so much that the only relief I'll have is to pen you a few lines and let you know that this whole potato community is with you. Of course you know that this county and also neighboring counties are potato growing centers and therefore know that you are putting up a just fight to protect the rights of the farmer. Referring to your issue of January 12th, 1918, in your controversy with Messrs. Waid and Waterbury, I notice those gentlemen refer to "patriotic duty," and "increased production" as a basis for their argument in favor of these unjust grading rules, also that Mr. Waid makes the assertion that the progressive farmers are in favor of it. Maybe Mr. Wade had better make a public statement as to what he means by "Progressive farmer." Apparently the farmer who agrees with Mr. Waid is the progressive one and the one who stands up for justice is the unprogressive one, but believe me, if that's the case this state is overrun with unprogressive ones, and we feel proud of it in this particular case. If Mr. Waid would take a couple of weeks and travel around to the community centers of the potato sections and inquire as to the growers' opinions about the grading rules he would find out that next to Kaiser Wilhelm his pet idea is the most despised thing in Michigan.

As to the sale and price of Grade 2 potatoes there is no such thing as Grade 2 in Otsego county, a county which you know makes a specialty of potatoes. If the gentlemen who are backing the grading rule don't believe this, let them visit the potato storage houses run by dealers and they will find that potatoes which drop through a screen were termed as culls and were thrown back in the farmers' wagon, to be taken to the farm and fed to the hogs and cattle. Grade 1 is the only grade which the dealers would quote a price on.

Mr. Waterbury says it is "our patriotic duty to all turn in and help encourage increased production." Isn't it funny what kind of deals are blanketed with those words "patriotic duty!" Wonder if Mr. Waterbury thinks it is patriotic to encourage an experiment which means financial destruction to the potato grower at this critical time, and which most assuredly will discourage the farmer in responding again so loyally to the Government's plea for increased acreage. If they don't believe this grading rule is going to act as a boomerang to their increased production plea let them go into the potato centers and inquire from growers as to what kind of acreage they will put in next year. I notice their intentions are to educate the consumer into buying by grade. The consumer always was satisfied when there was only one grade, what he was kicking on was the dealer's prices. Maybe they consider it a patriotic duty to stir up the public into buying by grades and practically discarding a size of potato which they previously relished. When Mr. Waterbury says you are stirring up the farmer on this grading rule he is wrong, and being a farm paper editor, ought to know his subscribers better than that. The farmers were stirred up when they were handed this grading lemon at potato digging time and the truth of it is MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is the only publication which has had the backbone to uphold the farmer's rights. If this grading rule is so justifiable why don't Mr. Waterbury come out in his paper and state where it is a benefit to the grower. He shouldn't forget that the farmer is the backbone of his paper and should defend their rights instead of hiding behind the plea of "patriotic duty."

The majority of farmers know how to get production if the natural elements give them half a chance. They know that manure, fertilizers and lime give increased production; that's been drilled into them for years, so advance them into another class and educate them how to eliminate some of the middle-sharks and get their share of the consumer's dollar which they certainly are entitled to after doing the bigger share of the labor.

Potatoes are quoted around here at 72 cents per bushel. It costs from 75 cents to 85 cents to grow them. Wonder if the steel mills are running at such a loss? Still the cry is that the farmer must win the war. All right, we want to win it, and will go the manufacturing industries one better, inasmuch as we won't ask a certain per cent profit over all running expenses. Give us wages for our labor and we'll be waving the flag at the finish.—A Subscriber, Otsego County.

We Can Produce; Help Us market Our Crops

I am glad you believe in the follow-up system, because if you did not I would probably not be sending you the enclosed check for a year's subscription to M. B. F. As soon as I read the first sample copy I said that is the paper every farmer needs. Most farmers understand their business, and are as efficient in the production end as any other producer, but I am sorry to say that they are away behind the others when it comes to disposing of their product.

I will not accuse any farm paper of giving the farmer false advice on raising crops, etc., but you know as well as I that a farmer gets disgusted having some one who probably never saw a farm except from an auto, tell him how to be more efficient. Your paper tells the farmer how to sell

not afford to waste food, it costs too much, and their wages buy too little as it is. They have been practicing economy for years, and the lesson is not a new one that must be drilled so persistently into their ears. What these people need is lower prices that will enable them to enjoy more food, pressure to make them eat less.

If there are certain kinds of food that are most necessary to supply our allies and our own soldiers these foods can very well be conserved in reasonable amount for this purpose. But there are other kinds of food that are not so necessary; there is food that can be had in plenty without interfering with the provisioning of the war; perishable foodstuffs that cannot be shipped abroad. Denial of certain things should not mean general under feeding.

We are earnestly desirous of seeing food control made a success, as it ought to be, in this war; of seeing the principle vindicated among the people, so that it will be continued after the war; but this cannot be the case unless food control results in feeding the people, whatever other necessary and laudable objects it may achieve, they will count for little with the masses of the people if it fails to achieve this last.—S. H. S., Harrietta.

The Present Potato Grading Rules Will
Never Benefit the Consumer

I am a subscriber to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, and I have been reading the articles about potato grading with interest. M. B. F. surely is doing a lot of good for the farmer. It is one sure thing that the way the buyers are grading the potatoes never was and never will be a benefit to the farmer or the consumer. The buyer and the

middleman are the only ones to profit by it. I should not be opposing the grading if it was done right. Now if they were using a 1 3/4 inch screen in place of the big one they are now using, I think it would be a fairer way. I think that potatoes that can pass over a 1 3/4 inch screen are No. 1 stock.

I also see in M. B. F. that Mr. Waid said that the progressive farmers are in favor of the grading. I think the "progressive" farmers must must be very scarce as I have never seen a farmer yet who didn't condemn the grading the way they are doing it, but I hear a lot of them say they will not raise many potatoes next year if this grading is not changed to a fairer way. The price paid

for potatoes is not satisfactory, when one considers the high price the consumers have to pay, and also the price the dealer gets for them, as he sells them for nearly a dollar more than he pays the farmer for them.

One thing more is wrong: A dealer in Greenville is paying \$1.40 to \$1.50 per cwt in Greenville, where there is some competition, while here, 25 miles from Greenville, the same men only pay \$1.20 per cwt. I should think the dealer would be made to pay the same price at the different stations he is buying at, except the difference in the freight rates between this place and Greenville.—N. P. S., Howard City.

Too Much Red Tape and Bull-Headedness
in Potato Grading Scheme

I am one of the old Lincoln boys of '61-'65. 76 years old. Two sample copies you sent me I gave to my neighbors. I do not know the outcome of the potato business, but one thing I do know, I will keep mine until the weather is hot enough to bake them in the cellar before I will take less than a dollar a bushel for them. Somebody is to blame for the present potato mudale; there is too much red tape or bullheadedness at the bottom of the whole thing.

Yes, I am a staunch friend of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. It is worth five times its subscription price to any man who amounts to a hill of beans anywhere.—H. B. C., Dighton.

ITALIAN CITIZENS RETREATING FROM THEIR NATIVE LAND.



After Belgium, France, Serbia and Roumania it was Italy's turn. The soldiers who retreated across the Friulian plain, marching day and night, with little rest and less food, were accompanied by large numbers of civilians from the invaded districts. Aged men and women and children of all ages were in the throng that poured along the road to safety.

his products to the best advantage and also helps him get a just price. That is the impression that we farmers know all the best ways to farm, etc., for we are always on the lookout for better ways to do our work, the same as any other manufacturer. We must also do the same as they do, subscribe for our trade papers and discuss problems with others in the same business, and if we had a little more leisure we might write to different papers and tell the butcher, the baker and candlestick maker how to conduct their business. I expect they would thank us—nit.—F. W. O., Petersburg.

Government Should Control the Food Supply
of the Country

We know that Government control of the nation's food supply, if applied in a large and logical way, will go a great way toward solving present high cost living problems for the people. This control should be applied by special legislation at the real source of high prices, to all the private interests who directly handle the country's food supply and take advantage of war opportunity to deliberately charge unreasonable and extortionate prices for every article of living necessity that the common man or woman must have. Waste of food would be eliminated. Waste of food is bad under any circumstances. It should be said, however, that it is not among the workers, the poorer classes, the common people, that food waste is to be found in any alarming degree. These people can-

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cult, and transportation conditions are such that many roads have embargoed poultry shipments for the time being. Trains have been hours behind their schedules and arrivals by express have been showing a heavy shrinkage. Shippers should take this into consideration at the time of making shipment. Unless weather conditions appear favorable it is best to delay shipment. We look for firm conditions in the poultry market for some time.

EGGS

The egg market continues strong and Detroit quotations advanced just a cent or two. Some dealers there think the market is just a trifle easier but receipts are so small that the price keeps up despite reports of incoming shipments from the southwest. Michigan fresh firsts are quoted at 55¢@59¢, Detroit.

Eastern markets report fresh eggs very scarce. Prices are inflated but buyers are available for all fresh stock that appears. Within a week 17 cars of California stock have arrived at New York and assisted very materially in supplying the market. Most of the stock during the past week has sold at 72¢. Storage stock is selling around 46¢@47¢ without much regard for quality.

Cheese

New York Letter, Jan. 19, 1918

The market has been somewhat more active than heretofore. This is probably due to the small make and also because the army and navy have been buying cheese during the past week. Michigan and Soft Michigan grades are not popular on the eastern market and will not bring top quotations. Held specials are quoted generally at 24 3-4¢@25¢; held, average run 24¢@25¢; fresh specials, 23 1/2¢@24¢; fresh average run, 23 1/2¢. The total holdings are in neighborhood of 10,000,000 pounds.

FLOUR & FEED

Prices on all mill feeds remain firm and the market is strong. Some points report a shortage of supplies while in one or two cases they report quiet conditions. The reverse is true of most points, however, and at Detroit conditions are firm at following quotations: In 100-lb. sacks, jobbing lots: Bran, \$34.50; standard middlings, \$36.50; fine middlings, \$43.50; cracked corn, \$79; coarse cornmeal, \$77; chop, \$66 per ton.

Flour per 196 lbs. in eighth paper sacks: Standard patent, \$11.10@11.15; straight winter, \$19.30; spring patent, \$11.20; rye flour, \$10.50@10.70 in jobbing lots.

CLOVER SEED

The clover seed market continues to show additional strength. Toledo quotations: Prime cash, old \$19.75; new, \$19.85; March, \$19.10; Alsike, Prime, January, February and March, \$15.95. Timothy, Prime cash, old \$4.25, new \$4.35; March, \$4.45.

CATTLE

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	11 25 11 50	12 00 12 50	12 50 13 75
Steers, com. to fair	11 00 11 50	11 50 12 50	11 25 12 50
Heifers, good to prime	9 75 10 25	11 00 11 90	11 25 12 00
Cows, average	8 00 8 50	11 00 11 90	8 25 10 50
Caners, -Cutters	5 50 6 75	5 75 6 75	5 80 7 00
Bulls, average	8 00 8 75	8 00 8 75	8 25 9 00
Veal, fair to good	14 50 15 75	14 00 15 00	14 50 16 50

The past week has been very quiet so far as the different cattle markets are concerned. Embargoes at many points have held up shipments and the storms have delayed those enroute to such an extent as to cause considerable shrinkage and make deliveries away late.

The Detroit market is steady but business is quiet owing to embargoes and the difficulties of shippers in se-

curing cars for shipments. Many Michigan shippers during the past week have made ready to load and then been compelled to return the cattle to their feed lot to await cars at a later date. Best heavy steers are going at around \$11.26@11.50. Offerings of the real fancy article are not so plentiful as might be desired. Handy weight butcher steers are running at \$11@11.50, with mixed steers and heifers bringing \$9.75@10.25. Best cows are selling \$8.50@8.75 while the ordinary run of butcher cows are selling \$7@8. The best of the heavy bulls are selling \$9@9.25. There is a good steady market for veal calves, prices ranging from \$14@16 for the better grades while others go as low as \$8@9.

The Chicago market has been rather quiet during the past week, lack of shipping demand affording an opportunity for local packers to bear the market. Steers displayed some strength at the beginning of the week but a severe decline followed and closing prices on the bulk showed a decline of around \$1.00. Eastern buyers were unable to move purchases freely owing to the car situation and after the first few days of the week were about out of the market. Quality of arrivals was not so good toward the close of the week. Total receipts for last week were 85,300, an increase of 64,100 over the previous week and 22,600 over the same week a year ago.

Buffalo reports a steady market with receipts of 20 cars on Tuesday of the present week. Medium weight and heavy steers are in light supply and strong demand. Butcher steers and handy weight steers are steady at about last week's range of prices while fat cows and heifers show an advance of 10 to 15¢. Bulls of all classes are higher than last week while canners and cutters, while in light supply, are from 15¢ to 25¢ lower. Stockers and feeders are in light supply and at prevailing prices.

HOGS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Bufalo
Heavy 240-290	16 00 16 25	15 50 16 50	17 00 17 10
Medium 200-240	16 00 16 25	15 50 16 10	17 00 17 10
Mixed 150-200	15 75 16 00	15 50 16 10	16 50 17 25
Packers 100-150	15 50 16 00	15 20 16 00	16 25 17 00
Pigs 100 down	15 00 15 75	12 50 14 50	16 00 16 75

Detroit hog market has been rather quiet and slow all week. Embargoes are still in effect on M. C. and P. M. and arrivals are very light. Not much active trading. A better supply expected during the coming week and the market is in good shape to receive delayed shipments.

The Chicago hog market has ruled slow during the past week. The close of last week saw the general run of mixed packing hogs going at around \$1@1.10 lower than the close of the preceding week, sales running \$15.15@15.40. Medium and butcher offerings were even throughout, closing around 30¢ lower on Saturday than on Friday. The bulk went from \$15.40 to \$15.50. Heavy packing stock has been somewhat neglected, buyers wanting the better offerings. Sales from \$15.10 to \$15.45. Light grades also came in for a reduction, selling around 30¢@35¢ lower on Saturday than at Friday's close. Sales were from \$14.75 to \$15.25 with the bulk going at \$15.00. Sales were plentiful at that price and underweights went as low as \$14.60.

Buffalo reports fairly good receipts on most days and a good healthy tone to the market. Receipts on Tuesday of this week were 40 cars and buyers were in the market ready to take all offerings. Bulk of the well finished offerings sold from \$17 to \$16.75.

SHEEP

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Top Lambs	17 75 18 00	17 00 17 85	18 25 18 50
Yearlings	14 00 15 00	15 25 15 50	15 00 16 75
Wethers	12 00 12 50	10 50 13 00	14 00 14 50
Ewes	12 00 12 25	10 00 13 00	12 50 13 00

The sheep and lamb market has ruled steady at all points and values have been well maintained. This is especially true with regard to sheep. At certain points lambs were inclined to rule weak at times but no material declines were registered. The Detroit market has been strong on all grades. Chicago at times has been out of line with eastern points, especially so on lambs. Traffic conditions prevented eastern buyers from filling orders, few cars being available, and eastern markets showed additional strength owing to lack of supplies.

Chicago receipts on Tuesday of this week were 14,000. Buffalo on the same day received 10 cars, lambs selling there from \$16.75 to \$18.50. Chicago prices ranged from \$14.75 to \$18.00.

Hides

No. 1 cured, 17¢; green, 14¢; No. 1 cured bulls, 13¢; No. 1 green bulls, 11¢; No. 1 cured veal kip, 20¢; No. 1 green veal kip, 18¢; No. 1 cured murrain, 17¢; No. 1 green murrain, 14¢; No. 1 cured calf, 26¢; No. 1 green calf, 24¢; No. 1 horsehide, \$5; No. 2 hides, 1¢ and No. 1 kip and calf 1 1/4¢ lower than above; sheepskins, as to amount of wool, 25¢@3¢ each.

Please don't let us miss a copy of your valuable paper. Its the best paper out in the interest of the farmer. We are very much against the present grade of potatoes.—Mrs. Ralph Foskett, Montcalm county.

I hope this letter will remind you that I am looking for the best farm paper that ever was published. And I wish all editors of all farm papers would try to help the farmers as much as you do. I think there would be a big change.—E. J. Weinberg, Washtenaw county.

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His sire's 3 nearest dams average { Butter 7 days 30.87
Milk 7 days 579.66

His dam's 3 nearest dams average { Butter 7 days 30.59
Milk 7 days 565.00

Record { Butter 30 days 2436.60
Milk 30 days 124.19

(She heads one of the ten only combinations of three direct generations of thirty pound cows.)

His dam's record at 3 years { Butter 7 days 23.33
Milk 7 days 429.40

His five nearest dams average { Butter 7 days 29.30
Milk 7 days 546.68

(Including 2---3 and 1---4-1-2 yr. old.)

Ideally marked, about half and half. Price \$250.

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VARIETIES FOR THE HOME GARDEN

Gardeners of 1918 are now studying the new edition of seedsmen's catalogs trying to frame the season's seed-order but many are puzzled by the dozen or more varieties offered under each kind of vegetable. There is not very much in a name when one comes to seed catalogs, and still less can one depend on the glowing descriptions and pretty pictures. The home gardener wants a different variety, generally, from that which the commercial grower in the same section uses, for quality is the main object with the home-gardener. Then too, the home-gardener wants a continuous supply instead of a heavy crop lasting a few days only. Shipping quality and even appearance mean little to the homegardener, while keeping quality may be very important to ass's gardeners in selecting varieties of vegetables in the home garden, the following list is suggested by J. T. Rosa, Jr., of the University of Missouri of Missouri College of Agriculture.

Rhubarb, Victoria, Parsley, Dwarf Peckfection; Onions, Yellow Globe sets for early, Southport Red Globe seed for late crop of dry onions for winter storage; Spinach, Savoy; Mustard, Black Chinese; Turnip, Purple top, White Globe for both spring and fall plantings; Lettuce, Grand Rapids for early, leaf type, Tennisball for hot-bed, heading type; Radish, White-tipped Scarlet for early, White Icicle for later and White Chinese for winter; Peas, Gradus for early, Potlatch for late; Irish potatoes, Irish Cobbler for early, Rural New Yorker for late and winter use; Parsnips, Hollow Crown; Beets, Detroit Dark Red for early and Edmond's Blood Turnip for late and storage purposes; Carrots, Half-long Danvers; Cabbage, Copenhagen for early, and Savoy, Rock Red, or Danish Round-head for late; Beans, Stringless Green-pod for early, Refugee Wax for second early; Sweet corn, Golden-Bantam for first early, White cob Coy for second early, Country Gentlemen for main crop and canning, and Stowell's Evergreen for late; Tomatoes, Earliana for first crop, Bonny Best and Greater Baltimore for late crop and canning; Sweet Peppers, Ruby Giant; Lima Beans, Burpee Bush Lima, and Sieva of the pole type; Cucumbers, Long Green for slicing and Gherking for pickles; Muskmelons, Rocky Ford (green fleshed) and Netted Gem; Watermelon, Keckly sweet (early) Florida Favorite (late); Summer Squash Early White Bush; Winter squash, Watted Hubbard, Golden Cushaw; Eggplant, Black Beauty; Okra, Long Green; Sweet Potatoes, Nancy Hall and Southern Queen of the sweet juicy type, Big Stem Jersey of the dry mealy type.

These varieties are not expected to make good everywhere, or under all conditions, neither will they meet with the particular tastes and requirements of every gardener.

130 SPRAYED TREES NETTED OWNER \$1,813.55

Thousands of acres of apple orchards which have never been profitable can be converted into an asset by spraying and pruning. These orchards, are a potent source of food supply which should not be neglected, especially during the present emergency. The University of Missouri College of Agriculture is urging that every orchard be put in bearing condition. This is much more satisfactory than planting new orchards which would not come into bearing until after the war is over. Furthermore, the land which would be devoted to a new orchard can be cultivated more conveniently and more profitably if it is planted to some other crop.

An example of the profits from spraying is illustrated by the experience of Charles Tanzberger of Jefferson Barracks, Mo. Mr. Tanzberger's

orchard is 17 years old and was never sprayed until last year. He offered his orchard of 130 apple trees for a spraying demonstration. In 1917 as a result of proper spraying, the 130 trees produced \$1,897.55 worth of fruit. The total cost of spray materials, together with the cost of labor, amounted to \$84. Thus, the net profit resulting from spraying was \$1,813.55. The orchard has never been profitable before. For example, the same orchard of 130 trees, was set just as heavily with fruit early in the season of 1916 as it was last spring, yet it produced without spraying only enough apples for three barrels of vinegar.

ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM OAKLAND COUNTY

Just a word to the M. B. F. I certainly enjoy reading your paper, but that isn't the point; it is the good we get that counts. I am up here in the northwest corner of Oakland county. I filled my silo before the corn was frozen and haven't opened it yet but will as soon as my corn in the field is nearly gone. I see in your paper that the most of the reporters claim that it is not worth as much. I never had my cows do better than they have this winter. I put the corn in a day ahead so it will thaw out and feed three times a day.—C. H. S., Holly.

[EDITOR'S NOTE:—What experience have the rest of our readers had with this season's silage.]

GOOD SHOWING BY U. P. HOGS AND CATTLE

A record made by an Upper Peninsula farmer in the cattle and hog raising industry which has been submitted to the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau is ample justification of the representations made by that organization in its efforts to increase these industries in Cloverland. This record is considered so good that it is probable it will be brought to the attention of the sheep and cattle men of the western and middle western states through the press of these sections of the country, according to officials of the bureau. Following is a summary of the record:

The net farm receipts of this man, whose farm is in Luce county, during the year 1917 are \$5599.26. This is after the expenses, such as freight and all other charges in connection with the shipping end of the work, have been deducted from the total.

The following extract from the letter submitted to the bureau will explain the situation:

"Now this stock was all raised on my farm. We keep three or four mares, forty to fifty cows, and about 20 brood sows. Our shipments of 1917 were six head of young horses, thirty-four fat cattle and 87 fat hogs.

"On the horses we realized \$975. On the cattle, \$2595.12. On the hogs, \$5599.26.

This fact is supplemented by the announcement that "we have never shipped any 'feeders' of any kind." Our hogs are thoroughbred O. I. C., and our cattle are all grade cows, with a thoroughbred Shorthorn sire, of the beef type. Our horses are Belgium and Percheron.

"The hogs are fattened on ground rye and barley mixed and fed dry in the self feeders. They are wintered on rutabagas, middlings and ground rye, oats and barley.

"The cattle are fattened on the cut-over lands and they are in grass up to their knees all summer with plenty of clear cold spring water. We winter them on hay, oat straw and rutabagas. They run in a large, warm shed which has a rack running full length 110 feet down the center. The feed is stored above and fed directly into their rack. The roothouse is at the end of the shed.

"Rutabagas are a sure crop here and yield from 500 to 1000 bushels to the acre.

We are now wintering 115 head of cattle, 85 head of hogs and 15 head of horses and colts."

This is an illustration of the kind of practical information the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau will submit to the Salt Lake City meeting of practical sheep and cattle men in the near future, and which it is hoped will result in an influx of these men to Cloverland.—*Fowlerville Review*.

Make Your Own Rope

YOUR FARM NEEDS THIS MACHINE

You can make just the kind of rope you want just when you want it. Anything from silk fish line to a heavy inch cable rope—any length you want.

This handy little SHERWOOD ROPE MACHINE is so simple and easy to use that anyone—farmhands, women and even children—can readily learn to run it, and make excellent rope.

Rope can be made on this machine from any kind of twine, string, wire, etc., but for most purposes binder twine is best.

You always have binder twine—or your neighbor has—and rope made with it on the SHERWOOD ROPE MACHINE costs a lot less and is very much stronger than the manila rope you buy.

This very remarkable machine weighs but three and a half pounds and is very strongly made of steel and iron. No experiment—thousands have been successfully used during the past five years.

The machine costs so little, only \$5.00 parcel post paid, that it will quickly pay for itself. If your neighbors have no rope machines you can make their rope at nice profit, and you will supply them with better and cheaper rope than they could buy at the store.

Remember—Any Kind of Rope
Any Time You Want It.

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Do it Now! Before Your
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The Sherwood Hand Rope Machine
Readily Makes Hay Rope, Clothes
Line, Neck Rope, Halter Stales,
Hog Rope, Split Rope, Auto
Tow Line, Etc. Also
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We want good live dealers and agents everywhere. Every farm needs a Sherwood Rope Machine and every neighborhood needs an agent. Stores, Factories, Shipping Rooms, Boat Owners are all good rope users. Wherever rope is used you have a sales prospect.

Let us tell you about our liberal proposition to agents. Tell us what you have sold before, giving full details.

One agent's sample machine special price \$3.00 postpaid to prospective dealers if Postoffice or express money order accompanies your letter.

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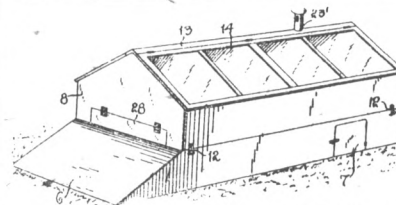
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Respectfully solicit your consignments. No shipment too small to receive our best care and attention. None too large for our capacity.



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I want one farmer or poultry-raiser in each locality to build and use a Perry Improved Brooder this season. It is easy to build and operate, light on feed. Plenty of heat out of doors, equally as good with hen hatched as incubator chicks.

There is a heater room and feed room, hens do not bother feeding. The heater is under oven and central heat, no crowding of chicks. No over heat, no going out in the wet to eat, cares for 150 chicks as quick and as easy as one hen. Once used you never will be without one or more. Save the manufacturer's profit by sending one dollar for right and complete plans to build and operate. I will send copy of patent instructions and license for building and operating. It can be made any size you wish and at one-half the expense of any you can buy. Just send a dollar bill today and have your brooder ready for early chicks. This paper guarantees I will do as I agree. Buy now and we will give you a chance to build and sell under our license and give you license tags to attach on each brooder you make. Address, E. O. PERRY, 37 Henry Street, Detroit, Mich.

MICHIGAN GROWN SEEDS

Practically every reader of M. B. F. lives within the first or second parcel post zone of Jackson, Michigan, so the Seed Annual which the S. M. Isbell & Co., 1030 Mechanic St., that city, offer to send free on request is of more than usual interest. This annual which celebrates the company's 35th year in the seed business

in Michigan is by far the most complete and attractive they have ever issued. It is in reality more than a catalog; it might well be called an "Encyclopedia of Michigan Grown Plants, Fruits and Flowers." We hope every one of our readers who have not yet received their copy will drop a card to the Isbell people asking for their seed annual.



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



ANNE CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

This Week's Tested Recipe

Corn Meal Gingerbread

One cup cornmeal, 1 cup wheat flour, 1 teaspoon soda, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons ginger, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cloves, - cup sour milk, 1 cup molasses, 2 tablespoons shortening. Sift together the dry ingredients. Combine the milk, molasses, melted shortening and beaten egg. Add the liquid ingredients to the dry. Stir well. Bake in moderate oven.

Two cups buckwheat flour may be substituted for the cornmeal and flour in this recipe. This will have the characteristic flavor of buckwheat. If it is too strong use only one cup of buckwheat and one and a half cups of white flour. Two and a half cups of rye and white flour may also be substituted. In using the rye and white flour a larger quantity is necessary because these flours absorb less liquid than do the cornmeal and buckwheat.

Farm Life as Bad as Being in Prison

I have been reading the letters in your column and would like to say I am another one nearly in the same class with the lady who wrote of marrying the farmer's son. I too, had lived in town all my life, when one day I met a certain young farmer who was very nice to me. Our meetings became more frequent and finally ended by us being married. It has been nearly twelve years since then. We still live on the farm of 50 acres, which we own. We have three children. We live five and one-half miles from town and it seems I can't help being lonesome and discontented however hard I try. Farm people have not the time to visit and go places. There are always chores and things which have to be done. Those who have been raised on the farm are used to it and think nothing of staying at home and seeing nothing of other beings and doings, while one who was raised in town if taken to the country is always more or less lonesome, and it is almost as bad as being in prison. I, for one, say if there was some way of keeping the girls of town or country either from being transplanted from one to the other it surely ought to be done. Or at least have them see the trap they are stepping into. It really is as bad for one as the other to change. I hope the girls who read this will have better foresight than I had and marry one who lives and does as you are used to doing if you would be happy.—Mrs. S., Indiana.

Never Disappoint a Child

MOTHER WAS going to town, and little Dorothy was weeping, as children usually do on mother's departure.

"Never mind," promised Mother. "I'll stop and bring you a little dolly if you'll be a real good girl."

Dorothy smiled through her tears, and promised to be as good as gold. All afternoon she thought about the doll, and hoped it would have yellow hair and blue eyes. She dreamed about the kind of dresses she would make for it, for Dorothy was just learning to sew, and she sorted her pieces out and had an attractive little pile of gay prints on which she was going to begin for her new dolly when Mother came home.

Mother, in the meantime, was busy down town. She had a great many things to do, because she lived six miles from the village, and went down only once in two weeks or so. Then she met a great many friends and chatted with them, and had a soda at Herb Hennessey's drug store, and the upshot of it was, that she was three miles out of town before she thought of Dorothy's doll.

I know you think that she disappointed Dorothy, but this little story did not turn out that way. She was a wise mother, and she knew that the only way she could build a firm foundation for her daughter's character was to always keep her promises to her. She knew how keen was the childish disappointment, and how it lingered, and often left an effect in after years. So she just turned old Betsy's head toward town and went those extra three miles to make good her promise to Dorothy.

And wasn't she rewarded when she came home again? When she saw the little pile of materials Dorothy was saving to make dresses for the little new dolly, and felt her warm grateful arms around her neck, she was glad she went three miles and back again out of her way to save her little daughter a disappointment.

I think she was a wise mother. It never pays to lower a child's ideals. A child's ideal of her mother is high, but after mother has broken a few promises and she learns she never can depend on

her word, even mother seems more like other people, and not entirely to be trusted.

Never break a promise to a child, and never lie to one, even in fun, for the great tragedy of childhood is to lose faith.

To Clean Irons

ANSWERING a note from Mrs. A. P. R., asking how to clean irons, I wrote the following, which I thought might prove of interest to other readers of our page:

A good way to clean irons is to scour them with finely-sifted coal ashes, and occasionally to wash them in strong soapsuds. When thoroughly cleaned rub with sweet oil and stand aside in a dry place for several days.

Before you use them again wash with soapsuds, rinse with hot water, adding a little borax or soda and wipe until perfectly dry.

To remove rust from flatirons, rub the spots with emery paper, and if not successful then cover the spots with sweet oil and powdered quicklime, allowing this to remain on for several days.

Next wash with hot water, adding a general supply of sal soda and wipe until perfectly dry. If not entirely smooth after this, rub again with emery paper.

Dear Mrs. Stark:—

I wish you would write an article advising the young people to stay at home more. When I was young there never was such carryings on as there

The Little House Where Love Lives

I HAVE no china dishes that cost a fortune small;

I have no famous paintings a-hanging on my wall;

I have no Oriental rugs, or marble statues grand,

But I've a wealth of happiness and love at my command!

I HAVE no solid silver in a velvet padded chest,

I have no grand piano, as perhaps you may have guessed;

I have no comforters of silk; my linen's not so fine,

But oh, the wealth of happiness, the store of love all mine!

MY HOME is very simple, just the plainest sort of things,

But there's a sense of comradeship that reaches out and clings;

The furnishings are shabby, but there's peace and comfort there,

And loving deeds and loving hearts and loving thoughts to share.

I HAVE no gold or silver; I'm sort of poor you see;—

That is, I'm poor in everything that makes no odds with me.

Some folks believe their home must be a symbol of success,

But my little house where love lives is just filled with happiness!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK

is now. The young folks in our neighborhood meet once or twice a week at the school house, and have a singing society, a knitting club, and put on plays and entertainments and I don't know what all. It seems to me that there is hardly a night when they are at home. And when they are home, it seems as if there are always young folks here. We never are all together for a quiet evening any more; or at least seldom. When I scold them, they just laugh, and say the country is getting more civilized than when I was young, and keep on having their good times.—Mrs. Rose M.

My dear Mrs. M., you should be a happy woman! I have received so many letters asking me what to do to keep the young folks on the farms, and here comes your letter, telling them just how to do it! You should be very glad, indeed that the boys and girls are having such innocent, wholesome fun, and instead of scolding and nagging about it, should join in and have fun too. If they cannot have a good time in their own homes and their own neighborhood, they will soon become restless and want to join the army or rural young folks who are hunting employment in our big cities. It is as necessary as breathing for young people to have good times. "It is the world's

Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

BREAD

Americans have almost forgotten some of the best things we ever knew. Corn bread is one of them; oatmeal corn bread is another. How many times you have said, "that's good, why don't you have it oftener?" Well, we are going to have corn and oat bread more often, very often, every day in fact. We would do it whether we liked it or not, because our government needs more wheat to send abroad—wheat that can be had only as we let it go. Well made, there is no bread more wholesome, more nourishing or better flavor than the mixed loaf of corn or oats. There are any number of good rules in every old recipe book. Here is one for quick cornmeal bread which has been tried. Every time you eat bread made with corn and oats you do well by yourself—and more, you help to win the war.

Cornmeal Quick Bread

One and one-half cups cornmeal, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon flour, 2 cups milk, 1 egg (omitted if desired), 1 tablespoon melted fat. Mix and sift the dry ingredients. Combine the milk, beaten egg and melted fat, and add to the dry ingredients. Mix well pour into greased muffin tins and bake in a hot oven about 20 minutes. This bread should be served hot. If the softer bread is desired the cornmeal, salt and milk may be brought to a boil and cooked for 10 minutes in a double boiler or over hot water. Cool, add the beaten egg, melted fat and baking powder. The flour is not necessary. Beat and bake in a hot oven. This same mixture may be baked as griddle cakes.

great cry "its babes grow dull" someone said, and something to the effect that young souls should not be stunted until they have their fill of joyous youthful pleasures. They just have to play and gambol, and settle down to responsibilities and make better men and women for it, more power to the young folks in the neighborhood! They have the right spirit. They are happy in their youth, which is only natural, and they should be commended and encouraged in their happiness.

Sugarless Fruit Cake

Fruit cake can be a patriotic cake. "But fruit cake is expensive," says the prudent housewife. That's just the point. To be patriotic a cake need not be expensive, but if she chooses an expensive recipe it can still be in line with national food needs. These recipes omit sugar, thereby releasing an important food of which both America and the Allies are in serious need.

Fruit Cake (uncooked)—Half a pound each of nuts, dates, figs, raisins, and citron. Put dates, figs and raisins through the food chopper. Grate in the yellow rind of one lemon. Then add the juice of the lemon and blend with a wooden spoon. Chop nuts fine. Cut citron into fine strings. Pack closely into an oiled tin, alternating layers of fruit with nuts and citron. Press down closely. weight and leave at least 24 hours. Keep in closed cake box and slice as needed. Serve in small slices with a simple gelatine desert. This can be varied in many ways. Candied orange peel or grated cocoanut may be used instead of citron. Orange juice or extract of cinnamon may be used instead of lemon. A drop of oil of cinnamon or ground cinnamon may be used with the above recipe. This fruit loaf may be cut in strips, rolled in powdered sugar, and used as candy.

Dried Fruit Cake—Two cups dried apples, peaches or any kind of dried fruit; 2 cups Orleans molasses, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup shortening, 2 eggs, 1 cup milk, flour for stiff batter, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 cup seeded raisins, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cloves, juice of a lemon. Soak the fruit over-night. Then chop very fine and simmer in the saucepan with the molasses for two hours and a half. Let it cool. Add beaten yolks of eggs to shortening and beat until light. Add the milk, then the fruit and molasses. Beat hard for five minutes. Now add enough flour for a stiff batter and soda dissolved in a teaspoon of hot water. Mix well. Then add the flour, raisins and spices and beat vigorously. Add the juice of lemon and finally the whites beaten to a stiff froth. The batter must be stiff but elastic enough to drop from spoon. Bake in moderate oven two hours.

Liberty Fruit Cake—One cup molasses, 1 cup water, 1 cup seeded raisins, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup citron cut fine, $\frac{1}{8}$ cup shortening, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1 cup corn flour, 1 cup rye flour or white flour, 5 teaspoons baking powder. Boil molasses, water, fruit, shortening, salt and spices together in saucepan three minutes. When cool, add flour and baking powder which have been sifted together. Mix well; bake in loaf pan in moderate oven about 45 minutes.

County Crop Reports

ARENAC (North)—The writer was at Sterling recently where the farmers gathered from near and far the object was they are finishing the organization of a Co-operative shipping association. They seemed to be taking a lot of interest. We have in this county a live stock association. Shipped about 20 cars this fall and winter. Made some money for those who shipped. Not many beans sold at the present. The local elevators are paying \$11.50 per hundred weight; rye, \$1.75. The roads are in very bad condition on account of drifting snow. There is a strip of country here in Clayton township, Arenac county where we were not hit by the frost as hard as in some other districts, and we have some very nice beans for seed. I have at present about 60 bushels that will not pick over one pound to the bushel from the machine. Would like to get in touch with someone needing good seed. I know of a good many fields in this neighborhood just in the same condition, nice and dry. There was an agent from the vicinity of Almont here looking for seed corn, last week and he picked up about 50 baskets and has the promise of more. I have sold 70 bushels of seed corn this fall at one dollar a basket and have orders for all I have at \$1.50 per basket.—W. R. S. Sterling.

MONROE (West Central)—Farmers not doing much these cold days. The deep snow and zero weather keep us very busy doing chores. There is quite a little trouble in the milk business these days as the snow has blocked the roads and made the trains late and milk inspectors are making the farmer do some thinking. The only remedy is to stand firm and pull together.—W. H. L., Dundee, Jan. 21.

ANTRIM (Northwest)—Very stormy weather for a week. Most farmers are hand-picking their beans and holding them for higher prices. Very few potatoes being sold, as the price is too low, and farmers are not in love with the present methods of grading. Here is an illustration of what we receive up here: We took a bag of hand-picked beans to Ellsworth last week and the elevator man said they would test 24 per cent moisture. We took the sample to Phelps the next day and they said the beans were first-class. The farmers say \$8.50 per bu. for beans. There are hundreds of acres of beans not threshed yet and lots of them rotting in the mow. One elevator man from this section sent out five carloads of potatoes and only sent one man to five of them. When they reached their destination two cars were frozen. If that had been a farmer who shipped those potatoes the public would say he was destroying foodstuff and was responsible for the high cost of living.—G. A. D., Charlevoix, Jan. 19.

CLINTON (West)—Unusually severe winter. Snow drifts from 2 to 8 feet in height. Everybody hunting for wood as coal cannot be bought. A car of coal is brought in once in awhile but the quality is very poor and on account of the patriotism is sold for from \$9 to \$10. Beans turning out fairly well but threshers report to Secretary of State is worthless as they report culls, dirt, stones and everything. About 1-3 should be deducted from the amount reported. Farmers have no corn to feed and are unable to buy any.—T. B. Fowler, Jan. 22.

WEXFORD (Central)—Snowing every day and snow is two feet deep in the woods. Business with farmers is pretty quiet; some are buying hay at around \$26 per ton. No produce being sold.—A. A. H., Boon, Jan. 22.

SHIAWASSEE (Central)—Farmers are busy shoveling snow from the roads, cutting a little wood, which has a ready sale at \$3.50 to \$5.00 per cord. Not much coal in sight and very cold weather.—W. P. B., Owosso, Jan. 22.

INGHAM (Northeast)—Snow piled up mountain high; roads in bad shape, but getting better now. Some are preparing to build in this vicinity, but not to any great extent, the war problem is causing too much tax. It looks as if the beans were up against something this season. After passing thru ten or twelve middlemen there is not much left for the farmer. If I could see them put out of business it would seem good for once. The weather has been very cold which has retarded business somewhat. The mercury has been down to from 10 to 18. I see by the report they have elected a county agent to help the farmers raise more potatoes and corn. I rather think he would get a poor reception in this vicinity. If a man has farmed it thirty or forty years and don't know how, its time he had help, but not a paper man.—W. B. Williamston, Jan. 24.

BENZIE (Southwest)—We have had a very heavy snow storm and farmers who live back of the main roads are snowed in.—G. H., Benzonia, Jan. 20.

MANISTEE (Northwest)—The farmers in this county are busy doing chores and breaking roads. We are having a continual snow storm, the snow is two feet on the level and in drifts from 4 to 10 ft. and it is still snowing. There is nothing in the line of selling anything. The prices quoted on potatoes is \$1.00 per cwt., and on beans \$1.00 per cwt. Hay is scarce and sells at \$25 to \$30; oats, \$3 per cwt.—C. H. S., Bear Lake, Jan. 20.

OSCEOLA (Northwest)—Most farmers are kept busy now-a-days shoveling snow and doing chores as it has snowed nearly every day for the last two weeks. Sheep sold at a sale here for \$29 a head.—A. S. S., Lewiston, Jan. 22.

GRATIOT (Southeast)—The farmers are cutting quite a lot of wood and are drawing some grain to market. The weather is fine now, only a little too much

snow. Oats are the main grain the farmers are selling although some wheat and a few beans are being put on the market. Some grass seeds are being bought, which are pretty high; June clover, \$20 per bu., timothy, \$5; alsike, \$17.00.—J. E. C., Banister Jan. 21.

NEWAYGO (Northeast)—Much of the corn crop yet in the field, not being of much account only for the fodder. Snow very deep. Farmers are having a hustling time to keep the mail route open. Stock in good condition. Hogs are very scarce. Farmers who have wood lots are busy cutting and hauling wood to cities to relieve coal shortage; dry wood, \$4.00 per cord; green wood, \$3.00 per cord. This will be a good year for the farmers to keep a book account of their business, as the Federal census will be taken in a little over one year. Some of the questions are hard to answer.—F. S., Big Rapids, Jan. 24.

BAY (Northeast)—Farmers have dug themselves out of the snow, which was piled up by the storm, which prevailed over the greater part of the country. The weather is still very cold. Farmers are kept busy with the chores and obtaining fuel. A very few have wood but a greater part of them are depending on coal. Coal shipped in at the station is not sold to farmers any more so they are forced to go to the mines for it. This makes a very long haul and if one isn't real early he will perhaps find 40 or 50 teams ahead and the chances are he will have to remain until next day or return without coal. Those burning hard coal will have to resort to coke if they do not have a sufficient quantity to carry them over. No selling to speak of; the market has been dull since the blizzard.—J. E. McK., Pinconning, Jan. 21.

OAKLAND (North)—Not much doing but chores and hunting for fuel, most of the people are burning green wood. The roads were badly blocked with snow but are mostly cleared out. Very little produce going to market. Some prospects of moving some potatoes, but it is uncertain about cars. A good many farmers are looking for seed corn which is very hard to find. A good many auction sales and everything selling well but horses.—E. F., Clarkston, Jan. 25.

ARENAC (East)—This week the weather has been quite moderate. Lots of snow in the fields, which is a good thing for new seeding and fall grains, but bad on getting around. The scarcity of feed has made it necessary for many farmers to dispose of their stock. Hay is selling at the farm at from \$16 to \$22.50 a ton, and some of it a very poor quality. You can buy fine big horses at nearly your own prices. Beans advanced 50c a cwt. last week. Farmers are marketing some oats, beans, wood, hay etc. Tuesday, Jan. 22, Mrs. Henry Ullman, a pioneer of East Arenac county, passed to the great beyond. She was a resident on one farm for 40 years.—M. B. R., Twining, January 25.

IONIA (Northwest)—The weather for the past two weeks has been far from tropical, and the winds much like a step-mother's breath. Saturday, Jan. 12, was the severest day ever experienced by most residents of this county. The wind blew 45-55 miles per hr., at a temperature 14 below zero. Snow drifted everywhere there was an opening, even thru the key-holes in the doors. Stock without extra warm quarters suffered much, as moderate shelter was very little protection. The roads are filled with drifted snow from 4 to 12 feet deep, making them almost impassable. Many days the rural mail carriers were unable to make their routes. Some farmers are already out of feed and few that sold hay in the fall for \$8 to \$12 per ton are now buying at \$22 to \$24. It has been almost impossible to receive shipments of cottonseed and linseed meals as they have been held up by the railroads, and in some cases where these feeds were contracted before the Nov. or Dec. advance in prices, some companies refused to fill their contracts, claiming that these feeds were not obtainable. Bran and middlings are much cheaper since the last Government ruling on flour and feed are now selling for \$28 and \$37 respectively. Very little wheat in farmers' hands, as there can be no possible advantage to them by holding for a higher price. Some have kept a few bushels for chicken feed; it being cheaper and better than corn. Wheat and rye have suffered very little, if any from weather conditions, and the early snow went into the winter in fine shape, but by far the larger part of the acreage was sown very late, much of which never germinated. Acreage of wheat very small; not more than 35 per cent of last year's crop.—S. W. K., Lyons, Jan. 24.

MONTCALM (Southwest)—Farmers are not as busy as usual; many are cutting and hauling wood, receiving \$3.50 to \$4.00 per cord at the station. A small amount of potatoes are being purchased, owing to the shortage of cars and the fact that most warehouses are filled. Ice is moving slower than last week on account of most roads being closed. Weather is very cold with a large amount of snow on the soil. A very small amount of produce is being held for higher prices.—W. L., Greenville, Jan. 25.

IOSCO (Southeast)—Farmers are cutting wood and putting up ice. We have good sleighing and very cold weather. Farmers are selling some beans, hay and straw. Hay is bringing from \$20 to \$22 per ton and straw \$8 to \$10. Quite a number of our farmers have bought silos to be put up the coming spring.—A. L., Tawas City, Jan. 25.

OTSEGO (West)—Weather here has been very cold. Some of the farmers are hauling ice and wood.—C. A., Gaylord, Jan. 28.



BREEDERS DIRECTORY



(Write Advertising Department, Michigan Business Farming, 110 West Fort St., Detroit, for rates in this column.)

CATTLE

E. L. SALISBURY

SHEPHERD, MICH.
Breeder of purebred
Holstein-Friesian Cattle
Young bulls for sale from A. P.
O. Cows with creditable records.

WOLVERINE STOCK FARM

FOR SALE, a beautifully marked bull calf, born Aug. 3, 1917. Sire Judge Walker Pieterje whose first five dams are 30 pound cows, his dam a 24 pound 3 year-old granddaughter of King of the Pontiacs, and second dam a 26 pound cow. This calf will please you.
Price, \$200.
T. W. SPRAGUE,
Route 2, Battle Creek, Mich.

FOR SALE

A FINE Holstein bull calf 90 per cent white. A grandson of Maplecrest Korndyke Hengeweld who is as good as the best. Dam has A. R. O. record 16 lbs. butter in seven days as three-year-old and 21 lb. three yr. old daughter. If you want one he is cheap at \$50. Write for description.
W. C. Hendee & Son, Pinckney, Mich.

250 STEERS FOR SALE

Ones, twos, threes, Herefords, Angus and Shorthorns. 600 to 1200 lbs. Choice quality sorted to size, age and breed. In car lots. Write your wants. C. F. Ball, Fairfield, Iowa.

HATCH HERD HOLSTEINS

YPSILANTI We have been "breeding Up" for the past eleven years. Pontiac Korndyke and King Korndyke Sadie Vale bulls in service. Select your next sire now.

"BRENNAN JERSEY FARM"

STRICTLY MAJESTY line bred reg. bulls and heifers for sale from dams that are doing better than 50 lbs. fat per mo. We invite inspection.
Fred Brennan, Capac, Mich.

FOR SALE Registered Holstein Bull Ready for service; also bull calf. These bulls are of choice breeding. For particulars write Fred Lord, Stockbridge, Mich.

HORSES

PERCHERON STALLIONS, one 3 years old, driven single and double. One ten years old, thoroly broken single and double. Will work like a mare. Heavy boned gentle fellows. Price \$400 and \$300. Fred N. Randall, Manchester, Mich.

For Sale One 2-year-old Black Percheron Stallion, weighing 1800 lbs., also our aged Stallion Ingomar 30047, that has been at the head of our stud for 10 years. M. A. Bray Est., Chas. Bray, Mgr., Lansing, Mich.

HOGS

LEONARD'S POLAND CHINAS Bred sows, fall pigs, either sex, at reasonable price. E. R. Leonard, St. Louis, Mich., R. No. 3.

BRED GILTS

O To Wm. B. No. 47049. Longfellow I No. 18575 Sire of 1st prize young herd at Iowa State Fair. Fall pigs and breed serviceable boars.
J. CARL JEWETT, Mason, Mich.

O. I. C. Choice young boars ready for service; also fall pigs either sex; sired by 1st prize yearling boar Mich. State Fair 1917 Clover Leaf Stock Farm, Monroe, Mich., R. No. 1.

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

CHOICE REGISTERED STOCK

Percherons—Colonel 104833, a grandson of Morse and Obert, a great grandson of Besigue and Calypso, at head of stud. Holsteins—Senior Sire, son of Pontiac Aaggie Korndyke and a 28.22 pound dam. Aberdeen-Angus—Senior Sire, Black Earl of Woodlawn 152209. A Blackbird. Shropshires—A small but choice flock, large, and woolled from nose to toes. Durocs—The large, prolific money-making kind. If in need of a first-class sire, write me.
DORE D. BUELL, Elmira, Mich. R. 1.

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

WANTED:—Pig feed cull beans let me know. Chas. Bromham, Hubbard Lake, Michigan.

SHEEP

Shropshire Ewes A limited number of bred ewes; bred right! Prices right! A son of Tanner's Royal in service. H. F. Mouser, Ithaca, Michigan.

2 YOUNG DELAINE EWES, bred, and yearling Ram, \$60.00 to quick buyer. S. H. Saunders, R. No. 2, Ashtabula Ohio.

FOR AUGUST DELIVERY 50 Registered Shropshire Yearling ewes and 30 Registered Yearling Rams of extra quality and breeding. Flock established 1890. C. Lemen, Dexter, Michigan.

POULTRY

Cockerels For Sale—2 hens and cockerel \$5, also cockerels \$2 to \$5. Write W. C. West & Son, East Lansing R.F.D. 1

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

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

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

ROSE COMB RHODE ISLAND RED Cockerels for breeding purposes. Prize-winning stock \$3 apiece or three for \$8.00. I pay for sending. Wm. J. Rinche, Alpine, Mich., R.R. No. 1.

BUTTERCUPS Limited number day-old chicks. Orders listed now. 20c each. Hatching eggs. Member A. B. C. Roy E. Mathews, Vermontville, Mich. Box 157.

Will Save Your Chicks!

Any reader of this magazine who writes P. J. Kelly, the Poultryman, at 109 Kelly Bldg., No. 2 N. 2nd St., Minneapolis, Minn., will receive a Free Copy of his new booklet "White Diarrhoea in Baby Chicks." It tells how to prevent, remedy and save the whole hatch. It's free. Write off it at once. (Adv.)

Superior Farm, White Wyandotts

Good winter layers, and fit for any show room. A few good cockerels, \$3 and \$5 each. Eggs after Mar. 1st. C. W. Honeywell, Plymouth, Mich.

MISCELLANEOUS

BEAN SEED, 100 per cent purity. Sample and price on request. Mayer's Plant Nursery, Merrill, Mich.

FOR SALE—Choice seed Pea beans, \$8 per bushel. Samples on request. Otis R. Tripp, Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

FOR SALE FRANCIS Fall - bearing Strawberry plants \$1.50 per 100; \$10.00 per 1,000. W. F. Tindall, Boyne City, Mich.

SEED CORN that will grow. \$10.00 a bushel. Sample on request. J. A. Rhodes, Prairie Depot, Ohio.

OGEMAW COUNTY FARM LANDS

Very productive. Small payment down. No further payments, interest or taxes for five years. Harry O. Sheldon, Alger, Michigan.

Co-operative Buying —Flour, Mill Feed, Grain, Delivered carlot quotations furnished.
Saves Money.
GRAIN GROWERS GRAIN CO. Minneapolis, Minn

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

FORDS START EASY IN COLD WEATHER if you use our 1918 carburetor. 34 miles per gallon guaranteed. One-third more power. Use cheapest gasoline or one-half kerosene. Quickly starts cold motor even at zero and moves right off with full power. No spitting or popping. Slow speed on high. Fits exactly. Attach it yourself. 30 off list where no agent. Big profits selling our goods. We fit all motors. Write for 30 day trial offer and money back guarantee. The Air-Friction Carburetor Company, 559 Madison St., Dayton, Mich.

WHAT CASH CROPS SHALL I PLANT?

"I would like to ask your advice on what would be the best cash crop for us to plant this next season. We have 160 acres of land and it is mostly of a gravel loam, some sand loam but not light, also quite a little clay and some muck. We have about 30 acres in new seeding, about 14 acres in fall crops, and expect to plant 15 acres corn and 20 acres oats and barley and now I would like to know what your advice would be to plant on the balance of 30 acres as a cash crop, taking all the marketing regulations and price prospects into consideration."—*Subscriber, Gooderich.*

Taking into consideration the crops already planted and to be planted on this 160 acres of land which includes 13 into grass, 14 into wheat and the proposed 15 to corn and 20 to oats and barley, there remains 30 acres to be planted into cash crops. Also considering the soil which is sandy, gravelly loam, and the location, I cannot recommend anything better, everything considered, than beans and potatoes for this land unless part of the area be devoted to sugar beets. This would depend more on the hauling distance of the beets.

If the land is located near a shipping station, with the present price offered for beets, I think it would be wise to grow a portion of this land to sugar beets because it is an absolute cash crop. All you have got to do is to get the tonnage, the market is established, there is no question about the money and, besides, the world needs sugar. It is a patriotic thing to grow sugar beets if one is favorably located and has suitable soil, but of course one cannot advise a man to grow sugar beets if he has to haul them four or five miles to market. This costs too much. Neither can one recommend sugar beets if the soil is not of the right nature or in the proper condition to grow a good crop. A loamy soil that is in quite fertile condition will produce a paying crop of sugar beets.

Beans and potatoes will certainly be good crops to raise in this locality on this kind of soil. The amount to be planted to potatoes will be governed largely by the problem of marketing. How far they must be hauled to market. I would think that the commercial city of Flint would furnish almost an ideal market and it would be within hauling distance. I should think it would be no particular trouble to sell potatoes in wagonload lots to families in this city of Flint next fall at a good fair price. This ought to be one of the best home markets for potatoes in the state. But where potatoes have to be hauled a considerable distance and then shipped by rail to far away markets the grower is handicapped and the profits are not apt to be as large as where they can be disposed of in a nearby home market.

I should judge from the description that this would be an ideal soil for beans and I know too that large areas of beans are grown in Genesee county. One doesn't have to figure as much on the market for beans as the hauling to market counts little figure compared to marketing a crop of potatoes or sugar beets and unless the market conditions are favorable for the sugar beets and the potatoes as suggested above, I think it would be advisable to put a large part of this land to beans. With a favorable season, on this soil, a man ought to get a very profitable crop at present prices and there is no question but what the world will need the beans and but what they will bring a fair price for 1918 crop.—*Colon C. Lillie.*

I think your paper is a good one. I would not be without it for three times the price.—*John Booth, Sanilac county.*

We are certainly well pleased with the M. B. F. It is the only paper we can find that has the interest of the farmers in mind.—*Wesley Dell, Grand Traverse county.*



United States has 350,000 Indians.

Iron money is passing in Germany and the Siamese are using porcelain.

More than 44,000,000 acres of coal lands in fourteen states of the United States are to be opened in 1918.

Castor oil is a favorite lubricant for aeroplanes because it is little affected by changes of temperature.

Imports in undressed furs and skins for the nine months ending September 30th last were valued at \$19,458,181.

Nothing is wasted in war but noise. A steam roller is run over empty tin cans to flatten them then they are put into a smelter.

The population of the United States is now estimated at 104,863 thousand, compared with 103,145 thousand a year ago.

Michigan has been called upon to enlist 11,734 men for shipbuilding work as her quota, provided they are needed for this branch of the service.

Prompted by the warmest December on record, farmers in Western Montana are plowing by night, railroads lending them headlights, and wheat acreage will nearly double that of a year ago.



John G. Newman, former Portland produce dealer, believes more Ionia county farmers would raise cabbage if they realized that there is ordinarily good money in the crop when the grower goes into it on a large scale. Mr. Newman, who spends his winters in New York City, dealing in produce, writes the Review that domestic cabbage is selling in New York at \$58 to \$60 a ton, red cabbage bringing \$100; potatoes are \$4.25 to \$4.50 per 180 pounds; onions \$3.25 per hundred pounds and table beets \$3.00.

F. E. Langdon has 25 Rhode Island pullets that produced 409 eggs during the month of December. The pullets were hatched the 26th day of April and began laying the 1st of November, but from the 15th to the end of the month they produced 14 dozen eggs. Mr. Langdon takes good care of his flock and says he aims to keep them busy. He is selling the eggs at 50c per dozen, so even with the high price of feed he figures that the chickens are paying a good profit.—*Lawton Leader.*

Ed. DeVries of Dighton sold a beans to the Dighton Grain Co. for which he received \$455.00. This is the largest amount of money received for a load of beans in this section and shows that beans can be successfully grown around Dighton.—*Oscola Press.*

Ed. Chamberlain and son of Brighton are milking 14 cows and selling the milk to the Detroit Creamery Company. For December they delivered nearly 700 lbs. daily for which they received better than \$20.00.—*South Lyon Herald.*

Will McCrory sold to F. J. VanAtta seven hogs that weighed 2289 pounds and for which he received \$480.69, or nearly \$70 each.—*South Lyon Herald.*

New York City eats 100,000 pounds of horse flesh weekly.

Kansas City schools will teach food gardening.

Pennsylvania railroads states that the shippers could save \$2,000,000 a year by more carefully packing fruit.

The United States Government will expend \$1,000,000,000 during the coming year in military buildings.

From Amsterdam comes the report that a number of Allied airplanes dropped 1,000 copies of President Wilson's message to Congress over occupied areas of Belgium recently.

The third elevator fire to occur in the Thumb district within the last ten days, burned one of the storehouses of the Bad Axe Grain Company to the ground Monday night, entailing a loss of \$20,000.

The new Washtenaw Co-operative association of Ann Arbor, held its first business meeting in the Supervisor's room in the county Court House a few days ago. Partial arrangements were made at them eating for making the first shipment of stock to the Detroit market under co-operative method of handling. Forty new members were taken into the association at this meeting.

The creamery at Grove City, Pa., operated under the management of the Dairy Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, is cited in the bureau's annual report as an excellent example of the influence that a well-managed creamery has upon a locality. When it was opened in 1915, it had only 54 patrons the first month, but at the close of the fiscal year it had 579 patrons, from whom 378,000 pounds of butterfat were purchased during the year at a price well above that generally prevailing. In addition to the manufacture of 4255,084 pounds of butter, the products included 139,585 pounds of cottage cheese, 1,504,025 pounds of condensed milk, and 5,441 pounds of casein.—*Sanilac county Farmer.*

There was a distinct object lesson at the recent unloading and delivery of the corn shipped in here by the Union City branch of the Farmers' Co-Operative Company. This corn was purchased several months ago, since which time prices have advanced greatly. Had the farmers sold this corn when it arrived, the profit would have been about \$670 on the entire consignment. Co-operation seems to pay well, and the management suggests that the work be enlarged.—*Union City Register-Weekly.*

Bert Closson sold a hog that weighed 625 pounds to Jones and Shurte for 16 cents a pound or an even \$100. The animal was shipped with other stock to Chicago.—*National Democrat, Cassopolis.*

Joseph Duvall, a farmer of LaSalle township, Monroe county, sold one pig Jan. 18, 1918 that weighed 535 lbs. dressed, at 20c per lb., receiving for it \$107.44. How is this for a Monroe county farmer?

CREAMERY PROFITS GRATIFYING AS USUAL

It causes one to indulge in an ironic smile when he finds tucked away in one corner of the *Detroit Free Press* the following item:

"Healthy financial condition and a satisfactory volume of business during the year were reflected in reports submitted to stockholders of the Detroit Creamery Company at their annual meeting, Thursday, January 24, in the company's general offices, Grand River and Cass avenues."

One of the directors re-elected was Mr. E. D. Stair, who incidentally, holds a controlling interest in the *Free Press*.

We are reminded that the Detroit Creamery Company similarly rejoiced a year ago over the gratifying profits, but at that time the public was let in on the good news. This year, however, in view of the attitude of the Detroit consumer against 14 cent milk, it wouldn't be very good policy to talk very loudly about the dividends.

BRIEF NOTES FROM THE FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Shortage of wheat in France is becoming more alarming each week. Pastry is now classed as a luxury and its manufacture or consumption is now suppressed except on Sundays and holidays.

The U. S. Food Administration wishes to place the Irish potato every day in the year on every table in America. Potatoes furnish nourishment, bulk, mineral salts and a corrective alkalinity in the diet. They are plentiful this year and cheap.

Fifty thousand tons of linseed cake originally consigned to Holland will be sold at request of the consignee for consumption in New York, Pennsylvania and New England according to an announcement authorized by the U. S. Food Administration.

MR. CITY CONSUMER SPEAKS HIS OPINION

Hyman Winegarden, who, it is related to us came to Flint about ten years ago with a little go-cart of fruit and established a small business, is said to have grown rich in that time and is now reported to be worth three-quarters of a million, and this has been made in the commission business. He now tells in the Flint Journal that "one dollar a bushel is too much to pay the producer for potatoes." He tells an awful tale of woe about trying to buy potatoes on the Greenville market and says when he tried it that potatoes were worth a dollar a bushel, but when he came on the market the price was boosted to \$1.25 and he lays it to the farmer for the boost. He forgets there are a few buyers here in town who just lay for some interloper to come in and outbid them on the market. He goes on to tell about handling costs and says it costs 43 cents a bushel to put potatoes on the retail market. From the statement made to us that he is worth the better part of a million of dollars made in the commission business it is easy to see where a large part of the costs to the consumer gets into the potatoes he handles. He says "they can raise potatoes around that section of the country (Greenville) for 25 cents a bushel." He adds: "I have personally bought a lot of potatoes there and I know the minute a fellow comes in there and wants to buy some potatoes they boost the price 10 cents on him. This would make us believe that Mr. Winegarden's grievance is against the buyers and not against the growers. We have heard of some of this race of people having the belly ache before when they thought someone else was getting a piece of the money.

Mr. Winegarden forgets that last year the grower could have sold every bushel of his seed potatoes for \$3.00 per bushel and that it takes 8 bushels to plant an acre. Further, labor cost \$3.00 to \$3.50 a day to harvest and paris green 50 cent per pound and that the average crop was not more than 75 bushel per acre. Farmers doing business at this rate wouldn't have got as rich as the Flint man on his little commission. This is the duck that takes no "chances."—*Greenville Independent.*

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:

M

P. O. R.F.D.

County State

(This coupon is from issue of Feb. 2nd, 1918.)

Remarks

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