

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"



# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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## SUGAR MANUFACTURERS AGREE TO \$10 BEETS

**Organized Growers' Committee Wins Great  
Victory for Michigan Beet Industry  
and Pave Way for Biggest and  
Best Year in its History**

Victory for the sugar beet growers! At a conference held this week at Bay City between the sugar manufacturers and State Food Administrator Prescott, W. H. Wallace, manager of the Michigan Sugar Company, urged the factory managers present to grant the growers' demands for \$10 beets. And such action was forthwith unanimously taken. To be specific, the manufacturers did not concede exactly what the growers had asked for, viz., a \$10 minimum, with an advance of \$1 per ton for each cent per pound that sugar might advance over its present wholesale price. What the manufacturers did agree to do was to pay a \$10 minimum and a sliding scale beginning at 9 cent sugar, at the New York market.

At first the growers' committee was not prepared to accept the manufacturers' substitute, but after an all day session at Lansing on Wednesday, finally agreed to do so. Reporting the action of the committee, to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Chairman John C. Ketcham, said:

"The beet growers' committee accept the terms offered by the sugar managers, and urges increased acreage of beets. Altho the manufacturers did not grant all the growers' demands, they did concede the \$10 minimum price which was the main point in dispute, and showed a fine spirit of patriotism in thus helping to meet the world demand for more sugar. The committee urges the growers to make every effort possible to increase their acreage. With a good season, and a profitable price, the growers ought to have one of their best years."

Thus ends the annual, and let us hope, the last controversy between growers and manufacturers upon the price of sugar beets. The growers have conducted a clean campaign from start to finish. Their demands have been absolutely just, and they have made every reasonable effort to compromise with the manufacturers. The committee, consisting of John C. Ketcham of Hastings; A. B. Cook, Owosso; L. W. Oviatt, Bay City; Fred Gosen, Saginaw; R. P. Reavy, Caro; C. H. Bramble, Lansing; Jas. N. McBride, Burton, handled the entire proposition, we believe, in a very fair and capable manner and should have a large part of the credit for the concessions that have been made.

The way has now been opened for rapid and systematic development of Michigan's beet growing

industry. \$10 beets assures a fair profit to growers; a fair profit assures an increased acreage; and an increased acreage means larger profits for the manufacturers, who will learn from experience that it pays in actual dividends to see that the farmers receive not only this year but in future years, a profitable price for their product.

It is fortunate that the differences between growers and manufacturers have been settled with so little of the bitterness which usually characterizes such contests. The manufacturers have been wise in refusing to let the issue run its logical course, and the growers' committee have likewise shown good judgment in receding from a stand which if maintained indefinitely despite the manufacturers' concessions, might easily have been construed as arbitrary or unpatriotic.

There is a world shortage of sugar. A bumper crop of beets in Michigan this year may be the only thing that will prevent actual want. The growers now have the greatest incentive in their history to increase production and let us hope that they will see their duty clearly and plant a huge acreage. They can afford to take bigger chances this year, for the stakes are larger. Let's make 1918 a year to remember and be proud of in the history of Michigan's beet growing industry.

## REPORT YOUR POTATO HOLDINGS

Hundreds of farmers have responded to our plea for estimates of the potato holdings still in their own or neighbor's hands. These reports contain some unexpected and astounding information, but they are not complete. We urge every reader of this paper to go to the telephone at once and find out from his neighbors what their holdings are, not necessarily in bushels, but the percentage of their crop, and particularly as compared with the 1916 crop. Report, PLEASE, the following:

1. What percentage of the 1917 crop remains on hand in your vicinity.
2. How does that percentage compare with the holdings a year ago?
3. How did the total yield of your vicinity compare with that a year ago?
4. What percentage of potatoes still in pit and cellar have been damaged by frost?
5. What prices are being paid? What percentage run No. 2? Are dealers buying No. 2 grade? Are farmers feeding any potatoes to stock?
6. WHAT DO FARMERS SAY ABOUT THEIR NEXT SEASON'S ACREAGE? Will it be more or less and WHY?

Let us have this information by RETURN MAIL. If you can't get the FACTS, give your OPINION. Be one of the five hundred farmers to help us compile this report on potato holdings, and we'll tell you within the next ten days whether there's a surplus or under production, whether the price will go lower or higher, and whether you ought to sell at once at unprofitable prices or wait a little later. It depends absolutely upon our readers whether or not we can make this survey complete and reliable.

## FOOD ADMINISTRATION EXPLAINS BEAN DEAL

**Denies M. B. F. Charge That Responsibility for  
Delay in Providing Facilities for Canning  
Michigan Wet Beans, Lies With  
Food Administration**

Attention: Governor Sleeper, State Food Administrator Prescott, Warden Frensdorf.

Why haven't steps been taken to provide drying and canning facilities for taking care of Michigan's huge crop of wet beans? Don't all answer at once, please. The U. S. Food Administration says "politics" are to blame. What does that mean? Can any of you gentlemen answer? If warm weather comes on and a million bushels of Michigan beans go to rot, we ought to have a more substantial excuse than "politics" on which to base an alibi.

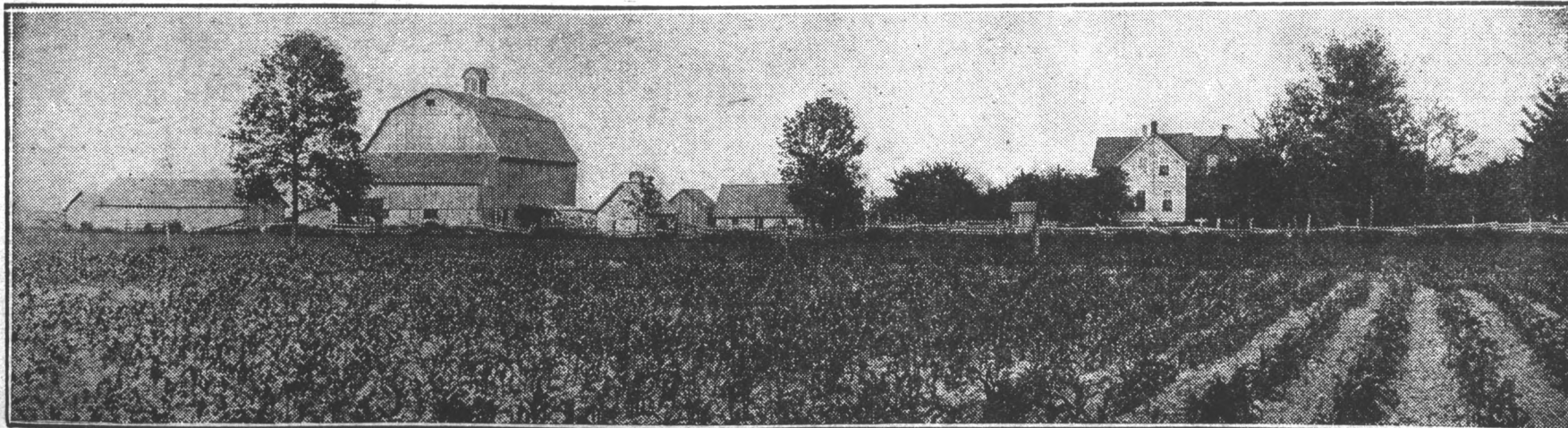
Is Mr. Kimball of the Food Administration right or wrong when he writes us as follows:

"We note one particular point in controversy between the State War Board and the farmers' good friend, Ed. Frensdorf of the Michigan State Prison. We would like to make this statement and would appreciate it if you would publish same in your paper.

"The United States Food Administration appreciated from intimate knowledge the situation regarding wet stock in Michigan long before we received any application from the Department of Agriculture. We at once advised all canners in the States of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York, and even states further away that although the tin plate situation had caused a restriction in the canning of dry beans, as a conservation measure, we would gladly issue special permits to can any wet beans that were laying in Michigan and York state. We went further than that and wrote a letter to every canner who could possibly can this wet stock and told him that it would be a distinctly patriotic, as well as a food conservation measure, if they would confine their efforts entirely to this wet stock. This action was taken several weeks prior to the time when a release was made allowing canners to pack 25 per cent of their indicated pack of dried beans.

"Regarding the State Prison controversy, as soon as we had heard from Mr. Frensdorf that there was a possibility of the prison canning wet stock, we advised him that we would very gladly issue special permits to do business. We also wrote Governor Sleeper, Banking Commissioner Merrick, and Food Administrator Prescott, asking them for their co-operation and assistance in securing action at Lansing. We followed this up again this week in special detail, and therefore, it seems unfair that in some of your issues namely that of December 22nd, you should indicate that the United States Food Administration was negligent in its duty, as the whole trouble in this particular instance lies entirely with the political situation within the State of Michigan."

—U. S. Food Administration, By K. P. Kimball.



Panoramic View of the Howard Farm near Bad Axe. Mr. Clark is one of the Thousands of "Thumb" Farmers who read M. B. F. with Profit.

Farmers' Week, M. A. C. March 4-8; Potato meeting, March 7-8. Let's make it a Get-together for ALL the Farmers!



# CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

## MICHIGAN STATE BRIEFS

**Hart**—A drive in the interests of small fruit growing and more and better dairy herds has been instituted by County Agricultural Agent B. F. Beach of Oceana county. Mr. Beach is convinced that the soil and climatic conditions of Oceana county make that particular part of the state ideal for the two branches of agriculture mentioned. He is urging the farmers to concentrate on small fruit raising or dairying, instead of diversified farming, or specializing in some other branch of farming for which the county is not so well suited. Mr. Beach is making an effort to get farmers together and affect some kind of an organization for the small fruit and dairying interests. He emphasizes the necessity of better marketing conditions for the small fruit farmer, and hopes to accomplish something tangible in this direction during the year through organization.

**Corunna**—The Shiawassee County agricultural agent has a new method of treating wet beans. He recommends mixing the beans with about an equal amount of oats. If the moisture in the beans cause the oats to become musty they should be separated with a fanning mill and mixed with dry oats again. This method has proved very satisfactory where tested.

**Owosso**—A. B. Cook, federal farm labor director for Michigan, is authority for the statement that there is not an appalling shortage of help in the state at present, as the public has been generally led to believe. Mr. Cook admits, however, that there is bound to be an acute shortage as soon as spring opens up, and counsels the farmers of the state to "order their farm help early." "Men can be lined up now for the spring rush," says Mr. Cook. "The farmers who neglect to stir themselves until the last moment may find the getting befraught with difficulties."

**Rogers City**—The Fred Fisch Brewery will make beer no longer. It will soon be the home of the Koepsell Brothers Creamery Company, and instead of manufacturing the foamy brew, will be turning out a high-grade of creamery butter. The brewery building was purchased last week by Martin and Theodore Koepsell, of Abbotsford, Wis. The present engine equipment of the brewery will be utilized by the creamery, it only being necessary to purchase equipment other than the power plant.

**Blissfield**—Announcement that a new elevator is to be built by the Blissfield Co-Operative Company was made at the annual meeting last week. The annual report showed that the company shipped stock amounting to \$262,835.80 during 1917. The profits for the last year and a half were \$2,574.75. After all debts have been paid, they have on hand \$1,552.75. The sum of \$5,000 was subscribed at the meeting for the purpose of constructing an elevator.

**Coopersville**—Ottawa county is to have a second agricultural agent. B. O. Hagerman, a brother of D. L. Hagerman, the present county agent will assume the duties of assistant agriculturalist in a short time. The assistant county agent will devote a large part of his time to boys' club work, relieving the county agent of this work and permitting him to give his entire attention to the problems affecting the farmers of the county.

**Caro**—County Agent McVittie of Tuscola is making a campaign for seed corn testing. He is registering all farmers who have seed corn or seed beans for sale. Mr. McVittie has issued a statement warning farmers of the county against planting wet beans.

**Charlotte**—A total of \$381,040.31 was received during 1917 by the Square Deal Co-Operative association by the sale of cattle, hogs, sheep and calves for its members, according to the annual report made public at a meeting last week. The report shows the number of farm animals shipped to have been 28,312, as follows: Cattle shipped, 2502; hogs shipped, 12928; sheep shipped, 11461; veals shipped, 1421. Forrest King of Carmel was elected president.

**Charlotte**—Farmers of Eaton county found their market for milk suddenly gone when the Dry Milk company was forced to shut down several weeks ago on account of the coal shortage. The plant finally resumed operation last week after two of the company's officials had gone on a coal hunt, one bringing back two cars from the Illinois fields.

**Ann Arbor**—Washtenaw county farmers have formed a co-operative selling association to handle livestock and other produce. They will ship direct to Detroit in car lots instead of working through small members. The organization started with 40 members.

**Laingsburg**—The Union Co-operative Shipping association has completed a successful year as shown by the annual report of the organization

just made public. The first shipment of livestock was made May 7, 1917, and from that date until Jan. 1, 1918, 3,104 hogs, 2,591 sheep, 444 head of cattle and 402 veal calves have been shipped. The weight was 1,149,380 and brought \$147,372.50. The largest shipment was Jan. 23, when 10 decks were shipped to Buffalo, 7½ of which were loaded at Laingsburg and the rest at Bennington and Bath, where shipping stations are maintained. The present membership of the association is 300. Theo Jorae heads the association as president.

## WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE TRACTOR ?

In your issue of January 26th you request those of us who have tractors to tell you our experience etc. Well, I happen to be one of those so-called tractor farmers and after reading your appeal feel it my duty to state my experience to date.

Last spring I bought from the Tractor Company, an attachment to convert my old Ford into a tractor. My Ford was worth about \$100.00 and the attachment cost me \$125.00 f.o.b. Detroit, so my tractor cost me less than \$250.00. I took the body completely off and mounted a spring seat. When I first got the tractor of course it used gasoline, and I found it took from 12 to 13 gallons per day, about the same as it did running all day on the road as an auto. For some time I had had in mind a way by which I could make a Ford use kerosene, but had never taken time to try it out, however after getting the tractor I decided the first rainy day that I would go to experimenting on it. Well, I did not have to wait long last spring for a rainy day. The outcome was that my idea was a success and since then 8 to 9 gallons of kerosene does the same work as 12 to 13 gallons of gasoline, and my home-made carburetor attachment cost me less than \$2.00.

I find the tractor equal to three good horses, or four common ones. I can pull a 14 inch plow thru the stiffest of sod and two 12-inch bottoms through stubble ground; also a 4-section spring-tooth harrow. I have not tried it on any other tools.

At first I had considerable trouble from the motor heating, however I overcame that by better radiation. I would advise any one in buying one of these attachments to make sure the company guar-

### SAVED !

"Oh, Joy," says the Conklin Enterprise, "Michigan potatoes are saved. That baffling problem of saving Michigan's enormous crop of tubers has been solved. Hot corn pones a la potato; delicious potato muffins, nutritious potato soups, body building potato bread tempting potato pancakes, (wont Hoover smile when he reads this) potato doughnuts, potato pie, etc. This was sure one big potato meeting, quite a Wald meeting, some two hundred farm people were present, making it by far the largest farm rally ever held in Northeastern Ottawa, etc."

So you see farmer friends it's no use to worry about grades, markets, prices or consumption for plain and fancy dishes will solve the potato problem.

anteeing it not to heat. Of course a regular tractor is better than one of these make-shift attachments, but some of us have to buy according to our pocketbooks, and for the size of my pocket-book I have found my investment a very good one.

My repair bills have been light, in fact I do not find any more wear on the motor and gearing than I did when running it as an auto.

Now is the time my tractor is saving me the most money. It is not eating my \$20 hay or 80c oats, and I now have only one team.—R. R. M., Ingham County.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The above is the first of a series of letters from honest-to-God farmers, telling their experiences with tractors and tractor attachments. Others will be published in succeeding issues. We invite every farmer who has owned a tractor to contribute a story to the column. Send along a photograph if you have one, to illustrate your article.]

## AT WHAT PRICE DO YOU FIGURE YOUR HAY AND SILAGE FEED?

In reply to your question in the issue of Jan. 26th in regard to the charge of hay and silage in the dairy cow's ration, will state that we figure them in at market price less the cost of marketing.

It is our belief that there is always a market for these products, and that the only gain in feeding them on the farm is the expense of marketing, inasmuch as the value of the manure produced is stated in the cost of the milk production.—A. L. Van Sickle & Sons, Walnut Run Farms, Maple Rapids.

## CENTRAL MICHIGAN SHORTHORN BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION IS ALIVE

Our association was organized five years ago and held its sixth annual meeting January 29th at Greenville. The object of the association is to assist small breeders to dispose of their surplus stock at a profit. Our members are mostly owners of small herds. Before organizing they had no market for their surplus except to the local stock buyer at prevailing canner prices, and bulls bought at long prices from the larger dealers went to bolona prices when they could be used no longer. It was a matter of changing these conditions or stopping the breeding of pure breds with the most of us.

The State Shorthorn Association was the deadest thing on the continent. You know when most things die they smell badly for a while and then dry out. Well, the State Ass'n. had gotten into the dry stage. The bunch of large dealers in control of it were satisfied with conditions. They were selling their surplus to the small breeders and M. A. C. referred inquiries to them, and it was impossible to interest them in any movement for the betterment of the small breeder.

We finally decided that it was up to us to do something for ourselves. We worked out our plan, got in touch with all breeders in the county and called a meeting. Nine breeders came and we organized the Central Michigan Shorthorn Breeders' Association. The name was the biggest part of it. "Montcalm County and adjoining territory" was our place of business. All out doors. The second year we were obliged to restrict our membership to "Montcalm and adjoining counties" because of becoming too scattered and cumbersome and too much business to be managed by the then facilities. We are now considering a further restriction of territory, or the opening of the Ass'n. to general membership and having a man put his whole time to the business.

Five years ago there were 16 owners of Shorthorns in Montcalm county. Last year the census showed 75. This year 122, and the secretary has a list of 32 farmers desiring to buy and start herds. For seven years before organizing one member had kept up his little herd, with no other pure shorthorn nearer than 9 miles from him. Today there are 18 Shorthorn bulls in service within that distance of this member. Not a single animal desirable for breeding purposes, owned by a member, has been sent to the butcher since organization. We receive hundreds of inquiries for breeding stock that we cannot supply every year, and have shipped into nearly every county of the state. Four-fifths of our sales are made on description to men at a distance and in only one case has there been expression of dissatisfaction. Every man who has joined our association is still a member except four, three having died. We doubt if any other organization can show such a record. We have not solicited new members for three years, but take those who ask to come in any our membership is increasing. \* \*

We soon learned that the general farmers of Michigan were demanding a cow that would pay expenses at the pail and produce beef at a profit, the dual or general purpose sort—a milk-beef cow. Our members went out and bought some of the strongest milk bred bulls to be had in Ohio, N. Y., Penn. and Vermont. The product of these animals is now being offered by the Ass'n and we have every assurance that this stock will give satisfactory results to the men who buy them. We found that in nearly every community of the state were men sore on the breed and disappointed in their shorthorn experience because of failure to get milk in paying quantity. This was because they had in most cases used Scotch bred beef bulls or Scotch topped stuff that had had the milking ability beefed out of it. No man has any right to expect milk from a cow with 20 generations of the most careful selection and breeding for beef only behind her. He may as well expect a two-minute trotter from a Belgian draft stallion. The hardest thing the breed has had to contend against is the sale of beef bred bulls, Scotch, milkless strains, for milking or dual purpose shorthorns. Ninety per cent of such sales have brought disappointment to the general farmer who has used them. The great mass of Michigan farmers are general farmers, and want a general purpose cow. They are not fixed to tie up to a strictly dairy or beef proposition. I have

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## WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER

President Wilson has replied to the peace offers of Count Hertling, premier of Germany, and Count Czernin, the Austrian premier. He finds the offer of Austria to have been couched in the friendliest of language, and believes that it expresses a sincere desire for peace as well as opening up a practical avenue to attain peace. But Germany's peace offer is as vague and misleading as all her other utterances upon peace, and the President clearly shows why this country can give her few concessions only scant consideration.

"This war," said the President, "had its roots in the disregard of the rights of small nations and of nationalities which lacked the union and the force to make good their claim to determine their own allegiances and their own forms of political life. Covenants must now be entered into which will render such things impossible for the future; and these covenants must be backed by the united force of all the nations that love justice and are willing to maintain it at any cost."

In Germany's peace discussions, she has repeatedly ignored the basic causes of this war, and when she claims that the territorial boundaries and indemnities for France, Belgium and Poland, can be settled only according to the wishes of the nations immediately concerned, she wholly disregards the economic conditions involved which are of international concern.

"After all, the test of whether it is possible for either government to go any further in this comparison of views is simple and obvious. The principles to be applied are these:

"First, that each part of the final settlement must be based upon the essential justice of that particular case and upon such adjustments as are likely to bring a peace that could be permanent.

"Second, that peoples and provinces are not to be bartered about from sovereignty to sovereignty as if they were mere chattels and pawns in a game, even the great game, now forever discredited, of the balance of power; but that,

"Third, every territorial settlement involved in this war must be made in the interest and for the benefit of the populations concerned, and not as a part of any mere adjustment or compromise of claims amongst rival states; and,

"Fourth, that all well defined national aspirations shall be accorded the utmost satisfaction that can be accorded them without introducing new or perpetuating old methods of discord and antagonism that would be likely, in time, to break the peace of Europe and consequently of the world.

"I should not be a true spokesman of the people of the United States if I did not say once more that we can never turn back from a course chosen on principle.

"I have spoken thus so that the whole world may know the true spirit of America—that men everywhere may know that our passion for justice and for self-government is no mere passion of words, that passion which, once set in action must be satisfied. The power of the United States is a menace to no nation or people. It will never be used in aggression or for the aggrandizement of any selfish interest of our own. It springs out of freedom and is of the service of freedom."

\* \* \*

The sinking of the U. S. troopship, the Tuscania, by a German submarine off the Irish coast with a loss of 150 soldiers, has stirred the nation more than any other single catastrophe since our entrance into the war. We have rested in a fancied security and tranquility. The war fever has not yet burned hotly in our veins, despite the fact that we have sent over one hundred thousand troops to France, and that the entire social and economical fabric of the country has been torn and made over. We have accustomed ourselves with singly good grace to the many inconveniences war has made necessary, without any marked disturbance of our mental equilibrium. We've got along day after day preforming the somewhat interrupted and restricted duties of life in much the same careless and perfunctory manner as in days of peace. We have felt only a subconscious effect of the tragic events that transpire every day across the seas. We have been good, but not enthusiastic patriots. Now, however, all this is changed. We have positive knowledge now that American youths on their way to the fields of duty, have lost their lives to the ruthless hand of the enemy, and the cable that rushes the news back home seems to be a living, throbbing artery that carries an appeal to every American heart and quickens our sympathies and spurs us on to greater effort.

Official Washington does not view the attack on the Tuscania with any great alarm. The feeling does not seem to be general, as has been in-

timated, that the disaster is to be taken as an indication of greater submarine activity. It is not to be supposed that Germany would have permitted this country to land so many troops and supplies in France, had she really possessed the power to prevent and the sinking of the Tuscania may be looked upon as merely a piece of good luck for the attacking submarine. We may expect, of course, to hear of more frequent sinkings as the nation's war preparations reach fruition and larger numbers of men are sent across. Germany will have her eyes more watchful than ever now that she has learned something of this nation's war preparations, but the troopships are so securely guarded by convoying battleships, and the means of combatting submarine warfare have become so perfected that we need have no unusual apprehensions over the first disaster to a United States transport.

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The administration's bill to perfect government control of railroads was the principal topic under discussion in both houses of congress this week, and it was learned that the proposal to extend government control for a period of eighteen months to two years after the wars would meet with vigorous opposition. The railroad heads have been very docile thus far, and ostensibly have given the government their fullest co-operation. There have been ugly hints, however, supported by more or less conclusive evidence, that their ready submission to government control is only a subterfuge and that actually, they are doing everything within their power to handicap McAdoo and his plans of operation. It has been charged that many road chiefs have been guilty of wilfully permitting the rolling stock of their respective lines to deteriorate into a crippled and well-nigh irremediable condition, for the sole purpose of disorganizing the entire transportation systems and demoralizing traffic of all kinds, that the public might be led to believe that government control was a failure from the start and to oppose government ownership after the war. If this be true, the action of the rail chiefs is nothing short of criminal, for to it may be charged all the suffering due to the coal shortage, the huge financial losses incurred thru the curtailment of manufacturing, and the holding up of needed food and war supplies. If the charge be true, the rail heads have themselves furnished the very best argument in the world why the people of the United States should not let their transportation facilities revert again to the hands of those who have so grossly violated their trust.

## WAR WIRES

The British transport Tuscania was torpedoed and sunk off the Irish coast, Tuesday, February 5. Aboard at the time were 2,179 American soldiers, composed chiefly of Michigan and Wisconsin National Guardsmen. The torpedoing occurred just after sunset, nothing being seen of the submarine previous to the delivery of the blow. The death list is variously estimated at from 100 to 125, no detail list having been given by the War Department up to this time. The fact that the sinking took place while the sea was comparatively calm accounts for the small number of lives lost as compared with those aboard. Foreign newspapers generally comment on the heroism shown by Americans, many of them in the service but a few months. Immediately after the explosion the men were lined up on deck and while coolly awaiting their turn to enter the lifeboats the Sammies struck up "The Star Spangled Banner." It is unofficially rumored that the submarine which delivered the death blow was afterward sunk by destroyers. The survivors were landed on the Irish coast and every provision made for their comfort.

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It is announced that American forces now in France number 212,000 men with more in transit. The French War Commissioner to America announces that France has made great strides in the manufacture of cannon and artillery supplies and that by July she will be able to manufacture sufficient guns and ammunition to supply 20 American divisions of 500,000 men. There are in France today more American troops than comprised the entire American army at the outbreak of hostilities between this country and Germany.

\* \* \*

Much comment has been caused by the congratulations cabled to the German Kaiser by President Carranza of Mexico. The occasion was the birthday of the Hun ruler and this extract, "to your majesty, who celebrates his anniversary today with just cause for rejoicing, etc.," gives the general tenor of the congratulatory message. While this custom of exchanging felicitation is harmless enough ordinarily, it is pointed out that it possibly has a double significance at this time, when Mexico's nearest neighbor is engaged in a life and death struggle with the power whose emperor is the recipient of the message, and congratulated as having "just cause for rejoicing."

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Increased artillery activity is reported along the French section of the Western front. The French war office reports that artillery on both sides is particularly active on the Aisne and Verdun fronts. The Germans have attempted to carry out many trench raids but these have been repulsed with severe losses to the attacking parties.

## WEEKLY NEW YORK LETTER

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Below we publish three letters from New York farmers and two from Maine farmers. We are also arranging for weekly letters from Wisconsin, Colorado, California and Minnesota farmers, so that our readers may keep in touch with crop and market conditions in these states.

## New York Potato Holdings Below Normal

Cohocton, N. Y., Feb. 5.—The market conditions this week show no improvement over those of last week and in fact the potato market is somewhat lower. For firsts the dealers are paying \$1.70 per hundred pounds, but very few are moving on account of cold weather under which this section is suffering.

It would be hard to estimate to any degree of certainty what percentage of the 1917 crop yet remains in the hands of the growers but it is certain that it is still large but many of those who are holding their stock are waiting for better weather conditions more than for higher prices.

But for other farm produce, the farmers are receiving comparatively more money. For No. 1 timothy hay we are receiving twenty dollars per ton with poorer grades in proportion. Oats are selling for \$1.00 per bushel, rye \$1.80 to \$1.90 for 60 pounds. The price for beans in this section runs around 11 cents per pound for Yellow Eyes and 12c for Red Kidneys and the crop in general, was very poor.

In regard to the use of the 1 12-16 inch mesh grading chain for potatoes, I will say that this very question has been the subject of considerable discussion among the potato growers in this State. The buyers claim that the government food administration say all potatoes must be graded with this size chain, but nevertheless a few independent buyers have been using a size smaller chain and have paid the same prices as others who used the 1 15-16 inch.

If Mr. Atwood, says very few counties of this State are grading under the new rule, this is indeed news to us. Here in Steuben county which is supposed to be the largest potato producing county in the State, I think it is safe to say that 80 per cent of the potatoes are graded under this rule, and we have been led to believe by the buyers, that it is so, all over the State. Truly, this is a matter which should have the co-operation of the growers. In this county it appears to be unjust for the reason that the growers only receive about one cent per pound for the seconds, when in reality they should bring nearly as much as the firsts, for generally speaking they are of a very nice size and quality for general use.—Osmond E. Noble.

## Frost Spoils Many Potatoes Stored by New York Farmers

Cohocton, Steuben county, N. Y. — Although the township of Cohocton produces more potatoes than any other in the county of Steuben, which is one of the largest potato producing counties in the entire country, the crop of 1917 was below the average in quantity. This was due to different causes, among which was the extreme and continued rainfall, making proper care and cultivation impossible, and causing blight and rot to a larger extent. Continuous rains, early freezing and shortage of labor combined to make harvesting of the crop in prime condition impossible, and part is still in the ground. Then no little damage has been done by the intense cold weather, which has prevailed for several weeks, by which thousands of bushels stored in the cellars of farmers in this and adjoining towns, have been frozen, so that they will be hardly fit for cattle or hog feed. During this time many farm cellars that have always heretofore been considered frost-proof, have had to be provided with artificial heat, and yet in spite of all precautions, most of the farmers have lost more or less of the outer layers of tubers. One farmer southwest of Cohocton reports a loss of 500 bushels in a cellar free from frost for the past 25 years. Buyers have been scarcer than usual, and farmers have been obliged to carry much of their crop until now. The price now is about \$1.80 for 100 pounds, which is less than most of the growers feel they can afford to sell for, as this price is for only the tubers above a certain size, below which the price is about half that amount.

## PEA BEANS NOT A VERY GOOD

## CROP IN NEW YORK STATE

After receiving and reading a recent sample copy of M. B. F. I am convinced Michigan bean growers are in about the same predicament as we in New York are. The early frost injured all

(Continued on page 12)



## MICHIGAN MEN PUSH PROTESTS ON GRADING

**Senators and Representatives Ask Food Administration to Revise or Abandon Obnoxious and Harmful Grading Rules Under Which Michigan Crop Being Marketed.**

Despite the many burdensome duties now devolving upon our representatives at Washington, which require their undivided attention, most of them, we are glad to say, found the time and took the trouble to investigate the grading complaints laid before them and to take action with the Food Administration tending toward a modification or abandonment of the grades. We feel especially indebted to both Senators Smith and Townsend, and to Congressman Louis C. Cramton, Gilbert A. Currie, J. M. C. Smith, Patrick H. Kelley, J. M. Fordney, Carl Mapes, E. L. Hamilton, Frank E. Doramus.

All of those who have gone into the matter at all are convinced of the impracticability of the present grading methods and say they will do everything possible to help, but entertain little hope that action will be taken this year.

Below are letters received from Hon. Gilbert A. Currie, and also copy of a letter which Senator Townsend sent to Mr. Hoover upon the subject, and which we believe expresses the situation in a nutshell. Congressman Cramton has also shown unusual interest in Michigan's potato situation, and next week we hope to have a complete report from him.

### CONGRESSMAN CURRIE'S LETTER

I have conferred at length with Mr. Eustace of the Food Administration, and with various members of the Michigan delegation concerning the controversy over potato grading rules. Mr. Eustace claims that the great factor in causing disparity in prices between Michigan and other states is caused by the transportation difficulties. I presented as effectively as I knew how the Michigan situation, and suggested that it would be wise to do something to alleviate this feeling even though it were done only as a matter of policy, and to effect the further marketing of the present crop. However, Mr. Eustace was very positive that no change should be made. I regret to make this report.—G. H. Currie, 10th District, Michigan.

**SENATOR TOWNSEND'S LETTER TO MR. HOOVER**  
Washington, D. C., February 2nd, 1918  
Hon. Herbert E. Hoover, Food Administrator,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:—

I have received many protests from Michigan farmers,—and especially from the leading agricultural paper of our state "MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING" against the order issued by your department relative to the grading of Michigan potatoes. I have contented myself by submitting a number of these protests to you, with the request that your attention be directed to the matter. I have now taken time to look into the situation as fully as I can, and it seems to me that the grading system as established by you does not result in good to anyone, unless it be to the jobber. I certainly am not opposed to the grading of any food stuff which is fair at once to producers and consumers. The consumer has a right to buy what he pays for and to know what his product is. I am satisfied, however, that by making a No. 1 and No. 2 grade, based largely upon a screen mesh scheme, is not a proper test of the potato product. The elimination of small potatoes practically unfit for food—or of defective or injured tubers,—is of course most desirable. Your test does not, in practice, amount to that. Its result in our state has been to give the jobbers an opportunity to grade practically all of our stock as No. 2,—at least has given them an opportunity to buy the product, as much at 40 per cent less than what the No. 1 grade would bring although one was quite as good as the other to the consumer who paid practically the same price for both. Cannot this order be revoked and a more practical scheme adopted? Michigan is a great potato state. In many sections of it, the potato is the staple product. The effect of grading upon the producer's market this year has been most discouraging and I fear that next year's acreage will be much less than it ought to be.

If there is anything about this matter which I do not understand, I wish you would set me right upon it, for as the matter now stands I can see nothing but disaster to the potato growing interests of Michigan under the present order of things. Respectfully yours,—Chas. E. Townsend.

### MILK SURPLUS CONTINUES TO BE A VERY GRAVE PROBLEM

Nearly every local branch of the Michigan Milk Producers' Ass'n was represented at the meeting

held last week at the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the various recent developments in the milk situation.

The shortage of tin and the possibilities of the big condensaries of the state being obliged to close, was declared to be one of the latest and most alarming phases of the milk situation at the present time. These condensaries are now absorbing about 90,000 pounds of the daily surplus being shipped into Detroit, were they to close, not only would the market for the Detroit surplus be eliminated, but producers outside the Detroit area who are now selling to condensaries, might be tempted to come into the Detroit market. Under the new arrangement between producers and distributors whereby the average price to producers for February is reduced to \$3.29 per hundred, the surplus is being taken care of satisfactorily. The association does not anticipate a surplus for March.

An important action of the delegates was to increase the assessment of one-half cent per hundred pounds voted at the annual meeting for advertising and administration expenses, to one cent per pound.

Speaking before the association, President Hull said: "The United States government has approved our plan of arriving at both the buying and selling price in fact it is being quoted in the leading milk centers of the country. In fact, the officials admit that we have come the nearest to solving the milk problem of any city in America. Where all branches of the industry are not working together there is demoralization and they are not getting as much for their milk as we are around Detroit."

### FOOD ADMINISTRATION ISSUES WARNING ON SEED BEAN SUPPLY

There is a matter that seems very important to the Food Administration and that is the seed situation in your State.

Local financial conditions, owing to Liberty Loan issues and the quality of the stock in Michigan, are such that all dealers are having difficulty in securing sufficient capital to handle their accumulation of beans and the result is that in order to keep their bank balance on the right side they keep shipping out the good stock that comes from the farmers as it can be handled more quickly. The poor beans accumulate and are not fit for seed. The Michigan Bean Growers' Association and the State Officials together with the Bean Jobbers' Association should take immediate action to see that a sufficient quantity of good seed is stored to take care of planting requirements this Spring.

The United States Food Administration will gladly furnish special permits allowing the storage of these beans for seed.—United States Food Administration, By K. P. Kimball.

### FILL OUT THIS COUPON AND MAIL TO M. B. F. TODAY

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 this year's production have been completed.)

### WEEKLY MAINE LETTER

*Brunswick, Me.*—In my letter last week I wrote of the help and fertilizer situation as to its bearing on a probable decrease of 40% in the Maine potato acreage. There is another phase of the fertilizer question which will have a more or less direct bearing on the decrease in acreage in 1918.

For the last few years a good many farmers have practically lost their potato crop through poor or adulterated fertilizer, until there is a fear on this point that makes many timid about planting. For the grower to plant with a fertilizer and seed cost of around \$100.00 per acre and find as the season advances that his crop will be more or less of a failure owing to poor fertilizer is to place a burden upon him that he is not able to carry. The writer is personally acquainted with many who have lost their crops by this means. One case of two neighbors whose farms adjoined who lost around \$12,000.00 in a single season from poor fertilizer. This entirely ruined one of these men and forced the other to sell his farm. Several suits for damages were brought but in no case did the farmers obtain any redress for the loss of their crops, but were obliged to pay full price for the fertilizer. This would be of no interest to the Michigan potato grower, except as one of the reasons for a decrease in the Maine acreage in 1918 and a further decrease in the final yield by reason of light crops on a portion of the acreage planted.

The fear of price fixing by the food administration is another factor which will cut down the acreage planted here in Maine.

If the law of supply and demand could be let alone as far as the farmers were concerned, there would be much more produced on our Maine farms this season.

The food administration could do a tremendous amount of good in reducing and eliminating the expense of getting the products of the farms to the consumer, but the fact that a price on potatoes will be fixed next fall so low that it will leave the grower in debt, is a powerful factor in the 40 per cent probable reduction in Maine 1918 potato acreage.

Aroostook county probably could raise potatoes this year and get out whole for \$2.50 per hundred weight. The balance of Maine cannot for less than \$3.30 to \$3.40. To make a price that would give the Aroostook grower a good profit would mean a great and deadly loss to the growers in the balance of the state.

It is this fear of price fixing by those who have no knowledge of general conditions that is keeping hundreds of farmers from making plans for increased production in 1918.

Local prices \$1.75 per bushel with \$2.00 being paid the farmers for good stock by customers with good demand.—E. A. Rogers, R. F. D. 3, Brunswick, Maine.

*Augusta, Maine, Feb. 4th.*—At this date the farmers of Maine are unsettled and undecided as to what acreage they will plant this coming season. For at least three summers conditions have been unfavorable to best crop development, and we have suffered total losses in numberless crop instances. Last season under pressure from government officials more acreage was planted than usual. Late spring and an unusually early frost spelled disaster to many farmers. Now we are undecided. We are not guaranteed even the cost of farm operations, say nothing about profits, as many other businesses are, and the simply truth is the average Maine farmer isn't able, financially, to stand another off season. In many cases it will be hard to buy necessary seed and fertilizers so that sufficient acreage for his own use may be planted. Contrary to official belief we in the East do NOT have grain enough, and what grain we do buy is so exorbitant in price that farmers are selling off appalling large numbers of cows, swine and poultry as well as everything else that must be fed grain. Talk of raising \$50,000,000 to buy seed and fertilizer to sell out at cost to Northwestern farmers!—We in the East need this service just as badly, and unless SOMETHING is done production will remain low, or go lower. If this appropriation is raised, then every farmer in the U. S. should be given the same opportunity. Maine farmers do not lack patriotism, nor ambition, nor industry, but we must somehow live, and, therefore, we cannot again risk everything we possess in planting all we possibly can, while market conditions are an uncertain proposition—as uncertain as the weather.

Potato situation is a gamble. The crop of 1917 was much below normal and owing to wet spring and early frost the crop was damaged in many places; some report complete loss of crop.

(Continued on page 7)





# 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

Supplies of wheat at this time are much less than they have been at this season, in many years. The Government continues to take a large part of the output of Northwestern mills and mills generally find it very difficult to supply the demand for flour. The substitution of other grains for wheat is constantly increasing and the price of the substitutes advances from day to day. The price of rice flour has advanced from \$8 to \$18, according to bakers reports to the state food administration. Other substitutes, while not showing such an advance as rice flour are increasing, and the price will soon be almost prohibitive, so far as the average family is concerned. This appears to be a matter for immediate investigation by the authorities.

With the worlds available wheat supply away short and our people having to practice every economy to insure a sufficient supply until another harvest, it is a matter of regret that Australia should have two wheat crops piled up on her wharves, being destroyed by rodents and the elements, with a third big crop about to be delivered, and no available ocean carriers to transport the grain to where it is so sadly needed. It is unofficially reported that Japan is making arrangements to move this grain for her allies but whether she has sufficient tonnage which may be diverted for this purpose remains to be seen.



## OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White Standard	.89 1-2	.86	.98
No. 3 White	.89	.85	.97
No. 4 White	.88	.83 1-2	.95 1-2

Operators generally expect the oat market to show the effect of improved weather conditions. Country dealers seem anxious to sell, the only drawback being their inability to secure cars for shipment. Considerable future selling is reported. Considerable grain has been sold for 30 and 60 day shipment, the general feeling being that oats at the present time are higher than actual supplies warrant. The Government's report on stocks still back in the country will be issued in March, but there is no doubt but what they are large. Oat shipments all during the fall and winter have been much less than usual, due to transportation and other difficulties, and this, taken into consideration with the fact that the crop in this country and Canada was exceptionally large, lead terminal market receivers to expect heavy shipments from now on, providing weather conditions continue favorable.

It should be remembered however, that markets are bare of oats and the eastern demand will require a large amount before there will be any surplus on hand. While the eastern export demand has been lighter than usual during the past few weeks, it is no doubt on account of the congestion of eastern terminals. Much export grain is going south for shipment via the Gulf. The substitution of oat products for those of wheat is constantly increasing, and this will have a greater effect than is commonly supposed. We do not feel that any material decline will occur in the immediate future, opinions of receiver and operator to the contrary notwithstanding. Later on, with a material increase in deliveries of both oats and corn, we may see a reaction. It will be some time, however, before deliveries increase sufficiently to affect prices. Until that time comes we may expect a fairly steady market.



## LAST MINUTE WIRES

**DETROIT SPECIAL**—Receipts of fresh eggs are increasing but the demand is brisk and while prices have declined they are still very satisfactory to shippers. Potatoes are in liberal supply and the market is easy.

**CHICAGO WIRE**—The market weakened early today under favorable weather conditions and reports of car deliveries to originating points and heavy shipments of oats and corn. Later in the day there was a reaction, the belief becoming general that it would take some time to make a surplus. Cantonments all over the country are badly in need of oats and corn, especially the farmer.

**NEW YORK**—The hay market has cleaned up again and is strong and active. Receivers report free consignments to this market and their arrival may have some affect but conditions are very satisfactory.



## CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	1.86 1-2	Nominal	1.83
No. 3 Yellow	1.85	Nominal	1.82 1-2
No. 2 Mixed	1.83	Nominal	1.80

The immediate future of the corn market is one difficult to judge. The Government is keenly awake to the fact that a great portion of the crop still in growers hands must move during the next four to six weeks or the loss will be heavy. Every effort is being made to furnish equipment for this purpose. Improved weather conditions are helping this movement, although there is still too much snow over Illinois and nearby states to permit of extensive hauling. A week of good weather will help this condition materially. Farther west conditions are better and growers are hauling as fast as the elevators can take care of the grain and move it from their houses.

Eastern roads have delivered over 5,000 cars to western lines during the past week, but a certain percentage will be used to move grain other than corn, in the Northwest. This movement of cars westward is being rushed and will increase steadily with better weather conditions. Eastern markets are short on corn and as is the case with oats, it will take some time to acquire any surplus. There will also be a much better export demand as the eastern terminals clear. While we may look for possible lower markets later on, it will still be some time, under most favorable conditions, before this will be brought about.



## RYE

Rye continues active and a further advance is noted. Trading is limited however, owing to light receipts. There is very little prospect of an increase, unless growers or country elevators should be holding greater stocks than are now apparent. The milling of rye flour has increased many fold and this commodity will soon be classed with

the luxuries unless a maximum price is established.

Detroit is quoting No. 2 rye at \$2.18. Chicago market is nominal. The Minneapolis market reached a point of \$2.21, due to excitement over the Government flour regulations, which at first seem to have been misunderstood there, but later a reaction set in and the market was brought into line with that of other points.

## Barley

**Chicago**—Extraordinary and persistent buying by the millers made a strong barley market all week and forced the cash up to record figures. Offerings were only moderate. There was a better enquiry by the malsters than for a fortnight, but the milling demand was the real strength of the market here as also at all the outside markets. The market on Monday, as reported by E. C. Butz Grain Co., was again decidedly strong and prices were 1c to 2c a bushel higher on nearly everything available for both malting and milling account, although the millers and shippers seemed to be the more anxious buyers. The tap for the day was \$1.76, for something very choice, but the majority of the trading was between \$1.70 and \$1.75, with the lower grades selling from \$1.65 to \$1.70, when suitable for malting. Feed barley was steady, with the Coast types quotable around \$1.61 to \$1.65, depending upon quality; offerings were moderate for Monday, and everything promptly cleaned up.—Price Current Grain Reporter.



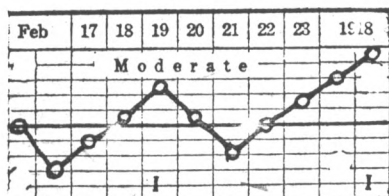
## BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	12.50	13.00	14.00
Prime	12.40	12.85	13.85
Red Kidneys	13.50	14.50	13.75

After many weeks of severe cold and storms the weather has moderated greatly and we may reasonably expect higher temperatures from this time on toward spring. No doubt, with the exception of an occasional cold spell, this will be the prevailing condition, and it brings with it grave danger to the wet beans still in growers' hands. We have discussed this matter more than once, in our different

## THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbance to cross continent Feb. 17 to 21, warm wave 16 to 20, cool wave 19 to 23. This will be a more severe storm than the preceding, temperatures going higher in the warm wave and lower in the cool wave. Moderate rains or snows will be fairly well distributed and the week will bring fairly good cropweather.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about Feb. 22 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of Feb. 23, plains sections 24, meridian 30, great lakes and Ohio-Tennessee valleys 25, eastern sections 26, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about Feb. 27. Storm wave will follow about

one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

This will be an important storm in many ways. It will cause a great high temperature wave and a general thaw in middle latitudes—near, north and south of latitude 40. Following the warm wave will come severe storm and cold wave, rains fairly well distributed thru northern and southern states, well to southward in Texas while in northern states and Canada the rains will be followed by snow.

While these storms will be unusually severe the precipitation will be best of the winter, particularly where it has been too dry. Growing wheat in southwestern part of the winter wheat section will be much improved by this precipitation. Farmers should get their grain to market before this storm comes, as it will cause ten days of bad weather for shipping. In part of the best corn sections preparations will begin in earnest for the coming crops soon after this storm.

*W. T. Foster*

bean articles, but it will do no harm to mention it again.

Conditions in Michigan are different this season than they have ever been before. Lack of transportation facilities, Government regulations, etc., have hampered elevators in handling grain and beans. Many of them now have their houses full of stock and any great influx would simply bury them. In fact many of them at the present have discontinued buying wet beans, having no facilities for drying them at their plant and being unable to secure cars to ship them to other plants having a drier.

Now then, with the warmer weather coming on, growers who have wet beans on hand are going to experience trouble. The chances are that this trouble will come to the greater portion of them at about the same time, bringing about a desire to dispose of their holdings. A general rush on the part of the growers, to market their stock, could have but one result and that a disastrous decline in price, and the possibility of their not being able to sell at any price, owing to inability of the elevators to handle the wet bean stock.

Under present conditions, we feel that it is not best to hold wet stock, and many of our friends are doing this very thing. Let it go gradually, but get rid of it. Of course if buyers should attempt to take advantage of the situation and lower present prices materially, then discontinue selling; might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb. On the other hand, if you have good dry stock, hang on to it for a time. Good seed beans will be worth more money later on for the supply is going to be short.

Should the local elevator be unable to handle wet beans for any of our readers, the market editor will be glad to give them the address of different concerns operating driers. They could then get in touch with the station nearest them and no doubt make satisfactory arrangements to have their beans dried.



## CLOVER SEED

The clover seed market seems to gain additional strength each week and the demand is excellent. The Toledo market during the past week advanced to \$20.10, high mark for the season up to this time. Alsike also made a fair advance, while timothy, under liquidation, experienced a set back but the market was not weak at any time.

Detroit quotations: Prime red clover, \$20.30; March, \$19.80; alsike, \$17; timothy, \$4.10.



## HAY

Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	25 50 26 00	24 50 25 00	23 50 24 00
Chicago	30 00 31 00	29 00 30 00	28 00 29 00
Cincinnati	32 75 33 00	32 00 32 50	30 50 31 50
Pittsburgh	31 00 30 50	29 00 29 50	26 50 26 50
New York	37 00 39 00	33 00 37 00	30 00 34 00
Richmond	33 00	32 00	28 00

Markets	No. 1 Light Mixed	No. 1 Clover Mixed	No. 1 Clover
Detroit	23 50 24 00	22 00 22 50	21 50 22 00
Chicago	28 00 28 50	27 50 28 00	27 50 28 00
Cincinnati	32 00 32 50	31 50 32 00	35 00 35 50
Pittsburgh	29 50 30 00	30 50 31 50	30 50 31 50
New York	34 00 36 00	31 00 34 00	32 00 34 00
Richmond	32 00	31 00	29 00

There is still a great scarcity of hay and the demand is even better than that of a week ago. The markets are in shape to take on considerable hay before any reaction may be expected. The improved weather conditions are facilitating deliveries and with a continuation of same we may look for much more satisfactory conditions, both for shippers and receivers.

Detroit dealers all report excellent conditions, a good clean market, free from any accumulation of any grade, and a strong demand. This market should prove attractive to shippers. Prices are at the former level should remain so for some time.

The Cincinnati market has been



having great difficulty during the past week on account of flood conditions. The plugging tracks have been under six feet of water, making operations there out of the question. Many cars intended for the plugging yards are also in the flood zone. This has just about prevented trading and the market has been stronger in consequence, and an active market is expected when conditions resume normal.

Boston has been receiving only light supplies owing to continued embargoes and bad railroad conditions generally. The better grades particularly are in very light supply and prices rule accordingly. Receivers are asking higher prices and while buyers are forced to take on a certain quantity from day to day. The trade expects the market there to rule lower with any increased receipts, but these are not in sight at the present time.

The Baltimore market is firm under light receipts and a good demand. Receivers report only light shipments due to arrive and do not anticipate an immediate change although they feel that it will come later on and perhaps result in somewhat lower prices.

The New York market has been inclined to work lower on receipt of quantities of hay which were held up en route. The Garfield closing order allowed the roads to make delivery of much of this hay and a surplus resulted. The price is still very satisfactory despite this condition, and with a more even delivery of cars from now on the market there should become steady and more dependable from every standpoint.



## POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	2.15 cwt.	2.00 cwt.
Chicago	2.15	2.00
Cincinnati	2.60	2.47
New York	2.50	2.40
Pittsburgh	2.60	2.45
Baltimore, Md.	2.75	2.60

The potato market has ruled steady and firm during the past week, demand being fair and supply only moderate. The severe weather of the past month just about eliminated shipments from the market, and as a result trading was mostly in storage stock. This has brought about a better condition on all markets, cleaning them up in fairly good shape.

The demand is still far from what dealers would like to see it and from what it should be from this time on. The Food Board is doing everything possible to increase potato consumption so as to conserve the wheat supply. The consuming public is being urged to use potatoes at every meal, and in many different ways. This should have a certain effect on consumption and increase demand.

The next few weeks should give us a fair idea of what amount of stock there is still to be marketed. We are receiving many reports of severe frost damage from all parts of the state. Just what the extent of this damage is will not be known until the pits are opened and the stock in cellars has been gone over. There is no doubt however but what considerable loss has been caused by the severe weather of the past month.

Improved weather conditions will no doubt bring about an increased movement and the market should soon have an opportunity to show either its strength or weakness.



## FLOUR & FEED

Supplies of feeds on all markets are exceptionally low just at this time. The milling of the war flours of different kinds result in a lighter production of bran. There is a very strong demand at most points and prices have shown an advance.

The United States Food Administration claims that we have nearly 1,000,000 bushels of feed more than we had last year, for which we have no corresponding number of animals to feed. If this be the case, and no doubt the officials know what they are talking about, we may expect to see feed-stuffs lower in price as soon as the

improved weather brings an increase in available supplies of grain.

Quotations: Detroit—Feed in 100-lb. sacks, jobbing lots: Bran, \$24.50; Standard middlings, \$36.50; fine middlings, \$43.50; chocked corn, \$79; coarse cornmeal, \$77; chop, \$66 per ton.

Flour: Per 136 lbs., in eighth paper sacks: Standard patent, \$11.10@11.15; straight winter, \$10.80; spring patent, \$11.20; rye flour, \$10.50@10.70 in jobbing lots.

There is an excellent demand for cotton seed meal, a demand in excess of the supply. One manufacturer advises us that his firm has been unable to care for more than 10 per cent of the orders received.



## ONIONS

No change in the onion market. Not much stock moving and what supplies there are on the different markets are firmly held. Receivers are expecting increased supplies with the warmer weather of the present time, but with the demand as it is at present considerable stock can be taken care of before there would be any accumulation. With stocks as low as they are reported at all country stations there is very little danger of any material decline at this time. Detroit is quoting No. 1 yellows at \$3.75 to \$4 per 100-lb. sack. This is for fancy stock. The general run of receipts bring around \$3 to \$3.50. Other markets are firm with only moderate supplies.



## APPLES

Apple receipts are extremely light at this time and the market is firm. There is a good demand for all grades of apples but first-class fruit is particularly wanted. During the cold period considerable fruit offered was frost-damaged. This stock is cleaning up and that coming in the last few days has been much better in that respect. Eastern markets are in good shape with only moderate receipts, although arrivals have increased somewhat since the warmer weather.

Detroit quotations: Greening, \$6@ \$6.25; Baldwin, \$5; No. 2, \$3@ \$3.50 per bbl.; Western, \$2@ \$2.75 per box.



## BUTTER

This week has seen very little change in the butter market. The supply has been coming in regularly and has increased so that dealers are fairly well stocked. The market remains firm however, due to the fact that dealers generally feel that the increased receipts are but the temporary result of the Garfield closing order, which allowed the roads to deliver many shipments which has been delayed enroute.

New York quotations: Extras, 51 1/2c; firsts, 49@51c; seconds, 46@48 1/2c; thirds, 44@45c; packing stock, 39@39 1/2c.

Boston: Extras, 50@51c; firsts, 48 @49c; seconds, 46@47c.

Philadelphia: Extras, 52c; firsts, 47 @48c; seconds, 45@46c.

Detroit: Extras, 49c; firsts, 48c.

### Cheese

The cheese market has been somewhat inclined to weaken this week although it might generally be described as steady. Wisconsin shippers were more anxious to sell than they were a week ago, and the market also received a considerable volume of shipments which had been held up by blizzards. New York quotations about the same as last week: State whole milk, flats, held, 26 1/2@26 3/4c; lower grades, 20@23 1/2c; daisies, 26 1/2c@; Wisconsin, twins, 25 1/2@26c; daisies, 26 1/2c@; Americas, 28 1/4@28 1/2c; State skims, specials, 19@20 1/2c; fair to good 13@15c.

Detroit quotations: Michigan flats, 26 1/4@26 1/2c; New York flats, 27c; brick, 28 1/4@28 1/2c; long horns, 28 1/2c; Michigan daisies, 27c; Wisconsin daisies, 27 1/2c; domestic Swiss, 35@42c for prime to fancy; Limburger, 30 1/4@31 1/2c per lb.



## EGGS

Receipts of eggs have increased at nearly all points and lower prices now prevail on the majority of markets. The exclusively high prices of the past two months have tended to curtail consumptive demand and this is also having an effect upon the market. With the warmer weather we are now having egg production will start in earnest, and will increase as spring draws nearer. As the price works lower we may expect a great increase in consumptive demand and this will be satisfactory to the producer.

Detroit is quoting fresh firsts at 52c@53c. Off grades take the usual discount. New York dealers are having difficulty to secure 54@55c for fresh gathered extras and no doubt the price there is due to work lower. Chicago is quoting fresh gathered firsts at 50c and ordinary firsts at 47@48c.



## 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

The poultry market generally is quiet and firm. Receipts are very light at all points, the crest of the shipping season having been passed. There is a fairly good demand on all markets and this will increase next month as the time approaches for the first Jewish Passover.

There is a movement on foot to stop the shipment of hens during the months of March, April and May. This is the period when many fowls are shipped and this year authorities of the Department of Agriculture feel that the loss of laying hens would be a serious one at a time when the country is conserving every resource. Every hen should perhaps represent the loss of thirty eggs on the average. The matter has been referred to the Food Administration and we may expect something definite in the near future. Poultry dealers declare that this will practically mean closing up their business for the time being, the majority of arrivals during the time named being fowls.

### Furs and Hides

No. 1 skunk, \$5; winter muskrats, 80c; No. 1 mink, \$7.50; No. 1 raccoon, \$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. 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 1 1/2c lower than the above; sheepskins, as to amount of wool, 25c@ \$3 each.

### Dressed Hogs and Calves

The market on dressed hogs is firm and receipts on sufficient to take care of the demand from day to day. The general run of receipts bring from 21 to 22c but sales fancy offerings are reported at 23 to 23 1/2c.

The veal market is a trifle weak, fancy offerings bringing around 18 to 20c. Ordinary choice stock is worth 17c while the common, ordinary kinds are selling at 16c per lb.

### Rabbits

There is a fair demand for rabbits when in good condition and fresh. Badly shot rabbits are not wanted at any time. Michigan rabbits in good condition will bring \$2.75 to \$3 per doz. on the Detroit market. Western rabbits sell \$2.50 to \$2.75 per doz.

### Vegetables

Carrots are selling in Detroit at \$1.80 to \$2.00 per cwt. Turnips, the small yellow cooking variety, are selling at about the same price as carrots. Parsnips are bringing around \$2.50 per cwt. All vegetables must be well cleaned and trimmed.

### The Horse Market

The Chicago horse market quotes at the highest point since the let up in trade last fall. The spring trade will be on soon and dealers expect good chunky horses to show steady gains in values. During the week the best quality of heavy green drafters sold at a range of \$325 to \$375; good quality, medium weight green drafters sold at \$275 to \$325; chunks, from \$275 to \$350; heavy wagon and express horses from \$150 to \$225; seconds, from \$40 to \$185.

### Live Stock Letters

CHICAGO, Feb. 11, 1918—The arrival here today of 15,000 cattle, 60,000 hogs and 25,000 sheep, following a run of 68,568 cattle, 225,117 hogs and 69,774 sheep here last week indicate an improved situation as regards transportation facilities which, with an absence of bad storms from now on, is likely to result in further swelling of the marketward movement. We are looking for liberal receipts, particularly of cattle and hogs, all winter and well into the spring months. We anticipate, at the same time, a broad general demand and believe that the coming summer will provide a good market for well finished heavy beefs owing to the scarcity in the country of aged cattle to throw on grass in the spring and to the discouragement feeders preparing that kind for market have suffered in recent months. As we have advised for weeks past, however, we can see nothing to be gained by owners in holding back any class of stock that is fat and ready to come or that is not responding to care and high priced feed with good weight gains.

Today's cattle market was generally steady with the close last week, but good; heavy cattle continued the underdogs of the market, owing to a slack shipping demand. We sold two carloads of choice heavy cattle today for Foster Bros., Earlham, Iowa, at \$13.80, the day's top. These good, heavy cattle are generally 25c lower than a week ago. Steers of class to sell from \$11.00 down, however, are about as high as last Monday and kinds of desirable feeder grade are higher owing to the development of a broader country demand as the weather has moderated and the car situation has improved. The bulk of the good to choice steers now sell from \$12.50 to \$13.50, medium to good kinds at \$11.50 to \$12.50 and cheap killers all the way from \$10.00 to \$11.00.

Butcher cattle trade opened this week on a steady basis with the close of the week previous, but the calf market was generally a dollar lower than early last Friday, with the practical top on vealers \$14.00. Ordinary light heifer stuff is relatively the poorest sale. Most of the fat cows and heifers are now selling between \$8.00 to \$9.50 for fair to strictly good, but choice to prime beef cows and heifers are reaching \$10.00 to \$11.00 and occasionally higher. Cannery and cutters are selling largely from \$6.50 to \$7.25 and bologna bulls from \$8.25 to \$9.25, prime heavy beef bulls on up to \$10.50 to \$10.75.

Inquirers indicated that many cattle will be needed this spring to fill pastures. At present the demand is light owing to the high price of feed, severe weather and uncertain car service. Moderating weather, however, the last few days has given the trade a better feeling. A few choice fleshy feeders, suitable for short feed and the kind that meet with killer competition, are selling from \$10.25 to \$11.00 per cwt., but they are hard to get because of strong competition from packers and the bulk of the good quality, fleshy feeders weighing 800 to 950 lbs. are selling from \$9.50 to \$10.25 with good cattle weighing 700 to 800 lbs. from \$8.25 to \$9.25 and poor to medium 600 to 700 lbs. stockers from \$7.00 to \$8.00, with inferior kinds of 500 to 600 lbs. from \$6.25 to \$6.75.

Today's hog trade opened 15 to 25c lower to speculators and closed 25 to 40c under Saturday. An early top of \$16.45 was made but the packer limit for choice butcher hogs was \$16.25. Today's later market was around \$1 lower than last Tuesday, high day of last week. Bulk sold at \$16 to \$16.25, with pigs and underweights from \$14 to \$15.50. A free marketward movement is now expected and prices may work lower but it seems reasonable to assume that because of the tremendous demand and the government's



avowed intention of maintaining a \$15.50 minimum on hogs the market will be on a very high and satisfactory basis right along.

Sheep and lamb trade was in bad shape today, matured wethers declining generally 25c and lambs 50c from last week's closing under a run of 25,000 head, the largest supply for some time past. Best handy weight lambs sold at \$17.25 but \$17.00 brought a very good kind and finished 94 lb. weights took \$16.25. On the high spot last week best fat ewes sold up to \$13.50, wethers to \$13.85 and light yearlings to \$15.85, but today's selling basis was fully 25c below these levels and a good fat class of ewes sold at \$12.50 to \$12.75. A free movement of Colorado fed lambs during the next six weeks is on the market horizon and the immediate future of the market does not seem favorable for advances.

EAST BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1918.—Receipts of cattle Monday, 100 cars, including 20 cars left from last week's trade. Trade opened 25c lower on medium weight and weighty steer cattle which were in light supply; butcher steers and handy weight steers sold 25c lower than last week; fat cows and heifers sold 15 to 25c lower; bulls of all classes sold steady; canners and cutters were in light supply, sold steady; fresh cows and springers were in very light supply, sold at strong last week's prices; stockers and feeders were in light supply, sold 15 to 25c lower. At the close of the market around 15 cars of cattle including 10 cars left from Monday's went over unsold.

Receipts of cattle Tuesday, 15 cars, including 10 cars left from Monday's trade. The market opened 15 to 25c lower on all grades and trade was very slow.

Receipts of hogs Monday at this point totaled seventy double decks or 11,200 head, and with heavy receipts at all Western markets, buyers had control of the situation and prices were again on a lower basis, a decline of twenty-five cents, compared with Saturday's average, catching the bulk. The top of \$17.15 was made, while the bulk sold at \$17.00; pigs, \$16.00; roughs \$15.50; stags, \$14.00 to \$14.50.

Receipts of hogs Tuesday totaled 2400 head and the market opened steady on all grades and closed a quarter lower on account of only a few order buyers being in the field for hogs and as soon as their orders were filled the market weakened. The early hogs sold up to \$17.00, and pigs at \$16.00, and at about ten o'clock about ten decks of hogs arrived and the packers bid \$16.75 for the best hogs. Pigs were a very slow sale and what few were sold, sold on a basis of \$16. and at ten o'clock about three double decks of pigs were going over unsold. Roughs sold from \$15.25 to \$15.50; stags, \$14.00 to \$14.50.

The receipts of sheep and lambs Monday was called 25 cars, or 5,000 head. The market opened steady with Saturday's close and choice lambs sold from \$18.25 to \$18.50, but the market closed very slow and a few loads went over unsold. It would not be surprising to see the market on good lambs go still lower, as this is the beginning of Lent. Heavy lambs sold no better than throwouts. This class of lamb is a hard seller, as buyers do not want weighty lambs. Throwouts sold from \$17.00 to \$17.25; yearlings, \$16.00 to \$16.50; wethers, \$13.50 to \$14.50; ewes \$13.00 to \$13.50 a sto weight and quality.

The receipts of sheep and lambs on Tuesday totaled about 1400 head. The best lambs sold at \$18.25 which was 25c lower than Monday. We understand that there were a few sold up to \$18.35. All other grades sold about steady.

## THERE ARE GOOD MARKETS FOR SOFT CORN

The closing of many distilleries under the food control act has not destroyed the market for soft corn, according to a statement from the Bureau of Markets, United States Department of Agriculture, which has made a survey of grain-drying plants now in operation and under construction at 30 terminal points.

The survey shows 154 grain driers in operation and 17 under construction, aside from the few distilleries still running. The combined capacity of the grain driers is about 3,000,000 bushels of corn every 24 hours. The department states that this survey probably does not include all plants, but is inclusive enough to allay rumors that there would be no market for soft corn.

An unusual amount of soft corn was harvested in 1917, because of early frosts and cool, wet weather in September and October. It can be sold direct to grain driers, says the department, or in many markets can be dried for the producer at a cost of three-quarters to two and one-half cents a bushel and sold in dried condition. Owing to present transportation difficulties, it is recommended that farmers and country shippers delay the movement of soft corn unless conditions at the terminal market are favorable. The greatest return for soft corn is said to be received when it is fed to stock on the farm.

## WEEKLY MAINE LETTER

(Continued from page 4)

Some say that they will not sell a tuber at less than a price that will cover costs and give a slight profit. Growers, however, are holding, hoping to come out somewhere whole. Somehow the government fails utterly to get the farmer's viewpoint.

Apples moving a bit faster. Farm prices average \$2.50 for No. 1; \$1.50 to \$5.00 per barrel. Potatoes slow; from \$2 to \$3. Grain scarce and high; bran, \$2.45; cottonseed, \$3.00; gluten, \$3.20; linseed, \$3.25; hominy, \$3.45; oats, \$1.10; corn meal, \$3.75 to \$4.00 per cwt.; hay, \$11 to \$13 for loose timothy; butter, 45 and 50c; eggs, 60c; onions, \$3.75 and \$4.00 per cwt.; dressed fowls, 25 to 30c per lb.; chicken, nearly the same.—D. M. G., Wiscasset, Maine.

## POTATO SHIPMENTS AS REPORTED BY DEALERS

Amble, Mich.—So far 40 cars of potatoes have been shipped from here and about that many are yet to be marketed. Last season 100 cars in all were shipped. The frost last season cut down the crop one-fourth. Quality of present holdings, however, is good and more potatoes are held than a year ago.—H. F. B.

Coleman, Mich.—Five cars of potatoes have been shipped so far from here this season, five remain for shipment, and five were shipped last season. Crop was damaged 25 per cent by frost. Three-fourths of the holdings are table stock.—C. E. Co.

Gaylord, Mich.—So far this season about 115 cars of potatoes have been shipped from here with about 150 cars yet to move. Total shipments last season were 190 cars. The crop was damaged 20 per cent by frost but the stock is as good as the average for size and quality. Ten per cent of the holdings are seed, 30 per cent less of this being held than a year ago, but table stock holdings are 50 per cent more than a year ago.—C. & Co.

Lum, Mich.—So far 50 cars of potatoes have been shipped from here with about 20 cars remaining. Last season four cars were shipped from this place. Crop was hurt 5 per cent by frost. Holdings are larger than a year ago, 20 per cent of them being seed. Stock is of good quality.—L. E. Co.

Nashville, Mich.—Ten cars of potatoes have been shipped out of here so far this season with about nine yet to move. Last year none was shipped but two cars were shipped in. Crop was damaged 10 per cent by frost but quality of stock held is fine. Five times as much seed held as a year ago and about the same quantity of table stock.—W. A. S.

Vassar, Mich.—Two or three cars of potatoes have been shipped from here this season, none remaining for market. No potatoes were shipped a year ago. Crop was badly damaged by frost. About enough here for home consumption.—M. G. Co.

West Branch, Mich.—Holdings of seed potatoes in this locality are about the same as last year, with perhaps twice as much table stock on hand as a year ago.—H. W. B.

—From Chicago Packer.



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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 16TH, 1918

GRANT SLOCUM  
FORREST A. LORD  
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## Handing it to the Farmer

WHAT CITY newspapers and people say about the farmer would fill many large volumes; what they really know of his problems could be written on a postage stamp and carried in the vest pocket.

The farmer is the most misunderstood individual in the world. But unfortunately, the lack of understanding does not always deter those who elect to discuss men and issues in the columns of the press, from talking learnedly upon the farmers prices, products and patriotism. This ignorance leads many into frequent tirades of criticism and abuse for conditions for which actually the farmer is blameless.

Some of the stuff that is printed now-a-days in the city newspapers about the farmer's lack of patriotism, his refusal to buy liberty bonds or assist with the Red Cross, and his profiteering propensities,—is most unjust and misleading and aggravates an economic situation which is bad enough as it is.

Recently the *Michigan Manufacturer* sullied its pages with a column length libel against the sugar beet growers who refused to grow beets for less than \$10 per ton. Said this editorial in part: "The nation is getting a very good training in patriotism of its farmers just now, because, juggle with it as one will, these high prices that are prevailing for beef, for pork, and for other meat products, for beans and wheat, for wool and for all other things that are being used at double price to carry on the war, and to provide food and clothing for combatant alike, are the produce of the farmer, and he is getting the money for this high cost of living. He does not appear to be making any sacrifices. It does appear that he is setting prices without rhyme or reason and that he is playing the agricultural Shylock to get the pounds of flesh nominated in his bond. There will be an accounting some day when the farmer begins to re-echo his claims for consideration. It may be very well to take notes of the situation while it is present so that we may not forget what the farmer is doing to us."

If such a libel were written against anyone but the farmer, the author of it would be mobbed before the ink was dry on the paper. He ought to be. The ignorant incompetent who would essay to vent his personal spleen thru the columns of a publication upon an individual or class, without "rhyme or reason", and with a total disregard for the truth, becomes a fit candidate for tar and feathers. Such an editorial as above, spread before thousands of people as ignorant as the perpetrator of the farming business, causes incalculable harm. It is such irrational and irresponsible mouthings as these that destroy confidence, arouse class hatred, and remove the barriers of restraint between capital and labor. The metropolitan press is doing its best to lead the country straight into a class war.

Yes, my friend, you are right. Some day there will be an accounting. Some day the full light of publicity and reason will shine upon the farmer and his business, and you shall know the truth. Some day the farmer will come into his own, and those who have come to curse and to ridicule, will stay to pray and worship at his shrine.

There have been periods in the world's history when individuals have controlled the destinies of nations; for the last half century capitalism has

struggled for the mastery; and now organized labor of America and the "masses" of Europe are laying foundations for an impractical order of socialism. Thru all the eras of social and political upheaval and readjustment, the farmer has gone with the tide. But new conditions have intruded themselves into this scheme of living, and it becomes increasingly necessary for the sake of self-preservation that he exert a larger interest and influence in affairs which in the past he has been content to leave to others. The farmers are organizing, not to secure special dispensations nor to usurp rights that belong to others, but to protect themselves and business from the selfish monopolies that are slowly shaping about every branch of the farming business. The time will come and soon when the farmers, united and organized, will have something to say, not only as to the price of their raw material, but the price of their finished product as well.

The farmer has been taking note of the situation for years. Never fear, he will not forget what the speculators, the market manipulators, and the professional patriots have done to him.

## Heney Will Throttle the Packers' Trust

FRANK J. HENEY, the man who handled the land graft cases in the west, sent one U. S. senator to the penitentiary and secured indictments against hundreds of prominent citizens of the northwest, is in charge of the investigation of the packers' combination which has been running things with a free hand since 1912; when the combination was ordered by the courts to disband. Instead of dissolving the combination, it was reorganized under many different interlocking concerns and has been more brazen in its operations than ever before.

Heney has already produced proofs from the packers' own files which show how they evaded the dissolution order of 1912, and have since continued to divide the meat business of the country in exactly the same proportion as had been agreed upon previous to that date. Heney has presented for the consideration of the court, the packers' own record showing the "percentages" on the basis of which they were to divide the meat buying business, and have even secured copies of the checking sheets, where the several companies checked the total number of head of hogs, sheep, and cattle against those percentages to see that none of the boys were hogging the market.

But the trial of the combination does not stop with the business end of the proposition, as evidence has been submitted showing how the packers used their influence with Congress to block legislation, take the teeth out of the Federal control bill as affecting their business, and even securing the appointment of their own men to very important positions in the Hoover administration. The Federal Trade Commission which is conducting the investigation, is not exempt from the touch of the combination, one of the employees of the Commission having already been dismissed because of his friendliness to the packers.

Before the investigation is completed the trial will lead down through the Chicago Live Stock Association and the Live Stock Exchange, where the combination first gets in its work. Facts so far disclosed prove that this combination not only robs both producer and consumer, but uses its influence to corrupt Congress and invades the administrative departments of the government. Frank J. Heney sent Abe Ruef, the biggest man in California to the penitentiary, and kept up the fight against the grafters even after he had been shot down in court by a gun man. He's just the type of man to follow the trail, and before he gets through the Federal Government will find it quite necessary to take over the affairs of this combination and operate the business in the interests of the people of the nation.

## Another Remarkable Discovery

TRULY, we live in a wonderful age. Scarcely a week goes by but what the scientist, the botanist, the inventor, or the agricultural expert, makes some new discovery which is passed on to an expectant posterity. A recent Washington dispatch announces a most remarkable finding, presumably by the agricultural department. We pass it on to our readers for what it may be worth to them:

"The farmer cannot plow while the ground is frozen, and neither can he prepare the ground for next year's crops. But he can do many things which he used to put off until the time when he might have been plowing or planting. He can mend the harness, repair the barns, cut the next summer's supply of wood, fix the farm tools, and do all the other odd jobs which will make him

ready to take his place at the post as soon as nature blows her whistle next spring.

"He can market all of his surplus stock of corn and wheat and hay and potatoes. Sorting potatoes in the cellar is not a bad job when the thermometer is hovering around zero, but who wants to do it when the robins are singing outside the window. On the return trip from town he can haul his supply of fertilizer or feed or lime. There never was a farmer who cannot remember at least one time in his life when he had to unhook from the drill to go down to town to get more fertilizer or more seed.

"No man can afford this year to miss the chance of hauling when the roads are good. And the country roads are never quite as good for hauling as they are when covered with a good sledding snow. Any farmer who has had the doubtful pleasure of wallowing through a mud road when a ton seemed like a mountain to his team, knows how much more fun it is to ramble along with two tons on a good stout pair of bobs."

## Warming Up to the Farmers

PRESIDENT WILSON has agreed to give his most careful consideration to the petition presented by sixteen national farm organizations urging appointment of an advisory committee of nine farmers to aid the government in framing measures to speed up agricultural production.

Why is it that the government has taken every precaution to enlist the sympathies and help of every class and trade in the United States with the exception of the farmers? Not only has the farmer not been invited to take part in the important discussions pertaining to food production, but he has been practically given to understand that his advice is not wanted. And yet, despite rebuffs of all kinds, he is expected to throw himself body and soul into the nation's cause and make sacrifices not asked or looked for from people of other trades and professions.

The government should be seeking the farmer's aid and advice, instead of the farmer begging to have voice in the control of his business.

This war can't be won without the enthusiastic co-operation of the farmers, and the President and the Congress might just as well take time enough off right now to find out the truth about farming conditions and ascertain the real reasons why it seems well-nigh impossible to stir the farmers up into a state of eager support.

Make the farmers to feel that they have as vital an interest and part in this war as others, and they will respond without being cajoled and threatened.

There is every evidence as we go to press that the manufacturers will concede the beet growers' demands for \$10 minimum prices and a sliding scale increase according to increases in the wholesale price of sugar. If this proves to be the outcome, we urge every grower to show his good business judgment, his appreciation and his patriotism, by growing as many acres of beets as he can possibly handle. There should be a small profit in \$10 beets, and if the weather conditions are at all favorable, Michigan's beet growing industry should enjoy one of its most profitable and encouraging years. 1918 will be a good year for the growers to prove to the manufacturers that they are not the stubborn, unreasonable and profiteering individuals they have been painted. Likewise the manufacturers will have a splendid opportunity to show that they are really interested in the welfare of the industry and the men upon whom its developments depends.

\* \* \* \*

"Three cheers for the farmers" says the *Detroit News* in commenting upon the statement of the income tax collector at Detroit that the farmers are paying their income taxes cheerfully if not eagerly. "This is the right American spirit" continues the *News*, "and it is not surprising, considering the sturdy patriotism which always has characterized our agricultural population, that it is found in special vigor among the farmers."

—Editor of *Michigan Manufacturer*, please copy.

\* \* \* \*

"You can't keep a corporation alive on patriotism," was what George D. Baldwin, manager of Hog Island ship yard, told the senate commerce commission. "Our stockholders must have their dividends." Quite true, quite true, the only man in this country who is supposed to forego profits for the sake of patriotism is the farmer.

\* \* \* \*

American millionaires who have their money invested in war supplies hanufactories are making a harvest under the government's "cost plus" plan. If it costs the government ten billions of dollars a year to make war, we may safely estimate that a hundred million of those dollars find their way into the vaults of the money kings. War may be a great leveler of caste, but it is also a great centralizer of wealth.



## EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

## Scientific Experts Should Study the Real Needs of the Farmer and Help Him to What is Right and Just

It has been charged that Mr. Waid is not governed by the sentiments of the growers of farm products but what is, apparently, personal ambitions. This can also be said of "expert" or otherwise, County Agents that are being forced on to the farmers in a good many different ways. They have in the past proved to be willing to agree to anything that will make them loom up big and important in the eyes of those who are in the realm higher up and likes to use these "scientific" persons for the express purpose of working the farmers for their easy way of making a living and enjoying the luxuries of life regardless of what the farmer has to say. It is true that the Secretary of the Michigan Potato Growers' Association and the County Agents could be of great value to the farmers if they were servants of the farmers; if they would favor what they know the farmer wants and needs and if they didn't know what was needed, try to find out and act accordingly.

The time has come, and recent actions by Mr. Waid and a number of County Agents have impressed it so thoroughly on our minds that they will in time—sooner or later, and I hope sooner, see the handwriting on the wall. The MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is just the thing the farmer has been in need of for years. Every farmer should take this paper and in this way all farmers would work in one unit. To illustrate this unit of farmers it is necessary to tell a story of a father on his death-bed and his nine sons. He wanted at this time to give them some impressive advice. He asked them all to his bed-side and asked each to bring a stick, and each went out and returned with a stick, and the father took each stick and broke it easily one after another. Then he said, "my sons, go and bring me each another stick like the first ones," and each son went out and brought in one more stick apiece similar to the first ones. This time the father received the sticks all at one time and he tried to break the nine at one time and could not even bend them. "Let this be a lesson," he said, "that as long as you stand separately you are easily broken up, but when all stand together you stand forever." If we farmers practice this we will not be bended and twisted at will by anyone.

If Mr. Waid does not fill the place he has to the entire satisfaction of all of the Ass'n the solution is easy—fire him and let us put in a real farmer and take our chances on his being scientific. An honest man whose integrity and fidelity is personified thru him is of more real value to us than all this expert and scientificness. Moving picture slides are all right at the movies and this is as true of Mr. Waid's slides as of any, so the patrons of the movies can learn about the pests and diseases the farmers are at war with continuously and is a proof the farmer is at war all the time to keep up the food supply that feeds the world. We Farmers, know all about the potato pests and diseases and we are the first to find out about them, too. Our MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING will help us find remedies for all our troubles if we stand all together, each member is one more stick to be broken together with the first nine as in the illustration above. Just think what strength we have when our forces are combined.

Let us not tolerate any one to stand in the way of what is right and just no matter what kind of a cloak they hide behind. Scientific experts and county agents have something to learn, too, and that is to learn the needs of the farmer from what the farmer says he needs and then learn to act in accordance with his wishes thru thick and thin. It pays to keep the farmer contented. The farmer wants one grade of potatoes—sound, perfect in skin and shape and that grade can be got by running over a 1 and 3-4 inch screen. This will satisfy the farmer and consumer. But Lord! how the dealers and middle-men will groan. Well, who cares? They are an unnecessary evil anyway. Who is it that has asked or wanted two grades of potatoes both grades to be No. 1 in quality but to be bought of the farmer for two different prices? Does it reduce the cost of potatoes to the consumer? For the sake of Uncle Sam who protects you someone answer these questions. I know the farmer has 40 per cent less dollars to buy implements with and they are

costing 40 per cent more than they did two years ago. The consumer of potatoes is paying more for potatoes at a time when he can least afford it.—F. C. Rasmussen, Greenville, Montcalm county.

## Same Regulation Cannot Apply to City and Farm People Alike

Allow me to bring to your notice a situation in which farmers are finding themselves and in which they are very much in need of advice.

The needs of the Nation call to each and every farmer for greater production the coming year, and, you know, the more intensive the system of farming employed, greater need is for labor.

Farmers, unlike other business managers or owners, are confronted first, by the necessity of housing and feeding their laborers. Under new food regulations, limiting the amount of provision that one can have in his possession, to the quantity sufficient for thirty days, increased farm production, and increased acreage is made impossible. Before we hire, we must be sure we can feed the help. Before we plant, we should have an ordinarily clear road to harvest, else we are burying grain, not planting it.

Since it is a common custom of grain and potato and bean farmers; those upon whom the army and nation are most dependent to buy a

This isn't written in a spirit of criticism. We are coming for advice to one in whose judgment we have faith. Kindly tell us in the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING what our patriotic duty is? Also in regard to this question which is often discussed among working people:

A Hooverized menu means an additional 33 and 1-3 per cent to living expenses. On every hand we are confronted by the desire to help. To give to Red Cross, Y. M. C. A, Liberty bonds, Savings Certificates. Now, if one's means are limited and the Hoover method requires his entire income, making giving to the other things impossible. Which is the most important, judged by the need and work accomplished?—A. K., Lake.

## The Farmers Will Have to Organize to Get What Belongs to Them

I have been reading your valuable paper for the last couple of months and I will say that it is just what we farmers have been needing in every state in the Union to wake us up. You are showing your good will toward us farmers not only in your paper but also by action. The farmers have always been easy marks for the speculators and middle-men. They would always make the price at both ends for our produce, and no one asked us the cost of production.

The M. A. C. is sending its agents out trying to teach us farmers to grow two blades of grass where only one grew before, but I think it is very little if any at all, that they can teach us in that direction. The fact is, that it is not by any means the bumper crop that is bringing the most money or the profit to the farmer's pocket. The individual farmer can work his land to the best advantage, raising pork, beef, potatoes, wheat and so on, but when it comes to market this produce then he is up against it, and here is where the small farmer gets fleeced every time, and here I think is where those gentlemen from the M. A. C. could do us some good, in helping to get the farmers organized, and help to find a market for our produce, cutting out the middlemen who are living high at our expense, by inducing the farmers to hold back our product until there is a demand for it in the market at a fair profit, and if there is anything left over feed it on the farm. Right today I think potatoes are worth 50c a bushel to feed to live stock, and I think right there we have a good place for what we can not sell in the open market at a fair price. Try it, fellow farmers and I'll bet you 100 to 1 we will soon see the results.

Around here the stock buyers are buying on a two cent margin for our hogs and cattle, so there is where our profit goes, but so long as the farmers are standing isolated there is no hope for us. There is only one way out of the present condition and that is through organization for both buying and selling, and here is where the agents could do us the most service. But dare they?

Fellow farmers, I think we will have to go a step farther to get relief. How are we as a class, represented in our legislature and in congress? My opinion is that until we get interested in the running of our government as much as we are in our farm work there will not be any relief, and not until then can we expect to get what we are entitled to from our work, and I feel that the farmers can not thank MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING too much for the good work it is doing.—N. P. F., Coral.

## Doesn't Think That Government Lived Up to Its Agreement

There are not any more than enough potatoes in this section of the state than for our own use, and there have been quite a few frozen in the cellars. Beans are not raised here very much so I don't know much about them only the fact that they are from 18c to 20c per lb. I hope you succeed in knocking out the grading of potatoes in Michigan. I don't think the government can look for as many to be raised as last year. They did not do as they agreed, they advised the farmers to raise extra acreage and they would see that they got a good price and would have plenty of help to harvest their crops, and then they took the farmers' boys about the first thing. Now why did they do this? They might just as well keep their county agents at home this year; the farmers will plant what they can take care of and no more. There is no use to plant a lot to go to waste. Success to your paper and long may it live.—G. A. R., Cattaraugus Co., New York.

## BREAKFAST WITH CAPTURED HUNS IN A DUGOUT



This Boche dugout was captured by the British while the Huns were at breakfast. Taking no chances on viands being poisoned, the prisoners were invited to partake of the repast.

supply of flour, sugar, and other staple groceries, when they sell a money crop to last until another harvest, and as this custom is the best management for them, since this class of farmers rarely keep many cows, thus releasing the small income from the cows during the spring and summer to help in paying wages for labor, and implement repairs, etc., we want your candid opinion and advice upon this:

Which does patriotism consist in, living on the allotted amount suggested and buying no more, or planning for tomorrow in view of our country's need of greater farm production.

Can the same food regulation do justice to both city and farm people? Should means be provided for the farmers to be able to buy now, or assured the chances to buy later, sugar needed for canning fruits the farmer produces, thereby conserving all its food products and flour for feeding farm laborers. Should we not be sure of these before planting time, not for the sake of the farmer, but that he may answer to his nation's call? If we happen to be able to find help on the farm for a few days at a time, and we often are, then we are just as powerless if we can not feed the extra men.



## EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

## Farmer Gets Robbed Either Way.

A short time ago I had a conversation with a potato buyer. The grating question came up. He gave his opinion as follows: "In some way I am in favor of the two grades and in some ways not. For instance, I ship a load of spuds, (say to Detroit). They are No. 1 stock but have not gone over the Government grader. I am informed that they have arrived but will not be accepted as they are not No. 1. Now the son-of-a-gun knows they are No. 1 stock, he also knows he has me on his hip, as that car load is there at my expense. Then the only thing I can do is to sell at a discount. I am the loser and he has my profit as well as his own. Now if this load had been run over the Government grader and he had turned them down, I would get the Government agent to inspect them. He would pronounce them O. K. and the dealer would be compelled to take them at contracted price. For this reason I am in favor of two grades."

Now this looks to me that in order to protect the shipper from dishonest buyers there has to be another dishonest scheme to rob the farmers. What is wrong with that same government agent that he cannot tell a car of No. 1 potatoes from another unless some one informs him they have gone over the so-called government screen? Why can't he tell if he isn't a rogue himself or else hasn't enough judgment to tell No. 1 spuds from No. 2?

The farmer has been a good mule, but it's time he quit kicking over the profits of his load to cover the greedy grasps.

Let us rather have one grade potatoes or else the same price for No. 2, and let the Government protect us in time that the bean door may be locked before the horse is stolen.—S. T. G., Fife Lake.

## The Farmer is Always the "Goat"

I see in your paper you are urging the bean buyers to arrange to dry the farmers' wet beans. We have two elevators here and they have each built dryers, but we find they are no benevolent institutions. They will dry just what they buy and they weigh them up and charge sixty cents per bushel for drying them. I sold them a load a short time ago. Their price was \$6.60 per bu. for dry beans, and \$6.00 for wet ones. Mine were wet. They picked them and weighed what they picked out and claimed they picked 15 lbs. They charged me 14 cents per lb. for these and then treated the beans as to excess moisture and made 12 per cent excess, so they took 12 per cent out of the weight of the whole load, but they did not deduct anything for moisture in the culls they picked out; so after they got all through I had \$3.70 per bu. for my share. I paid the elevator man \$10.00 for seed. I think the farmers might better either dry the beans themselves or else feed them to the pigs at home rather than to fatten the elevator hogs. That isn't all I had to pay them for picking out those cull beans, for they kept the culls, or one-quarter of my load I didn't get anything for.

I see at a meeting of the milk commission they were agitating the high cost of milk to the consumer. The question was asked if they raised the wages of the men who delivered the milk and they said they had. A man who drove a milk wagon now got \$6 for eight hours work. That is all right, but show me the farmer who gets six dollars clear for his fifteen hours work, but I notice the farmer is always the "goat."—Subscriber.

## Let's Co-Operate; be Our Own "Middleman"

Enclosed find one dollar for my subscription for one year. It is the best yet. Most farm papers tell you how to raise the stuff, but not how to get rid of it, and that is the most important part of it. There has always been too many "toil notes, neither do they spins" living off the farmers.

Farming is the largest business on earth, and yet shows an increase in general under the past and present conditions. But, wake up, brother farmers! We are pulling our own boat against the stream and the other fellow, the middleman, is floating his down stream. Let's co-operate and be our own middleman, own an elevator, a produce company, etc., and instead of selling at wholesale and buying at retail, we can do like the manufacturer, he buys at wholesale and sells at retail. That's why he has the money, and the farmer who has the least to sell is the man who is most in need of co-operation. Some say we cannot finance the undertaking. We are financing it every time we take a load of grain, produce, live stock, hay, etc., to market, but we don't realize it because we do not know what the other fellow gets. There is in this town a farmers' independent produce Co., and Grangers' stock shipping association; both paying good dividends to stockholders and patrons, and what we need now is an elevator, a real farmers' elevator. We are facing a critical time and what we need to do is pull together. "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Go to it M. B. F. We'll stand by you—we'll stand by anything that's right.—H. L. C., Clare.

## Only Hope for the Farmers is to Organize

I had two copies of your paper, sent to me by one of your subscribers, and after reading the same saw that it was just what I and many other farmers have been looking and hoping for, namely, a farm champion.

The consumer, middleman and manufacturer are all landing on the farmer from above, below, behind and before, and the farmer being in an unorganized state can not protect himself. If it was possible to organize the farmer into a corporation, union or some political or social organization and get him to stick by it, he could rule the nation, and make the rest of the world come to time.

At this critical period of our nation's history we have all been asked to be patriotic. The farmer has been asked to put out more crops to feed the suffering world. Has he responded to this appeal? He has, because he was trusting and that the nation would protect him financially. The price of what the farmer raised was set and what he had to buy increased 100 to 300 per cent. Was the price of coal set? Yes; but when the coal barons began to balk they got a generous raise, and seeing how easy it came they tried it again and the coal administration, being accommodating, responded with a raise. The same with the railroads. When they wanted the freight rates raised they sidetracked coal and other necessities and said, "there they stay until we get what we want." They got it quick. Why can't the farmers do this? Because they are not organized. So here is hoping that the farmers may learn a lesson from these times and soon organize and by so doing may the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING be the champion of the Michigan agriculturalist.—W. N. H., Three Rivers.

## It is Time for the Farmer to Wake Up.

I received a sample copy of your paper and read it with great interest. I think if every farmer in this great state of Michigan would put his shoulder to the wheel and with a good farm paper like the M. B. F. to help we can turn the wheel and get our share of what is coming to us. I think it's time for the farmer to wake up and not let the middleman rob him of his profit any longer, and not let one or two men make a law and tell the farmer what to do. This potato grading is the biggest robbery that was ever perpetrated upon the farmers. I am not a large raiser of potatoes myself, probably from 500 to 800 bushels, but the most of the farmers here raise from 500 to 1500 bushels. They won't do it next year unless this grading is cut out. They might fool the farmer once but not any more. I have all of my potatoes yet and will not sell them under present conditions. I have started to feed some of them to the hogs and cattle.

We were urged last spring to plant potatoes, "the Government would buy all we could raise at \$1 per bu." and now where are we at? We would be in the hole if we sell at present prices.

Now, about the county agents. For my part I do not think the farmers need them. The way I look at it I think that every farmer knows his business and knows best what his soil needs without having somebody tell him. Give him a square deal—what is coming to him—so he can go ahead and do things. But as long as we have to farm without profit, or at a loss, we might as well lay down and quit, and no county agent can do him any good. I do not mean that we have to have \$2 or \$3 per bu. for potatoes, but if we have to sell them below \$1 under the present condition, considering what we have to pay for labor and seed, and paris green, we cannot do it without a loss. I do not think there is a farmer who wants anything unreasonable. What the farmer wants is a square deal.—A New Subscriber, Freesoil.

## Give Us Price and We'll Give Production

I enjoy the articles coming in from the different farmer readers. It seems this year that we should do more than complain; there is too much money going to the hot-air shooters. One thing in mind is \$85,000 appropriated by Congress to encourage more meat production. Give the farmers a little raise in price and they will respond cheerfully with production. \$15.50 minimum price on hogs at Chicago means around 12c at country shipping points. At this price farmers are not going to show up any increase. We as farmers have swallowed a good liberal dose of hot-air unrewarded. Just watch us. Give us a little profit and we will show you increased production in all lines.—G. A. M., Osceola county.

## Give the Farmer Insurance Against Loss

I do not think we ought to find fault but it seems almost impossible sometimes. Sometimes I am opposed to this price-fixing proposition altho I said alright when they fixed the price of wheat 30 or 40 cents too cheap. Bread is one article that all classes have to have. But I think they should have stopped them. It seems now that they have left no inducements to the farmer at all. It looks as tho they had made a division in the business and labor. The manufacturer of munitions and war supplies have the preference and can pay the wages. That if the other manufacturers and farmers had to pay the same wages and raise wheat and beans or hogs and cattle to pay them with they would have to double the prices they are paying the farmer now. They would begin to realize what the high cost of living really was. I say foodstuffs are too cheap according to manufactur-

ed articles and the plan is wrong, eventually it will work hardship on the consumer. It has a strong tendency to lessen the production. The supply is not up to standard now and I think supply and demand ought to govern the price. If we could get better prices we could pay better wages, more on a level with the manufacturer. Uncle Sam says to the manufacturer produce me war materials and I will pay the cost and give you ten per cent profit on the output of your plant. Ho! Ho! If he would say, "Old Boy, produce me wheat, beans, pork and beef, I will pay you cost and ten per cent profit," how we would pay to it. We would never go to church. We could install all kinds of modern conveniences and we could have night and day shifts and pay ourselves good salaries and come on a level with rest. But no the prices and barley at cost, many instances below, consequently there is a shortage and will be a greater shortage because the best of farmers are quitting and the help we can get is less efficient. I believe the prices of so-called food stuff ought to go along with the other stuff and it would stimulate production which would cheapen it more on a fair basis, we could afford to hire more. Of course it might touch the settlers, a little hard but we have to support them anyway. But I think it would be better for the common laborers that can not get jobs in the high priced plants. I am sorry that we have to have a national election during this awful war. I think we would be better off if we would be better off if we could leave our Congress, Senate, President and all head officials right as they are till the close of the war. We would gain nothing to change as they are all smart men and they could and would do so much better if we did not have to have an election during the war. To mix the corruption of politics in war is bad enough, but politics is hell which we can already see by the talk at Washington. I think those men that are wrangling down there are all wrong. They will be so politically prejudiced they won't do what is right, if they know.—G. R., Olivet.

## Oh No, Beans are Not Going to Waste!

I am a subscriber and much interested reader of M. B. F. Not seeing in the M. B. F. from Sanilac county, I thought I would try my hand in the game and if this don't find the waste basket I will come again. I take a number of farm papers but the M. B. F. has them all beat for business and that is what we want. The bean situation in this section of the country is fierce. I see a few days ago that Mr. Hoover says there are no beans going to waste in Michigan. Let a few soft days come and our friend Hoover will see one of the softest messes of beans he ever has seen. The cold weather is the only thing that is saving them. Beans in this section of the county have yielded from 1 bushel to 10 per acre with the average about 5 bushels per acre and in most cases a soft mushy lot. Yesterday the writer saw one man sell his beans for \$2.00 per hundred. We paid \$10.00 per bushel for seed beans last spring with the understanding that they would be a big price this fall, but got our fingers burnt again. Of course, we were tools to help the bean men get a big price for beans. They paid a small price for in 1916. The writer knows one man who planted his beans three times costing him \$30 per acre and got nothing. Yes, there is a lot of money in beans. I am drying my beans in a similar way of Mr. C. W. Crum and find it works well where you have only a few.—L. M., Croswell, Michigan.

## Beans are not Worth Threshing

We certainly like to read M. B. F. We are watching the bean prices the same as hundreds of others. I think if the government would have said to the threshers to turn in the number of bus. of beans that might be used for food we would be getting somewhere near what we farmers ought to have for our beans. We live just across the road from the Evelyn fruit farm where they planted \$60 worth of seed and I don't think they will save one bushel. They threshed until they had 50 bus. which were turned in as beans, and then quit as they knew they would not get enough for them to pay the thresh bill, and another neighbor who threshed 30 or 40 bus. thought to get something out of them fed them to his hogs and he lost the hogs. We did a little better, but we have to hand-pick them to save ourselves. We would lose all if we sold them as they are for they would take all of the good ones for picking out the bad ones.—J. A. C., East Jordan.

## Isabella Buyers Holding for Higher Prices.

In regard to the potato screen. This part of the country is quite a potato country but the early frost did the crop up fully one-half, and 50 per cent would be No. 2 on an average for the whole county. The farmers are disappointed, they looked for \$1 per bu and all the buyers are paying is \$1.25 per hundred for No. 1. Most of the buyers are holding for better prices. They say they will feed all of the No. 2 grade and cut down the acreage next year if something is not done soon.

Beans were poor, only about half a crop and they were badly damaged by wet weather. At \$3 per bu. we will only come out with a small profit.—C. L., Isabella county.





# THE FARM HOME

*A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm*



ANNA CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

## This Week's Tested Recipe

### Spanish Rice

This is a deservedly popular dish and like rice farce is excellent to serve with beans for meatless dinners.

4 teaspoons fat; 2 green peppers; 1 onion sliced; 1 cup rice; ½ tablespoon paprika; bit of bay leaf; 4 large ripe tomatoes or ½ can tomatoes; 2 tablespoons sugar; 2 teaspoons salt; ¼ teaspoon white pepper; ground thyme.

Heat the fat in a heavy frying pan, and in it brown delicately the peppers and the onions. Remove and brown the rice. Add all other ingredients. Cover and let simmer on the back of the stove until rice is soft; add boiling water as the rice swells.

These numerous ways of using rice recipes do not cover the usefulness of rice. Soups and desserts have not been touched. A whole volume could be filled with recipes on rice cookery. Less meat and less wheat, more rice might be adopted as the conservation program of America while the world shortage of food lasts. Get acquainted with rice, the food of millions.

## He Who Loses His Life Shall Find It.

ALL OF the old philosophers contended that it was only by forgetting oneself and thinking of others that we could gain happiness. Mrs. B., whose letter we publish today, hits on this truth when she expresses her sympathy for Mr. S.

I have never seen anybody who was always complaining, always discontented, always seeking pleasure and happiness far from their own fireside, who found it. And I have never seen serene-faced old ladies whose lives had been filled with toil and trouble, who had absolutely sacrificed themselves to their families, often needlessly, I admit, who seemed to have found the hidden springs of contentment and peace.

Too many women think only of what is due them, of the attention their husbands should pay them; they never seem to see the other side. A man likes a little affection and kind treatment, too. It gets tiresome, I imagine, to see a long, discontented face every night after his day's work is done. A little tact and cheerfulness goes a long way. A person can resolve to make the best of their marital situation, no matter if the scene is laid on the farm which to some folks, is like a prison. After a while, when they have forgotten to consider their own happiness, so busy have they been in making others happy, they will find the truth of the old Biblical truth. Having lost their own individual lives in service to others, they will be astonished to find that they have found contentment and happiness. Just try forgetting yourself for one day; think of the comfort and happiness of everyone who comes in contact with your life. See if you do not go to bed that night with a fuller feeling of happiness than you have had before. Learn to appreciate life's true values. Surround yourself with good books; take the best magazines and enjoy them.

Get a phonograph and some entertaining records. Have music, good books, a canary, some potted plants, some comfy armchairs, the daily paper, cheerful pictures on your walls, pretty curtains at your windows! Make your house a real home, with the soul of hospitality and good cheer shining out of its windows. You will be surprised how the very atmosphere of the place will bring contentment to your heart.

Make a confidant of your husband. There is a way to every man's heart. Find the way to yours. He's a human soul you know. He used to be a little boy, just as dear and cunning as your own little baby boy. He grew up, and is just what his life and environment made him. Perhaps his early life was narrow and he has never known what a real, cheery happy home is. Show him! Walk hand in hand with him. It is worth while, for after all, there is no happiness as complete as the happiness gained from marriage where love and congeniality abound.

Of course, you should let him know that you expect consideration from him, too. The time has passed when a woman is man's slave. I would advise every woman to follow up some pet hobby or interest of her own. Be interested in something—anything. Your lodge, your church, and now of course, there is something which every woman should give all her spare time to. That's the RED CROSS! I have been rolling bandages, making pneumonia jackets, knitting, and giving all the time I can to it, and every woman should give all the time she possibly can. If there is not a Red Cross Unit in your neighborhood communicate with the Red Cross Headquarters in the largest city near you, and find

out how to go starting one. Get the neighbors together, and do some work for your country. Get outside of yourself; lose yourself in service, and you'll find that instead of a selfish, narrow woman whose mind travels in the circle of her own discontent, you will be broad, unselfish, busy and happy!

You've heard the old saying "Tell your troubles to a police man!" Well, tell them to me instead. We'll draw our armchairs up to the kitchen fire, and gossip about them together. Surely, so many ideas on each different subject will bring help to all of us. No names are published and every letter is strictly confidential. Write to Mrs. Anna Campbell Stark, Editor Home Department, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens,

## Farm Life is What You Make It.

I HAVE JUST read the letter from Mrs. S. of Indiana and must say that Mr. S. has my sympathy, for I imagine he has not had a very cheerful companion all these years.

To my notion it doesn't depend so much on whether a person lives in town or the country

## A Question

WHAT were the words that the censor cut

From your letter to me today?

Are you ill or in danger, boy of mine?

Are you sorry you went away?

Baby of all, only seventeen.

You enlisted, although I plead.

You loved me well, but you must protect

Your country first, you said!

I READ your letter, and wonder where

You sat when you wrote to me?

Were you deep in the mud of the

trenches, lad?

Were you sailing across the sea?

Have you come to France? Have you

heard the guns

And the whir of an aeroplane?

I wish you were only a babe at my breast,

Held close in my arms again!

WHAT were the words that the censor cut

From the letter you wrote to me?

Have you plenty to eat and plenty to

wear?

Are you well as you ought to be?

Have you faced the enemy yet, my lad?

Do you think of your home, at times?

The little red school where you used to

go?

The church bells' peaceful chimes?

SOMETIMES think if you could but

write,

Uncensored, unchecked, and say

Just how you are faring and where you

are

And what you are doing today.

The question that rings in my brain

would cease.

I'd be glad, as I once could be,—

But what were the words that the censor

cut

From the letter you wrote to me?

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK

as on the person himself. I know a woman who lived in town all her life until she was married and who makes the best kind of a farmer's wife, and on the other hand, I know another woman who lives in the country and has lived there all her life and who thinks that town is the only place to be happy. Furthermore I know another woman who lived in the country until she was married and who is living happily in town.

It seems that Mrs. S. thinks that clod-hoppers are clod-hoppers so keep them so, and no doubt, holds herself aloof from her country neighbors who by this time, don't care to visit with her.

I should say that Mrs. S. had better stop feeling sorry for herself and give her sympathy to her husband for a while and start knitting for the soldiers. Also learn "The Little House Where Love Lives" by Mrs. Stark.

As a final word of warning to the young man—

## Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

### "OLD GLORY" OR "NEW GLORY."

One woman is making what she calls her war-bread, a combination of one cup of rye flour to eight cups of white flour. She calls it "Old Glory Bread."

Eleven per cent rye substitution, and she calls it "Old Glory." Our European companions in arms are eating a 25 to 50 per cent combination.

If that is "Old Glory" lay it away and hang out the service flag of today—the "New Glory" flag.

When America fought for "Old Glory" she fought for herself alone, today she fights for the world in a brotherhood of nations, and the Stars and Stripes float as "New Glory."

Europe has been eating her war-bread for three years. America will not refuse her portion; for we are not half way in this war, we are all the way in.

To America is granted the privilege of beating the Europeans in the game of wheat saving without suffering any hardship. Let corn-bread be our war bread.

Here's to the "New Glory" bread 100 per cent patriotic—corn-bread.

look to the disposition of the girl you intend to marry, more than whether she came from town or country. However, take your chances on the country girl whether you live in town or country unless you are wealthy.—Mrs. B., Michigan.

## Rice the Food of Millions

RICE, supplemented with beans and salt fish to balance the diet, forms the principal food of half of the population of the earth, and is an important article of diet with the other half. A single year's failure of the world's rice crop would practically exterminate the populations of India, China and Japan.

The rice production of the world for 1917 is estimated at 150,000,000,000 pounds of cleaned rice. However, only about two-thirds of the crop is covered by accurate statistics, as it is impossible to get figures from China, the great rice growing and rice consuming country.

The rice crop of the United States is recorded in steadily mounting figures. According to the final crop estimate, the yield for 1917 is 1,004,900,600 pounds of cleaned rice. This is an increase of 43.6 per cent over the 1911-15 average. The acreage planted has doubled since 1905. In the last five years California has been numbered among the rice growing states, and is now surpassed in acreage only by Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas. There are splendid opportunities to extend the acreage planted in this grain which, because of yield and crop certainty, is the hope of a hungry world.

The consumption of rice however has not kept pace with production, and Americans do not sufficiently appreciate its food value. In 1911-13 our average yearly consumption of rice was only eight pounds per capita. England's was 14.14 and Australia's 15.27. While the food shortage does not suggest that we imitate the Oriental and consume three-fourths of a pound a day, the present rate might be doubled.

Rice offers a nutritious and relatively cheap food of almost universal adaptability in cooking; it takes the place of bread in the Orient and cuts the consumption of wheat bread in our Southern States; it is the natural accompaniment of fowl and fish. When used in combination with beans, rice makes, perhaps, the cheapest food ration. In this crisis every housekeeper should study rice and become acquainted with the variety and extent of its use.

## Some Pie and Pantry Pointers

Dear Mrs. Stark:—I thought perhaps my method of making pie might be of interest to our readers. I always add a little corn starch to the crust. One teaspoonful to a pie will prevent the undercrust from being heavy and soggy. I mix the sugar and flour and add it to my fruit before putting the pie together. It is more evenly sweetened then, and your folks won't bite into any lumps of flour. Do not stretch the top crust tight and in pressing the edges together push the edge of the top crust toward the center of the pie. This allows plenty of room for the fruit to cook and prevents the crust from bursting open and the juice escaping. I never put my hands in a pie any more than is absolutely necessary.

Save the round pasteboard boxes that rolled oats comes in. They are fine to keep sugar in. When you get a ten pound bag, empty at once, as there is less waste in using from a box than from the bag, besides keeping your pantry much neater. I use the larger pasteboard boxes to keep vegetables in, instead of having to run to the cellar for every meal's vegetables.—R. A. B., Mich.



## 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.)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** If our correspondents or any of our other readers desire information as to how to organize a farm loan association, we will gladly supply it. We have on hand a large number of government bulletins and blanks describing the federal loan act, which explains in detail how to organize local associations. These will be supplied free of charge upon request.

### ST. CHARLES FARMERS INTERESTED IN FEDERAL FARM LOAN PLAN

I saw in your paper about that Federal Loan association. Can you tell me if there is one in Saginaw county and if so, can you explain to me where it is?—D. M., St. Charles.

Our records do not disclose that an association is located sufficiently close to St. Charles to permit a resident of that vicinity to join. As you undoubtedly know, the Federal Loan Board has ruled that no application can be made thru an association by an applicant living outside of the territory of that association.—W. K. Jennings, Federal Land Bank of Saint Paul.

### FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION FOR GRATIOT CO. AT RIVERDALE

Will you please tell me where the nearest Federal Loan Association is located, that is, the one nearest Alma, Mich.? I should like to get in touch with one nearest my home. You will find one dollar for one yearly subscription for M. B. F. Think the paper is just what farmers need.—J. R., Alma, Michigan.

Our records disclose that an association has been organized at Riverdale in Gratiot county, the territory of which, however, does not embrace Alma. It may be possible that your subscriber's farm is located within the boundaries of the above association inasmuch as the eastern border of the same is the township line close to Alma. If you will give us the description of your subscriber's farm, we will be able to give you further information in this regard. Incidentally the name of the Riverdale Association is The Hard Scrabble National Farm Loan Association.—Federal Land Bank of St. Paul.

### GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NO ACTION TO REGULATE GASOLINE USES

Can you tell me whether the government has made any ruling forbidding the use of gasoline for pleasure cars? Would it be right for the government to prevent us from using our cars after we had bought the license for same?—Subscriber.

Thus far no restrictions or regulations pertaining to the use of gasoline have been issued, nor are any contemplated at this time.—M. L. Requa, Director Oil Division U. S. Fuel Administration.

### SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON POTATO GRADING QUESTION

I had an argument with one of our local dealers and I told him I could prove everything I had said by MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, and he said that newspapers were made to sell. The questions I would like to have you answer are as follows:

No. 1. Who is responsible for the present methods of grading, Mr. Hoover or Mr. Lou D. Sweet and Prof. Waid?

No. 2. Is it a law or just a ruling established among the buyers?

No. 3. Are potatoes graded in any other state besides Michigan and Wisconsin?

No. 4. Is it not a fact that the ungraded stock of New York, Maine, and Pennsylvania are bringing a bigger price than the graded stock of Michigan?

No. 5. Are potatoes being placed upon the market as graded potatoes?

No. 6. Is there a Government inspector for the grading of potatoes?

No. 7. Is the present screen a Government screen?—G. A. D., Charlevoix.

1. It is impossible to point out the particular individual who is responsible for establishing potato grades this year. Everyone who had anything to do with the proposition, is trying to shift the blame to someone else, and we have yet to place our finger on the man who started the thing. It is not necessary to do this, however, in order to fix responsibility for the present state of affairs existing in the potato situation. Every man who gave his approval to the plan, without consulting the wishes of the farmers themselves, is

equally culpable as the individual who conceived the idea. It is not probable that Mr. Hoover had anything at all to do with these potato grades. He appointed a committee in whom he apparently had confidence to handle the potato question to the satisfaction and best interest of all concerned. That he made a bad mistake in his choice may or may not be Mr. Hoover's fault. It is beyond understanding, however, why he failed to appoint a single representative farmer on a committee which was to exert so arbitrary a control over the farmer's business. As nearly as we can ascertain, Mr. Lou D. Sweet and Mr. E. P. Miller of the potato committee have very pronounced ideas on the subject of grading potatoes, and took advantage of their position to try out their pet hobbies at the expense of the farmers. However, they did not wish to assume the entire burden of responsibility so they wisely called into consultation among others, Prof. C. W. Waid secretary of the Michigan Potato Growers' Ass'n; the president and secretary of the Wisconsin Ass'n, all of whom are instructors, or "experts" affiliated with the agricultural colleges of those two states, together with various other gentlemen, with hobbies and theories as to how the farming business ought to be run. These gentlemen, having nothing at stake in a financial way, gave their approval and straightway the grades were put into effect, in some places. Therefore, answering your question, Mr. Hoover is to blame for his shortsightedness in appointing a committee out of touch with the farmers; Mr. Sweet is to blame, and Prof. Waid is to blame for assuming to give his consent as a representative of the potato growers of the state.

2. The grading was established by a ruling of the Food Administration, and is not a law. Its compulsory operation comes to an end the day that peace comes. Dealers may then, if they choose buy and ship ungraded potatoes as formerly.

3. When the rules were first put into effect they were NOT compulsory and Michigan and Wisconsin were the only two states in which the dealers unanimously agreed to grade. This was because, they were organized and in sympathy with the movement. As has already been noted in these columns VERY FEW of the dealers in New York or Pennsylvania have been grading potatoes. At least this is the information given us direct by the departments of agriculture of those two states. Letters received from Steuben county, New York, show, however, that some, but not all, the dealers of that county are grading potatoes, whereas less than twenty-five miles away in Cattaraugus county, none of the dealers are grading. The potato committee admits that the grading was not made general and compulsory when it first went into effect, and therein lies the great discrimination against the farmers of Michigan and Wisconsin.

4. It is a fact that ungraded stock of New York, and Pennsylvania are bringing, and have been bringing, MUCH HIGHER prices than Michigan graded stock.

5. We have conducted many investigations to ascertain whether or not Michigan graded potatoes were being sold on the market in a graded state, but we have yet to find a single instance where dealers are selling U. S. grades No. 1 and 2 as such.

6. Inspectors have been appointed to examine cars at terminal markets to ascertain whether or not dealers have been conforming to the regulations. Mr. Allewelt, a representative of the U. S. Bureau of Markets, admitted that the inspection was ineffectual because of the scarcity of men for the purpose.

7. The present screen is a "government" screen in the sense that it was recommended by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Markets several years ago, who, however, had no authority to compel dealers to use that screen.

### SOME INFORMATION ON THE FEDERAL FARM LOAN PLAN

I would like to get some information about the farmers' rural loan business. Where can I write for full particulars regarding the same?—A Subscriber, Merrill.

The federal farm loan proposition has been fully outlined in M. B. F. on various occasions. Bulletins giving full details of the proposition may be had by writing the Federal Farm Loan Board, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., or MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens.

Briefly the essentials of the farm loan act are as follows: Ten or more farmers may apply for loans aggregating \$20,000. They must organize according to the requirements of the act. No farmer may borrow more than \$10,000 or less than \$100, and no association may start with less than \$20,000 in loans. Fifty per cent of the appraised value of the land may be borrowed and twenty per cent of the insured permanent improvements. First mortgag-

es must be given in security. The money must be expended for farm improvements, purchase of live stock, etc., or may be used to pay up mortgaged indebtedness. Rate of interest not more than 6 per cent, depending upon the rate of interest which the bonds or debentures of the Federal Land Bank obtain. Loans may run from five to forty years at option of borrower. The borrower is required to make semi-annual payments to the secretary, which pays the interest and principal in the given time.

This by no means covers all the provisions of the act. Every farmer who is interested should write for Circular 5, "The Farm Loan Primer," which gives a brief outline of the law, or Circular 4, "The Federal Farm Loan Act," for a more detailed account.

### FIRE LOSSES MAY BE DEDUCTED FROM ASSETS IN TAX STATEMENT

I noticed an article in your paper about the income tax, and I would like to know if I can deduct the expense of rebuilding my barn that burned down by lightning last spring. I had a heavy loss, including seventeen head of cattle, two horses, hay and grain. I had to build again to take care of my crop and stock this winter. Do they allow me to deduct the expense from the income or not? We farmers have got to keep our buildings up, and our tools so that we can farm and raise food. How can a farmer make a correct statement when he doesn't keep a book account? I never have, and don't know how to go about it, and think that it must be lots of bother.—Jos. Witgen.

You failed to state whether your loss was covered wholly or in part by insurance. The income tax law appears to be very clear on the subject of fire loss the clause reading as follows:

"Losses by fire, storm, other casualties or theft may be deducted only to the extent that they are not covered by insurance, or made good by repairs reported as expenses."

If your loss was not covered by insurance, the total loss or such part of it as was not covered by insurance may be deducted from your receipts in making up the report.

If you have kept no books, and a great many farmers neglect this important duty, it will be necessary for you to determine as nearly as you can what your net income for the year was. If you have any way of determining your gross receipts, you should deduct your expenses including repairs, etc., investments for new equipment, etc., for everything except money expended on your house, which is not considered a part of the business.

Your banker may be able to give you some assistance in making out the report. The report must be received by the internal revenue office of your district by March 1, or you are subject to penalty.

### PEA BEANS NOT A VERY GOOD CROP IN NEW YORK STATE

(Continued from page 3)

large varieties, and almost continual rain at harvest time damaged them so that good seed will be very scarce—pea beans.

The kind I raise ripened quite well—were well matured when the frost came—will make good seed. It was my second year with this crop, tho I will plant again. Beans in this locality are just being threshed; no sales as yet, though are retailing from stores at from 16c to 22c per lb.

On account of the severe cold no potatoes are going to market, dealers stopped buying at \$1.80 per 100 pounds. There is considerable dissatisfaction among farmers over the change in grading; we are not getting what we should for the seconds.

Acres of potatoes were frozen in the ground; a great many were dug after the freeze and are not keeping. Produce men tell us the country is full of potatoes, and that Michigan is holding the bulk of a large crop of fine potatoes. I think the crop in farmers' hands in this locality away below their estimate. At present I think potato acreage will be below our average on account of change in grading, also the prospect of price being fixed at a lower figure than the actual cost of production.

Judging by my own locality I believe Steuben county will have seed corn enough, and some to spare, especially of the flint or glazed corn. Oat crop was good, plenty of seed. Winter wheat was sown late, ground has been covered with snow since Thanksgiving, so we have hopes of a crop. Hay is good, farmers getting from \$16 to \$20 per ton.—O. K. T., Avoca, New York.

Holland is now consuming only one-third her normal amount of wheat flour. This is partly due to rationing which has reduced daily consumption from 14 to 9 ounces per person, and partly to mixing rye and potato flour with wheat flour in bread making.



## THE ADVANTAGES IN RAISING JUNE PIGS

There are many advantages the hog-grower will have in raising June pigs. First, as everyone knows, the brood sow must have plenty of exercise if she is going to be able to farrow good strong pigs. The sow to farrow in June has the advantage of at least two months of warm weather, most of that time she can run on grass pastures, consequently getting this necessary exercise. Little, if any care is required at farrowing time during the month of June. Two of the fatal pig troubles that every man has to fight where pigs are farrowed early, scours and thumps, are practically escaped by the June pig. There is always plenty of sunshine and the weather is warm, allowing the little fellows to get out and take plenty of exercise which almost entirely eliminates thumps. There is not the cold damp weather, with wet bedding and chilly winds, which very often brings on a case of scours with exceedingly bad results.

By the time the June pig begins to eat grain, he can have the benefit of new oats and barley, two mighty good pig feeds, thus getting away to a considerable extent at least from the high prices generally necessary to pay for either corn or any of the small grain foods. With the benefit of these new small grain and grass pastures, he can be carried along at a minimum expense until weaning time, when new corn can be had. This is especially true if the hog grower will plant a small acreage of ninety-day variety. This generally gets ready for feed from the 20th of August on, and by sufficient planting, the hog grower can have good new corn until the main field crop is hard enough. Under present conditions, it certainly looks like good business for the hog grower to breed at least a few sows for June farrow.

## RAISE GOOD STOCK AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT

Raising good stock and taking good care of it nets the farmer the greatest gains, according to M. Baumann of Remus, whose success at raising pigs with a minimum of corn has been given considerable space by the country press in his vicinity. Mr. Baumann writes MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING as follows regarding his methods of feeding:

"Enclosed find itemized statement of a bunch of pure-bred O. I. C. pigs, which I undertook to fatten without the regular feedcorn. I wish to state that for the past three years I have made it a point to weigh all feed and weigh pigs every week after they are three months old. I found in every case at the weight of 100 to 135 lbs. a pig makes the most profit. After that the profit gets smaller. Last winter at the weight of 165 pounds they just broke even. Two years ago it was the same. This winter's experiment was an exception. At the weight of 170, the eight pigs had a net profit of \$1.98 in seven days. The highest point of the profit reached was at \$1.98 in seven days. The highest point of profit reached was at 128 lbs. The pigs had a net for seven days of \$7.77. I have been just as successful this winter with middlings as I have been other

years with corn as the principal feed. My advice to farmers would be to raise good stock and take care of it, unless we get the correct range with our heavy artillery of the "skunks" who are giving us a merry chase on the bean and potato question."

Mr. Baumann sold 8 pigs at the Remus stock yards January 22, aged 5 months and 10 days, average weight 172½ lbs.; price received 15½c per lb., total \$213.90. Food consumed by the 8 pigs:

Middlings, 1850 lbs., \$50 ton..	\$ 46.25
Ground oats, 16 bu. 23 lb., 80c..	13.50
Corn, 15 crates at 75c crate ...	7.50
Skim milk, 400 at 30c cwt. ....	12.00
Feeding and care 96 hrs. 20c..	19.20
Value of pig at 6 wks, \$3 ....	24.00
Hauling to market .....	2.00

Total .....	\$125.05
Net profit .....	\$ 88.85
Manure for barn rent.....	

## RAISE MORE TURKEYS TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND

In the present campaign of the United States Department of Agriculture to increase the production of poultry upon the farm, the turkey raiser is particularly well able to respond. The turkey is a farm bird, first and last, and is especially suited to the grain and stock farms where there is ample ranging ground abounding in such turkey food as grasshoppers and other insects, weed seeds, waste grain, such as is left in the fields after harvest, and nuts of such varieties as beechnuts, chestnuts, pecans, pine nuts and acorns. On such a farm, the present prices of grain affect the turkey raiser but little, for with the exception of what is used at fattening time, the feed consumed is largely of such a kind as would otherwise be wasted.

With but little additional outlay to the farmer, many more turkeys could and should be raised. The small number of turkeys per farm in the United States is surprising. According to the census of 1910 which is the latest census that has been taken, only 13.7 per cent of the total number of farms reported any turkeys at all, and on these farms reporting turkeys, an average of but slightly over four breeding turkeys was found per farm. There are some farms which by the nature of the crops grown on them or because of unfavorable surroundings are not adapted to turkey raising, but most farms are adapted to turkey raising and could easily handle a breeding flock of from 10 to 15 hen turkeys and a tom, raising from 75 to 150 turkeys each year at a good profit.

Good prices were paid to the turkey raiser during the past marketing season. On December 15, 1917, the average price per pound live weight paid to the farmer was 30.5 cents in New York State, 23.7 cents in Illinois, 25 cents in Georgia, 19.3 cents in Texas, and 27.1 cents in California. The average price throughout the United States was 23 cents.

Farmers' Bulletin 791, "Turkey Raising," describes the most successful methods of breeding, feeding and management. This bulletin may be obtained free upon application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

I didn't want to disfigure the paper you sent me by cutting the coupon but I want the paper. It hits to the line and let the chips fall where they will and I hope the chips will bury some of those middlemen that are culling our beans and potatoes.—Wm. R. Harris, Benzie county.



"This is the picture of my Jersey cow and her six heifers," writes N. D. McDonald of East Jordan. "She is nine years old and has seven heifer calves. She has one that arrived too late for this photo. The old cow stands to the right."

# 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

### "TOP-NOTCH" HOLSTEINS

"Milk production is an inherited ability. Good cows must be bred to good pure-bred bulls if progress in dairying is to be made." Extract U. S. Dept. of Agric. Bulletin.

Buy this young bull and give your milk and butter production a "push." King Colantha De Oakdale, No. 182837, Born Nov. 4, 1915. His sire's 3 nearest dams average:

Butter	7 days	31.87
Milk	7 days	579.66
Butter	7 days	30.59
Milk	7 days	595.09

His dam's 3 nearest dams average:

Butter	30 days	124.19
Milk	30 days	2436.60

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

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--41-2 yr. old.) Ideally marked, about half and half. Price \$250.

McPherson Farms Co., Howell, Mich.

## E. L. SALISBURY

SHEPHERD, MICH.

Breeder of purebred

Holstein-Friesian Cattle

Young bulls for sale from A. P. O. Cows with creditable records.

## WOLVERINE STOCK FARM

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

T. W. SPRAGUE, Route 2, Battle Creek, Mich.

## 250 STEERS FOR SALE

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

## HATCH HERD HOLSTEINS

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

## "BRENNAN JERSEY FARM"

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

## For Sale, Registered Holstein Bull

10 months old, whose sister is champion 2-yr.-old of the state. Record, 26 months, 26 lbs. butter in 7 da. Sire a son of Pontiac De Nijlander, Record 35.43 butter in 7 da. Dam's record as 3-yr.-old 21 lbs. butter in 7 da. Price, \$100.00. L. C. Ketzler, Clover Dairy Farm, Flint, Mich.

HOLSTEIN COW 8 yrs. old, due to freshen in April. Is right in every way. A.R.O. 18.46, dam 26.28, 2nd dam 24.78. A. F. Loomis, Owosso, Michigan.

WHAT DO YOU WANT? I represent 41 Shorthorn breeders. Can put you in touch with best milk or beef strains. Bulls all ages. Some females. C. W. Crum, Secretary Central Michigan Shorthorn Association, McBrides, Michigan.

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 50 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.

SHEPHERD PONIES For Sale. Write for description & prices. Mark B. Curdy, Howell, 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. Gladly, 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.

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.

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 2 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

CHICKS We ship thousands each season, different varieties, booklet and testimonials, stamp appreciated. Freeport Hatchery, Box 10, Freeport, Michigan.

BARRED ROCK COCKERELS for breeding purposes from good layers. \$3.00 each. Write R. R. Bowman, Pigeon, Mich.

MISHLAND'S WHITE ROCKS—The direct blood of a well-known 200-egg strain. Eggs for hatching \$1.50 for 13; \$5.00 for 50; \$9.00 per 100. L. Seamans & Sons, Belleville, Mich.

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.

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



# Holstein-Friesians

## MAPLECREST KORNDYKE HENGERSVELD

Senior Herd Sire—MAPLECREST KORNDYKE HENGERSVELD, 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 Hengersveld De Kol Butter Boy who sired 4 daughters averaging better than 1200 lbs. of butter in a year. Maplecrest Korndyke Hengersveld 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.

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Belle City Incubator Co., Box 30, Racine, Wis.

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

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

**FARMER NOW IS THE TIME** to buy your Seed Corn and Beans while it can be gotten. No. 1 Seed Tested to grow. Send 3 cent stamp for prices. Ionia, Mich., R. No. 5. Box No. 127.

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

## What the Neighbors Say!

I like Michigan Business Farming very much—its all right.—George Hughes, Ionia county.

I highly appreciate your paper, we take three farm papers and we think M. B. F. has got them all beat.—C. M. McFarland, Mason county.

Inclosed find \$1.00 for which please send me your paper one year. I received a sample copy. I think it the best farm paper we ever read.—Harry Johnson, Osceola county.

Please find inclosed check for one dollar for the paper for another year. Like the paper very much.—Milo W. White, Newago county.

Herewith I am sending you one dollar for another year. I like your paper very much and would not be without it.—Joseph Thelen, Clinton county.

I am with the fight along with the rest of the farmers on the tuber question.—R. T. Blank, Osceola county.

Find enclosed \$1.00 for subscription. I can assure you we appreciate your paper. It is only paper that I ever saw that dares stand up and tell the robbers where to get off at. I think that if we had had someone down at Washington to help set the price on our farm produce and to regulate the grading of spuds. I know we farmers are all Auger heads. But I am thankful there is once-in-a-while one that is bright enough to resent the dirt we are getting. Three cheers for the M. B. F. and long may it live.—E. S. Sheets, Isabella county.

Your paper is a fine one and it hits the mark better than any paper I ever took. Every farmer in Michigan ought to have it.—Basil Evo, Charlevoix Co.

## NAVY BEANS AND PEA BEANS ARE THE SAME

"I am seeking information concerning the merits of the pea bean and navy bean. Can you tell me which is the earlier and which the heavier yielder? Our soil is a clay loam. The beans I grew last year must be a mixture as they ripen very unevenly. They are also a late bean. From what part of Michigan would I be able to secure seed that would ripen early in this locality?"—W. N. Turner, Huron county.

The so-called pea bean and the navy bean are one and the same. It is quite often called the navy pea bean. This is quite a small bean, somewhat round in shape and more nearly resembling a pea than other beans, hence its name of pea bean. Another variety of white bean is known as the medium white bean. This is larger and somewhat more kidney shape in form. The pea bean is considered by most growers the best bean to grow in Michigan. It is a few days earlier than the medium and equally as good a yielder and has splendid quality.

In order to have them ripen evenly it is necessary to have the soil in the field of uniform character. If the soil varies in character the beans are apt to ripen unevenly. For instance, a black, sandy soil of a somewhat dry nature will ripen beans earlier than clay soil in the same field. This will produce quite a percent of cull beans. A sandy loam good and rich is considered the best kind of soil for beans but you can raise a good crop of beans on quite heavy clay. If the soil is the same all over the field they will ripen together very well.

The season has quite a lot to do with the early ripening of beans. Last year was a bad season in this respect. The maturing or ripening of the beans was delayed by unfavorable weather so that many of them were caught by frost and bad weather at harvesting. In an ordinary season, however, the navy pea bean or the medium white bean ought to ripen if they are planted on time in the spring. Just the right time to plant beans is hard to determine because here again the condition of the season has much to do with the time of planting. In an average season about the tenth of June is considered to be the proper time to plant beans and if the season is normal there is very little danger that they will not ripen before frost and we usually have some very good weather the early part of September in which to secure the crop but nobody can advise with any satisfaction when to plant because the character of the season may throw everything out of joint.

My advice about securing proper seed would be to take the matter up with your local county agent. The county agents all over Michigan are paying particular attention to securing proper seed for the crops in their counties and I think this would be the most reliable source to get the information you require.—Colon C. Lillie.

## IS IT WISE TO GROW BEANS AFTER BEANS?

"Would it do to plant beans after beans on good clover sod where only one crop has been taken off? Should beans be hilled up or kept level? What kind of fertilizer is best and how and when applied? Will it do to continue to cultivate when in blossom? Some say don't do it. Others say cultivate till ripe."—C. I. Miller, Ingham county.

While it is not a good practice to grow beans after beans or, in fact, have most any crop succeed itself in a rotation, it can be done in numerous instances without any serious loss. The bean crop is very exhaustive to the organic matter in the soil because there is no crop residue to replace this organic matter. When you harvest beans you dig up roots and all, practically, and there is nothing left in the soil like there is with wheat or oats and so if one wishes to grow beans after beans he ought to take particu-

lar pains to have the soil well filled with vegetable matter and afterwards to replace this vegetable matter as soon as possible. If you turned under a heavy clover sod you could probably get a good crop of beans again this year although the conditions are not as favorable as they were last year. If you had stable manure so that you could top dress this land now this would help out very much but if you haven't you are probably safe in planting it again to beans but I would want to seed it down soon after so as to get some vegetable matter into the soil as soon as possible.

Beans ought not to be hilled up. You should give them level culture. On most Michigan soils, acid phosphate is all that is necessary to produce a good crop of beans. Where clover sods have been plowed down or where stable manure has been used recently there is almost sure to be sufficient nitrogen to make a good growth but you must have available phosphorous in the soil to develop and ripen the bean. Some soils are benefited by a small per cent of potash with the phosphorous and again if your soil is deficient in nitrogen it would be advisable to use a complete fertilizer but on most soils phosphorous is the limiting factor, and with this supplied, not only the yield but the quality of the bean is usually very much improved.

I wouldn't pay any attention to the blossoming period of the beans about cultivating the soil. If it needs cultivating I would cultivate. We should not allow a heavy crust to form on any cultivated land. If you do there is liable to be a lack of moisture furnished the growing plant which is necessary in its development. Early in the season the ground should be given a good, thorough stirring but later, cultivation should be shallow, in fact, the shallower the better, preventing the evaporation of the moisture. Now if you have this condition in the soil provided you have no weeds then there is no particular need of cultivating but if the beans are in blossom and you should have a heavy rain on clay ground which forms a heavy crust, don't pay any attention to the blossom but get the ground in condition for the development of the plant, but don't cultivate when the land is too wet.—Colon C. Lillie.

## CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING OF BREEDING STOCK

(Continued from page 2)

repeatedly asked farmer audiences to vote on this question, and invariably 90 per cent of the audience stood up for the dual purpose cow. M. A. C. tells us there is no such cow and teaches our boys that they must either be beef men or dairymen. They place all Shorthorns in the beef class. At the Shorthorn sale at East Lansing the animals are lined up and judged from the beef standpoint alone, and the dairy strains are shunted to the tail end of the line. This is another case of "College Theory" vs. the practical needs and demands of Michigan farmers. They work out a theory then hold the farmers nose and ram it down their necks as they are now doing in the potato grading deal.

Suppose there was no dual purpose cow. Then it is the business of the College and breeders to make such a cow to supply the needs of farm conditions in this state. This is what the Central Michigan Shorthorn Breeders are doing. The grand old Durham cow is not only "coming back" but she is back. She is back in the corn belt as the greatest beef proposition on earth. She is back in New England where she has been bred for milk only, for the past 80 years as a dairy proposition. And she is back in many herds in this part of Michigan as the "farmer's cow," paying her expenses at the pail and producing beef at a profit to her owners.—C. W. Crum, Secretary Central Michigan Shorthorn Breeders' Association, McBrides, Mich.



# County Crop Reports

**SAGINAW (Western)**—Not quite so cold as it has been. The farmers are selling a few beans at \$7 per bu. In regard to the potato situation, there isn't enough in this vicinity to supply local demand.—G. L., St. Charles, Feb. 9.

**ST. JOSEPH (North Central)**—Weather present is fine, but roads will continue bad for some time, as the snow is three feet deep in places and some has softened so horses step in badly. The coal situation is better, but far from normal; last week Mendon received two cars, which sold for \$10.00 per ton on board cars. This was soft coal. Some different than the promised 5 or 6 dollar coal. The farmers are selling some wheat. Hay is scarce at \$25 per ton in the barn. Am looking for a hay famine later on, as most farmers are shy on hay. Enjoyed your biography of H. Winegarden, the Flint Commission man, fine. I think you diagnosed the case 100 per cent. I don't think he stated all the facts in his complaint. The farmers do not claim they cannot sell their potatoes, but they do claim they are unable to sell their crop so as to realize a small profit. There are several factors that have had a depressing influence on the potato market, namely: Last fall certain people claimed that on account of Michigan's record(?) yield potatoes should sell at retail for \$1.00 or less, and scores of city people, who really believed it, refused to lay in their winter's supply unless they could get them at \$1.00 or less. You know what kind of a price this meant to the grower; consequently he pitted his, or put them in the cellar. These same city people have been paying from \$1.50 to \$1.80 for their potatoes this winter. Other reasons for the conditions have been car shortage, unjust grading rules, and the much heralded report of a bumper yield. I think when pits are opened this spring that a big surplus will be lacking.—H. A. H., Mendon, Feb. 9.

**CHEBOYGAN (South)**—Today is the first real warm day since December. January passed without a thaw. All quiet along farm lines. There will be a spell of quietness now for it will be impossible to do anything until the snow settles. We said some time ago that 90 per cent of the potatoes buried in the fields were frozen, and now some farmers tell us we can add the other 10 per cent and be safe. We hope it is not as bad as that, but it surely will be bad enough. If this is so the acreage planted in Cheboygan county this spring will be cut in the middle. There will be a cattle breeders' meeting at Cheboygan on Saturday, Feb. 16. State speakers will be present.—Wolverine, Feb. 11.

**CHEBOYGAN (Northwest)**—There are lots of potatoes frozen in the cellars, and nearly every farmer has lost some. A good demand for hay but the farmers are not hauling any on account of the snow which is piled up to the depth of eight feet in the roads in many places.—O. W. B., Riggsville, Feb. 9.

**GRAND TRAVERSE (Northeast)**—At present cold weather still prevails. Not much doing on this account, except wood cutting; a little bean threshing but the beans are in bad condition; farmers are obliged to sell them to canning factories for whatever they will bring. Feed is high, such as corn and oats, can not get cars to load cattle and hogs on account of car shortage and blockading of trains by snow.—C. L. B., Williamsburg, Feb. 5.

**MIDLAND**—The weather has been extremely cold. Farmers are busy doing chores and getting up buzz wood. A few beans are going to market. A number of farmers are trying to get tile to lay in the spring and they seem to be scarce on account of shortage of cars to ship them in.—F. A. L., Coleman, Feb. 8.

**BAY (Southeast)**—Weather very cold; roads filled full of snow. Four houses burned here this week.—J. C. A., Feb. 7.

**GENESEE (Southeast)**—Farmers are not doing anything except necessary chores. The weather has been extremely cold, between 25 and 30 degrees below zero in several places Tuesday morning. The ground is covered with snow, varying in depth from a few inches to several feet, making a good protection for fall planted crops. Farmers are not selling any grain or potatoes at this time. Cattle and hogs are moving quite freely. A big demand for hay and straw and cornstalks, but there is not much to be had at any price.—C. W. S., Fenton, Feb. 7.

**MANISTEE (Northwest)**—There is a very little activity in the moving of farm produce here now, as the roads are almost impassable. The local dealers are handling a few beans if hand-picked. If we sold them as they came from the machine we would not have anything left, so the most of us are picking our beans. The potato market is dead here. I do not think there are any more potatoes in this county than there was a year ago today, and we are feeding some of them. I believe there is still half of the potatoes in the farmers' hands in this township. If we do not get something for them soon we will have to count on something else next year or go to the wall. We can not stand two years of this kind of a deal. There are lots of farmers who are doing without hay now because they broke up meadows last spring to plant beans and potatoes; they see their mistake now, but it is too late.—C. H. S., Bear Lake, Feb. 7.

**MONTAIGNE (Southeast)**—There is a large demand for all kinds of feed except corn in the shock, which we are unable to draw on account of its being frozen to the ground. Not so much hay is being sold, owing to the condition of the roads. A large amount of potatoes are being hauled and some are being stored in the warehouses until buyers receive cars. A small amount of produce is being held for higher prices. Weather is very cold with a very large amount of snow on the ground.—W. L., Greenville, Feb. 8.

**LAPEER (Southeast)**—Auction sales have started; stock and tools selling very high; good sheep selling from \$18 to \$25 a head, cows around \$65 to \$75, horses not so good. Everybody eating Liberty bread and they seem to like it. We will eat anything as long as it helps us win the war.—C. A. B., Imlay City, Feb. 9.

**MISSAUGEE (Southwest)**—Nothing doing except chores, been snowed in four or five days without mail.—H. E. N., Cutch-eon, Feb. 7.

**LAPEER (West Central)**—Farmers are hauling all the wood to town that they can get cut. Many have been holding potatoes but they are now being frozen in the cellars. The cold weather the past couple of weeks has frozen many calves and chickens. Lambs in feeding nearly all sold.—E. R. S., Lapeer, Feb. 10.

**MECOSTA (Southeast)**—Nothing much to report in this part of the county as the cold weather and snow have tied up business. Feed is scarce. A good many farmers would have been ahead if they had knocked their stock in the head and sold what feed they had. It makes one disgusted with the whole thing when one reads of men starting out a few years ago and becoming rich in buying and selling the very things the farmer is toiling fourteen hours a day to raise and barely managing to keep body and soul together. Potatoes are moving slowly at \$1.20 per cwt. There are very few potatoes left in farmers' hands here. They may change the grading rules or not just as they please, but it has already had the effect to determine the farmers here to cut the acreage at least 50 per cent.—F. M. E., Millbrook, Feb. 8.

**EMMET (East)**—Wood cutting is the order of the day here. The farmers are not selling much, all seem to think there is a better day coming. There is a good demand for clover hay, it is selling at \$18 a ton. Most farmers here will raise only from one to five acres the coming year. Barley will be about the main crop, to take the place of corn in hog feeding.—H. W., Levering.

**LAPEER (Northeast)**—There is nothing doing in this part of the county, the snow is so deep the farmers cannot get around to do anything but chores. The trains have their hard times as well as the farmers for they are blocked about half of the time. Farmers are talking of putting in more beets and less potatoes and beans this year. They do not like the potato grading system.—I. G. S., North Branch, Feb. 9.

**TUSCOLA (Northeast)**—Weather has been very cold; many potatoes frozen in the cellars. Not much grain being sold. Some farmers are picking beans. Coal still scarce and wood in good demand at \$2.75 to \$3.00 per cord.—S. S., Cass City, Feb. 9.

**LAPEER (West Central)**—No produce or stock moving in this vicinity on account of the condition of the roads. Wheat is well covered, but some farmers are afraid the wheat is damaged already. Some farmers have been forced to dig some of their corn out of the deep snow. Seed is very scarce in this locality, especially seed corn.—O. E. P., Lapeer, Feb. 9.

**TUSCOLA (Central)**—Farmers are doing nothing but chores here. It is reported that most of the potatoes were frozen in the cellar. Farmers are holding what beans they have for seed; there are not many left. There is going to be a scarcity of seed corn. A wagonload which came to Caro last week sold for \$4.00 a bu. in the ear and only tested 66 2-3. It came from north of Caro.—R. B. C., Caro, Feb. 9.

**CASS (Northwest)**—Farmers are about done butchering for their summer's meat. Roads are in bad shape. Some farmers are hauling grain to market. Not many hogs left in these parts; some fat steers left. Some farm sales being held; cattle, hogs and sheep and machinery are bringing good prices, but horses are slow sale. Some farmers are buying tractors.—W. H. A., Dowagiac, Feb. 9.

**MACOMB (Northwest)**—Farmers are busy cutting wood, drawing in feed for stock, etc. A few farmers are having their beans dried, they get a better price for them. Not many farmers sold their potatoes and the most of them have been frozen in the cellars.—H. D., Almont, February 9.

**CLARE (Southwest)**—Farmers are getting wood and doing chores. Nothing is moving to markets on account of the bad weather. Wood is selling at \$2 a cord.—D. B., Lake, Feb. 8.

**OCEANA (Southeast)**—The roads are in bad condition; no produce being marketed, only a few beans. Farmers are cutting wood and doing chores.—A. F. M., Hesperia, Feb. 7.

**ARENAC (East)**—Some produce is being marketed. Draft is taking a lot of our farm help. Getting out wood is the order of the day. Shipments are being held up by lack of cars.—M. B. R., Twinning, Feb. 9.

**EMMET (Southeast)**—This county has taken a step forward and now has a county agent. Alanson Arbor had an open meeting last Saturday evening and invited in the public. County Agent K. K. Vining was present and he gave us a good talk, telling what he hopes to do and how he hopes to do it. Doing chores and cutting wood is the occupation of the farmers now.—W. H. C., Alanson, Feb. 4.

**NEWAYGO (North)**—Plenty of snow here. Farmers are feeding potatoes to stock. I don't think there will be many for sale around here in the spring. The price of feed and the price of potatoes and the way they grade them makes potatoes the cheapest food we have.—C. B., White Cloud, Feb. 9.

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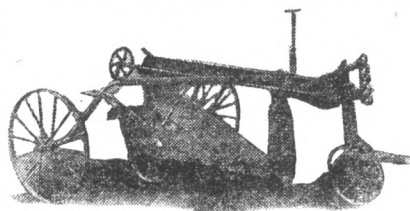
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**CLINTON (West Central)**—Dallas and Westphalia townships are not heavy potato producers. Last year about 20 car loads were imported for the two townships. This year there might have been a small surplus if it had not been for the unusually cold winter. The prospects are that from 5 to 15 per cent of potatoes will freeze and will be useless for human food. As it is the western part of Clinton county will probably have just enough for its own use.—T. B., Fowler, Feb. 5.

**SHIAWASSEE (West Central)**—Farmers are hauling some ice which is of very good quality. A little grain is being taken to market; some beans being held. Auction sales well attended and everything sells well except horses. Most all cellars in these parts have been visited by Jack Frost, doing some damage to potatoes and other vegetables.—W. P. B., Owosso, Feb. 4.

**TUSCOLA (West)**—Not much doing on account of the stormy weather. Threshing and corn husking at a standstill on account of roads being buried with from three to five feet of snow. There is about 10 per cent of the corn yet in the fields. Sugar beet contracting going slow; looks like small acreage in this locality. Stock for the co-operative elevator at Reese is being freely taken by the farmers.—C. B., Reese, Feb. 2.

**LIVINGSTON (Central)**—Farmers are not selling anything, are having trouble to get dairy feed.—G. A. W., Fowlerville, Feb. 9.

**HURON (Central)**—We have had better weather this week. Farmers are at the same old job, getting up wood and some are looking for feed which is scarce and high.—G. W., Elkton Feb. 9.

**ANTRIM (Southwest)**—Not much farm produce is being marketed on account of the bad weather; potato marketing is very quiet, what are being sold are bringing about 80c a bu. Not many beans are being sold; most of the threshing has been done and the bean crop has proven a very poor one and of very poor quality. No. 1 hay is selling for \$24 a ton; oats at 75c per bu.; eggs at 45c a doz.; butter 40c to 45c. Cattle are very high; good cows are worth from \$65 to \$90. We are having a sugarless community—four villages without sugar.—C. H. B., Alden, Feb. 3.

**SANILAC (Southeast)**—Markets are dull. Some new milch cows and hay are being sold at high prices. Some oats and hay being held for higher prices.—N. J. V. C., Crosswell, Feb. 9.

**GRATIOT**—The farmers are selling their grain. Quite a lot of oats are being sold, 84c looks pretty good to most farmers although I know one who is holding for \$1.—J. E. C., Bannister, Feb. 12.

**IOSCO (East)**—Weather considerably warmer and the snow settling. I saw an item in one of our local papers to the effect that they were considering the matter of dispensing with the rural mail routes. Another crack at the farmer. I wonder what will come next.—A. L., Tawas City, Feb. 11.

**BRANCH (North)**—Farmers are doing chores and cutting wood. Weather rather unsettled. Soil well covered but frozen deep. Farmers selling some stock and wood; are not holding anything; neither are they building or buying much. Several sales this week. Feed is getting very high and is hard to get.—F. S., Union City, Feb. 9.

**MONROE (East)**—Cold weather here and very little produce moving to market.—E. H. M., Monroe, Feb. 8.

**BENZIE (Southwest)**—Forty below at this place and farmers fear that fruit trees are badly damaged.—G. H., Benzonia, Feb. 4.

**SANILAC (East)**—Farmers are busy trying to get wood; no coal to be had. Several people in this vicinity have a considerable bit of wood but you can't buy a stick of them for any price; one man in particular has near 40 acres of good wood and will not sell. There should be some way of making such a man sell, at least in such times as this when fuel is so scarce. Last year pine roots were quite plentiful but they are very scarce this winter. Not much hay moving on account of the car situation; railroads in this part of the country are in bad condition on account of the severe storms. Beans have reached \$13.00 per cwt., and not much in it for the farmers at that price.—H. A. B., McGregor, Feb. 2.

**OTSEGO (Southwest)**—Weather is better than it has been. The farmers are still busy hauling logs and wood.—C. A., Gaylord, Feb. 9.



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