

## WE'LL MEET YOU AT EAST LANSING MAR. 7-8

Dorr D. Buell, President of Potato Growers' Ass'n, Extends Cordial Invitation to Michigan Business Farming Readers to Attend Annual Meeting

Elmira, Mich., Feb. 18, 1918

To the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING and its readers who are in any way interested in Potatoes:—

At East Lansing on the 7th and 8th of March will be held a meeting of the Michigan State Potato Growers' Association. This association was formed for the betterment of the potato industry and all those who are interested in the things the Association should stand for have always been welcome to become members. At this time I am especially anxious to have with us the editors and readers of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING and have them join with the rest of us who have the good of the potato industry at heart. We should like to have you all become members of the Association, and you are welcome.

Yours very truly,

DORR D. BUELL,  
President.

Thank-ee, thank-ee, friend Buell. In behalf of our readers we accept your kind invitation. We'll be with you to HELP solve the manifold and important problems now confronting the potato growing industry of Michigan.

We look upon the coming meeting at East Lansing as one of the most important ever held under the auspices of the potato growers of the state. The meeting should be, and if President Dorr Buell has anything to say about the matter, it will be an open forum for the utmost freedom of discussion of potato production, grading and marketing. Every potato grower in the state should have an opportunity to present his views at that meeting upon any of the phases of the potato business, and he should be given a respectful hearing.

We believe that the meeting at East Lansing will settle once and for all the grading question, not only for Michigan but for the United States as well. Michigan has made the most vigorous protests against the new grading rules. Michigan is the most important potato growing state in the union, and Michigan's wishes MUST BE RESPECTED. Although we have not as yet received a copy of the official program, we understand that the speakers will include men from the U. S. department of agriculture, the food administration, and representatives from various growers' organizations of other states. But for all that, there'll be an opportunity for the farmer to present his claims.

There are many things to be discussed and settled at that meeting, and among them is the grading question.

There is no gainsaying the statement that the great majority of farmers of Michigan are opposed to the double grading. In the first place, the present grading methods mean practically a single grade for many sections as only a comparatively few dealers in Michigan are buying the second grade and

at prices so low that most of the farmers prefer to feed it to their stock. We will all grant that IF the dealers would pay what the second grade is worth to the farmers, it might be desirable to have a second grade, but there's no way under the sun to induce the dealer to pay more for this grade than the market will stand, and it is a matter which the farmer can't possibly control. Secondly, the double grading adds largely to the expense of handling, which, of course, comes out of the farmer.

Granting that the farmers of Michigan are progressive enough to favor a fair grading of their product, and we believe without question that they are, the next question that arises is what shall constitute a proper and satisfactory grade. After an exhaustive investigation we have come to the conclusion that the majority of Michigan potato growers will be satisfied with a single grade obtained by screening potatoes over an inch and three-quarter's mesh. This would take a much longer percentage of their crop, and still give the consumer a

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## WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MICHIGAN'S LITTLE PEA BEAN?

### PINTO BEANS FOR ECONOMY

"Calling attention to beans as an excellent substitute for meat, the U. S. Food Administration mentions the comparative cheapness and excellence of the variety known as the domestic pinto or speckled bean. Pinto beans are grown in Colorado, Kansas and New Mexico and are now being used by our army and navy.

"The present retail price of these beans should be from 10 to 12 cents per pound, which makes them an economical food, considering that pinto beans contain about 5 per cent less water than the more familiar navy beans, which are now in the luxury class.

"Pinto beans are therefore a very 'beany' bean, furnishing more food value for the purchase price than the varieties with which the public is perhaps better acquainted. In cases where retailers do not handle pintos, persons desiring to try them are asked to write the Bean Division, U. S. Food Administration, Washington, D. C., which will furnish the names of shippers."

The above is one of several notices that have been sent by the bean division of the Food Administration to wholesale dealers all over the country urging them to buy pinto beans in preference to the common variety. If it is true, as insinuated that there is an overproduction of pinto beans in the west, it may be within the bounds of fairness and good judgment for the food administration to advertise the merits of the pinto, providing it had any. However, it seems as if the bean division is overdoing its praise of the pinto just a trifle, for really the pinto isn't in it with the Michigan pea bean, the analysis of the government of the food properties

(Continued on page 16)

## NATION AROUSED BY IMPENDING FOOD CRISIS

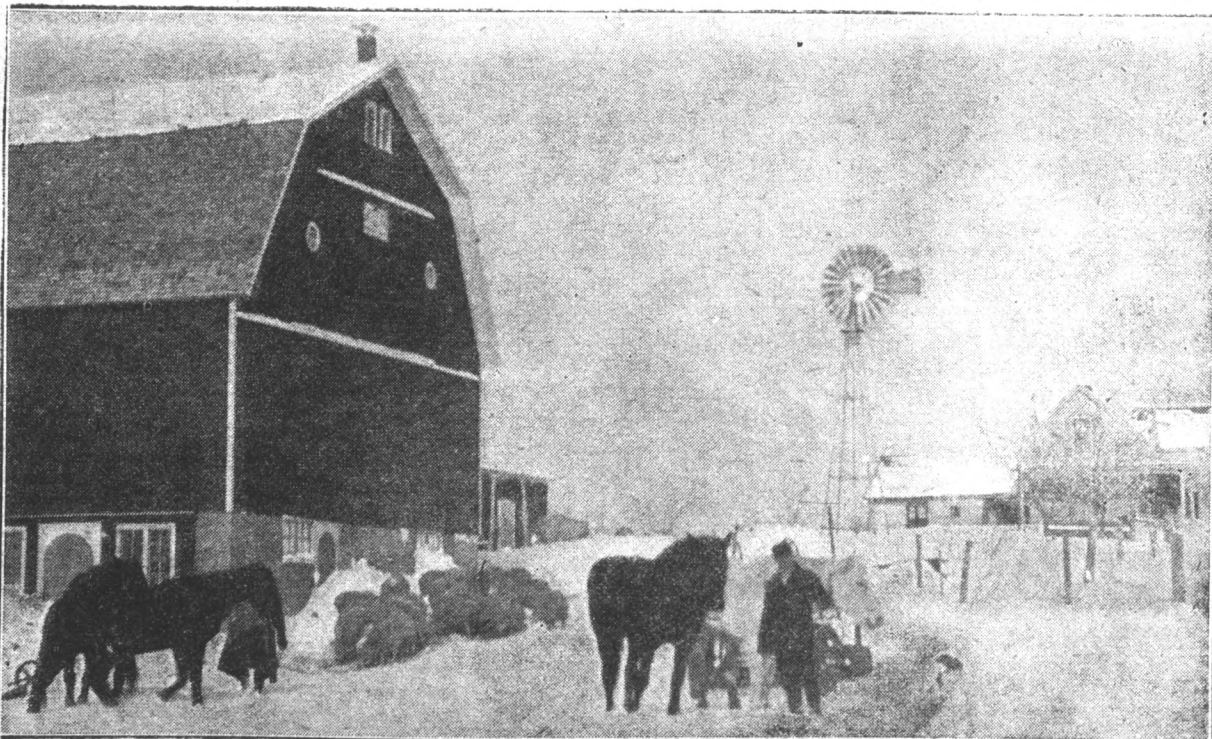
Economic Students Urge Government Remove Restrictions from Farming Operations and Give the Farmers an Incentive to do Their Best

During the past week economic students in all parts of the country have addressed pleas to the government to take immediate action toward preventing a shortage of food and world hunger which they claim are inevitable unless those engaged in the farming business are given greater and immediate incentive to increase production. It is significant that the recommendations which have been made follow almost identically the same lines as those suggested several weeks ago in these columns, and as presented to the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the senate committee a year ago, by Grant Slocum, of the Gleaners.

"Of all the greatest problems of this colossal world war, the food problem is now the most important," said Jacob Gould Schurman, president of Cornell University, to a gathering of farmers at Ithaca, N. Y. "I believe it no exaggeration to say that we are confronted with the danger of starvation in the next twelve months. Does the government want to stimulate agricultural production? Then strike the shackles off the farmer and leave him as free as other producers. In the name of common sense, of justice, and of patriotism, I make this appeal to the president and congress. Food will win the war. Give the farmers a chance to win it."

"I agree thoroly with President Schurman that to fix maximum prices of food products will diminish production," said Henry C. Adams, professor of economics at the University of Michigan, quoting almost the identical language used in previous M. B. F. issues upon this subject. "The government could enter into private contracts with each individual farmer, and settle the whole question of food production easily and quickly and equitably, instead of acting like a dictator. The farmer, like any other producer, cannot be expected to produce food at a loss. The government could guarantee every farmer adequate profits and thus insure production to the extent of the productiveness of the country."

It is evident from these expressions that some of the keenest minds of the nation are giving earnest thought to the problems and difficulties that stand in the way of increased production. The efforts of such men to arouse the nation to a greater appreciation of its obligations to the farming business must bear fruit. But time is fleeting. Another month and farmers will be out in the field. Capital, labor, seed and a reasonable assurance of a profitable market for crops are the lubricants that will oil up the many farm factories and start their wheels a-going at a maximum speed. Will the President and the Congress realize the importance of supplying them soon enough and amply enough to save the day?



Scene on the Farm of Aaron Erickson, Tustin. "I am strongly in favor of sheep raising," writes Mr. Erickson. "I have a small flock but intend to increase it."



Capac mill was disobeying the law. The administrator on several different counts. William Smith & Son, proprietors of the mill maintain that they did not at any time have more than a 30-day supply of wheat stored, and that while some farmer customers had large quantities of wheat made into flour for their own use (one bringing in 1,300 pounds which made six and one-half barrels) that the mill did not knowingly violate the rulings. The names of farmers who secured large quantities of flour were turned over to Mr. Prescott.

\* \* \*

**Adrian**—This city is to have a community market. A. E. Allenden is chairman of the county committee having the matter in charge. The county has been divided up into five districts and twelve men assigned to each district. It is planned to give every farmer in Lenawee county an opportunity to purchase stock in the market.

\* \* \*

**Coopersville**—As the result of a meeting last week, a local branch of the Michigan Crop Improvement bureau was organized here with a large membership. The use of pure seed will be pledged by members. Demonstrations and experiments will be conducted by the association.

\* \* \*

**Charlotte**—A number of Eaton county farmers proved their patriotism as well as their kindly feeling towards the town people of this place by turning over their surplus sugar to the merchants here. Beet sugar raisers in this vicinity have each been permitted to purchase 400 pounds of sugar from the factory to which they shipped their beets. More than twenty farmers turned over to a committee representing the grocers various amounts of sugar from a few pounds to more than a hundred pounds, which brought much relief to the people of Charlotte.

loss of about one-tenth of an acre. We cannot afford to run chances."

\* \* \*

**Nashville**—Tapping the many large hard maple shade trees in this place is advocated by the *Nashville News* as a means of reducing somewhat the scarcity of sugar here. The *News* estimates that there are nearly two thousand maple trees available to be tapped, and that at least 3,000 pounds of maple sugar could be made. That a ton and a half of maple sugar would go a long way towards meeting the present shortage, is quite evident.

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**Sandusky**—Farmers interested in the raising of chicory in this vicinity have it that the price of that product has gone up to \$12.50 a ton, station delivery. While the announcement has not been made officially, the farmers are demanding this price, and it is probable that they will be successful, in view of the fact that beet growers were successful in their demands for better prices.

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**St. Joseph**—Reports of the St. Joseph Co-operative association made at the annual meeting last week show that the organization is in a flourishing condition. The grape industry has long been one of the most important of Berrien county's assets and when it is learned that the St. Joseph, Michigan Fruit association alone handled nearly a half million dollars worth of business last season something of the importance of the grape raising is realized. The association loaded a total of 739 cars at an average price for Champions of 17.93c over 11.11c in 1916; Moores Early at a price of 21.77 over 14.13 in 1916; Concord 17.29c over 16.88 for 1916 and eight pound baskets brought a price of 19.70 over 17.88 cents for the previous year. To the fact that St. Joseph is federated with other Berrien and Van Buren county associations is credited the excellent prices maintained in spite of adverse conditions.

will be valuable, however, in showing whether the tendency among the farmers is to plant more or less than last year, as well as the reasons why. Every report received makes our survey more complete and our estimate more authentic, and we believe that the information given in these reports will be of great interest and value to every farmer not only in Michigan, but throughout the United States. We earnestly request every reader who has not made a report to fill out the blank on this page and mail it to us at once.

Below are some of the comments that have been received:

Wm. C. Dicken, Smyrna—"Potatoes would be 5 acres (instead of one) if it were not for grading system."

Schwanebeck Bros., Fenton—Rye, corn, potatoes and hay about the same as last year; beans, cattle and hogs will be less. "The above are not representative of the average to be figured for this section on beans and potatoes for most farmers are cutting their acreage 50 percent on more of these crops."

L. D. Yerkett, Mt. Pleasant—15 acres more oats. Would put in some spring wheat if could get the seed, also some peas. Will raise a few more cattle if prices are right; some mangels; no beans and potatoes, except for our own use; no sugar beets. Will raise some sugar cane for own use. Have one brood sow to farrow in April."

W. B. Norton, Walkerville—One half as many beans and potatoes as last year.

Chas. Ginter, Less corn, potatoes, beans, hogs. The price of help is too high; I will have to farm alone."

W. L. Hoover, Greenville—All crops less by one-half on account of labor and poor market conditions. Will drop three-fourths of potato acreage on account of the grading.

Alva Wood, Hersey—The cash crops of the neighborhood are potatoes and rye, also some stock and some cream. Potatoes are our main crop and there is not a grower in this section that does not back up your work. We had a very poor crop last year and what we have got we cannot sell at any price. One man at Evart offered my neighbor 60 cents per hundred last week for No. 1 stock. If the Government screen continues another year we will have to stop raising potatoes entirely, as we cannot raise them and sell them over that screen."

## REPORTS FROM FARMERS ON 1917 AND 1918 ACREAGE AND LIVE STOCK PRODUCTION. SEND YOURS TODAY

NAME	Wheat		Corn		Oats		Rye		Beans		Potatoes		Hay		S. Beets		Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917
L. W. Crandall, Ypsilanti	3		20		10												14					
C. F. Dehn, Harrietta	10		10		10												7	3	85	50		
Wm. C. Dicken, Smyrna	39	25	6	2	24	2.5	20		25	40	1	3	28	34								
Floyd Smith, Union City	5		18		10																	
W. T. Anyer, Wexford			25		20		10		0	10	5	10	20									
J. and G. Garnett, Morley	3		10		10				8	16	3	5	20	8								
Arthur Beattie, Charlevoix	28	10	10	10	10	15			8	10	3	3	20									
Allen Page, Elwell			5		15	3					3	3										
Nels P. Frandsen, Coral	9	5			9	13			7	5	5	7	10									
J. M. Y. Orleans	17		15		14				20		7		20									
Myron Clement, Stanton			18		16		16		6		7		16		4							
A. R. Levy, Elsie			30		15								16									
C. R. D. Rushton			10	10	20	12	10		30		10	13	23	20								
Schwanebeck Bros., Fenton			25		20		20		30		3.5		20									
F. E. Spicer, Big Rapids			5		5		5		4		2		20									
C. H., St. Johns	40		40		40				20				60									
Leslie B. Chubb, Howell			12		10		20															
Leslie Mitchell, Crosswell	12		12		20																	
E. B. Hollenbeck, Athens			9		8		15				2		12									
Chas. Ginter			20				15				7		40									
J. H. Johnson, Cadillac			10	13	18	12			10	18	18		40	50								
Geo. Harris, Chesaning	15	28	15	13	6		15	15	0	10	3	5	13	6.5								
Alva Wood, Hersey			10		6				10	5	5	13	47	45								
Ray C. Burch, Cedar Spgs.	12	0	2.5	2.5	17	8			7	10	5	47	45									
W. E. Southwick, Sherman	0	8	12	13	17	8			10	7	10	5	47	45								
D. A. Lam, Sheridan			8	6	15	6			3	7	4	2.5	10									
Andrew Lorenz, Tawas City			10	10	28	28			17	10	10	28	30	30								
Claud Root, Cass City	13	0	3	10	28	28			15	7	10	28	30	30								
Jules Driestche	15	5	10	8	25	18			15	7	10	28	30	30								
C. E. Klett, Decatur	0	40	20	16	10				0	4	1	5	16	35								
Wm. Raymond, So. Boardman	5	5	13	10.5	10	18	8		8.5	17	8	50	8	50								
Claude Whitman, Freeland	3	0	10	6	17				15	3	5	5	60	40								
Jas. R. Campbell, St. Johns			10	20	18	20			15	40			6	40								
Thos. Turner, Hemlock	3	3	7	6	5.5	5.5			10	10			8	7								
A. B., Mayville			20	14					6	12	6	9	30	22								
Lyle Flewelling, Dowagiac	18		7						3		3											
Chas. E. Bonine, Cassopolis	11	12	38	57	22	11			10	33	6	8	25	10								
M. W., Grant			10	8	18	20			10		1	10	25		10	16						
Barney Brown, Sebawaing	5		10		20	28	3		10		2	4	40	30								
Geo. Vanburen, Skeels	6	8	6	8	25	20			5	20	2	4	40	30								
Mason Hildreth, Bailey			10	14	23	13			20	32	1.5	6	20	10								
Acreage reported for both yrs.	159	149	231.5	247	311	251	51	37	283	206	153	96	435	447	21	38	136	159	46	111	75	69
Increase	10		15.5		40		14		77		57		22		17		23		65		6	
Decrease																						

Tell us in the blank spaces below what your acreage was last year and what it will be this year.

Wheat		Corn		Oats		Rye		Beans		Potatoes		Hay		S. Beets		Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917

REMARKS

Name

Address

Size of Farm

Editor's Note:—The accompanying table has been compiled from reports received the last two weeks from over 50 farmers, showing the acreage they are planning to plant to the more important crops the coming year, and in some instances, their 1917 acreage. Some of the farmers reported crops which are not listed above, but those we have chosen are representative. The totals computed cover only such acreage as is reported for BOTH years, and show a marked tendency toward decreased production in practically all crops. Later reports, of course, may change the complexion of these conclusions. These estimates can be made of great value to our readers, and we hope that EVERY one of them will consider the matter of enough importance to take the time to fill out the blank below and return it AT ONCE. BE SURE to report acreage and live stock holdings for BOTH years. If your report shows a decrease from last year, please state the reasons.



## WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Congress is giving its undivided attention just now to the problem of increasing the nation's food supply. Mr. Hoover has been confining his efforts almost exclusively to good conservation. He knows how to appeal to the average consumer and his efforts along this line have met with creditable success. But his half-hearted and badly-engineered plans for the stimulation of food production have been practically resultless. It is now apparent that Mr. Hoover is not sufficiently acquainted with the practical difficulties in the way of increased production to be able to map out a campaign that can satisfy these difficulties and speed up the farm factories.

On the eve of another planting Congress begins to realize the gravity of the problems which threaten to rear themselves as insurmountable obstacles in the way of increased production. There is less talk now of patriotism, and more of common sense preparedness.

Measures have been introduced by Senator Gore of Oklahoma, increasing the minimum price of wheat to \$2.50, and by Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, boosting the price to \$2.75 a bushel. In fixing a new wheat price standard the committee is seeking to guarantee the farmer a price high enough to stimulate wheat production, but at the same time it is trying to keep the guarantee price within a limit that will not justify an increase in the cost of bread. The American farmer will stop raising wheat and turn his attention to growing other cereals, Senator McCumber predicted, unless higher wheat prices are guaranteed.

Preliminary investigations into the cost of constructing the Hog Island shipyards indicate that many of the wealthy men of the country who hurried so eagerly to Washington when the war broke out to offer their services gratis to the government, have been using their positions to secure patronage for firms in which they have a remote financial interest. In order to speed ship construction the government offered to purchase sites, buy materials and pay the labor for constructing suitable ship yards, and also to advance the necessary capital for the building of ships. One of such contracts was let to the American International Ship Building Corporation, after this concern had agreed to accept a profit of 3.3 per cent on the job in lieu of the 6 per cent which they first demanded. After the contract had been let and the work of construction started, it was discovered that the corporation's estimate of the cost of the job had increased from \$21,000,000 to \$45,000,000, which meant larger profits than their original proposition, even tho the percentage of profit was less. The reader should understand that under the shipbuilding contract, the government furnishes capital, supplies, labor,—everything, with the exception of the science of shipbuilding, which the American International Ship Building Corporation provides,—at better than a clean million dollar profit. No chances to take, and the higher it makes the costs the greater its profits will be. Here are some of the stockholders of the corporation mentioned: J. Ogden Armour, the packer, whose patriotism has been extolled to the skies ever since the war broke out, Mr. Armour himself doing a large part of the extolling; Pierre S. du Pont, of the munition supplies corporation by that name; Otto H. Kahn, New York banker, who has been travelling thru the country making speeches and reviving the people's war spirits; Percy Rockefeller; Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Frank Vanderlip, New York banker, who has been a leading figure in the Liberty Loan campaign. Most, if not all of these men have been active in various war preparations, but it now appears that some of them at least were thinking of patriotism only in terms of profit.

Congressman Carl E. Mapes of the 8th district of Michigan doesn't believe that the idle rich should make Washington their playhouse during these stern times, especially when the only available quarters are so badly needed for those who have government connections and whose presence in Washington is needed. From the day that war was declared thousands of well-to-do-people, have been lured to Washington by the blandishments of military operations. They have filled the hotels and rooming houses to a point of congestion, and as a result rents have increased to abnormal proportions.

The Fuel Administration is already laying its plans for the mining and distribution of coal for next season. Anthracite operators, as well as bituminous miners, have notified the administra-

tor of their readiness to keep coal shipments in motion throughout spring and summer months. Under the system which the administrator is considering, consumers will furnish to designated dealers an estimate of tonnage required. Dealers will in turn give total estimates to local administrators and shipments will be made on these advices.

## ATTENTION, MILK PRODUCERS!

Milk producers will be especially interested in this bit of market news furnished to the daily press by the firm of O'Hara, Ferriss & Co., stock brokers. In view of unsettled conditions with the producers possibly the exchange of a good cow for a share of stock might be considered profitable. We pass along the information without further comment:

## CREAMERY STOCK HIGHER

Sales Made on Local Exchange at Substantial Advance

The Detroit Stock Exchange opened quietly but good business was confirmed. Reo, Paige, Edison and Detroit Creamery appearing in the trading, the feature being the Detroit Creamery, which has been consistently strong. Today's price was at a substantial advance. The markets apparently stand the war news well, reflecting the strength of underlying conditions.

## WAR WIRES

London reports that Germany has resolved to renew military activities against Russia. This decision was reached at a special conference attended by Emperor William, his generals and high officials of the government. It is claimed that invasion of Russia will be continued with Perograd as the objective. The Germans take the view that the "no peace, no war" attitude of the Bolsheviks, though it did not end the war, automatically ended the armistice. The Bolsheviks are now moving on the Ukraine and the new republic will be given every assistance by the Germans, their idea being to prevent the capture of that territory by the Bolsheviks.

A call has been made for five percent of the draft quota from each local board which will be taken from the deferred percentage. This will require 1,500 white men from Michigan, who will be sent to Camp Greenleaf, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., instead of Camp Custer. The railroad schedules are in preparation and the movement will begin on March 4 and be distributed over five days so that the last will leave on March 8.

Bola Pasha, whose trial for high treason, held in Paris, has created a great deal of interest, has been convicted and sentenced to death. The French court found him guilty of using German gold in an attempt to debauch the Paris press. Chief evidence was furnished by the United States government, who found that Former Ambassador von Bernstorff had turned over to Bola nearly \$2,000,000.

Chairman Hurley of the shipping board has insisted that striking carpenters and joiners return to work pending action of the wage adjustment board within a few days will recommend a general wage scale for 75 percent of the yards on the Atlantic coast. The striking carpenters are demanding the wage scale of \$6.60 recently granted for Pacific coast yards.

British naval authorities assert that Germany's biggest submarine drive may be expected in April. Germany has been active for the past few months, refitting and overhauling her submarine fleet, building bigger U-boats and mounting long-range guns upon them.

An appropriation bill calling for a billion dollars has been favorably reported to the house by Chairman Sherley, of the appropriation committee. The money is to be used to supply ammunition, provide a plant for the filling of poison gas shells, and meet other war expenses.



IT WAS THAT EXTRA KID THAT GOT HIS GOAT.  
—Ireland in the Columbus Dispatch.

## RAIL HEADS ARE BLAMED FOR CRIPPLED CONDITION OF ROADS

Those who had an idea that Hon. W. G. McAdoo had his hands full as Secretary of the Treasurer and could not give the railroads of the nation sufficient time to unravel the knotted skein, have another guess coming. As Director General of the railroads he is bringing order out of chaos, and at the same time unearthing some of the real reasons why the whole transportation system of the nation broke down under private ownership. His very first act was to lop off the salaries of a hundred unnecessary officials; then he got after the equipment, which he found in mighty bad shape. His next step was to find out why there were no cars for coal or to transport farm products and manufactured goods.

Commissioner McChord, active in the management under the Director General has just filed a report with his Chief, which brings out some startling revelations. He has located thousands of crippled cars, which have accumulated during the fall and winter, which occupy miles of tracks in the congested centers of the east.

These reports, based on first-hand information gathered by a corps of trained inspectors, cover the six weeks' period since the government assumed operation of the railroads and indicate that one of the most critical ills of rail transportation under private management was the side tracking of cars needing repairs.

Conditions are worst at Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Harrisburg, Altoona, Cleveland and Buffalo, it was shown. The Pennsylvania early this week had 1,992 so-called bad order cars at Altoona, 1,223 at Harrisburg, more than 1,000 at Conway yard, near Pittsburg; 890 at Cleveland, 478 at Philadelphia and 510 at Buffalo. It was estimated crippled cars even at these main terminals occupied 55 miles of track.

These cars could have been repaired quickly during the winter if railroads had made proper preparations for covered repair tracks in advance according to railroad administration officials.

Of the many empty cars congested in the Philadelphia yards of the Pennsylvania more than 2,400 are coal cars. At no time within the last month have there been less than 1,500 empty coal cars there awaiting movement while coal mine operators cried for more cars.

Freight-train movement throughout the east has been at the rate of about eight miles an hour or two-thirds normal, caused mainly by running trains too heavy, by faulty engines, poor coal and bad weather. A result has been the overworking of train crews and their removal after shifts of 16 hours' legal maximum.

In testimony before the railroad wage committee, representatives of road employees recently charged that railroad managements encouraged this lax administration to discredit the Adamson law.

## HERE'S A FAIR DEAL THAT WOULD MAKE FARMERS HAPPY

A yesterday's dispatch from Washington announces an agreement that was reached between President Wilson and the zinc plate manufacturers. We publish the agreement more as an illustration of what can be done to protect both producer and consumer, than as a matter of news.

A maximum price of 14 cents a pound for plate zinc f. o. b. at plants and 15 cents per pound for sheet zinc f. o. b. at plants was fixed, subject to the usual trade discount.

The following conditions were laid down: First, that the producers of grade "A" zinc, plate and sheet zinc will not reduce the present wages. Second, that the allies, the public and the government will be sold zinc at the same prices. Third, that they will take necessary measures to prevent zinc from falling into the hands of the speculators, who might increase the price to the public. Fourth, that they exert every effort to keep up the production, so as to assure an adequate supply during the war.

The farmers of the nation would be delighted to have such a proposition submitted to them; and like the zinc manufacturers, the President could rest assured that the men of the farms would do their level best to keep their factories running full time during the period of the war. And it can be done. Federal Government can as easily contract for its needs in the way of food products as for its needs in the way of zinc.

Complete records for 1917, secured by the U. S. Food Administration, give the total pack of canned tomatoes as 15,076,074 cases of two dozen cans each. This is the largest amount packed since 1914 and is equivalent to more than three cans of No. 3 size for every person in the United States.



## They All Rush in to Lock the Barn Door now that the Horse has been Stolen.

### GRADING RULES MAY NOW BE REVISED

Michigan Congressmen, Agricultural College, State Food Administrator Prescott, Detroit News, and Others Now Line Up Against Potato Grades

Recent Washington dispatches show that the efforts of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING to secure the abandonment or at least a modification of the potato grading rules are bearing fruit. One such dispatch to the *Grand Rapids Press* under date of February 15th, is as follows:

"Potato grading rules which have proved particularly obnoxious and discriminatory against Michigan and have resulted in losses by Michigan growers may be abandoned or at least largely modified for this season. Lou D. Sweet, chairman of the potato committee of the Food Administration soon will call a conference of potato growers, and dealers from all parts of the country to reconsider the potato grading question.

"It is evident that consistent criticism of the grading rules finally has had an effect on food administration officials. Forrest A. Lord of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING has been active in this work. In a recent letter to members of congress he quotes a telegram from the Pennsylvania department of agriculture stating that grading rules are little observed there. Mr. Lord adds that a great injustice has been done to the farmers of Michigan, that Michigan potatoes are bringing the least on the markets of any state crop and are being sold in direct competition with the ungraded stock from other states.

"Some idea of what the food administration may decide to do may be found in the recommendation of Mr. Lord that the potato grading rules be abandoned this year because it will be a physical impossibility to enable dealers to pay growers a fair price. Next year modified grading rules might be gradually put in force."

A Lansing despatch to the *Detroit News*, February 14th, says that Jason Woodman, member of the state board of agriculture has been sent to Washington by George A. Prescott, state food administrator, and the Michigan Agricultural College to endeavor to obtain from Herbert C. Hoover, federal food administrator, a modification or repeal of the federal order which compels the screening of all potatoes into two grades with respect to size.

Mr. Sweet's sudden change of attitude and Mr. Woodman's hasty departure for Washington constitute in effect a plain admission that the grading rules have failed to accomplish the predicted results, and that those who have been responsible for putting the grades into operation this year are making last minute efforts to clear their skirts and to partially overcome the damage already done.

While it is, of course, a matter of great satisfaction to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING and its readers that the fight they have waged against the iniquitous grading rules has finally enlisted the support of both state and federal authorities, we regret that the impending victory will come too late to be of very substantial benefit to the farmers this year. Most of them have sold their No. 1 potatoes and fed the number twos to their live stock. Others have a portion of the crop still on their hands, and for their benefit we hope that the rules will be modified as suggested.

As we look over the potato situation of the past few months we are moved to compassion for the utter stupidity and incompetency of those who engineered the potato grading rules. When we think of the millions of dollars that have been lost to growers all over the United States, of the absolute indifference of those who sit on the Food Administration at Washington and the conceited stubbornness of those in authority within our own state within whose hands the power lay to remove the restrictions that were working havoc in the potato growing sections, words almost fail us.

The attempted regulation of potato production and marketing last year was a huge bungle from start to finish. From the very day the government's increased production propaganda until the very moment, the potato industry has suffered a set-back at every point. Theory, theory, theory,—the hobbies of individuals and experts who had no material interest in the welfare of men en-

gaged in the potato growing business,—have repeatedly and successfully throttled every natural bent of the marketing movement. Result: All winter long many consumers have been going without potatoes while a hundred miles distant farmers had more than they could sell. The simple fact is that the new grading rules absolutely paralyzed the movement of the crop in many sections during the normal marketing season, and despite the protests of the farmers, the theorists and experts who controlled the situation sat tight on their hobby horses and successfully blocked the road to market.

Four months ago, after a careful investigation, and in response to the pleas of its readers, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING sent a letter of protest to the Food Administration against the grading rules. Mr. E. P. Miller of the potato division answered this letter, defending the rules and setting forth in glowing language the anticipated benefits that were to be derived from their operation by producer, dealer and consumer, alike. An exchange of exhaustive correspondence upon the subject then followed, without results. Mr. Miller persistently refused to make any modification of the rules; the Food Administration had made its decision and would abide by it. In vain, we went into the details of the situation in Michigan, pointed out to the potato committee time and again the great financial loss that the rules were imposing upon our farmers, and begged it to at least conduct an investigation in Michigan and make some provision for remedying the situation. Five thousand petitions were sent to Mr. Hoover; at no little expense to us, telegram after telegram was dispatched to Washington, imploring those in authority to take some action. We were referred to Prof. Waid, who as secretary of the Michigan Potato Growers' Ass'n. had given his sanction to the grading. We laid argument after argument before this gentleman, undeniable proof of the harmful effects that the grading was having upon the state's potato industry, but the Professor turned a stubborn ear to the growers' pleas and altho admitting the apparent injustice of the grading, refused to recommend a single remedial measure.

Time was flying. Already the marketing season had advanced into the heart of winter. Something must be done and done quickly to save the growers from a tremendous loss. Finally despairing of securing help from those responsible for the situation we turned to our representatives at Washington, laid all the facts before them and asked them to act. Almost to a man, they responded. Separately and collectively, the members of the Michigan delegation appeared before Mr. Hoover or sent him letters protesting against the discriminatory ruling and asked that it be modified. These protests brought results. Mr. Hoover apparently has instructed his lieutenants to reconsider the grading rules and listen to the arguments of the farmers of this state.

During all these months, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING has conducted the fight practically alone. Various mass meetings have been held thruout the state and some of the country editors who have minds and backbones of their own took up the fight and stood valiantly by the growers. But no other agency of a state-wide influence had the interests of the farmers sufficiently at heart to lend their influence against the grading. Opposed to the farmers from the very start were the Agricultural College, Prof. Waid, secretary of the Michigan Potato Growers' Ass'n, all the county agents, and the gentlemen comprising the potato committee at Washington. Now that some of them have shown a willingness to respect the wishes of the farmers, the opportunity has been opened to settle the grading proposition fairly and satisfactorily to all.

#### "A VICIOUS RULE FOR WAR TIMES," SAYS DETROIT NEWS

"Michigan farmers are complaining because the federal food administration's grading regulation is preventing the sale of a large part of the emergency potato crop which federal authorities induced them to raise. They have just cause for complaint, and with them should join in plaintive wail the much-abused ultimate consumer. Both alike are the victims of utter ignorance and incapacity.

"But before the consumer can wail he must know what has been done to him. U. S. grade No. 1 and U. S. grade No. 2 mean nothing to him in connection with potatoes. The government did not instruct him; the dealer did not let him in on the secret; he knows only that potatoes are high, and because of that he eats them sparingly.

"When asked for an explanation, a food administration official said: 'The answer is very

simple. There is a great shortage of wheat. The government is trying to bring about the substitution of potatoes for wheat as a food where possible. To make potatoes more attractive, it is trying to see that the potatoes that get to market are of the highest grade, give the consumer the most value for his money and really make a food bargain for him as compared with wheat.

"To do this it has instituted the grading regulation, fixing the standard thus: All potatoes that will not pass through a screen of 1 7-8 inches are first class. All that will pass through such a screen but will not pass through a screen of 1 1-2 inches shall be classified as grade No. 2. All others are culls and should not be offered for sale."

"Analyze this: The administration influenced the farmers to raise the largest potato crop on record. The administration was anxious to have the people eat potatoes to the exclusion of other food stuffs. The administration devised a grading regulation which sorted out and branded as inferior more than one half of the crop and permitted the buyer to reject these inferior potatoes or to offer for them a much reduced price.

"But the administration did not follow up its regulation with any provision for enforcement. Therefore, naturally, the buyer after he had graded the farmers' potatoes and paid the market price for a small part of them, bid anything he liked for the seconds. If he did not get them, the consumer lost. If he did get them he was immediately at liberty to dump them into the bin with the potatoes graded No. 1 and the consumer paid the market price for field-run stock.

"No regulation could have been better calculated to discourage the production and consumption of potatoes—the production, because farmers treated so shabbily will not this year take seriously any efforts to induce them to plant potatoes largely; the consumption, because it arbitrarily interfered with normal marketing, kept from distribution millions of bushels of excellent potatoes and maintained a price so high as to deter consumers from buying.

"The effect was so obvious that even state officials balked. Michigan's food administration made no attempt to enforce the measure. But the potato buyers, who were the sole beneficiaries of the measure, held the farmers to it. They told the farmers that they were licensed. They pointed to the stenciled 'U. S. Standard Grade' on their screen. 'Government orders,' they said. 'Got to do it. Wouldn't have us lose our license, would you?'

"A delegation of Michigan potato growers is in Washington to tell the senate committee on agriculture the workings of the potato grading regulation. They should be heard with deference. If the government expects the farmers to produce food for the nation and for the army, it must quit hampering their business with 'regulations' which limit the marketing of farm products at reasonable prices."

#### BEET GROWERS APPRECIATE OUR EFFORTS IN THEIR BEHALF

Editors MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING:—

At a meeting of the farmers held in our neighborhood last night I was asked to write you a letter, expressing the appreciation of the beet growers of this section for the splendid service given us in our efforts to secure an increased price for our beets. Had it not been for the weekly visits of your splendid paper, and the able manner in which you handled the growers' side of the question, many in this section would not have held on until the victory was won.

It is my opinion that if the beet sugar manufacturers could raise beets themselves at less cost than they are obliged to pay the growers, they would engage in the business of sugar beet growing as a profitable side-line. In the "Thumb" of Michigan, where the first sugar factories were established, the farmers remember the experience some of the companies and many of the manufacturers had in raising beets. In order to secure the factories both at Crosswell and Caro, it became necessary for the different communities to guarantee a certain acreage of beets. To accomplish this many of the business men of these villages contracted for a certain number of acres.

They went out and rented the land, paid for the help, delivered the beets—and when they got their checks in the fall they found that they had lost from twenty to one hundred and fifty dollars on every acre of beets raised. They did not try raising beets the second year. Then, it will be remembered, the manufacturers went into the growing business—they were going to show the farmers just how to handle the proposition. This scheme did not prove successful in a single instance; the farms purchased by the companies have been sold, and their losses in growing beets themselves, has been made up by the farmers.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING comes as a welcome messenger every Saturday, and to your efforts, more than any other single agency, can the beet growers give the credit for their receiving ten dollars per ton for beets raised this year.

Wilmot, Michigan

L. E. J.





## 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

Wheat is moving freely and the output of flour during the past week has decreased considerably under the average as maintained for a month or more. The storms of January made the hauling of grain from the farms almost impossible. Then came the thaw of last week, just about entirely cutting off country receipts. This thaw was general over the northern part of the wheat belt. Much of the drifted snow has been removed from the roads and with more favorable weather we should see wheat moving to market in goodly quantities. The farmers will be looking forward to spring work and at that time they are too busy to haul much grain. It is only reasonable therefore to expect an increased movement during the balance of this month and the fore part of March.

There is nothing to be gained by holding this wheat and it is badly needed right at this time. In fact with the coming of warmer weather there is always a considerable shrinkage on grain and all other things being equal we have always felt that it should be disposed of rather than held on into the late spring or summer months. This, of course, would not apply during years when the price had been unsatisfactory through the early part of the marketing season, but this year, with the price firmly established by the government, there can be no incentive for holding.



## CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	1.87	1.82	1.78
No. 3 Yellow	1.85 1-2	1.80	1.77
No. 2 Mixed	1.83	1.77	1.76 1-2

The railroads, under the Government priority orders, are making every effort to move corn to terminal markets. The weather is now more favorable, after one of the most severe winters of years, and one which at times just about suspended transportation movement. It is expected that the visible corn supply will increase greatly from now on. The quality of arrivals is very poor, showing much cob rot. The recent warm weather gave some indication of what is in store for wet corn. Much of it arriving during that period had begun to show the must odor.

Seed corn is selling at high levels, and will perhaps advance with the season, acting independently of feed corn. The supply of real good seed is rather limited. Investigation of cars arriving at terminal points shows about one in one hundred fit for seeding purposes. The quality of the seed being offered is far from that of other years.

There is a very good demand for white corn and millers are taking it at a good price when in condition for their purposes. It is being used to a large extent in the war flour and by bakers generally.

Michigan buyers of corn should examine each car on arrival and this examination should be thorough. While the quality will not be found up to the average of other years, there is great danger of the corn heating in transit. This trouble may not be apparent on top of the car but develops as the car is unloaded and the grain underneath is reached. For this reason it is well to sample all parts of the ear.

All seed corn this year should be thoroughly tested for germination. This is always a good plan, taking no one's word for it, and this year the rule applies with more force than ever. There will be a big question regarding much of the corn which will be offered for seed.



## LAST MINUTE WIRES

**CHICAGO WIRE**—Receipts of corn at primary points have doubled during the past few days and train loads of empties to all western states. Much uncertainty prevails in the corn market with a general trend to lower prices. Oats are moving in increased quantities but all offerings are quickly absorbed and the market remains firm.

**DETROIT SPECIAL**—Beans are firm and demand increasing steadily. Potatoes in plentiful supply and market not so strong. Poultry arriving in very moderate quantities and demand good. Eggs arriving in greater quantities but market firm at prevailing prices.

**PITTSBURGH WIRE**—Potato receipts have increased somewhat during the past week but with better weather less trouble has been experienced in making deliveries and the market has taken on a better feeling. Hay is arriving in very limited way and demand is good.



## OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White Standard	.91 1-2	.90	1.02
No. 3 White	.91	.89	1.01
No. 4 White	.90	.88	1.00

Last week, in discussing the oat situation, we stated it as our belief that despite a somewhat heavier movement of oats, we would not see lower prices for some time, owing to the fact that all markets were bare and it would take a considerable amount to take care of the daily demand and at the same time create sufficient surplus to have any bearish effect on the price.

The latter part of the week justified this assertion, the oat market, notwithstanding additional supplies, reaching the high mark of the season, Detroit quoting standard at 91½¢. The demand continues excellent, export buyers, cereal food manufacturers and feed mills all being actively in the market. We advise our readers to watch the market closely, however, and it should be remembered that one of the main factors in the recent advance was the fact that there were not sufficient stocks in reserve to tide the dealers over a period of suddenly increased demand. There is a large reserve back in the hands of country dealers, much of it bought at lower prices than now prevail, and they are anxious to sell. There is no doubt but what better weather is at hand and this, together with the government's priority order issued last week, will result in larger receipts. Eventually this will have an effect on the market. The growers will also be hauling their grain to market before the rush of spring work. It is the general opinion that there are large stocks still in growers hands.

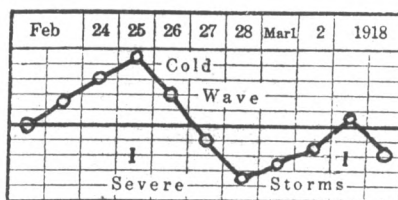


## RYE

The past week brought about no material change in the rye situation.

## THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbance to cross continent Feb. 23 to 27, warm wave 22 to 26, cool wave 25 to March 1. This will be a first class storm, important in many ways. Great warm wave followed by severe cold wave, blizzards, freezing weather, going farther south than usual, bad weather for farm work and transportation. Whatever grain you intend to market before taking up your strenuous farm work for next crops, better get thru with it before that storm comes. It will bring a week or ten days of bad weather.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver about February 28 and temperatures will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of March 7, plains sections 2, meridian 90, great lakes and

Ohio-Tennessee valleys 3, eastern sections 4, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about March 5. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

All weather conditions, changes and events are caused by such disturbances as are described in above paragraph. Those who give most study to these forecasts will get most out of them.

The storm described in last above paragraph will be a continuation of the great storm period described in first paragraph and all should prepare for a continuation of severe weather in the far west and middle west up to March 5 and in eastern sections three days later. While this storm will have many bad features, the good features will outweigh the bad. From those great storms a great improvement in cropweather is expected, particularly south of latitude 40, where improvements are most needed. The wheat crop will be greatly improved and the conditions will be very favorable to oats and the farmers should sow largely of that crop.

W. T. Foster



## BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H.P.	12.70	13.50	13.75
Prime	12.40	13.35	13.65
Red Kidneys	15.50	16.00	13.75

The bean market is firm under a fair demand and scarcity of good, dry stock. The price is advancing and should show considerable improvement. We have all along maintained that our friends who had good dry stock would do well to hang on to it for a time and we still feel the same about it. Let's get rid of the wet stuff first, not all at once, but gradually, and the dry stock will take care of itself. Regardless of all the talk of imported beans, pintos, etc., we are firmly convinced that there will be a most excellent market for Michigan pea beans later on. Seed stock is going to be scarce. And right here we want to say to our friends, be careful what kind of seed you purchase this year. If you have any reason to suspect that it has been touched by the frost, do not plant it, even though it does germinate. We saw this tried out last year and with very unsatisfactory results.

We note with satisfaction that wet beans which have stood in the straw all winter are coming out in much better shape than those which were threshed early and stored in bins. Many growers did not get a machine in to thresh before the roads were blocked with snow and they are now finding that this circumstance ultimately worked to their advantage.

Reports from Colorado indicate that growers there who have stock on hand feel that it should bring higher prices than now prevail and are holding. This should prove a bull factor so far as Michigan beans are concerned. The fact that the Government seized twenty million pounds of beans on the Pacific coast, beans which we understand were imported, did not help the Michigan situation any, to say the least. But at that, they will need our beans, and badly, before another crop is ready for market.



## CLOVER SEED

The clover seed market continued strong up to the close of last week, at which time considerable weakness developed and prices worked lower. The principal cause of this was a desire on the part of holders to dispose of a part of their holdings. There is much uncertainty as to the immediate future although we fail to discover at this time any underlying weakness which would permanently effect the situation.

Detroit quotations today, with prospects of a somewhat lower market toward the end of the week, are as follows:

Prime red clover, \$20; March \$19; alsike, \$16.60; March alsike, \$16.61; timothy, \$4.



## 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

Shippers have nothing to fear so far as the present hay market is concerned. Light receipts are the rule at all markets and under a good stiff demand trade is brisk and prices remain firm.

Receipts at Detroit are improving



Chicago reports a very firm market with light supplies and active trading. Both local and shipping demand has been exceptionally good for the past week. The demand for straw is also good, No. 1 rye and oats bringing from \$14 to \$16 per ton. Wheat straw is selling around \$12.00.

Conditions at Cincinnati are much better, the colder weather of the past few days having relieved the flooded conditions of the plugging yards. There has been some advance in price at that point.

Richmond reports very light receipts and an active demand. Our reporter there states that consignments to that point are light just at this time and that they expect a good firm market until such time as supplies are greatly increased in the spring.

Clover hay is greatly in demand at St. Louis, according to a wire just received from our correspondent there, offerings being limited and arrivals cleaning up from day to day. There is also a good demand for prairie and packing hay.

Pittsburg and Philadelphia report a shortage of all grades of sound hay and this, together with a heavier demand than has existed for some time, has made an exceptionally strong market.

After the rush of deliveries following the Garfield closing order, the New York market has cleaned up in good shape and the situation there is again firm.

## FLOUR & FEED

Manufacture of feed stuffs, so far as Detroit millers are concerned, is about at a standstill. Very little feed-stuffs material is left from the manufacture of war flour, and oats and corn are not arriving in volume sufficient to be of any account. The same condition is true of other markets. New York reports nothing to fill orders for spot or future delivery. Dealers are trying to fill existing contracts and finding great difficulty in doing so.

Detroit quotations: Flour—Per 196 lbs., in eighth paper sacks: Standard patent, \$11.10@11.15; straight winter, \$10.80@11; spring patent, \$11.20@11.30; rye flour, 11.80 in jobbing lots.

Feed: In 100-lb. sacks, jobbing lots: Bran, \$34.50; standard middlings \$36.50; fine middlings, \$43.50; crack corn, \$75; coarse cornmeal, \$74; chop \$60 per ton.

## POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	2.00 cwt.	1.85 cwt.
Chicago	2.00	1.85
Cincinnati	2.25	2.10
New York	2.45	2.35
Pittsburgh	2.25	2.12
Baltimore, Md.	2.45	2.38

Potatoes are moving quite freely at the present time. Receivers report car lots as plentiful and the market has an easy tone. The price so far has remained about stationary, showing but small decline. No doubt shipments will increase from now on, the warmer weather permitting shippers to work to better advantage.

There is much speculation as to what will develop when the pits and cellars are opened and the contents thoroughly investigated. It is the general opinion that much of the stock has been more or less affected by the severe winter. Whether or not this is the case will have an effect on the future market. If the frost has injured much of the stock in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, there will, of course, be just that much less to come on the market and this will be a bull factor.

Seed potato men say they are having a fair demand for seed stock but are finding difficulty in securing cars for shipment. The car situation will

spring weather permits free movement and where supplies are plentiful this usually causes a lower market. With the supply of cars somewhat restricted this movement will be more evenly distributed over the spring months.

## ONIONS

The onion market is just a little off at the present time. Detroit dealers report a light demand and free receipts. They believe that this condition it but temporary and that before a great while the surplus will clean up and the trade become more steady. Detroit quotations on No. 1 yellow stock run from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 100-lb. sack. Red onions are not in demand on this market.

New York—The receipts of onions this week were the lightest ever known for this season of the year. Throughout the week the arrivals did not run higher than eight or ten cars a day—in fact, they would not average over seven cars—yet there were more onions than were needed and sales had to be forced, in many cases, and prices shaded. Some of the offerings showed the effects of the recent cold spell and this frosted stock was hard to move at any price. Reports from the producing sections especially New York state, indicate that the quantity of onions in storage is extremely heavy. All shippers are crying for cars but the railroads are unable to furnish but very few. However, it may be just as well, as a heavy accumulation here would drive prices down so low that in the long run it would mean a bigger loss than if the onions were held in the country. Most of this week's supply consisted of the yellow variety and because of this, the best reds and yellows sold at the same price, \$2 per 100 pound bag. This price was not realized except in a small way, and quantity sales were seldom made higher than \$1.50@1.75. The poorer stock sold as low as 50c@1.50 per 100 lb. bag.

Chicago—The onion market continued to weaken under a slow call and liberal offerings this week. Reds and yellows were held at prices ranging all the way from \$1.85@2.10 per cwt., f.o.b. Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana shipping points.

## APPLES

The apple market is firm and supplies are only moderate. Shipments have increased to a certain extent but the demand has kept pace with them and the market today is in good condition and promises to continue so. Detroit quotations: Greenings, \$6@6.25; York, \$5@5.50; Baldwin, \$5; No. 2, \$3@3.50 per bbl. Western, \$2.75@3 per box.

Chicago—Apples moved rather freely in a local way under an active demand this week and if shipping facilities were equal to requirements, so that outside orders could be handled, trading would be on a firm basis. The limited number of cars available restricted the outside movement materially. The local call was a sufficient strength, however, to maintain prices on a steady basis.

Quotations on barrels were as follows: York Imperials, \$5@5.25; Willow Twigs, \$4.50@5; Baldwins, \$5.25@5.75; Golden Russets, \$5@5.50; Kings, \$5.50@6; Jonathans, \$5.50@6.25; Greenings, \$6@6.50; Winesaps, \$5@6; Ben Davis, \$4@4.25; Northern Spy, \$5.50@6.50; Ganos, \$4@4.50, and No. 2 stock \$2.50@3.50.

## BUTTER

Our New York butter letter, giving conditions for the week ending Feb. 16, sums up the eastern situation as

Thursday another quarter cent was added, making the quotation 52c at which price the market stood firm on Friday. Higher scoring butter closed firm at 52½@53c; firsts were moving at 49½@51½c, and a few seconds were moving at 48@49c; the demand for that grade being rather limited. Traffic conditions have cleared up considerably and it is expected that there will be a more regular movement of butter toward New York than there has been during January and February. Considering the irregularity of arrivals during those months the market has been very consistent. It is difficult to predict what changes may occur in the future but shippers had best prepare for some decline in price.

The following suggestions are offered to those who wish to secure the top of the market on their shipments:

1. Be sure that the creamery supply houses furnish you with clean, well-made tubs.
2. Be sure that the tub has a clean attractive appearance when it leaves the creamery.
3. Do not use more than four fasteners, but see that they are placed at equal intervals and firmly nailed.
4. Have as few identification marks on the tubs as possible. Use your stamp once on the cover and once on the side of the tub.
5. Use top cloth circles. Insert liners carefully and have them lap over not more than one inch on the upper surface.

### Cheese

Sheboygan, Wis.—The cheese market remains firm and practically stationary as far as country markets are concerned. The make throughout the country seems to be slightly increasing but not sufficiently so in order to make any change in the situation or any appreciable increased offerings.

Trading throughout the state, or home trading, has been active for the last week and continues so at this writing. Daisies and Longhorns are in special demand. Prices have reached a point where the cost of carrying stocks is increased and this results in wholesalers and jobbers buying more or less in a hand-to-mouth basis, for immediate requirements only.

The Twin situation is somewhat uncertain and difficult to fathom. While reports of heavy holdings continue to be made, operators are finding no difficulty in moving their stocks at the basis of present cost and the past week has seen many sales of held goods made on the basis of 25c f.o.b. concentration point.

At the Plymouth market held this week the following sales were made: 38 Twins, 26c; 700 Daisies, 27¼c; 100 double Daisies, 27¼c; 100 double Daisies, 27c, 243 Longhorns 27¼c; 245 Square Prints, 28¼c.

At the Appleton market the same prices prevailed. Twins selling at 26c and double Daisies at 27c.

Detroit quotations: Michigan flats, 26¼@26½c; New York flats, 27c; brick, 28¼@29¼c; longhorns, 28¼c; Michigan daisies, 27c; Wisconsin daisies, 27¼c; domestic Swiss, 35c@42c; for prime to fancy: Limburger, 30¼@31c per lb.

## EGGS

The egg market is firmer under limited supply and good demand. Arrivals from the southwest have been limited owing to transportation difficulties and this has helped the Chicago and Michigan situation. Detroit is quoting fresh firsts at 54 to 55c per dozen.

Chicago reports a firmer tone to the market the past week, following the steady decline of the preceding week. Both local and shipping dealers are buying actively and although receipts are increasing owing to the milder weather, holders of fresh have been able to obtain somewhat higher prices. Firsts are selling at 55 to 55½c; ordinary, 52 to 53½c; miscellaneous lots cases included, 52 to 54½c.

Live Wt.	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Turkey	30-32	25-26	30-35
Ducks	30-32	27-30	33-35
Geese	27-30	23-25	33-35
Springers	28-32	28-30	35-36
Hens			

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

The poultry market is firm at a slightly advanced range of prices. Arrivals are light at all points and everything appears favorable for the spring market.

Last week we mentioned that the Food Administrator was considering forbidding the shipping of hens or pullets and this order has since been issued. This order, we understand, holds good until May 1. This action has been taken to increase the egg supply. At this time of the year it is customary to dispose of hens and this movement has been heavy this year on account of the high prices of feed. It became evident that the egg supply would be away below normal at a time when the country needs a greater production than ever before, to relieve the food situation. Hence the action of the Commission in forbidding the shipment of hens and pullets for the time specified.

### 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. 2 green murrain, 14c; No. 1 cured calf, 26c; No. 1 green calf, 24c; No. 1 horsehides, \$6; No. 2 horsehides, \$5; No. 2 hides, 1c and No. 2 kip and calf 1½c lower than the above; sheepskins, as to amount of wool, 25c@3 each.

### Dressed Hogs and Calves

The dressed hog market is firm, good clean, nice appearing stuff bringing 2-c per lb. Receipts have been just a little heavier during the past week, but there is a good market for all offerings.

Dressed veal is in good supply, fancy bringing 18 to 20c per lb; choice 17c; common, 16c. Shippers should be careful in preparing veal for market. A great deal depends on the appearance when it arrives at destination. Dirty looking stuff sells at discount at all times.

### Rabbits

Michigan rabbits are in fair demand, bringing \$3 to \$3.75 per dozen, according to condition. With the warmer weather receivers are expecting the usual run of off-grade stock. Be sure the shipment is not held too long before moving forward. Rabbits arriving out of condition are liable to be sent to the dump by the inspector.

### Vegetables

Beets, \$3.25 per cwt.; carrots, \$2 per cwt.; turnips, \$2 per cwt.; rutabagas, \$2 per cwt.; parsnips, \$2.50 per cwt.; radishes, 35c per doz.

### Live Stock Letters

Chicago, Illinois, February 18, 1918. —A further slight increase in receipts of live stock at Chicago last week and a material gain in outgoing shipments came as additional proof that the railroads are gradually getting in better shape to handle the traffic and leads to the expectation, in view of the fact that lack of adequate transportation facilities has held vast amounts of live stock in the country which owners have been anxious to unload, that the marketward movement during the next 30 days or more will be of generous volume.

Last week's cattle trade was very irregular. The beef steer market showed its best phases on the plain to good 1050 to 1250-lb. classes of warmed-up and short-feds selling largely between \$10.00 and \$12.00. Such closed last week showing little change in value from the close of the week previous. An indifferent demand, however, prevailed all week for good choice steers selling from \$12.50 to \$13.80, the latter figure being the top of the week, and these kinds, along with many of the more common light steers not of quality that appealed to



stocker and feeder buyers, showed 15 to 25c declines for the week, more in spots. Half-fat yearlings were bad actors, getting strong discrimination from killers. Such stock, where making satisfactory weight gains, could, we believe, be profitably held back for a better finish, although supply prospects are such as appear to warrant the marketing of all classes of live stock as fast as ready for the market and stock that is not paying its board.

Revival of demand for stock and feeding cattle has been an outstanding feature of the cattle trade within the last fortnight. While the trade on country account has not yet reached large dimensions by any means, the fact is patent to those in close touch with market developments that unless unforeseen handicaps appear the broadened inquiry for thin and light fleshed young cattle that has been evidenced since the January and early February period of severe storms, sub-zero temperatures and demoralized transportation service is but the beginning of a season that will be marked by an investment demand that will grow in volume as grazing time draws nearer. Prices advanced about 25c last week, with the bulk selling at \$8.50 to \$10.00 and a few loads of the best selected feeders up around \$11.

Butcher cattle were irregular sellers all the week, but showed at the close a full steady basis with the close of the previous week with the exception of common and plain light heifer stuff which was dull and droopy. The heavy cows and canner and cutter classes were good sellers throughout. Bulls showed little change but the calf market dropped to the lowest levels hit in many weeks past. It took choice vealers to sell at the week-end at \$13.00 and sales were made at \$1.50 to \$2 declines from the close of the week previous.

Today with 15,000 cattle in the pens the market was generally steady on all classes. Top steers sold at \$13.85, but sales above \$13 were few and the bulk sold at \$11 to \$12.50.



**Rates:**—Advertisements classified under this heading, with the first three words displayed in bold face type at three cents per word. Count initials and figures as words and remit with copy wanted to the Advertising Dept., 110 Fort St., Detroit, Mich.

**SMALL STOCK FARM** for sale, 80 acres; between 60 and 65 acres improved; all fenced with woven wire with barb on top; No. 1 barn with green pine frame 40x60 ft., 18 ft. post basement under the whole barn; 3 cement floors and stables, corn crib and pig pen with cement floors, tool house, sheep shed; good fair house; small orchard; good water; mail route by the house; school house on the opposite corner. Anyone interested write to owner, Geo. H. Swaffield, Sterling, Mich.

**60-ACRE FARM** for sale, 55 acres cleared, 5 acres timber. Good house and barn, silo, windmill and other out buildings. Will sell cheap. Address, Gaylord, Mich., R. R. 1, Box 82.

**FOR SALE**—160 acres of very fertile virgin land on a good road near a thriving village; good markets, school and churches; one mile to railroad siding; 80 acres could very easily be cleared for spring crops; this land with a very little improvement will double in value; price, \$20.00 per acre; will take a small payment down; good reasons for selling. F. W. MACKRINDER, Mikado, Alcona County, Michigan.

**SEED CORN**—Golden Orange Flint, \$5 bu. Red cob, \$4 bu. Grain Ensilage, \$3.60. Order early. Sample for stamp. Harry Vail, Warwick, Orange Co., N. Y.

**FOR SALE**—Berkshire Sows, bred for Apr. farrow. Also some fine gilts. Twelve very fine grade Aberdeen Angus heifers from 6 to 14 mo. old, Russell Bros., Merrill, Michigan, Route No. 3.

**240 Acre Farm** for sale, 2 miles east and 3 miles north of Remus, Mecosta county. A new brick veneered house with 4 gables, 11 rooms; hot water heated, bath and toilet, running water, hard and soft, cold and hot; gas lighted and range, hot plate in basement with laundry tubs. New 40x80 full basement barn, round roof, new cement stave silo 12x40. Buildings all rodged. New windmill 50 ft. Outside cement potato cellar. Auto garage; tool shed; stone hen house; new tenant house, 4 rooms; 180 acres cleared, balance easily cleared; well fenced, with living water under highest state of cultivation; sandy loam with clay subsoil. For price write owner, Chas. L. Gilmore, Remus, Michigan.

**WANTED**—Single man by the month or year, not in the draft; must be reliable and honest. State wages, etc., in first letter. A good home and surroundings. J. Lee Strachan, Ionia, Michigan.

Hog trade experienced a sharp decline early last week, the top dropping down to \$16.05 and the general average to \$15.75 on Tuesday, but recovery was prompt and under a material expansion in shipping demand toward the week end the market became a runaway affair, closing the week at the high point of the period, 80 to 90c above the Tuesday low spot and 10 to 20c above the close of the preceding week. The average hog weight for the week was 233 lbs., the heaviest since last September, 31 lbs. heavier than a year ago and 14 lbs. heavier than the corresponding week of the last seven years.

Today, with 45,000 hogs on the market, the trade ruled unusually higher, the average being fully 25c above Saturday. The top was \$17.10 and sales up to \$17.00 for good butcher hogs were numerous.

The sheep and lamb trade has been in a bad way during the past week, lambs declining fully \$1.00 per cwt., yearlings 50c and matured muttons generally 25c. Best lambs finished last week on a \$16.75 basis, but a good kind not of the most desirable weights sold down around \$16.00 and \$14.75 to \$15.50 bought a lot of 95 to 110-lb. lambs toward the week end, such wts. finding a very narrow outlet. Handy weight yearlings topped at \$15.00, and best aged wethers were quotable at \$13.50 and good to choice fat ewes sold from \$12.50 to \$13.15. Dressed mutton trade East was in bad condition throughout the week. Meatless days and the opening of the Lenten season are depressing influences and the trade lacks confidence in the ability of the market to attain and hold much better levels than now prevail during the next few weeks.

Today, with 20,000 head here, sheep held steady but lambs showed a fresh decline of 15 to 25c. Best tidy wt. lambs sold at \$16.65 to shippers, but the practical top to packers was \$16.50.

**East Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 19.**—Receipts of cattle Monday, 100 cars, including ten cars, left from last week's trade. Trade opened 25 to 50c lower on medium weight and weighty steers which were in light supply; butcher steers and handy weight steers sold steady; fat cows and heifers sold very steady; bulls of all classes sold steady; fresh cows and springers were in very light supply, sold steady; stockers and feeders were in light supply, sold very steady; yearlings were in very light supply, sold 15 to 25c higher than last week. At the close of our market 15 cars went over unsold.

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

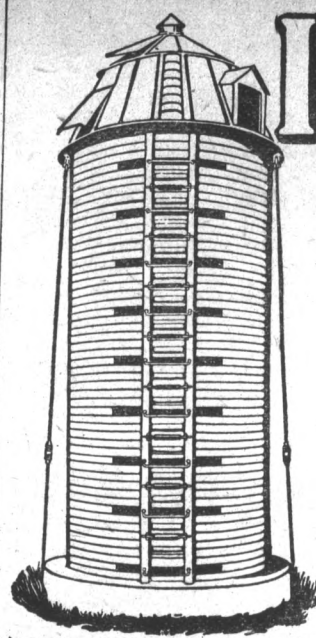
Receipts of hogs for the opening day of the week totaled 9,600 head, or 60 double decks, and with a good local and outside demand our market opened ten to fifteen cents higher, with the heavies selling from \$17.00 to \$17.40; mixed, \$17.50, with two decks of late arrivals reaching \$17.60; yorkers, at \$17.50; pigs, \$16.25; roughs, \$15.75; stags, \$13.00 to \$14.00.

Receipts of hogs Tuesday totaled about 3,600 head and the market opened steady. Yorkers sold at \$17.50, but a few reached \$17.60; mixed and medium hogs sold from \$17.40 to \$17.60; heavies, \$17.25 to \$17.40. Pigs and lights were a quarter lower, selling from \$15.75 to \$16.00; roughs, \$15.50 to \$15.75; stags generally \$14.

The receipts of sheep and lambs on Monday was called 9,000 head. The market opened 10c higher on best lambs which sold from \$17.50 to \$17.75; throwouts, \$15.50 to \$16.25. There were quite a number of heavy lambs here Monday and the demand was very light for this class of stuff. They were very hard sellers and sold from \$15.25 to \$15.75. Yearlings sold from \$13.50 to \$14.00; wethers, \$12.50 to \$13.50; ewes, \$12.00 to \$12.50, as to weight and quality.

Receipts of sheep and lambs Tuesday were about ten cars fresh and five cars holdovers. The market was very slow and very little trading was done. Best lambs sold from \$17.35 to \$17.50 which was 25c to 40c lower than Monday; throwouts, \$15.50 to \$16.25; yearlings, \$13.50 to \$14.00; wethers, \$13.00 to \$13.50; ewes, \$12.00 to \$12.50 as to weight and quality.

We quote: Choice to prime weighty steers, \$12.50 to \$13; medium to good weighty steers, \$12.00 to \$12.50; plain and coarse weighty steers, \$10.75 to \$11.25; choice to prime handy weight and medium wt. steers, \$11.50 to \$12.



## Independent

TRIPLE WALL SILO

### GUARANTEED

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

### Turn Soft Corn into Money

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

### Feed Ensilage

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

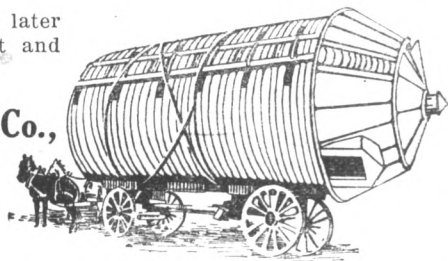
The INDEPENDENT TRIPLE WALL SILO will save you time, money, labor.

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

**The Independent Silo Co.,**

Indianapolis, Indiana

St. Paul, Minn. Kansas City, Mo.



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22 H. Peerless, steam traction engine; 22 H. Stevens; 22 H. Wood Bros.; 22 H. Gear-Scott; 20 H. Baker; 20 H. Huber; 20 H. Rumley; 18 H. Gaar-Scott; 18 H. Pitts; 18 H. Huber; 18 H. Nichols and Shepard; 18 H. Russell; 18 H. Baker; 18 H. Wood Bros.; 16 H. Pitts; 16 H. Nichols and Shepard; 15 H. Case; 12 H. Case; 30

in. and 32 in. Advance grain threshers, 28 in. and 36 in. Case steel frame grain threshers; 30 in. and 34 in. Pitts, 32 in. Wood Bros., 32 in. Aultman-Taylor; 33 in. Port Huron; 17x22 Ann Arbor baling press; 14x18 Whitman, 14x18 Ohio.

Write us for complete used machinery lists. Also for new catalogue of Greyhound machinery.

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TOLEDO, OHIO.

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LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

Chicago, Ill., South St. Paul, Minn., South Omaha, Neb., Denver, Colo., Kansas City, Mo., East Buffalo, N. Y., Fort Worth, Texas, East St. Louis, Ill., Sioux City, Iowa, El Paso, Texas, South St. Joseph, Mo.

## BISHOP, BULLEN & HOLMES

LIVE STOCK COMMISSION SALESMEN

The Largest Live Stock Commission in Michigan

MICHIGAN CENTRAL STOCK YARDS - - - DETROIT

Geo. J. Sandel

Geo. H. Stacy

John R. Beadle

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## Sandel, Stacy, Beadle & Green

LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS

Michigan Central Stock Yards

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

## Seed Corn

Part of our corn is being tested and part is coming from the growers. We expect to have our stock ready for shipment early in March. Watch for our announcement of varieties and prices in this paper.

MARTIN DAWSON COMPANY,  
Ypsilanti, Mich.

Don't apply more lime than needed. Save work, time, money by using Simplex Soil Tester. Low in price. Guaranteed accurate. Takes five minutes to test. Costs one-half cent per field.

**IT PAYS TO TEST SOIL AT HOME**

Simplex Soil Tester automatically registers amount of lime and ground limestone soils contain and require. Write for literature. Simplex Mfg. Co., Dept. 201, Baltimore, Md.

**WANTED:**—Boy to work on farm at once, Orla Eager, Howell, Mich.



"—for all the farmers of Michigan."

# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 1918

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

EDITOR  
EDITOR  
EDITOR WOMAN'S DEPT  
VETERINARY EDITOR  
LEGAL EDITOR

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Live Stock and Auction Sale Advertising: We offer special low rates to reputable breeders of live stock and poultry, write us for them.

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We respectfully ask our readers to favor our advertisers when possible. Their catalogs and prices are cheerfully sent free, and we guarantee you against loss providing you say when writing or ordering from them. "I saw your advertisement in my Michigan Business Farming."

Entered as second-class matter, at Mt. Clemens, Mich.

## The Knocker

"IT TAKES no brains to knock", says the Allegan county farm agent, referring to those publications which "knocked" the grading rules. Incidentally, the gentleman's remark hits about 50,000 "unprogressive" farmers of the state who have likewise opposed the grades. It really seems that the remark is superfluous. The whole idea of the farm agent movement, as applied in some sections of Michigan at least, seems to be based upon the assumption that the farmers are devoid of brains, hence an advisor to tell them how to farm, how to grade, how to market.

The charge is that MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is a "knocker." We plead guilty. We "knocked" the price of wheat that some of the elevators were paying to farmers, and after a succession of knocks, secured an increase of three cents a bushel. True, that isn't much, but we thought the farmer might better have that three cents than the elevator man. It isn't recorded that our farm-agent friends in the counties affected raised a single hand to help the farmers get a square deal.

Last fall the government attempted to set a price on Michigan beans. Because we knew that the farmers of Michigan would lose money if forced to sell at the government price, and believing that the government was not fully acquainted with the Michigan situation, again we knocked! Protest after protest was sent to Washington, with the final result that the government turned elsewhere for its bean supplies and left the Michigan product free to follow the open market.

For four months we knocked the potato grades. And even after the county agents in convention at East Lansing had given their constituents back home a slap in the face by endorsing the grades, we continued to knock. Our knock grew so loud and prolonged that finally it was heard, and within the last ten days the arguments that MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING presented against the grading rules have won over Michigan's senators and congressmen, State Food Administrator Prescott, Jason Woodman of the Board of Agriculture, and no less influential newspaper than the *Detroit News*, but NOT the county agents.

We knocked the sugar beet price. When other publications that falsely assume to represent the farmer stood silently and supinely by while the beet growers took their stand against the manufacturers, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING hoisted its banner, plunged into the fray and helped to the farmers to secure a profitable price on their beets. Strange as it may seem, we fail to recall the name or residence of a single county agent who helped to attain that notable victory.

The salvation of the farming business lies in good effective knocking. Like the thieves in the Temple, the speculators have been helping themselves to the farmers' profits since time immemorial, and have gobbled up the second blades of grass as fast as the production experts showed the farmers how to grow them. The farmer has been bossed long enough. It's time for him to throw off the leash and assert his right and ability to have something to say about how the marketing end of his business shall be conducted. The Lord loveth a cheerful knocker, because he's Satan's worst enemy. Be a knocker, brother farmer, if you would grow in dignity and power.

Despite our knocking propensities we've got a lot of friends among the county agents, and experience has taught us that those who are our friends are likewise the best friends of the farm-

ers. It's the fellow who claims to know more about running the farmer's business than the owner himself,—the slave of rule and rote and custom, who looks upon MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING with hostile eyes. If the county agents were so inclined they could revolutionize the farming business within the next decade. Let them show that they are truly interested in the welfare of the farmers; let them show that they are willing to HELP solve his marketing problems as well as his production problems, let them stand steadfastly by his side in times of stress and trial, and we shall hail them as saviors. Look well to your county agent, Mr. Farmer. If he proves your friend, thru thick as well as thin hang onto him forever; he's a priceless jewel; but if you suspect him and he plays you false, give him the grand bounce.

## Protecting the People Who Pay the Protective Tax

DISGUISE THE proposition as you may, the fact remains that the "tariff is a tax." It has been fairly well demonstrated that tariff taxes must be levied upon certain imports—in some instances for "revenue only," in most cases to "protect our industries." The recent settlement of the controversy between the manufacturers of beet sugar and the growers of sugar beets, fixed up the fences for another twelve months, and then, no doubt the battle must be fought over again.

We are glad, indeed that the matter has been adjusted and feel sure that the farmers will now take hold with a will, increase their acreage over last year and do their level best to prevent another sugar shortage next year. However, it is to be regretted that at this time, when the Government is adjusting so many difficulties and solving so many of the nation's real problems, that the question of the supply of sugar should not have been settled once for all. Just so long as the cost of manufacturing sugar from beets is an unknown quantity, just so long will there be trouble between grower and manufacturer.

The manufacturers of sugar in this country enjoy the benefits of a protective tariff. Every pound of sugar used by the people of the United States bears a portion of this protective tariff tax. The manufacturers of sugar claim that this tax is necessary to protect them from the cheaper imported sugar; and we are not in a position to refute this statement. We do know, however, that were it not for the sugar manufactured from beets in the States we would be in the midst of a sugar famine of no mean proportions.

But the fact remains that every person in the United States contributes something to the sugar manufacturers. This being true, the Federal Government not only has the right but should insist upon knowing what the beneficiaries under this tax are doing with the money contributed by the people. If the tariff tax increases the profits to the manufacturers, and the growers are paid less than cost for producing the raw material, then something is wrong, and the producer and consumer both are being discriminated against.

The day is not far distant when the Government will protect the people who pay the protective tax. We must maintain infant industries. Germany gathered her strength through government aid to commerce and manufacture. At the same time, if the support given by the Government fails to aid all interested in that particular industry—capital and labor, then the whole scheme fails utterly. Government regulation of all tariff beneficiaries would simply mean giving "protection to the people who pay the tariff tax."

## Where Does the College Stand?

"WHERE DOES the Agricultural College stand on potato grading?" asks an M. B. F. subscriber. We dunno. The College officials have flopped so many times on the proposition that we don't exactly remember just what the last flop was. A few weeks ago, the College openly boasted that the grades had its sanction, and publicly accused those who were opposing the grades of trying to create friction between the dealers and the growers. Then came a dispatch from Washington to the effect that Mr. Dougherty of the Board of Agriculture had put his stamp of approval on the grades. But the very next day it was announced that Mr. Jason Woodman, also a member of the Board of Agriculture, had been sent to Washington by State Food Administrator Prescott and the AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE to endeavor to obtain a modification or a repeal of the grading order.

The tactics of the College are much like those of a frightened calf. Quite patently, those affiliated with the institution, who gave their support to the grading proposition, are afraid of the cars. They seem to be willing to do almost anything

now to escape the blame for the lamentable outcome of the grading system.

We rejoice, of course, that we have succeeded in opening the eyes of the college authorities to the evils of the grading methods now being employed, but their belated conversion can scarcely undo the mischief that has already been wrought. Even so, the farmers may not have paid the price in vain for the interference of experts and theorists in the marketing end of their business. There is reason to believe that the college officials will profit by their latest experiment and experience, and in the future be guided by the wishes of the men whose interests they are supposed to be looking after. As an agricultural institution, the M. A. C. should have been the first to lend an ear to the farmers' pleas on the grading proposition and to lead the fight against it. And it is the everlasting discredit of the authorities of that college that they aided and abetted the scheme to victimize the farmers of Michigan, despite the latter's protests.

## Better Days Coming for the Farmer

"I FIRMLY BELIEVE that there are better days ahead for the farmers," writes a Michigan farmer's wife to Anne Campbell Stark, editor of our Farm Home department. So do we, and it is encouraging to know that the farmers themselves have so optimistic a view of the future. There are a lot of disappointed farmers in the country today. The last several years have been discouraging ones, and many farmers are beginning to wonder if it lies within the range of possibility to place the farming business upon a permanently profitable basis. We believe it is. We believe that the farming business is undergoing the greatest revolution in the history of the world, and that no farmer need fear the outcome. Those who in the past have ridiculed the farmer as a "hayseed," who have imposed upon his rights, taken advantage of his credulity and his ignorance of the influences which have set the prices on his products, face the possibility that the world may have to hunger unless production of farm crops is very materially increased. The fear of such an eventuality, remote as it may be, arouses within the hitherto indifferent consumer a new respect and appreciation of the work of producing the stuff that keeps body and soul together. He is showing an unusual willingness to assist the farmer in solving his many problems, and may be expected to concede many privileges to the farmer which formerly he denied. The government, also, is acquiring a better understanding of the farming business, and after floundering about for years trying to put hit-and-miss production theories into practice, is now willing to admit that there may after all be a more important aspect to the business than the production end. Even as we go to press Congress is deep in the discussion of the economic phases of farming. The biggest minds of the nation are right now struggling to uncover the most practical and profitable methods to put farming on a business basis and see that it pays those engaged in the industry, substantial dividends on their capital and labor invested. Something of permanent value must come from this awakened interest in farming affairs.

## Who Gets the Credit for the Beet Victory?

JOHN C. KETCHAM, chairman of the beet growers' committee, has personally acknowledged the indebtedness of the committee and the growers to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING's editorial support of their demands for \$10 beets. Some of our good friends have even insisted that the credit for this victory belongs to us. While it is true that ours was the only weekly publication to take up the cudgels in behalf of the growers and conduct a clean, consistent campaign, we have modestly refrained from publicly claiming any of the credit. Howbeit, we have our own ideas upon the subject.

There is no single agency or organization, in our judgment, who is entitled to run off with all the laurels of this victory. The organized growers made the stand in the first place for higher prices, but in view of the fact that their membership is small, it is not to be supposed that they could have secured their demands, single-handed. It must be remembered that they had the support of the Gleaners and the Grange, and the official publications of those organizations, *The Gleaner* and the *Michigan Patron*. But probably more effective than these combined influences was the weekly visit of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING into the beet growing districts, urging the growers to stand by their guns until their demands had been conceded. The effectiveness of these demands was gauged entirely by the solidarity of the beet growers, and the influence which kept them from signing contracts on the old basis, must be accorded recognition.



## EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

(NOTE: Owing to lack of space we were obliged to omit many fine letters from the Readers' Editorial column this week. These will appear, however, in an early issue.)

## Farms 100 Acres Alone With Tractor

I am an appreciative reader of the M. B. F. and noticed you ask for tractor experience.

I have farmed with a tractor two years and am well satisfied. I farm 100 acres alone, driving my own tractor. I plow about 4 acres per day on 20 gallons of kerosene. I have a 10-20 H. P. one wheel drive. This is a very fine construction, having only three drive pinions and being a two cylinder opposed it does not need heavy fly wheels. The machine only weighs 2500 which makes it work satisfactorily on plowed ground. It is strong in the belt. I draw a two bottom plow and a two furrow roller in any kind of plowing and draw 4 sections of spring tooth drag the first time over.

I use a trailer disk for oats, besides drawing the manure spreader and the wagon and hay loader. For drawing a hay loader, a light tractor can't be beat. I tried mowing with two machines but that was not satisfactory as the machines are apt to plug up and be torn to pieces.

Gasoline in a tractor is most easily handled but kerosene is the cheapest and gives good power if you have a good vaporizer.

—E. R., Charlotte, Mich. P.S. —M. B. F. helps me to hit the good markets.

## Sheep Raiser's Ideas

The chief difficulty of getting the proper number of sheep on the cut-over lands of Michigan is in the speculative value placed on these lands by the owners. I was much interested in the article by Mr. Hartman in the Feb. 8th issue of M. B. F., on Michigan Sheep Raising Possibilities. Mr. Hartman is tackling the problem at the wrong end when he suggests that we farmers who have no grazing land for our sheep be compelled to keep all our ewe lambs. It would be much wiser to compel the speculating holders of wild land to fence a portion of it each

year, provide water, and offer pasture for a reasonable number of sheep. This would put the man who is holding good land out of use for a rise in price on the anxious list instead of the man who is raising lambs.

Mr. Hartman says that "hundreds of thousands of acres are being offered on most attractive terms." The attractiveness of these terms varies with the point of view. My experience is that they are attractive chiefly to the man who has the land to sell. And there are millions and millions of acres of this land all idle, a few hundred thousand acres offered on attractive terms by the speculators who own them, is not a very great inducement to us men who actually raise lambs and wool.

Some of us have been searching for a location on these cut over lands to start a sheep farm. There are probably a million acres tributary to the G. R. & I. R. R. between Big Rapids and Petoskey which are kept out of use by land speculators. This million acres is in its present condition capable of supporting, by a system of moving over fences, a quarter or half million or more sheep.

After 6 months' search, however, we have been unable to find a single section for sale at a price that would warrant the investment of the necessary amount of money in high priced sheep and woven wire fence and lumber for buildings and cleaning machinery and all the things necessary to have an economical unit and self-sustaining industry. The price asked for this land

is from five to ten times the present productive value of the land.

The future is discounted to such an extent that only the most daring will undertake the pioneer mark of overcoming these stumpy, brushy wastes. The lack of timber for building and fence posts is a great obstacle for much of this land has been completely skinned of everything except stumps and fires have swept over it in dry times doing very great damages to the soil.

I am not knocking the cut over lands of Michigan. They are a future mine of great wealth to the people of the state. The point I wish to make is that state is being hurt by the private speculation in these lands and the holding them out of use by asking an impossible price for the average sheep farmer to pay. Would it not be better statesmanship in Michigan to pass a law that men should not hold land out of use for an advance in price than it would be to pass a law that will absolutely prohibit the killing of lambs and desirable breeding stock for the next three to five years as Mr. Hartman suggests? If such a law were passed many of us would have to slaughter our flocks before the law went into effect, or we would be completely at the mercy of the great speculating land holding hogs of the north. Nor is the big land holder of the north wholly to blame for the lack of development of our beautiful and productive northern lands. The small speculator gets a forty or greater section of what he thinks is "the best land around there" and goes off and makes an easy living somewhere else leaving the hard pioneer work for poorer men on poorer land.

## GRAVES OF THE FIRST AMERICAN HEROES KILLED IN FRANCE



The graves of the first American heroes to die in France are in a little cemetery just outside the ruined village of Bethelmont, in Lorraine. The simple inscription on the graves, in addition to giving their names, home towns and the date of their deaths, tells how the Americans died fighting in the engagement of November 3. Simple as are the graves, they are the first American monuments erected by the American expeditionary force under General Pershing in France. Americans are beside the graves in this photograph.

I believe that MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING believes in farming as a business and not as a land speculation and will therefore publish this article. Too many of us farmers have been land speculators instead of farmers. We have lived more in hope that sometime we can sell the farm for the big price and take it easy ever after. Often we have been willing to work and scrape and save in order to make a mere livelihood and sell our products for a fraction of their real cost in life's effort in the hope that some one would come and buy the old farm at a fancy price. Often to be disappointed in the end as thousands of abandoned farms in all the older settled states witness. It is time we farmers quit company with the land speculator, demand a fair return for our labor in the crops we produce and hold up to scorn the land shark who locates city people on forty acres of wild land in Michigan.

At a meeting of the sheep men in Grand Rapids last December, at which some of these land sharks were present, Dean Shaw of the Agricultural College said that "a man who would sell a city man with a family forty or eighty acres of wild land and expect him to make a decent living on it was little less than a criminal." These were brave words and true. Dean Shaw is an intelligent friend of the agricultural development of Michigan. The land owners who hold land out of use by asking an impossible price are enemies of the state.

I will close this article by saying that Michigan's

land policy needs overhauling if the state's agricultural resources are to be rapidly developed. It will develop slowly of course, by letting these speculators hold their land out of use till they get sick of paying the small tax that is levied against it but this is unjust to the pioneer for the speculator reaps the benefit of the settler's hard work and does nothing but deceive innocent people.—J. C., Lawrence, Mich.

## Marketing Problems Are Most Important

Have been reading the sample copies of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING you have been sending me. I have taken many different farm papers for more than thirty years and can truly say I believe your paper is worth more to the farmer in general than any publication I have read. The trouble with the farm papers is that they have been urging more production with the result that farmers had to sell the fruit of their labor at a very low price which was to the detriment of the farmer, while your paper is trying to help the farmer dispose of his crops at a living profit. If farmers would adopt the same rule as the manufacturers do, and only manufacture as many goods as they could dispose of at a reasonable profit, the difficulty would be solved. I, as a farmer, want to do my share to help the government win this great war, but when the government or any one else wants to (and does) run our products over a screen and take out a lot of our best produce, it is time to call a halt on the grounds of unfair dealing. Brother farmers, run your own business. Don't let anyone tell you what to do, as the other fellow usually has his own interest in view. Find check for \$1.00 for which continue to send me M. B. F. Yours in the interest of square deal for farmers.—J.B.H., Mason.

## Least Profit for Farmer

I take great pleasure in reading your paper, and can say it is the only real farm paper in Michigan. I do not see why the U. S. Government should not set prices on potatoes and beans as well as on wheat. Of course we farmers don't know very much it takes the man with the big fat pocketbook to get what he wants. Why should not the farmer have at least something to say about the selling price of the produce he raises? Manufacturers of ev-

thing set the prices on their goods, then why not the farmers? I am a firm believer in organization for the farmers, the same as the manufacturers, and then say what we will sell our products for. For are they not the most important manufactured products in the world?

The whole world is looking to the farmer for food and we are getting the least profit for our produce of any producer in the world. Now is the time to get busy, farmer friends, and get every farmer in Michigan to join hands and run our own business. Every daily paper you see has some advice to give the farmers in some way or another, and why don't some of these smart newspaper men come out on the farm and show the farmer how to farm?

I think every farmer should keep an account of his year's business so he can tell just what each field of crops has cost him, and when this is done it will be easy to tell just what he should have for each kind of crops that are raised. This could be done by reporting the year's crops to the local organization and then average up the cost from each farm and then set the price accordingly. We can do this if we will only stick together. I believe we should have one or two grades of potatoes and when they are shipped they should be labeled from whence they were shipped and who shipped them, so the consumer will know where his potatoes come from.—J. S., Buckley.



# MICHIGAN'S FARM LABOR SITUATION

State Labor Administrator A. B. Cook Gives  
Michigan Business Farming Readers  
Some Good Advice on Solving  
This Year's Labor  
Problems

Enclosed please find coupon cut from last issue of your paper. This does not cover hay and harvest operations. As much hay will be put up as help and weather will permit. I am operating 240 acres, have all necessary tools and equipment, including 6 horses, a 12-25 tractor, with machines to do all power work on the farm. There wasn't even a hired thresher power on farm last year, the tractor does it all. You will notice that acreages are all lower than last year and there is but one reason, lack of competent help. With the aid of one man I can practically double the acreage now planned and go to 40 acres of beans again and 10 acres on beets. Am offering \$50 per month beginning April 1st, for man who is capable of taking care of six horses and working 4 to 6 of them at one time. This offer includes board, lodging and plain washing. I have been looking for past two weeks and there is nothing in sight at present writing. There is some day help available in this locality at harvest time, otherwise I will be alone and I must not plan to put any more high-priced seed into the ground than I can harvest myself. Have you any suggestions to make?—J. R. C., St. Johns, Mich.

\* \* \*

I am in bad shape this year. They put my hired man in class No. 1. We tried to get an appeal but they would not listen to us. All they said to us was that it was no use, we would not get one anyway. What am I to do about it? I have not been well for a good many years (am 42 years old), that leaves me and my 18-year-old son all alone on a 224-acre farm. We raised lots of stuff last year for our government. All I can do now is to let it lay idle. We farmers can't hire anyone around here at any price, as there is no one to work. My hired man was the best man on earth; he was running my tractor and understands machinery from A to Z. He was the foreman of my farm. If you can furnish me with a good farm hand who understands farming I will pay you \$50 for your trouble, providing he stays with me 9 months, or I will hire him for a whole year. I will pay for a good man from \$40 to \$50 per month, 9 months, with board and washing, or \$450.00 to \$500 per year, for single man, of course. I can not understand what the Government is thinking of in taking the best farm hands away from us if we are to win the war. We certainly cannot win the war if we farmers can not produce enough. If I cannot get someone I will be forced to let the land lie idle and do just what we can.—P. S., Pewamo.

\* \* \*

Is the farm labor problem in Michigan as serious as has generally been supposed? Has the drafting of farm help into the national army resulted in so great a shortage of help as to seriously interfere with the planting of a normal acreage this year? All who have investigated the situation at all answer in the affirmative, and many farmers have written to M. B. F. declaring that lack of labor will necessitate their cutting their acreage from 20 to 50 per cent.

It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the short-sightedness of the government in drafting farm hands into military service. We have expressed ourselves upon that point on numerous past occasions. The immediate duty is to make a survey of the farm labor situation and to draw upon every source of help that is available.

We recently asked Mr. A. B. Cook of Owosso, who has been named federal farm labor administrator for the state of Michigan, to furnish us with an article on the labor situation, and to tell our readers in what manner the government expected to fill their needs. Mr. Cook's reply follows:

The gravity of the farm labor situation is pretty generally appreciated. Agriculture, a declining industry and undermanned called upon to "go over the top" and keep going over with no "back to the farm" movement on the part of consumers in evidence and a general shortage of food is a condition which would make any one "sit up."

The condition which will correct this is for agriculture to become relatively prosperous. The same amount of labor by farmer or farm laborer must yield as great a return for the sacrifices involved as other lines of effort and the price our products bring must pay it if the man is able to go and go she must. As to labor the farm must compete with other industries and must be in a financial position so to do if it gets the labor. It is a business proposition. This fact also is getting to be quite generally recognized and its general recognition among thinking people gives me confidence to go ahead and pay the price and provide the conditions necessary for me to get the help in the face of very brisk competition. I am doing this without any guarantee of "cost plus a fair profit" nevertheless I am doing it with confidence.

After twenty-five years experience would say that help secured near home is the safest proposition. If you need help advertise in your local paper. You may be surprised at the number of replies you get. You may not get a reply, but try it. One of the largest farmers in Washtenaw county in reply to a letter from me offering my services to help in securing help for this year on his farm replied that he needed no help in

that line as acting in conjunction with a county agent he placed a small advertisement in a Jackson paper and got over twenty replies and out of this list had secured his quota, all backed by recommendations as to character, etc.

Many farmers delay hiring and if they can not get a man just when they want him with no effort at advertising or making their wants generally known or their willingness to pay an attractive price, will declare that help is scarce. Some seem to think that we should go to China or Russia for help and it may be necessary to send to Chicago, Detroit or some other great clearing house for labor but before we do, let's be sure that we made the best use possible of our local supply. The Government maintains an employment bureau at Detroit in charge of B. J. Sands in the old Postoffice building and in Chicago in charge of P. F. Prentiss, 845 South Wabash avenue. Both of these men report to me that they have many more inquiries for farm work now than they have inquiries for laborers. The government has promised to maintain a man at both points especially to select and dispatch farm labor. The Boys' Working Reserve is being organized by Federal State Director C. A. Parcells, 922 Ford Building, Detroit who is doing a splendid work enlisting the youth of the State.

The government is taking an estimate of the amount of labor needed the coming year and other needed information along agricultural lines with the aid of the public rural schools. I enclose blanks. These blanks will be left in the hands of the County Agricultural Agent and the summaries will be in the keeping of the State Farm Labor Director. It is up to the county agent to organize his county which he will do as soon as possible after the results of the government estimate are available. Counties having a serious shortage of labor and have no county agent will be requested to select some one to assist them in farm help. This is the organization that the farm labor Director will utilize. With the above agencies co-operating with the farmers and the farmers making their wants known, with wages, conditions as to length of service, etc., at the earliest possible date, when the assistance of outside agencies is considered advisable the government hopes to see the farm labor problem handled in a fairly satisfactory manner. Should these agencies and the farmers' efforts combined prove insufficient, the government contemplates further and more drastic action to see that the farm needs are supplied.

Will you and your readers help me to arrive at what constitutes a fair price for farm labor this year? Standardization along this line, if possible, would help tremendously.

Any service that I can render any of your readers along this line at any time will be a duty and a pleasure. Yours truly,—A. B. Cook, Owosso.

## NEW YORK LETTER

Cohocton, N. Y., Feb. 18, 1918.—It is safe to say that fully one-third of the 1917 crops are No. two and for these we are receiving only fifty to sixty cents per bushel. There has been considerable loss from freezing, perhaps from 10 to 15 per cent of the remaining crop. Last year at this time there was perhaps 75 per cent as many potatoes in the growers' hands as now. Therefore, that would leave an increase of approximately 25 per cent over last year's amount. At the present time, this is fast disappearing as they are being moved rapidly now. The prevailing prices are for No. 1, \$1.50 per hundred pounds, and about \$1 per hundred for No. 2's. How do these prices compare with the Michigan prices?—Osmond E. Noble.

Are you in need of farm help? If so, fill out the coupon below and mail to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING.

Name .....

Size of farm ..... Acres

Postoffice .....

R. F. D. .... Telephone .....

County .....

Number of farm hands required.....

When will you need them?.....

For how long a period?.....

What wages do you offer?.....  
Would you accept members of Boys' U. S. Working Reserve if experienced adult help cannot be

had? .....

Remarks .....

.....

.....

## WEEKLY MAINE LETTER

Monmouth, Me., Feb. 10, 1918.—Northern Maine and Southern Maine are quite as distinct or different in the matter of potato raising as almost any two states could be. In Southern Maine the farmers raise potatoes for a leading crop, with occasionally one who makes it his entire business. In Northern Maine potatoes are everything, particularly in Aroostook county and sections bordering it. In Southern Maine a small farmer will have two acres, another five, a few ten, or two or three fifteen to twenty. This is about what you will find in the ordinary community.

In Aroostook county in the north, a small farmer has fifty acres and from that up to two hundred and fifty, with sometimes one hundred to one hundred and sixty acres in one field.

Last year more grain was sown and more other crops raised in response to the Government's appeal, but prior to last year, very little has been raised except potatoes; almost no live stock.

Immense fortunes have been made in potato raising there and also in poor years there have been some big losses. Two years ago a fertilizer agent who had been all through that country told me that many potato growers were in financial straits, many of the farms were mortgaged for fertilizer bills not paid, but last year they came out with flying colors and Aroostook county is now said to be the richest agricultural section in the United States. There are immense quantities of potatoes raised throughout this section where I am located, that is the southern section. We are nearest the markets, have the earliest seasons and get our potatoes in first. The north country probably raises the most with ordinary the largest yields and is undoubtedly a greater controlling factor because of better organization among potato growers a more compact area given over to potato raising, less diversification of crops.

There are Aroostook farmers in this section who have come here and bought farms and we get our best reports from them as to what is doing in Aroostook. In conversation with one today he stated that they are moving quite a number of cars out of Aroostook each week, and whereas the papers from that section state that they have a large quantity in the store houses, he said it has been an experience of the past that there is never as many to unload in the spring as is reported to be on hand.

Last year in Aroostook farmers harvested from forty to ninety barrels per acre, ordinarily they harvest from seventy-five to one hundred thirty-five barrels per acre.

The prospects of this coming year in Aroostook are a smaller acreage to be planted owing to high price of fertilizer and impossibility of getting it in some cases, 4-8-4 fertilizer costing about seventy-three dollars where it can be obtained. Then another factor is the scarcity of help which will also tend to cut down the acreage.

In southern Maine the yield was about the same per acre this past year as in the north. Farmers have been slow about marketing their crops looking forward to higher prices. They were up to two dollars a little while in the fall and early winter but it did not stay there long. They are selling to retailers now at \$1.50 to \$1.65. The retailers are buying only what they need from day to day as they expect a slump in the market when the cold weather lets up. They believe that the potatoes that are held back, with an influx of western potatoes, will make them go out in the spring at a low price. The farmers claim that at \$1.50 per bushel they are not making anything, and from the financial standpoint, there is not much encouragement to plant heavily in 1918. Yet, I believe from patriotic motives growing out of the present war situation, they will plant more than they otherwise would.—G. P. Benner, Monmouth, Maine, Sec'y. Androscoggin county Holstein-Friesian Breeders' Ass'n.

\* \* \*

Newport, Penobscot county, Maine, Feb. 14.—The Government has estimated the Maine potato crop for 1917 to be 20,250,000 bushels. Up to February 12 the Government claims 8,000 cars or approximately 6,000,000 bushels have been shipped. Best judges in the state, farmers and dealers believe the Government estimate was 50 per cent too large. Certainly two-thirds of the crop has been disposed of, to date. The starch factories and potato flour-factories many of which are still running, have consumed large quantities of potatoes that were large enough for No. 2 grade. Fully one-third for the state and one-half in central Maine of the 1917 crop was too small to confirm to the grading recommended by the wise professors who are paid to advise the farmers about his affairs. Heater cars have been hard to get all winter and at present are almost impossible to get and for this reason dealers are holding off  
(Continued on page 16)



## 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.)

### PARMA FARMER PUZZLED OVER INCOME TAX PROVISION

Referring to the article, "How the Income Tax Affects the Farmer," in your issue of January 26, will say that I am a farmer with two sons, one single and one married with one child, all of us living on the farm. We all use what money we want and do business with the rest. What exemption would they be allowed? Will it be necessary to file returns if our income is more than \$2,000? The property is still in my name.—J. R., Parma, Mich.

If the property is still in your name, and you have no agreement with your sons whereby they are renting all or any portion of it to them, but are all working together, you will have to file a statement if the net income or profit from your farm or any source whatever is more than \$2,000. You doubtless have some understanding as to the amount each son is to get from the farm receipts, which would have to be considered as wages drawn by the sons.

If the single son draws in wages, is credited with or receives from any source one thousand dollars or more a year, it will be necessary for him to make income tax report before March 1. Likewise if the money drawn by the second son exceeds two thousand dollars he will have to make the return, although he will be allowed an extra two hundred dollars exemption for the child. We would suggest that you take the matter up with your lawyer or banker, who can assist you in making the returns. Many farmers keep no books, in which event it is necessary to estimate net receipts for the year as nearly as possible, taking the gross receipts less the expenses. You are of course permitted to include as expense interest paid on mortgage, etc., cost of improvements made (except to dwelling). In computing the expense of running your farm, you are not permitted to include the cost of keeping up your house, living expenses, etc.

### DEALER REQUIRES GRADING OF SPUDS STORED UNGRADED IN FALL

I am a reader of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, and would like your opinion about a little matter. Last fall I hauled my potatoes to Cedar Springs, when the price went below \$1.00 per bushel, I stored the remainder or 350 bushels. The dealer at the time did not have the grader, but the potatoes were sorted in the field and were of good quality. As the dealer did not have much store room left we did not store by themselves, but dumped them in with others, and he gave me the weigh bill marked "Stored." Two weeks ago I decided to let them go, and the dealer would not pay me without allowing him at least ten bushels per hundred for seconds. Firsts brought at that time in Cedar Springs \$1.25 per cwt., and seconds 60c per cwt. What I want to know is, did he have a right to make me accept the price of a stated number of seconds when he had taken them without question when hauled? Please advise me in this matter. The loss is not great, but I don't like to be imposed upon.—C. A., Cedar Springs, Mich.

We do not believe there is any way for you to secure redress from the buyer you mention. At the time you stored your potatoes, the grading rules were not in compulsory effect, but they have since been made compulsory and the dealer would take a chance on having his license revoked in case he purchased your potatoes all as No. 1, and sold them as such. There may be some question, of course, as to whether your potatoes would grade 10 per cent No. 2, but inasmuch as potatoes are grading from 25 to 30 per cent No. 2, in other sections, I feel that the dealer in this particular case has been fair to you.

### MILLING RULES SHOULD NOT CANCEL TRADES

I see regulations on mill feeds in issue of the 2nd inst. On the 8th of Dec. I purchased a half ton

of bran and gave the miller \$20.00 for it, but left part of the feed at the mill and took a due bill for the balance. Am I entitled to more than half a ton? Bran is now selling for \$28 per ton.—A. E. E., Lansing.

When the price of feeds was adjusted by the Food Administration, it was not their idea that trades were to be cancelled. We should say, however, that if this party purchased one-half ton of bran at \$20 the trade would stand, and the fact that entire delivery was not taken at the time would not enter into the transaction.—United States Food Administration, Geo. A. Zabriskie.

### EXORBITANT PROFITS OF EAST TAWAS CO. UNDER SCRUTINY

After the ruling of the Food Administration regarding the prices of bran and feeds, can the Wilson Grain Company of Tawas City still sell bran at 2½ cents per pound or \$50 a ton, and shorts at \$3 per cwt., or \$60 per ton at the mill? I got these prices out of their own mouths and I refused to buy of them. Can they ignore this ruling and get away with it?—F. A. S., East Tawas.

I appreciate your calling my attention to this matter and will at once make an investigation. It is very evident that this company is either taking an exorbitant profit or that some exorbitant profits were taken before the feeds reached it. I shall endeavor to find out who is the guilty party and take the proper action.—G. A. Prescott, Federal Food Administrator.

### PRICE PAID FOR WHEAT AT ALMA AND ST. LOUIS IS TOO LOW

"Since writing you in regard to the price of \$2.05 for No. 2 red wheat in Alma, I heard that the mill in St. Louis was paying \$2.10. I called at this mill and they are paying \$2.10 for No. 1 and but \$2.04 for No. 2 red. The elevator man said that he guessed that he was paying too much as some one had reported him to the government for overpaying. I suggested that he had been reported for paying too little, but he said no, that he must take Chicago price and deduct freight and one cent elevator charges and that he was a little high. Are they giving me "hot air" or are they paying up about right? If they are doing it about right, please let me know and I will shut up. If they are not, I would like to help see that they do."—C. M. P., Alma.

I was to Alma Saturday, Feb. 2, with a little wheat and the price was \$2.05 and \$2.03. I spoke to them saying I thought in this zone it should be \$2.12 but they said no. If we are entitled to that price I would like if we could get it. I wanted some spring wheat to sow and talked to them about it and they said it would be around \$2.75. At those prices I would have to sell 11 bushels of wheat to buy 8. I told them I did not want any at that price. I would like some spring wheat and would be obliged to you if you would help me to get it.—E. C. F., Alma.

A shipment of No. 2 red wheat from Alma would net shipper about \$2.12½ and I think they

should pay the farmers \$2.07-\$2.08 for this grade, and have written all the dealers to that effect. At St. Louis, Mich., price for No. 1 Red wheat should be \$2.10, possibly \$2.11 and for No. 2 Red wheat 3 cents less, say \$2.07-\$2.08. I have written to this miller to the same effect, hoping to correct the difficulty of which you complain. Will be glad to advise your correspondents accordingly.

As to seed wheat would say that we are working on this to help the distribution, etc., and believe we will succeed.—Food Administration Grain Corporation, H. D. Irwin, nbd Vice President.

### ONIONS IN MUCK LAND MUST HAVE A "QUICK" FERTILIZER

I would like to know if any of your subscribers have had any experience with raising dry onions. We set in about 1-4 acre last spring in good black muck, the plants were started on upper land and transplanted in the latter part of June on account of the wet season, the plants were set two inches apart. They grew and looked fine all summer, but would not get ripe. We only harvested about ten bushels when there should have been about 200 bushels. The others were left in the ground, now what I want to know is, will those onions make bulbs this summer if left there or what can one do to make anything out of them if they don't freeze, they have been under snow since the middle of December. Thanking you in advance for any help.—Mrs. A. V., Benton Harbor, Mich., R 5.

The trouble with the onion crop last season was largely due to the unfavorable weather conditions, the weather being cool causing the crop to develop slowly and the late summer and fall being wet and cold, resulting in the onion crop failing to mature and dry down. In many cases, the crop was still in the ground when the early freezing weather occurred, resulting in much decay in the bulbs that were harvested after that time.

It is important, in growing onions on muck land, to fertilize with a form of fertilizer that is quickly available rather than with a slow acting fertilizer as the latter tends to induce a late growth, causing the crop to ripen slowly. This is especially true in using nitrogenous fertilizers. Fresh stable manure should not be used but all the manure should be well decomposed.

It is possible that the onion bulbs still in the ground might make a satisfactory seed crop the coming season if left there but it is probable that most of these have been so severely frozen as to kill them and cause them to rot.—C. F. Halligan, Department of Horticulture, M. A. C.

### FLINT DEALER SELLS IDAHO SPUDS IN COMPETITION WITH MICHIGAN

Mr. Hyman Winegarden is the name of the gentleman who is selling Idaho potatoes at 3 cents a pound while thousands of Michigan spuds can be bought within a hundred miles of Flint for one cent a pound. It was this same sagacious individual who blundered into print a few weeks ago, and raised an awful howl because the farmers of Michigan wanted \$1 a bushel for their potatoes. "The farmers have nothing to grumble about" said this wiseacre (probably related to Solomon), "as they would have made money if they had sold their potatoes in the beginning at 75 cents a bushel as the crop was large. At 75 cents a bushel, the price is tripled, as they can raise potatoes around that section of the country for 25 cents a bushel," and so on ad infinitum. To prove that he is consistent, Mr. Winegarden apparently refused to buy of the "profiteering" farmers of Michigan, and because he might have been able to get them for a few cents a bushel less, shipped in four car loads from over two thousand miles away, and sells spuds to Flint consumers at the remarkably low price of 3 cents a pound.

If dealers over in the country are following similar tactics in purchasing supplies in remote sections that ed conditions of our transportation can be secured near home, we need no longer wonder about the confus-facilities. Undoubtedly this is a constitutional right if they choose to employ it, but we are asking the federal rail authorities to give us an opinion on the matter anyway.

We have sent one of our men to Flint to purchase some of Mr. Winegarden's Idaho potatoes. If our suspicions are confirmed we think we'll have something of unusual interest to say to our readers next week on this subject.

**Saturday---the big day at the  
New Orleans Fruit House**

The Best Thing We Can Offer to the Public to Help the Country "Save the Wheat" Is



**IDAHO  
POTATOES**

We have just received four cars of this Idaho product and they certainly are a pleasant surprise in the way of quality. Their cooking as well as their eating qualities are better than any of the potatoes we've had before.



**You can buy in as small 3 C Per quantities as you wish--- Pound**

We have every confidence that you will enjoy the eating of these fine tubers and come back for more

**A Shipment of Strawberries Is Expected to Arrive Here Tomorrow to Sell At 60c Per Quart**

**Business Hours Tomorrow 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.**  
RETAIL DEPARTMENT

**The Greater  
New Orleans Fruit House**





# THE FARM HOME

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



ANNA CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR

## This Week's Tested Recipe

### Southern Spoon Bread

2 cups water; 1 cup milk (whole or skim);  
1 cup corn meal; 1 tablespoonful fat; 2 eggs;  
2 teaspoons salt.

Mix water and corn meal and bring to the boiling point and cook five minutes. Beat eggs well and add with other materials to the mush. Beat well and bake in a well-greased pan for 25 minutes. Serve from the same dish a spoon. Enough for six.

## Consider Well Before Marrying

I HAVE BEEN very much interested as I have read the different articles in your columns, especially the experiences of the girls who have changed from city to country after marriage.

I am one brought up in town where I had always lived, till I was married to a farmer boy. I knew nothing of farm work, so had everything to learn. I did not marry in haste, and was old enough to know what I was about, consequently I have never had occasion to regret my choice. Were I placed back where I was before my marriage (which was more than thirty years ago) with the knowledge I have gained since, I expect I would do just as I done then. It seems to me that those wives who have deliberately placed themselves where they are, might forget themselves and face square about and try and make their home as happy as possible for their husband and children, and by so doing, I am sure they would be happier themselves. It is too bad to allow such a trifling matter to spoil our happiness and dissappoint our husbands.

And to those girls who contemplate marriage I would advise them if they expect to change their environment to consider well whether they love the one they are about to marry well enough that they can be happy with him anywhere, and if necessary follow him to the end of the earth. It is much better to take time to consider this question before the marriage takes place than to have the experience of those who have told us the dissappointed lives they are living by not considering everything as they should have done.—*Mrs. T. W. B., Petoskey, Mich.*

## Marry a Farmer to be Happy

I COULD not help but smile when I read of the troubles Mrs. S. has had since she married her farmer and the advice she gives young people. Well it really does take all kinds of people and opinions to make up this world of ours doesn't it. Now I would advise every girl wherever raised to be sure and marry a farmer if she wants to be happy. I too was born and raised in the city and a large one at that and when I was twenty three years old I married the best farmer lad that was at least I thought so and do yet. But let me say right here that long before the knot was tied I made up my mind that I would live and be contented wherever he could best make a living for work he must as we were not blest with riches as counted in dollars and cents. Now that was almost fourteen years ago and I have never been sorry once that I married my farmer. Don't think for a moment that it has always been smooth sailing, for we have had much up hill work. Many a day when help was scarce and money scarcer, I have worked in the fields, to help save what little we had, and I didn't enjoy that kind of work one bit, but on the other hand I can't see it hurt me either, and of course, I could not help but miss many of the pleasures that we all know a large city can give, but I always found where I lost on one side I gained on the other. We, like others, have had much to discourage us, for instance, one year it rained and rained and drowned out all of our saleable crops, another year it was so hot and dry we had only little potatoes to eat and few to sell; then the year we had a big crop of potatoes we had to sell them in the spring for 13 cents per bushel, and three years ago the big frost hit us in August and what we had left wasn't worth mentioning, and this year, well, when they get thru sorting I guess there won't be anything left but the sorter and a little pig's feed; but we had our good years too, and by being real saving we have always had the necessities if we couldn't have many luxuries. We have our eighty acres most paid for, have a few good cows, a good team of horses and colts and last but not least we have three of the prettiest, best and smartest children ever was. If you don't believe it come and see them. So you see we are real wealthy after all.

Yes, I am sure if the right kind of a city gal marries the right kind of a moss back they will live happily ever after, and I firmly believe there are better days ahead for the farmer. Then even Mrs. S. will be so thankful she married a farmer.—*A Happy Farmer's Wife.*

## The Fortunate Second Wife

IT SEEMS GOOD to read letters from happy women for a change; both of them women, too, who left the city years ago with their rural husbands, and never regretted their choice.

I agree that there are better times ahead for the farmer, and I think the change will come sooner if the farmer's wife instead of being content to go along as her mother did, will demand some of the comforts of life.

Haven't you often noticed, in the case of a widower marrying a second wife, how the second one often gets the best of it? I have a case in mind of a patient, devoted, self-sacrificing, self-effecting creature, who worked her fingers to the bone and ruined her health to accumulate dollars for their old age. She died at last, and had the first good rest she had since marriage. Her husband before the year was out took to himself another wife, a young girl who had always had a good time and intended to keep on. When he remonstrated with her and said they could save their money for a rainy day, she declared and proved that they had quite enough to do them if they neither of them worked a tap the rest of their lives. He is more or less of a gentleman farmer now, and I believe he enjoys it.

## Loneliness

I MISS the old red tablecloth,  
I miss the hanging lamp.  
I miss the frog's croakin'  
When the weather's kinda damp.  
I miss the old home paper,  
I miss the old town hall,  
I miss the dear old folks at home  
But mother, most of all!

I MISS the rooster crowin'  
In the very early morn.  
I miss the glowing sunsets;  
I miss the wavin' corn.  
I miss the old frame schoolhouse  
Where I learned to read and write,  
But Oh, I miss my mother  
The most of all tonight!

I MISS the old square woodbox  
That I used to have to fill.  
I miss the jolly coasting  
We had on Sterling's hill.  
I miss the quiet evenings,  
So filled with peace and love,  
But oh, I miss my mother  
All the other things above.

I MISS each board unpainted  
That made up my old home.  
I miss the fertile meadows  
O'er which I used to roam;  
But the lovin' heart that made it  
The home I used to know  
Has gone away forever  
And oh, I miss her so!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK

As for her, she has her little roadster and flies around the countryside at a great rate. They take a trip twice a year, and are really having a good time, and enjoying to the fullest the money the first wife killed herself to save.

If wife No. 1 had spent a little as they went along; if she had put a kitchen cabinet in the house, and saved her steps here. If she had had the step between the kitchen and dining room removed, as wife No. 2 did immediately, complaining that it hurt her back; if she had had water pumped into the house, another improvement which wife No. 2 accomplished immediately; if she had gradually improved the house and saved herself work; if she had insisted on help when she was carrying and rearing her baby—as she had an opportunity to do—as a young girl had applied who asked little pay, but a home, she might have been alive today.

No doubt she and all the neighbors around her thought she was doing her duty when she broke down her health and strength in order to help her husband, but they would have got along just the same, only a little slower, if she had taken better care of herself, and conserved her health and strength. I think if any woman who is doing the same thing would consider when she is overdoing and accomplishing more than a

## Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

Housewives who have signed the Hoover pledge will be interested in a circular issued recently by the University of Missouri Agricultural Extension Service. This circular discusses briefly the wheat flour substitutes that may be used effectively in conserving the supply of wheat. Some of the substitutes mentioned are whole wheat, shorts, cottonseed meal, and corn meal.

The wheat flour substitutes which the agricultural extension workers are recommending are shorts and corn meal. The following two recipes taken from "War Breads" circular. This circular contains other recipes which will be of interest to women who are endeavoring to comply with the provisions of the Hoover pledge.

### Shorts Bread

1 cup liquid milk (milk or water), 1 teaspoonful fat; 1 tablespoonful sugar; 1 teaspoonful salt;  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  cake of yeast, 2 cups shorts, 1 cup white flour.

Make a sponge, using the white flour. When this is light stir in shorts and proceed in the usual manner. Cottonseed meal bread may be made by using the above proportions, and substituting 1 cup of cottonseed meal and 2 cups white flour.—Farmers' Bulletin 807, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

man's work that she is laying up riches for a second wife, she would perhaps insist on a few of life's little luxuries along the way. If you put a silver dollar up to your eyes, you can shut out the view of the sunset, or anything else you may look at. Too many folks see everything through the rim of a silver dollar, and don't take time to broaden into the real helpful citizens of the world, because of their anxiety to accumulate as many of these round cartwheels as possible. "Lay up your treasure in heaven." And don't forget too, that any money invested in good books, a phonograph or music box, pretty pictures, and an occasional good time, is money contributed to your spiritual well being and mind content.

Write to me!

Anne Campbell Stark, Editor Home Department, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

## Michigan Farm Women Aid U. S.

MICHIGAN FARM women have been quick to realize they must stand with their sisters in cities behind Uncle Sam ready for any service they are able to perform. Letters from our own readers prove that they have been quick to pledge themselves to food conservation. "Food will win the war. Do not waste it," has been the motto of the farm women since the war began. As most of the women on the farm knit, sweaters and other articles from them are beautifully done. As you all know the Red Cross is glad to furnish wool for knitters.

On February 16th, a big meeting will be held at Owosso by the women's defense committee for members of farmers' clubs, county and local teachers. A school of registration will be conducted by Mrs. Frederick B. Perkins, state director.

Mrs. Frank Dodge, regent of the Adrian Chapter of the D. A. R. will act as registration chairman of Adrian during the week of March 18th. Mrs. Dodge is training 250 women to act as registrars.

Under the direction of Miss Bina M. West, state head of the department of child welfare of the woman's defense committee, plans are being made for strengthening the work throughout the state.

We will be glad to report in our columns work done by farm women for the Red Cross or other patriotic organizations.

## Cleaning the Baby's Bottle

THE IMPORTANCE of keeping baby's bottles and nipples clean and sanitary cannot be overemphasized. Many disorders of their stomachs can be traced to unclean nipples. Thrush generally arises from dirty nipples. As soon as the baby's milk is finished, the bottle should be rinsed with hot water and clear soap, and rinsed in a pan of boiling water, where the bottle should stay until the next feeding. Before the food is made up for the day, the bottles and nipples should be thoroughly washed with hot suds and then rinsed and boiled in clear water for ten minutes. The nipples should be rinsed in cold and then hot water, and allowed to stand between feedings in a solution of boris acid. Time should be taken once or twice a day to turn them inside out and scrub them with a brush and hot water. Several bottles and nipples should be in use at the same time.



## SKIMMED MILK IS VERY VALUABLE IN COOKING

Skimmed milk is usually so abundant that its value in the diet is overlooked. Quart for quart it contains a little more protein and a little more milk sugar than whole milk, but much less fat. Because of the lack of fat it cannot be used in place of whole milk for children. It is, however, a most valuable adjunct to the diet on meatless days, and the cheapest protein food for the farmer's table.

Aside from its food value skimmed milk adds much to the quality and flavor in cooking, and is a first aid in converting left-overs into palatable dishes. Milk used in bread in place of water adds as much protein to a pound loaf of bread as there is in one egg. It gives a softness of texture to bread that adds particularly to the palatability of graham or bran bread.

Cereals cooked in milk instead of water gain in flavor and food value. A particularly nourishing dish is prepared by cooking down 10 to 12 parts of skimmed milk to one of rice, oatmeal or other cereal. Where this is

to be served for a dessert, use one-fourth cup of rice and one-fourth cup of sugar to three cups of milk. Cook until thick. This can be used in place of cream with stewed fruit.

Milk soups or purees are made with skimmed milk and the pulp of beans, peas, onions, potatoes or celery. Fish chowder made with milk is a most substantial meat substitute. A few oysters or a little meat stock will suffice to lend a flavor to a milk soup. Skimmed milk thickened with flour and served hot on hard stale bread or toasted biscuit makes a comforting cold-weather dish for breakfast or supper.

White sauce or cream dressing can be used with bits of meat to make attractive dishes, or with warmed-over vegetables. Cheese added to the sauce gives another variation. This can be served on rice, macaroni, hominy, or cauliflower.

Skimmed milk can be used in making such desserts as blanc mange, junket, tapioca, custard, cornstarch and bread puddings.

## SAVE YOUR WOOD ASHES THEY'RE WORTH \$1 A BU.

Wood ashes worth at least a dollar a bushel! Startling, but that is what its value is at present price of the fertilizing material it contains. Some of us remember when the "ash man" exchanged a bar of 3c soap for a bushel. Even then the farmer was bunched according to the chemist who calculated that a bushel was worth 35 cents. That was "before the war."

The fuel shortage has caused many in central and northern Michigan to use wood. The ashes from wood contain some of the most valuable constituents needed by the soil; lime, phosphoric acid, and potash. It is especially high in the latter, which is the hardest kind of fertilizer to secure as it is produced largely in Germany.

Analysis of wood ashes shows it contains from 5-6 percent of potash, 2 percent phosphoric acid, and 30-35 percent of lime all substances especially needed on Michigan farms. The potash is especially available and one of the best fertilizers for fruits and root crops. Since the supply has been cut from Germany the price has increased from ten to twenty times its original price depending on the form desired. A bushel of ashes weighing 40 pounds would contain 2.4 pounds of potash which in a purified form is worth a dollar a pound, the raw product is worth about 1-3 as much which makes \$.80 for the potash in a bushel. It is worth saving and every ounce should be replaced on the soil.

The phosphoric acid in wood ashes is in less amounts and not so soluble as the potash, every bushel contains nearly a pound valued at 20c. The lime in the ashes is directly available would be worth applying to the soils, if the ashes contained no other constituents. It neutralizes the acids of the soil, liberates plant food and keeps the soil in good condition for the growth of soil bacteria necessary to the growth of the soil. Most Michigan soils need lime.

Wood ashes should be protected from the rains as the potash is readily soluble in water and the phosphoric acid is partially so. Years ago the potash was leached out for use in soap making. After leaching there is left some potash and phosphoric acid and most of the lime so leached ashes should be applied to the soil.

"What about coal ashes?" someone asks. Unfortunately it does not contain lime or other fertilizers and is of no direct value. However, on heavy clay soils, coal ashes might be of value in rendering it more loose and open if not added in too great amounts.

Would it pay to save ashes to sell? Certainly, in communities where there is considerable ashes so as to pay to collect and ship. But the high cost of food, the necessity of heavy production, the need of the soils means that no wood ashes should be wasted, it should be added to the soil. The placing of the ashes on the soil should be the same as the use of any fertilizer. It is best to add it to the soil at the time of planting or a little before. Ashes may be used on the soil in any amounts up to half a ton on an acre. The results in better crop from the use of ashes will be worth while.

—Myron A. Cobb.



## Up-to-Date Fashions

Two pretty spring dresses for girls are shown among this week's fashions. No. 8649 comes in sizes 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. The dress has a new blouse buttoning at the center front; the simple one-piece skirt is gathered all around to the wide belt.

No. 8674 can be used either as an apron or a dress. It comes in sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. The plain waist is in the kimono style and the one-piece skirt is straight at the lower edge and is gathered to the short waist. One of the new spring waists noted for their simplicity is numbered 8651. This comes in sizes 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. The waist is slightly gathered at the shoulders to the back, which extends over to give the effect of a yoke.

Isn't the dress numbered 8675 girlish and pretty? This little spring model comes in sizes 36, 38, 40, and 42 inches bust measure. It seems to me the peplum effect would be more becoming to a slim figure. The skirt has two gores. The peplum effect is accomplished by raising the waist line.

A neat extra skirt, such a useful article in a person's wardrobe! is numbered 8656. This is two gores. The back gore is gathered at the slightly raised waistline; the front gore is almost straight and it is gathered to the waistline under the belt. It comes in sizes 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches waist measure.

A neat house apron is numbered 8683. This comes in sizes 36, 40, and 44 inches bust measure. The apron is all in one piece and it is to be slipped on over the head. The apron may be worn loose if preferred.

These patterns are ten cents each. Address, Fashion Department, Michigan Business Farming, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

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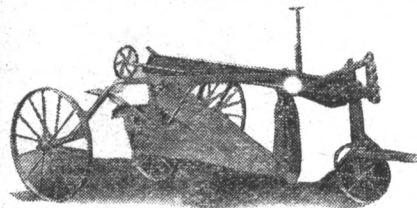
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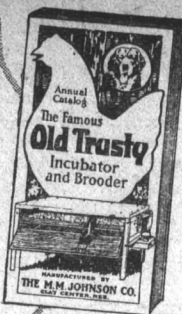
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**LAPEER (Central)**—We have been having some very soft weather the past week but it is colder now. The water is very high in some places and the fields are bare in many places. The roads are very rough and have been nearly impassable on account of the deep snow banks. The farmers are not very busy just at present and no produce is moving. News has just been received here that "Billy" Johnson was one of the Tuscania victims.—O. E. P., Lapeer, Feb. 16.

**TUSCOLA (West)**—Farmers have not been able to get on the roads for a week on account of snow and water. Some of our farmers have onions to sell but cannot get them to town. Farmers are buying hay and feed. Nothing moving here now. Some farmers are planning to put in sugar beets.—R. B. C. Caro, Feb. 16.

**MECOSTA (Northeast)**—The weather has been much warmer the past few days. The buyers are not anxious to buy potatoes and the farmers are not selling on account of the grading rules. It is a fine thing when a man who has the crop cannot sell because of unjust conditions while the man who wants to buy cannot get them except by paying double price. Why don't the government set prices on other things except wheat? Why does not cornmeal sell for what it ought to? 100 lbs. of shelled corn will make at least 90 lbs. of cornmeal, yet shelled corn sells for less than 4c per lb. and meal at 9c. Sell the cornmeal at a price it should be sold at and the people will buy it without being forced to. I just saw an item in a farm paper that we "cannot ship potatoes to Europe." Why can't we? A few years ago they were shipping whole shiploads into this country to force down the price.—F. M. E., Feb. 12.

**CHEBOYGAN (Northwest)**—We had a few days of nice mild weather the first of the week, however, we have had a real old blizzard since and the snow is again piled high. The farmers are all busy shoveling snow; all else is at a standstill. A lot of the farmers here get the M. B. F., and they say it is the best paper they ever got for a dollar.—O. W. R. Riggsville, Feb. 15.

**GRAND TRAVERSE (North)**—A little warmer weather at present. The roads are in bad condition. Farmers are rushing their wet beans to the market. Some potatoes are being sold, price is \$1.25 per cwt. The wet beans are being sold to the canning companies. Your paper is simply the only one, and I will try and get all the subscriptions I can.—C. L. B., Williamsburg, Feb. 12.

**MONTCALM (Southwest)**—Farmers are not doing much except shoveling snow and doing chores. Many potatoes are frozen in cellars of the farmers in this neighborhood on account of the small amount of oil that can be purchased at our stores. The oil has been used to burn to keep cellars from freezing. Hay and other kinds of feed are not being held for higher prices but many seem to think the present potato grading rules will not be upheld and are holding spuds for this reason.—W. L. Greenville, Feb. 15.

**BAY (Southeast)**—We have had more moderate weather just like Foster predicted. No quotations on hens or pullets; we are not allowed to sell them. Pretty soon the farmers will not be allowed to do anything but be slaves to the upstarts or educated fools who are getting paid for talking.—J. C. A., Munger, Feb. 15.

**MONTCALM (West)**—The farmers of this vicinity are cutting wood and there are some potatoes moving, they are all going to Greenville and are bringing \$1.50 per cwt. Some hay is being sold at \$22 per ton, but it is poor stuff. I was reading in M. B. F. about co-operation of farmers. There is a co-operative company at Greenville and potatoes there are 50c higher than at Lake View. A co-operative company to handle the produce of the farmers would be a good thing in every community.—E. W., Coral, February 12.

**BERRIE (Southwest)**—Most of the snow has gone except that in the roads, which is anyway three feet deep. Farmers are using their wagons to haul up cornstalks which they will now husk in the barn. Wheat fields are covered with water and ice. There will be a large acreage of oats sown here if the weather will permit. Most of the farmers are unable to tell just how many potatoes and beans they will plant in the spring.—O. W. Baroda, Feb. 15.

**LAPEER (East)**—Farmers are busy looking for seed corn that will grow. The price ranges from \$2 to \$10 per bu and some only tests around 65. Have had the first thaw of the season. Lots of water standing on wheat and rye, and it will no doubt be damaged some. Some cattle going to market with the price lower than a week ago. No hay or beans moving. Some oats being sold with the price around 80c. There will be lots of changes on the farms here this spring.—C. A. B., Imlay City, Feb. 16.

**HURON (West)**—The farmers are cutting and getting out wood. They are selling beans and that is about all. We have no seed corn or seed beans here. Will some one please advise us where we can secure them?—C. J. G., Caseville, February 15.

**IONIA (Central)**—Farmers are not doing much on their farms just at present. The snow has been so very deep that it has been almost impossible to cut wood or to draw manure from stables to the fields.—S. W. K., Lyons, Feb. 14.

**ANTRIM (Northern)**—The cold has somewhat subsided and the farmers are

selling some potatoes at one cent per pound. A car of cattle and hogs were shipped to Chicago by our stock buyer this week. Stock is looking good so far considering the cold weather. Some of the farmers are selling their beans; not many dry ones and all are a very poor quality. We understand that some have lost nearly all of their potatoes by the cold weather. There is no doubt now that the farmers will not raise as many potatoes the coming year as they did last year.—F. N. F., Alden, Feb. 16.

**KALKASKA (Southwest)**—The roads have been so bad that the farmers have not been able to get out much. Weather is a little milder at this writing. Farmers are buying hay and grain.—R. E. B., South Boardman, Feb. 10.

**ARENAC (East)**—Weather has been milder and it has been appreciated. Some hay and grain moving at a fair price.—W. B. R., Twining, Feb. 16.

**ALLEGAN (Southeast)**—Activities of farmers still limited to cutting wood and odd jobs about the farm. Very mild the past week resulting in much high water. Farmers not selling anything except an occasional load of hay when the roads permit of its being hauled. A few potatoes are being held. Many are frozen in pits.—W. F., Otsego, Feb. 16.

**LENAWEE (Southeast)**—There has been a lot of oats loaded from this place at 83c per bu. There are a number of auctions this spring and stock sells very high; common cows selling at from \$60 to \$100; farm tools the same; for instance at one sale oats went for 88½c per bu., barley, \$3.75 per cwt., pigs weighing 120 lbs., at \$21.00 each; a team of horses weighing about 25 to 26 hundred sold at \$452.00. The roads are in such condition that the milk haulers cannot make their routes and the farmers are delivering it themselves.—J. F. C., Palmyra, Feb. 16.

**BRANCH (Southwest)**—Farmers are doing chores and cutting wood. Weather has been warmer for the past few days. Snow is all gone in the fields. It is impossible to draw any loads now as the roads are in bad condition. Farmers are not selling anything now for the simple reason that they have nothing to sell. Quite a number of auction sales are being held around here.—D. M. H., Bronson, Feb. 15.

**SANILAC (Central)**—Since the last report we have been having some cold and stormy weather. There is still some hay being pressed. Have heard of two cases of lockjaw among horses here. A two days' farmers' meeting was held at the school house in Sandusky on Feb. 14 and 15, well attended.—A. B., Sandusky, Feb. 15.

**GLADWIN (West Central)**—The farmers are baling hay and hauling it, and are also selling beans. They are building and buying as little as possible.—F. F., Gladwin, Feb. 15.

**ALCONA (East Central)**—Farmers are getting up wood and baling hay. Some beans and wheat going to market. The weather has been very cold but it is warmer now. Stock is wintering well. Feed plentiful but beef cattle are going down in price. The meatless day is beginning to count, or there is some other skin game on the way toward the farmers. Beans were a very uneven crop, some had good yields, others very poor. Our farmers did not go heavy to spuds, we were afraid of the back-yard competition. They did not grade potatoes in this county that I heard of.—D. C., Lincoln, Feb. 4.

**IONIA (West)**—The weather conditions have been so bad this winter that farmers have not been able to accomplish much work except chores, shoveling snow and cutting wood. The ground is frozen very deep, and lots of water pipes are frozen. Beans are selling for \$12 a hundred. The wheat fields that are bare are looking hard.—A. W. G., Saranac, Feb. 16.

**EMMET (Northeast)**—The weather is fine and lots of tubers are moving to the warehouses for storage, most of the farmers are holding for better prices. Hay is moving rather slow at present. Beans are not all threshed yet. There seems to be quite a demand for good ewes, but there are very few in this neighborhood. Lots of farmers want to raise sheep as potato growing is getting on most of the farmers' nerves here.—H. W., Levering, Feb. 16.

**MISSAUKEE (Central)**—Nothing doing here but chores and cutting wood. Nothing being sold but hay which is \$20 to \$25 at present, and there is quite a call for it.—H. E. N., Cutcheon, Feb. 16.

**LAKE (Northeast)**—Weather warmer. Some farmers selling potatoes and beans but not many. Frost is out of timber, a good time for cutting wood.—E. G. D., Luther, Feb. 15.

**TUSCOLA (Northeast)**—Rain and a thaw this week. Many fields covered with ice, probably will damage wheat and clover. Farmers are busy making income tax reports. Many find the outgo greater than the income. Some beans are being sold.—S. S., Cass City, Feb. 16.

**SANILAC (Southeast)**—Some ice is being packed and some wood being cut. Markets are practically at a standstill.—N. J. V.C., Crosswell, Feb. 16.

**ST. JOSEPH (East Central)**—Farmers are cutting wood and shoveling snow out of the roads to admit the mail man getting through, drawing corn and husking. They are selling wood and hay.—W. W., Colon, Feb. 16.

**BENZIE (Southwest)**—Farmers are doing chores and getting up wood, cutting

and drawing ice. Some farmers are selling a little wood. A very few beans moving and nothing doing in the potato line. Here is a shot: We are not in reach of beet sugar factories as far as raising them commercially is concerned, but if the Food Administration would arrange with the nearest sugar factory to manufacture sugar out of our own beets the farmers could get together and raise a few carloads, say limit each family to 500 lbs. We, of course, to pay the cost of manufacture. That would give us the sugar we need and would release the sugar we now use to someone else. It does seem that it could be arranged some way to relieve the shortage. They seem to be closing in on us a little more all the time. The millers have now refused to grind buckwheat, rye or corn flour for us, or wheat either. Another thing that looks sort of bad is a merchant who buys beans told me that he had written to four different elevators for prices on beans. He heard from three of them, and they declined to quote prices on beans unless handpicked. Is this another scare they are trying to throw into us? Nearly every farmer around here says he will not plant potatoes next year only for his own use this season.—J. M., Elberta, Feb. 14.

## Veterinary Department

I have a heifer 18 months old, her first calf is now about four weeks old; also a cow five years old. Both began going back on their feed, acted as tho they wanted something different, commenced chewing on old boards. I am feeding some pea straw, hay, but the main feed is corn stalks, also feed buckwheat bran. A little sweet corn. I would like to know what to do for them. Please answer thru your department.—T. S. S., Mears.

Give each of your cows the following: Olum Croton, ten minims; calomel, one dram; linseed oil, one quart; shake well and give at one dose. After twenty-four hours give nux vomica, powdered, two ounces; gentian, powdered, five ounces; sodium bicarbonate add to make sixteen ounces. Mix and give one tablespoonful dissolved in one-half pint of warm water three times a day. Discontinue feeding the sweet corn and feed any good substantial grain in its place.

I have a mare that eats good but does no good. She is weak in her hind parts and can not get up when she gets down. Her blood is not good. Please advise me what to do.—S. A., Bear Lake.

Give your mare the following: Potassium iodide and F. E. nux vomica equal parts two ounces; Fowler's solution of arsenic add to make sixteen ounces. Give one tablespoonful on the tongue with a syringe three times a day. Also give animal at least four quarts of oats and two quarts of bran three times a day.

I have a 5-year-old driving horse. Last spring I worked him as third horse. He was taken with bowel trouble. I turned him out to pasture. He would get some better and then go back again. In the fall I had his teeth fixed. He was a little better for a time. For the last three months he has been bad. He is crazy for salt and drinks lots of water. I have tried several things. I see in M. B. F. of Dec. 29, about giving Fowler's solution of arsenic. I gave it for three or four weeks. Sometimes I thought it was helping him then he would be as bad as ever. He is very poor but has a good appetite. What must I do for him?—A. S., Mariette.

Your horse is suffering from indigestion, which has been gradually brought about by an over-acidity of the stomach, caused by improper digestion; therefore, a successful treatment of this case can only be accomplished by, first of all removing the cause.

First give an aloetic laxative consisting of Barbadoes aloes drachms 6, calomel and powdered nux vomica equal parts one drachm. This can best be given in the form of a ball, or dissolved in fairly hot water and given at one dose. Keep animal quiet, allowing no exercise until bowels are normal; after which give two tablespoons sodium sulphate in the drinking water twice daily for about a week, then give the following: Powdered nux vomica, one ounce; powdered gentian, four ounces. Mix. Give one tablespoon one-half hour after feed, three times a day.





# 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

**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.

**READ WHAT MR. HOOVER SAYS**  
"We have a very good lot of young bulls coming out that will be fit for service in a few weeks. These bulls are sons of Fairview Colantha Rag Apple 141,297, a son of the great Rag Apple Korndyke 8th."  
"We always have a number of choice females from which to make your selection. They are all daughters of 30 pound bulls, the only kind we use at Rosewood Farm." ROSEWOOD STOCK FARM, Howell, 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  
**MICHIGAN** Vale bulls in service. Select your next sire now.

## 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** One 11 mos. old grandson of Royal Majesty whose dam as a 3 yr. old produced 406.24 lbs. of butter in 1 yr. Solid color. First check of \$90 takes him. Registered, transferred and delivered to any point in Michigan. Fred A. Brennan, Capac, Mich.

**FOR SALE** A Reg. Jersey Bull 10 mo. old. Dam is an imported Daughter of Noble of Oakland. Price, \$90.00. Tosch Bros., Capac, Michigan.

**HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN CATTLE**—Howbert Maplecrest Jetske, Sire's dam 30 lbs., full sister with 1200 lbs. butter, semi-official, dam of calf 20 lbs. butter from 452.6 lbs. milk in seven days. Well marked; born Jan. 12, '17. Price \$75.00. F. O. B. Bull calf born Jan. 9, '18, from untested dam. Price \$50.00. Howbert Stock Farm, Eau Claire, Michigan.

## 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.

**SHETLAND PONIES** For Sale. Write for description & prices. Mark B. Curdy, Howell, Mich.

**FOR SALE**—Percheron Stallion, black, No. 121705, foaled June 23, 1915; No. 121951, foaled June 29, 1916. J. F. Glad, R. 7, Vassar, Mich.

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

## HOGS

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

**BRED GILTS**  
O To Wm. B. No. 47049. Longfellow No. 18575 Sire of 1st prize young herd at Iowa State Fair. Fall pigs and breed serviceable boars.  
C 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 Aagie 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.  
DOER D. BUELL, Elmira, Mich. R. 1.

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

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

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

## SHEEP

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

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

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

## POULTRY

### WE HAVE THEM

S. C. W. Leghorns; Trapnested stock. Hens, Pullets, Cockerels and Cocks. Will take orders for hatching eggs now. We also have good seed beans. Write us. Hill Crest Poultry Farm, Ypsilanti, Mich.

**FOR SALE**—S. C. White Leghorns — Year Old Hens, Pullets, Cockerels, Ferris Strain, \$1.50 Each. Russell Poultry Ranch, Petersburg, Michigan.

**Superior Farm** White Wyandottes, Good winter layers, and fit for any show room. Eggs after March 1st, \$2.00, \$3.00 and \$5.00 per 15. \$8.00 per 100. Send for mating list C. W. Honeywell, Plymouth, Michigan.

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

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

## 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.

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

# Holstein-Friesians

## MAPLECREST KORNDYKE HENGervELD

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

## KING ONA

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

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

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

# D. D. AITKEN

FLINT, MICH.

## ROBT. R. POINTER & SON

Breeders of

## Registered Holstein-Friesian Cattle

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

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

## PERCHERON, BELGIAN SALE

24 High Class Imported and American Bred Stallions and Mares with ages ranging from yearlings to matured horses will be offered for sale at Public Auction in the city of St. Johns at one o'clock p. m., Feb. 28, by the Horse Breeders of Clinton county. For particulars address

**C. M. RICE, - - R. 3, St. Johns, Michigan**

## What the Neighbors Say!

I would not like to be without the Michigan Business Farming. My wife and I both enjoy the paper very much. —E. F. DeMerritt, Lenawee county.

Your samples are fine. Make me a subscriber at once. I am highly delighted with the M. B. F. methods. Trust the Michigan farmers will become better organized and that every one would read the M. B. F. and keep an eye open for the other fellow at all times, for the farmer can't afford to have such rotten deals put over on them. Stop, look and listen, and see to it that 1917 won't be repeated in 1918. With all good luck to the Michigan Business Farming and its editors.—James B. Lunney, Montmorency county.

Enclosed find \$1.00 for the Michigan Business Farming. I am highly delighted with the M. B. F. methods. Trust the Michigan farmers will become better organized and that every one would read the M. B. F. and keep an eye open for the other fellow at all times, for the farmer can't afford to have such rotten deals put over on them. Stop, look and listen, and see to it that 1917 won't be repeated in 1918. With all good luck to the Michigan Business Farming and its editors.—James B. Lunney, Montmorency county.

## "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 { Butter 7 days 30.87  
Dams average { Milk 7 days 579.66  
Butter 7 days 30.59  
His Dam's Dam's { Milk 7 days 565.00  
Record { Butter 30 days 124.19  
Milk 30 days 2438.60

(She heads one of the ten only combinations of three direct generations of thirty pound cows.) His Dam's record at 3 years { Butter 7 days 23.33  
{ Milk 7 days 429.40  
His five nearest dams average { Butter 7 days 29.30  
{ Milk 7 days 546.68

(Including 2--3 and 1--4 1-2 yr. old.) Really marked, about half and half. Price \$250.  
**McPherson Farms Co., Howell, Mich.**

We feel that your paper is one of few papers to back "words by deeds" and true to the farmer every time.—Alfred Persson, Livingston county.



## DOES POTATO SURPLUS EXIST

Reports from Michigan, Maine and New York Show Potato Holdings About Same as a Year Ago

For the past several weeks MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING has been conducting investigations not only in Michigan but in other states as well, to determine the percentage of the 1917 crop still remaining in the farmers' hands, together with a comparison of holdings a year ago. No evidence has been found to bear out the Government and county agent reports that there is a large surplus of potatoes still in the growers' hands.

Some of the earlier readers of M. B. F. will recall that we persistently denied last fall that there was an overproduction of potatoes, and endeavored to show how the Government report was grossly exaggerative of the actual facts. In our final estimate after the Michigan crop was dug, we stated that the Government figures were, in our judgment, 15 to 20 million bushels too high, and that they were correspondingly high in other states. Subsequent developments now seem to prove that we were right in our contention. Authentic reports received from Maine, New York and Minnesota during the past few weeks, show that somebody made an awful blunder in making up the final estimates of the nation's potato crop.

The most startling development of the national potato situation is the discovery that tens of millions of bushels of potatoes have frozen in pits and cellars, who have yet to open their pits and are prepared for the worst.

In a succeeding issue we will be able to publish the reports of closer investigations now being conducted in other potato growing states, and we hope then to have our Michigan survey more complete. Our readers can help tremendously by reporting at once. We give a summary of reports received to date:

Dowagiac Daily News:—"The Daily News has learned of several farmers who have dug into their potato pits within the past few days and found their potatoes badly frozen. One farmer north of this city who had covered his pit with alternate layers of dirt, straw, dirt, manure and dirt again, says his whole crop is lost, the potatoes being frozen solid. As a rule the frozen potatoes are found frozen in the shallow pits but in ordinary winters they would be well enough protected. If this loss is general there will be fewer potatoes to go on the market than supposed."

A. B. Mayville:—"Some farmers in this neighborhood have more potatoes on hand than last year, but many have less. My opinion would be a few more on hand than last year, if we do not lose too many from frost and rot."

S. W. Thompsonville:—"There are not many more potatoes than usual in this vicinity, and a fourth of them will be frozen."

J. W. White Cloud:—"No potatoes in this section of the country for sale."

C. W. Grant:—"Around here every farmer seems to have from 200 to 400 bushels of potatoes. A great many refused to sell on account of grading."

T. S. Orion:—"I would say that there are not more than 25 per cent of last year's crop in the hands of the farmers of the townships of Pontiac, Waterford, Independence and Orion, and 25 per cent of these are frozen in the pits and cellars. The motor trucks from Detroit came last fall and took them all. I should think that there were 50 per cent more on hand this year than last, for last year there were practically no potatoes here."

I am enclosing a few gleanings, just as they are being discussed by the farmers while sitting warming their shins at the country stores in Alcona Co.: Says farmer No. 1: "My potatoes were nearly all frozen last night." Says farmer No. 2: "Mine also got touched by frost, but I had a lantern and pail water in the cellar, which I think saved quite a quantity of them. If I hadn't taken this precaution I am sure I would have lost heavily." This is the general topic at present, and I believe that at least 25 per cent of the potatoes in root houses and cellars have been frozen during the cold weather. When the Potato Growers' Ass'n meets at Lansing on March 7th and 8th, they will have at least 25 per cent less potatoes to find a market for. From the very commencement the estimates of both the Government and the State were 20 per cent in excess of the real supply, and also there is a large amount of small potatoes, which is proof that although the acreage might have been more the crop of marketable potatoes was much less, and in the spring when root houses and cellars are opened up I think you will find that a very large per cent of the crop that was not marketed will be found to be frozen. Also those potatoes that were raised in the small patches in the cities and towns which were stored in cellars, will be found to be frozen and it will be up to the farmers and the potato

dealers to supply the shortage thus made by Jack Frost. Although we may never see \$3 potatoes again I am of the opinion that in the spring when cellars and root houses are opened that potatoes will readily bring from \$1.75 to \$2 per bushel.—J. B. Alcona county.

### WEEKLY MAINE LETTER

(Continued from page 10)

as they refuse to buy unless they can ship promptly. The farmers of Maine have been told over and over again that there was a surplus of fully 40,000,000 of potatoes in the U. S. this season. Last spring seed potatoes were worth \$5 a barrel, fertilizer \$50 per ton and farm labor so high and unsatisfactory that the 1917 crop with a favorable season would have been an expensive one. Added to all of these, such a season as the summer of 1917 and you have the most expensive potato crop in a century.

If the Government would guarantee the farmer a fair profit on his investment, labor, etc., they would put their hands to the plow, and, season permitting, raise a bumper crop of potatoes for 1918. But with no guarantee from the government and farm labor depleted by the army draft, and also the thousands of men who are getting large salaries working eight or nine hours for some corporation that is making enormous profits out of the war, the farmer has very little courage to try and raise anything more than they can care for themselves.—W. H. Smith.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MICHIGAN'S PEA BEAN?

(Continued from page 1)

of the two varieties, notwithstanding.

Somebody seems almighty anxious to give the eastern navy bean a black eye and curry favor for the western variety. Of course, we have our suspicions, and we imagine that there are others in Michigan who have similar suspicions. We can't believe that the bean jobbers of this state are going to sit supinely while the bean division at Washington uses the government's franking privilege to extol the merits of the pinto over the Michigan variety. It does not add to the popularity or the demand for the Michigan bean when the government publicly proclaims it a luxury, and urges people to buy pintos in preference and at a much lower price.

'Tis a matter that the dealers and the growers of Michigan should have something to say about, and unless we miss our guess they'll be asking the bean division for an explanation.

### WE'LL MEET YOU AT EAST LANSING MAR. 7-8

(Continued from page 1)

uniform and desirable grade.

And now, farmer friends, we want you to accept Mr. Buell's invitation and come to Lansing on March 7th and 8th. Already word has been received that a large delegation of Montcalm county growers will be present, and on February 26th the potato growers of Benzie county will hold a mass meeting at Beulah for the purpose of electing a committee to attend. Scores of letters have also been received from individual growers stating that they would be on deck, and we anticipate one of the biggest turnouts of the year. The time is short; immediate action is imperative. Every Gleaner arbor, every local Grange and Farmers' Club, or other farm organization should at once call a meeting of the potato growers in their localities and choose as large a delegation as possible to attend the East Lansing convention. In numbers there is strength, and if we can have two or three hundred potato growers present, they may rest assured that their wishes will go a long way in settling the grading proposition for the entire United States. Neglect this opportunity to present your views upon this important subject and you will have no license to complain.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING will have headquarters at one of the Lansing hotels and plans on calling a meeting of the growers who arrive early upon the scene, preliminary to the meeting at the college. We want to have as many present as possible to decide upon some line of action. Write us at once if you can be present, so that we may keep you advised of the hour of the meeting and other details.

## MORE CROP From LIME!

### How and When to Apply Limestone

There is a perfect way to handle applications of ground limestone. The trouble with perfection is that it depends upon a hundred things that can happen to upset well-laid plans—first on the farm, then upon all sorts of delays that can hold up shipments nowadays, and lastly on fair weather, that most uncertain of all.

You can avoid most of these pitfalls if you have a place to store

**SOLVAY**  
PULVERIZED  
LIMESTONE

on the farm. You can pack it in grain sacks at the car or order in paper sacks, and this extra cost will be readily repaid by the benefits of applying exactly when you and the soil are ready for it.

The funny part of it is that all the general rules can be broken and limestone may still show wonderful results—which indicates how frequently the soil badly needs it.

But remember first that the labor cost, yours, your hired men and your teams, is the largest item in the whole operation. Therefore, always ask for the percentage of water, of carbonates and of fine particles in the product you buy. Labor spent on handling coarse insoluble particles, or water, or on insoluble minerals, is entirely wasted. Choose a season when roads and fields are hard and, if possible, when work for horses and men is slack. Never apply until after plowing.

If you are buying in bulk have your wagon boxes tight, and if you have not enough labor or horses to unload a car in two days order two cars with a neighbor and work together on each one as they arrive a week apart.

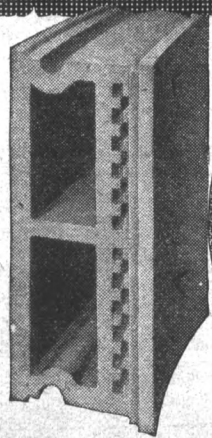
Use a lime spreader—they only cost forty dollars—they save labor and spread evenly. Don't apply on soil that is too wet. Cultivate in after application—these two things because you want to sweeten every tiny soil particle and thorough mixture is necessary for that.

BUT—if you have determined that your soil is acid—get limestone on it the best way possible—but get it on when you have the money to pay for it and when you can get the most money for the extra tonnage it will produce. That's the first rule of economy.

## SOLVAY PROCESS CO.

14 582W Jefferson Ave., DETROIT, MICH.

## More Beautiful - More Durable



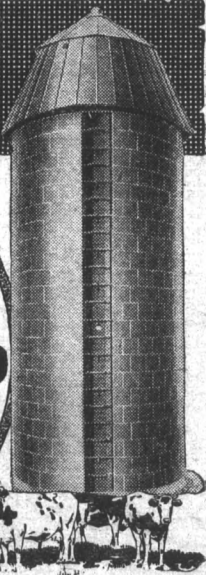
and gives you better silage

Vitrefied tile—the ideal silo material—lasts for generations. No upkeep cost—no painting—no hoops to tighten. Write for catalog.

**Lansing**  
Vitrefied Tile Silo

—with the "ship lap" blocks. Ends overlap—adds strength. Notches in ends prevent mortar from slipping. Extended shoulders top and bottom—less mortar exposed—silage settles better. More beautiful wall—blocks all same shade. Steel hip roof—extra space in silo—steel chute—fireproof—continuous doorway. Write for Catalog and Prices.

J. M. Preston Co.  
Dept. 317, Lansing, Mich.  
Also get our offer on Climax Silo  
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**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.

**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.

**For Sale** Registered Holsteins—Bulls ready for service, and bull calves from \$0 lbs. bull and A. R. O. dams; also females of all ages. Wm. Griffin, Howell, Mich., R. No. 5.

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