

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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MILK SITUATION DETROIT AREA SERIOUS

Milk Producers in Session again this week to Consider Latest Findings of Special Milk Commission, New Developments and to Meet with Delegates From Branch Associations

"Your article of January 19th on the milk situation sets forth the situation in the true light," writes a Birch Run Granger. "The expedient suggestions may be necessary to maintenance of the burdensome (for the people) and highly profitable business of the present distributors, but it is no solution of the problem.

"There is one phase of the situation, and an important one not touched upon by either article. People living in Detroit tell me of a very good reason for limiting their use of milk. They tell me they are paying a good price for poor quality. And after partaking of my product as it leaves for the Detroit market and also that as delivered to the consumers at Detroit, I cannot but agree with them. To me it is as the difference between new milk and skim milk. Does milk as delivered to the consumers of Detroit test 3 per cent as requested by the state law? Why should the distributors be allowed to skim it at all?"—H. S., Birch Run.

An inquiry was also received from a subscriber asking for a complete account of what action the special milk commission took at its last session toward solving the surplus proposition. Both of these matters were referred to Hon. Fred L. Woodworth, state dairy and food commissioner, who advises as follows:

"The Milk Commission decided at their recent hearing to recommend that for February, 1918, the distributor pay the farmer on the basis of \$3.35 per hundred for 3.5% milk in the fifteen-cent freight zone for 90% of his milk, and \$2.75 per hundred for the remaining 10%.

"At the time the price was set for January, there was no surplus and no allowance was made for the loss the distributor would sustain should there be a surplus. Because of the coal shortage and the resulting closing of creameries, condensaries and the embargo on the shipment of condensed milk to the coast, an unusually large amount of milk has been sent to the Detroit distributors making a surplus.

"Prof. Anderson of the Michigan Agricultural College and I spent nearly a week in Detroit going over the creameries' plants and books. We decided that the surplus is now about 13%. In normal times the surplus is about 3% so that the unusual surplus is, roughly 10%. We found that under present conditions the distributors can realize about \$2.50 a hundred for this surplus milk making butter, cottage cheese, etc.

"It was suggested to the Commission that the proper solution of the surplus question was to lower the price of milk to the consumer. I think the Commission acted wisely in not accepting this

suggestion because the surplus is, I am sure, but a temporary one and a lower price that could only be maintained for a few weeks would cause more confusion and misunderstanding to both producer and consumer than the gain would be worth. Also in order to reduce the price of milk it would be necessary to make a reduction of at least one cent a quart, which means \$.47 a hundred. This would necessarily have to come out of the producer and is a reduction that would, under present conditions, bring a milk famine to Detroit in a week. As you know, I am a farmer and perhaps it is easy for me to see the farmer's side of the case, but I am sure that I can prove to any fair-minded man that under the present conditions market milk for the city of Detroit cannot be produced for any less than \$.07 a quart on the farm. That the city distributors must pay this is shown by the fact that the condensaries now buying milk in the Detroit milk area are paying practically that price.

"The \$2.75 price on the 10% surplus was arrived at by apportioning the (Continued on page 22)

POTATO GROWERS TO MEET AT EAST LANSING, MARCH 7th-8th.

The annual meeting of the Michigan Potato Growers' Ass'n will be held at the Agricultural College, East Lansing, March 7th and 8th. The election of officers will take place at this time and the problems of production, grading and marketing will be discussed.

In view of the fact that the Michigan Potato Growers' Ass'n is partly responsible for the establishment of the grading rules in this state, its hundred and twenty-five members and officers will now have an opportunity to exonerate themselves before the fifty thousand or more potato growers who are not members of the organization and who are opposed to the grading methods. It has recently developed that those in authority at Washington put up the argument against the protests that have been sent in that the organized growers themselves wanted the grades and that was one of the reasons why they were adopted this year.

It is not stated whether the discussions to be taken up are open to the public or are for the express benefit of the members. In behalf of our readers we are writing Secretary Waid for an invitation to the gathering. The doors ought to be thrown wide open to every potato grower in Michigan. The problems to be discussed are of state-wide interest, and every potato farmer who can afford to make the trip and who is welcome should (Continued on page 22)

GRADING TO BLAME FOR POTATO SITUATION

No Need to Theorize as to Why Crop Has Not Been Moved to Market; Ask the Farmer Who Got Hit With the Grading Rules; He Knows.

Last November, the Bureau of Crop Estimates announced that the United States had produced the biggest crop of potatoes in its history. "Potatoes will be cheap," everybody said, and waited and waited—and still they wait—for cheap potatoes.

On Feb. 4th, such Detroit retail stores that had potatoes were selling them ungraded at 65 cents per peck, and there were lots of stores that had nary a spud to sell. One hundred and fifty miles distant on the same day, a farmer sold a load of graded potatoes at 65 cents a bushel.

A few weeks ago some one propounded the question "If there are so many potatoes in the country, why don't they get to market and why does the price stay so high?"

Here come the sages with a hundred and one different theories.

Says the local buyer: "No cars."

Says the city newspaper editor: "Farmers' fault. They're holding their potatoes for higher prices."

Says the "expert": "Car shortage, weather, farmers,—all to blame."

Who KNOWS? Ask the farmer. He might know something about it.

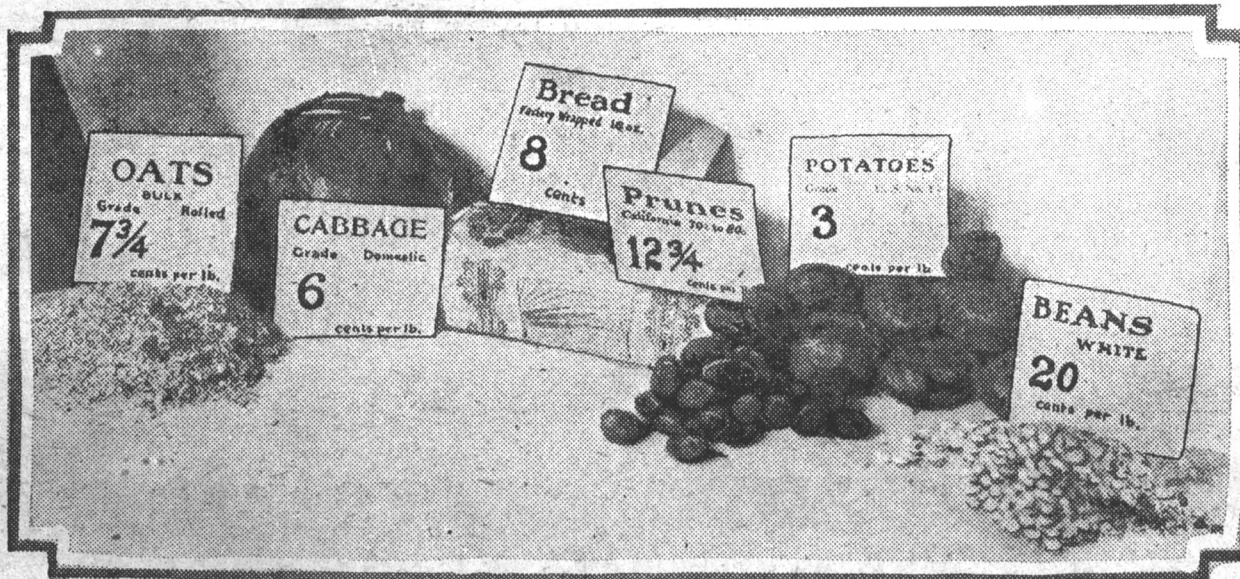
All right. Mr. Farmer will you please stand up before the audience and explain why you haven't sold more of your potatoes?

Says the farmer: "Grades! Last spring the government and extension departments and agricultural colleges and the 'experts' told me I should be patriotic and plant a lot of potatoes. I did. I paid \$4 a bushel for seed, \$3 a day for labor, \$75 for fertilizer. When I harvested what part of my crop that escaped the September frost I found that it had cost me THREE times as much as in normal seasons. But that was all right. I'd raised the spuds like Uncle Sam had asked me to, and was willing to take my chances with the others in the market.

"I dug the potatoes in the rain and snow, with what scant and poor help I could get. I hauled part of

them to market, because the government had said I should market at least one-fourth of my crop when dug. The price was from 80 cents to \$1 a bushel. I really had to have more than that to pay me any profit, but if folks needed potatoes, I wasn't going to keep mine back. 'Here's my first load of spuds,' I said to the buyer, 'they're a little small on account of the frost but otherwise all good, sound stock just as good and better'n some of the big fellows. I sorted out the bad ones before I left home. There are forty bushels; they cost me better than \$40 to grow, but I'm patriotic and you can have the load for \$1 a bu.' (Continued on page 8)

ALL FOOD DEALERS ARE ORDERED TO DISPLAY PLAIN PRICE TAGS ON THEIR WARES



A DISPLAY OF LABELED FOOD AS DIRECTED BY LAW

Retailers are compelled now by ruling of the Food Administration to exhibit plainly marked price tags on all food commodities. Look at the prices here. Is it any wonder that the poor consumer curses the farmer? Beans, 20 cents a pound; farmer gets 11. Potatoes 3 cents a pound; farmer gets 1 1/2. Cabbage, 6 cents; farmer gets 1 1/2. These inequalities between the prices received by the farmer and the prices paid by the consumer still rule despite the fact that the Food Administration has control over all methods and a cents of distribution.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

MICHIGAN CUT-OVER LANDS TO SUSTAIN MANY FLOCKS OF SHEEP

That the cut-over lands of Michigan will soon be supporting thousands of sheep to the mutual advantage of the Western sheepmen who contemplate bringing their flocks to the state, as well as the owners of the land and the public at large, now seems evident from the progress being made in negotiations between large land owners and western wool growers.

The movement had its inception several months ago when the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau first suggested to the sheepmen at the wool growers' convention at Chicago, the vast possibilities of the wide stretches of Upper Peninsula lands available for grazing. The wool growers were at first skeptical but went to considerable expense to conduct an examination of the claims, and announced that they were satisfied that Northern Michigan and Wisconsin held great possibilities for the sheep raiser. The many summer drouths affecting the western sheep country and the high freight rates have made it necessary for many sheepmen to seek a new field.

The proposition was immediately taken up by the Western Michigan Development Bureau and the Northeastern Michigan Development Bureau. In the face of the threatened wool shortage which menaces the future success of the war, the matter is being given serious attention not only by sheepmen and residents of the parts of the state affected but by government officials as well.

Delegates from the three development bureaus of Michigan were in attendance at the recent convention of Western wool growers held at Salt Lake City, and the advantages of the various parts of Michigan as a sheep raising country were given prominence in the convention.

The fact that 25,000,000 acres of sheep grazing lands in the west must be vacated this year under the terms of the Homestead Act, makes necessary radical move on the part of many sheep owners. It is estimated that nearly 25 per cent of the western sheep owners will be affected by the terms of this act. That a large percentage of them will seek a new field in the cut-over districts of Michigan and Wisconsin now seems evident.

Representatives of the various counties in the Northeastern Michigan Development Bureau gathered at the Hotel Bancroft Tuesday, January 29, for the fifth annual dinner.

The possibilities of sheep-raising in Northeastern Michigan was the chief topic of discussion. James R. Snody of Onaway was elected president.

HURON COUNTY FARMERS AFTER FEDERAL LOAN ASSOCIATION

A movement is on foot to organize a Federal Farm Loan Association in northwestern Huron County in the vicinity of Pigeon and Elkton. Several communications from that part of the county have been received by M. B. F. from farmers interested in an organization of this kind. Farmers in the vicinity of these villages who wish to get in touch with others interested in organizing a loan association can obtain the names of those now working on the proposition by addressing this office.

There are numerous farming communities where the organization of Federal Farm Loan Associations would be of immense benefit to the farmers. In nearly all of these communities there are farmers who are interested, but who have hesitated to take up the matter as they have felt there was not enough interest among the other farmers of the community.

Any farmer so interested can obtain material assistance by writing M. B. F. regarding the matter. This office may be able to put him in connection with others in his vicinity who wish to see a loan association established.

MICHIGAN AMONG LEADERS IN DAIRY BULL ASSOCIATION

Michigan stands second among the states of the Union in the number of active co-operative dairy bull associations, and has the distinction of having been the first state in which an organization of that kind was formed. There are eight active associations in the state at present, according to the report of the dairy division of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. South Carolina leads with nine.

The first co-operative dairy bull association to be organized in the United States was promoted in

Michigan in 1908. For a number of years little progress was made in promoting similar organizations. Within the last few months, however, several associations have been organized which are not as yet listed by the bureau as active. The organization of an association in a community has had a tendency to immediately improve the livestock, as many farmers find it an incentive to purchase thoroughbred cows, as well as the slower improvement which results in building up herds by breeding to grades.

The eight active associations listed by the bureau are as follows:

Fairview Guernsey Cattle Club, Fairview.
Leer Guernsey Breeders' Association, Leer.
Climax Guernsey Breeders' Association, Scott.
Standard Holstein Breeders' Association, Bruce Crossing.
Harrisville Brown Swiss Association, Harrisville.

Litchfield Jersey Cattle Club, Litchfield.
Daggett Holstein-Feisian Association, Daggett.
Ray Holstein Breeders' Association, Washington.

In addition to this a number of these associations were organized in the Upper Peninsula, as well as several in the Lower Peninsula during the spring and summer of 1917.

GRANGE MASTER EXPLAINS PRES-COTT'S ATTITUDE ON \$10.00 BEETS

In a communication to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, State Grange Master John C. Ketcham, who is also chairman of the beet growers' committee which was appointed to negotiate with the sugar manufacturers for higher prices, explains State Food Administrator's attitude on the question of \$10 beets. His letter follows:

"Dear Mr. Lord:—Your editorial read with much interest. You have hit the nail squarely on the head, I think. Mr. Prescott did not in fact press the \$9 as a price. He merely offered it as a tentative basis for discussion, disclaiming any definite knowledge as to either cost of production or of manufacturing. He did not announce \$9 as a final price. The manufacturers merely jumped at the suggestion of his \$9 as a good chance to get away from the \$10 asked by the growers. They were shrewd enough to see the force of such a position and have been doing their best since the conference to put the blame on the growers for any lack of response. So far as I can hear the growers are not signing in large numbers. Fraternally yours, John C. Ketcham."

County Crop Reports

SANILAC (South)—Farmers are not very busy and hay is being pressed and some wood cut. Weather is still cold and clear. Some potatoes and other vegetables have been frozen in cellars. Some hay and stock are on the move at fair prices, but most farmers are holding for higher prices. Beans are not all threshed.—N. J. V. C.—Crosby, Feb. 1.

SANILAC (North)—Farmers are doing chores and hauling wood and coal when they can get it. Fields well covered with snow insuring some protection to wheat and meadows. Some bean threshing to be done yet. The majority of beans are damp. Some pressed hay being delivered at loading points. Most of the hay sheds filled up waiting for cars to move it. Live stock wintering in good shape.—G. T. A., Palms, February 1.

OSCEOLA (Central)—Farmers are doing chores and cutting wood. Some are selling dry buzz wood at \$3.00 per cord, green buzz wood bringing \$2.50 per cord. There is nothing moving at present. Plenty of snow; temperature around and below zero most of the time. This township has lost one of its oldest pioneers in the death of L. G. Clark.—E. A., Evart, February 2.

BRANCH (North)—Farmers are doing chores and cutting wood. Are not selling much. Conditions are such that farmers do not know just what to do.—F. S., Union City, Feb. 2.

LIVINGSTON (Northwest)—Another cold week and farmers are not doing much except their chores; all buying some coal and cow feed when they can get it. None of them selling anything at present. Quite a number of jobs of beans yet to thresh, but cannot get to them on account of the snowdrifts.—G. A. W., Fowlerville, Feb. 2.

HURON (Northwest)—Very cold weather. Farmers doing chores and digging wood out of the snow. The roads are in bad condition. There is quite a lot of shock corn in the fields partly snowed under. Hay and wood in good demand. Some grain going to the market.—G. W., Elkton, Feb. 1.

CHEBOYGAN (Northwest)—The cold has been severe here the past week. It was so cold that some young cattle had their feet frozen. It was 32 below Friday night.—O. W. B., Riggsville, Feb. 2.

INGHAM (West Central)—Still very cold. The order of the day is to turn out with your shovel to keep the roads open. Feed is scarce and getting more so all the time. If this weather continues feed will be very high and hard to get at any price. Some are forced to sell stock at low prices to save feeding. Some horses have been sold to U. S. for army use. I see they are beginning to urge the farmers to put in large crops again.—C. I. M., Mason, Feb. 4.

MIDLAND (Northwest)—The weather has been extremely cold the past week, as low as 35 below zero. Farmers not doing much. A few beans going to market.—F. A. L., Coleman, Feb. 1.

CASSOPOLIS FARMER TELLS OF TRIALS OF POTATO GROWERS

The daily press which plays up the occasional story of the rare but fortunate farmer who has a huge yield of some staple in the face of adverse weather conditions never finds space for stories like the one sent in by A. J. Wenger of Cassopolis. If space were given to stories like this by the daily press the impression among many city people that the farmer was fast becoming a plutocrat, and was rapidly gaining control of the loose wealth in the land would soon be dissipated.

Here is Mr. Wenger's story:

"I paid four dollars for a bushel of very poor seed potatoes last spring. One half acre was planted from this seed in hills. The frost caught them in the fall, and it was necessary for me to pay \$3.50 for a man to help me dig them in one day. We dug 30 bushels in all, 14 of Grade No. 1, and 16 of grade No. 2. The 14 bushels at 90 cents a bushel amounted to \$12.60. The 16 bushels at 60 cents a bushel brought \$9.60 or a total of \$21.20.

"The actual expense on that one-half acre was as follows:

Plowing, dragging and marking.....	\$ 2.00
Planting	1.50
Seed	15.00
Cultivating four times	2.00
Spraying once	1.00
Man's time digging.....	3.50
My time digging	3.50
One half day getting seed and one half day delivering crop	4.00
Actual cost of production on investment or land rental:	
Received for crop	21.11
Direct money loss.....	11.30

CONKLIN CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY BREAKS RECORD

According to the *Conklin Enterprise*, the fiscal year of the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery at Conklin, just closed, was the most successful in the history of the organization.

During the twelve-month period a total of \$115,562.97 was paid out to the farmers. This represents an increase of \$44,000 above the gross business of the previous year.

Every co-operative creamery ever organized has had to go through the same shadow of uncertainty and the same fire of criticism. The Conklin creamery has been no exception, but this enterprise has already passed thru the trying experimental stages and has won the confidence and patronage of the leading farmers of the vicinity.

The annual meeting of the company was made the occasion for a gala day in which the farmer stockholders, friends and families for miles around gathered about a community dinner and listened to several inspiring addresses.

It is stated that every member of the directorate was retained by the pleased stockholders, and the old officers were re-elected. Mr. C. J. Lazenby continues as manager.

DO FOOD ADMINISTRATION MEN RECEIVE COMPENSATION?

Will you please answer the following questions thru your valuable paper? Do our Food and Fuel Administrators receive a salary or pay in any way for services? Second, also our examining boards such as physicians, lawyers or anyone connected therewith? If so, how much and how are they paid? Please answer and settle a dispute between myself and neighbor friend.—W. E. V., Lapeer.

No one occupying a position of authority upon either the Food or the Fuel Administration receives a salary. Clerical employees who do the detail work are paid in the same manner as other employees from a special appropriation voted by congress. There are many objections to acceptance of the services of these men gratis, as the system necessarily places only well-to-do people, who can afford to give their time to the government, but who for the most part are not in touch with the common folks, in control of important matters. Moreover, the people do not feel as free to criticize mistakes that these men may make, when they know that they are giving their services free of charge, the most of them because of patriotism.

We are advised by members of the so-called "draft" boards that no provision has yet been made for paying them for the work they are doing. It has been rather vaguely understood that the government expected to reimburse them at the rate of \$1 per hour for time actually put in, but there appears to be nothing authoritative about this.

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Secretary of War Baker has silenced his critics, and the peanut politicians who started the row, have fled to cover.

Under fire of the senate investigating committee, the Secretary of War disclosed military secrets that should have remained military secrets. No doubt the information has already been received with joy by the enemy, who have been making every effort within their power the past few months to ascertain the magnitude of America's war preparedness. But there is a more optimistic side to the disclosures. They have opened the eyes of the people to the gigantic problems that had to be overcome and have strengthened their confidence in the ability of the nation's chief men to cope successfully with the situation. Below will be found a summary of Mr. Baker's statements before the committee:

"America will have 500,000 men in France early this year, and 1,000,000 more trained and equipped will be ready to follow as quickly as ships can be provided.

"100,000 men already in France, all provided with improved Americanized Enfield rifle.

"Instances of inefficiency named by Senator Chamberlain were isolated ones and not characteristic of general conditions prevailing.

"Thirty-two national guard and national army divisions are ready to go abroad at once, if needed.

"France and England supplied the first American expeditionary force with artillery and machine guns at the urgent request of these two countries and to save ships for the transportation of more necessary materials.

"Many plans worked out before the United States joined the war were found impractical and were abandoned on the advice of the allies.

"France as well as England sent to the United States the most brilliant strategists, mechanical experts, experts in supplies, experts in industry and manufacture, and these men gave the war departments the benefit of years of intensive study and actual experience in the present war.

"Thousands of experts are aiding Gen. Pershing. Not men with guns, but keen students of actual warfare, who are studying the war from a scientific basis and devising methods of combat.

"The entire regular army was not sent to the battle line in France last year because it would have been destroyed like the first British army sent to France. Part was sent and part kept to aid in training and form nucleus for the new army. The purpose of sending the expeditionary force was principally to bolster up the courage of the French.

"Men were kept here for proper training first. No more troops will be sent to Europe until they are ready to meet the situation there.

"The Lewis machine gun was not approved by Gen. Pershing for ground fighting. A better machine gun (the Browning) will soon be ready for use. It has met the approval of army officers here and abroad.

"Nothing has been left undone to provide for the welfare of the soldier. The Y. M. C. A. and other organizations are giving valuable assistance. Old men have been weeded out of the service and replaced with young men. Inefficient workers have been dismissed and replaced by men of proved experience."

The government has issued over five billion dollars of insurance to the officers and men in service in the United States army and navy. The insurance covers both death and total permanent disability. The average amount applied for is \$8,397. The maximum permitted by the act is \$10,000; the minimum \$1,000. The cost is very low, averaging less than \$100 per year on the largest allowable insurance. On February 1st, a total of over 600,000 persons had applied for and received insurance. It is believed that this figure will be increased to an even million risks before another thirty days have passed. Unquestionably the Government is both prudent and just in thus providing for the future welfare of those who may be dependent upon the soldiers who do not come back from France, or return perhaps unfit to again take up responsibilities of wage earners.

The administration is frankly worried over Spain. For some months it has been known that the little kingdom has looked with more or less favor upon Germany, and has assisted the enemy both directly and indirectly in furnishing bases for her submarines and supplies for her army. The action of the Spanish government in placing an embargo upon shipments of needed supplies being sent to Pershing in France via Spain, and the retaliatory measures of this government in detaining Spanish vessels in American harbors,

has brought the situation to a climax, and will compel Spain to show her hand one way or the other in the very near future. It is admitted that Spain has no cause to love the United States. She has been humiliated too often at our hands for that. But Spanish commercial interests depend upon our resources for much of their business, and for this reason it is believed that Spain will be slow to antagonize us. On the other hand, the Kaiser is laying many temptations before her, and it is stated that German officers are to be found in large numbers training the Spanish army in the arts of the most modern warfare.

It has been learned with some surprise that the actual war expenditures for the first year will fall short of the estimate by four or five billion dollars. Consequently, instead of the ten billion dollars which Congress believed would have to be raised before next June, the actual amount will not be far from five billion. It has not yet been definitely determined in just what manner this additional sum will be secured. The sentiment for a higher tax against incomes and excess war profits, grows more pronounced, altho the capitalists have been busy for some months to discourage any such action. I do not doubt but what a greater draft will be made upon excess profits to secure future war finances, and the situation so far as the average citizen is concerned is more reassuring at any time since our entrance into the war.

In order to encourage and strengthen industrial enterprise engaged in the manufacture of necessary supplies of war, the treasury department has asked Congress for authorization to form a gigantic war finance corporation, with a capital stock of \$500,000,000, which may issue \$4,000,000,000 in short term notes to needy industries. Less than a fortnight ago the treasury department was authorized to purchase \$100,000,000 of the federal farm loan bonds, and \$3,000,000 of these have already been purchased, so that a stimulus has been given to the work of financing the farmer. When supplied with the cash, industry thrives, but a lack of funds and credit, puts a damper on all enterprise.

EUROPEAN DEMAND FOR WHEAT VASTLY EXCEEDS THE SUPPLY

The millions of women who are pledged to support the Food Administration have been called on to multiply the wheatless days in the week.

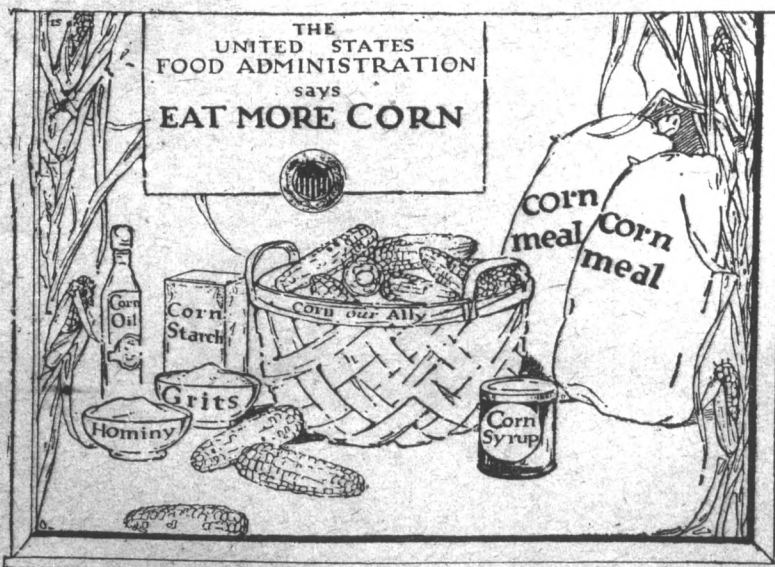
Additional instructions to the already familiar home card impress on the minds of our people the necessity of sharing the loaf with the Allies.

In regard to the wheat situation the United States Food Administration, January 12, issued the following statement:

"It is true that the Allies need from 75,000,000 to 90,000,000 bushels more American wheat. It is also true we have already exported the theoretical surplus of last harvest over our normal consumption. The American people have saved a considerable amount, estimated from 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 bushels, during the past two months and we are expecting this saving.

"We cannot and will not export more than our savings, for our own people must be also fed. The Allies have reduced the bread ration to their people sharply the last few days and if this lowered ration is to be maintained we must save more hitherto.

"We are asking the American people to further reduce their consumption of wheat products and use other foodstuffs, instead, for the Allies must also have some wheat as well as ourselves. It is one of the vital issues in winning the war that we must maintain the health and strength and morale of their men, women and children over this winter."



WAR WIRES

Secretary of War Baker has officially announced that American troops have taken over a sector of the western front in France. Just where they are located is kept secret at this time. The trench training has progressed much more rapidly than was expected. Some time ago the first detachment of Americans went into the front lines, but just as a matter of training. French troops being kept constantly near at hand. During this period of training all classes of the military service have received their baptism of fire, regulars, national guardsmen and men of the selective draft or national army. Their behavior and aptness in learning the art of trench warfare has resulted in their being assigned a definite sector and the entire defense of the same. Before the summer campaigns are well under way America will have a half million men in France and another half million ready for the transports.

All of the great German liners seized by America at the outbreak of hostilities between this country and Germany, have been repaired and are now in the transport service. Eighteen of them in this service have landed thousands of American troops in France during the past two months. Of especial note is the repairing of engines of the Vaterland, now Leviathan. They were left a complete wreck when the German crew was removed for internment. It was a common boast of the Germans that America could not produce an engineer capable of repairing and operating these complicated machines. Not only has this been done in record breaking time, but the ship has made the transatlantic trip at the rate of two knots faster than her original owners were ever able to make with her. The German ships will aid materially in transporting the half million men which Secretary Baker promises will be in France by mid-summer.

Spain is reported to have placed an embargo on shipments of supplies purchased in that country by General Pershing, for use of the American expeditionary forces in France. The reason given by her officials is that the Spanish railroads have broken down under the extra weight, but it is understood that Washington officials have for some time felt that a considerable element in the Spanish government is German in its leanings and that German propaganda has had a great deal to do with the present situation. Inasmuch as Spain obtains much of her food stuffs from America, this country is in position to yield the whip hand by withholding bunker coal. It is generally understood that Spanish vessels now in American ports have been held up waiting the outcome of the present difficulties.

The Italians have again assumed the offensive and the Austro-Hungarian war office admits the loss of two important heights on the northern mountain front, on the Asiago Plateau. The number of prisoners is constantly increasing and the advance continues. The Italian armies, assisted by their Allies, have again become one of the dominant factors in the war, this come-back having been staged after the possibility of future aggressive action on their part had been discounted by prominent military authorities. Should they be able to successfully continue the present spring drive Von Hindenburg will be compelled to send reinforcements to the Italian theatre.

Michigan boys at Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas, have been having a fair sample of Texan weather. A severe cold snap and heavy snow storm recently was followed by thunder showers and warmer weather. The erstwhile frozen parade grounds overnight became seas of mud and water. As one Sammy expressed it, "After we lick the Kaiser and get back to Michigan we'll think we're in heaven." Detachments are constantly leaving camp for ports of embarkation on the Atlantic seaboard. The boys are well supplied with necessary equipment, good health and high spirits prevailing.

General Crowder has issued new regulations regarding selective draft physical qualifications. Men will now be accepted having stature of four feet five inches. One hundred pounders are also placed on the eligible list, as are also those having flat and club feet, providing these defects are not too highly developed.

When the airplanes which they were operating two thousand feet in the air, came together, Edwin D. James, Toledo, Ohio and Carl S. Mather, Paw Paw, Mich., fell to their death. The accident occurred at Ellington field, Houston, Texas.

It is officially announced that the first draft army will be completed Feb. 15. At that time will be sent to camp the final quotas from those states which have not furnished them up to this time. The supply of clothing and supplies for this last addition is being accumulated at the various camps before the men are called out. It is estimated that an aggregate of about 75,000 men will be sent to the various cantonments under the new order. The date of the second draft call is dependent on the removal of the troops now in training.

Latest reports from Amsterdam indicate that the German military authorities are crushing the strikes in that country with an iron hand. They issued a proclamation stating that all employees who refused to resume work on Monday, Feb. 4, would be tried by courtmartial authorized to impose sentence of death, with execution within 24 hours after sentence.

The U. S. troops now in France have taken over a section of the French front and are rapidly getting into the fight. Their part of the line is what is known as the Louvaine sector, and their getting into the game was heralded by the big guns which have been benching forth fire and steel into the Boche ranks.

"WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND"

Prize Winners on the T. E. Cruikshank farm, Evart

"ELEVATORS SHOULD HAVE CULLS" IS THE OPINION OF K. P. KIMBALL

Some time ago we laid before the bean committee at Washington the proposition of whether elevators were justified in charging the farmer for picking the cull beans and at the same time keep the cull stock. We also sent out a letter to leading bean elevators in this state asking their reasons for claiming ownership of the culls. Most of the elevators responded and cited in detail their experiences and their cost of picking beans, tending to show that they were obliged to keep the culls to help take care of overhead expenses including rent, fuel, interest and depreciation on investment, etc. Two of the elevators stated that they were voluntarily paying the farmers 1 cent per pound for the culls owing to their greater value at present time as a stock food.

Asked as to what prices at which elevators sold the cull stock, Mr. Chas. Wolohan, who operates warehouses at Birch Run, Hemlock, Davison, Chesaning and Fergus, replied as follows: "At present time we are trying to get \$40.00 per ton for cull beans, but we are not able to move them at this price in any quantity, and evidently will be obliged to cut this price considerably in order to get business. We figured that compared with other feeds, we ought to get \$40 per ton; but as it is necessary to cook beans in order to make feed of them, and as fuel is scarce and high, people do not seem inclined to buy them. Personally, the writer is allowing 1 cent per pound for the cull beans this year and last year, on account of their value being more than usual. Formerly these beans would be worth but from ten to twenty dollars per ton."

The communication of Mr. Kimball of the bean committee, upon this subject, follows:

"From what information we have up to date, practically all of the elevators in Michigan are paying from 4c to 5c to their girls for the hand-picking. If they are buying on an 11c hand-picked basis, they add the cost of picking each pound to the cost of a pound of culls; for instance, 11 plus 4, or 11 plus 5, as the case may be, making a deduction for each pound of pickage of from fifteen cents to sixteen cents.

"It is true that all the elevators keep the amount of culls that they take out, their basis of operation, according to reports, being that if the beans only pick one pound they can handle a car in one, two or three days, in an elevator. If they should happen to pick 15 pounds they have to run the elevator on the same overhead, paying for gasoline, shrinkage, etc., and it is impossible to pick a car of 15 pounds inside of from three to four weeks. They claim that the culls do not begin to pay for the additional overhead on account of the heavy pick, and if we force them to return the stock to the farmer the cost of doing business would necessitate their lowering their buying price quite materially."

None of these statements are in

tune with those made to the writer several weeks ago, by the manager of a certain farmers' elevator up-state, that farmers should have their culls back, and that one of the biggest sources of profit for the elevators were the cull beans. However, this publication will make no further comments upon the matter, until our investigations along this line are completed. We desire to be fair to all concerned, and if the elevator owners can show the farmers why they should have the cull beans if they are to continue paying the market price, the farmers are fair-minded enough to grant their claims without further questioning.

BINDER TWINE COMES UNDER FOOD ADMINISTRATION CONTROL

Binder twine for the 1918 harvest will be controlled by the United States Food Administration. Binder twine manufacturers have entered an agreement with the Food Administration. Competition is to be eliminated and buying is to be centralized.

The price of binder twine will not be as low as in past years, but will be reasonable, based on the cost of raw material, a cost which cannot be controlled by the Food Administration. War activities, high freights and similar factors, with reasonable differentials for manufacturing, will enter into the controlled price. Without the control exercised by the Food Administration, it is understood binder twine would be extremely high in price this year. Arrangements already have been made with the interests supplying sisal, and these adjustments tend to stabilize prices, prevent undue advances, to eliminate speculation, waste and hoarding, giving the product to the consumer, as the Food Administration says, "at the lowest possible price all things considered."

Michigan has a more than ordinary interest in the binder twine problem as this state has been a large factor in the solution of the difficulty of supplying binder twine at fair prices. The Michigan State Prison has one of the large binder twine industries of the country, and has done much in the past to help stabilize binder twine prices for the consumer.

Thanks to your efforts Grand Rapids and our local grain buyers are now paying \$2.09 for No. 2 Red Wheat. I am enclosing a new subscription.—Eli G. Roberts, Kent City, Mich.

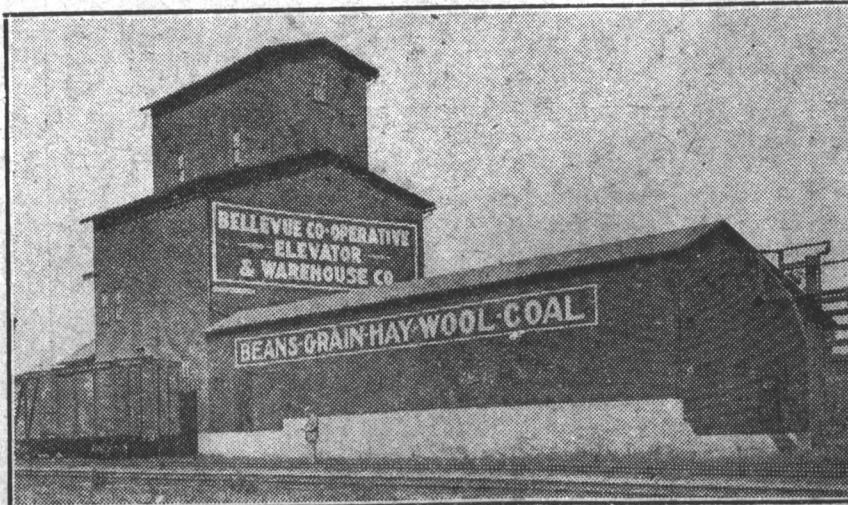
ONE OF MICHIGAN'S SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATIVE ELEVATORS

A very successful co-operative elevator is in operation at Bellevue. Although operated by the farmers only a little more than one year, it has paid a good rate of dividends in the face of keen opposition.

The elevator was purchased late in 1916 for \$7,000, by a few farmers who sold stock in the enterprise to the farmers of the vicinity for \$10 a share. Stock to the amount of \$10,000 was signed for, but only \$8,000 worth taken.

At the end of the first year, it was found that the gross business had been \$81,299.08, with net profits of \$1,400.

Coal sheds costing \$500 were constructed, a reserve fund of \$300 was created, and the remaining \$600 paid in dividends. Considering the circumstances, the farmers interested in the enterprise were well pleased. They received a fair rate of interest on their investment the first year, and in addition to that they have assurance that the business is growing, and that there is sufficient reserve to carry on the business and meet all demands.

**AVERAGE MICHIGAN PRICES REPORTED BY M. B. F. COUNTY MEN**

Market reports submitted by forty-three M. B. F. county reporters of the lower peninsula indicate a wide margin between prices that are being paid in different localities, which merely confirms our previous statements that the problem of securing a price at local points commensurate with prices offered on primary markets lies with the local buyer. In sections where there is stiff competition, prices always rule much higher than in localities where buyers are "friendly" or where there is no competition.

This is strikingly evident in the Greenville market, which always quotes twenty to thirty per cent higher prices than any other country market on potatoes. Greenville farmers may thank kind providence that an aggressive, and successful farmers' co-operative buying association operates in that city, totally independent of other buyers. Were there more of these co-operative, farmer-owned marketing organizations in Michigan, the prices of farm commodities would not go so low as they do under present conditions.

Average potato prices for the lower peninsula during the week ending Feb. 2 was \$1.28 per cwt.

Beans are quoted at \$10.00 per hundred at Crystal Valley, Oceana county. Two county representatives in Cass county report the market on beans at \$8.00 per bushel or better than \$13.25 per cwt.

Another very strong market is at Millersburg, in Presque Isle county, where beans were quoted at \$7.50 per bushel, or \$12.50 per cwt., on Jan. 28th. The next best market is at Fenton, \$11.75 being offered by dealers for C. H. P. beans, on Jan. 31st. Other markets report \$10.50, \$11, \$11.25 and \$11.50. The average for the state is \$11.15. Other average prices for Michigan are as follows: Wheat, \$2.00; oats, \$1.2-3; rye, \$1.70; hay, \$21.42; butter, .43; eggs, .47; hogs, .15 2-3.

NEW YORK POTATO SITUATION EXPLAINED BY A GROWER

The following letter is from Mr. Daniel Dean of Nichols, N. Y., who was formerly president of the New York Potato Ass'n, and one of the leading potato authorities in the country:

I have heard of your paper and would very much like to know what is the prospective potato acreage in Michigan for 1918. Here in New York nine growers out of ten lost money on growing the crop and the acreage will be very much reduced for next year. Most of the city gardeners who planted potatoes in 1917 will confine their garden work to radishes, lettuce, sweet corn, and other easily handled items.

The outlook for potato growers in 1918 looks bad to me. If we grow a big crop we will be urged to sell faster in order to drive down prices so city voters will get them cheap. If the crop is small as in 1916 those same city voters will get it seized for sale to them at their prices. And last and most serious of all. The English government has now adopted the policy of encouraging potato production instead of holding down prices. Growers were forbidden to sell at less than 81c per bushel here. The result was that the farmers grew a record crop. Now they must dispose of the surplus and some is offered at 45c per bushel. Just as soon as peace is declared any seaboard cities can import those cheap potatoes at cost and smash the potato markets of the whole United States. From my beginning in potato growing in 1904 until the war there was all of every winter a dead line of 70c at New York or about 60c here which potatoes could not pass without bringing in imports. It took but the threat to break the market. The man who plants potatoes in 1918 must be a patriot indeed. He has one chance in ten to get pay for his time at farm labor prices, one in a hundred to get pay at city labor prices and a good chance of being ruined. Of course, as President Lowell of Harvard said at a New England food conference "It is the farmer's duty to sacrifice himself for his country." When asked if the same obligation applied to Harvard he replied, "Oh, that is quite another matter."

I note that the January 1st remaining stock of potatoes is 147 million bushels. This is a considerably smaller amount on hand than in several other years. It seems that with anything like normal consumption there would only be just enough potatoes to last the season out. As you know the 60 millions left last January (1917) was by far the smallest on record. The next smallest was in 1911, 90 millions. Any comparison with last year's crop is useless because we haven't ever had such a shortage.

Would be glad to know how much of the Michigan crop is left, the prices growers receive, and the percentage of the crop lost by frost in the soil, and in transit.—Yours truly,—Daniel Dean.

BEAN "BEARS" STILL "HUG" THE MARKET

Press Stories Galore Telling About the "Over-Production" of Beans, Flood the Country for Purpose of Leading Farmers Into Selling at Low Prices

"I am enclosing a clipping from the *Evart Review*. If this article is as false as I think it to be, will you please answer it good and strong through the columns of M. B. F., and I will see to it that your answer is published in the *Review*."

"This article was doubtless printed in good faith by the editor of the *Review*, but may be the means of scaring many farmers of this vicinity into selling at the present low prices if it goes unchallenged. Yours for success, E. R. Barber."

The clipping which was not set at the *Evart Review* office at all, but was from a piece of "boiler plate," procured ready to put in the forms from a plate house, paints the bean situation in roseate hues as far as the dealer and jobber are concerned.

"There is cheering reassurance in the news," says the clipping, "that this year's crop of beans will be much more than double the average yield. As a rule the country produces 10,000,000 bushels a year, but this year, experts agree the final figures may show a crop of 25,000,000 bushels. The consumer this winter should find beans restored to their normal prices."

Three dollar beans are predicted in the clipping which sums up the entire proposition as follows:

"How many thousands of bushels of this year's enormous bean crop the army and navy of this country and the armies and navies of our allies will consume it would be difficult to say. But the experts are of the opinion that the crop is by no means greater than the demands that will be made upon it. Even so, there should be no shortage and no exorbitant prices. Bean eaters everywhere will appreciate Mr. Hoover's careful consideration of the product, to the end that prices approximating the ante-bellum charges may be restored."

Contradictory to this is the crop report of the United States Department of Agriculture for December 1917, which places the yield of beans for the entire country at 18,129,000, only 6,000,000 bushels higher than for 1916. M. B. F. has frequently pointed out and as the average farmer well understands, the Government crop reports are invariably from 25 to 35 per cent too high. Yet the interests responsible for circulating the article above referred to would convince the farmers that ante-bellum prices would be in vogue this year, regardless of the extreme food shortage of the world.

That veiled propaganda of this kind frequently finds its way into the columns of country newspapers through the medium of plate houses is well known. The country editor is frequently unable to discern the true significance of the article or story from a casual reading. The editor of the *Evart Review* should not be subjected to censure for such an article appearing, as he doubtless would not publish intentionally anything calculated to injure the farmers, or which would have a tendency to cause them to sell a staple crop at lower prices than they should rightfully obtain.

We caution our readers against placing too much credence in reports of this nature as all too often they are printed for the purpose of catching the unwary.

DETROIT NEWS SUGGESTS GOVERNMENT CONTRACT FOR FOOD SUPPLY

The editor of the *Detroit News* seems to have an unusually keen insight into the problems of the farmers, and is recommending that the Government contract for the nation's food supplies in the same manner as other war essentials. The subject has received considerable mention in the columns of the *News*.

The arguments put forth by this editor are strikingly similar to those advanced in these columns several weeks ago. If other strong agricultural and metropolitan newspapers would take up the subject, it is fair to hope that the Government might do something along that line.

The following editorial is copied complete from the Feb. 2nd issue of the *News*:

"Food will win the war." Hardly a brick wall or tight board fence in the United States that has not borne

testimony to this fact for the past nine months and back of the statement is the authority of the United States Government.

"Does the Gov't believe food will win the war? Undoubtedly. But the Government does not believe it in the way it believes that armies will win the war; that ships will win the war; that arms and ammunition will win the war."

"As to these other things, the government has conviction which leads to dynamic action. The Government believed an army would win the war and that without an army the war would be lost. It did not say to the people, 'Please furnish an army; it is your patriotic duty.' It did not appoint local agents to make surveys and advise with the people as to the number of men each part of the country would be willing to spare. It TOOK the MEN and MADE AN ARMY."

"So it was with ships; so it was with munitions; so it was with railroads. The time-honored system of private ownership held sway in all these industries. Delicate questions were to be considered. Some men's interests were advanced and some men's interests were interfered with, but the Government believed ships and munitions and transportation were necessary to win the war and it went after these things."

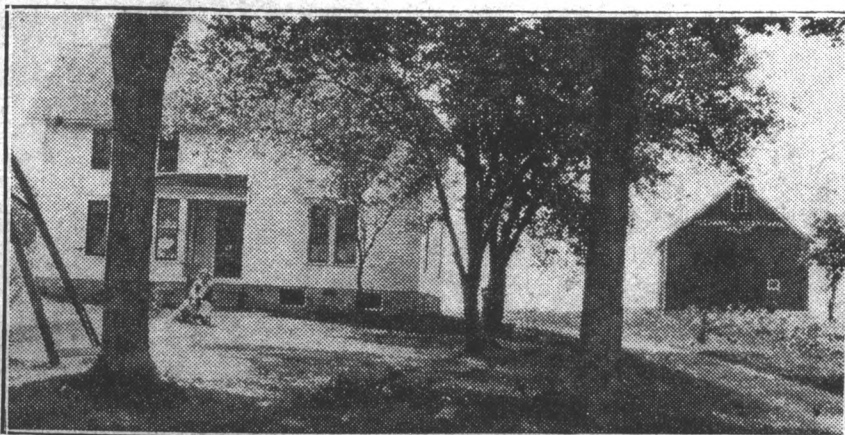
"The Government says food will win the war, but it does not proceed to get food in the same way it proceeded to get men and guns and ships. It has expressed itself with conviction and energy and efficiency in the matter of conserving food but not in the manner of producing food. At this point it seems to permit itself to be hampered by the bog of private ownership. And yet agricultural private ownership is the most wasteful and inefficient private ownership in the U. S."

"Other industries have been bidding in the open market for labor. They got it. There is no farm labor. Federal and state authorities engaged in boosting agriculture as a war measure confess they do not know where farm labor is to come from this season. And yet we have this anomalous situation in agriculture—which could not exist in any other industry—that the system does not break down. There is no farm labor, but there will be farming. The farmers will do what they can and let the rest go."

"It is this feeling of security and satisfaction on the part of the small land owner that has been the strength and the weakness of the system. The farmer always has been almost sufficient unto himself. He raised what he could, consumed what he needed and sold the surplus. When prices were low and help abundant the farmer raised much and sold a great deal for a little money. When there was no help the farmer raised a little and had little to sell. But the price rose and the farmer found he realized as much from the small surplus as formerly from the large. The effort cost him less. His remuneration was the same. Why should he worry? All over the country farmers are saying, 'If we can get help we will work our land; if we can't get help we will raise what we need for our own use and let the land rest.'"

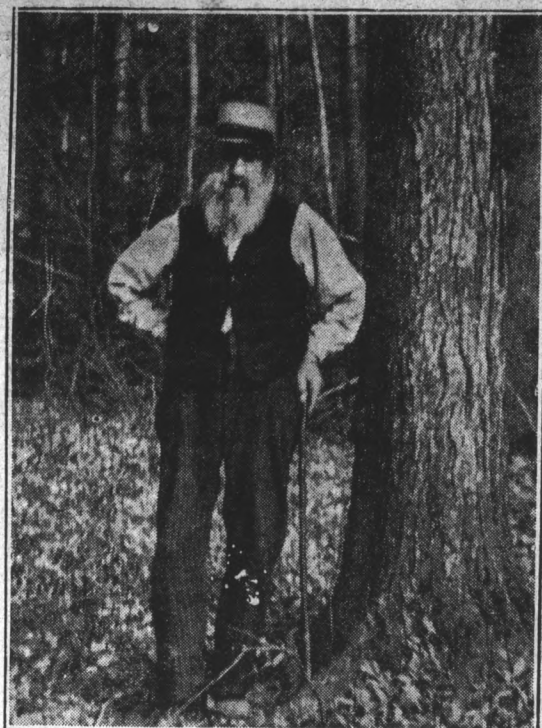
"This situation cannot be relieved by sputtering about the lack of patriotism on the part of the farmer or the foolishness of laborers who prefer life in the city, with high wages, to low wages in the country. We might theorize in time of peace, but in war we must act. If the Government believes its own slogan that food will win the war, it must solve the problems of agriculture in the energetic way it has solved the problems of the other industries which it used to prepare for war."

"The Government could contract for food, guarantee to furnish labor and take over the products on a basis of cost plus profit, and it would get the goods. There may be other ways to turn the trick, but the ways must be found. Results will not come through philosophy and moral suasion. The farmers will raise the food if they can get the help, find the market, have adequate transportation and as reasonable assurance of profit as is given other war industries. The agricultural resources of this country are abundantly adequate to all our needs and the needs of our allies. It is well to conserve food this year as much as is necessary, but we shall be a stronger, more eager, more optimistic nation next year to meet whatever strain this war may put upon us if we raise food enough to feed every last one of us all he can eat. Food will win the war."



One look at this attractive farm scene suggests to our minds the word 'pleasant.' The owner must have felt that same way, too, for he named it, "Pleasant Valley Farm." It is located near Wayland, in Allegan county, and Mr. R. H. Oliver, one of the five hundred and one new subscribers who joined the M. B. F. army of readers last week, is the fortunate owner.

MICHIGAN PIONEERS



Mr. John Striffler, Cass City's oldest pioneer, for fifty-nine years a resident of Tuscola county.

What story is more interesting or filled with such romance and adventure as the story of the pioneer? From the day that Columbus set foot upon the New Continent, the history of the American pioneer began. Step by step these rugged men pushed back the western wilderness. The early population of Michigan was mostly of French nationality. In 1806, a certain historian assures us, there were 422 farms in Michigan under cultivation, comprising an area of about 150,000 acres. The migration of English-speaking peoples into the territory began about 1830, and during the next quarter of a century thousands of brave and sturdy men and women came from New York and the New England states to new farms and homes out of the wilderness. In 1850, the population of Michigan was about 400,000; within another decade it had almost doubled.

Mr. John Striffler of Cass City is one of the few survivors of the early pioneers who settled in Michigan between 1850 and 1860. He was born in Lancaster, New York, in 1833, and located in Tuscola county in 1859. At that time the middle tiers of Michigan counties were still in a state of wilderness, the nearest store and postoffice to Mr. Striffler's farm being 25 miles distant. But he persevered against the hardships of pioneer life as many others have done before and since, and finally won against the rugged environment. Today Mr. Striffler owns one of the finest farms in the section. For the last ten years he has resided in Cass City. But he finds his way back to the old farm now and then and was roaming the woods when the above picture was taken.

Readers, send us stories and pictures of the pioneers of your acquaintance. Let us live back over the early days, tell over again the trials and victories and impress upon the youth of today the debt we owe to the pioneers.

WILL PAY HOUSEKEEPERS TO CAN THE WET BEANS

It will pay the American housekeeper to follow the moves of the business world in food products.

For instance a large proportion of late summer rains and early frost. In food value they are equal to the dried beans, but unless they are canned before the warm weather they will spoil. The Food Administration is urging as a patriotic measure the commercial canning of the maximum quantities of wet beans.

This is a tip for housekeepers. If your beans are not dry enough to insure safe keeping, can them and use them as needed. Cook thoroughly and proceed as in canning of other beans. They will be handy as a quickly prepared dish for meatless dinners and suppers.

By canning these wet beans you can save for yourself and also do your "bit" in the conservation of food for the Government.

FARMERS SERVICE BUREAU

(A clearing department for marketing troubles. Prompt and careful attention given to all complaints addressed to this department. We are here to serve you. Call upon us.)

ALLEGAN ELEVATORS NOT PAYING GOVERNMENT PRICE FOR WHEAT

"There are two local milling companies here (Allegan), the larger of them is one of the strongest in southern Michigan, and other is owned by a son of the head of the larger mill; so the milling business is practically controlled by one firm.

"Now does a farmer, who had to get his money out of his wheat to meet expenses, have to sell for \$2.08 per bushel, which is lower than the Government price set for this locality, or would he be liable to prosecution if he markets his own products in a way to get actual cost of product or at least to get the full Government price?

"The mills have always done custom milling of wheat here until last week, charging one-tenth or .208 per bushel for milling, and allowing 58 pounds of flour and feed for a bushel of 60 pounds re-cleaned wheat. But there was not enough profit at those figures, so as you see by the clipping, they have put it on a cash basis of buying and selling which gives them one-sixth of the wheat.

"Now is it a Government ruling that the mills discontinue doing a custom business, as the clipping tries to make the public believe or are the mills using the Gov't. to make a goat of the farmer?

"We cannot hope to get any help from our county Food Administrator, as he is a member of the Milling Company.

"I asked the owner of the smaller mill what the price of bran would be under the new ruling. He thought it would be around \$1.60 or \$1.70 per cwt. and that they would have to make up their loss on their flour. He claimed that the Government price on bran was f. o. b. car lots. Is that true? Also said that mixed feed meant bran and middlings ground together. Is that true?—M.S., Allegan.

"We are very much surprised to note that the mill has not been paying the farmer the Government price indicated for that section.

"We believe that he must misunderstand the regulations, and we suggest that you furnish specific instances of prices as paid, to our Divisional Headquarters, Room 2004 Second National Bank Building, Toledo, Ohio, as they are in better position to give you definite advice.

"There is nothing in the Government ruling that prevents mills doing a custom business, providing such custom does not give the farmer or the mill, supplies in excess of their reasonable thirty days' requirements.

"The Government price of bran is f. o. b. car lots at the mill, but no mill or jobber should take more than a reasonable profit in excess of this price when they make sales as a jobber or a retailer.

"You must realize that many small country mills occupy the function of millers, jobbers and retailers, and are entitled to a reasonable profit.

"The miller is correct in stating that the mixed feed meant bran and middlings ground together, as it might mean several other mixtures."—United States Food Administration Milling Division, By D. D. Davis.

WHY SELL CONDENSED MILK TO THE CITY CONSUMERS?

Would it not be wise for the Food Administration at this time to curtail the sale of condensed milk in cans to city consumers who are within easy reach of the fresh supply from nearby dairies? Is it not a fact that our boys and our Allies in France are going without condensed milk and cream simply because the condensaries of America, Switzerland and Denmark cannot supply these vast fighting hoards. Is it not a fact that the price of condensed milk has increased all out of proportion with the price being paid by the condensaries to the producer?

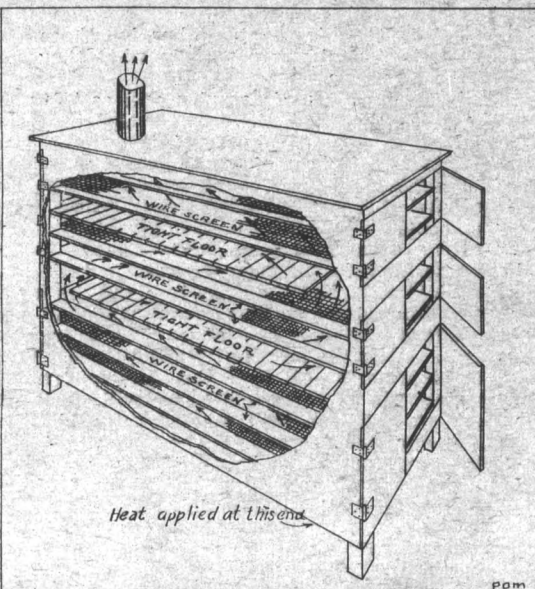
Recent reports have intimated that there is an over-production of milk in Michigan which the markets cannot absorb. This has been occasioned, so they claim by the fact that 14c milk has cut down city consumption 20 percent. The high cost of dairy feeds and the small profits in the dairy business have forced the sale and slaughter of dairy cattle which should be the main stay back of our armies. Our people, begged, cajoled, and even threatened to save food and yet we cut off one of the greatest fat and thus heat producing foods known to man. I am firmly convinced that if a drastic order from the Food Administration curtailing the sale of condensed milk to consumers who are within reach of dairies, which can supply them with milk, would in itself adjust all these disastrous conditions now existing. I should be glad indeed to open this discussion thru your columns to have this presented before the Food Administration, the Condensary owners, and others interested in this vital question. If someone is making a profit out of the dairy business today, it is not the producer.—G. M. S., Wayne county

Your surmise that the domestic consumption of condensed milk has materially increased during the past year or more, is quite correct. We have substantiated your theory by opinions from two of the largest owners of chain retail stores in the city of Detroit, both of whom assure us that it is their belief consumption has greatly increased, because of their larger trade in this commodity. It is presumed that the higher price of fresh, dairy milk has driven the poorer people to using the condensed variety which does not sour readily and for those who like it, go a much longer way than the same volume of the raw product.

Whether or not the Food Administration has the authority to make such a ruling as you suggest, or power to put it into practical enforcement, is a matter of doubt. We have referred your letter, however, to the Administration itself, and will be glad to advise you of their opinion of the matter.

HOW ALLEN PAGE OF ELWELL MADE SUCCESSFUL BEAN DRIER

I will send you a drawing for a drier that I thot that some of your readers would be glad to get so as to make one to dry heir damp beans in. I used one to evaporate apples in and it did the work perfectly. It was 16 feet long and the width would be according to the width of the screen obtainable. It will be seen that there is three rows of screens below the floor and two rows more, then another floor and two rows more above this one. The bottom floor is two feet short on the back end and the top floor is two feet short on the front end, so the heat and steam will pass around these ends and gives a fine draft. The screens could be made of galvanized door screens and should be square so they can be handled and



should be covered one-half or three-fourths inch deep with beans and slid in over the heater on the bottom three rows of slides. After they are some dried they should be taken out of the back end and slid in above the first floor on the next two slides and as they pass on to the front end they should pass above the top floor and to the back end and out. Care must be taken not to scorch the beans. A box like the one that I used held 36 screens. Of course the cost will be according to the lumber but if two or more build one together it would come cheaper and do the work of the whole neighborhood. An old box heating stove will do and run the pipe out at the side at the back end so as not to be in the way of the back doors. If anyone should care to build one please write to me and tell the amount of work you have to do and I can be of service to you. Tell the width of screen obtainable.—Allen Page, Elwell, Mich.

CAN A MILLER PAY MORE THAN GOVERNMENT PRICE FOR WHEAT?

"Would or could a local miller pay government price \$2.20 for wheat for home grinding? He gets the same price for flour as any other miller and what he pays less than government prices is gain to him. If he ships in flour he adds the freight. If he would pay \$2.20 for wheat would he violate the law?—S. R., Montague.

"In answering the question of prices, all government prices are figured f. o. b. and to arrive at that price we take the terminal market (New York) for example less the export rate which will give you the f. o. b. price. The miller then should buy this wheat for a little less than the government price so the warehouse man or elevator man has a chance to live, and their price should be governed according to quality or grade of the wheat."—Food Administration Grain Corporation, H. D. Irwin, 2nd Vice President.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT WILL NOT CONFISCATE SUGAR

Is the report true that the government is going to send out men to visit each home and take all the sugar you have except enough to last 50 days? We heard they were also going to take flour and pork. I don't see how they can as the farmers only way to have pork and beef to use in the summer during haying and harvest, is to butcher their hogs and beef during the winter and salt and cure it for summer's use. In regard to the sugar, a lot of the farmers raised sugar beets and when they delivered them to the factory, why, they were allowed not more than 400 lbs. to a farmer, and this sugar was all gotten before they began to say there was a shortage of sugar. If the government had said the farmer could only get 200 lbs., why, they'd have taken that much and been satisfied.—J. L. H., Mt. Pleasant.

"I wish to assure you that the press statements you refer to in regard to the agents of the Food Administration going into private homes to ascertain the amount of sugar householders have in stock, are very misleading and unfair to the Administration.

"It has been, and will continue to be, our aim to secure voluntary co-operation and at no time has this Department even considered such a step as mentioned in the press articles you refer to.

"We have in many instances asked people who have over 60-day supply of sugar on hand to make a report of same to this office or to our local Administrator in their respective county. We have, in some localities, asked the holders of a surplus stock of sugar to release part of their supply for redistribution. We have had yet to find one single instance where the holder of the sugar was not perfectly willing to share his stock.

"There is not a case where this has been done that there has been a hardship worked upon any one. We will say in this connection that while the sugar shortage is so acute and knowing as we do the cause of it, it is very unfair for any one family to be holding 400 pounds of sugar when there are many families going without and have been without sugar for many days. So long as the sugar shortage exists we will continue to appeal to the more fortunate from a patriotic sense of duty standpoint to release their surplus stock of sugar, or in other words, what they have in excess of a 60-day supply, to be redistributed in order that no one may suffer for the want of this commodity."—Federal Food Administration, F. D. Fitzgerald, Executive Secretary.

The above letter should set the minds of our readers at rest upon the alleged designs of the government toward private sugar supplies. The Food Administration has no power and will not attempt to usurp the power to confiscate private stocks. We are quite sure any such efforts would be resented and vigorously opposed by all. There is a vast difference between forcing a man to part with his legitimate sugar supply and asking him on the grounds of patriotism to share with his neighbors. MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING knows that it can safely assure the state food administration, without consulting its readers at all, that it will find the farmers of Michigan willing and glad to divide any surplus they may have with their less fortunate city brethren if the need becomes urgent.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FARMERS' PATRIOTISM IN MANY WAYS

Is the United States Government buying trucks from the Republic Truck Works at Alma? There have been men here from the Alma plant who said they had to deliver them at New York or Philadelphia and the farmers must keep the roads clean from snow for 16 feet wide for them to get through. Is this true?—J. A. M., Hemlock.

It is entirely possible that the government is buying trucks of the Republic Truck Company, but we have never heard of any law which gives them authority to compel the farmers to keep the roads open for their passage. Of course, if the farmers in your neighborhood haven't anything else to do, it might be a mark of patriotism to get out and shovel the snow from the roads. Farmers, you know, are expected to be super-patriotic, to grow crops without profit, subscribe for Liberty bonds, and mayhap, shovel snow.

AGENTS WANTED TO SPREAD GOSPEL OF BUSINESS FARMING

There are thousands of business farmers in Michigan who have never had an opportunity to read this paper. They are as anxious as any of our readers to solve the eternal problem of marketing farm crops at a profit. If you or any member of your family have a few minutes to spare you can earn good money seeing these farmers and taking subscriptions to this paper. Write the Circulation Manager, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, for further particulars.

MICHIGAN SHEEP'S RAISING POSSIBILITIES

M. P. Hartman, Agricultural Agent of G. R. & I. R. R., Believes Opportunity is Open for Development of Sheep Industry in This State

It is officially reported from Washington that the wool-clip in sight in the United States will provide about 200,000,000 pounds of the 750,000,000 pounds required to adequately clothe the men of our army and navy. In other words our production will slightly exceed one-fourth enough wool to make the clothing for our fighting men. The folk at home are not considered in this calculation, what they will wear is entirely contingent upon what they themselves do to make wearing apparel available. If needs be, perhaps, the stage-version of the Hawaiian dress may prove a last resort. Be that as it may the men in training and overseas must be provided with abundant warm clothing and free of shoddy.

Twenty sheep, it is said, must be kept working to produce the wool for the clothing of one man in the service. The average yield of wool per sheep in this country is a little better than eight pounds; thus, one hundred and sixty pounds of wool per man. Of course, this is the weight as sheared and sold, their grease and dirt content of the wool is about two-thirds of the gross weight. The sheep and wool shortage not only affects this country but is true in every sheep raising country abroad. For example, Australia suffered a drought which reduced her flocks by 12,000,000 head, and the war has required the slaughter of millions upon millions of head that would otherwise have continued as wool producers. Our average annual imports for many years past have exceeded 300,000,000 pounds. This year, to take care of our shortage, at least in part, we shall perhaps be able to make some imports from Australia and Argentina.

We, in Michigan find a certain keen delight in believing that our resources, productions and so on are sufficient to make us self-sustaining, if, as a state we so choose. What a fallacy! Of sheep we have about one-half of one animal per capita which if all were sheared would yield enough cleaned wool fibre to make about one-third of a suit of clothes for each man, woman and child in the state.

The western ranges have in the past contributed largely to our wool production, but the homestead act now works against this source of supply. It is said that some 50,000,000 acres will be taken up in the spring and this will affect about 25 per cent of the sheep now in range.

A heap of additional statistics and comparisons might be set up to bear further on the seriousness of the wool situation, but we shall reserve the space to discuss the solution of the problem, recognizing in the first place that we are face to face with a proposition that calls for quick and big efforts. Ordinary procedures will never suffice. Big men, big money, farms, ranches, wide vision and concerted action, must all be united in pushing the project to an early and successful conclusion. But how?

First,—though a bit timid in offering the suggestion because of the present day commonness of urging a war or ruling for almost every condition arising—I believe that the situation warrants a law that will absolutely prohibit the killing of lambs and desirable breeding stock for the next three to five years. In submitting this thought I have particularly in mind the conservation of the western flocks which are now subject to heavy slaughter and are greatly needed as foundation breeding stock to speed up the necessary production. This, of course, will inconvenience some who want their regular diet of leg-o'-lamb, mutton chops, etc., but their appetites will have to be sacrificed to the more important duty of clothing our fighters who must come first in every instance. Then too, some wool growers will naturally object on the grounds of no winter feed, etc., thus a desire to market their lambs in fall. These are mere details incident to the main issue, and with the woeful shortage and high prices now obtaining and bound for many years, we believe that the details are absorbed at the outset.

Secondly,—more sheep should be found on more farms. The assistant Secretary of Agriculture has expressed the opinion that sheep ought to be raised on at least one in every two farms; whereas, in the United States the average is sheep on one farm in seven; and in Michigan about one farm in four. The Michigan average is about 42

sheep per farm for all farms reporting. Once our state ranked the second in the Union in number of sheep produced, this was reduced to eleventh place last year and the reason is quite logical—for a period of 39 years prior to 1906 the average price per sheep on January 1st each year at no time reached \$3.00; between 1906 and 1915 the price per head averaged from \$3.43 to \$4.50. In 1916 \$5.17, in 1917 \$7.14 and on January 1st of this year according to the Secretary of State the farm value was \$13.34 per head. Perhaps, some who had sheep to sell found this price current, but some who wanted to buy found a much higher figure demanded. The prices for wool were correspondingly as low during the different periods named. Briefly then, it simply didn't pay to raise sheep and naturally the farmers' discontinued the industry. However, conditions are vastly different today, and only a hopeless pessimist can see nothing but a most promising future for sheep husbandry.

Michigan's greatest facilities to increase wool production, will be found in the utilization of our present idle acres of which we have approximately 12,000,000, and if each acre would support one and a half sheep the year 'round, then our contribution to the national supply by those means alone would total some 18,000,000 sheep producing enough wool to clothe an army of 90,000 men. Michigan's cut-over lands will graze from two to six head, a conservative acreage of about three head per acre. To convert this idle land into productive acres, the owners, in large part, signify a very commendable willingness, and hundreds of



"Sheep are the most profitable stock for Northern Michigan at the present time," writes Samuel Hertzler of Glennie, Alcona county, to Michigan Business Farming. "Our sheep increased 200 per cent last year; one sheep's three lambs and wool were worth \$50. Many thousand acres of idle pasture land in Alcona county, which would grow fine mutton and wool, if stocked with sheep." The above picture is of Mr. Hertzler's little son and one of his profit-making sheep.

thousands of acres are being offered on most attractive terms. It is hoped that we may attract some of the flockmasters from the western ranges with their bands of sheep. But we cannot rely solely upon them, we must devise other means of bringing in sheep from the farmers and others who want to get into the game. And this develops the matter of financier is, or ought to be, interested. Some groups of bankers seem to have worked out a plan to amply meet the situation. In any event funds will have to be made available, and this being a vital part of the program, dilatory action is not in order, if we are to realize the ultimate object.

Finally, to increase wool production we should seriously consider increasing the amount of wool per sheep. If, by selection, careful breeding and otherwise, some breeders can double the wool production per animal in their entire flocks, it seems reasonable to conclude that others can do about the same thing. Eight pounds per fleece, the average in this country, is altogether too low. This, none will deny.—W. P. Hartman, Agricultural and Industrial Agent, Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Co.

In the face of such poor returns from the bean crop, the record made by Herbert Spencer of Armada is considered very exceptional. Mr. Spencer planted 9 1-4 acres of beans, and harvested 225 bushels. He was fortunate in getting the beans under shelter before they had been wet, and as a result had a first class grade which have been much in demand for seed. He has been getting \$8 a bushel.

WEEKLY NEW YORK LETTER

COHOCTON, STEUBEN COUNTY, NEW YORK, January 29th, 1918.—Owing to the continued cold weather and the great abundance of snow in this particular section of the State, it has been very difficult to move potatoes with any certainty of protection. The market seems to be strong and improving from the previous week, while the demand is good. A few potatoes are being marketed and whenever the weather conditions will permit the growers are taking advantage of them and marketing a few hundred bushels of their crop.

The general feeling of the growers in this State seems to be that they are expectant of higher prices, than those offered for their produce. Owing to the unusual short crop in this section together with the high price for seed, some growers are consequently holding the remainder of their crops for these expected prices.

Another thing which promises to have an influence upon the prices offered here, is the organizing of the growers for the purpose of obtaining more money for their produce. This will evidently, have a serious result upon the potato merchants, who this week are offering \$1.80 per cwt., for firsts and \$1.00 for seconds while the organized growers are obtaining considerable more, especially for the seconds. The use of the 1 15-16 inch screen in grading continues to be much discussed throughout the state. The use of this in normal seasons would not be as noticeable as it is this year because of the small size of the tubers due to the short season together with the other evils which the growers experienced this year. But nevertheless a moderate temperature for a few days would result in the moving of a few thousand of bushels from this vicinity.—Osmond E. Noble.

NAPLES, ONTARIO COUNTY, NEW YORK, February 1st, 1918.—The movement of potatoes was nearly stagnated by the unusual weather conditions during the month of January, which is usually considered one of the best winter months for potato marketing, and so far as price goes, it has been so this year. Frosted potatoes have been taken to the market freely—some showing only dark coloring, while others are soft and easily detected. Potatoes darkened by low temperature are usually worthless for seed purposes, but are eatable, though not first-class. Such potatoes have a tendency to demoralize the market.

Frost has entered cellars deemed safe for potatoes. In a few cases losses up to hundreds of bushels are reported from this cause. Potatoes stored in barn basements at last digging time have been entirely destroyed in a few cases. The late finishing of potato harvest and the early coming of cold weather are responsible for this loss. Those destroyed in barn basements were as a rule, damaged before digging—considered hardly fit to place in house cellars. On driving on scales with a load of potatoes recently, the first question asked by the buyer was, "Were they dug before the freeze?"

One dealer here is using a sorter with a belt having meshes of the old-time size, but the rest are making seconds of everything 1 1/4 inches in diameter and under, except the very smallest which go into the thirds. The seconds thus taken out are suitable for seed or for eating. Farmers feel much dissatisfied with this method of handling their potatoes. Prices are \$1.70 per hundred for firsts and two-thirds as much for seconds.

Many unripe beans are being offered for sale, especially among red kidneys and marrows. Yellow eye beans seem to have ripened sufficiently to be safe for seed. Few beans will be planted without testing, for the germs are about as easily injured by severe cold as corn. Yellow eye beans are selling for \$12.50 to \$13.00 per hundred and other varieties about a dollar higher.—C. M. Drake.

An important and impressive result of the war in Europe is the general degeneration, through lack of manure, of the soil in regions which have been stripped of their livestock. Shortage of ships has also compelled a general abandonment of attempts to import fertilizers. Reduced yields per acre in the Allied countries increase the responsibility which America, and especially American farmers, must shoulder.

With the world's supply of ships about 20 per cent short of normal and the Allies' need for food imports increasing, the following facts about shipping will interest American farmers: A ship can make two trips from the United States to Europe and back in the time required for one round trip to the Argentine. And it can make three from the United States to Europe and back in the time required for one round trip to Australia or the Indian Ocean.

Shortage of ships has reached the point where the long journeys must be given up and the ships used on the trans-Atlantic routes. The great task of rural America this year will be to supply enough food to load these ships and those which are being built.



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL DIGEST



GOVERNMENT EXTENDS ITS CONTROL ON LIVE STOCK FEEDS

By proclamation of the President which takes effect February 15th, livestock and poultry feeds are placed under the supervision of the U. S. Food Administration in addition to bran, cottonseed products and other staple commodities already so controlled. Alphabetically arranged, the feeds covered by the new regulations are:

Alfalfa, animal or fish products or by-products baled alfalfa, baled hay, baled straw, barley, beans broom corn, buckwheat, cane seed, copra, corn (ear), corn (shelled) dried brewers grains, dried distillers grains, dried yeast grains, emmer, fetterita, grain and seed screenings, hay, kaffir, lentils, linseed oil cake, linseed oil meal, malt sprouts, millet, milo, oats, palm kernel, palm nut, peanuts, peas, rice, rye, sorghum grains, soya beans, spelt, straw, sugar beets, sugar cane, sunflower seeds, tankage, velvet beans, wheat.

With specified exceptions, all persons, firms and associations importing, manufacturing, mixing, processing, storing or distributing these feeds are required to secure a license from the U. S. Food Administration and be subject to its regulations for the duration of the war. The exceptions include farmers, gardeners, co-operative associations of farmers and gardeners (including livestock farmers), common carriers, and retailers whose gross sales of food commodities do not exceed \$100,000 annually.

The purpose of the control is to prevent speculating and hoarding, to stabilize prices and secure distribution through most direct channels.

The theory of this ruling is that on and after February 15th, the farmers of Michigan should be able to go to manufacturers and dealers in the above commodities and buy them at a much less price than the present time. We don't believe it will work out any better in practice than other "regulations" attempted by the government. We would be interested, however, in knowing the result of our readers' opinions on this.

A COUPLE OF TIPS TO THE HARDWORKING FARMERS

In the January 29th issue of M. B. F. I noticed the advice in regard to wet beans and to dry them temporarily to hold them. I acknowledge same and would like to give a tip to those in despair. Get busy and spread the beans 20 inches thick, select a few good sized stones and heat them in the oven, then put each one in a grain sack and drop into the bin. If they will heat the stones every day and change to different places in the bin, the wettest kind will rattle. Be sure to dry the sacks each time they are removed, as they will draw the moisture.

Another thing I want to mention. The farmer, in order to have a chance for his life should be protected legally. We grasp for our farmers' weekly as our only hope. Now for our service rendered, we are allowed barely enough to pay expenses. A living is never mentioned; we work all day long, and figuratively speaking, are counted as sheep for the slaughter. As a farmer, I know this and know also that in many respects we ourselves are to blame. Voters should co-operate and see if a minimum price cannot be set on the great necessities for now and all time. Then the speculator would be a grain buyer instead of a cigar puffer and rope puller.—W. R. C., North Shade Center.

TROUBLESOME DAYS AHEAD FOR THE MICHIGAN FISH "TRUST"

All trusts have their day. The Michigan fish "trust" is now enjoying the heyday of its control of the fishing banks and fishing markets, but if the plans of Game Commissioner John Baird carry thru, the "trust" will be "hooked" and the price of fish will go down.

Commissioner Baird wants the 1919 legislature to formulate changes in the fishing laws which will give the state direct control over the business for the purpose of keeping down the prices to the consumer. At the present time the price of fish is away beyond all reason. In Detroit and other large cities common perch sell for 20 to 25 cents a pound, and Mr. Baird declares that there's no excuse for it. He declares that fish can be sold way below present prices and still permit a reasonable profit to all engaged in the transaction.

Altho technically speaking the state owns all the fish abounding in native waters, it has no

control over the prices at which the commercial product is sold. Consequently, the "trust" which has its biggest field of operations in the Saginaw bay, not only has usurped the privileges of the smaller fisherman, but practically dictates the market prices. Mr. Baird's idea is to give the state a weapon to hold over these fellows and make them come off their "perch."

Beginning Feb. 15th, all salt water fishermen and distributors of seafood come under control of the U. S. Food Administration, but this control does not in any way touch those engaged in the fresh water fish business.



The United States Shipping board plans to construct concrete vessels on an extensive scale. Already contracts for this new type of boat are being let.

Auto salesmen tell us that seventy per cent of the automobiles in the United States are owned by farmers. The farmer goes in for the general utility car largely.

Holland has ordered the closing of two hundred distilleries producing gin, to conserve the grain.

Deposits of asphalt that are believed to be practically inexhaustible have been discovered in the Philippines.

Experiments are now being made in New Jersey with fish skin for use in making shoes. Skins of the porpoise, whale and sturgeon are used and if the invention is successful, shoes will drop 50 per cent in price.

In Charlotte, Michigan, they propose to have a municipal sugar bush, in which every maple tree in town will be used. The trees will be tapped by an expert and the sugar sold at cost to the residents, thus helping to reduce the sugar famine.

Haiti has forbidden the export of foodstuffs to countries at war with the United States and countries associated with them in war.

Many big fires were recorded in Michigan during January, more than during the entire year of 1917. The estimated loss in this one month to the state is \$1,150,000.

Cats and dogs as well as horses are being eaten by the people of Holland, and cat meat being considered by them the most palatable of all.

WHAT CROPS WILL YOU PLANT NEXT YEAR?

We were well pleased with the response which was received to our appeal for statements of the number and kind of crops which our readers are planning to raise next year. In next week's issue we will publish the returns received up to that time. They will prove not only interesting but valuable. In the meantime, we urge every reader who has planned his next year's crops to fill out the coupon and thereby help us compile information as to the approximate acreage of the more important crops that will be planted in this state the coming year.

Are you planning to raise more or to raise less of wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn, potatoes, peas, beans, sugar beets, vegetables, fruits, hay, horses, beef cattle, dairy stock, sheep, swine, poultry, or for feed carrots, mangels, rutabagas, silage?

Please fill out this coupon, sign your name and postoffice address and mail to the editor of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Mich. Your name will be held in strict confidence if you so request.

I am planning to raise this coming season: (Please state approximate number of acres of the principal crops, or head of the principal live stock.)

My acreage and live stock production last year were

Name

Address

(Important—If you are unable to give this information now, please keep this coupon until your plans for next year's production have been completed.)

HOW FARMERS MAY SECURE HELP FOR COMING SEASON

"I will need farm help for the season of 1918 and am writing M. B. F. as suggested in the last issue, for aid in finding it. I would much prefer an experienced man if such could be found, but as that is most improbable, I will have to look where prospects seem best. I have 80 acres, keep at present 8 cows, a few hogs, and will have 15 or 20 acres of corn, 10 or 15 acres of oats, besides hay, wheat and pasture. I need help that is able to do the heavy work, as my health is not of the best. I do not want a tobacco smoker nor chewer, but one of clean morals and trustworthy. However, I don't expect perfection, but as he will be one in my family you will understand how I feel. Hoping for favorable report in finding a good boy."—E. R. F., Waterliet.

"I have just received your letter enclosing a communication from Mr. E. R. Fitch of Waterliet. We shall be glad to help Mr. Fitch. I have written Mr. H. J. Lurkins, County Director of the United States Boys' Working Reserve in Berrien County, whose address is Benton Harbor, and have directed him to help Mr. Fitch to secure a man if possible, but if not, a good husky young man.

"The United States Boys' Working Reserve is just in the process of being organized and the boys who are being enrolled are mainly high school boys who will be able to work only from about May 1st to November 1st. However, in many counties young men are enlisting for service to go out whenever they are needed and I am sure that Berrien county has a number of such young men who are anxious to get into the game and help win the war by farming.

"I shall keep in touch with this matter until Mr. Fitch receives assistance.

I wish to thank the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING for its assistance in bringing to our attention Mr. Fitch's need. I hope that we may hear from hundreds of farmers now, so that the machinery may be put into motion at once to provide them with help for this coming summer.—Charles A. Parcels, Federal State Director U. S. Boys' Working Reserve.

GRADING RULES TO BLAME FOR PRESENT POTATO SITUATION

(Continue from page 1)

"Did I get it? I did not. The buyer put them over a sorter that I had never seen or heard about before. 'We have to grade 'em now,' he said, 'government ruling.' And so they were graded, and I hauled back home fifteen bushels of as nice potatoes as anyone could wish for, and fed them to the hogs.

"Will I sell my potatoes that way? I will not. I'll quit growing potatoes before I'll let them take out thirty per cent or more of my stock and call them culls when people in the cities are fairly starving for potatoes and prices are beyond the reach of many.

"Figure it out. 40 bushels of hand-sorted potatoes cost me \$40. And naturally I can't sell 40 bushels for less than \$40. So if the dealer will buy only 25 out of the 40 bushels, and there is no market for the other 15 bushels, you can readily see that my price per bushel must be raised so that I can still get \$40 on my load of potatoes. In this case, I'd have to get \$1.60 per bushel for my 25 bushels, whereas if I could have sold my entire load as in former years, I need only to have had \$1 per bushel."

"That's the reason why I didn't sell my potatoes last fall. That's why my neighbors didn't sell their potatoes last fall. That's why the potatoes weren't moved to market last fall when they should have been, and that's why potatoes are scarce in the cities and the prices are high."

And there you are, seers and sages, dealers and theorists, city editors and consumers. Fix the fact solidly in your mind, that the blame for the high prices of potatoes rests not upon the weather man, the railroads nor the profiteering farmer. It rests upon the shoulders of two men at Washington who for the sake of their precious hobbies, aided and abetted by those who falsely called themselves representative of the farming interests, saddled the farmers with unjust grading rules without a day's warning and robbed him of the chance to dispose of his potatoes at a fair and profitable price.



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

There is but little change in the wheat situation. Terminal market receipts are very small and many mills have been compelled to turn to milling the substitutes in order to continue operations. There seems to be an under current of belief that the government has over-estimated the present wheat crop and that we are due for a pinch of supplies before the crop of 1918 is available. Many authorities assert that this country can spare only 150,000,000 bushels of wheat at the outside. Exports up to January were around 62,000,000 bushels. The Allies are now to get 75,000,000 bushels and the neutrals 25,000,000 bushels, making a grand total of 162,000,000 bushels which is 12,000,000 over the amount originally believed to be the limit of our available export surplus. Now, if it is a fact that the Government overestimated the crop, it will be readily seen that we are going to need wheat badly before the next crop. It will stand us all in hand to cheerfully comply with the new flour regulations, and conserve the present supply to the utmost.



OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	.85 1-2	.90	1.02
Standard	.89	.89	1.01
No. 3 White	.88	.88	1.01
No. 4 White	.88	.85 1-2	1.00

Very little change noted in the oats situation. Supplies do not increase at terminal points and the movement from country elevators has been decreased rather than increased during the last week. Eastern markets do not receive sufficient stocks to take care of the consumptive demand from day to day, to say nothing of any accumulation to act as a balance wheel. Growers seem to be free sellers, and there is still a good supply back, the entire problem being one of transportation. This would have been serious enough under ordinary circumstances, but with the urgent demand from the various cantonments, the increased domestic consumption, export requirements, etc., the wonder is that eastern points are receiving even the amount arriving at present.

Country elevators generally, and especially those of Michigan, are holding large stocks of high priced oats. They are anxious to move them but find it impossible at present. Not much improvement need be looked for in the way of equipment, until much later, and in the meantime present prices, and perhaps somewhat better, may be well maintained.



CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	1.91	1.80	1.82 1-2
No. 3 Yellow	1.90	1.78	1.81
No. 2 Mixed	1.87	1.74	1.79

The Government at this time is putting forth every effort to increase the car supply in the corn belt. During the past week the movement of this cereal increased to a certain extent and with an increase in the number of cars available this increase should be more pronounced from this time on. There is only a month or six weeks in which to move the wet grain if it is to reach the driers before the coming of warmer weather causes severe losses.

Stocks have not increased to any extent at any terminal point and the prices have held up to last week's quotations. The demand is so great for good offerings that it will no doubt



LAST MINUTE WIRES



CHICAGO WIRE—The recent severe weather has cut off receipts of grain so that the market is without enough grain to meet the daily demand. Dealers feel that it will take some time for enough corn to arrive to have any material effect on the market and some of them say not inside of several months.

CINCINNATI WIRE—Lack of supplies forcing hay market higher. An advance of \$1 to \$2 per ton reported although local dealers do not expect this to hold under more favorable conditions.

DETROIT SPECIAL—Hay market firm and receipts light. Poultry in good demand and prices higher. Eggs more scarce than ever and storage supplies about exhausted. Very few potatoes moving, but market firm.

be able to sustain prices for some time after increased movement starts. After the storms of that part of the winter which has passed, shippers and receivers are looking for better conditions so far as the weather is concerned, and this would materially assist shipping.

We do not look for much change during the next week, although with better weather and an increased movement the price might work off just a little. It will certainly take some time to bring about much of a change.



RYE

Rye has been about the only grain showing any activity during the last week. Shortage of supplies at all terminal markets, and a greatly increased demand, has brought about spirited buying and the price has advanced considerably. The Detroit market is now quoting No. 2 at \$2.15 per bu. It would appear that the price had just about reached the limit but buyers of rye seem willing to take all offerings at the price. Stocks of rye still in growers' hands are not so large as to seriously affect the market at any time, and country elevators are not holding any great supply. We would not be surprised to see the present demand hold the market well up toward the present figure until the next crop.



BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	12.50	13.00	14.00
Prime	12.40	12.85	13.85
Red Kidney	13.50	14.00	13.75

Bean prices quoted by cwt.

Beans are moving slowly, both on the market and from growers' hands. Elevators are taking on only such amounts as they can handle quickly, and many of them are buying but very few beans at this time, owing to the moisture content. Their policy is evidently to play a safe game, especially where they have no drying facilities. Farmers who have any amount of wet stock on hand are very liable to have some trouble when warmer weather comes. It is certainly a shame that more of the elevators of this state have not installed drying apparatus to meet

just such conditions as exist this year, and as have existed before.

The bean market, to all intents and purposes, is strong. There has been a great deal of bear talk going the rounds and this has resulted in some of the larger buyers holding off and buying only such amounts as were required from week to week. But the supply of beans in this state is not nearly so large as many dealers and elevator men believe, or profess to believe. The crop has been greatly over-estimated. The amount of beans that will be imported from other countries is a negligible quantity, notwithstanding the fact that this phase of the proposition has been played up in glaring headlines. The sum and substance of the whole matter is that beans will be beans before we are thru with this crop and the fellow who has them to sell later on, in good condition, is going to make some money.

Barley

The barley market has shown additional strength and although maltsters are not bidding as freely as they were a week ago, millers are in the market to such an extent as to more than make up for this lack of malting demand. Receipts generally are light. Stocks in growers' hands are only moderate and elevators are not offering freely, the general assumption being that their stocks are also light. Chicago quotations on good malting barley are \$1.46 to \$1.64; Milwaukee quotes \$1.00 to \$1.60 for the same grade; Buffalo, \$1.55 to \$1.60.



HAY

Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	25.50 26.00	24.50 25.00	23.50 24.00
Chicago	29.00 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 29.00	27.50 28.00
New York	38.00 39.00	37.00 38.00	36.00 37.00
Richmond	31.00 32.00	30.00 31.00	29.00 30.00

The hay market continues strong although certain developments of the past week have foreshadowed conditions as they are liable to exist just as soon as improved weather conditions permit the railroads to make deliveries and furnish cars for ship-

ping. Embargoes and storms have delayed deliveries and held cars enroute and during the past week the Garfield closing order allowed the roads to make delivery of much of this consigned stuff. Wherever deliveries increased to any extent there was a proportionate decline in prices, indicating that the market has been worked up under a shortage of supplies at terminal markets. Our investigation leads us to think that there is a considerable supply of hay back in growers hands and at originating points, both in this country and Canada, and it will not be a great while now before conditions will improve to an extent to permit this hay to move. When it does we will most certainly see lower prices. Our advice to growers is to move their hay at the earliest opportunity. The price is now up to where it will increase but very little as has been demonstrated during the past month, market values remaining stationary even at points which were almost bare of hay. On the other hand there is very little possibility of a declining market just as soon as spring weather arrives.

We realize that in many sections of Michigan the roads are now in such condition as to make hauling out of the question. No doubt there will be an improvement before a great while and growers will find it to their advantage to keep an eye on the market and get in while the going is good.



POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	2.60 cwt.	2.45 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 is about at a standstill so far as active trading is concerned. The extreme weather of the past two weeks has curtailed shipments until arrivals are few and far between. Those few shippers who would have braved the elements found it out of the question to secure proper equipment. As a result, supplies on most markets have been greatly reduced.

One peculiar thing is the lack of demand from the consuming public. Potatoes at the present price should be very attractive, but most markets report the demand as very light. For this reason the present supply has failed to affect the market as it otherwise would have and no material advance has been registered.

The Detroit market is in good shape at the present time, the demand there being better than at many other points. Arrivals there have not been of so great volume as at Chicago and other more centrally located markets. We find that actual carlot sales in Detroit bring from \$1.35 to \$1.40 per bu. Sales in small lots run from \$1.50 to \$1.60 but this includes delivery in most cases.

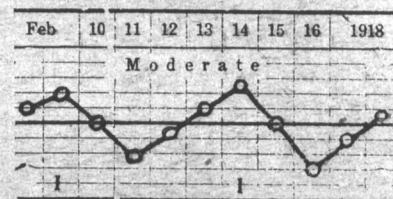
We have conversed with a number of potato dealers, receivers and commission men, and the general opinion is that shipments will greatly increase later on with a corresponding decline in price, growers being anxious to dispose of stocks which have been held back on account of weather, transportation conditions, grading, prices, etc.

On the other hand we must consider the amount of loss which has occurred since the crop was harvested. No doubt the extreme weather has frozen some of the spuds in the pits. There has been a great deal of loss from the system of grading which has prevailed in Michigan and to some extent in other states. There has been loss from rot. Many sections reported this trouble last fall. All these conditions must be considered when we attempt to forecast future supplies.

We would not be surprised to see lower prices at terminal markets later on, but we also believe the grower should receive a better price at the loading stations than he has been receiving, and if this matter is adjusted the decline in price will not affect him to such an extent. If he does not

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 9.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent Feb. 7 to 11 and 12 to 16, warm waves 6 to 10 and 11 to 15, cool waves 9 to 13 and 14 to 18. Storms of these two weeks will be of a little greater force than usual, general temperatures will not be radical and will average about normal. Most precipitation will be from the great lakes eastward, next in amount on northern Pacific slope. Some rains in cotton states. Weather not so severe as it was same time in January. Crop-weather of February will average better than it did in January. Most severe storms of the month and most precipitation will occur near Feb. 13 to 28. Next warm wave will reach Vancouver near Feb. 16 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Feb. 17, plains sections 18, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio-Tennessee valleys 19, eastern sections 20, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Feb. 21. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave. This will not be a severe storm. Not much precipitation and storm forces not above average. But the storm following will be severe in eastern sections and will bring general rains in nearly all sections north of San Francisco and east of the Rockies.

W. T. Foster

receive his just share of the selling price he should bear in mind that there is nothing to hinder his shipping his own stock and where individual growers have not sufficient to make a car load they can ship a pool car, joining hands with their neighbors and thus securing car lot freight rates.



ONIONS

The onion market is almost at a standstill so far as trading is concerned. Arrivals are few and far between. Weather conditions have affected the shipments and in fact just about cut them off entirely. The demand at present is only moderate but receivers look for better conditions as soon as the prevailing temperature is such as to permit of deliveries. When the mercury is down around zero for days at a time the movement of perishable commodities is bound to be greatly restricted. Detroit is quoting No. 1 yellows at \$3.75 per 100-lb. sack, but dealers advise us that more sales are made at around \$3.00.



APPLES

About the same condition prevails with apples as with all other perishable commodities. Not a very large quantity moving. There is just a moderate demand at present, buyers being afraid of frozen stock. Detroit quotations are as follows: Greenings, \$6.00@6.25; Baldwins, \$5.00; No. 2, \$3.00@3.50 per bbl. Western, \$2@2.75 per box.



CLOVER SEED

Toledo reports a good demand for clover seed and prices this week are again higher. Alsike has also advanced on small stocks. Timothy has been rather inactive all week. The American Grass Seed Association, whose membership is composed of dealers throughout the country, at their mid-winter convention in Chicago recommended to the government that no maximum price be established, stating that present prices were the result of supply and demand. Toledo quotations

Clover—No. 2, \$18.55@18.00; No. 3, \$18.20@18.45; rejected, \$17.80@18.10; N. E. G., \$3.60@17.60.

Alsike—No. 2, \$15@15.25; No. 3, \$14.60@14.85; rejected, \$14.25@14.50; N. E. G. (mixed with clover, timothy, etc.), \$3.60@14.00.

Timothy—No. 2, \$4@4.10; No. 3, \$3.80@3.90; rejected, \$3.60@3.75; N. E. G., 45c@3.45.



FLOUR & FEED

The feed market is rather quiet, due in the main to the fact that manufacturers have very little to offer. Some points report a good strong demand, especially those of the south. Others say the demand the last two weeks has been much lighter than formerly. Detroit mills have been unable to get out their usual quota owing to lack of coal and shipping difficulties. One of the mills was shut down entirely for several days recently. Dealers generally look for better conditions as soon as the weather moderates and supplies of grain become more plentiful.

Detroit quotations: Flour, per 196 lbs., in eighth paper sacks, standard patent, \$11.10@11.15; straight winter, \$10.30; spring patent, \$11.20; rye flour, \$10.50@10.70 in jobbing lots. Feed, 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.

Milwaukee quotations—Sacked bran, \$38; middlings, \$40; white, \$45; red dog, \$52; oil meal, \$58; 100-lb. sacks; gluten feed, \$49.80 bulk; \$54.80 100-lb. sacks, Chicago.



BUTTER

The Garfield order suspending operations generally for the five-day period, resulted in delivery of much butter consigned to eastern markets, that had been held enroute. The result was that supplies were greatly augmented and the market weakened somewhat. Not only was there delivery of large quantities of the fresh article, but a large quantity of held stock was also delivered from western storages. The market declined somewhat but there has been a reaction, buyers realizing that the over-supply was but a matter of a few days, being caused by the conditions before mentioned.

High grades have moved to a much better advantage than the under grades. There is at present a considerable irregularity in the quality of butter with many shipments showing the seasonal defects. The amount of storage stock coming at this time has proven somewhat of a surprise. A considerable amount of this has been marketed at the government's fixed price of 47c. The Government has been a good buyer of held creamery stock for packing in tins for the army. The Allied governments are also in the market for 1,000,000 lbs., a considerable portion of this quantity having been contracted.

Monday's prices at Eastern points were as follows: New York, creamery, higher than extras, 52@52½c; extras, 92 score, 51½c; firsts, 49@51c; seconds, 46@48c. Philadelphia, extras 52c; Detroit, fresh creamery firsts, 48c; extras, 49c; storage creamery, 46c.

Cheese

The feature of the cheese market recently has been the advance in Wisconsin prices. However, the eastern trade did not follow the Wisconsin prices and at the close of last week the price had worked somewhat lower. The Wisconsin make is small at this time and much of it is taken by the south where held stock is not in demand. With 9,000,000 lbs. of held cheese in New York and around 16,000,000 lbs. in Chicago, eastern merchants could see no reason for adjusting prices on held to accord with the Wisconsin movement.

New York quotations: State, whole milk, flats held, 26 1-4@26 1-2c; lower grades, 20@23 1-2c; Daisies, 26 1-2c; Wisconsin, twins, 25 1-2c@26c; daisies, 26 1-2c; Americas, 28 1-4c@28 1-2c; State, skims, specials, 19c@20 1-2c; fair to good, 13@15c.



EGGS

Egg prices have again advanced and the market is on a basis of agreement between buyer and seller. Detroit quotations are 60@63c per doz. for fresh firsts. Sales are reported above that figure. Chicago is quoting 62 1-2c per doz. for the same grade.

New Orleans—No fresh eggs or storage eggs are to be found in the entire South and the lack of them continues a famine in the local markets. There is just a slight springling of fresh beginning to arrive, and receipts will likely increase as the weather is moderating. With favorable producing

conditions a slight increase is anticipated next week. The market Thursday was 60c on fresh, but was very sensitive and demand was light. Indications point to a break in prices as soon as receipts increase appreciably.



POULTRY

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

Poultry is very scarce on all markets and every indication now points to conditions such as have not been experienced in years. The Food Commission has ordered all of the 1916 crop of frozen poultry out of the freezers before March 1. However, a great deal of this held stock has been moved before this time. With the balance disposed of as per the ruling of the Commission, there is sure to be a shortage later on and it seems only reasonable to anticipate much higher prices. Many operators state it as their belief that there will be none of the 1917 pack left in storage by July 1, and that supplies will have to come from fresh stock. This can have but one effect on the market and that will be beneficial.

The latest advances have brought the price of No. 1 hens and springers and geese are a very scarce article, in fact there are not sufficient supplies of ducks to go around at any time.

Furs and Hides

Furs—No. 1 skunk, \$5; winter musrats, 80c; No. 1 mink, \$7.50; No. 1 racoon, \$4.50.

Hides—No. 1 cured, 17c; No. 1 green 14c; No. 1 cured bulls, 13c; No. 1 green bulls, 11c; No. 1 cured veal kip, 20c; No. 1 green veal kip, 18c; No. 1 cured murrain, 17c; No. 1 green murrain, 14c; No. 1 cured calf, 26c; No. 1 green calf, 24c; No. 1 horsehides, \$6; No. 2 horsehides, \$5; No. 2 hides 1c and No. 2 kip and calf 1½c lower than above; sheepskins as to amount of wool, 25c @ \$3 each.

Dressed Hogs and calves.

There is a good demand for dressed hogs, those of good quality bringing 21c to 22c per lb. at Detroit and some sales are reported at higher figures. Dressed calves are selling on the Detroit market around 20c to 21c for fancy while common to choice range from 17c to 19c. The market is firm and demand good.

Boston Horse Market

Feb. 1—Good quality drafters weighing from 1650 to 1900 lbs. sold at a range of \$325@375; good quality medium weight, green drafters, from \$275@325; chunks from \$225@300; heavy wagon and express horses from \$150@225; good seconds, from \$125@175, and cheaper seconds from \$35@75.00.

MANY NEW YORK POTATOES ARE FREEZING

Tunnel, N. Y.—Cold weather has caused many of the potatoes held in this section to freeze. Most farmers have been holding for more money, although one car was located last week

at \$1 per bu. There are not over 50 per cent. as many hens as last winter and very few eggs are being shipped.

Cold Springs, Del.—There was a good crop of late potatoes, but quite a percentage of them were frozen hard by the unprecedented cold weather. It is impossible to estimate just how many were injured in this way.

CALIFORNIA LEADS IN BEAN PRODUCTION

Washington—The Bureau of Crop Estimates has prepared its final report on the commercial acreage and production of Fall onions in 1916-17. This shows a total acreage of 41,300 in 1915, which produced 315 bu. to the acre or 13,017,500 bu. In 1916 the acreage was 28,400, the yield 276 bu. per acre and production 7,832,700, or practically half the yield of 1915. Last year New York led in acreage, but not in production, as it had 9,800 acres, which averaged 278 bu. to the acre or 2,724,400 bu. California with 800 acres less devoted to this crop produced 394 bu. to the acre or 3,546,000 by far the largest single State production last year.

In 1916 California also led in total production with 1,496,000 bu., while New York that year had 1,287,000 bu., slightly more than Massachusetts in but less than Ohio. Massachusetts in 1916 produced 1,292,000, and Ohio 1,440,400. In 1917 Ohio stood next California in acreage with 6,600 producing 1,702,800 bu. or 258 to the acre. Indiana devoted 4,250 acres to onions and raised 1,245,250 bu. or 293 bu. to the acre. Massachusetts had 100 acres less but production was 344 bu. to the acre, making the total crop 1,427,600 bu. None of the other States produced 500,000 bu. except Minnesota, which had a crop of 562,600 bu. from 1,450 acres, making a yield of 388 bu. to the acre. Michigan's acreage was 1,500 and production 456,000; Oregon 1,050 acres, 268,800 bu.; Washington, 900, 281,700 bu.; Colorado, 850 acres, 226,100 bu.; Idaho, 450 acres, 80,000; Pennsylvania, 350 acres, 94,150. The total production of New York, California and Ohio in 1916 was 4,223,800 against California's production last year of 3,546,000. These three States last year produced 7,973,200 bu.

LIVE STOCK LETTERS

CHICAGO, Feb. 4, 1918.—Today's cattle receipts were estimated at 16,000 head and supplies in all departments were such as to indicate that the railroads are recovering from the paralyzing effect of recent storms and that the situation as regards the car shortage is improving. The general cattle market was steady. Best steers here sold around \$14.00 but \$14.50 was nominally quoted for prime heavy bullocks. Comparatively few were good enough; however, to pass \$13.25 and the bulk sold between \$11.00 and \$13.00. Thin and light fleshed cattle of both sexes on the stocker and feeder order were relatively slow on country account still being held to very small volume by weather conditions and the shortage of cars.

Hog receipts today were 41,000. The market opened 10 to 15c higher and improved as it progressed with big packers who were credited with carrying extensive government orders for war meat leading in the activity. A top of \$16.85 was made and the bulk sold at \$16.25 to \$16.75, with pigs and underweights largely at \$14.75 to \$15.75.

Sheep receipts today 12,000. Market steady. Best hardy lambs sold at \$17.75, the bulk at \$17.25 to \$17.65, and some wethers sold at \$13.25, but prime were quotable at \$13.75. Best fat ewes sold at \$13.00.

JANUARY LIVE STOCK MARKET

Stormy weather, low temperatures and car shortages played havoc with the live stock trade during the initial month of 1918, being effective in sharply reducing the volume of business transacted from what it would have logically been had normal conditions prevailed and in creating a widely fluctuating set of markets.

Due directly to the unfavorable climatic and transportation situation, the combined receipts of all kinds of live stock at Chicago proved the second smallest for January within a 20-year period, totaling but a few thousand head.

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Remarks

L.....

and over 3,300,000 head. As compared with the January marketings of 1917 and 1916, the two largest Januarys on record, decreases in the combined receipts at Chicago last month amounted to about 480,000 and 513,000 head, respectively.

Chicago receipts of cattle last month were 260,570 head, a decrease of 48,296 from the corresponding month last year. Calf receipts were 36,830, a decrease of 14,366 head. Hog receipts were 729,003 head, a decrease of 395,089 head. Sheep receipts were 289,335 head, a decrease of 16,783 head. Horse receipts were 6,002, or 4,786 less than a year ago.

These decreases in every department of the trade represent a total falling off for the month of 6,805 carloads, as against arrivals for the same month last year. The percentage of decrease here has been much greater than that suffered by other leading market centers, but in no wise reflects a normal situation, the "Storm King" having centered his energies to a large extent in Chicago and its contiguous territory. Had the railroads been able to cope effectively with the storms and cold and equal to the task of supplying the voluminous orders for cars from those who would have shunted stock to the shambles increases instead of decreases in the receipts would doubtless have been recorded in most, if not all departments of the trade.

Owing to rail embargoes, due to the storms and congestion of freight at big eastern centers of population, and to the car shortages outgoing shipments suffered an even heavier percentage of loss than did the incoming supply. Nearly 17,000 fewer cattle and 256,000 fewer hogs were shipped on foot from Chicago during the month than in January last year and every department of the trade suffered by reason of reduced competition due to shippers' inability to secure adequate transportation facilities. The zoning system of loading and the car situation made it a six-day a week market.

Considering the handicap the trade encountered the market may be said to have performed not discreditably, although feast and famine runs, a condition which shippers—forced to accept cars whenever they could get them and consider themselves lucky—were powerless to prevent, naturally created a market featured by wide price swings. Owing to high feed cost and the high prices at which feeding stock was laid in, however, the highest January market on record failed in numerous cases to put results on the right side of feeders' ledgers and market conditions; a corn-belt covered with snow and demoralized transportation service proved a trinity of influences that, loyal as the meat producers of the Nation are and as earnestly as it is their desire to cooperate with the Government in increasing our meat supplies that the war may be more quickly won, caused a small output of stockers and feeders to the country.

A great many cattle and hogs have necessarily been held in the country for weeks past because of shippers inability to get them over the rails. In view of the conditions it is impossible to forecast what the supply will be other than to say that if the railroads furnish the facilities with which to move the stock to market that shippers are desirous of cutting loose, supplies will at least be fairly liberal for

some weeks ahead. While both markets possess great underlying strength we cannot advise holding back, where cars are procurable, anything that is ready to come or anything which owners expect to market within the next six or eight weeks. Demand is of too great breadth to warrant expectancy of severe, lasting declines, indeed the future market, considered in the broad sense, looks bright, at the same time current prices are too high to appear to warrant the holding back of cattle, hogs, sheep or lambs that are fat and ready or that are not "paying their board."

January's closing levels in the beef steer trade were at the highest point of the period, an advance of \$1.00 per cwt. on much of a storm-curtailed supply, more in some instances, being scored during the last four days of the month. A similar upturn was shown over the close of December, while compared with the previous January average prices were about \$2 per cwt. higher. Although it was in the main, a run of short-fed cattle, demand for medium and cheaper grades showed greatest breadth most of the month. Weight and quality, however, were catered to toward the latter part of the period and shared well in the advance. A \$14.30 top was made on 1,666-lb. heaves on the month's final session and sales from \$13.00 to \$14.00 became rather numerous, though a spread of from \$11.00 to \$13.00 took the bulk of the offerings and only feedery and common light steers were selling for slaughter at the wind-up below \$10.00 when packers were avidly going to everything with a sheath of beef on its ribs. The top at \$14.30 compared with an \$11.95 top in January, 1917 and \$9.85 in January two years ago.

Butcher cattle trade was an up and down affair, but the advantage, due to light receipts and a healthy demand, lay with sellers most of the time and final quotation ranged from 50c to \$1 higher than at the close of December. Late in the month a few fancy heifers reached \$12.75 and odd extra prime heavy cows sold as high as \$12.00 to \$12.50, but \$7.75 to \$9.50 took most of the fat cows and heifers during the period under review and prices averaged around \$2.75 higher than for the corresponding month last year. At month-end good canner cows were selling as high as \$7.00 and cutters up to \$7.75, while \$6.50 to \$7.50 took the bulk of the month's supply of these classes. Thin young cows and stock heifers cleared mostly through killing channels in view of the dormant conditions of the stocker and feeder market, due to stormy weather and the car shortage. On the closing high spot choice heavy bologna bulls sold freely around \$9.50 and odd prime beef bulls up to \$11.50 and higher, with only common light bulls from \$8.50 down. Veal calves touched new record prices, but the market was subject to violent fluctuations and "frozen out" calves that had been delayed in transit in sub-zero temperatures at times took several discounts. On the high spot \$16.75 was reached by a few prime vealers, while at the month's close \$15.50 to \$16.00 was taking strictly good to best. Heavy calves also sold high, few going below \$8.00 and the best medium weights selling up around \$12.00 to \$13.00.

At but one time during the month of January, 1917, did the hog market

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January last year and 75c above December, 1917. The past month's average price for fat sheep figured \$12.20, or 70c above December and \$2.20 above January of last year. Yearlings made a new high average of \$14.15 for the month.

While killers' discrimination against weight in lambs carried many heavy weights down to \$15.75 to \$16.50 shippers paid to \$18.00 on the high spot and packers to \$17.90. Feeding lambs topped at \$16.75 and fall shorn lambs went for slaughter as high as \$16.25. We selling strong weights up to this figure. Best fed wethers reached \$13.70 late in the month and fat ewes \$13.00. Yearling wethers topped at \$15.00.

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for all the farmers of Michigan.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 1918

GRANT SLOCUM
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Who Are the Guilty Parties?

INFORMATION that certain agencies within the state have within the past few weeks been circulating false reports about potato grading that have tended to aggravate the potato situation and cause friction between the growers and dealers have come to the notice of officials of the Michigan Agricultural College. Thus reads an East Lansing dispatch that is receiving liberal publicity thru the columns of both the daily and weekly press of the state.

We have thought all the time that we were in pretty close touch with the potato situation, but we must confess that we never heard of these gents who are telling such fibs about the college and the dealers. The only persons or agencies that we know anything about who have been defending potato grades and inventing nice little fairy tales about the wonderful advantages of potato grades, and those "progressive" farmers who have fallen all over themselves to endorse the grading, have been closely affiliated with the college themselves. And the party who has the powers of imagination and the fluency of expression to add aggravation to the present super-aggravated potato situation, ought not to be criticized. He ought to be complimented for his mental versatility.

For the next six months the U. S. Food Administration, the dealers, the colleges, the experts and others who had a hand either directly or remotely in the establishment of potato grades this year, will make desperate efforts to divert attention from the results of their asinine interference with established marketing methods, and endeavor to shift the blame on other's shoulders.

We admit, not without compassion, that they occupy a most uncomfortable and unenviable position. To be held accountable for the demoralization of markets, resulting in millions of dollars loss to farmers, is not a pleasant experience, but, gentlemen, it helps matters none to crawl. The farmers know who are back of this potato grading deal. No amount of denial or subterfuge or shifting of blame will deceive them.

We imagine that none of the parties involved in this grading scandal have already mentally resolved to meddle no more in others' affairs, or at least to consult the wishes of those most vitally concerned, which wasn't done when the grading rules were put into effect.

Give the Farmer Recognition

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING has repeatedly called attention to the fact that the rights and wishes of the farmers have been practically ignored from the beginning of war. As the control of the Food Administration has tightened, this feeling has become more general and acute, and recently representatives of 2,000,000 organized farmers bluntly told President Wilson that the farmers wanted a more direct hand in the business of making war.

"The farmers of America," they said, "have little, if any, voice in deciding the great questions, even the food and farm questions, upon which the issue of the war depends. As far as we have learned there is not a single genuine farmer, representative of the organized farmers of America, in any position of authority in the food administration, the advisory council of national defense or any of the other special boards charged with the conduct of the war. When contrasted with the recognition properly accorded organized labor and

the vast responsibilities intrusted to the representatives of organized business, such treatment amounts to notice to organized farmers that their partnership is not wanted."

And how true it is. Instance after instance can be cited where harmful control has been exerted over the farmer's business because his wishes were not consulted, nor his interests properly interpreted. Those who comprise important committees on the food administration, holding almost autocratic powers of discretion and regulation, are men who have but very limited knowledge of the farmer's problems and very little sympathy with his viewpoint.

How can the Government expect full-hearted co-operation from the farmer when he has been practically told that his counsel is not wanted? How can the Government expect to get the most out of the nation's agricultural resources when it places men in charge of affairs who continually hedge the farming business with injudicious restraints and petty regulations?

Those in authority at Washington should remember always that this is not a class war. It is a people's war. In this great conflict the wishes and the interests of the few must be subservient to those of the many. This war cannot be won if opinions and efforts are to be divided. Every trade, every profession, every business over which control of war-time expediency is placed, must have representation in the nation's counsels.

Mr. President, your most loyal supporters are the farmers. Take them into your confidence. Give them a hand in the war preparations. Long after the professional patriots who throng the Capitol's corridors, have deserted your train, the American farmer will stand unfalteringly by your side, ready to do and to die for the sake of the nation's life and liberty. When the heart of the nation's favored has grown faint from the ceaseless strife and the pulse of their courage all but stilled, a million stalwart farmers, unwanted in the first flush of the war's preparations, will spring to your call, ready and capable to perform any duty you may lay before them.

War Savings Stamps

NEARLY A YEAR has elapsed since the United States entered the Great War. In that short period nearly a million men have been called to the colors, billions of dollars worth of bonds have been sold, an incomparable Red Cross organization has been perfected. In the maze of preparations and in the various activities associated with the business of making war, the life of practically every individual has been touched and an opportunity opened for all—men, women and children—to perform some kind of a service in advancing humanity's cause.

By far the most practical method that has yet been created to enlist the interests and aid of the rank and file of the American people, has been the war savings stamp. It enables even the very poorest to invest the smallest savings at better than savings-bank interest, and at the same time render a valuable service to the government.

As previously explained in these columns, a war-savings stamp that the government will redeem in 1923 at \$5, may now be purchased at \$4.13. It need not be bought outright. It can be purchased on the "installment" plan by buying thrift stamps of 25 cent denomination which may be exchanged later for the war-savings stamp.

It ought to be considered a national duty for every person living under the protection of the Stars and Stripes to contribute something to help the government win this war. It ought to be a matter of pride for every person to be able to say, "I've done my bit. I've helped the Red Cross, the Liberty Loan, the Army Y. M. C. A., the Recreation fund,—or the War-Savings fund. Heaven forbid that there may be a single American citizen who cannot hold his head up proudly after this war is over and say, "I helped to win it." Buy a War-Savings stamp tomorrow.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING recently advised Prof. C. W. Waid that it would give his work the fullest co-operation if he would help remedy Michigan's potato situation by recommending to the Food Administration the abandonment of the present grading methods. The Professor responded and said that he would not be disposed to co-operate with US, until we had admitted the error of our contention that he was partially to blame for the grading rules being put into effect in Michigan this year. We offered Mr. Waid the fullest use of these columns to present his alibi and prove to our readers that he had no control over the situation. Ample time has elapsed for him to accept the offer, but he has disdained to do so. It is still open, however. Present your claims, Professor Waid. They will receive at least a respectful hearing.

The Sugar Beet Controversy

DESPITE the wild and unjust criticism that is being directed against the beet growers for their refusal to accept State Food Administrator's compromise price of \$9, the growers' committee, we are pleased to note, continue to stand by their guns.

The growers owe no apology to either the manufacturers, the public, nor to Uncle Sam. Their demands are just; their method of enforcing them legitimate and above-board. True, the growers have been accused of being unpatriotic, but this is something that the farmers have become quite accustomed to, and it doesn't hurt their feelings any longer. It is unpatriotic to ask for a fair profit on the growing of sugar beets, it is likewise unpatriotic to ask for a fair profit on the manufacturing of sugar. We can't believe that it is less patriotic to produce beets at a loss than it is to manufacture sugar at a loss.

If the manufacturers refuse to pay the growers a profitable price for their beets when they have it in their power to do so, and as a result the growers refuse to raise beets, thereby depriving the nation of a part of its sugar supply, we'd certainly say that the manufacturers were unpatriotic for refusing to part with even a few of their earnings for the sake of satisfying the growers and encouraging the industry.

Who is more stubborn, the grower who refuses to accept the manufacturer's terms, or the manufacturer who refuses to accept the grower's terms?

The settling of these differences logically lies with the Food Administration. It's state representative, Mr. Prescott, has signally failed in his efforts to bring the grower and the manufacturer together. Altho a farmer himself, Mr. Prescott's views are strangely out of sympathy with the growers' problems and claims. Apparently, he believes without question the statement of the manufacturers that they cannot afford to manufacture sugar at present prices and pay \$10 for beets, but he seems to question the statement of cost submitted by the growers. Always in matters of similar dispute, the farmer must produce argument after argument and figures after figures to prove his contentions whereas the word of the manufacturer is taken without gainsay.

If the Food Administration really wants to be fair to the growers and save Michigan's sugar beet industry, it will lose no time in sending someone into the state who is thoroly conversant with the costs and difficulties of sugar beet growing, and urge upon the manufacturers the payment of a price that will pay production cost plus a fair profit.

In the January 26th issue we announced that we would have something to say in the following issue about the competition-destroying methods of Swift & Company, the big Chicago packing house which is being kept busy just now covering up evidences of its misdeeds from the prying eyes of federal investigators. The evidence we had at hand indicated that the creamery department of this big concern was guilty of illegal practices in its dealings with Michigan creameries and farmers. A history of the entire affair was laid before the butter department of the Food Administration, but we have been experiencing considerable difficulty in getting a report from them, hence our delay in publishing the details. We are still on the trail, however, and hope soon to be able to present some very interesting, if not helpful facts, to our readers about the cut-throat methods of the trust.

There has been considerable merriment in the camp of the organized potato dealers the last few weeks. They seem to think it funny that a certain farm paper and a certain potato expert should suggest that they voluntarily pay the growers a higher price for the No. 2 potatoes and thereby lessen the farmers' dissatisfaction. There is no secret as to why some of the dealers don't pay more than 60 per cent of the No. 1 price for the No. 2 stock or why the others won't buy the No. 2's at any price. There is no market for No. 2 potatoes. The dealers know it, but they are so anxious to show how patriotically they are co-operating with the potato committee's fool ruling that they won't confess it. Potato dealers are neither angels nor philanthropists. They're business men. They'll buy No. 2 potatoes or any other old potatoes at the lowest prices the farmers will sell. Who wouldn't?

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is indebted to the U. S. Food Administration Grain Corporation for its prompt investigation of complaints of unfair practices by grain elevators, laid before it. In several instances it has succeeded in raising the price of wheat to Michigan farmers.

The Government Contracts for Fighting Supplies; Why not for Food Supplies

By FORREST A. LORD

TO THE FARMERS' conference at Urbana, Illinois, President Wilson sent a message. It was a message in which faith and doubt were strangely commingled. It expressed a hope that the farmers would not fail in their task of feeding the nation and its allies. Yet fear was implied that they might not measure up to the fullest performance of that duty.

"I hope and believe," said the President, "that the farmers of America will willingly and conspicuously stand by to win this war."

What would the president have said to a gathering of laboring men? We may well believe that he would have expressed himself in some such manner as this: "I KNOW that you will willingly and conspicuously stand by to win this war. You are today earning the highest wages in the history of labor. Every safeguard has been placed about you by the Government. Your representatives sit in the councils at Washington, invited there by the Government, to present your claims in all matters of legislation or regulation affecting your interests. We have created a vast Food Administration organization which has set the price of wheat and otherwise controls the price of your daily food. Nothing has been left undone to make you satisfied and willing to do your part in winning the war."

To the manufacturers of war supplies, we might expect the President to say: "I KNOW that you will willingly and conspicuously stand by to win this war. Upon your shoulders rests the responsibility of manufacturing guns, shells, powder, clothing, shoes, transportation facilities and equipment on land, water and in the air—every material thing required for the prosecution of this war, excepting foodstuffs, you are called upon to supply. The Government does not wish to take advantage of your patriotism by asking that you furnish these things without compensation. Consequently we have contracted for all these supplies, and are paying you a profit over cost of production. Now that we have made the business of manufacturing war essentials desirable and lucrative, we KNOW that we can depend upon your continued support thru all the trying processes of war."

But the President cannot speak so confidently before the farmers of the Nation. He cannot be quite certain that the six million farm factories of the U. S. will run to capacity another season. Why? Because the Government has failed to surround them with needful safeguards: to offer any measure of protection against labor shortage, crop failure, over-production, unprofitable prices; to make the production of the food so necessary to the winning of this war an attractive and profitable business.

Mr. President, you cannot doubt the patriotism of the farmers of this nation. If patriotism could win the war, Germany would sue for peace tomorrow. But if this war is to be won, you must use a more practical appeal than patriotism.

Patriotism gives man the will to do but not the power to do.

To grow crops requires capital. To grow crops requires labor. To grow crops year after year requires stable and profitable markets. Men do not toil in the fields for the fun of the thing. They labor for a livelihood and a profit exactly as do

those who work in the factories or who own the factories.

The majority of farm factories are short of capital. They need raw material; new machinery. The Government is trying to supply this capital, but the waiting line of applicants grows ever larger.

The farm factories are short of labor. The Government is draining the agricultural communities of the only dependable labor so needed for the planting, cultivation and harvesting of the food that is wanted to win the war. The new draft rules help but little. Exemption boards continue to take not only skilled farm laborers, but farm managers and owners as well. It is impossible to estimate the number of acres that will lie idle the coming season in this state alone, because their owners have been called into active military service.

Uncle Sam's attitude toward his "soldiers of the soil" is both unjust and unwise. Unjust because it presupposes a patriotic response which the farmer cannot afford to make, and unwise because it contains no solution of the food problem.

The Food Administration and the Department of Agriculture may, and doubtless will, send representatives into every agricultural community between now and spring, urging, pleading, almost commanding, that the farmers increase their production. The farm papers, patriotic always, will take up the cry and pages and headlines will echo back the slogan, "Food will win the war; raise more crops."

But how many more? Do we want more beans, more rye, more oats, more sugar beets, more potatoes? Let's not set the mark too high: the Food Administration is hopping around in the frying pan now trying to make

amends for the results of the government's injudicious potato production preachings last spring; it has no wish to get into the fire.

When Uncle Sam says, "Increase production to maximum," does he mean it? Probably not. Maximum production on every tillable acre would bring financial ruin to the farming business. The nation would only feast this year to starve the next.

As a matter of fact, the government's increased production talk doesn't sound altogether sincere. It's so aimless. It has a flash and a roar that make good fireworks, but it is minus the bullets that carry to the mark. Uncle Sam has used blank cartridges long enough. If he wants to hit the bulls-eye and bring home the bacon (or the potatoes or beans or anything else), he'll have to load up with a better projectile than powder.

The old saying that it is better to be safe than sorry applies with force to the problem of food production. "We can afford to theorize in peace times, but in war we must act," says the Detroit News. We may safely speculate in peace times as to what the food production will be, but when half the world clamors for food, we are brought face to face with hard practical facts from which there is no escape.

The hope of the Allies is Germany's hunger. If the enemy's rations fail, his weapons fail. So it is with every nation. An empty stomach is a breeding place of discontent; nothing disturbs the peace of mind and haunts one like a spectre more than fear of hunger. Guns are necessary; ammunition is necessary, but food should be the first consideration of all.

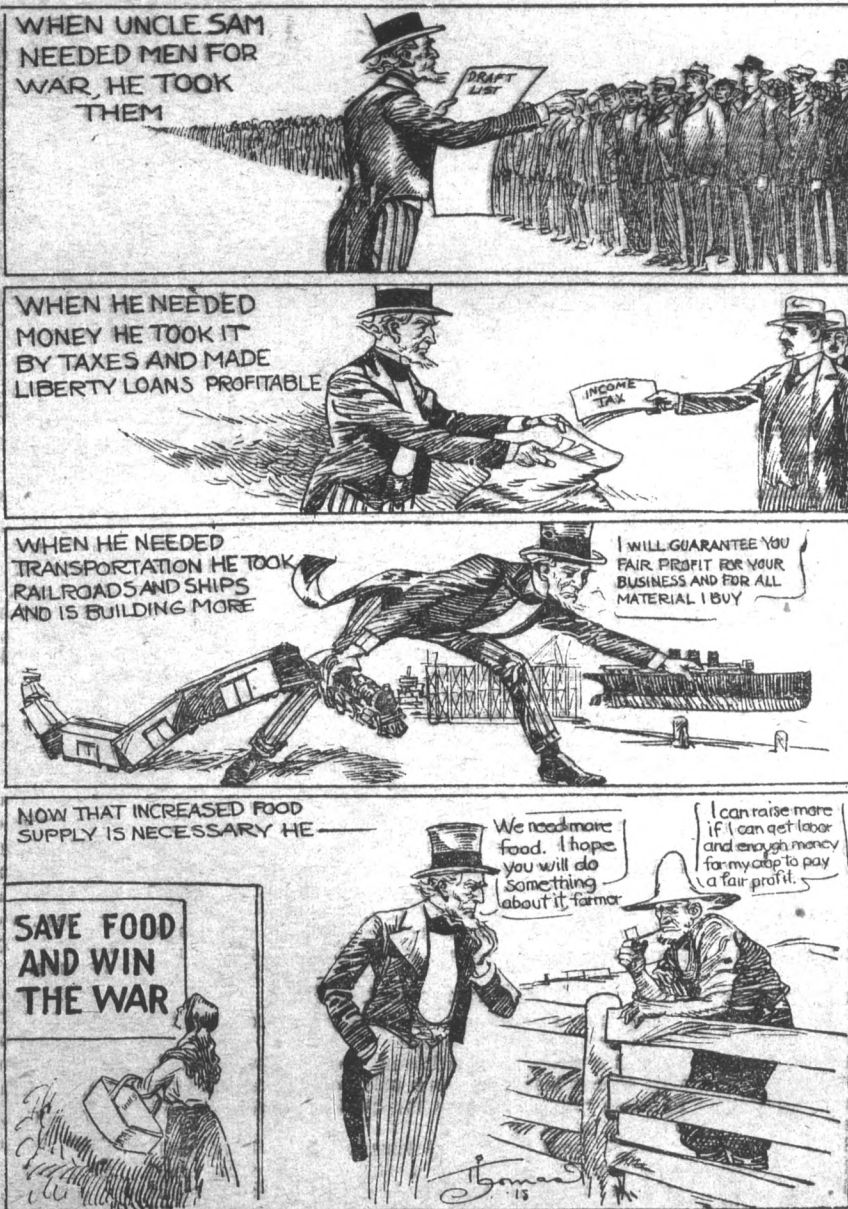
We need the food. We've got the land to produce the food. We've got the money to buy the food. Why, then, should there be any question as to whether we shall secure the food?

There is none. The Government has the power to secure food in exactly the same manner as it secures guns, bullets, and other war supplies, and there need be no further worry or speculation. The farm is a factory which turns out food. The farmer is in market for business, same as any manufacturer. He will grow all the food that his acres can produce if he knows there will be a profitable market for it when harvesting time comes.

Contract with the American farmer for the nation's food supply. Guarantee him a minimum price based on cost of production plus a reasonable profit. Leave him enough skilled labor to operate his plant. Then wheatless meatless and eatless days will be nothing but memories, and the nation will go unitedly forward, cheered and contented on a full stomach.

Then, Mr. President, you may dispel the clouds of doubt from your mind and speak up boldly:

"I KNOW that the American farmer will willingly and conspicuously stand by to win this war. He has been placed upon an equal footing with all others who are supplying war essentials. He has been given a practical incentive for speeding up his food factory. And he will not fail. I know that FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR."



—Thomas in Detroit News

EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

Co-Operation, the One Big Thing for the Farmers of the Country.

I have received the few sample copies of your valuable paper, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, and am enclosing \$2 to pay for my subscription, also for my neighbor, G. W. Pickett. I think your paper has the ——— beaten more than seven ways. It does me good to read what practical business farmers have to say.

There seems to be but one answer to the one big problem which we farmers have to solve, and only one that will do away with the middleman, of whom so many of the farmers are complaining. We can kill this louse with the following formula: "Co-Operation." The sooner the farmers double up their fists and say "we're going to do our own business," the sooner it will mean more money in our pockets. Co-operation is the life-saver for the farmer; it does away with this louse, the middleman, who will draw the last drop of blood out of you if you give him a chance. But who is to blame? Is he? No! You are, Mr. Farmer. As long as you are foolish enough to keep him. I don't blame him for holding his pockets open for you to pour it in. Mr. Farmer, you are the one who feeds the world, but you'll never have any more to say about what you are to have for this feed than you have right now unless you co-operate. One or two can't do much; but when every last one of us farmers take hold we can do something. Every shipping point

should have a co-operative organization; for there is no reason why we cannot sell our own produce, ship our own live-stock, buy our own feeds direct and do all our own business—do away with keeping the middleman, who is able to work for his living as we are. Don't have any mercy on him, but get his "goat." If you don't get his he is going to get yours, and by all means beat him to it by co-operating. We have a co-operative live stock shipping association in our village. We are about 15 miles south of Grand Rapids. When we talked co-operation several of our business men gave us two months before we would be out of business—they said that it wouldn't work. We organized March 16th, under the laws of the State

of Michigan with about 75 members, and now after ten months of life we have 215 members with new ones coming in every week. We have shipped during this time for the farmers, over \$160,000 worth of live stock at a very small cost to them. They have bought thru this organization seven carloads of bran and middlings at a saving of over \$4 per ton; one car of dairy feed; one car of corn coming, also oil meal. We have had five cars of coal shipped in; we are buying our grass seed and we are getting a car of pedigreed barley for seed purposes for the farmers next spring.

And how about the middleman? Oh, he loves us. He calls us all those pretty names not permissible in print. If nothing happens before next fall we are going to have something to say about our wheat and beans. There is no reason why those farmers who are complaining about the grading rules regarding potatoes cannot co-operate and sell their own potatoes, and also beans. Have a little confidence in yourself and also in the men you choose to do the business for you.

Just the other day a local man in our town made the remark that "farmers are d— fools," and more than that said they were "d—hogs because they can't get enough. Prices are high now and they still want more." Last fall he made the remark that he hoped farmers would have to take twenty cents a bushel for potatoes because some of them were holding them for \$3. Such fellows as he ought not to have anything to eat that comes from the farm. I think, however, that we will find just such fellows in every town; they would make good one-dollar-a-year men for the government. They never did a day's work in their lives

on a farm, but they know just what a farmer should have for his crops. I sometimes think myself that a community of farmers who will go on and complain about the middleman, profits, the potato grading, the bean picking, etc., are just what this local man's first statement says they are. Don't wait for them to start something for you, they are only too glad if you don't start anything. Just talk co-operation and watch the prices go up. As soon as we talked shipping our own stock, hog prices went up 75c per cwt. here, altho prices at the other end remained the same. Just try it and see.

We have all got to co-operate with Uncle Sam if we want to win in this war for democracy, and we farmers will have to co-operate if we want to win out in this war against the middleman. So cry out co-operation and cry it out loud. It sure is the best thing for the man who busts sod.—S. G., Caledonia.

Selective Draft Right in Principle, but Wrong in Practice

I am an interested reader of M. B. F. and think it O. K. It knows just what to say and when to say it.

I wish to take up enough space in your paper to reply to your reader from Van Buren county who thinks the selective draft law is O. K. and fair to the farmer. He says if a man is a skilled farm worker he goes in class three. Now that sounds all right to anyone who doesn't know, but listen, I know that is not the case in this (Livingston) county. I will mention two cases for example I have heard of more, but these two have come under my personal observance. The

farm to eight hours and there would not be enough food to feed the army with present help conditions at present prices the farmer would go bankrupt if he could get all the help he needed. Who is the goat? There is not a farmer I have talked with that is going to put out more crops than he can take care of himself. See where supplies will be by next fall. The present help and price conditions does not warrant anything else.

If some of the men higher up that are sitting at their roll top desks with their stenographer at their elbow, a boy to bring them a drink and a limousine to carry them where they want to go, were to come out and inspect conditions on the farm instead of taking somebody's word for it like the President of the Michigan Bean Jobbers' Association, there might be some change but I doubt it, for they have to eat and Uncle Sam only requires them to work eight hours per day. You and, Mr. Farmer work fourteen to sixteen hours per day to pay taxes to keep them there. Like your paper very much and if Hoover is not taking a copy, please let me know and I will remit for him. He might see something that would make him sit up and take notice from farmers of Michigan.—E. J. T., Shepherd.

Another Way to Dry Beans

I wish to say a word in regard to wet beans. I suppose every farmer who raised beans knows something about drying them. If you have a furnace in the house take the bed out of the bedroom. You had better sleep on the floor than lose your crop. Spread the beans out on the floor three or four inches deep; you can put from 15 to

30 bushels in an ordinary bedroom; turn the heat on them and in two or three days they will be dry. I dried 128 bushels in two weeks time six years ago, in a room 10x12 feet.

If you do not have a furnace in your house you can spread the beans out on the floor of any room where it is warm and where they will not freeze and you will find they will soon dry, but it will of course, take longer than if you had a furnace.

We put 21 bu. in a chamber room that does not even have a stove pipe running through it, two weeks ago and they are dry enough to crack under foot, and before we commenced to dry them they were so wet that they could be squeezed into a ball. It seems to me that it is very

foolish for farmers to sell their beans as wet stock and take any price the dealers are willing to pay for them, when by a little trouble they can dry them. I was caught three different seasons with wet beans and I have never been docked for wet beans, or had a moisture test taken of my crop.—F. M. E., Millbrook.

Wants 1 3/4 Inch Screen

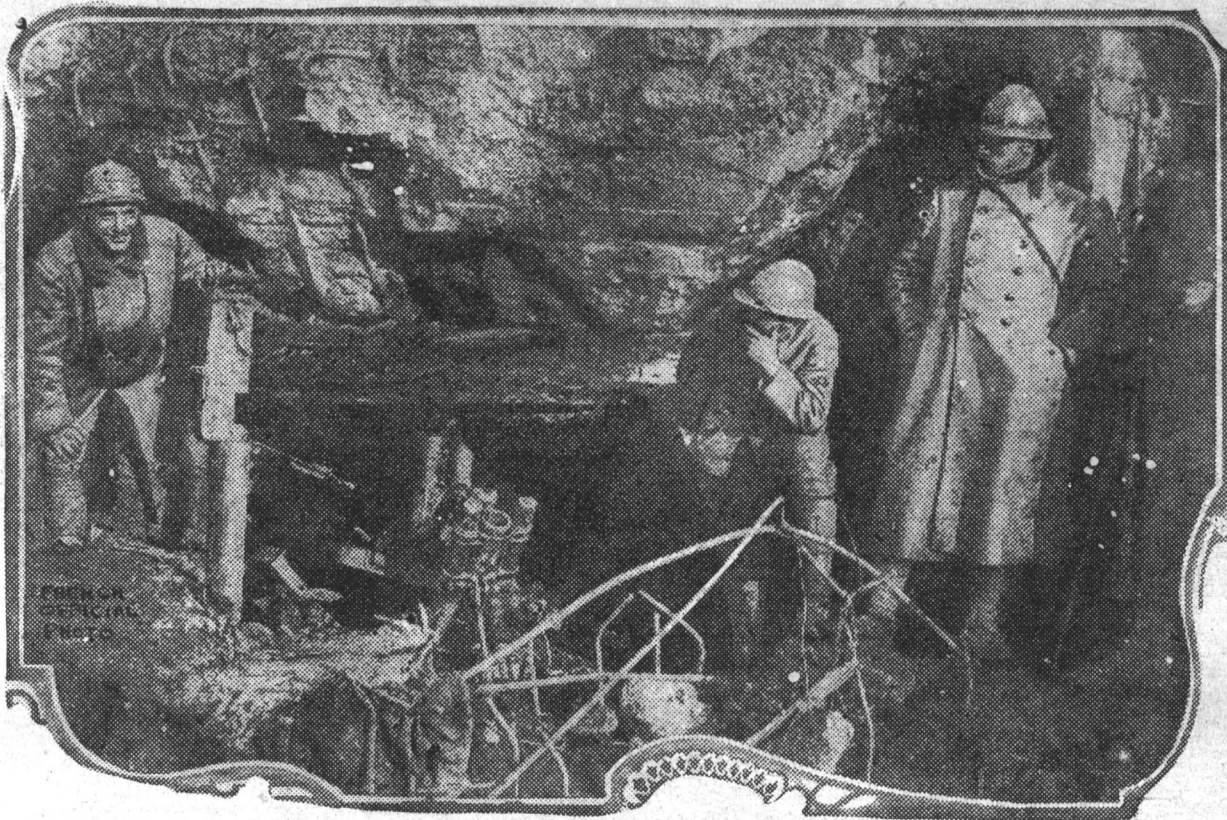
Dear Friend of the farmers:—I would like to say just a little about the grading of potatoes, as for one I have been like Mr. Bale in one way I have run my potatoes over a 1 3/4 inch screen, and was satisfied with that grade.

The farmers around this part of Montcalm county want only one grade of potatoes so they will not have a 50 per cent loss. If they have two grades it would be no more than right for the shippers to pay 90 per cent of the first grade for the seconds.

For one I am in favor of 1 3/4 inch screen. Just a few years ago the shippers wanted a medium sized potato and they would not take the large ones so you see there is a big skin in the game. I have heard some of the farmers say that it was a farmer that helped put the two grades in effect. Well, he may be a farmer, but he belongs to the Shippers Association.

Will close with this: I think that the M. B. F. is one of the best farm papers that was ever printed in Michigan.—A. H. B., Sidney.

FRENCH SOLDIERS LOOKING OVER CAPTURED BOCHE FORTRESS



The French have just made an advance on their part of the Flanders line, putting them into possession of this Boche fortress. Machine guns and bomb throwers were found inside.

man in No. 1 is 24 years old, he lives with and works the farm of his father who is now 66 years old. The son has lived on this farm all his life and never worked at anything but farming. He owns part of personal property and works place on shares. In filling out his papers the lawyer called him joint managing head agricultural enterprise, but he has been put in class one.

In No. 2 I don't know age of man, but he has always lived and worked on the farm he now lives on and at present is working that farm for his widowed mother. The father died a few years ago. This fellow has bone into class one. Now do you think this is a square deal for the farmer?

I am willing to do my bit anywhere Uncle Sam wants me, but like the reader from Osceola county I say, what is the use of the Government asking the farmers to raise larger crops and then taking all their best help away from them.

Wishing you success this new year, I remain, yours for a square deal, F. K., Livingston county.

The Farmer is the Goat

Eat less, raise more and sell your products for less than cost. Hooverize!

If the present conditions are not relieved it will be eat less, for there will not be enough help to raise more. And as for selling there will not be very much to sell.

Eight hours is a Government working day. Fourteen to sixteen is a farmer's working day, yet the price is set so the man working eight hours per day can buy what the farmer has to work fourteen to sixteen hour per day to raise. Is it helping the farmer? Cut the working day on

EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

Thanks Minimum Price Idea a Good One

As I was one of the first to voice a protest against the present method of grading potatoes, I have been very much interested in the flood of protests that have been sent in from all over the state, and I want to congratulate the editors of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING for the stand they have taken on this and other things of vital importance to the farmers. You have done a good work but the fight is only begun; the enemy is going to die hard, but we shall win. The farmers must and will win the fight against the thousands that live and wax fat off the sweat of the farmers' brows. It seems to me the great question is how to carry on the campaign. We must have some kind of an organization, whereby we can work together and pull together like one ox. I think your idea of a minimum price for next year a good one. Will be glad to help it along in any way possible.

Nearly all the farmers I talk with are agreed that we must have some kind of a working organization. Now the question is, what shall it be? Its object must be a square deal for the farmers and the consumers. We can't overlook the consumers. Their rights must be respected. We must have a system that will cut out the excess profits of the middleman; there is too much money made between the farmers and the consumer. Our products go thru too many hands; but how are we to change these things? My idea is that it has got to be done by legislation. Laws must be passed to protect the farmer and the consumer. Did I hear someone say "it can't be done?" Why not? Hasn't there been laws passed to protect the merchant, the miller, the banker, the manufacturer, the railroads, and all kinds of business that have organized their forces and demanded such laws? Sure they have. Then why not the farmers?

A political organization? Yes, sir, that is what got protection for other lines of business. Why not for the farmer? Their organizations were not called political organizations, but that is what they were, and we farmers helped them to get what they wanted, and now it's up to us to get what we want the same way. We must drop parties. No democrats, no republicans, no socialists, but all farmers. You may belong to one party and I to another, but if we are both farmers our interests are one. If my party puts up something that is good for me as a farmer it is good for you as a farmer and should have our support regardless of party lines into one big Mutual Benefit society with an official paper with men at its helm like the editors of M. B. F. where every farmer could write in and give his ideas on subjects of interest to all farmers where we could if necessary take a vote on issues of importance to the farmer and demand action on the part of our law makers favorable to the interests of farmers and consumer. It seems to me this could be done and the expense would be very little for each member. We could have a local secretary in every community that could call a meeting when necessary to talk over and take action on anything of importance. With such an organization we could have flooded the Food Administration with petitions against the potato and bean situation that would have opened their eyes and overwhelmed the pinheads that put it over on us this year. What do you think, Brother Farmer?

Now, just a few words about next year. I notice a good many are talking about not trying to raise a very big crop of potatoes and beans next year. Now brothers, I do not blame you for feeling that way as the way the deal we have this year is enough to make any man feel like it, but brothers we can't afford to do it. No not even if we don't make a cent we can't afford to run the chance of having people starve because we did not do our best to feed them. The chances are that if we that are left on the farms do their very best there will be a shortage of food stuffs next year. I want no deaths of starved babies, mothers or any human beings laid at my door. I shall do my best next year as I did this, to raise all the food I can even if I lose the little start I have. Think this thing over seriously brother, some of your sons will be facing the enemy in France soon or perhaps it will be a brother or friend. Shall they want for food when we could have raised it for them and would not. I don't believe you will think when the time comes you will all respond with the same courage and patriotism that our Boys are showing in going to a foreign shore to face the seething Hell of shot and shell of the most terrible war in the history of the world.—B. E. S., Van, Mich.

Huge Profits of Corporation Heads Kill the Farmers' Enthusiasm

I am much interested in your paper and hope that you will continue the good work of "smoking out" the Swifts of the country and in showing up the leeches who live off the producer and consumer, and I think you need have no fear of your subscription thinning out in consequence. Yours is the only paper I have ever read which dares to come out editorially and tell the truth.

The farmers are waking up to the condition of things are using their heads as well as their hands. Your editorial on the proposed advertising campaign of the Michigan Milk Producers' Ass'n in

the issue of Jan. 26 is right. Can the Detroit Creamery explain to the milk producer and the consumer where they get the big dividends they hand out each year? If the government food administrator is looking for war profiteers, I would suggest that they give the big milk distributors in all the big cities the once over. I would like to ask how it is that the government has overlooked the Standard Oil Co., who under a sworn statement claim to have made \$85,000,000 in gasoline alone in three months. And the International Harvester Co., who in 1912 made the sworn statement that the cost of a grain binder was \$26 f. o. b., Chicago; and the Henry Ford Co. which handed out over \$50,000,000 in dividends in one year. Then they come to the farmer with the most generous offer of a small per cent above the cost of production. In talking with my neighbors and farmers in general I find their sentiments are quite different from what our newspapers and government publicity bureau would have us believe. They want to convey the idea that all is satisfactory with the farmer. During the period of sugar shortage the farmer who usually goes about once a week to town for his groceries, can get if he is lucky one pound of sugar by buying two pounds of cornmeal. The city fellow gets his pound of sugar in the morning, his wife another pound at noon and after school his five or six children fill up their hours until closing time bringing home their pounds of sugar. The efficiency of the Food Administrator is a marvel. And the coal—well you know the farmer simply cannot get it even tho it was paid for last summer. And the farmer without wood, and there are many of them, is in bad shape. The farmers are willing to do their share and more at cost if need be but they can hardly feel very enthusiastic over it when they look around at the profit of the profiteers, and compare it with the profit the Michigan farmers have made on beans and potatoes this year. The government publicity bureau sends out all the dope they can get together to stimulate production and then the price is fixed by the government or allowed to be fixed by the leeches, so that the farmer comes out a little less than even, while the whole Damm family are working their heads off. Well, they will not stimulate production much

We have our Agricultural Bulletins and Colleges, and an innumerable number of farm papers to teach us how to grow bumper crops, so that the other fellow could make the money and wear the good clothes, while the farmer toiled from daylight until dark and wore the rags. We have waited long and patiently for some fearless publication like the M. B. F. to not only teach us how but to actually assist us in receiving what actually belongs to us, the real producers. I think every live farmer in Michigan ought to join the M. B. F. army, and with our support help them fight our battles. "United we stand, divided we fall." Here is my dollar.—B. J. M., Onaway.

this year. We had our stimulant last year—and enough to last over the year.

If the government will guarantee us one-half as good a deal as they guarantee the railroads and manufacturing plants taken over, we will hustle and do our best. Then get the produce to the consumer at a reasonable cost and you will hear no grumble from the fellow with the little bunch of spinach on his chin.—L. W. C., Ypsilanti.

Potato Grading System Holds Future Menace

In regard to the potato situation and system of grading, there is absolutely no one who believes in the present system of grading, although we have sold here over a screen for the last 10 or 15 years. Now in regard to this method of screening it is absolutely necessary that the system be killed off, not alone for this season, but for all seasons to come. Talk about raising potatoes of uniform size is a good deal like controlling the weather. Of course you can grade them to a uniform size all right, and Prof. Waid says we will get so much more for them. But do we? In other states they are getting more money for no grade than we are for No. 1. But the most serious problem will be when there is a time as there is sure to be, when potatoes will be ten cents a bushel. Then they throw out all the over size anyway and if we have this grading system in vogue it will be ruinous to us. Now some people may think that ten cents is an absurd price but there have been thousands of bushels sold here in the past for that price in the spring of the year, besides other thousands that were allowed to rot in the pits.

Now I have a scheme to do away with all this system of grading. It is not honest neither is the system honest. It is not practical for the large grower but is for the small grower. Let the farmer get the prescribed set of screens and screen their potatoes at home, making the two grades. Then take all of the nice large potatoes out of the No. 2 and keep them at home, putting the small No. 2 back in the No. 1 grade and take them to the buyer. When he gets our No. 2 grade they will all be small and he won't want them, but will have to take them because they won't go thru the cull screen. As I said, it isn't honest but neither are

they and they are trying to ruin us. Take the Beauty of Hebron potato which we think is a splendid type of potato here. Of course it is one of the long varieties and about 75% of them will go thru the No. 1 screen in a normal crop.—F. M., Euberta.

Is War to Blame for Unjust Mill Profit?

Why is it that our government required us farmers to do business on a basis of cost and 10 per cent profit while at the same time certain "patriotic" elevator and mill owners are allowed to take from 35 to 50 per cent? Here is a case from our own county which will prove the assertion:

B went to the mill with 4661 pounds or 7 bu., 41 lbs. of No. 2 red wheat. The mill bought this wheat at \$2.06, which amounted to \$15.83. B buys 273 lbs. of flour at \$5.75 per cwt., which also makes \$15.83, or just the amount received for his wheat. Now this amount of wheat will make 307 lbs. of flour at \$5.75 is worth \$17.65. The mill also has 154 lbs. of feed, which at that time was selling at \$50.00 per ton, which makes it worth \$3.85. So the mill gets \$21.50 for the wheat which B sold for \$15.83. This is a profit of \$5.67 on a \$15.83 deal, or about 36 per cent, or 74 cents on each bu. of wheat. In the future 45 lbs. of flour must be ground from each bu. Many people have a suspicion that even 35 lbs. or more will be taken, but if we complain they will tell us that the war is to blame. But if only 45 lbs. of flour are taken from each bu. the figures will be as follows: Value of 10 bu. of wheat at mill at \$2.06, \$20.60. This wheat will make 455 lbs. of flour which at \$5.75 per cwt. is worth \$25.87; there will also be 150 lbs. of feed which at \$36.00 per ton is worth \$2.70. Therefore the mill gets \$28.57 for the products of 10 bu. of wheat which was bought for \$20.60. This leaves a profit of \$7.97 on 10 bu., or nearly 80c on each bu., or nearly 39 per cent. Is this not patriotism with a string to it?—T. B., Fowler.

Will the Government Uphold a Funny Man With a Funny Idea?

In MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING of Jan. 12 I see that the potato experts will consider the potato grade revision; that is the way it looks. Mr. Exper Waid has all the say about it. It was he who invented the grading scheme with the dealers, and then say that the "progressive" farmers are in favor of it. I will ask how many progressives he has on his list. I am sorry to say that we have no such progressives around here. Is it possible that the government will uphold a funny man with a funny idea because he is an "expert"? One man against thousands upon thousands who are against it! We wish Mr. Waid had spoken about those grading rules at planting time.

Why don't some of the experts look at the seed we have to buy? Not all of them, but some seed houses sell us lots of noxious weed seed in our grain seed, others sell us brush for fruit trees. Twelve years ago I bought what I supposed was Northern Spy apple trees and they turned out to be crab apples and Wolf Rivers.

Those experts are around to teach us how to grow big crops of everything, while it would be better if they made an effort to help us sell our produce at a reasonable price. It looks to me as if Mr. Waid is hand in hand with the commission men, and when he comes around again to explain the potato diseases and shove us pictures, don't give him his dinner, let him carry his lunch—he is against us.—J. D., Levering.

An Outrage Farmers Will Not Soon Forget

I have taken your paper for some time and as we take so many I concluded we could do without the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, but when this potato steal came up and you handled it so well I changed my mind, and herewith hand you one dollar. Last spring the farmers here were asked to make every effort to raise a bumper crop of potatoes, and I with others, when help was so scarce we had to pay \$3 per day for every day's work all summer, did our best, and then have who should be our friends step in and without our knowledge fix an arbitrary grade upon our products, is an outrage that the producers will not soon forget. Everyone knows that the farmer sells at wholesale and buys at retail what we need. In our town the other day I met a farmer taking back 14 bu. of seconds out of a load of 44 bu. I took three off of one crate and brought them home; wife said when she wanted extra nice potatoes to bake she picked just such potatoes because of their regular size and smoothness.

I do not think that either the producer or the consumer are benefitted by the grading. What they both want are potatoes run over a 1 1/2 in. screen and one grade. Then I think all parties will be satisfied.—B. E. K., Lakeview.

Can't Blame Us if We Lose Confidence

Please tell me why our government cries "save, save, and produce more," and will then allow the enormous waste of food in the two grades of potatoes, and also allow the middleman such profits for handling the crops. The farmers get 80c a bu. for potatoes and the consumers pay from \$1.50 to \$1.70. Our community says less potatoes next year. They are losing confidence, and you can't blame them.

The bean situation is practically the same. The farmer gets \$6 and the consumer pays \$12. It seems that Mr. Hoover could help the situation if he investigated, and it should be done at once to save the farmers thousands of dollars.—H. J. B.



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



ANNA CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

This Week's Tested Recipe

Scotch Oat Crackers

Two cups rolled oats, fourth cup milk, fourth cup of molasses, one and a half tablespoons of fat, fourth teaspoon soda, one teaspoon salt. Grind or crush the oats and mix with the other materials. Roll out in a thin sheet and cut in squares. Bake for 20 minutes in a moderate oven. Makes three dozen crackers.

Regarding Educated Folks

Dear Mrs. Stark:—

We have been reading the letters in M. B. F. of which the one signed Mrs. M. L. was the "starter." The subject was interesting to me because I had never lived on a farm until I was married and "he" had never lived elsewhere, so you see it was a case of somebody having to get acclimated and that somebody was yours truly. The operation is something like measles. After it is all over you draw a long breath and say, "Thank the good Lord you can't have 'em but once."

But I didn't open my mind to give you any of my matrimonial experiences, because I haven't any particular fault to find with my husband except that his hair is pretty thin on top, but I like him well enough to overlook that, the real instigating power behind this letter was the statement by Mrs. A. that Mrs. L's "neighbors were as glad to see her move as she was to go." I think you hit the bull's eye that shot, Mrs. A., and that gives me a chance to drop just a little word on "education." "Education" is like cats. There are several kinds, among whom are skunks, and one educated person can stir up more rumpus in a peaceful, quiet, modest little neighborhood than pa and ma skunk and the whole little aromatic skunk family. That is to say an educated person whose education has all lodged in his head and left his heart empty and sort of calloused over.

I have in mind a case of this kind that is a double-header since both husband and wife have a "lodged" education, this time lodged on their bumps of self-esteem. There are other people in the neighborhood who can read just as much latin, quote just as reliable and notorious historians and repeat just as much obsolete and jaw-breaking poetry but they act just as human as if they didn't know their alphabet.

But Mr. and Mrs. Education moved into our neighborhood and set themselves immediately at work to impress the "natives" with the superiority of their methods and manners and advantages. The natives are hard to impress. Mrs. Education has revealed to some of us (by experience) a number of new ways of cheating help out of their hard earned pay, and several new lines of discourtesy, but the only impression of any moment that she has made on us is that her room impresses us more favorably than her company.

Mr. Education has been busy teaching the men folks some new ways of farming. Out in these parts we have been in the habit of pruning our grapes according to common sense and experience and leave only four arms to the vine. Mother Nature rewarding us in the golden October with large bunches of well ripened fruit. He leaves six or eight arms and expects Mother Nature to outdo herself for his benefit. She is a wise old girl though and gives him more bunches but little scraggly half-filled concerns scarcely worth harvesting, but he packs them religiously (?) in A No. 1 grade baskets and passes them on the buying public with a clear conscience and an extra swell of his educational bump. Every spring he plants a couple acres of beans and then begins to worry about the bean situation as generously as if he had a million acres. His corn never gets man size and in fact there is nothing man size about him or anything he does.

Now then, if Mrs. L. was like this her neighbors viewed her departing dust without a tear or sigh. Selfishness or egotism are twin sisters and we don't any or us need to take them in to board if we don't want to. The good God, who gave us life also gave us, within ourselves, the power of happiness and the ability to radiate the same.

*"Oh wad some power the giftie gie us,
To see oursel's as ithers see us,
It wad frae meny a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion."*—F. N.

Mrs. F. N. certainly throws a great deal of light on the subject we have been discussing: "Should the farmer marry a city girl?" I know everyone will enjoy her letter as much as I did, which is a great deal! It certainly is true that there are many varieties of education. The city girl and the city man, too, are too prone to think that they have the education market cornered. They seem to think that a book education is everything. The

city man often moved his family to the country. He is filled with book knowledge, but his next-door farmer neighbor has him skinned when it comes to a real inborn understanding of the soil, the crops, the weather, and all those other things that are a matter of instinct to the real farmer. Of course I am not "knocking" book "larnin'." It's a mighty pleasant and convenient thing to know a lot but it is a pity when that knowledge becomes a "lodged" knowledge as Mrs. F. N. says making a person conceited and self-centered. The old philosophers and scholars are always simple, kindly folks, who didn't use their education just to show up the other fellow's ignorance.

And that's what most city girls like to do when they go to the farm—parade their accomplishments, and try to make the farmer's wives feel foolish. Of course, since the farmer's wife is more often than not better educated than she is, she only succeeds in flaunting her own ignorance abroad, making everyone sorry for her husband.

Let's have some more letters as interesting as Mrs. F. N.'s. Write on this or any subject you would like to have us all gossip about in our columns to Anne Campbell Stark, Editor Home Dept. MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

My Old Pal

*SOME folks may fail me and some folks may blame;
Some folks may fill me with sorrow and shame;
Some folks may cheat me, and some folks may sneer,
And some folks may gossip and say I am queer.
But one will stick to me, though others may fail,
Why he wouldn't leave me if I went to jail!*

*THERE are those whom I see every day
and call friend,
Who wouldn't stay by me like he, to the end.
If deepest disgrace should by chance be my lot,
They'd all melt away from my side like as not;
And no one would pity, but everyone blame
If misfortune and ruin should shadow my name!*

*MY brother would shun me 'ere he'd run away,
And no matter what other people might say,
His eyes would light up when he saw me,
and he
Would come running and leaping so gladly to me!
And if I should die, he would bury his nose
Deep, deep in my grave, and die too, I suppose!*

*THOUGH he's only a dog, I confess that I prize
The loyal devotion that shines in his eyes!*
—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK

How to Prevent Colds

"AN OUNCE of prevention is worth a pound of cure" was an old saying of my grandmother's which I heard often in my young days. This is particularly applicable to colds. Sometimes in a school filled with snuffling, cold-stricken children, one or two will escape. Why is this? Perhaps it is because their mothers realize how very catching colds are, and have paid close attention to the following preventatives:

They have kept their children well nourished and free from constipation, and with their little lungs filled with good, clean, fresh air.

They have warned their children not to share anyone's else drinking cup, handkerchief, pencil, towel, candy, apples or other food.

She has co-operated with the teacher, and given her the benefit of her certain knowledge that it is better for the children to use little squares of clean cotton and burn them, than to carry soiled handkerchiefs about all day. Also that an open vessel of water has been kept on the stove all day, so that the air will be kept moist, instead of the

Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

As a butter saver, Americans might adopt the English custom of serving marmalade with toast or hot bread for breakfast. Let the fruits supply the sugar to be used in making these marmalades. Their virtue lies in the tartness of the fruit and the fact that they contain only what nature put in the fruits.

Date-Prune Jam

Wash one pound of prunes, soak over night; cook in same water and remove stones. Remove stones from one pound dates and cut in small pieces. Cook with prunes until mixture is thick. Add small amount of lemon juice.

dry air that irritates the nose passages and causes coughing.

Do Your Children Go to Bed Early?

Of course they do, because most folks on the farm do go to bed early. But there are exceptions, and it is to these exceptions that this little homily is directed.

I have heard mothers complain about how nervous and excitable their children were who were in the habit of keeping them up until they (the parents) went to bed. Children are bound to be nervous who get insufficient sleep.

Little tots require so much more sleep than we do, and the babies that sleep most grow up to be the healthiest adults. Begin in infancy and put baby to sleep at the same hour every day, in its own little cot, and take every care that it is not disturbed. And if your object is not to pamper your child, but to rear it in good health, you will see that it gets plenty of sleep in an airy room.

A Good Game for St. Valentine's Day — The Floral Wedding

Write the following questions on heart-shaped leaves of paper, which you can bind with hearts cut from red paper:

1. What was the bridegroom's name?
2. What was the bride's name?
3. At what hour was the wedding?
4. What high dignitary married them?
5. Who was one dark eyed bride's maid?
6. Name one pretty bride's maid.
7. Who gave the bride away?
8. What did the bride wear on her head?
9. What did she wear on her feet?
10. What style of collar did she wear?
11. How did she know she would marry him?
12. What was the color of her eyes?
13. What was the color of her cheeks?
14. Color of her lips?
15. What was the name of her restless little brother?

Each answer is the name of a flower. A prize can be given to the one guessing the greatest number. The answers are as follows:

- 1, Sweet William; 2, May Belle; 3, Four o'clock;
- 4, Jack in the Pulpit; 5, Black Eyed Susan; 6, Daisy;
- 7, Poppy; 8, Orange Blossom; 9, Lady Slipper;
- 10, Stock; 11, Aster; 12, Violet; 13, Pink;
- 14, Rose; 15, Johnny Jump Up.

Simple Sugarless Desserts

Hot rice or hasty pudding (cornmeal mush) served with a sweet sauce makes a simple wholesome dessert. Chopped raisins or dates may be added to either but no sugar is needed. Here are a few easily made sauces:

Honey Sauce—1 cup honey, 1-4 cup water, 1 tablespoonful butter substitute, 1-4 teaspoon salt, 1-4 teaspoon cinnamon, a dash of nutmeg, juice of one lemon or 2 tablespoons vinegar. Boil together 15 minutes. The juice of one orange and grated peel may be used instead of lemon and seasoning in this recipe.

Molasses Sauce—1 cup molasses or syrup, 1 tablespoon cornstarch stirred smooth with water, 1 tablespoon butter substitute, 1-4 teaspoon cinnamon, a pinch of salt, lemon juice or vinegar to taste. Boil all ingredients together 20 minutes. Hot molasses flavored with ground ginger makes an excellent sauce.

Fruit Sauce—To one cup of corn syrup add one-half cup chopped raisins or dates. Heat before serving.

Apple Fruit Cake—Two cups apple sauce (unsweetened), 2 cups Orleans molasses, 1/2 cup of shortening, 2 teaspoons soda, 3 cups flour, 1 cup chopped raisins and citron, 1 teaspoon each all-spice, nutmeg and cinnamon. Simmer together the apple sauce and molasses until dark red or brown. Let cool and add shortening, soda, flour, floured fruit and spices. Bake in a slow oven from two to two and a half hours.

THE LITTLE TART

The Queen of Hearts may be responsible for it, but a tart is a different thing from a pie. The word "tart" hooks up with Mother Goose past and promises something that is different, and flatteringly individual.

Tart shells may be filled with preserves, honey or custard, and varied by adding meringues or a bit of whipped cream. Sprinkle top with chopped nuts or candied orange peel.

War Pastry—Wheatless and part wheat pastries are here offered to patriotic housewives. Line tarts or muffin tins with one of the following pastries rolled thin. Bake before filling.

No. 1.—Combine as for other pastry the following ingredients, adding enough water for a stiff dough: Two cups barley flour, quarter teaspoon salt, third cup vinegar, fat, half teaspoon baking powder.

No. 2.—Combine ingredients, using enough liquid to make a dough that can be rolled thin. Bake in quick oven: Half cup cornmeal, half cup of wheat flour, half teaspoon salt, one tablespoon fat, three tablespoons milk.

No. 3.—Scald two cups finely ground oatmeal with one cup of boiling water; add one teaspoon vegetable fat; roll very thin and bake in quick oven.

Orange Tarts—With company present try these tarts: Cup boiling water,

large juicy orange, two-thirds cup of white corn syrup, one teaspoon lemon juice, three eggs. Rub cornstarch smooth with a little cold water, add the boiling water and cook five minutes; add the pulp and part of the grated rind of the orange, the syrup and the lemon juice; heat thoroughly and pour slowly on the beaten yolks of the eggs; beat well; pour into tart shells; cover with meringue made of the whites of the eggs and flavored with lemon juice; sprinkle with gratin peel; brown in oven; serve cold.

Daisy Tarts—Daisy tarts will please the children. Seed and mix one-half cup each raisins and dates; put fruit through food chopper; fill tart shells. Form daisy with center of yellow preserves of candied orange peel and the petals of almonds cut lengthwise.

Cranberry Tarts—Wash dry and prick one cup cranberries (unless cranberries are dried there is too much liquid); cook berries with one cup white corn syrup into which a teaspoon of corn starch has been stirred; when fruit is cold fill tart shells. Vary this by using half raisins and half cranberries.

Apple Tarts—Make an apple sauce, using white syrup instead of sugar; fill shells; sprinkle top with chopped nuts; place a square of current jelly in center of each.

Apple-Raisin Tarts—Wash and soak one cup of seedless raisins over night; simmer in same water for an hour; add one quart peeled quartered apples and one-half cup white syrup; simmer together until done; fill tart shells.



Up-to-Date Fashions

A N UNUSUALLY attractive dress for the little girl aged 6, 8, 10, 12 or 14 years is numbered 8497. This is simple, as all children's clothes should be, and yet it has a certain style which is very fetching.

Here's a pretty empire dress for the four year old, numbered 8481. This pattern also comes in 6, 8, 10 and 12 year sizes.

The ladies' waist numbered 8484, comes in sizes 35 to 42 inches bust measure.

A handsome little dress is numbered 8482. This also could be made of two shades of material. A stripe, relieved by plain material, would look well made in this style. Sizes 36 to 44 inches bust measure. The skirt is four gored.

A plain, tailored looking skirt is numbered 8504. This comes in sizes 24 to 32 inches waist measure. It is cut in two pieces. This, combined with the pretty blouse numbered 8481 would make a pretty combination.

Do you ever have enough house aprons? It seems to me that I never do. I am interested, therefore, as you must be, in the exceedingly pretty patterns we have from time to time, in aprons. No. 8496 is especially neat. It comes in sizes 36, 40 and 44 inches bust measure.

Price of each pattern ten cents.

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



This is Evelyn Rinesmith, who lives in Huntington, Indiana. She is Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Slagle's first grandchild. She visited her grandparents this fall, at Harrietta, Michigan, and they were mighty proud of her. Isn't she a big girl for two years old?

AHIRA RAISES BEANS

Ahira Enan Hinkleum
A cobbler was by trade.
His patches, soles and all his work,
'Twas said securely stayed.

He owned an unpretentious house,
Just suited to his needs;
A barn and little plot of ground,
For years grown up to weeds.

Ahira Enan Hinkleum
Read news of war in spring,
Especially the prices, high.
All kinds of beans would bring.

Then Hoover came, with counsel wise,
To teach folks what to do;
And said Ahira Hinkleum,
"I long to help some, too."

"I cannot go to war, because
My eyes are getting dim;
But I've a plan which yet may prove
A. H. has got some vim."

"My piece of ground is very small,
But kidney beans grow thick;
I sure can raise two bushels there,
And prove that I'm a brick."

"For thirty dollars they would sell,
And that's no little joke;
Why, that would buy Miranda H.
A brand new winter cloak."

"So I will help my country, and
Myself the while, as well,
Ahira Enan Hinkleum
I see with beans to sell."

He dollars, two, paid for a man
And horse to plow his ground;
A dollar more to get his seed,
The best that could be found.

He then prepared to plant them, on
One pleasant summer morn,
But finding ground was full of quack,
Began to look forlorn.

"I Always Do Better With Old Trusty"



Tell Me Your Poultry Troubles

H. H. JOHNSON

So says Mrs. Catherine Sullivan of Osman, Wis., one of the 750,000 Old Trusty owners. "I've seen many good incubators but the higher the poultry prices the more we depend upon Old Trusty." Write and

GET THIS BOOK OF FREE Poultry "Know How" FREE

and learn why Old Trusty means more than ever to you this year. With valuable eggs and big profits at stake you can't afford to lose a single hatch. Our oldest machines are now 14 years old and still making big hatches.

We pay the freight or express and ship Old Trusty double quick—completely built—ready for business the minute it arrives. Write today. Yours truly, H. H. JOHNSON.

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GET Your Cream NOW! Separator

ONLY \$2 Down
A Year to Pay

on This Easy Self-Earning Plan

You won't feel the cost at all. The machine itself will save its own cost and more before you pay. We ship any size separator you need direct from our factory and give you a whole year to pay our low price of only \$29 and up. Read what Alfred Geatches, No. Jackson, O., says: "We are getting more than twice the cream we were before. The separator is very easy to clean and runs very easy." Why not get a fully guaranteed New Butterfly separator for your farm and let it earn its own cost by what it saves?

NEW BUTTERFLY \$29 and up

Cream Separators have these exclusive high grade features—frictionless pivot ball bearings bathed in oil, self-draining bowl, self-draining milk tank, easy cleaning one piece aluminum skimming device, closed drip proof bottom, light running cut steel gears, oil bathed. Guaranteed highest skimming efficiency and durability. We give

30 Days FREE Trial — Lifetime Guarantee

against all defects in material and workmanship. We ship you the size machine you need, let you use it for 30 days. Then if pleased you can make the rest of the small monthly payments out of the extra cream profits the separator saves and makes for you. If you are not pleased just ship the machine back at our expense and we will refund what you paid. You take no risk. Write for FREE Catalog now.

ALBAUGH-DOVER CO., 2260 Marshall Boulevard, CHICAGO



Morn after morn he toiled and sweat
At tasks so hard and long,
Uprooting quack, with aching back,
For roots were large and strong.

At last, his task completed, he
The costly beans did plant,
'Twas rather late in spring for them—
But if you can't you can't.

A short vacation then he took,
'Twas fairly earned, he thought.
For much and hard work had he done
To plant his war-time plat.

Returning from vacation's rest,
His lot he went to see;
He there found beans, but also weeds,
As thick as thick could be.

On that night hoed he one row out,
The next hoed little more.
And found to hoe was harder, much,
Than he had dreamed before.

He weeded and he weeded, still,
And still the weeds they grew;
And when the last row was cleaned out
He did commence anew.

The summer passed and autumn's chill
The weeds began to check;
Ahira then began to count
The bean pods by the peck.

But as the nights much colder grew,
He frost began to fear,
And grew anxious, and more anxious,
As equinox drew near.

One night stars bright were shining and
A chill was in the air.
Next day the beans were limp and black
Those hills so green and fair.

The dauntless Mr. Hinkleum
Then said, "I'll pull them all,
Though some are ripe and some are green,
And stack in barn, though small."

"I've raised a few," Ahira said,
I hoped that more would grow;
But I'll have twenty dollars worth,
The price is high, you know."

As soon as he arose next morn,
Ahira looked about;
He saw a cow was in his barn,
And hurried wildly out.

Alas, he did forget the door
To close the night before.
And all his beans lay strewn and
crushed

Upon the stable floor.

The cow had cracked and split and
chewed,
And trampled them in the dirt,
Till scarcely any beans were left
That weren't in some way hurt.

Ahira Enan Hinkleum
Looked on in angry pain,
Then vanished in his visions bright,
Of patriotic gain.

With muttered words he turned away,
And walked into the street,
"Perhaps," said he, "I may clean up
A very few to eat."

"Next year the farmer, stout, may raise
The beans, if they will grow;
And I will stick unto my last
An extra hour or so."

—Practical Sally in Practical Farmer.

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Special Offers provide ways for you to make extra money. Save time—Order now, or write today for my Free Catalog, "Hatching Facts"—It tells all. Jim Kohan, Pres.

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Main Office and Drier at
PORT HURON, MICHIGAN

WET BEANS

the weather moderates. We have a fully equipped Bean Plant at Port Huron, with a big bean Drier, and will be glad to have an opportunity of helping you save your wet beans. There are quite a number of bean driers in the State, but very few Elevators are equipped for drying. It will not be necessary for you to sell your beans to us, although we are in shape to handle them on consignment. If you want us to dry these beans, we offer our facilities at a reasonable price, and they can be dried and returned to you for picking, or be sold elsewhere, either by you, or we offer our services. Write us the quantity of beans you have to offer, and the name of your local elevator man, who usually buys your beans, and we will be glad to take the matter up with them, and see if we can arrange to handle your wet beans through them.

Your Bean Problems were never greater than they are now. Wet beans are a dangerous commodity, and must be handled during cold weather, or they will spoil when

HAND PICKED BEANS

wish to send them to market but are unable to do so on account of them being too damp, you can ship them down to us and we will dry them, pack them again in bags, and re-consign them to whatever place you want them to go. There should be at least one hundred bushels in the lot, to be dried successfully.

Our experience with wet beans teaches us that the quicker one gets rid of them the better he is off. Don't wait until they spoil. Railroads move slow. Write us for full particulars, and we will be glad to answer you promptly.

If you care to hand pick your beans, or if they have been handpicked, and you

SEED BEANS

We advise getting in your Seed Beans now, buying either from your neighbors or your elevator man. Try them out. Be sure they are dry, and will keep, and that they will germinate.



PURINA Checker Board Feeds

Reliable and Honestly
Compounded.

Satisfaction or your
Money Back.

**For Horses,
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PURINA CALF CHOW, 33 1-3 per cent protein
A distinctive feed for raising calves and saving milk.

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For fattening steers—molasses, corn, cottonseed meal and alfalfa.

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For developing and fattening pigs and hogs.

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PURINA CHICK FEED Makes the little chicks develop twice as fast as any other ration.

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NO WORTHLESS FILLER
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FERTILIZER

The present demand for foodstuffs to feed the world makes the American farmer's opportunity.

To get the great results, you must enlist the assistance of artificial fertilizers—it will help make those two blades of grass grow where one grew before.

Crowd your stock, your poultry, your farm, into increased capacity. **Federal Daybreak Fertilizers** will help. If your dealer doesn't handle it, you can order direct from us.

We carry stocks at Port Huron, Croswell, Harbor Beach, Owendale and Roseburg.

Get your orders for Fertilizer in early. Railroads will be unable to deliver later.

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Distributors
PORT HURON, MICHIGAN

PROGRESS WITH THE STALLION LAW

We are glad to be able to state that stallion dealers are coming to know that Michigan has a stallion law, and that they can no longer make this State a dumping ground, as many have been doing in the past. I just recently saw an advertisement of a stallion dealer in which he was offering stallions for sale that would pass Michigan inspection. This shows they are taking notice.

Fake papers are encountered very rarely now, due no doubt to the campaign against them by personal contact, correspondence, and publicity through our reports. But we have recently been confronted with a couple of cases that we are powerless to cope with, except to prevent the owners from using the stallions for public service, and in this case the penalty falls on innocent parties, and for this reason we have interested ourselves as far as we were able in helping to place the blame.

We are much tempted to mention names in connection with these cases but it would perhaps be indiscreet. In one instance we are morally certain as to who changed the date of foaling on the papers of an aged stallion and sold him to an unsuspecting purchaser who did not know of it until his attention was called to it by our librarian.

In the other case through a dispute as to ownership or some other disagreement among some dealers the papers of a Belgian horse have become suspicious, one of the parties involved claiming that the stallion with whom the papers now are is not the one that was recorded.

There is a question as to whether or not this situation is not the result of a disagreement as above indicated, as this stallion had a license at one time (1912) which was allowed to expire. The present situation developed when the present owner made application for re-instatement of the license. Upon our suggestion this matter has been referred to an attorney and we hope for some results.

The question of transfers which was formerly such a bug-bear is working out very nicely, nearly all matters coming into our office being now accompanied by the proper transfers. It should be from one owner to another that a transfer on an official blank is invariably demanded. There is still difficulty in those cases where disagreement develops in the course of exchange of ownership and one or the other refuses to sign a transfer. Remember all these changes must be entered on our books, and in order to do so the State license, transfer and \$1.00 must be sent to our office these three no less.—Dr. John S. Black.

HOW TO ECONOMIZE IN BEEF COW FEEDING

In Bulletin No. 615 on The Economical Winter Feeding of Beef Cows in the corn belt, United States Department of Agriculture investigators cite conditions on five farms in support of their arguments that winter feed costs may be largely reduced, without detriment to the cows or calves, through greater use of farm by-products in rations.

Avoid feeding excessively, avoid costly rations, use more cheap roughages, such as straw and corn stover, feed silage where conditions make it more economical than corn fodder—this is advice in the bulletin.

The first farm used as an example is in east central Iowa. The breeding herd consisted of a grade bull and 22 grade cows, from which 20 calves were obtained. The cows were given excessive amounts of high-priced feed for both of the years for which records were procured, says the bulletin.

They were turned on stalks November 15. Winter feeding began a few days later and lasted until May 1, when the cows were again turned on pasture. During the 165-day interval each cow received the following:

Stalks, 1 1/5 acres, at \$1 an acre; fodder, 2 1/2 acres, at \$35 an acre; mixed hay, 3-4 ton, at \$10 a ton; corn, 2 bus., at 65¢ a bu.

As the average yield of corn on this farm was 50 bus. to the acre, and as the best corn was cut for fodder, the cows, considering the corn in the fod-

der and the additional grain fed, received a total of 22 bushels per head. This is almost a fattening ration. If the corn had been husked from the fodder and only the stover fed, there would have been sufficient roughage for the cows. Estimating that three-fourths of a ton of stover was eaten per acre of stalks and that the stover from the fodder fed would go 2 tons to the acre, and allowing the cows 3 bushels of corn each during the winter instead of 22, they would receive the following daily ration:

Stover, 20.6 lbs.; mixed hay, 9.0 lbs.; corn, 1.0 lbs.

This ration would be sufficient for their needs.

By merely eliminating the excessive amount of corn (19 bushels) from the ration a saving of \$11.40 could have been made and the feed bill reduced very nearly one-half, or from \$24 to \$12.60 per cow.

Rations on the fifth farm inspected by the investigators are pronounced very satisfactory. The bulletin tells of it to illustrate how a farmer may grow emergency forage crops to take the place of hay when the hay crop is a failure.

This farm (240 acres) is in north-eastern Kansas. Seventy acres were in corn, 25 in oats, 25 in wheat, and 100 in pasture. Because of the unusual rainy weather prevailing in that section the oats and wheat for the year in which the record was taken were practically destroyed and the straw was absolutely worthless for feeding. To provide for a lack of hay 15 acres of millet and 4 of sorghum were grown.

The herd consisted of a bull and 15 grade cows, from which 15 calves were obtained. The cows were turned on stalks November 1 and allowed to run there until spring. They received approximately 3 acres of stalks, 1 ton of millet hay, and one-third of a ton of sorghum fodder each. Valuing



This sturdy young sire is owned by H. J. Flower of Milo, Mich.

the millet at \$4.50 a ton and the sorghum at \$4 a ton, the winter feed cost per cow was \$8.20. The cows were carried through the entire year for a net cost of \$25.85.

The bulletin strongly recommends that farmers who raise their own feeder cattle take more pains to find out the needs of their animals and feed them accordingly. They are invited to write for advice to their own state experiment stations or the United States Department of Agriculture.

What the Neighbors Say!

Being a farmer am interested in the stand M. B. F. has taken regarding a square deal for the farmer in potato grading. It is highway robbery or even worse. O. S. W., Thompsonville.

I find that in reading the Michigan Business Farming that it is a friend of the farmer and by supporting it we are doing our bit, as I believe the farmer a brave fighter.—P. W. T., Ionia county.

Enclosed please find one dollar and wish you success with Michigan Business Farming.—J. T. P., Gratiot county.

Enclosed find one dollar for M. B. F. for one year. I like the paper very much.—D. H., Sanilac county.

I was very much pleased with the sample you sent me. Enclosed find one dollar for the paper.—H. W. G., Presque Isle county.

I am very interested in your paper and want it for a year. Enclosed find \$1.—J. A. Thompson, Mecosta county.

Your paper is the best of its kind I ever saw. Will do all I can to boost it along.—Wm. Bronkema, Missaukee county.

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.)

BREEDERS DIRECTORY

Rates:—Up to 14 lines or one inch and for less than 13 insertions under this heading, fifteen cents per line. Title displayed to best advantage. Send in copy and we will quote rates. For larger ads or for ads to run 13 issues or more we make special rates which will cheerfully be sent on application to the Advertising Dept., 110 Fort St., Detroit.

CATTLE

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SHEPHERD, MICH.
Breeder of purebred
Holstein-Friesian Cattle
Young bulls for sale from A. R.
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 dam is 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.

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.

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YPSILANTI We have been "breeding up" for the past eleven MICHIGAN 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.

For Sale Registered Holsteins—Bulls ready for service, and bull calves from 30 lbs. bull and A. R. O. dams; also females of all ages.
Wm. Griffin, Howell, Mich., R. No. 5.

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.

FOR SALE—Percheron Stallion, black, No. 121705, foaled June 23, 1915; No. 131951, foaled June 29, 1916. J. F. Gladys, R. 7, Vassar, Mich.

HOGS

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

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

BRED GILTS

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

CHOICE REGISTERED STOCK

Percherons—Colonel 104833, a grandson of Morse and Olbert; 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.
DORR D. BUELL, Elmira, Mich. R. 1.

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

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

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

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 Prize Winning stock Thompson strain, \$3 and \$4. Yearling breeding hens, \$2. Well Barred. Sam Stadel, Chelsea, Michigan.

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

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.

ANCONA COCKERELS

From \$2.00 to \$5.00 each. Also 2 hens and cockerel for \$5. W. C. West & Son, East Lansing, Michigan, R.F.D. No. 1.

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, Ohio.

BARRON'S WHITE WYANDOTTE Cock and cockerels for sale. Bred from imported trapnested birds with 265-283 egg records. Mrs. L. A. Riggs, Route 3, Linden, Mich.

BIG Type P.C. Boars, March, April and May farrow ready to ship. Sired by Grand Superba and Peters Jumbo, Mouw Bred Boar. C. E. Garnant, Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

ROBT. R. POINTER & SON

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Registered Holstein-Friesian Cattle

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

Stock for sale at all times. If you are looking for some of the best, see us.

Holstein-Friesians

MAPLECREST KORNDYKE HENGERVERELD

Senior Herd Sire—MAPLECREST KORNDYKE HENGERVERELD, whose dam, grand dam and great grand dam each made over 30 lbs. of butter in 7 days; his dam and grand dam each making better than 1200 lbs. of butter in a year, and the only mother and daughter ever having made that record. He already has 13 advanced registry daughters. He was sired by Friend Hengerveld De Kol Butter Boy who sired 4 daughters averaging better than 1200 lbs. of butter in a year. Maplecrest Korndyke Hengerveld is probably, for long distance breeding, the peer of any bull living.

KING ONA

Junior Herd Sire—KING ONA, whose dam made 1345 lbs. of butter in a year and her dam made over 1100 lbs. of butter when 12 years old. Thus the dam and grand dam of the Junior Sire have an average production of over 1200 lbs. in a year. This is something of a novelty when the great effort is being made on short records. The Junior Sire mated with the daughters of the Senior Sire representing four dams with an average of more than 1200 lbs. of butter in a year.

Why should not their yearly production be the measurement of greatness? We have to keep them the full year and it is at the end of the year that we make our return on net income.

A few heifers coming two years old in calf to King Ona will be sold at reasonable prices as we will have no pasture for them during the summer. If purchased they can remain with us until May 1st.

D. D. AITKEN

FLINT, MICH.

Cow Health is Dairy Wealth

Safeguard the health of your herd by building stables that will be clean, sweet and sanitary. Easily done if you build with Natco Hollow Tile. Germs can't hide on the smooth glazed walls. A blanket of dead air in Natco walls keeps the stable warm in winter and cool in summer—prevents dampness and mildew.

Natco on the Farm

means healthier stock, cleaner and better milk—bigger profits and more dairy wealth. Natco Hollow Tile has fire-proofed most of the great "skyscrapers" of our large cities. The same material will protect your stock, grain and tools from the fire peril and will lower insurance charges. Natco buildings save painting and repairs. They cost less than other forms of masonry yet add greatly to the value of your farm.

Your building supply dealer will gladly show you samples and practical building plans. He has, perhaps, just the plan for which you're looking. But write us direct today for new illustrated "Natco on the Farm" book—1918 Edition—it's free!



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25 Factories assure a wide and economical distribution.

The Farmers of Michigan Lose Annually more than \$2,500,000 worth of Live Stock, Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Hogs from Accident and Disease.

The animals are destroyed and their cash value lost not only to the farmer but to the community, the State.

This amazing sum of money can be saved to the farmers and the State if they (the farmers) will but avail themselves of

Michigan Live Stock Insurance Co.

organized expressly for the purpose of indemnifying owners of live stock against death from any cause.

We want agents to carry this great message to every farmer.

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319 Widdicomb Bldg., Grand Rapids, Mich. Graebner Bldg., Saginaw, W.S., Mich.

YOUR FARM FOR SALE?

If so give us this information: Location, section, township, county, acres work, waste and woodland, hills, level, rolling, soil, lake, streams, well, cistern, windmill, etc., barns, all outbuildings, painted fences, orchard, fruit, berries, school, roads, distance to market, price, terms, possession. On receipt of this information we will write you what we can do. Our reference, this paper. WALTER C. PIPER, Largest Farm Land Operator in Michigan, 417 Holden Building, Detroit, Michigan.

9 CORDS IN 10 HOURS



BY ONE MAN. IT'S KING OF THE WOODS. Saves money and backsache. Send for FREE catalog No. 8 showing low price and latest improvements. First order gets agency. Folding Sawing Machine Co., 161 West Harrison St., Chicago, Ill.

SHOULD FARMERS RAISE ALL THE CALVES?

It is extremely amusing to hear many people talk about what the farmer ought to do and what he ought not to do, but it is hardly amusing; it is somewhat disgusting to hear otherwise ably edited daily papers discuss and in some instances almost demand that the farmers grow all the calves so that there will be more beef for the people to eat. In the first instance it is amusing because the average man not interested in farming can be excused from talking like this because he has not studied the matter properly, but the man like the editor of a paper who sets himself up as an educator of public opinion ought to know more.

I understand that a certain congressman introduced a bill into Congress, which, if it had passed, would attempt to compel the farmers to not slaughter any calves until they were two years old. I have heard it said that the people in general down at Washington don't have very much respect for the average congressman; he is not the big fellow down there that he is at home, but what would a constituency think of a congressman who would introduce a bill like that?

Many people seem to have no idea of the impracticability of such a question. They get the idea that if there is a shortage of beef or wheat or anything else that the farmer is wholly to blame and he could just as well produce this for them if he wanted to as not and produce it in such an abundance that the prices wouldn't be exorbitant; that if he doesn't do this he is a slacker. Now, the practical farmer knows that such ideas are absolute nonsense. Let the man who advocates such ideas as this stop and think for a moment. It is one thing to advocate the growing of all the calves; it is another thing to find food to grow them on. Where is the food coming from? Just stop and think. Do you know of any hay or corn or any oats or any cattle food of any kind that has been wasted in the last few years, or any food that has been thrown away? Hasn't it all been consumed and are not the prices increasing every year? Does this mean that if the farmer increases the amount of food produced to grow them on? No. The farmer, when prices are good, wants to produce all of everything that he possibly can. It is the only way he has of making a living. If he didn't produce something and sell it at a gain he couldn't live in this modern business world; he would go bankrupt and end in the poor house.

One reason why feeding stuffs are so high at the present time is because we keep so much live stock. There is hardly enough food to go around, consequently, everybody is bidding for this and supply and demand regulate the price. Now suppose we would increase the live stock, our cattle and sheep, by 15% or 25%, where would the food come from to feed them? The

question is nonsensical. Bran used to be worth nothing and today it sells at wholesale for \$40 per ton. Now what makes this increased value of bran? It is because farmers increased their live stock which furnished a market for this waste product of the mills. If they should increase their live stock at the present time it would make a larger demand for these foods and the result would be higher prices. Still this congressman could introduce a bill which would compel the farmers to raise all their calves. He ought to introduce bill No. 2 which would compel them to raise more food to feed them. It would be more sensible to pass a bill to compel the manufacturers of implements to increase the number of plows or the number of cultivators or the woolen mills to increase the number of yards of cloth or the shoe manufacturer to produce a larger number of shoes that the people might be more abundantly supplied with these articles. These manufacturers are going to produce all of these things that they possibly can if the market will take their product at a profit. And so we don't have to force the farmer to produce more dairy products, more beef, more potatoes, more wool or more cotton; he will do all he can if he can do it at a profit. If there is an over-production, prices drop down so there is little or no profit, so of course he slacks up in the production of that particular commodity just the same as any other business man, and when the prices increase he will increase his production. The farmer looks at these things from exactly the same angle as other business men and it is absolutely an imposition on the farmer for a business man to tell him he is a slacker because he doesn't put in as much acreage of a certain product one year as he does another. It is a duty he owes himself and the ones he is to protect to figure out this proposition from a business standpoint, not from a sentimental standpoint.

The foundation of all this dissension and dissatisfaction among the consuming class is the gradual increase in price of food products. America has been such a great producing country compared to its population that food has always been cheap and now as our population gains on production and as the production of the whole world is falling off in proportion to consumption, the only result is the rise in values or prices and the farmer is not to blame for it. It is just simply one of the natural laws of business. As a matter of fact, the people of the whole world and this country especially, must expect that the price of meat and dairy products is bound to increase from year to year as our population increases in proportion to production. This has been the history of all civilized countries since the foundation of the world. The time is bound to come in this country just the same as it has in Asia, just the same as it has in Europe. (Continued on page 21)



Modern Farm Home of Robert B. Pointer, of Dearborn, Michigan, Breeder of Registered Holstein Friesian Cattle. M. B. F. would like its readers to send in Pictures of their Farms and Farm Animals.

THE FIELD PEA—A VERY GOOD MICHIGAN CROP

The field pea sometimes known as the Canadian field pea, deserves even wider use than has been given it, according to a recent Farmers' Bulletin "The Field Pea as a Forage Crop," published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Since the field pea requires a cool temperature during its growth it is well adapted for spring and summer growth in the northern portion of the United States and in the comparatively high altitudes of the Rocky Mountain region, and for winter growth in the lower south. It is useful on the farm as a rotation crop for hay, grain silage or green manure, and the peas may be used in the green state as a vegetable like garden peas.

In the North the field pea may be planted very early in the spring, even in northern Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, in late April or early May.

The rate of seeding varies with the size of the seed of the different varieties, from 1 1-2 bushels for the small seed to 3 1-2 bushels for the largest when broadcasted. When sowed with oats the proportion of peas to oats should be: 2-3 to 12. The field pea is best sown with a grain drill.

Inoculation is necessary for field peas unless they are grown in the ground in which bacteria are already present. In mowing the vines attachments should be used on the mowers which will raise the tangled plants from the ground and prevent clogging the cutter bar. Peas may be threshed in an ordinary grain separator with most of the teeth removed from the concaves and the speed of the cylinder reduced.

The vines should be cut for seed when the pods are fully matured and the peas firm. For hay they are cut earlier, when most of the pods are well formed. When grown for hay, peas are usually planted with oats or some other grain crop.

When intended for use in silos, peas usually are planted with bald barley and cut when the latter is ripe. Pea ensilage has a higher feeding value than corn ensilage, but should be fed in connection with a grain ration. It is especially good for dairy cattle and sheep. When peas are grown for green manure, a large vined sort should be selected. The most favorable time for plowing under is when the lower pods are well filled. It should be remembered that the use of a green manure crop is profitable only in sections where sufficient soil moisture is present to cause the quick decay of the vegetable matter turned under.

Although peas are pastured in some regions many farmers are discontinuing the practice because they consider it wasteful, and are harvesting all or part of their crop and feeding it in a feed lot. The use of alfalfa or sweet clover pasture in connection with the feeding of field peas noticeably increases the rapidity with which animals gain in weight.

The pea weevil is the most serious insect enemy of the field pea. Eggs are laid on the young pod and the larva on hatching bores into the young pea. The insect may be combated by fumigating the seed before planting, or, where it has gained a strong foothold by discontinuing the growing of peas for several years. Powdery mildew and leaf spot or pea-blight are the chief diseases of the field pea. Rotation of crops is the best remedy if the diseases affect a considerable area. Small acres may be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture.

NOTABLE CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING SUCCESSES

The one big idea which has resulted in the formation of practically all farmers' marketing associations has been that of securing more fair and efficient and economical distribution than was afforded under the old system of buying by speculators. If there

has been any one man or group of men that the co-operative idea has been directed against it has been the speculator. Consequently, when we inquire as at present into the methods being followed by co-operative associations in distributing and selling, we are getting right at the heart of co-operative marketing. And by comparing these new methods we can begin to understand the old system, still in vogue in many sections and for many agricultural products, we can begin to understand the "why" of co-operative marketing successes.

The difference between the old and the new is the usual difference—the difference between a system which, like Topsy, "jest grewed" and a system plotted, mapped, laid out in advance, by a business genius. It is the difference between a Brooklyn Bridge built by intuition and one built by science.

Let us take the case of a not very complex organization, that of the American Cranberry Exchange, a federation of three state organizations of cranberry growers and having in all about one thousand farmer members. The purpose of this federation was stated in its articles of incorporation to be that of "securing higher standards of grade and pack and direct shipments from the grower to the jobber; also, for the purpose of advertising, selling and distributing, at actual cost, Cape Cod, New Jersey and Wisconsin cranberries."

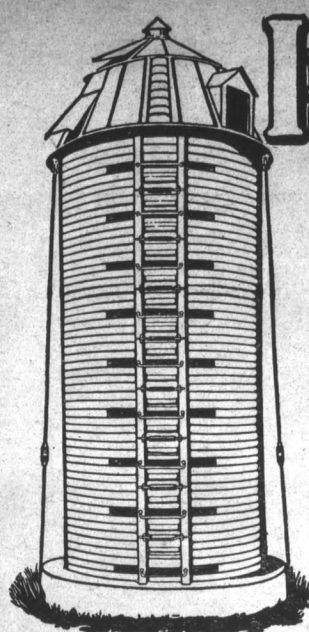
"Direct shipments from the grower to the jobber" was the primary aim. Here are thousands of growers who a few years ago before they federated were blindly selling their cranberries to buyers who would come out to their farms in the buying season, or consigning them to commission men whom they did not know personally. There were abuses on both sides, under that old argument. The growers did not put up a standard, absolutely quality pack in every instance. The speculators or commission men, with superior knowledge of market conditions, would take a bigger profit than was strictly fair for his services, and leave the farmer a very meager profit. Or sometimes through poor management by these market functionaries, not only would the farmers' profits be next to zero, or even less, but the speculator or commission man would also lose money, thus bringing discouragement on the entire industry.

Under such conditions the farmer was pretty much at the mercy of the speculators. He might have his opinion, gleaned from the farm papers, as to what a fair price might be, in view of the total supply and demand—but if he didn't meet the speculator's terms the next grower might. He was working at a disadvantage and largely in the dark.

And it was very plain to him that his crop was being made to support so large a group of middlemen that it naturally couldn't be expected to pay the farmer a very good profit.

How many speculators did it take to call on those thousand growers, in the buying season? That is a hard question to answer. But today they are not called on by any speculators. They have two general sales offices, one in New York and one in Chicago, and these two offices sell their crop direct to jobbers throughout the Eastern and Western territories. Most sales are made in carload lots to large jobbers. Shipments are direct from the growers' packing house to the purchasing jobber, his order having been secured by one of the two sales offices either by mail or through personal call of a sales representative.

Incidentally it may be said of this organization that it is among the younger but highly efficient farmers' marketing associations of the United States, having had its beginning about 1907. Standardized packing and an efficient distribution and selling organization were its first concern. Only in the last year has it put on its first experienced advertising campaign in a single city, and with notable success.—Chilton Gano.



Independent TRIPLE WALL SILO

GUARANTEED

against windstorms, collapsing or bursting. The Independent Triple Wall Silo is constructed of heavy staves insulated from weather by a felt lining and spiral outside wall of end-locked cypress siding. NO HOOPS TO TIGHTEN. Is practically frost-proof. Nailed into one piece. The Independent Triple Wall Silo can be loaded on a wagon and hauled from place to place. INVEST YOUR MONEY IN A PERMANENT SILO.

Turn Soft Corn into Money

Don't let Jack Frost control the corn situation again this year. Place your order now for an Independent Triple Wall Silo. It will better your farm and help you to bigger profits. Sell your high-priced hay.

Feed Ensilage

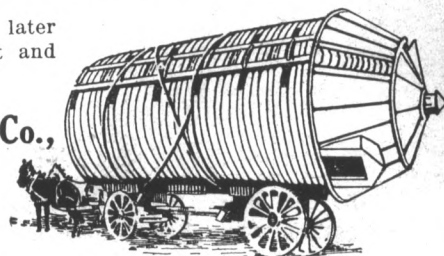
The best and cheapest winter feed for your stock. Forty per cent of the feeding value is in the corn stalk. Save it, and serve it to your stock, after it is converted into green, palatable ensilage. Produces milk and beef at lowest cost.

The INDEPENDENT TRIPLEWALL SILO will save you time, money, labor.

Place your order now for later delivery. Write for booklet and price.

The Independent Silo Co.,
Indianapolis, Indiana

St. Paul, Minn. Kansas City, Mo.



SHOULD FARMERS RAISE ALL THE CALVES?

(Continued from page 20)

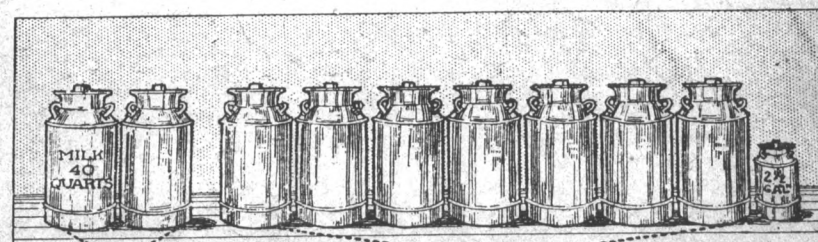
ope, when meat will be so dear that the average man cannot afford to use very much of it. It is because there will be such a demand for the grains necessary for the production of beef and dairy products, by people as human food that in order to produce animals and animal products the cost will be so exorbitant that few can afford to buy. For instance, if we use corn directly as a food for human beings it will support many more people than can be supported if that same amount of corn was used as food for animals and then they consumed the animal or animal products in the form of beef, mutton or pork or dairy products. There is not as big a waste in using what is left for food for the animals as there is in first feeding these products to animals. That is what the old world has discovered, consequently, they eat the grain direct as human food and there isn't a sufficient amount left to produce meat and dairy products in abundance. That is just the way it is going to be in this country. We can't prevent this thing. We may, by economy, hinder it somewhat but it is bound to

come, it is inevitable. Our population is going to be so great and the demand for corn and wheat and barley and rye will be so great for human food that we can only use the by-products as animal food, and we will use just enough of them to balance the ration with the roughage of hay and silage that cannot be used direct as a human food. What animal foods that we can produce in this way can be consumed as food but there will not be enough of them to go around and consequently the prices will be higher. Now a law passed by Congress would have no effect upon things like this. It is absolutely foolish for a business man to talk in this way and it is nothing but foolishness for the editor or congressman. They simply don't know what they are talking about.—Colon C. Little.

We think the Michigan Business Farming the best farm paper we ever had, and think every farmer ought to have it. It certainly is a farmer's friend.—J. B. W., Gladwin county.

The Michigan Business Farming is a dandy paper and the only one for the farmer. I think it ought to have a handle to its name and call it "The Farmer's Friend."—M. A. K., Lansing.

Just one word describes your paper, it is the BEST. Your advice made us money last year and I believe it will the coming year.—F. A. M., Mason county.



20 gallons—cost of fertilizer 72.5 gallons—gain from fertilizing
Annual Increase—92.5 gallons per acre *

Fertilized Pastures, Make More Milk

Add 20% to Your Crops

This Amazing Farm Book Tells How!

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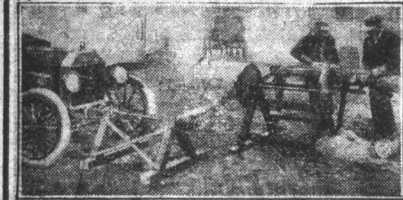
CHATHAM SEED GRADER AND CLEANER

Also get facts about this wonderful Gas Power or Hand Machine. The Chatham Seed Grader and Cleaner. Cleans, grades, separates and sorts any grain seed. Any grain seed, or ranker mixture! All in a single operation! Takes out all dust and trash and weeds seed! Separates the poor, sticky seed—saves big healthy fellows ready for sowing or market. Handles up to 60 bushels per hour! Best going to the elevator or to the neighbor. Thousands in use! No Money in Advance. 30 Days Free Trial! Long Time Credit! No Advance in Price! Send postal for Amazing Free Book and Big Offer R.O.W.

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Ward Work-a-Ford

Gives you a 12 h. p. engine for less than the cost of a 2 h. p. Ford builds the best engine in the world—it will outlast the car—and you might as well save your money and use it to do all your farm work. No wear on tires or transmission. Hooks up in 3 minutes. No permanent attachment to car. Cannot injure car or engine.

Friction Clutch Pulley on end of shaft. Ward Governor, run by belt, gives perfect control. Money back if not satisfied. Ask for circular and special price.

WARD TRACTOR CO., 2066 N. St., Lincoln, Neb.

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30,000 SOLD—FIFTH YEAR

More Comfortable,

Healthful, Convenient

Eliminates the out-house, open vault and cess-pool, which are breeding places for germs. Have a warm, sanitary, odorless toilet right in your house. No going out in cold weather. A boon to invalids. Endorsed by State Boards of Health.

ABSOLUTELY ODORLESS

Put It Anywhere In The House

The germs are killed by a chemical process in water in the container. Empty once a month. No more trouble to empty than ashes. Closet absolutely guaranteed. Guarantee on file in the office of this publication. Ask for catalog and price. ROWE SANITARY MFG. CO., 12402 9th St., Detroit, Mich. Ask about the Ro-San Washstand—Hot and Cold Running Water Without Plumbing.

"TOP-NOTCH" HOLSTEINS

"Milk production is an inherited ability. Good cows must be bred to good pure-bred bulls if progress in dairy is to be made."

Excerpt U. S. Dept. of Agric. Bulletin.

Buy this young bull and give your milk and butter production a push.

King Colantha De Oakdale, No. 102897, Born Nov. 4, 1915.

His sire's nearest Butter 7 days 39.87

Dams average Milk 7 days 37.95

His Dam's nearest Butter 7 days 36.59

Record Milk 7 days 36.00

Butter 30 days 124.19

Milk 30 days 2436.80

(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—41 yr. old.)

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

McPherson Farms Co., Howell, Mich.

TRAPPERS AND SHIPPERS OF RAW FURS

I pay the HIGHEST PRICES on all RAW FURS. I pay Express Charges.

I remit on receipt of goods. I also buy HIDES, TAIL-LOW, PELTS and CRACKLINGS. Hides tanned for Robes and Coats. Write for prices.

G. HAPP, TOLEDO, OHIO, 222 Vance Street.

REFERENCE:—Ohio Savings Bank and Trust Co. Dun or Bradstreet.

BEAN SEED, 100 per cent

pure. Sample and price on request.

Mayer's Plant Nursery, Merrill, Mich.

FORD used tires, special sale \$3, \$4, \$5; we do vulcanizing. West 2380, 377 Dix Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

MILK SITUATION DETROIT AREA IS STILL SERIOUS

(Continued from page 1)

surplus loss between the distributor and the producer. By this arrangement, the producer secures \$3.29 per hundred on all his milk. Personally I believe it was a good arrangement for the farmers, and it is but temporary because even if the cold weather, excessive snows, and coal shortage, should continue into March, I believe that the soft corn that is now being fed will not keep up the flow of milk that long. Also, many farmers are getting short of feed and few are going to buy large quantities of concentrated feeds at present prices.

"As to charge that milk is being sold in Detroit testing less than 3% butter fat. This is a violation of both the State Law and the Ordinance of the city of Detroit. The Detroit Board of Health has had a very efficient Milk Inspection Department and the state forces have kept out of the milk work in Detroit. Recently a number of complaints have come in similar to that of your correspondent, and we are now checking up on the quality of milk being sold in your city.

"Hoping that I have answered your inquiries and assuring you that I appreciate very much any chance to serve you or your paper, I am, Yours very truly, Fred L. Woodworth."

Judging from letters that we have received from prominent milk producers not only within the Detroit area but in other sections as well, there seems to be a wide divergence of opinion as to the wisdom of the commission's method in solving the over-production problem. Altho we are convinced that thousands of Detroit people are going without milk or using it in limited quantities because of the high cost, while at the same time, there is an over-abundance, creates a most delicate situation, and leaves an open loop-hole for federal interference. This possibly may not come, but it would be well for the commission and the producers' association to keep their weather eye wide open and be prepared for such an eventuality. The milk commission is made up of keen, unbiased individuals and no one can accuse them of being indifferent to the farmers' interests. They are undoubtedly following the course which seems to them the wisest, and only time will tell the value of their judgment. The producers meet at Detroit again this week as we go to press. A complete report of this session will be published in next week's issue.

Meantime, the Illinois producers are having their troubles all over again.

"The milk commission of the Illinois state food administration has reach a finding" says the Chicago Tribune, "where in it recommends to State Food Administrator Wheeler that the price of milk remain at 12 cents a quart, but such a storm of protest has broken because of alleged discrimination in favor of the distributing companies that the committee's finding has been withheld from the public and probably will be held in abeyance until passed by National Food Administrator Hoover.

The farmers are hard hit by the committee, which shortly before adjournment had decided to give them \$3.07 for their milk this month, but pare the amount down each month until June, when the price goes to \$1.80. The consumer gains nothing and the distributing companies profit largely.

"A member of the local protested that to declare a boycott would be violating the agreement with State Food Administrator Wheeler.

"We never made an agreement to let John Fitzpatrick of the Borden company set the price we shall get."

"President W. H. Shaw of the Belvidere local declared that the dairymen will skim their milk, make butter, and use the skimmed milk for feeding calves rather than sell at the low price reported to have been decided on by the milk commission. By this method they can realize \$3.75 a hundred for their milk, he asserted.

"The farmers are said to be preparing to appeal to President Wilson and Congress. The annual meeting of the Illinois Milk Producers' Association is to be held this week and resolutions are to be presented which will deplore the action of the state food administration as a blow which will wreck the dairy industry of this section of the country. The convention will be

careful to avoid any reference to the boycott, which it is contended is the action of individuals and not of the association.

"Appeals of the food administration to the farmers to live up to their agreement were met today in the rural districts by the tart reply that the food administration failed to live up to its agreement to have the commission set a price based on cost of production plus a fair profit.

"He promised that a price would be set by January 1," he said. "An extension of time until January 15 was then asked. Now it is February and no price has been set yet. We have been selling milk blindly for two months. Now we must know where we stand.

"The scale set by the commission is said to give the producer, on an average, 5.85 cents per quart. It gives the distributor 6.15 cents for his services and leaves the price to the consumer at 12 cents.

"The farmers hang their cases on the minority report, submitted by Willis J. Kittle, member of the milk commission. Mr. Kittle said the majority of the commission arbitrarily set a price of 12 cents a quart, then accepted in their entirety the distributor's statement of their costs, and ignored testimony offered by producers, giving them what was left. No attempt was made, he declares, to arrive at the actual cost of production, as agreed between the farmers and the food administration, and the price finally arrived at is based on figures taken from "those intolerable years when the farmers were struggling under the domination of the distributors."

"In the meantime reports from Elgin, Belvidere, Union, Indiana and other nearby milk producing centers said some farmers were preparing to sell their herds for slaughter while others are preparing to make butter from the cream and either feed the skim to hogs or sell it to condensed milk companies which make a milk substitute from skim milk and vegetable oils. These farmers say there is no law to force them to continue in a business which they believe is unprofitable."

POTATO GROWERS TO MEET AT EAST LANSING

(Continued from page 1)

arrange his affairs to be present at this meeting. Certainly all growers whether members of the association or not, should have a voice in the determination of these problems which so vitally affect their interests.

Whatever action the association takes on the grading proposition it should be based solely upon the wishes and the interests of the majority of growers.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING wishes that every reader who can do so will attend this gathering. Write and tell us at once whether this will be possible, so that we can arrange headquarters for you at Lansing.

GOOD FARM BUTTER DEPENDS ON RIGHT METHOD

The butter made on the farms of the United States may be materially improved in quality in most cases, if standard methods are employed and greater care is exercised in carrying out the necessary details, says the United States Department of Agriculture. The department gives the following outline of the essential steps to be taken in making good farm butter:

1. Produce clean milk and cream. Cool the cream immediately after it comes from the separator. Clean and sterilize all utensils.
2. Ripen or sour the cream at from 65 degrees to 75 degrees F. until mild-ysour. Always use a thermometer in order to know that the right temperature is reached.
3. Cool the cream to churning temperature or below, and hold at that temperature for at least two hours before churning.
4. Use a churning temperature—usually between 52 degrees and 66 degrees F.—that will require 30 or 40 minutes to obtain butter.
5. Clean and scald the churn, then half fill it with cold water and re-

volve until churn is thoroughly cooled, after which empty the water.

6. Pour the cream into the churn through a strainer.

7. Add butter color—from 20 to 35 drops to a gallon of cream—except late in the spring and early in the summer.

8. Put the cover on tight; revolve the churn several times; stop with bottom up, and remove stopper to permit escape of gas; repeat until no more gas forms.

9. Continue churning until butter granules are formed the size of grains of wheat.

10. Draw off the buttermilk through the hole at the bottom of the churn, using a strainer to catch particles of butter. When the buttermilk has drained out, replace the cork.

11. Prepare twice as much wash water as there is buttermilk, and at about the same temperature. Use the thermometer; do not guess at temperatures. Put one-half the water into the churn with the butter.

12. Replace the cover and revolve the churn rapidly a few times, then draw off the water. Repeat the washing with the remainder of the water.

13. The butter should still be in granular form when the washing is continued.

14. Weigh the butter.

15. Place the butter in the worker and add salt at the rate of three-quarters of an ounce to a pound of butter.

16. Work the butter until the salt is dissolved and evenly distributed. Do not overwork.

17. Pack in any convenient form for home use, or make into 1-pound prints for market, wrapping the butter in white parchment paper and inclosing in a paraffined carton.

18. Clean the churn and all butter-making utensils.

JOBBERS' STATEMENT IS VERY MISLEADING

We quote the following from a statement issued by Mr. Orr, President of the Michigan Bean Jobbers' Association: "I note with interest that the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING in its last issue advised the farmers to dispose of their wet beans, having concluded apparently that the \$8 a bushel price is not in sight or to be realized before this class of stock should be moved."

The following quotation from a trade letter sent out by one of the large Michigan jobbers is also of interest in this connection: "It is interesting to note that the farm journal which has made the strongest statements to the farmers in trying to convince them that they should hold their beans for \$8 per bu. (\$13.35 per hd.), did, in their last issue, tell the farmers to sell their off-grade beans now, and not to take any further chances on the market."

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING has not at any time advised its readers to hold wet beans. As the real condition of the stock in this state became more and more apparent we issued a timely warning to our readers, not to hold wet stock until warmer weather, as we found from letters coming here that some of them were planning on doing this. We believe that beans will be worth a great deal more than \$8.00 per bushel before another crop comes on the market, but we also realize that much of the stock this year will not keep after warmer weather comes. Those who have beans which may be held until later will undoubtedly get better prices than now prevail; at the same time it would be unwise to hold wet stock until warmer weather as it would undoubtedly become an entire loss.

Such dope as was handed out by the jobbing concern quoted above can have but one effect. Buyers will hold off or refuse to pay any higher price for beans, after having been told by one of the largest jobbers in the state that Michigan growers were going to be compelled to get rid of their beans or have them spoil on their hands. Such stuff as this going broadcast over the country is not good for Michigan bean growers.

We are wondering what price the Michigan elevator men will put on seed beans this year. Will they sell them at \$8.00 or will they be asking anywhere from \$12 to \$14 per bushel? Time will tell, but at present we have our own opinion.

County Crop Reports

INGHAM (North)—The coldest winter we can remember of. Some farmers getting up logs to build in the spring. Cattle looking good. Nothing moving in the grain line.—W. B., Williamston, Jan. 30.

ISABELLA (Southwest)—Farmers are hauling gravel, cutting wood and doing chores. Ground is frozen from three to four feet in this locality. Farmers are not selling much owing to the condition of the roads and the prices. It is common talk here that there will not be many potatoes planted next spring unless the government guarantees a price for the crop. The potato situation is worse than it was 30 days ago. The buyers will not take the seconds at any price and only give 60c for firsts. Does this look right when we all know there are people in the large cities who are going hungry for the want of potatoes? The way the M. B. F. hits the target in the Prof. Wald case certainly shows that there is a man behind the gun who knows how to shoot straight. Give us some more. May be the farmers will wake up one of these days and organize stronger than ever and then they will have some show of coming out on top of the heap.—W. D. T., Blanchard, Jan. 30.

OSCEOLA (North)—Bean threshers are still here. Beans around here went from 3 to 4 bu. per acre.—W. W. A., Crystal Valley, Jan. 26.

MISSAUKEE (West Central)—Farmers are getting wood and doing chores. One of our farmers took a load of potatoes to Lake City recently and received \$1 per cwt. Beans too poor to sell.—H. E. N., Cutcheon, Jan. 26.

GENESEE (Southeast)—Some farmers are getting up wood but the majority are attending to their chores only. Farmers are selling cattle and hogs quite steadily. Hogs in the majority of cases are light and unfinished. Hay is not moving very lively. Beans and other grains will move along when the roads get in better condition. Farmers are not buying at this time. The farmers around Flint are helping considerably to relieve the fuel shortage there by supplying hundreds of cords of wood.—C. W. S., Fenton, Jan. 31.

WEXFORD (South Central)—Some of the farmers here are buying hay to carry their stock through the winter; price is around \$27. No potatoes being sold. Threshed our beans with a flail recently; 5 acres yielded 28 bus, which will pick 25 per cent. They are fairly dry. I think many farmers made a mistake in threshing early, better to have left them to dry out over a scaffold.—A. A. H., Boon, January 28.

PRESQUE ISLE (Central)—We are having another blizzard, and consequently there is nothing moving. Hay piled up beside the track but no cars to move it.—D. D. S., Millersburg, Jan. 28.

KALKASKA (Southwest)—Most of the farmers are buying hay and grain. They are not selling potatoes. The snow is three feet deep on the level.—R. E. B., South Boardman, Jan. 27.

MANISTEE (Northwest)—Hand-pick beans is the order of the day with the farmers in this part of the county. At the institute here last week some of the state speakers tried to make us believe that we were getting better prices on account of the grading. The talk did not set well with those farmers who have had potatoes to sell. The market is dead here now. Beans sell at \$10.50 per cwt. if hand-picked. Hay and oats getting higher and scarcer all the time. About all the cattle that the farmers care to dispose of have been sold.—C. H. S., Bear Lake, Jan. 27.

CHEBOYGAN (South)—Business is at a standstill on account of the deep snow. We are not much affected by the coal shortage on account of there being lots of wood here. A few farmers are hauling gravel for the roads. Mr. J. B. McMurty has been hired to take the place of C. H. Knopf, county agent, who has joined the U. S. service. Hay is selling at \$25; oats at \$1.00; corn, \$2.40 per bu.; cracked corn, \$4.50 per cwt. No potatoes moving at present.—Wolverine, Jan. 29.

HURON (Northwest)—Bean threshing has been tied up on account of the bad storms. There is not much grain going to market. Hogs are scarce and there are none to sell.—G. W., Elkton, Jan. 26.

MONROE (West Central)—Wheat has a good covering of snow. The milk business is in a bad way; some of the farmers are selling their cows. Feed is high and if we cannot get what is right for milk we had better sell, for there is a lot of work connected with the dairy business.—W. H. L., Dundee, Jan. 29.

ST. CLAIR (Southeast)—Farmers are drawing hay, wood, piles, logs and all kinds of timber to market. Not holding anything to speak of for higher prices, as there is not much to sell. Help is very scarce this winter and \$1 for cutting 16-inch wood is being offered, and \$2 for 4-foot wood, and can't get much help at that. People in the small and large places all want wood but it is next to impossible to get help to cut it. If you want to work come to Smith's Creek.—I. J. Jr., Smith's Creek, Jan. 28.

ST. JOSEPH (Northeast)—Farmers are cutting some wood when the weather will permit. Not much stock moving; the railroad will not give cars now.—W. W., Colon, Jan. 28.

INGHAM (West Central)—Some wood being hauled to town to help out the coal situation. Hay very scarce and high, \$20 at the barn and going higher. Many have reduced their herds to save buying feed. There is a scarcity of help to cut wood; paying one dollar per cord for cutting 16-inch wood and can not get men at that price.—C. I. M., Mason, Jan. 21.

BRANCH (Southwest)—Farmers are doing chores and cutting wood. Weather cold and stormy. Farmers are selling no grain to speak of. Hay seems to be scarce and is worth around \$25 per ton. No stock being fed in this locality. Not one farmer in ten has any corn.—D. M. H., Bronson, Jan. 28.

LAKE (Northeast)—Farmers are doing chores and cutting wood. About 16 inches of snow on the level. No potatoes moving. Beans all threshed, average 4 bu. to the acre. Not much hay for sale here.—E. G. D., Luther, Jan. 25.

MASON (Southwest)—Farmers are not doing much except chores and cutting wood. The "Beech Woods," formerly owned by the late Thos. Davies, is being converted into lumber and wood.—B. M., Ludington, Jan. 31.

GRAND TRAVERSE (Southwest)—The farmers are only doing their chores and getting up wood, which is a big job if they have to go far for it. Not much being sold at present, shortage of cars and poor roads the cause. Potatoes are selling at \$1.10 to \$1.20 per cwt.—R. E. O., Buckley, Jan. 26.

OGEMAW (Southwest)—Weather cold with lots of snow. Not much produce being sold except hay and wood. Several horse buyers have been here looking for horses, but they are not getting many as the prices are too low. Cows are selling well. Potatoes at a standstill.—W. N., West Branch, Jan. 29.

CASS (Northwest)—The weather here has been the coldest known in years. Many potatoes reported frozen in the cellars, and some are fearful that the conditions may be the same in the pits. Most stock is wintering in fair condition. Many will have to buy feed before the end of February and it will be difficult to find at any price. Farmers cutting ice and fuel, but very little farm produce selling.—M. R. P., Dowagiac, Jan. 25.

SAGINAW (Northwest)—The farmers are hauling tile, cutting wood, doing chores and shoveling snow. Farmers are selling a few beans and some hay. The old officers of the co-operative creamery were all re-elected and the year reported to have been a good one.—J. A. M., Hemlock, Jan. 29.

LENAWEE (Southeast)—Farmers can do little but chores here now on account of bad weather. A load of hogs was shipped from here this week, price \$16. It was the first load shipped from this market in six months.—J. F. C., Palmyria, Jan. 26.

MIDLAND (Southeast)—Quite a lot of tile has been purchased here by the farmers this winter. Coal is a scarce article now.—J. H. M., Hemlock, Jan. 26.

OSCODA (West)—Clover seed as never a better crop. H. D. Hager had 22 bus. from 10 acres, all No. 1 seed; J. K. Stark had his clover seed in a stack and it being frozen only had 9 bus., but he will thresh the straw again as about half the seed was left in the straw. The rest of the farmers will not hull theirs until in the spring.—M. E. C., Luzerne, Jan. 28.

LAPEER (Southeast)—Farmers are making good use of the fine sleighing to get up their summer's wood. We will have a hard time the coming summer to find help. Help in all probability will cost us around \$50 per month and feed. There were several silos put up in this vicinity this summer.—C. A. B., Inlay City, Feb. 2.

ARENAC (East)—About all there is to say this week is that it is very cold. The farmers are cutting wood. Hay is scarce and high. Not much grain moving; roads too bad.—M. B. R., Twining, Feb. 2.

ALLEGAN (Southeast)—Everything at a standstill on account of the very bad weather. Farmers cutting a little wood and shoveling snow.—W. F., Otsego, Feb. 2.

IOSCO (Southeast)—The weather being so cold there is not much doing. A little hay and straw being sold, which is bringing a good price. The wet bean market is in bad condition, nobody to handle them, and warmer weather expected will mean a big loss to many here. The most of the potatoes raised around here were sold last fall, but there are a few farmers who did not sell and many of those carried over have been frozen. I hear some of my neighbors say that the Michigan Business Farming is the greatest farm paper published.—A. B. L., Tawas City, Feb. 2.

TUSCOLA (Northeast)—Twenty-nine below zero on Feb. 1. Some beans are being sold, also oats and hay. Several carloads of horses have been shipped from here. Some wood is being cut and hauled to town.—S. S., Cass City, Feb. 1.

MECOSTA (Southeast)—Scarcely any produce is moving. A few farmers are cutting and selling wood, but not many have the timber, as everything was cut in the timber days. A good many farmers have been pulling their pine stumps burned them in piles to get rid of them, and they have been buying coal. There are plenty of stumps that are not pulled within reach of every farmer. Farmers should not burn these stumps as the most farms have waste places where they can be dumped and they will not decay for years, and as long as they last they are the best kind of fuel.—F. M. E., Millbrook, Jan. 30.

BENZIE (Southwest)—Farmers doing chores, getting up a little wood. Farmers here are selling nothing except once in a while a hog or a beef. They are holding potatoes on account of grading system, and for higher prices. They are also holding beans.—F. M., Elberta, Jan. 31.

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OTTAWA (Northeast)—The farmers are not doing much now, only necessary chores. Nearly everybody seems to have plenty of hay, but corn is scarce, have none only what is shipped in.—J. P., Coopersville Feb. 1.

BAY (West)—Weather has been extremely cold with lots of snow. Farmers here are not satisfied with \$9 per ton for sugar beets, and are holding for a higher price. They can not be grown for less than \$10 and come out even. Farmers are harvesting ice, husking corn and doing chores. Not much selling at this date. A car load of horses are being bought at prices from \$125 to \$135 for heavy young sound horses. The farmers are doing a good deal of tiling here. I tiled 30 acres last fall and doubled the crop on the piece.—G. G., Linwood, Feb. 2.

LAPEER (West Central)—The weather still continues very cold. There is a great deal of corn in the fields and seed corn is hard to get. Clover seed is also scarce and the price is high. The elevators do not seem inclined to have a supply of feeds such as bran, cottonseed, middlings and corn on hand. No produce moving but some livestock is selling at good prices.—O. E. P., Lapeer, Feb. 2.

MONTCALM (Southwest)—We have plenty of snow in this territory. Hay is moving slow on account of the roads. Potatoes are moving slow on account of the shortage of cars and a large amount is being fed to cattle, as many farmers make the remark that they would like to feed all of them to cut off the profit of the middleman. A small amount of produce is being held for higher prices.—W. L., Greenville, Feb. 1.

SAGINAW (Northwest)—Weather continues very cold. Farmers are feeding as much corn as possible for it will spoil when warm weather comes. Pretty hard to get corn out of the field now, but it has to be done. Many farmers are looking for hay and corn fodder but it seems to be very scarce.—M. S. G., Hemlock, February 1.

CASS (Northwest)—Farmers are cutting and hauling logs and wood. Some new buildings will be built here this coming spring to replace ones that were destroyed by fire last summer. The price of grain going up. Farmers are hauling what they have left.—W. H. A., Dowagiac, Feb. 2.

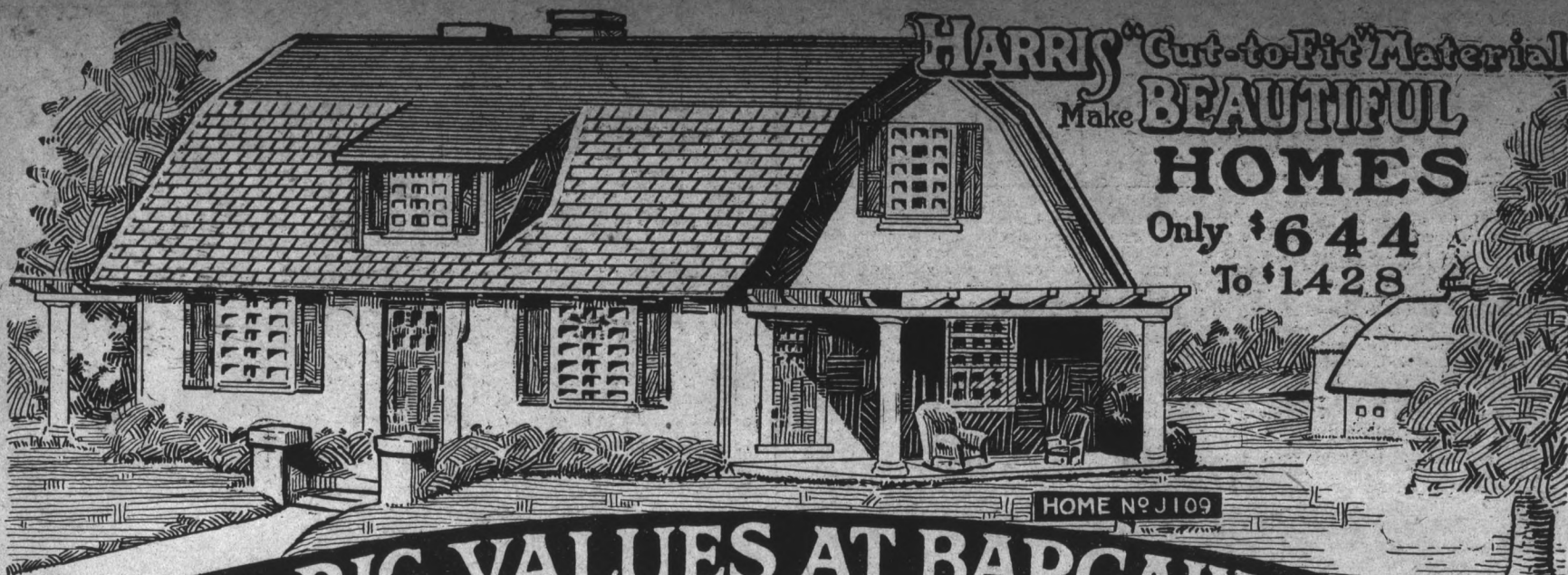
MACOMB (Northwest)—Farmers not doing much but chores, drawing in corn stalks and cutting wood. A few loads of hay sold last week. Farmers not selling much or buying much. A few farmers have hired year men, and others will wonder where they are going to get help.—H. D., Almont, Feb. 2.

OSCEOLA (Northeast)—Lots of potatoes are freezing in the cellars. They might as well freeze as to have to sell them the way they do. The writer has not been able to get any sugar for the past six weeks. Farmers are not selling anything except hay, which sells readily at \$20. Papers are all advocating more crops. I don't think the farmers will "bite" like they did last year.—W. A. S., Marion, Jan. 31.

NEWAYGO (Northeast)—It continues cold and many cellars and potato pits have been visited by Jack Frost. Feed and hay in good demand at a very high price, hay \$22, feed \$4.05 per cwt.—F. S., Big Rapids, Feb. 1.

SANILAC (Central)—Weather continues very cold. Farmers are having a hard struggle to get fuel, and some of them are going to the swamps for old pine stumps, and some are getting out poplar poles.—A. B., Sandusky, Jan. 25.

CHEBOYGAN (South)—Everyone here likes the M. B. F. They can't help but like the best farmers' paper in Michigan. Weather cold with lots of snow. Nothing moving at present.—C. W. T., Wolverine.



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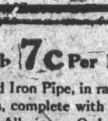
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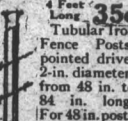
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