

"—for all the Farmers of Michigan!"



# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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## COUNTRY BANKERS CHARGED WITH USURY

Many Instances Reported Where Farmers are  
Compelled to Pay From Twelve to Twenty  
Per Cent Interest in Order to Secure  
Loans From Local Banks

What happens when the average property owner of the city goes to his bank to secure a loan? He is met with a smile, a blank note, six per cent interest, and "come again." What happens when many a farmer goes to his bank to secure a loan? What do you want it for? What security can you give? When will you pay it? Money is tight just now. Sorry we can't let you have any more. Well, if you insist, we'll stretch a point, but we'll have to charge you something for the accommodation in addition to the regular seven per cent interest. And so the note covering a loan of \$50 is made out for \$55 and seven per cent interest charged on the entire amount, and the farmer made to feel all the while that he is under moral as well as financial obligations to the white-shirted individual who handed out the money.

Scores of little banks up thru the "Thumb" district and in the sparsely settled regions of north-eastern and northwestern Michigan are charging farmers as high as 25 per cent interest on both short and long time loans. And we wonder at the slow development of these farming communities, at the run-down appearance of the farms, and the proverbial poverty of the men who own them! Letters received from farmers in many localities show that the banks are bleeding them white and that unless something is done to enable these farmers to secure cheaper money, entire counties will suffer from lack of agricultural development.

How many thousands of farmers who are in the clutches of the usurers and dare not say their soul is their own, we may never know, but enough farmers who have liquidated their indebtedness to these banks have already presented stories of their experiences upon which to prosecute several banks for violation of a state law intended to provide protection against usurious money lenders.

Banks are as necessary to the commercial life of communities as schools are to the educational needs, and no one realizes this any more than the banks themselves. Banks can be both a curse and a blessing to communities. Unquestionably the majority of banks in this state are rendering invaluable services to the people of the territory which they serve, but it is equally true that there are scores of other banks which are milking the rural communities dry and offer no encouragement whatever for the development of the farms and cut-over lands.

The farmers are now being urged to buy tractors, but so far as we are able to ascertain, no provisions have been made to supply them with the necessary money on credit. The state buys the tractors for cash and sells them for cash, and the state money is handed over to the bankers at 2 and 3 percent to be loaned out to the farmers at anywhere from seven to twenty percent, providing the farmers will furnish iron-clad security.

We wonder how many banks are going to be patriotic enough to stretch a point this year and help the trustworthy farmers of their communities buy tractors, without exacting their last dollar for interest?

We want every farmer in Michigan who has been obliged to pay more than seven per cent interest on loans of \$25 and up for thirty days or longer, to report the instance to us. If possible, send us the cancelled notes (we already have a number of them,) and cite in detail the treatment you have been receiving from your local banker. Your name will be kept in strict confidence if you so desire.

This is the season of the year when the farmer borrows most heavily, and when bankers are most

liable to take advantage of his urgent needs for money. If Michigan's usury law is of any practical value we propose to employ it within the next thirty days against the banking Shylocks of the state.

## U. S. FARMERS ARE ADVISED TO GET LABOR EXEMPT AT ONCE

A Washington dispatch dated March 20th, reads as follows: "American farmers today were urged to file affidavits for deferred classification for their farm hands. In a statement by the United States employment bureau warning was made that if farmers failed to follow this advice they should not complain when farm hands are taken in the new draft of nearly 90,000 men who will be called to the colors."

One might imagine from a reading of this dispatch that the farmers have been sitting back twiddling their thumbs while the men upon whom they were depending to conduct the farming operations were being drafted into the army. If there has been anything the farmers of this state have failed to do to secure an honorable exemption for their help, we don't know what it is. And despite their pleas and their efforts, thousands of skilled farm laborers have been caught in the draft and sent to the training camps. And now the farmers are warned not to complain if their farm hands are taken in the new draft!

We are told to file affidavits. All right. What shall be the form of the affidavit? What must it include? With whom must it be filed, the local exemption board or the district exemption board? We need a little light on the subject, because we know there are several thousand farmers in the state who will want to save their farm help and must save them if they are to produce any food this year.

Altho now understanding that farm hands are to be given deferrel classification, farmers everywhere are bewildered to know how to proceed to secure that classification. We want every farmer whose son or farm hand has been placed in the first classification to report the instance to us at once and in detail. The machinery for carrying out the President's intentions in this matter is very uncertain and discriminatory, and we want to help the farmers of Michigan, if possible, to get the same treatment as farmers of other states.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I have been reading your paper for some time and thought it was time to do something to show my appreciation of your efforts in behalf of the potato growers of which I am one, and so am sending you some new subscriptions and hope to be able to send more in the near future.

You have been very successful in your fight for just grading rules and now if distribution could be reformed so that the grower could get a fair share of the consumer's dollar we would not need to sell for less than the cost of production.

A friend of mine has been firing potato cars this winter for some of our local buyers, and at my request he inquired the retail price of potatoes along the route he traveled in going to Lima, Ohio, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia, Pa. When the potatoes which he was firing, were being purchased for \$1.00 per cwt. for No. 1 grade the consumers were paying from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per cwt. for ungraded potatoes. He returned a day or two ago from Pittsburgh and the potatoes were purchased at from 45c to 50c per bushel for No. 1 grade and the consumers reported from \$1.20 to \$2.00 per bushel at retail. It seems as though \$1.00 worth of potatoes could be delivered to the consumer for less than \$2.00 if the Government were as interested as they were in forcing grades on us last fall.

This man who fires potato cars told me that he was held up in many places by the railroad often as much as 24 hours at a time and train crews told him it was done on purpose to discredit Government control and cause an increase of rates as the Government guaranteed the roads a profit whether they earned it or not. I am in hopes that better distribution can be brought about before next harvest for it will spell the difference between profit and loss for farmers in this section and I believe the same is true all over the state.—E. G. H., Walkerville.

## MILL FEED PRICES VIOLATE U. S. RULING

Dealers Continue to Charge \$2.50 to \$3.00 per  
Cwt. for Bran Despite Federal Ruling That  
Price Shall be Only 38 Per Cent  
of Wheat Price

How much longer have the farmers and feeders of Michigan got to submit to being robbed by the millers and feed dealers? Portland has a 300-barrel flour mill which is now charging \$40 for bran, \$51 for middlings. Why don't price-fixing apply to the miller as well as to the farmer? Can't you do something to help us?—J. C. B., Portland.

The above letter is but one of many that we have received from farmers complaining of the exorbitant prices they are forced to pay for bran, middlings and other feeds. They disclose that dealers are charging from \$40 to \$50 per ton for bran and from \$45 to \$66 for middlings. The complaints have been referred to the State Food Administrator at Lansing, who is now investigating them. Mr. Prescott advised us on February 11th that all cases that had been investigated to that date disclosed that the dealers had purchased the feeds at high prices before the ruling went into effect and that as soon as these contracts expired, prices would be lower. Nearly six weeks have passed since then, but we have failed yet to notice any lowering of the prices. In fact, the most flagrant case yet called to our attention was reported March 18th.

According to the ruling of the Food Administration, Michigan flour mills are required to sell bran of their own production, in carload lots, for 38 per cent of the average price they have paid for wheat the previous month. In selling bran in less than carload lots he may add 50 cents per ton, and in selling direct to the farmer he may add an additional 10 per cent for profit. In no case shall he charge for middlings more than \$9 a ton over the price of bran. Prices have likewise been set on other feeds far below those now being charged.

Let's figure it out. The average price of No. 2 Red Wheat in Michigan is about \$2.05, or \$68.33 plus per ton. 38 per cent of this is \$25.96. Add 50 cents to this and we have \$26.46. A ten per cent profit on top of that would bring the selling price to \$29.11. How many farmers are buying bran for this amount, and how many are getting middlings for \$38.11 per ton?

What is to be done? Is the farmer to have a maximum price set on his wheat and be compelled to abide by it while those who manufacture the wheat into flour are left free to set any price they choose upon the by-products? It is unexplainable why the Food Administration did not set a maximum price on mill feeds at the same time they set a maximum price on wheat. But now that prices have been set, are dealers going to be permitted to ignore them and charge as much as they please?

We think not. We have the utmost confidence in Mr. Prescott, the state food administrator. We believe he wants to see everybody get a square deal, and that he will investigate every violation of the federal ruling upon the matter, and if possible compel dealers to abide to the letter of the ruling. In fact, he has already suggested that the license of one dealer reported to him be temporarily revoked, providing the facts submitted by our correspondent are found to be correct. Farmers desiring to aid in equalizing the prices of mill feeds should promptly report every instance of what appears to them exorbitant prices.

**Election Day is a good time for M. B. F. Friends to hand out sample copies. Write for a Bundle!**



## BIG DECREASE IN BEAN AND POTATO ACREAGE THIS YEAR

For the past five weeks, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING has been conducting a survey of the acreage to be planted the coming season to the leading commercial crops of the state, in an effort to ascertain how the 1918 acreage and production would compare with that of 1917. We have also endeavored to establish a comparison between the production of live stock for the two years. The response that has been received from the farmers has been very gratifying, over three hundred reports from counties having already been filed with us and more coming in every day. The reports cover farms of all sizes varying from forty to 480 acres, and can be said to be fairly representative. The total acreage reported was 32,285.

The reports received to date show that there will be very material increases in the acreage of wheat, oats, rye, hay, and similarly striking decreases in the bean and potato acreage. The corn and sugar beet acreage, will apparently run about the same. Holdings of cattle, hogs and sheep show a decline from a year ago.

It is not difficult to explain either the increased or decreased production, as the case may be, of every crop reported. It is natural that wheat should show an increase, yet it seems that the increase should be larger than 10 per cent. It is clear that this increase is an expression of the farmer's patriotism, rather than a result of the guaranteed price. Did the government price of \$2.00, as guaranteed under the food control law, for 1918 wheat mean even a fair profit to the farmer, the increase in the fall planting would have been much greater.

Instead of planting wheat many farmers sowed rye and oats. The recent market quotations on these crops have proven their wisdom. Our reports show a 17 per cent increase in the oat acreage and 56 per cent in the rye. Pasture acreage, fortunately, shows an increase of 8 per cent over 1917.

Our reports indicate that the Michigan bean acreage will be less than that in 1917 by nearly 25 per cent, and the potato acreage will be almost similarly decreased. If we were to estimate the bean and potato acreage for the entire state, we would not hesitate to use the averages gathered from our reports for that purpose, for we believe they are exceptionally representative. The farmers of Michigan actually lost millions of dollars on their 1917 bean and potato crops, and they do not want to repeat the experience this year. The history of both these crops, from the day the seed was planted until the time of marketing came is too well known to our readers to require further discussion here. Suffice to say, that the acreage on these two crops is going to be cut heavily and suffice also to say that the elements are not alone to blame for the situation.

Unless the "regulators" and the "experts" and the "theorists" at Washington desist from their meddling in the farmer's business, we can logically expect further decreases in acreage from year to year.

We regret that the state's bean and potato acreage is to be so greatly decreased, but the truth of the matter is that many farmers plowed up their only available meadows for the planting of these crops last year, and they have not suitable land for growing them again this year. However, there are undoubtedly many who are planning on a less acreage for the simple reason that they lost money this year and don't want to have the experience repeated so soon. We believe this is an ill-advised attitude to take. If the war continues, and even the most optimistic cannot see its end before another year at least, there should be a good demand and good markets for beans and potatoes, and we would urge our readers to plant at least their normal acreage. Unquestionably the potato acreage last year was too large. It ought to be decreased to some extent, but certainly not by twenty-five per cent.

We will continue our survey until the end of the month, and every reader who has not yet sent in a report is requested to do so at once so that this survey may be as complete and comprehensive as possible.

## STATE AGRICULTURAL BRIEFS

**Milford**—The Farmers' State Bank of Milford has been organized with a capital stock of \$50,000. As indicated by the name, the stockholders of the new institution are largely farmers, although some village people are interested in the new enterprise Dr. N. I. Baker, is president.

**Ithaca**—Several carloads of Holstein cattle will be brought here and sold at cost of farmers in this vicinity, by Libby, McNeill & Libby, condensed milk manufacturers, in order to promote the dairy business in the surrounding country. The firm plans to erect a large milk condensary here.

**Lansing**—This city has gone into the pig-raising industry. The city has a "piggery," and recently 51 shoats were purchased and taken to the city farm where the pigs are being fattened almost exclusively on garbage. Receipts from the last sale of hogs totaled \$1,500.

**Remus**—Mecosta county potato growers are being urged to organize. E. E. Compson, who attended the recent meeting of potato growers at East Lansing is behind the movement. Mr. Compson is chock full of reasons for such an organization, and it is probable that the growers will be called together shortly to discuss the matter.

**Corunna**—Farmers in this vicinity have organized to ship live stock under the title of the Shiawassee and Genesee Co-operative association. The success of other co-operative stock shipping associations in nearby counties lead the farmers to believe that a great deal of money can be saved in this manner. The association will ship and sell stock for its members, charging only sufficient fees to cover actual expenses.

**Allegan**—The Grange Co-operative Shipping association of Allegan county has been fully organized and will soon be ready for business. The president is C. E. Fowler of Casco. The directors will include besides the officers, masters of all Granges in the county which join the association. The capital stock was fixed at \$500, and will be increased later. One-half of the capital stock will be paid at the time of incorporation.

## 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
Total previous weeks	1346	1221	2185	2231	2498	2146	964	686	1426	1838
Don M. Hurley, Branch	15	5	12	22	12	5	7			
Merl Fry, Hillsdale	7	15	15	13	7					
Geo. Smith, Mecosta	5	5	9	7	15	5				
Frank Bowerman, Wexford		12	8	6		11	3			
S. Wilbur Frey, Kent	2	5	8	15	20	8				
Louise Schultheiss, Gratiot		15	11	16	19					
L. F. Edmunds, Montcalm	15	28	16	24	12					
Sivert Bauer, Benzie		10	9	7	5 1/2		2 1/2			
E. J. Taylor, Isabella		4	5	20	17					
F. H. Avery, Isosco		2 1/2	5	8	12	3	5			
J. E. Turner, Montcalm		5	5	20	10		15			
J. L. Jacobs, Clinton	9	25	11	22	9	20				
Arthur F. Chapin, Huron	6 1/2	8	9	8	15					
Francis Cameron, Huron	10	10	7	14	15					
Frank Myers, Lapeer	20	14	15	15	25	28				
Edw. J. Davis, Sanilac		9	9	17	12					
Julius J. Dall, Arenac		4	20	8	10	7				
Otto Anschutz, Ogemaw		6	4	10	5					
Michael J. Cryan, Barry	4	12	13	20	5	12	20	10		
Mrs. Annie G. Wisdalla, Huron	15	12	8	25	20	10	18	27		
Thomas Rawson, Huron	14	20	4 1/2	7	8		8	12		
C. J. Franks, Otsego		12	8	8	9					
Guy W. R. Curtis, Kent		20	7	5	7					
D. L. Cranston, Otsego		6	4 1/2	8	5	43	5	3		
Fernon Lee, Montcalm	2	2	8	8	10	4	8	15		
J. M. Hudson & Son, Otsego		10	5	10	4					
David J. Fish, Isabella	12	9.5	10	9	11	4.5	4.5	3		
Lee B. Wood, Osceola	8 1/2	5 1/2	10	13 1/2	13 1/2	11	14	8 1/2		
J. J. G. Clinton		10	3	25	10		4	6		
W. L. and J. E. Nash, Gladwin		5	5	10	11			6		
Thos. Martin, Osceola		1	1	1				6		
W. O. Sears, Benzie	17	1 1/2	14	19	20	19	12	25		
Calvin E. Kenneaster, Gladwin	13	9	1	9	4		5	12		
Claud Fry, Kalkaska		12	5	10	10	16	5	18		
Wm. H. Carrick, Kent	10	14	14	11	14	10	5	11		
Louie Haines, Wexford	5	4 1/2	10	10	5	15	11	4		
F. Maltritz, Montcalm		5	10	10	10	5	6	18		
Roy E. Lawrence, Antrim		6	8	5	8					
Albert Garvy, Kalamazoo	15	20	5	15	15	15	10	14		
C. H. Seely, Tuscola	3 1/2		12	12	25	19	6	20		
Harry Gwak, Eaton	20	8	30	12	12	8	10	12		
M. W. Whitmore, Clinton	10	20	15	25	12	10	10	10		
Clifford Eldred, Kent		12	10			25	9	7		
Homer W. Brainard, Arenac	5	2 1/2					15	15		
Floyd Cook, Mecosta		12	7	15		10	4	15		
A. W. Hoolihan, Hillsdale	21	12	4	12	8	23	12	5		
W. J. Nelson, Grand Traverse	4		10	10		18	5	2 1/2		
Emil Oetzel, Newaygo	2	4	7	7	10		10	14		
Herbert Clemens, Emmet		3	4		5		4	7		
D. L. Cook, Tuscola	15	30	20	20	60	50	20	20		
R. I. Vandercok, Livingston	7	5	10	10	14	11	6	8		
Grand Total	1634	1495	2702	2744	3122	2676	1244	826	1768	2335
Increase	139			446		418				
Decrease		42					567		264	
Percent of increase	9.2%			16.6%		56.5%			8.1%	
Percent of decrease		1.53%				24.41%			24.1%	

Tell us in the blank spaces below what your acreage and live stock production 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

REMARKS

Name

Address

Size of Farm

### WHAT THE FARMERS SAY:

**Kalkaska, C. F.**—I will not put in as many potatoes on account of the grading and low prices. There will not be as many planted around here as last year.

**Benlah, W. O. S.**—There will not be half the acreage of beans planted this year as there was last year, and about 60 per cent of the potato acreage.

**Middleville, M. J. C.**—Owing to the fact that my son is about to be called into the army, and as he was my mainstay on the farm, I must reduce my crops this year. I do not intend to be stung on potatoes and beans another year.

**Uby, F. C.**—Everybody here quitting beans and going into sugar beets; some putting in 25 and 30 acres of beets. Beans do not pay any more.

**St. Johns, J. L. J.**—No help and none to be had. My last year's help both in class 1, so cannot do much this year.

**Shepherd, E. J. T.**—Farmers in this locality are putting in only what crops they can take care of themselves. Beans and beets are principal money crops. No guarantee on beans so not so many will be planted this season.

**Sand Lake, S. W. F.**—I don't like the grading of potatoes. The frost took half and the grading the other half. Farmers here are using their potatoes at a lively rate as stock feed.

**Alanson, H. C.**—Will put in 5 acres more potatoes if I can get a contract and stated price.

**Eagle, M. W. W.**—Have no particular fault to find with the prices of our finished product except that they are not in conformity with prices of things we have to buy. Have 70 bus. wet beans not worth what seed cost me.



## WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON, D. C.—The supreme war council of the Allies, in session in London, has publicly announced its determination to disregard Germany's peace feelers and to continue the war to its inevitable conclusion which can only be the crushing by force of arms the power of the German Kaiser and imperial government. Is any other decision possible? Can the Allies any longer doubt that the German rulers are the personification of hypocrisy and deceit, and that their word cannot be depended upon in a single instance? The peace loving peoples of the Allied nations have dared to hope even up to the time of Germany's attempted invasion of Russia after she had disarmed that country by false promises, that the Central Powers were really ready for peace, and that the allied nations should hearken to her pleas. But once again has Germany proven herself a deceiver, and the sober and practical-minded people of the allied world must know once and for all that the Imperial German government has no intention of making a "democratic" peace, but that it will continue to compromise and promise so long as the Allied nations will listen.

The wheat fight is again up in the Senate. Senator Gore of Oklahoma has introduced an amendment fixing the price for 1918 at \$2.50, and he is mustering considerable support from his western colleagues. It is generally conceded by all senators of the wheat-producing states that the price as fixed by President Wilson does not pay the farmers sufficient returns to induce them to grow wheat in preference to other cereals which will pay them a greater profit, and that since wheat is so very badly needed, the government should provide a proper incentive for growing it. That the amendment will be vigorously opposed by eastern and southern senators, who cannot get the wheat-growers' viewpoint or whose vision is too narrow to perceive the immediate need of stimulating wheat production, is expected. And since it is necessary to secure a two-thirds majority for the passage of the Gore amendment, its supporters are somewhat skeptical of their ability to put it through. Here is a good opportunity for the farmers of Michigan to voice their opinions on the matter, and if they cannot grow wheat profitably for \$2.00 per bushel, to write their senators and tell them so.

Officers and men of the United States navy are not going to be held up to temptation because of open saloons near their training stations. Sec. Daniels has issued an order creating a "five mile zone" surrounding every naval training station in the country. Every saloon and bar within the prohibited zone must close, and officers and men are not permitted to receive liquors even as guests in homes within the area.

Under present regulations, there is a heavy penalty for anyone selling or giving intoxicating liquor to a member of Uncle Sam's forces in uniform, but men have been permitted to accept drinks when served to them as guests in homes.

Just why a five mile zone should be enforced around naval training stations, and not around military training posts, training camps, or any place where soldiers are quartered is any number, is a question. The army and navy being under separate departments are subject to different regulations.

## WAR WIRES

Although received with manifestations of pleasure, President Wilson's message to the Russian people which was read before the all-Russian congress of soviets at Moscow has failed to alter the radical trend of the Russians. It is evident that the congress will approve of the humiliating peace terms with Germany, which have been entered into by Lenin and his Bolshevik followers. Notwithstanding the terms of the peace agreement between the Bolsheviks and the Kaiser, the armies of the Central Powers continue to advance into Russia. Odessa, the famous Black Sea port, one of the principal grain centers of Russia, has fallen into Hun hands, and it is evident that no halt will be called until a firm foothold is secured in Southern Russia. On account of the lack of organization, and poor transportation facilities, that part of Russia has little grain in storage at present, but with the Germans in control, it will be a rich source of supplies for them during the coming season.

In retaliation for the many attacks made by German birdmen on French and English towns, Allied flyers have bombed 23 German cities in a month. The Germans, as is to be expected, are waxing indignant because of this "wanton destruction" of their homes, and are pointing to the English and French as horrible examples of barbarians who stoop to the murder of women and children. Of course, they completely ignore the fact that continued attacks on English and

French cities, many of them undefended and of no military significance, forced the Allies to adopt the course they are now pursuing.

More than 500 horses which had been consigned from Camp Grant to an Atlantic port for shipment to Pershing's forces in France, died at Covington, Ky., last week as the result of poison put in their drinking water. Investigation proved that the animals died of poisoning, and indications are that the drug was placed in the water at Covington where the animals were unloaded for a temporary rest. A protest meeting of 10,000 citizens of Covington was held Sunday, when more stringent laws against enemy agents was demanded.

Dutch ships to the extent of a tonnage of 600,000 are to be utilized by the United States and Great Britain. Negotiations were entered into some time ago to secure this idle shipping, but the government of Holland, intimidated by Germany, refused to enter into an agreement. The matter was finally settled by seizing the ships, and making full compensation to the owners, as well as making provision to furnish Holland with sufficient rations to meet the needs of the populace. The action taken by the United States and Great Britain is in strict accordance with international law, which permits the requisitioning of neutral ships under certain conditions.

The Rainbow Division, one of the first units of the National Guard to go to France, is now taking an active part in the fighting. This division recently repulsed a German raid with such success that a high French official personally congratulated the American commander. Although the casualty lists are mounting on account of the greater forces, the percentage of American killed is exceptionally small, due to the excellent training which the men have had, and the fact that they have had the advantage of the lessons learned so dearly early in the war by the English and French.

## There Is Not—Will Not Be—A Shortage of Gasoline

"Nor will you, while you live, see 'dollar gasoline' in America."

We quote the above on the authority of a man who daily "milks" more than 100 oil wells, and who is, also, distributor of a well known make of motor car.

He is therefore interested on both sides of the question, and he knows whereof he speaks. Today there is above ground a full two years' supply of gasoline.

So you see there is no possibility of a shortage in the near future even if the thousands of wells that are now "plugged" remained so.

No! We will not—because we cannot—ship enough gasoline to our allies abroad to create a shortage.

Ships is the limit to gasoline exportation—and we have been shipping all they could carry for three years now.

When more ships are built to carry it, then more wells will start pumping.

For there are thousands—yes, actually thousands—of oil wells that have been drilled, tested and "plugged" until needed.

In two counties in Oklahoma, according to a government engineer, there is enough gasoline "visible" to supply the United States for one hundred years.

Do you know that 21,302 oil wells were sunk in the first eleven months of this year—and that 15,205 of them proved up?

Do you know that the initial production of those 15,205 new wells was 1,428,519 barrels?

And do you know that the average production of those new wells was more than for the same period in 1917?

Do you know that the Towanda pool in Kansas has yielded as high as 70,000 barrels a day?

And that the wells of Butler County, Kansas, alone average 355,000 barrels a day?

Shortage—for goodness sake what would they call a surplus?

Those figures are given by the president of the Standard Oil Company, who (smiling behind his hand while he says it) thinks there's no need for alarm over a shortage of gasoline.

He says, too, that the production of the first eleven months of 1917 was 302,000,000 barrels—say that out loud—three-hundred-and-two-million-barrels of oil!

You have forgotten by now, but you may recall that just before the war prices of gasoline at Pacific Coast points went soaring. People were afraid to buy motor cars.

A company was financed to bring over Asiatic gasoline—presto, price dropped lower than it had ever been—

There's lots of gasoline.

Of course we are paying more than we did formerly—but at that the improvement in carburetors and motors has about offset the difference in cost.

It would be possible, of course, for the refineries to arbitrarily increase in the price. They may even do so.

You can rest easy on one point—while they do now charge about "all the traffic will bear," they know their own interests too well to put the price so high as to seriously curtail consumption.

That's the point at which the price of gasoline will stop—has stopped, we believe.

Then, too, Uncle Sam is today, more than ever before, the custodian of our destinies, and he has an uncomfortable way of "investigating" of late, that sometimes leads to appropriation. There'll be no "Dollar Gasoline."

There never has been—there is not now—and there never will be, while you live, a gasoline shortage—unless the trains stop running entirely.

And even then they'd pipe it to you!

They have plenty—a two years' surplus right now above ground—and selling it is their business.

So don't hesitate about buying that new car or those motor trucks you need because you've heard there's liable to be a gasoline shortage or prohibitive prices.

Neither is probable—economically both are practically impossible.

## WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL DIGEST

Brewers of beer have been limited by Presidential proclamation to 70 per cent of the amount of grains and other food materials that were used last year. The same limitation applies to the so-called temperance and near-beers.

At a recent meeting in Newhampton, Iowa, a man arose from an audience that was being addressed by three Food Administration speakers and said he had recently purchased 15 barrels of flour for his small family. "They have been on my heart for weeks," he declared, adding that he was going to place them on the market immediately.

Following the plan adopted for California and Colorado, the U. S. Food Administration has appointed a commission to determine the cost of producing sugar beets in Nebraska. While the commission has no power to fix prices, it is expected that the figures gathered at its hearings will serve as a basis for volunteer price agreement between growers and purchasers of sugar beets.

Regulations of the Food Administration against the sale of live or freshly killed poultry do not apply to broilers weighing two pounds or less. The object of the regulations is to keep the laying hen on the farm and call a halt on the rapid depletion of poultry stock that is going on in this country. It is supposed that by April 30, the American hen will have done her duty as an egg producer and may then go to the market.

Violation of the rules and regulations covering sugar has caused the Boston Sugar & Jobbing Co., Boston, Mass., to lose its Food Administration license. The company was found guilty of exacting a margin of profit larger than allowed by the regulations, and failed to keep a proper record of its business. It kept no ledger, and Food Administration investigators found that several leaves had been torn from the firm's cash book.

War acquaints us with strange foods. Horse-meat has been sold on the open markets. Whale meat is tinned on the Pacific coast. Shark is praised by many; and Alaska, rich in resources, has shipped to the United States during the past year 38,295 pounds of reindeer meat. This is about nine times the shipments of 1916 and another year ought to show greater gains. It looks as if reindeer will be added to the list of meat animals that supply the American table.

A general idea of the quantity of food sent to European Allies by the United States from July 1, 1914, to January 1, 1918, is given by figures just announced by the U. S. Food Administration. In that period the United States has furnished complete yearly rations for 57,100,933 people. In addition there was enough extra protein to supply this portion of the diet for 22,194,570 additional men. The total export of wheat and wheat flour to the three principal Allies is equivalent to about 384 million bushels. Pork exports for the three and a half years amounted to almost two billion pounds. Export of fresh beef totaled 443,484,400 pounds. The amount of food exported to Russia is negligible compared with that sent to the western Allies.

Sugar production in France has fallen to less than 25 per cent of the pre-war output. When German troops retreated from occupied portions of France they took pains to destroy virtually all of the sugar mills that would otherwise have assisted the French in maintaining their sugar stocks. That first wave of Teuton invasion was stopped in France after the Germans had established a battle line that cut off 293 of the 313 French sugar mills, as well as much land that had produced sugar beets. In some of the German retreats the mills were left in such shape as to permit their operation. Official sugar production figures indicate the extent of the destruction and emphasize the French sugar needs must be filled by American aid. The year of 1912-1913, 213 French sugar mills turned out 967,440 short tons of sugar. For 1916-1917, 65 mills produced only 204,405 short tons. To further complicate the French sugar situation the yield per acre of sugar beets decreased from 13.30 short tons per acre in 1912-1913 to 11.70 short tons per acre in 1916-17.

That the second draft will be delayed, and the army somewhat handicapped by the action of a few representatives in the house who are blocking General Crowder's pet military measure, which would change the system of apportioning of drafted men by making the basis, the number of men in Class 1, instead of the population of the states, is freely charged here.

Gen. Crowder has announced that he will not go ahead with the second draft until the legislation is passed. It has been passed by the Senate, but Chairman Dent of the House Military committee has announced that on account of the filing of an adverse minority report, the measure will not be reported out until after Sec. Baker returns from France.



## Drying of Potatoes for Human and Live Stock Food and for Making of Starch Declared to be Feasible

### UTILIZATION OF THE SURPLUS POTATOES

Department of Agriculture Claims That Michigan Potatoes can be Profitably Dried for Consumption and for Making Starch

"Replying to your letter relative to the manufacture of flour from potatoes, you are quite correct in your statement that it will not be possible to pay more than 20 or 25 cents per bushel for tubers, provided your remarks apply to ordinary conditions. At present, considerably more could be paid for the potatoes, provided small factories making potato starch could be operated this season.

"I think that something of this kind ought to be developed to take care of the needs of the potato industry in a state like Michigan where there are no very large centers of potato production.

"The wholesale price for potato starch is now 12 cents per pound, and from this and the fact that about 9 pounds can be obtained from a bushel of potatoes, you will realize that considerably more than a 25-cent price could be paid for potatoes.

"The preparation of potato flour would also be promising, if there were any assurance of a wide market for this material at satisfactory prices. Such a market, however, does not now exist.—H. C. Gore, Chemist in Charge, Fruit and Vegetable Utilization Laboratory.

\* \* \*

Examine on the following page the tabulation of reports from various potato counties of the state showing the estimated amount of the 1917 crop still in the farmers' hands, as well as a comparison with the holdings a year ago. It does NOT show that there is such a huge surplus yet to be marketed in this state as is popularly believed, and moreover, many thousands of bushels have moved to market since these reports were compiled.

We honestly believe with other farm papers that the potato crop has been overestimated, and all the evidences that we have uncovered seem to substantiate that belief, and yet we must be frank in saying that our belief is not strong enough at this moment to warrant advising our readers to hold to their crop in hope of higher prices. The prognostications of everyone last fall, including ourselves, were knocked into a cocked hat by the sudden appearance of the potato grading rules and the car shortage which combined to hold the crop back in the farmers' hands at a time when the bulk of it would have otherwise moved to market. All will agree that had there been no compulsory grading rules in effect last fall in the principal potato sections much of the crop would have moved to a stable market all winter long, and that today instead of potatoes going begging on the market at around 50 cents a bushel, there would have been a good demand at better than \$1.

Basing our judgment on reports received from hundreds of farmers in Michigan, Maine and New York, we are not yet prepared to say that the crop of marketable potatoes still in the farmers' hands is greatly in excess of the country's needs. But that is a matter that time alone can determine.

Regardless, however, of whether or not surplus exists, it would be good business at this time for the potato growers to seriously consider ways and means for providing facilities for utilizing the cull and surplus stock of future years, and it is for that purpose that we have secured from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the following facts relative to the drying of potatoes for both human and live stock consumption and for the making of potato starch:

The necessity of proving some outlet for the cull potatoes as well as for the surplus crop during unusually favorable seasons is vital to the potato industry of the United States. Writers on agricultural subjects have not failed to describe the methods of potato utilization developed in Europe, especially in Germany, and to point out the desirability of better utilization of potatoes in the United States than now exists. Skinner states that in Germany the development of industries that take up the surplus is one of the most important causes of the phenomenally large production. Orton believes that there should be produced in the United States, as in Germany, many more potatoes than required for table use, and profitable utilization developed for the surplus, thus supplying the nation with this important foodstuff at a reasonable price, regardless of annual variation in yield.

#### MANY COMMERCIAL USES FOR POTATO "BY-PRODUCTS"

The approximate distribution of our potato crop is given by Orton as follows: Out of an average production of 343,587,000 bushels 68 per cent is used for table purposes, 5 per cent is fed to farm animals, 11 per cent is used for seed, less than 1 per cent for the manufacture of starch, while about 15 per cent is lost from decay. In Germany Orton states that an average crop of 1,653,403,000 bushels, but 28 per cent is used for human food, 40 per cent is fed to farm animals, 12 per cent is set aside for seed purposes, and nearly 6 per cent is used for the production of potato alcohol. About 4 per cent is used for making starch and related products and about 10 per cent lost from decay. The practice of feeding potatoes on German farms not only gives a large return in meat from the 19,000,000 swine thus supplied, but yields an indispensable supply of stable manure for the upbuilding of the soil. The feeding of potatoes is thus very important in building up a diversified and profitable system of farming.

One of the difficulties of profitable feeding of potatoes is the necessity of providing an adequate supply of sound stock throughout a long period. It now seems probable, however, that this difficulty can be made by the practice of ensiling them in the fall, as methods have just been developed in the United States and Germany which make this practice thoroughly feasible. Potato silage methods, while they have not yet been thoroughly tried out on a practical scale, can be recommended for trial by those interested. The method developed at the Bureau of Chemistry by L. A. Round consists of washing the potatoes, grinding them coarsely, mixing with from 2 to 4 per cent of corn meal, and then packing in silos or other tight containers.

#### NINE LBS. OF STARCH IN BUSHEL POTATOES

The only potato product extensively manufactured in our potato growing sections is potato starch. It is produced in peace times at the rate of from approximately 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 pounds per annum in factories located in Maine, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In normal times about 16,000,000 pounds are imported. In Aroostook County, Maine, where the potato starch industry is most extensively developed, the price paid for the cull potatoes for starch purposes ranges from 8½ to 17 cents per bushel. The wholesale price in Maine for potato starch of good quality is about 3 1-2 cents per pound in peace times. The yields of commercial starch from normal cull stock is about 15 per cent of the weight of the potatoes, or 9 pounds per bushel. Smaller yields occur when frozen, partly decayed, over-ripe, or sprouted stock is used, but such material will usually make starch of fair quality. The present wholesale price of potato starch in northern Maine is 11 cents per pound. At this rate, allowing 1c per pound as the cost of manufacture, 90c per bushel could be paid for the potatoes.

In potato starch manufacture the potatoes are washed in a continuous washing machine, then very finely ground, and at the same time mixed with water. The diluted potato pulp is then passed over shaking sieves, where the starch is washed out by water sprays. The starch

milk passes to settling tanks or runs where the starch is deposited in compact layers. The pulp either goes to waste or is pressed and used for feed, either fresh or after drying. The starch is transferred to washing tanks and thoroughly stirred with fresh water and allowed to settle. Most of the starch settles first, forming a compact mass at the bottom of the tanks, while the solid impurities, mixed with a little starch, form a layer on the surface of the starch and are removed. After washing, the starch is transferred to driers where it is slowly deprived of most of its water, commercial potato starch containing water to the extent of about 18 per cent.

#### COMMERCIAL STARCH MANUFACTURE SHOULD BE EXTENDED

Commercial potato starch manufacture is well suited for more extended introduction in our potato belt, especially as an enterprise for large factories in potato centers. For profitable operation large quantities of potatoes are required through a long season. Additional requirements are ample supplies of pure water and adequate drainage facilities for the waste waters.

Potato starch now finds its principle field of usefulness in the textile industry, where it is used especially in the sizing of the warp threads preparatory to weaving. Many mills prefer it for this purpose to all other starches. It has a very high value as a carbohydrate food, and is the principal food starch of Europe. C. F. Langworthy states that one of the good qualities of potato starch is that a relatively short time is required to cook it thoroughly, and so gravies, etc., can be quickly made with it, and yet not have a raw taste. \* \* \* \*

If produced in larger quantities than can be readily absorbed in this country for starch purposes, a wide field of usefulness awaits it as a raw material in the manufacture of potato dextrin. Another product extensively manufactured from potato starch in Europe is potato glucose.

#### MANUFACTURING COST IS HIGH

The manufacturing cost of potato starch, as the operations are conducted in Maine, is high. It was given by T. H. Phair, one of the pioneer starch manufacturers of Maine, as 1.25 cents per pound. The severity of the climate of northern Maine, and the fluctuating nature of the supply of potato culls, are two of the difficulties with which the industry has had to contend. Nevertheless, Phair stated that during the ten-year period preceding 1912 no less than \$4,500,000 had been paid to the farmers of Aroostook county, Maine, for potatoes for starch purposes.

Abroad, and especially in those sections of Germany and Holland, where potato culture is centralized to a greater extent than in the United States, potato starch is made at a far lower cost than in this country. We are informed that manufacturing costs range from 1-4 to 1-2 cent per pound in the largest and most up-to-date factories in Europe, although it has been impossible to get very definite information on this subject.

One of the difficulties of starch manufacture, as conducted in the United States, is the amount of labor necessary in transferring the starch from the settling tanks to the washing tanks and from the washing tanks to the drier. In addition to this, the factories are usually subject to rapid depreciation when idle.

New work by the Department of Agriculture shows that adequate automatic machinery already exists in the United States, which can be used substantially without change, in settling, washing, de-watering, and drying potato starch. Such machinery is found in the mining industry, where it is used in the handling of slimes. Its use does not require a marked increase in the investment in a potato starch factory, leads to marked economy in labor, and in the use of water, gives a uniform starch of high purity and is not especially subject to deterioration when idle. Moreover, the drier used is fire-proof, and the waste heat from the drier can be used in warming the factory building, a fact of considerable value for factories operating in our potato belt.

(Continued next week.)

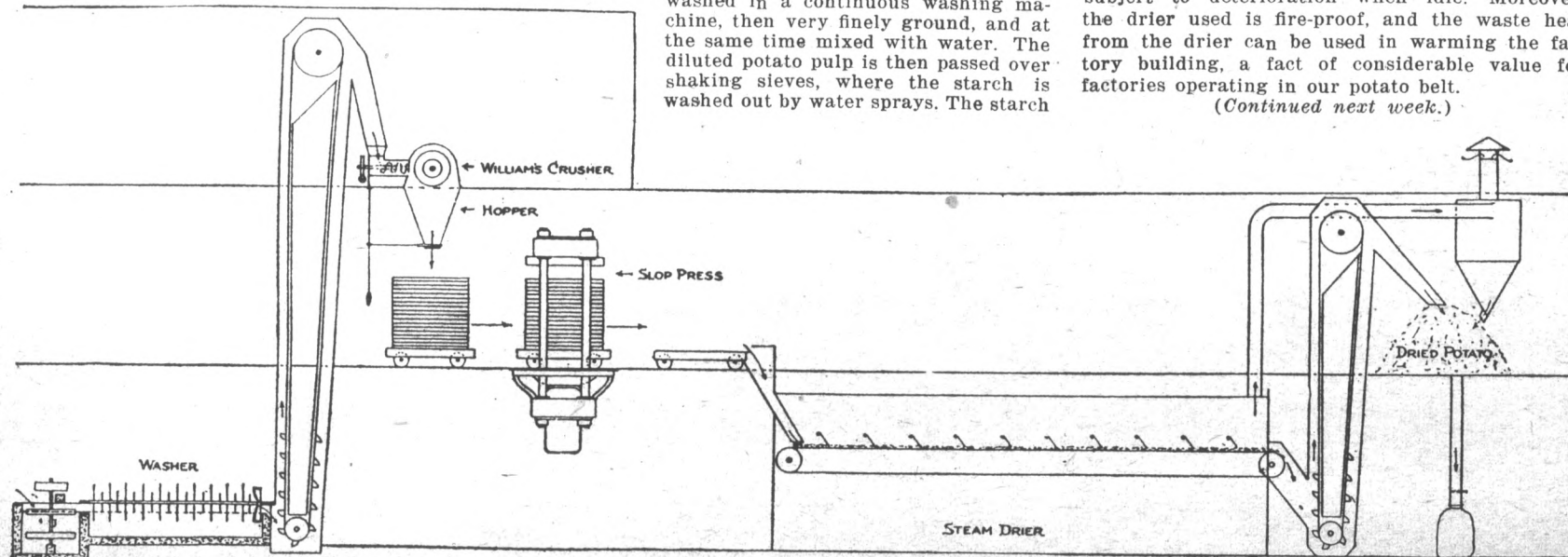


Diagram Showing Method of Drying Potatoes



# MICHIGAN BEANS GETTING HARD BUMP

Food Administration Continues Discriminatory Comparison Between Eastern Navy Whites and the Western Colored Beans

The March 16th issue of the *Literary Digest*, one of the foremost publications of the country, contained a page article contributed by someone on the U. S. Food Administration, describing the value of beans as a food. One of the statements in the article reads, "People should get rid of the notion that colored beans, such as the California pink bean and the Colorado pinto are inferior to white. Analysis has proven them just as nourishing. Some persons have been prejudiced against the pinto bean because of its dark-brown spots. But it is exactly as good as a white bean, and it has been selling at a lower price."

In an effort to satisfy the numerous complaints that have been made by both growers and dealers of eastern states, the Food Administration has issued lengthy explanations of its action in boosting every right to educate the public to the value of pinto beans at the expense of the navy white variety. But these explanations do not satisfy. We repeat that the Food Administration may have every right to educate the public to the value of pinto beans, but we seriously question its right to discourage the consumption of navy beans at the same time, which is exactly the effect that the articles issued upon this subject will have a tendency to do. Since the various announcements have been made upon this subject, white beans have declined 50 cents per hundred, and we believe the Food Administration's efforts may be partially to blame for this.

Both the Michigan Bean Growers' and Jobbers' Associations should formulate resolutions of protest against such unfair methods and bring pressure to bear upon the responsible party on the Food Administration to desist from his harmful practices.

Below we publish complete, an explanation recently furnished the press with reference to the pinto and navy bean deal:

According to figures of the Department of Agriculture, the crop of beans this year roughly estimated, was 15,000,000 bushels, which was an increase of approximately 5,000,000 bushels over a normal crop. Nearly all of this increase was in colored beans, principally Colorado and New Mexico Pintos and California Pinks. White beans barely held their own. California showed a good increase, but Michigan and New York, on account of unfavorable growing and harvesting weather, had greatly reduced merchantable yields.

The nation was confronted by two serious problems, the most important being to market and save the wet weather-damaged beans in Michigan and New York. The second, almost as important, was to secure a market for the excess crop of colored beans. The Food Administration worked out the problem in the following manner:

**White Beans**—It was almost a certainty that the consuming public would not purchase heavily of this weather-damaged wet stock as long as it could buy at equal, or lower prices, strictly dry, bright stock from other states. Further, the government knew accurately the quantity of beans required for our Army, Navy and over-seas forces. These requirements amounted to practically all of the available good, dry stock in the country and since our own soldiers and sailors are offering their lives for us, they are entitled to the very best food we can produce. In order to insure these requirements, the Army and Navy commandeered the entire crop of good, California White beans at a price of 11½ cents per pound to the growers.

They also took over by commandeer, all imported white beans of good quality at an average of 9½ cents per pound on the docks in this country.

This left two states, Michigan and New York, to take care of our entire civilian requirements on white beans. In addition, although the tin plate situation was very serious and all canners were restricted to fifty per cent of their normal output of dry beans, the Food Administration advised them that as a food conservation measure, permits would be issued freely for the canning of wet beans.

The Army and Navy went further even than this and, although they needed large quantities of canned goods and owned the dry stock, they refused to release the requirements for government orders from available stock left in this country.

This unprecedented demand has kept all Michigan and New York shipping elevators cleaned up of supplies as fast as farmers would sell, and in spite of the poor quality of their stock has given these farmers a higher market than any other producing section. The situation in these states at present is such that the Food Administration believes very little wet stock is left and with the assistance of home driers, commercial dryers and nearby canners, none will be allowed to spoil.

**Colored Beans**—In the states of Colorado, New Mexico, the patriotic farmers, in answer to the nation's call for food, planted a big increase in the acreage and as a result harvested a crop of approximately thirty-five hundred cars, as against a normal crop of approximately five hundred cars. This colored Pinto bean was practically unknown in the large Eastern consuming markets, although it was equal in food value to any bean grown and of very fine flavor.

It was necessary to move this bean from the farmers' bins before planting time by creating a demand; otherwise a potential crop, very necessary as a war food, would be lost and the farmers of the West who had raised these beans in answer to the government's call and were being pressed by their banks for growing expenses, would be bankrupted and could not plant again. The Food Administration first made voluntary contracts with the growers of these western states for their entire crop at a choice, re-cleaned basis of 8 cents per pound. Then through an educational campaign the consumers were made to realize the excellence of these beans, thus creating a demand; and as a result this entire crop will be moved and an equally large one planted next year.

**Future Demands**—The world demands for food at this time exceed the production ability of our farmers with their present labor difficulties; and beans particularly, with their protein content, are especially needed. With a continuation of this war every grower of beans will be assured of an active market at good prices. They should also be acquainted with the efforts of the Food Administration to get these beans to the consumer in as economical way as possible. Any time growers or operators can make constructive suggestions that will assist in handling the crop, the Food Administration will give such suggestions the most careful and earnest attention.

## ELEVATORS STATE POSITION ON THE PINTO BEAN DEAL

A clipping of the article appearing in the Feb. 23rd issue of M. B. F., relative to the Food Administration's discrimination against the Michigan pea bean, was sent to every elevator in the state in hopes that they would unite to take action against those responsible and prevent a recurrence of the matter. Following are some of the letters

that have been received from elevator men upon the subject:

Will say that I am interested as a handler of beans and also as a grower of beans, having raised this year forty acres of beans, which brought a gross of \$5,000.

The Michigan Bean Jobbers Ass'n. are also interested, of course, and I understand that the president of the Association has written a certain representative of the Government Food Administration, who evidently has interests in Colorado, in regard to this discrimination against the Michigan product.—Chas. Wolohan, Birch Run, Mich.

I received your clippings on the Food Administration's position on Pinto beans. It sure will hurt the market value of Michigan's pea bean. I also note that the Government is contracting Pintos in Colorado at \$.08 per pound. Taking it all together the Michigan Bean is getting a hard bump.

As to the controversy over the picking of beans. This has been the hardest thing to get the average person to understand.

This is the way I explain it. Take 100 pounds of beans that pick 10 pounds would leave 90 pounds of choice when picked at \$12.00 per cwt. are worth \$10.80. I pay the farmer \$10.30 in the rough. I pay the girls \$.50 which equals \$10.80. I do not claim to pay anything for culls as they go toward paying the overhead of picking.

If beans come in hand picked they are ready for market, whereas we have to store others for days, weeks and months in order to get them picked and pocket the shrinkage which is large, plus interest on the money invested, also the heavy investment for beans, machinery, fuel, etc.

The girls always pick more than we estimate as they pick some beans, and beans in the rough lying in a bin deteriorate through the moisture in the poor beans, thus damaging others.

I keep track of our estimate and the actual pick. The girls pick from 23,448 pounds low to 70,980 pounds high on a year's run.

I prefer to pay the farmer a premium of \$.10 per cwt. to pick his own beans.—E. A. Remer, Cedar Springs, Mich.

## GENERAL TREATMENT FOR SPRING SPRAYING OF GRAPES

Grape vines are not often subject to attacks by scale so there is seldom need for a spraying with strong lime-sulphur before growth starts.

Do not use the dilute lime-sulphur at any time for grape spraying. It stunts or checks the growth of the berries. Use the bordeaux mixture.

Downy mildew, commonly called "Red Grape" was very destructive last year and caused large financial losses to growers who did not spray.

Black rot has been a serious disease in recent seasons. Growers can not afford to risk the loss it may cause by neglecting to spray.

These diseases and others will be prevented very largely by spraying as follows:

When the shoots are about 8 to 10 inches long, spray with bordeaux mixture for black rot and downy mildew.

Just before blooming spray again with bordeaux mixture for black rot and downy mildew and to every 50 gallons of bordeaux, add 2 or 3 pounds of arsenate of lead to poison the grape berry moth and the rose chafer. If this latter is serious use stronger poison, even up to 5 pounds to 50 gallons. A pint of the cheapest molasses added may help.

About 10 days or two weeks later, it may be necessary to make another spraying like the two previous, but this will depend upon the weather conditions and the amount of rot and mildew prevalent. If later sprayings are thought to be necessary, some material should be used that will not stain the fruit, such as weak copper sulphate solution.

There are several grape insects that are found only in occasional vineyards, and then not every year. The grower should keep a sharp watch of his vines for them and if found, take prompt measures to destroy them. (If not familiar with their appearance send specimen to The Entomologist, East Lansing, Michigan.)

Those most likely to be found are the following:

Fly-beetles may appear at any time but are most likely to come as the buds open in nearly spring. Spray with bordeaux mixture and a strong poison, 3 or 4 pounds of arsenate of lead to every 50 gallons of the bordeaux, if early in spring. Later use less poison.

In vineyards where the grape berry moth is serious, spray with bordeaux mixture and an arsenical poison during the middle of July, before the twentieth.

Report of Potato Holdings in Farmer's Hands, Feb. 15th.

County	Percentage 1917 Crops in Hands, Feb. 15, 1918	Comparison with 1916 Holdings same date	Less Percentage Potatoes in Pits Damag- ed by Frost	Prices paid Feb. 15.	Percentage of Crop No. 2 Grade
Antrim—Elk Rapids	.65%		Considerable	..\$1.00	..35%
Antrim—Alden	.50%		Many frozen	..\$1.00	..45%
Alcona—Glennie	.80%	300% more.	Many frozen	..\$1.10	..45%
Benzie—Thompsonville	.90%	..50%	..10%	..\$1.00	..45%
Benzie—Nessen City	.67%			..\$1.00	..45%
Calhoun—Marshall	.50%	..40%		..\$1.00	..45%
Cass—Penn	.85%	..70%	..5%	..\$.80	..35%
Charlevoix—East Jordan	.50%			..\$1.00	..45%
Charlevoix—Charlevoix	.30%		Many frozen	..\$1.00	..45%
Charlevoix—Boysie City	.60%	..25%	Many dam'g'd	..\$1.00	..20%
Genesee—Fenton	.50%	Double.	Little dam'g'd	..\$.90	..42%
Gratiot—Sheridan	.55%	About same			..42%
Ionia—Orleans	.67%	Less.	Little dam'g'd		..15%
Ionia—Belding	.20%				..25%
Isabella—Blanchard	.42%		Many frozen		..40%
Jackson—Clark Lake			Many frozen		
Kalamazoo—Vicksburg	.50%	Holding.	Few frozen.	..\$.90	..15%
Kalamazoo—Barker Creek	.35%	..15% more.	..20%	..\$1.00	..15%
Kalamazoo—Spencer	.50%		..60%	..\$1.00	..60%
Kalamazoo—Sand Lake	.60%		..5%	..\$1.25	..25%
Lake—Luther	.75%	..200%			..30%
Lake—McMillan	.20%	About same			
Mason—Scottsville	.55%	..30%	Little dam'g'd	..\$1.17	..20%
Mecosta—Rodney		About same	Half frozen	..\$1.00	..40%
Mecosta—Remus	.50%	About same	..10%	..\$1.00	..40%
Missaukee—Lucas	.40%	About same	Little dam'g'd	..\$1.00	..25%
Missaukee—Lake City	.50%	Less.	Many frozen	..\$1.00	..50%
Montcalm—Edmore	.35%	About same	..10%	..\$1.00	..40%
Montcalm—Gowen	.60%	About same		..\$1.25	..40%
Montcalm—McBrides	.33%	..60%	..5%	..\$1.00	..24%
Montcalm—Coral	.50%	..200%			..33%
Montcalm—Greenville	.37%	About same	..2%	..\$1.25	..30%
Montcalm—Fenwick	.33%	..30%	Many frozen	..\$1.00	..33%
Montcalm—Lakeview	.33%	About same	Considerable	..\$1.00	..30%
Muskegon—Ravenna	.50%	Third Less.	Many frozen	..\$.75	
Muskegon—Twin Lake					
Muskegon—Bailey	.67%	..100% more.	Little dam'g'd	..\$1.00	
Newaygo—Sand Lake	.40%	About same	..50%	..\$1.00	
Oakland—Birmingham	.66%		Many frozen		
Oakland—Clarkston	.25%	About same	..10%		
Oscoda—Walkerville	.60%		Little dam'g'd	..\$1.00	
Oscoda—Hersey	.60%		..5%	..\$1.00	..45%
Oscoda—Hart	.65%			..\$1.25	..40%
Oscoda—Reed City		Third more.			
Otsego—Elmira	.33%	..95%	..33%	..\$1.10	..20%
Otsego—Gaylord	.80%	..110%	..20%	..\$1.00	..60%
Ontonagon—Fruit Creek	.30%	More.	Little dam'g'd	..\$1.50	..15%
Ottawa—Conklin			Many frozen	..\$1.25	..25%
Tuscola—Vassar	.50%		Many frozen		
VanBuren—Kendall	.70%	..20%	Many frozen	..\$.80	
Wexford—Manton	.10%	About same		..\$1.00	..25%
Wexford—Sherman	.53%	..25%	Many frozen	..\$1.00	..35%
Average	.51%			..\$1.03	..32%



## FARMERS SERVICE BUREAU

### CAN ALIENS HOLDING FIRST PAPERS VOTE AT ELECTIONS?

Can a foreign-born person holding first papers in the United States vote in national, state, county, township or school elections? And is it possible where such a case is suspected at the polls, to make the parties produce their papers after their votes are challenged? There are some in this county, as well as others, who have voted for some time past on nothing but their first papers. I do not believe it is right, even if the law does allow it. An answer would be appreciated, not only by myself, but by a great many others.—*L. G., Rhodes.*

Section I of Article III of our present Constitution prescribes the qualifications of electors in Michigan, and provides, among other things, that every male inhabitant of foreign birth, who resided in this state and had declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States prior to May 8th, 1892, shall be an elector and entitled to vote: provided that he is otherwise qualified as to age and residence in the state, township and ward in which he offers to vote.

Such declaration of intention, however, although giving to such alien the right of elective franchise does not constitute the making thereof a citizen but is only a basis for future action under the naturalization laws. Neither does such declaration give the children of such aliens a right to vote. Only the children of persons who have been duly naturalized (as opposed to those that have so merely declared their intention to become citizens of the United States) being under the age of twenty-one years at the time of naturalization of their parents, are considered citizens or have the right to vote. The fact that an elector may be registered as an alien enemy would not interfere with such right.

Relative to requiring a party to produce his naturalization papers or his declaration of intention dated prior to May 8th, 1892, I would respectfully say that section 7 of Chapter X of Act 293 of the Public Acts of 1917 provides: "If any person offering to vote shall be challenged as unqualified by any inspector, or any elector qualified to vote at that poll, he shall be sworn to answer truthfully all questions put to him touching his qualifications as an elector. Any one of the inspectors may administer the oath to a person whose vote has been challenged. Any inspector or qualified voter at that poll may question said person as to his constitutional qualifications as an elector. If the answers to questions put to such person shall show that he is a qualified voter at that poll, his ballot shall be received; otherwise not. If any one of his answers concerning a material matter shall not be true, he shall, on conviction, be deemed guilty of perjury." I am therefore of the opinion that such party could not be required to furnish his papers but would only be subjected to the pains and penalties of perjury in the event that his answers were untruthful.—*A. B. Dougherty, Deputy Attorney General.*

### MICHIGAN IS NOT IDEAL FOR GROWING SPRING WHEAT

I notice that the government is urging farmers to plant spring wheat. I have always been told, and my own experience proves it, that spring wheat is not a good crop for this state. Can you tell me anything about it?—*C. H., Lenawee county.*

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has suggested that 50,000 acres of Michigan farms be planted to spring wheat, in order to help make up the probable decrease of fall wheat production. Altho the area of winter wheat sown in 1917 was the largest on record the condition of the crop, as reported on December 1st, was the lowest ever recorded, indicating a probable production of only 540,000,000 bushels. There is some question as to whether it would be wise for the farmers of this state to invest very heavily in a spring wheat crop. Prof. J. F. Cox, of the department of farm crops of the M. A. C., has recently issued a bulletin upon this subject, which contains some good sound advice.

"It is true," says Prof. J. F. Cox, "that numerous instances of success with the Marquis variety were reported last season, but it must be kept in mind that the season of 1917 was an abnormal one. In average years spring wheat is not dependable, and does not give satisfactory yields in southern and central Michigan. Other spring seed crops, such as barley, oats, and buckwheat give a much larger return of food material per acre, and in the opinion of the department it is not to the best interest of the nation to increase the acreage of spring wheat at the expense of these in the above mentioned parts of the state. North-central and northern Michigan are better adapted to it.

"Individuals desiring to grow this crop, should

plant the Marquis, an early variety, and prepare their seed beds as early as possible in April. The use of about 250 pounds of acid phosphate per acre will increase yields and hasten maturity.

"The need for wheat is such that even yields unprofitable to the individual may help at the present time, but we must not lose sight of the fact that the grain crops which will produce the most pounds of food stuffs per acre will accomplish the most. On soils which give good yields of oats, barley and buckwheat these crops should be planted and their acreage not decreased by the planting of spring wheat. A season such as that of 1917 might make it possible to produce a good spring wheat crop, but this is not a time to take chances or experiment."

### THE COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN THE GREAT WORLD WAR

Will you kindly give in the next issue of M. B. F. the names of the countries now engaged in the war?—*F. E. L., Wheeler.*

Entente Allies: France, Great Britain, Belgium, Duchy of Luxemburg, Serbia, Montenegro, Italy, Japan, Portugal, China, United States, Cuba, Brazil and Greece. Russia can no longer be considered a party to the war on the side of the entente. Roumania is no longer in the struggle. Central Powers: German Empire, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

### MARRIED FARMER PROTESTS ACTION OF DRAFT BOARD

Could you give me any information on the classification I should be in? I have been married nearly eight years and am clearing and paying for a new farm. Have stock and two horses and have



Douglas V. Bow of Saginaw, gathering eggs in the winter time from his pure-bred Barred Plymouth Rocks. Mr. Bow exhibited at the 1918 poultry show at Bay City and carried away both first and second honors

no children, and am marked up on class 2 on letter C. Now, there is another young fellow in this neighborhood in the same circumstances as I am; has no children and he is in class 4. Do you think that is a square deal for every one? Please let me know at once what you think, also what I should do if there is anything I can do about it. I do not dread the going across the pond, but I want to be classed on an equal basis with other fellows of my circumstances. I am past 31 now, was 31 the 8th of February, 1918, but that does not make any difference, as long as I was only 30 on the 5th of June, 1917, registration day.—*Subscriber, Prescott.*

The four divisions of Class No. 2 of the revised draft regulations read as follows:

- (a) Married man, or father of motherless children, usefully engaged but family has sufficient income apart from his daily labor to afford a reasonably adequate support during his absence.
- (b) Married man, no children, wife can support herself decently and without hardship.
- (c) Skilled farm laborer engaged in necessary agricultural enterprise.
- (d) Skilled industrial laborer engaged in necessary industrial enterprise.

Unless it has been shown that your wife can support herself without hardship, I see no reason for placing you in Class 2. From your letter I would conclude that you are head of a necessary agricultural enterprise and as such should be placed in Class 4. Find out from the chairman of your local board if you can who is the chairman of the district board which passes upon agricultural claims for your county. Send this to us and we will see if anything can be done to change your classification.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROWING AND CARING FOR SUGAR BEETS

Will some one who has had experience raising sugar beets please tell us in time for planting, something about the care and shipping of same, also where is our nearest sugar factory from Copemish or Nessen City, as a great many are going to plant sugar beets instead of potatoes. Does the company furnish seed, or where do we get it? Hurrah for M. B. F.—*W. F. A., Copemish.*

The ground selected for growing the beets should be well drained and fairly fertile. Extremely poor, shallow, sandy, or hard soil should not be used for beets until it has been put in proper condition for crop production; likewise, ground that has been very heavily manured should be avoided since such soil sometimes produces very large roots, poor in sugar. When partly grown the entire plant may be used as greens, and when mature the roots may be cooked and served like garden beets.

Having selected a suitable place for growing the beets, the ground should be plowed or spaded to a good depth, remembering, however, that too much raw soil should not be brought to the surface at one time. The reason for a deep root bed for sugar beets is apparent from the shape of the root. The ground should be plowed or spaded in the fall, but good results may be obtained by doing this work in the spring provided the ground previously has been in good tilth. As early in the spring as conditions will permit the ground should be harrowed or raked until it is firm, smooth, and free from lumps. The surface soil should not be too fine, especially in those sections where high winds are expected during the early summer. The ground should be kept free from weeds, but should never be worked when too wet.

If the natural water supply is not sufficient, the beets should be irrigated when they show signs of needing moisture for their proper growth and development. If the beets wilt during the day and fail to recover at night, they should be watered. In case of irrigating, a furrow should be made several inches from the beet row and the water should be allowed to run down this furrow until the ground is thoroughly wet.

Sugar-beet seed usually may be obtained, at least in small quantities, from the large seed dealers. A pound of seed will plant one-tenth of an acre if the work is done carefully. The seed should not be planted until the ground is warm and the other conditions right for quick germination and for the subsequent growth of the plants.

Sugar-beet seed should be planted in rows about 20 inches apart and may be dropped either in continuous rows or in hills. If planted in hills each should contain from three to six balls, and the hills should be about 10 inches apart; if planted in solid rows the plants should be blocked in the manner described below as soon as possible after they are up. The seed should be covered to a depth of one-half to 1 inch. The covering should be as shallow as conditions will permit; that is, it should not be so thin that it will dry out and leave the seed without sufficient moisture for germination, and it should not be so thick that the young plants can not readily get through to the light.

As already indicated, the seed should be planted in solid rows or in hills. When in solid or continuous rows the plants should be blocked. Blocking consists in cutting out with a hoe or other implement a part of the plants so that the remaining beets stand in tufts about 10 inches apart. In blocking the beets, the direction of the stroke should be at right angles to the row. As soon as the plants are large enough to be handled conveniently, they should be thinned to one plant in each hill or tuft. This operation must be done by hand, since the plants in the hills or tufts stand very close together. The plants should be cultivated and hoed from time to time, in order to keep down all weeds and to furnish the best possible conditions for growth.

Your nearest sugar factory is located at Owosso, much too distant to provide a market for your beets. Sugar companies will not as a rule contract for beets grown at so great a distance from their factories, and we are very much afraid that the commercial growing of beets is out of the question for your locality until a factory is located nearer to you. W. P. Hartman, agricultural agent of the G. R. & I. R. R., claims that beets can be grown successfully as a commercial crop in Northwestern Michigan, and if this be true, he might be interested in helping to locate a factory in that section. Sugar beets can and should be grown for home consumption. They yield a syrup which most farmers find delicious. Complete directions for making this syrup were published in last week's issue.



### OFFER OF BIG DIVIDENDS LOOKS LIKE A "WILD CAT" SCHEME

Enclosed find a clipping from the bottom of a letter which I received wrapped about a parcel. Is it the advertisement of some firm which knows what they are talking about in regards to cane sugar? As part of the letter is missing, would like to know what business Breed, Elliott & Harrison represent. Being a reader MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, will wait for a reply as to whether the concern is a sugar firm. I appreciate your paper and think it is the only one for the farmer from a business standpoint in Michigan.—A Farmer, Hastings.

We note that the part of the letter enclosed, contains the following paragraph:

"Join us in the profits of a Cane Sugar business which at the price set by Mr. Hoover will earn from 28% to 47% a year."

Although Breed, Elliott & Harrison are well known dealers in investments and securities, with headquarters at Cincinnati and offices in Chicago, the proposition to which their name is signed has all the ear marks of a "wild cat" scheme.

There are few industries which pay dividends as high as 28%. Stock in such companies sells way above par, and is unobtainable except at big premiums. If such a sugar company was able to give reasonable assurance of paying a dividend as high as 47% there would be a scramble for shares that would eclipse an old fashioned foot ball game.

Any honest investment expert or banker will tell you that a reasonably safe investment will not pay more than 7%, and that a company which makes offers of more than 10% should be given a wide berth on general principles. Millions of dollars have been lost by professional men and women, farmers and laboring people on mining and industrial stocks, sold through "luring printed matter. Such losses finally resulted in "blue sky" laws in many states.

Then again if a sugar company can make from 28 to 47% on its common stock in these war times, it can be placed in the profiteer class. If the price Mr. Hoover has placed on sugar, makes such profits possible, then explanations are in order. It is probable however that any use made of Mr. Hoover's name in an advertisement of this kind, is simply to interest prospective investors, and that the statement is without foundation.

We are investigating this matter further and will doubtless be able to enlighten our readers on the question in subsequent issues.

### WOMEN ARE ASKED TO REGISTER FOR PATRIOTIC SERVICE

Can you tell me through your paper what women must register on April 6, and what ages have to register?—A. B. R., Trout Creek.

Registration of women during the week of April 6, is not compulsory. Registration is voluntary, and women will not be drafted into the government service. Women over 16 years of age, who are capable of performing any service which will be of assistance to the government should register. The mistaken idea that this is a "draft" measure seems to be widespread. The fact that a woman registers for a certain kind of work does not mean that she must respond when called. If conditions are such that she is unable to do so, no censure or punishment will result. The government expects that every loyal woman, who can be of any service whatever, will register, what she is now doing, and what she is capable of doing. Those who are willing to leave their homes for government service, can signify same, but there is plenty of work which can be done at home, for which the average woman can register.

### HIGHWAY COMM'R MAY PERMIT RUNNING OF THRESHING OUTFIT

Do you know of any Michigan statute which bars threshing outfits on the roads until after May 1st? There are dozens of farmers around here other than myself who have beans to thresh who have waited all winter to get them threshed, but threshers are reluctant to come on the road even where it is settled, on account of this supposed law. None of us have any coal to thresh with but will take the chance of using wood. If you can give us any advice on this we will appreciate it.—W. A. J., Sherwood.

I would respectfully say that section 5 of Act 181 of the Public Acts of 1917, makes it unlawful to move any traction engine or similar heavy machinery over the public highways by its own power or otherwise during the months of March, April and May or at any other time, if by reason of the thawing of the frost or rains, or any other cause, the roads are in a soft condition rendering them unfit for the passage over them of such heavy machinery without damage to the highways, or if the engines are equipped with lug which seriously

damage the highways, except by written permission from the commissioners having jurisdiction over said highway or highways. The statute further provides a penalty for its violation, and I would respectfully refer you thereto.—A. B. Dougherty, Deputy Attorney General.

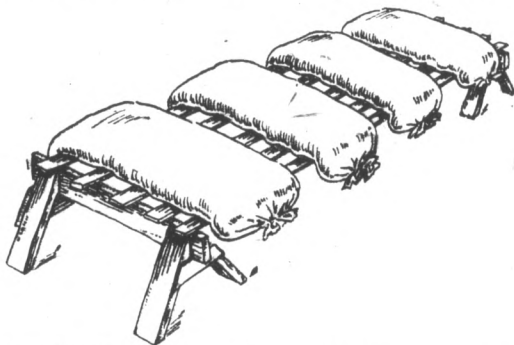
### WIDOW'S RIGHT TO SHARE IN HUSBAND'S PERSONAL PROPERTY

Husband and wife have a joint contract of a farm. How much of the personal property can the widow hold?—Subscriber.

If she owned the personal property jointly with her husband, she can hold one-half of the personal property in her own name and obtain the widow's right and allowance out of the other half in Probate court. From the fact that real estate was held in their joint names does not follow that the personal property would be jointly owned. The rule as to the survivor of joint ownership of real property in the name of husband and wife in personal property. They each take an individual half. However, if the wife did not own a half interest in the personal property she could only hold out of the personal property the usual widow's allowance in the Probate Court.—W. E. Brown, Legal Editor.

### ANOTHER UNIQUE WAY TO CARE FOR THE CROP OF WET BEANS

As I was reading the MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, and especially the bean question, it occurred to me that a little suggestion might save a great many beans throughout the country. Owing to the deep snow this winter, which put the farmers back with bean threshing, I rented a canning factory. I was granted permission to can beans to take care of the late threshed beans in this community. To my surprise I could not get cans soon enough to do any good, so I have abandoned the idea. Now I would suggest that the farmers put one bushel of beans in a bag, tie a string around the end of the bag, lay it down on the floor and flatten out the beans so they will go the entire length of the bag; turn a potato crate bottom up and lay the bag of beans on the crate flat down.



Turn the bags of beans every day or so, and you have a natural dry storage, as the air can get under the bag and over it, and the bag absorbs the moisture from the beans; consequently you can save all of the beans, as the air dries the bag as fast as the moisture leaves the beans. It is necessary of course that the air should have the freest possible circulation on all sides of the bags to carry away the moisture.

Save your cull beans for food. You can hardly tell the difference after they are cooked. If you have a hundred bushels of beans take a hundred crates and a hundred bags. Don't put more than one bushel in a bag, but get them off the floor and where the air can get to them. A barn floor is good. Open the doors, let the draft thru. I have thoroly tried out this system and it works fine. If you haven't enough crates lay some boards on crates so the air can get up thru them. I am sure this method will save us lots of foodstuff.—C. B. M., Buckley, Michigan.

### SHOULD CONSULT PATENT ATTORNEY TO SECURE PATENT

Will you kindly explain in the next issue of M. B. F. if there is any way in which a person can be protected from being defrauded out of an invention he has in mind, as I would have to have the pattern made in some machine or tool shop.—A. B., Montcalm county.

We would suggest the following attorneys whom we believe to be reliable: Lacey & Lacey, 163 Springer Bldg., W. E. Coleman, Patent Lawyer, V. J. Evans & Company, Patent Attorneys, 759 Ninth St., all of Washington, D. C.

In writing to a patent attorney, it is not necessary to describe your invention minutely. Tell what it is, what advantage it has over other devices of its kind, and what your reasons are for believing that it will be a commercial success.

The patent attorney will give you all necessary directions as to how to proceed, if he thinks your patent will be a success. With the patent applied for, you would be quite safe to go ahead with plans for making the device.

### CUT-OVER LANDS NOW BEING OPENED TO SHEEP OWNERS

The production of wool in Michigan will be given a great impetus and thousands of "slacker" acres of cut-over lands in the northern part of the lower peninsula will be utilized this year, when thousands of sheep will be brought here by Western interests.

Already the price of cut-over lands in North-eastern Michigan has increased in price, and lands recently held for eight and ten dollars an acre have doubled in value. These lands have been idle with the exception of an occasional farm, since the northern country was deprived of its timber years ago. Much of the land is covered with undergrowth and second-growth timber.

Western sheep men who were first interested by the possibilities of eliminating the long freight hauls to market, admit freely that Northern Michigan has great possibilities as a grazing country. There is never any lack of green vegetation during the grazing season, such as is frequently the case in the west on account of drouths. The sheep also find much nourishment in the underbrush, and assist in clearing the land.

Sheep are practically free from disease in Northern Michigan, which gives this part of the country a much greater advantage over places having a warmer climate. The exceptional crops of clover hay produced in the North, lessen the difficulties of winter feeding over a comparatively long period.

No announcement has been made as to the number of sheep to be brought here, but it will be many thousand. The Upper Peninsula is also making a bid for western sheep.

### HOW ONE COMMUNITY SOLVED THE FARM LABOR PROBLEM

In one county of West Virginia last fall, when hands were not available for filling silos, seven farmers bought a silo-filling outfit co-operatively, and each of the seven helped the others—giving a force of seven men at work on each farm filling silos. Thus each farmer found that particular labor problem solved and the silos filled—by co-operation.

In a county where a great many tomatoes were raised last year, it seemed impossible to get enough hands to harvest them. The county agent and farmers, who had automobiles went to the nearby towns each morning and took men, women and children back to the farms to work during the day, returning them to their homes at night. Appeals were made through the newspapers and otherwise, and the town people volunteered gladly. Sufficient labor was secured without difficulty, and the tomato crop was saved.

In one west Virginia county the class of a night school in one of the larger towns volunteered to work for nearby town farmers who were unable to get help to husk corn. In another county of the same State, the county agent found a farmer who couldn't get help for filling his silo, but who was attempting to get it filled by the efforts of himself and his wife. The county agent went to the principal of the high school, explained the situation, and secured eight boys about eighteen years old, who were delighted at the opportunity of rendering real service. They filled the silo; were paid \$1.50 each day for two days, and board, and the school allowed them to make up their class-work.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE SOMEONE GIVE YOU A FORD TOURING CAR THIS SPRING?

If you have ever wished for an automobile, stop wishing and tell us you want to enter the contest we open March 25th, for a 1918 model, brand new, five passenger Ford touring car, to be given the agent for M. B. F. who does the best work during the next sixty days.

Thousands of farmers in every county in Michigan are waiting for someone to tell them they will forward their subscriptions for M. B. F., how to reach these farm homes is our problem, so we have decided to award the agent, man or woman, who will devote every spare minute during the next two months an automobile.

Every agent who enters this contest will be well paid for every hour they devote to the work in cash, whether they win the auto or not. Only farmers or members of farmers' families will enter, all are as busy as you are. All we ask is your spare time and we have made it the fairest, squarest contest ever conducted in Michigan.

If you have ever wished for an automobile, tell us you want to enter the auto contest on a postal or in a letter today, addressed to the Auto Contest MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

### WRITE M. B. F. IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF FARM LABOR

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING has received many letters from farmers in need of help, and farm laborers looking for a job. If you want farm help or a position as a farm laborer, write us. Perhaps we can put you in touch with someone who would be glad to accept your proposition. Full details should be given in first letter.



—for all the farmers of Michigan.

# MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD, 1918

GRANT SLOCUM  
FORREST A. LORD  
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### "Put a Brick in Your Glove"

THE GENTLEMAN from Washington who appeared before the potato growers at East Lansing took exception to a statement printed in the March 2nd issue of M. B. F., beginning, "Come to Lansing with a brick in your glove." By failing to read the entire sentence, he gave the audience a very wrong impression of the purpose of the article. We quote the paragraph in its entirety:

"Here is your opportunity, Mr. Grower, to be heard on this important subject. Don't neglect. Come to Lansing with a brick in your glove and convince the gentleman from Washington that you want to have something to say about how your product is graded and marketed."

In explanation: For months the farmers of this state had protested, argued and pleaded against the grading rules, but the King of Potato Dealers on the Food Administration had met their entreaties with "there is not one single logical argument in all your objections," and had absolutely refused to retract a single step from the position he had taken. He has shown no interest in the farmers' welfare; no sympathy with their problems. He has sat at Washington, lord of all he surveyed, dictating to the farmers of the nation how they shall grade their potatoes, NOT for the purpose of conservation, but for the comparatively unimportant purpose of enabling dealers to force acceptance of shipments at terminal markets.

Remember those of you who would criticize the farmers for protesting against these infamous grading rules, that Mr. Miller fills a very infinitesimal niche at Washington, and that his abuse of the powers that are placed in his hands do not necessarily have the sanction of the President and Congress. Remember, also, that monumental mistakes have been made by theorists on the food and fuel administrations which have aroused the entire country. Mr. Miller has blundered but his bump of perspicuity is so far undeveloped that he hasn't yet tumbled to the fact. The farmers didn't ask Mr. Miller to put grading rules into effect; they resent his interference, and for the better part of five months have been trying to tell him so.

In the face of the most difficult conditions of years, the farmers of the nation have been called upon to raise the greatest amount of food of years. They are responding to the call, loyally, unselfishly, willingly. If left alone to run their business as only they know how to run it, unhampered by silly, discriminatory regulations, they will produce that food. But they are getting sick and tired of the annoyances and nuisances and pointless advice visited upon them by well intentioned, but otherwise incapable individuals. Any other class of people would rise in righteous indignation if their ability to run their own business was similarly questioned. The most important consideration of all involved in the controversy between the farmers and the Food Administration is whether the farmers' wishes are to be consulted in matters of this kind in the future, or whether their rights will be continued to be ignored. As American citizens, the farmers of the nation are as willing as any other people to sacrifice and submit to unpleasant regulations that victory may the sooner be ours, but as business men, they are entitled to the same consideration as men engaged in other lines of business.

They seek these common rights; they demand them; yes, and if necessary to secure them they'll put a brick in their glove, too.

### Peace With Germany

A MONTH AGO the hearts of the peace-loving peoples of the earth beat high with hope. Germany made a pretense of wanting peace, and we were deluded into believing that she had at last concluded the odds were too great against her and was willing to take her medicine now before it became more bitter.

Then came the Russian affair. Forced by the demands of the Russian people, Lenine and Trotsky signed a peace treaty with Germany, recalled the armies, and left the front door wide open for Germany to enter, which she did,—entered with a huge army and swept everything before her, burning villages, confiscating good supplies and destroying all who dared obstruct her path.

Germany's unforgivable crimes are legion. And yet so horrible, so futile, is war and so infinitely more futile, is a war of vengeance that the allied peoples have been ready at almost any time to consider terms of a peace that would bring an end to the present holocaust and guarantee protection for smaller nations. It has been with this constant hope that President Wilson has been willing to entertain Germany's peace feelers. But even while the German diplomats were discussing peace negotiations, the German militarists were violating the terms of the Russian peace treaty and proceeding on their usual course of ruthless warfare. President Wilson's early declarations that the words of the present rulers of Germany could not be depended upon have been substantiated a score of times since.

Peace for Germany? Yes, when she has been forced from every foot of allied soil; when she has paid dollar for dollar for the ruin she has wrought in the territory she has invaded; when she has spent her blood in forfeit for the blood of the innocent women and the little children who have been ground under her relentless heel; when the iron-hearted monsters that direct her destinies grovel in the dust before our conquering armies; when the white flag of surrender waves from every pillar and post in the German empire; when every Krupp is spiked and every gun is stacked;—then and not till then can we talk peace with Germany.

### Getting Together

"THIS MEETING of the potato growers," said a man connected with the Agricultural College, "is one of the best things that ever happened to the College. To my knowledge this is the first time that the farmers and the college ever got real close together."

Said another Agricultural College man, "I want to make a confession. Until this meeting was held, I was firmly convinced that your paper and the farmers were wrong on this grading proposition, but within a half hour after the growers began to present their arguments, I was converted. I believe now that you are right and that you have been right from the start."

Farmers returning home from the College admitted to one another that the visit had been a good thing for them, and they were really surprised to learn what an interest the college seemed to have in the welfare of the farmers!

And there you are!

As we have pointed out many times before in these columns there ought to be a better understanding and closer co-operation between the state's agricultural college and farmers. It is a sorry fact, but nevertheless true, that the farmers will have little to do with any proposition engineered by the College. And this is not due to the farmer's stupidity or stubbornness either. It is because the college preaches too much and practices too little, like a country preacher who spends so much time writing beautiful sermons that he never has time to mingle with his flock and determine what their real needs are.

But we think the college is getting a better understanding of the farmers' needs and that from now on it will preach less and practice more. There is no reason why this splendid institution of learning should not be the leader of all agricultural movements of a state-wide nature. But to do this it must have the confidence of the farmers; it must pose less as a tutor and act more in the capacity of an adviser and helper.

And it must be freed from the clutches of politics; its control must be placed in the hands of men who have farmed and know the needs and problems of the farming business.

These things will come. Both the farmers and the college authorities will eventually realize their respective dependency upon the other and will sensibly "get together" and work together for the more rapid advancement of Michigan agriculture.

### Congress and the Potato Grades

THE PASSAGE of Senator Wm. Alden Smith's amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill, abolishing the potato grades, is a fitting climax to the efforts of M. B. F. and its readers to remove an obnoxious and injurious regulation and to assert the rights of the farmers of the entire United States to determine for themselves how their products shall be graded.

It was on December 28th that the junior editor of M. B. F. despairing of getting any concessions from Mr. Miller of the Food Administration, went to Grand Rapids and secured an audience with Senator Smith. He placed before the Senator hundreds of letters from farmers in every section of the state—pleading letters, defiant letters, hopeless letters,—proving beyond the shadow of a doubt that the grading rules then in effect were causing them great financial loss. Altho very busy at the time with other important affairs, Senator Smith went into the matter thoroughly and after a three-quarter of an hour session, said: "I believe you are right in your contention. Immediately upon my return to Washington, I shall see what I can do to have these grades abolished."

The Senator was as good as his word. Letters, telegrams, press dispatches, copies of the Congressional record, show that he lost no time in putting his influence at work against the grades, and when the agricultural appropriation bill came up, he seized the opportunity to present the amendment as published in last week's issue and secured its passage without opposition.

Both the M. B. F. editors and readers openly express their indebtedness to Senator Smith for what he has accomplished.

But the amendment has not yet become a law. It must now go before the house committee again for ratification. There is little doubt but that it will safely pass. Every Michigan representative has been repeatedly urged by both letter and telegram to use his influence in securing the abolishment of the grades, and most of them have gone to the trouble of taking the matter up with

**WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM**  
Lake City, Mich., Mar. 16, 1918  
Michigan Business Farming,  
Mt. Clemens, Michigan.  
Missaukee County Potato Growers' Association hereby expresses its hearty appreciation of the efforts of the editors of Michigan Business Farming to secure abolishment of the obnoxious potato grading rule of the Food Administration.  
A. M. SMITH, President.  
L. C. LAKE, Secretary.

the food administration, but with disappointing results. Now, however, that the matter can be decided by their votes and their influence, we feel confident that every Michigan congressman will be on the job to do his part. No sooner was word received from Senator Smith that his amendment had passed than letters were dispatched to each of our thirteen congressmen urging them to watch for the return of the amended bill to the house and to be ready to give it their support.

Thus the right of the sovereign people to be heard upon matters affecting their rights and welfare has once again been demonstrated, and the efforts of individuals to interfere with a nation's constitutional rights and make a mockery of true democracy have been defeated.

Prof. Baldwin, director of the extension department at East Lansing, was recently invited to attend a gathering of city women and explain how they could solve this farm labor problem they had been reading so much about. The Professor accepted the invitation to speak but what he said was quite different from what the ladies expected him to say. He had the nerve to tell them that he didn't think they could be of any use on the farm, and suggested they stick to their knitting and household duties. We take off our hat to Professor Baldwin. May his tribe increase!

We despise hate. The man or nation who hates is mean in character and weak in action. The Hun hates, and in his hatred lies his vulnerability. Let us not either as a nation or as individuals spend our thought and our energies in useless, helpless hate. We have our ideals. Otherwise we would not be in this war, and it is hard to conceive of a man who hates as having any ideals. We can whip Germany without hating her.

How many boys and girls would like to devote their spare time to taking subscriptions to MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING? Do you know there is no farm paper quite so easy to sell as M. B. F.? Farmers everywhere are just waiting for the opportunity to subscribe. Write and let us explain to you how you can make lots of pin money selling subscriptions to this paper.



## EDITORIALS BY OUR READERS

(This is an open forum where our readers may express their views on topics of general interest. Statements appearing in this column will not necessarily indicate our own editorial opinion. Farmers are invited to use this column.)

## Charity Should Begin at Home

I saw in a recent issue of the *Literary Digest* that the U. S. Government is sending a special ambassador to Mexico to make a loan of three million bushels of corn and five million dollars in gold. Now this may be a fine thing—for Mexico—but I've written to all the seed houses I know of trying to get two bushels of seed corn that would mature in Michigan. I wish I knew where Uncle Sam gets the three million bushels. It don't seem like a square deal. Last week I went to one of the largest flour mills in this (Clinton) Co., and asked for cornmeal. They did not have it, could not get it; corn. An elevator which is near my home ordered a car of corn to be delivered in December. The car arrived March 1st. It does seem as though that three million bushels of corn could have been put to better use than giving it to the Mexicans to fatten up on, then spend the money in soft-nose bullets to shoot across the line at our women and children, as they have done in the past. I want to help win this war anyway I can, and will stand back of Uncle Sam any and all times, therefore I would suggest that we keep our corn and money at home and let Germany help the Mexicans now as she has been doing. Or do they expect to play both ends against the middle, as they have done in the past? Their army is full of German officers. Do we want to feed them? I think not. Someone should report this to Mr. Hoover. I would like to know where one could put in a kick besides through your paper. I have only taken your paper about two months and consider it the best investment I ever made. You are sure a friend to the farmer, and if anyone needs a friend it is he. Hoping you have every success this coming year.

—J. J. H., Elsie.

## Let Retailer Do the Screening

We had a couple of farmers from here at the meeting at Lansing and they reported that you fellows talked like regular hayseeds. I know you do in the paper. I am deaf but I can read and I think the first of April is election day, and I will go and stay all day and I would like a dozen copies of your paper so that I can pass them out and get you some subscriptions. I would be in favor of the 1 3/4 inch round screen. We farmers should wait until they want to exchange a dollar broom for a bushel of 11s. We used to get a fifty-cent broom for a fifty-cent bushel of potatoes. The farmers should have had \$1 a bushel for their potatoes this year. The mischief is done now and a good many of the growers are in the hole from one to five hundred dollars. When seed is high be careful how many you plant; when seed is cheap plant lots of them. The farmers were patriotic with a capital "P", but Hog Island's one dollar man and the Chicago packers spell it with a small "p."

The retailers of potatoes should do the screening if their customers want them that way, then there would be no chance for robbery and the farmers would not have to sit and wait with the mercury down in his boots to unload his tubers. We sold what we could at \$1 but kept the No. 2's for seed. We also got rid of our wet beans at an average of \$5.65. We are going to do our best this year, everyone should. If we cannot get our rights any other way after the war, do as the others do, cut down the output. Lord Rhondra and also Robert H. Graham of Grand Rapids say there will be a famine. I think there will too if we get another wet year.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is all O. K., and I hope I can get you a dozen or more subscribers. I got four last fall. It is the best farm paper printed and there is no mistake about that.—W. R. B., Lowell.

## Farmer Has Been "Mud-Sill" in Economic Construction of Commonwealth

I have received two sample copies of your paper from a neighbor and like the way you size up the starch shirt gentlemen who profess to know a lot about the science of agriculture, while in fact they never spent a day and night on a farm unless it was for a square meal and a spare bed, but they can tell us more in an hour that the average farmer ever knew, as it were.

The great trouble in the past with the average farmer is that he has depended too much upon the other fellow, and now he finds that he has been only a mud-sill in the great economic construc-

tion of affairs throughout the commonwealth—out of sight but mighty essential to the structure. Organization is the first requisite, and as we are practically in the same boat, it stands us in hand to see eye to eye in a political way, as that is the only way to right matters, by putting men in office who have no price fixed upon their heads, which is to be regretted in many instances after they leave us to make laws and regulations of trust. It seems to be the trend of affairs with the farmers at present to lie down on the job, as the prospects for the future do not look promising, considering the way they were used the past season on potatoes, beans, etc.

Enclosed find check for subscription to your excellent paper for one year.—F. H. C., Otsego.

## MAY BE PUT ON RUSSIAN THRONE BY THE KAISER



Alexis Romanoff, heir of Nicholas Romanoff, the deposed Russian Tsar, is the selection of the German government to succeed Nikolai Lenine, the Bolshevik leader, to reign over the masses of Russia.

## Organize or Farm at a Loss

I take your paper and like it very much, but there is one point I would like to have you take up and that is the matter of co-operation. We have two co-operative associations in Mecosta county now and one going up at Morley this spring. I want to tell you right here that it does not require a handsome man to start one, because I started one right here, and I haven't more than ten hairs on top of my head, and they are pretty well down toward the ears.

I started out one day with a petition reading this way: "How many farmers are willing to go into a farm corporation to buy and sell their own products?" In thirty-six hours I had forty names, all men willing to take a hundred dollars of the stock. I next made arrangements for a hall and called a meeting with 66 present. Other meetings

were held and on March 7th we decided to incorporate for \$30,000.

All farmers have either got to organize or be copperheads in the very near future. Now, why not get together and ship your own products and make the profits yourselves. There are three potato houses and a large elevator here, but that does not discourage us any. Wake up, farmers, get busy and see what you can do.—W. S., Rodney.

## Let the Fellow Who Made the Grading Rule Raise the Potatoes This Year

I received a sample copy of M. B. F. Saturday and am very much pleased with it, and I am ordering it sent to me. There has been so much said about the grading of potatoes. It certainly was the hardest knock the farmers ever got from the Government. For 12 years I raised from 15 to 16 acres of potatoes, but this year I am only going to plant 5 acres, on account of the grading. The Government has three of my boys; the oldest boy I have at home now is 15, and therefore I cannot raise more than 5 acres for it is too hard work, and then to have to sell them for little or nothing. Some farmers here had to pay as high as \$4 a day and board for a man, and from 60 to 70 cents a pound for paris green. Some people here say, "why not let those people who make the laws raise the potatoes?" We have heard it said that generally the men who make the laws never saw a potato raised. I have 1,700 bus. of potatoes on hand and would have had half of them sold if it had not been for the grading rules. Potatoes at present are from 70c to a dollar per hundred lbs. for first grade, and about 30c for second grade. I am feeding my cattle two bushels of potatoes a day and will feed most of my potatoes if they go any lower. I'm afraid that next year there will be a potato famine if the grading business is not stopped.—A. P., Sand Lake.

## Will Raise Beets Instead of Beans

You are certainly sticking by the farmers. Everybody, nearly, in this country is going to raise beets this year, as they will be sure of what they will get, as beans are too risky. For the past few years farmers here have gone into beans very heavy, but the seasons have been unfavorable and the price paid this year for beans leaves people around here in debt. We sowed about 35 acres to beans this year and only pulled about 23 acres. Off of 13 acres we had 35 bushels which will pick about 24 pounds, but we are hand-picking them, and for all of our trouble and the cost of seed we will have about 15 bushels of hand-picked beans. Off of the other 22 acres we pulled 10 acres and the other 12 acres were not worth bothering with. We got about 10 bushels of mighty poor pig feed for our trouble and expense. This season we will put in but five acres. We are going to put in 10 acres of sugar beets, as we want to be sure of a little something anyway.

Your paper certainly does the work, as it keeps the sharks and grafters in hot water all the time. At one privately-owned elevator here they are charging you 10c per bushel for cleaning beans, while at the Co-operative elevator they do it free and use you better in every way than they will at the other.

Your paper is certainly helping out the potato growers of the state. In this part of the country we don't go in for potatoes only for our own use, as they cannot be raised very well for profit here. But we like to see our brother farmers in other parts of the state get a square deal.—F. C., Ubly.

## Clean House, From Barnyard to Wall Street

I have been reading your paper for some time and think it is one of the greatest market papers printed for a business farmer, and the key for ousting all middle-men and bust up all Rockefellerers, Armour's, Harvester companies, meat packers, etc. The farmers could, if they would agree and trust each other, get out of their own light and quit building elevators for millionaires. They have all been built by the farmers, why should they not own them? Send men or women to congress who are something else besides politicians. Has any reader seen any of our congressmen come to the rescue of our farmers on the most outrageous grading of potatoes. If it had been any other class they would have been right on the job. Nothing has caused more dissatisfaction among the farmers, and it will lower the coming season's production one-half in a great many counties, when something should have been done to increase it. What right has a potato dealer to put a grade of this kind on the farmer's crops? If you farmers will stick and trust each other half as much as the Big Trust you can put them in the clear. Clean house from barnyard to Wall street.—W. E. R., Stanton.

(Readers' Editorials continued on next page)





# THE FARM HOME

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



## Are You Helping?

**WHAT ARE YOU** doing to help win the war? What are you doing for humanity's sake?

What are you doing to make the lives of those with whom you come in contact brighter and happier? With what spirit are you performing even the most humble duties that devolve upon you? Are you here to help others, or only yourself and family? Do you shut yourself up in your own little sphere, or are you grasping the opportunities that come knocking daily at your door to be of service to your neighbors and the great wide world outside your gates and beyond the distant horizon? The Great Maker gave his life in service to mankind. Can we do less than give our best efforts day after day in a similar cause? Never before in the memory of the generations that live today have there been greater opportunities and need for an exchange of service and helpfulness than the days that are now upon us. "Service" is the word that draws with the strength of a magnet the best thought and effort of the entire world. What a marvelous change this new perception of our duty to our fellow creatures has wrought in the lives of us all.

When we consider the enormous amount of work the different organizations of the nation are accomplishing, we are some times prone to feel that our own little contribution isn't worth having or mentioning. But it is, dear friends. This momentous work is made possible only by the combined helps of individuals like you and me. If our hearts are only filled with that spirit of helping someone, and we are doing all within our power, no matter how little our mite may be, it is worthy of mention and its value is measureless. We cannot all receive the glory that comes with a work well done, but we may all deserve it.

I realize that it is perhaps not so easy for the women of the farms to take as active a part as those of the cities in performing the work that the women of the nation have been called upon to do. And yet I suppose we would all be surprised to learn of the great things that both individual women and organized bodies of farm women are accomplishing. Don't you think it would be tremendously interesting if every woman reader of

this page who belongs to any organization that is taking an active part in any of the preparations for war, would write and tell the rest of us just what that organization is doing? Surely such an exchange of experiences and ideas would give us all a new vision and inspiration. Tell us what your Red Cross unit, your Grange, your Gleaner arbor or your farmer's club is accomplishing. How are you earning money to carry on your Red Cross work? How many are planning to open up their homes to one of the dear little homeless war waifs? What is your community doing to help the Y. M. C. A.? Perhaps some of you have suggestions for individual helps. We may not all be situated so that we can work with a circle of friends or neighbors but there are many ways of helping from our very firesides.

It will only take a few moments of your time to write and tell the rest of our readers what part you or your neighbors are playing to help our dear country secure victory over the brutal enemy that has sent so many of our kind into eternity. Someone needs the suggestion that you have to offer. And don't you think that you would really be doing a great service in telling the rest of us how we, too, can serve?

## "Home-Made" Recipes

**AT THE PRESENT** time no part of the house receives more interest and attention than the kitchen. Food, its preparation, value and conservation are assuming a new importance in the eyes of the American housewife. That "food will win the war" has become a national motto to stay

Communications for this page should be addressed to Editor Farm Home Department, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

the hand of the food waster and lead the patriotic housewife to a careful observance of food-saving rules. We housewives are planning, saving and substituting as never before so that the foods so

## For Rent (After May 1st)

**WANT to rent a little space**  
In a nifty little place?  
Plate glass windows face the street.  
Everything's been kept up neat.  
Used to be a gay saloon  
From which many a merry tune  
Fling itself out in the air  
To the fellows passing there.

**WANT it for a dry goods store?**  
Or a bake shop? Want it for  
Kindergarten for the kids?  
It goes to him who highest bids.  
Lots of use for such a spot;  
Build a church there, like as not.  
Something better and more fair  
Than the grog shop that was there.

**NO more since the For Rent sign**  
Will you ruin boy of mine.  
No more will his strength and time  
And his every hard-earned dime  
Go to swell your pocketbook.  
Bartender, just take a look!  
You're all through! Your last day's spent!  
See, your place is marked "For rent!"

**AND because we women folk**  
(Oh you thought it all a joke!)  
Have a right our vote to cast,  
Rum will disappear so fast!  
Soon across the nation wide  
Mothers will be satisfied;  
Wives will smile with vast content.  
Each saloon will be "For rent!"  
—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

badly needed for transport across the seas to feed our soldiers in the trenches may be had in abundance.

## This Week's Up-to-Date Fashions

We thought we were fortunate when we received this week's patterns. They look so much like spring, it just makes us want to sit right down to the machine and get busy.

No. 8743 is a mighty attractive little child's dress, cut in sizes 4, 6, and 8 years. The little bodice is in double-breasted effect, and the round collar rolls high at the back. The sleeves may be long or short. The one piece skirt with straight lower edge is gathered all around the waist. This would be a dear little dress, made of gingham with white collar and pockets.

For the little girl with small brothers who likes to kick around in bed, and run about in her nightie, pajamas are very sensible garments. Here is a sweet style for the small girl numbered 8763. It comes in sizes small, medium and large. The Empire waistline is formed by running a ribbon through a wide casing, with a pretty bow tied at the front. The pantalettes are also shirred on elastic at the ankles.

A pretty waist for spring wear is numbered 8735. It comes in sizes 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches bust measure. The waist is gathered at the shoulders to the edges of the back. The collar and cuffs are hemstitched. The sleeves may be long or short.

Here is a pretty style for a silk dress. And by the way silk is cheaper than wool this spring. No. 8455 comes in sizes 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. The dress has a draper bib section which extends up in front as far as the square neck. The two-gored skirt is gathered slightly all around to the regulation waistline.

A plain skirt of very good style is numbered 8729. It comes in sizes 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches waist measure. The skirt is gathered at the sides and back to the slightly raised waistline. The skirt has two gores and it is almost straight at the lower edge.

A coat which would go nicely with it is numbered 8760. This is a very smart tailored affair which comes in sizes 34, 36, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. The coat is cut in a straight line from the neck, and a smart collar of satin is another new note. The coat sleeves are in regulation style with two seams.

Price of these patterns ten cents each. Address: Farm Home Department, Michigan Business Farming, Mt. Clemens, Mich.



The eternal question and problem for the housewife in this age of conservation is, "what shall I have for dinner?" and a neighborly chat over the telephone or in a social circle is sure to give rise to the query, "What do you find to eat?"

As the winter supply of vegetables runs low, and the bottoms of the preserves and pickle jars come in sight, there seems to be so little to fall back upon when company comes or we desire to get an especially tasty meal. Now that we must measure sugar by the spoon instead of by the cup and flour has become so very precious we consider long before we proceed to bake the week's supply of cookies, cakes and other sweets. But yet we must find something with which to fill the lunch box—something appetizing and nutritious for the family meal, and if we are low on one article and must substitute another, isn't it really surprising what splendid and unexpected results we usually have?

I know that many of our readers have some good "home-made" recipes. They may seem very simple and unimportant to you, but they might save others hours of pondering and worry. Any recipes that you have tested and proven a success, I am sure all our readers would like to try. Won't you write and tell us about some of your own favorite dishes and how you prepare them?

Now that the maple syrup season is here, wouldn't it be a splendid idea for us all to exchange recipes for a few weeks, showing how to use syrup instead of sugar? Maple syrup especially, has such a delicious flavor all its own, that even a small amount makes a wonderful improvement in many dishes. It may be used in place of sugar in almost any ordinary recipe. However, we must remember that syrup is not as sweet as sugar and must be increased by one-half, but since the syrup is almost wholly liquid, the liquid content of the regular recipe should ordinarily be halved. Here are a few suggestions which I have personally followed and found to be excellent:

## MAPLE NUT BLANC MANGE

2 cups of milk 3 tablespoons corn starch  
½ teaspoonful of salt ½ teaspoonful vanilla  
¼ cupful maple syrup ¼ cupful chopped nuts

Scald milk in a double boiler, mix cornstarch and salt with maple syrup. When smooth stir into the hot milk. Continue stirring until it thickens; then continue cooking for twenty or thirty minutes without stirring. Beat in the nuts. Set out to cool. Serve with either cream or one-half cup of hot maple syrup.

## BAKED BANANAS

Pare the bananas; split in halves lengthwise; place on a buttered pie tin; pour over them one-half cupful of maple syrup and a quarter of a cup of water; place in the oven and bake until bananas are soft, usually 10 or 15 minutes. Serve.

## MAPLE CUSTARD

As a suggestion try using maple syrup instead of sugar in your custards. You will be delighted with the results. I have found the following simple custard very satisfactory:

Put a small piece of butter in stew pan; melt and stir into it one tablespoonful of flour. Gradually add one and one-half cupful of sweet milk or cream. Add ¼ cupful of maple syrup, one well-beaten egg, ½ teaspoonful vanilla. Let all boil up well and watch carefully. When thick, remove from fire and serve hot. A few dates adds to its nutrition and deliciousness.

## A Thrift Thought

One cake yeast, quarter cup lukewarm water, two tablespoons syrup, two tablespoons fat, one cup hot milk, cup rolled oats, half cup of whole wheat flour, half cup sifted white flour. Boil oats and fat in milk one minute. Let stand until lukewarm. Soften yeast in lukewarm water and add syrup. Combine two mixtures, add flour and beat well. Cover and let rise until light, about one hour in moderately warm place, fill well-greased muffin tins two-thirds full. Let rise about 40 minutes. Bake 25 minutes in a moderately hot oven.





# MARKET FLASHES



## WHEAT

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Red	2.17	2.15	2.25
No. 3 Red	2.14	2.12	2.22
No. 2 White	2.15	2.13	2.23
No. 2 Mixed	2.15	2.13	2.23

The new wheat grades which the government proposes to put into effect July 1, are much more liberal and should be found very satisfactory to the grower. The moisture content may be higher and where grain is moving quickly it is now and no doubt will during the war, this should cause the elevators very little trouble although we do not feel that it would be a safe bet during ordinary times. The weights per bushel so far as the grading is concerned, are lowered materially. This, taken together with the raise in the guaranteed price, should prove very satisfactory to the grower.

Winter wheat continues to show improvement. Winter killing seems to have been light. Foreign crop reports are also very satisfactory, the condition showing improvement.



## OATS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	92	.90	1.06 1-2
Standard	91 1-2	.89	1.05
No. 3 White	91	.85 1-2	1.03 1-2

Toward the close of last week the oats market worked considerably lower. Receipts have increased somewhat but not in so great volume as to materially affect the price. The spring-like weather and the general belief among traders that stocks are bound to increase from now on, caused quite heavy selling and this increased on the break. It has been expected that oats would decline at the end of the heavy corn movement and heavy holders evidently made up their minds to unload before the slump. This slump was to be expected at this time as the market has been worked away high, on account of scarcity of receipts and heavy demand. We feel however, that oats are strong and that no heavy decline will occur, although they can scarcely be expected to maintain the high level of the past few weeks.

The exceptionally high prices have brought out a considerable volume of oats to country elevators and as this grain moves there will no doubt be an easier feeling on the market.



## CORN

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	1.76	1.46	1.76
No. 3 Yellow	1.75	1.45	1.75
No. 2 Mixed	1.70	1.41	1.70

Corn continues to move in greatly increased volume. Reserves are being built up rapidly and generally the tension generally is greatly relieved. Prices have worked lower, as was sure to be the case. The quality of receipts is much improved as is shown by the fact that 50 per cent of the receipts are now grading No. 6 or better. Corn is now being shipped to Atlantic and Gulf ports in solid trainloads, the government providing cars to move it. Export sales are constantly increasing and liberal clearances are expected in the near future.



## RYE

While there has been no noticeable increase in the quantity of rye arriving, still the market during the past week has been rather uncertain. Millers have come to feel that the price



## LAST MINUTE WIRES



**CHICAGO WIRE**—Oat market is showing renewed strength under heavy buying both for domestic and export use. Corn market steady on the better grades but undergrades 10c to 15c lower. Good demand for beans and market shows advancing tendencies.

**DETROIT SPECIAL**—The bean market is more active under increased buying. Offerings over the state are light and stocks are firmly held. Hay arrivals not showing much increase. Market firm. Potatoes weak under increased receipts.

**NEW YORK CITY WIRE**—No improvement in the hay situation. Advise withholding shipment for few days longer. Supplies in excess of demand.

has gone just about high enough, especially when additions to the price fail to bring out additional supplies. The result of this attitude and cessation of buying orders in Detroit has brought about a drop in price. Other markets remain at about the same level as formerly or are quoted nominal. One exception to this is the Buffalo market; prices there showing an advance. Detroit is now quoting No. 2 rye at \$2.75. The Chicago market is quoted at \$2.80, but is really nominal.

### Barley

The barley market under pressure of increased malting demand, has shown a further advance in prices. The restrictions on the maltsters have been relaxed to a certain extent. There is, of course, a continuation of the heavy milling demand. At Chicago sales of milling and malting were made as high as \$2.25 spot and \$2.38 to arrive. Feed sales \$1.72 to \$1.95; screenings reached \$1.80. The Monday market showed no quotable changes, but there was a good demand and the market was firm. Offerings were more liberal. One car of exceptionally fancy was sold to a pearler at \$2.43, or a cent better than the previous high point for the year made last week. The quotable range \$2.10 to \$2.43; the lower grades \$2.10 to \$2.25; fair to good \$2.26 to \$2.36; good to choice \$2.35 to \$2.40, and fancy up to \$2.43. Feed and mixing quotable at \$2 to \$2.15, and screenings \$1 to \$1.80.



## BEANS

GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
C. H. P.	12.50	14.00	14.00
Prime	12.40	13.85	13.85
Red Kidneys	15.50	16.50	15.00

Under a light demand and a desire on the part of certain dealers to see the price of beans work lower, there has been somewhat of a decline, especially on the Detroit market. We really do not see the reason for this for there has certainly been no material increase in the quantity of beans offered and as a matter of fact we are of the opinion that the volume of offerings has been reduced. Cer-

tain of the large grocers and canners seem to have the idea that beans will work lower as transportation facilities improve but they are doomed to a rude awakening. The price of beans is not a matter of transportation but of supply and demand.

We have often said that we had every confidence in the bean situation and we repeat it here. We are of the opinion that the major portion of the wet stock has been marketed, or will be soon, and that stocks which are now held, so far as the growers are concerned, are in better shape. One has but to note quotations being made on seed beans, ranging all the way from \$8 to \$12 per bu., or better, to get a line on what good dry stock is really worth. Not that we expect to see this price paid generally for beans, but it is an indication.

Beans are worth \$8 or better per bushel and we have no doubt but what that price will be realized long before the next crop. In the meantime, get your wet stock dried or disposed of, but hold back if the market goes any lower.



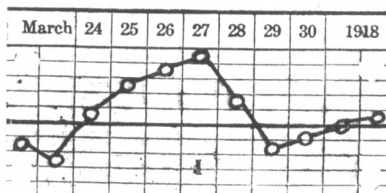
## FLOUR & FEED

Detroit quotations: Flour, per 196 lbs., in eighth paper sacks, straight winter, \$11.30; spring patent, \$11.50; rye flour, \$14@14.50 in jobbing lots. Feed, in 100-lb. sacks, jobbing lots, bran, \$24.50; standard middlings, \$36.50; fine middlings, \$42.50; cracked corn, \$76.50; coarse cornmeal, \$74; chop, \$60 per ton.

Milwaukee quotations: The lack of supplies of regular millfeeds, due to the constant restriction of wheat milling operations, has made the millfeed market entirely nominal. Substitute feeds are moving in a volume limited only by the output. The extraordinary demand for all kinds of feeds continues and the ability to fill the demand is probably less favorable. Current quotations (nominal) are: Sacked bran, \$35@40.50; middlings, \$37@42; rye feed, \$50.50; red dog, \$53; oil meal, \$58.50, 100-lb. sacks; gluten feed, \$49.80 bulk; \$54.80 100-lb. sacks, Chicago.

## THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent March 24 to 28 and April 1 to 5, warm waves March 23 to 27 and 31 to April 4, cool waves March 26 to 30 and April 3 to 7. These will bring high temperatures. The last dates will bring most severe storms and most rain. Generally good crop weather and favorable weather for farming operations. Storms will be severe but not dangerous. Rainfall will be less than normal as a whole, with most rain in eastern and southern sections. Good time to sow oats and plant and sow other early maturing crops, east of Rockies near latitude 40.

Next warm wave will reach Vancouver near April 6 and temperatures

will rise on all the Pacific slope. It will cross crest of Rockies by close of April 7, plains sections 8, meridian 90, great lakes and Ohio-Tennessee valleys, 9, eastern sections 10, reaching vicinity of Newfoundland about April 11. Storm wave will follow about one day behind warm wave and cool wave about one day behind storm wave.

This will bring higher than usual temperatures, followed by a cold wave that will carry frosts well to southward. Less than usual rain for such storms; most rain in eastern and southern sections. But cropweather will be fair and farmers generally encouraged.

The very great storms expected the first week in March broke on March 9, a few days later than expected. The solar system is a large and complicated piece of electrical machinery, and it is always very difficult to make exact calculations of its workings. But we seldom miss as much as we did on the great storms of March 9.

W. T. Foster



## CLOVER SEED

Clover seed has remained steady during the week with prices in some cases inclined to work a trifle lower. Stocks at Toledo continue to decline and the carryover will be lighter than in years. The alsyke market is quiet but the undertone is firm. Timothy has been fairly active during the week with prices about stationary. Detroit quotations: Prime red clover, \$20; March, \$19.50; alsyke, \$15.50; timothy, \$3.80.

Toledo seed market: Clover, No. 2, \$19@19.25; No. 3, \$18.50@18.80; Rejected, \$18@18.40; N. E. G., \$3.60@17.50. Alsyke, No. 2, \$14.95@15.20; No. 3, \$14.60@14.85; rejected, \$14.20@14.50; N. E. G., (mixed with clover, timothy, etc.) \$3.60@14.00. Timothy, No. 2, \$3.50@3.60; No. 3, \$3.30@3.40; rejected, \$3.05@3.20; N. E. G., 45c @3.00.



## HAY

Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	26 50 27 00	25 50 26 00	24 50 25 00
Chicago	30 00 31 00	29 00 30 00	28 00 29 00
Cincinnati	33 00 34 00	32 00 33 00	31 00 32 00
Pittsburgh	32 50 33 00	31 00 32 00	29 50 30 00
New York	31 00 32 00	30 00 31 00	29 00 30 00
Richmond	37 50 38 00	36 75 37 00	32 50 33 00

Markets	No. 1 Light Mixed	No. 1 Clover Mixed	No. 1 Clover
Detroit	25 50 26 00	25 00 25 50	24 50 25 00
Chicago	28 00 29 00	28 00 28 50	27 50 28 00
Cincinnati	33 00 33 50	33 00 33 50	29 00 29 50
Pittsburgh	31 50 32 00	31 50 32 00	31 50 32 50
New York	27 00 28 00	27 00 27 50	28 00 28 50
Richmond	36 50 37 00	35 00 36 00	34 00 34 50

No change or consequence in the hay market. Receipts, if anything are lighter than they were a week ago. The Detroit situation is unchanged and firm. Arrivals only moderate. Prices the same as those of last week.

Offerings are light at Chicago and there is a better demand for timothy than for the lower grades is still the rule. Market is somewhat quiet on prairie and the lower grades of clover mixed. Straw is in lighter demand.

St. Louis reports a quiet market on clover with a fair demand for timothy and clover mixed. Prices there are unchanged. Cincinnati continues to call for hay and conditions there are very good for all grades, although there is not so much call for heavy clover mixed and clover as for the better grades of timothy and light mixed.

The better grades are in demand at Richmond. Receipts there have increased somewhat but to such an extent as to effect the market. The Pittsburgh market maintains the former range of prices but arrivals there are increasing and there is a weak undertone.

New York has continued to receive liberal receipts and prices continue to work lower. There is a considerable stock of unsold hay there now and also a considerable amount rolling.



## POTATOES

Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	1.45 cwt.	1.30 cwt.
Chicago	1.25	1.05
Cincinnati	1.75	1.60
New York	1.80	1.65
Pittsburgh	1.75	1.60
Baltimore, Md.	1.75	1.60

The potato market is not in satisfactory shape at this time and there is a great diversity of opinion as to its future. Many factors enter into the situation and it is a very difficult matter to say what the future may have in store. Supplies are plentiful on all markets and for some reason the consumptive demand is extremely light. Every effort is being made to increase the use of tubers and just at this time there is much talk of installing plants for dehydrating and for the making of potato flour.



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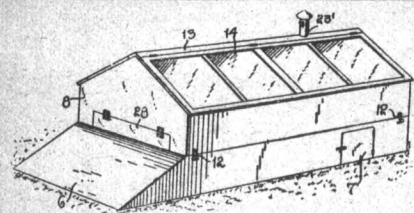
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## Michigan Live Stock Insurance Co.

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Grand Rapids, Michigan

What may become of this is still a matter of conjecture.

Most markets report prices at about the same level and conditions altho for some unaccountable reason last week saw an increased demand at Chicago and New York and a slight advance in price. Latest reports from these two points indicate that the demand has again fallen to about what it has been for several weeks past.

While cars are more plentiful at shipping points, grocers have been delayed in hauling on account of the condition of the roads. At this time it looks as though there was plenty of stock back in first hands and that it would soon move to market. Should receipts greatly increase we believe there could be but one result, a lower market.

### Onions

The Detroit market shows no change and is decidedly weak from all angles. There is an oversupply and the demand is light. Prices remain at about the former level of \$1.50 to \$2.00 per cwt.

The Chicago market is demoralized entirely and as a matter of fact there is no market there at this time. There is a heavy accumulation there and still shippers are sending along shipment after shipment and adding to the over-supply. We advise holding back for a week or so until the market has some chance to clean up and get on its feet again. Eastern markets are in much the same condition and sales are being made at prices greatly under regular quotations.



## BUTTER

Eastern butter markets have experienced a very sharp decline during the past week. Losses have been heavy and business generally unsatisfactory. It has been apparent for some time that prices would have to be adjusted to meet conditions as they now exist and during the last week a start has been made.

Nearly all grades of fresh creamery declined 1/2 to 1c on Saturday last. This was followed by further weakness on Monday with sales of extras at 46 1/2c@47c. That price held on Tuesday though with increased weakness, and on Wednesday there was no hesitation in accepting 46 1/2c., with home trade generally dull but quite a quantity of stock taken for export. When the exporters withdrew on Thursday there was no support to the market and prices dropped heavily, extras selling at 45c@45 1/2c. This was followed by a further sharp break on Friday and an unsettled feeling; a few early sales of extras reported at 44 1/2c, but later it became easy to buy at 44 1/2c and some lots went at 44c, especially where the buyers were not insistent on a technical inspection. The higher scoring creameries have gradually fallen to 44 1/2c@45 1/2c, closing weak. While the foreign demand lasted firsts moved out pretty well but for the past day or two they have declined sharply and close at 43@43 1/2c. Seconds have weakened even more than the finer goods and are having exceedingly narrow outlet they are offering at 41 1/2c@42 1/2c., and drag heavily at that. Unsalted creamery has been very hard to move and outside of the regular channels of distribution the business has been on about a par with the salted goods, some lots for less.



## POULTRY

LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	New York
Turkey	30-32	34-35	25-33
Ducks	30-32	30-32	30-35
Geese	30-32	26-27	30-35
Springs	30-32	29-30	30-35
Hens			

No. 2 Grade 2 to 3 Cents Less

Receipts of poultry continue very light and the market remains firm. The demand is not strong but at the same time it is greater than the receipts on the majority of markets. Frozen poultry is firmly held and there is a lively trade in such fowls, owing to the prohibition on the live article. Only a very few ducks and geese coming and what arrivals there are show very poor conditions. Turkeys are in light supply and generally of poor quality.



## EGGS

The egg market is well supplied but heavy buying has taken care of the increase in supplies up to this time. Heavy shipments are coming from the southwest and northern sections are now shipping considerable stock. Detroit is quoting fresh firsts at 37 to 37 1/2c per doz. New York quotes fresh firsts at 39 to 39 1/2c. Chicago is quoting fresh firsts at 36c per doz.

### Wool

There has been a fairly keen interest in the market this past week in all medium wools which are available and free of Government control. Fine wools also are held more firmly, although relatively less strong than medium grades. The government terms for transferring foreign wools under its import options indicate that it will take the great bulk of the wool included under those options. Manufacturers report a very firm situation with little effort on their part to sell goods. New clip wools apparently have not begun to move in the west yet, owing to lack of transportation. The government has stated that it has no intention of interfering with the marketing of this year's domestic clip.

Assorted grades from east of Missouri river: Tubs, washed, 60c@75c; medium, unwashed, 55c@60c; coarse, unwashed, 55c@60c; light fine bright, 33c@35c; heavy, fine unwashed, 30c; dark and dingy, medium unwashed, 40c@55c; taggy fleeces, burry and blk. wood 5c per lb. discount.

### Dressed Hogs and Calves

Demand continues good for dressed hogs and veal. Arrivals of pork are much lighter, while dressed calves are in fair supply. No. 1 dressed pork is bringing around 21c Detroit. Dressed calves are selling from 17 to 21c, according to quality.

### Chicago Live Stock Letter

Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Mar. 18. --The response of the market to the changes that are being made in the policy of the food administration as regards the problems of meat production and distribution, and to an extremely broad outlet for meat products, has been the establishment during the last week of the highest set (Markets continued on page 16)

AN OPPORTUNITY for Lady or Gentleman to earn a handsome income acting as local representative in spare time, for a new product. Clarence Dickie, Augusta, Michigan.

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# County Crop Reports

**BRANCH (Southwest)**—Farmers are cutting their summer wood and getting ready for spring work. Freezing and thawing is hurting wheat and clover. There has been quite a few auctions in this vicinity the past two weeks. Hay is selling at auctions from \$20 to \$25 per ton; oats \$5c to \$1.10; milch cows from \$80 to \$100; sheep \$20 to \$30; brood sows \$40 to \$65. Young stock is selling good. A few farms are changing hands.—D. M. H., March 11.

**MECOSTA (Central)**—Farmers are busy cutting wood and waiting for the snow to go so they can begin farming. Farmers will plant a large amount of oats this spring and not so many beans and potatoes on account of the high price of farm labor and the uncertain price of produce.—L. M., Hersey, March 11.

**HURON (Western)**—Milder weather is a saver on feed and fuel. Feed rather scarce and high. Ditches not being open yet leaves lots of water on the fields. Stock is looking in fair condition. A good many farmers are testing their corn and beans for seed.—A. F. C., Pigeon, March 9.

**MISSAUKEE (North Central)**—Farmers are doing nothing only waiting for spring to come. One year ago they were all anxious for the opportunity to plant a good many crops. This year they do not know what to do. The most of them are talking a few potatoes and less beans and there will not be much hay to cut this year. No potatoes moving now.—H. E. N., Cutcheon, March 8.

**GRAND TRAVERSE (N. E.)**—Threshing beans about done. Some wood being cut for summer. A car of shelled corn came in the elevator and the man wants to trade even for rye. Some ice being put up. A farmer here had the misfortune to have a horse get in the lake where some careless neighbors neglected to fence after taking out ice and the animal is liable to die. Fine weather and snow going fast.—C. L. B., Williamsburg, March 12.

**ST. JOSEPH (Eastern)**—Farmers are drawing poles together for buzz piles and cutting other wood. Hay moving fast and is high because of a scarcity in this neighborhood. Sales are plentiful. Stock and tools are selling for all they are worth and in some instances more. At one sale corn fodder sold for 21c bundle and at another sale a binder bought for \$35 used three years was sold for \$136. Get rich quick there. Farmers husking some corn and find it pretty soft. Sure March weather, warmer and hard winds.—W. W., Colon, Mar. 11.

**LAPEER (East)**—Farmers are getting ready for spring work. Seed oats are going to be high, but I think there is lots of seed in the farmers' hands. Some cattle are going to market with the price at about 10c per lb for good steers. Many hogs going to market; cows selling high, \$80 to \$100 for grade cows. Weather is still cold with the ground covered with snow. Roads very rough.—C. A. B., Im-lay City, Mar. 16.

**BERRIEN (West)**—Farmers are hauling manure and getting ready to plow for oats, and many are pumping water out of their cellars to keep potatoes from rotting. Many cellars which never had any water in before and filled. Buyers are going to load potatoes here next week, price \$1 per cwt. Much dissatisfaction is expressed here by the farmers at the potato situation. Many farmers will experiment with barley this spring for an early hog feed.—O. Y., Baroda, March 15.

**CLARE (North)**—Nothing doing here owing to heavy storm of Saturday the 9th and on the 14th, the heaviest snow of the season. Farmers are buying hay at from \$20 to \$25 per ton, according to the quality. Some of the boys are having success in skunk hunting.—D. B., Lake, March 15.

**ARENAC (East)**—Some products of the farm began to move this week. Oats are \$30 a bushel to the farmer; hay \$18 and \$20 on cars. Auctions are very numerous and prices in general are good, especially good farm tools. By the way the farmers talk here there will be very few potatoes planted, less beans and more beets. Potatoes are quoted here at 55c per cwt. There seems to be a good bunch of the spuds in farmers' hands.—W. B. R., Mar. 9.

**BAY (Southeast)**—The snow melted slowly here and froze so often that the ditches are not open and the snow is all melted and there is more water and ice on the low lands than I ever saw before in 30 years. Most of the wheat has been under ice and water for over a month. Roads will be washed out in nearly all low places, and farmers are likely to be shut in until repairs can be made. Not much being sold now and practically no improvements being made around here this year; the costs of building material are too high.—J. C. A., Munger, Mar. 15.

**TUSCOLA (Central)**—Farmers are buzzing wood and getting ready to tap their sugar bushes. Not much produce is moving. Just now roads are in bad shape. Everybody is looking for seed corn. Some are buying hay to run them until spring. Quite a number of cows are dying around here. Wheat and rye are looking bad. Many farmers are signing up for beets now as they are going to enlist the high school boys to help, and also as the price is right. Some farmers are talking of putting in sorghum this summer.—R. B. C., Caro, March 16.

**TUSCOLA (Northeast)**—More snow and ice will surely damage crops. Many cellars are filled with water. Farmers are selling hogs and cattle. Auction sales are all the go now. Farm help is scarce.—S. S., Cass City, March 16.

**OTSEGO (West Central)**—The weather is nice but cold and windy, like March

weather is. The farmers are all wishing for the snow to go so they can commence their spring work.—C. A., Gaylord, March 16.

**ST. JOSEPH (East)**—Farmers are getting up their summer wood. Soil in bad condition, freezing and thawing, poor show for wheat. Farmers are selling hay and fodder.—W. W., Colon, March 16.

**GENESEE (South)**—Farmers are getting started with their spring work, hauling manure, tapping their sugar bushes, trimming trees and attending auctions. The soil was thawed out quite a bit during the warm weather before this last cold spell but it is frozen again. Farmers are selling hay, beans, livestock and potatoes. The farmers certainly appreciate the stand taken by Michigan Business Farming regarding potato grading and other marketing problems concerning the business of farming. The Grand Ledge Milk condensary at Fenton started again Monday after being closed down for two weeks on account of not having sugar. The milk producers around Fenton will hold a meeting at Fenton on March 16.—C. W. S., Fenton, March 15.

**CALHOUN (West)**—Cutting wood and attending auction sales is the order of the day when the weather will permit.—V. H. J., Battle Creek, March 15.

**MANISTEE (Southeast)**—I have not seen any report from this part of the county. The farmers in this vicinity are not doing much but cutting wood and doing chores. We have had lots of snow and cold weather. Not much of anything changing hands. Bean threshing all done and beans were a very poor quality, average about four bushels to the acre with the exception of a few that were not frosted. There are lots of frozen potatoes here. What potatoes we have will run about half No. 2. There won't be more than half the potatoes and beans planted this year in this vicinity as there was last year. The elevator men are charging \$30 for hay and \$1.10 for oats. At the present price of beans and potatoes how can the farmer buy his feed to put out crops? We have some beans that stand the government test of 95 per cent germination, free from all diseases. Any one needing good seed beans please write to me and I will help them secure it free of charge, as I am interested in farming and in feeding our boys across the pond. I think the M. B. F. is the best farm paper I ever read. I think every Michigan farmer ought to take it. F. H. R., Com-pemish, March 5.

**OCEANA (North)**—Farmers are putting up ice and getting up buzz wood for the coming summer. Farmers are complaining about so many frozen potatoes in the cellars and pits. Some think one-third of their potatoes are frozen.—W. W. A., Crystal Valley, March 9.

**EMMET (North)**—Not much produce moving. Beans are all threshed but are a poor quality, yielding from 2 to 4 bushels to the acre.—H. W., Levering, March 9.

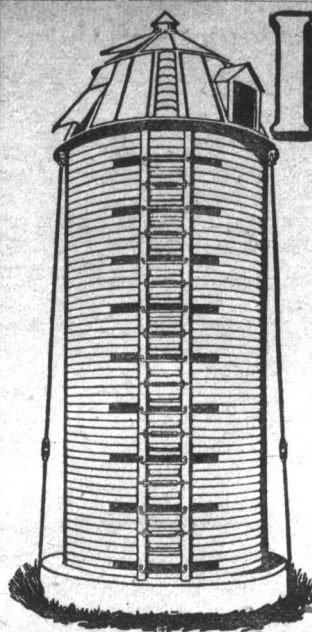
**OSCEOLA (Northeast)**—Many farmers around here have been selling potatoes at 80c to \$1 per cwt. Seconds are not being bought at any price. Most of the farmers around here say they will not raise any more than enough potatoes for their own use this year, unless the present grading system is discontinued. One of our leading farmers who raised 42 acres of potatoes last year says he will only plant 3 bushels of seed this year. Many farmers are talking of raising oats and spring wheat instead of potatoes. The writer is one of them.—W. A. S., Marion, March 11.

**BAY (North)**—Just when we began to appreciate fair weather along came another blizzard that was almost as severe as any we have had this winter. It was a freakish storm, being accompanied by thunder and lightning at one time. The farmers have not made much of a start towards farm work. Some are getting their grass seeds and quite an acreage will be seeded down. Sugar beets at \$10 per ton is quite a drawing card and farmers know the country needs the sugar therefore I believe there is going to be considerable acreage planted this year.—J. E. McK., Pinconning, March 10.

**LAKE (Northeast)**—The weather is warmer with lots of ice and rain. Some farmers holding auction sales; cows are bringing from \$70 to \$75. Hens bring \$1.95. Not much demand for horses. Farm tools bring a good price at the sales. There are a lot of farmers short of feed and not much to be found in this vicinity. There is a scarcity of seed corn. Some farmers are buying seed beans as theirs are wet. Quite a number of the farmers are making maple syrup.—E. G. D., Luther, March 14.

**GRATIOT (Eastern)**—Nothing doing around here except hauling wood to town, cutting wood, buzzing wood and a few are hauling. Snow nearly all gone. Quite a lot of water and ice on wheat. None on mine to speak of. Several have their sugar bushes tapped. Sap runs good. One man talks of putting in oats next week, but I guess he will change his mind.—F. B. J., Wheeler, March 18.

**ST. CLAIR (Central)**—Farmers are all busy cutting wood and getting ready for spring work. The frost is fast coming out of the ground. Looks like an early spring. The birds are all here except a few that come later, like the swallow and a few others. Farmers are not holding anything to speak of. There is nothing to hold. Not much building this year. Lots of Red Cross work going on. Quite a few of our local boys are enlisting. This will make farm workers very scarce. Not so many sales this spring.—I. J., Smiths Creek, March 18.



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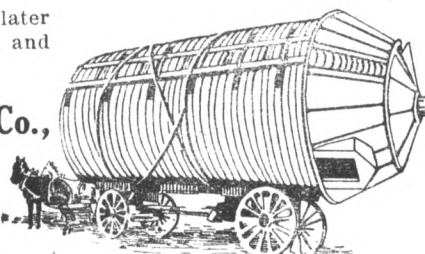
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**FOR SALE**—House and 5 acres of land  
in small town. For information write  
Box 47, Summit City, Michigan.

**FOR SALE**—70 acres, 9 timber, build-  
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\$3,000. Easy terms. Box 82, Dryden,  
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**214 ACRES HAY**, grain & Stock farm,  
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heavy soil, \$50.00 per acre. Particu-  
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acres of land, 8 of which contain 200  
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sprayer, crates, barrels, etc. Excellent  
location, 1/4 mile north of city limits on  
trunk line road. Bounded on west by  
Shiawassee River. G. M. Getman, Owos-  
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**FOR SALE**—80 acres. It was two  
40's side by side. Each 40 has a house  
with a cellar and well, orchard barn with  
basement and hen house. One 40 has  
windmill with tanks. Land nearly all  
under cultivation, on main road, half  
mile to school and church. 1 1/2 miles to  
market. Good soil. John Edwards, Sears,  
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**I HAVE ONE** of the best producing  
farms in Michigan (260 acres) I have  
thirty pure-bred Jerseys, some registered.  
I have full set of tools. I want an active  
business farmer to help build up the busi-  
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Permanent. W. E. D., care Michigan  
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Large wood lot. General store and post-  
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buyers. Only ten thousand dol-  
lars, for quick sale, half cash, balance  
easy terms. Liberal discount for all cash.  
Good reason for selling. Write, Mrs.  
Ella F. Daly, Riggsville, Michigan.

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A fine Farm of 530 acres—2 miles from  
town. Improvements in every way up  
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GLADWIN, MICH.

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**Seed POTATOES**. Late Petoskeys.  
Clean seed. Ask for price. Hol-  
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\$3.60. Order early. Sample for stamp.  
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**FOR SALE**—FRANCIS Fall - bearing  
Strawberry plants \$1.50 per  
100; \$10.00 per 1,000. W. F. Tindall,  
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I have a few bushels left for sale,  
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**SEED BEANS** Little white 98 per cent  
germination. Write for  
prices.  
Greenhoe Bros., Elwell, Michigan.

**200 Bushels of Shelled Seed Corn**, yellow,  
1916 corn, raised in Indiana, tested  
by M. A. C. College, tested 8 per cent.  
Might be O. K. for corn to husk, but  
would recommend for ensilage or silo.  
Price, \$5.00 56 lbs., F. O. B. W. E.  
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**Seed Beans** Choice Medium  
Pea Beans that  
have been run  
thru fanning mill and pick three pounds  
per hundred. Threshed from field with-  
out excess moisture, \$9 per bu., bags extra.  
J. R. Campbell, St. Johns, Mich., R. No. 10.

# LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

## BREEDING THE DAIRY HERD FOR BUTTERFAT

In the work of selecting the best possible dairy sires, the best breeders have for a number of years given special attention to heredity. At the beginning milk records served the purpose. By studying the milk records they got to know a little about the sire and dam and as time went on about the grandsires and granddams. As the years passed it became more and more helpful to consult these records with regard to the selection of sires that descended from high producing ancestry.

These early milk records only gave information about the milk yield of the cows and stopped there. Some of the most desirable information was missing, i. e., the amount of fat the milk contained. The cows of certain breeds began to produce wonderful amounts of milk, but the percentage of fat was very low. Many dairy farmers began to find it difficult to produce milk that would meet the requirements of the city trade. The type and milk records of the cows were good in their way, but the end immediately in view was to increase the amount of fat in the milk and the milk records contained no information on this point. When seeking a breeding sire they said: "We know that the animal's sire and dam were from good milking ancestry, but if you can tell us something about the quality of the milk of the sire's dam and granddams that's just what we want to know. We want a sire that will help to raise the percentage of fat in the milk of our herd." At that time there was no reliable method of obtaining facts along these lines and the breeder who was selecting a sire was obliged to take his chances.

Then the Babcock tester came into existence and furnished the desired information about the quality of the milk. These facts placed in the hands of the breeders of dairy cattle in the course of time enabled them to select the best animals for breeding purposes with greater accuracy. Today, every successful breeder of dairy cattle knows that there is no safer road to the improvement of the quantity and quality of the milk than by studying the information furnished by the scales and Babcock tester.

The percentage of fat in the milk is of particular importance in deciding the question of milk yield as, unlike the quantity of the milk produced, it is not influenced by the quantity or quality of the food. The fat percentage is therefore an heredity characteristic. A few examples of the results obtained by the use of sires from a line of rich milking ancestry may throw some light on the question of hereditary influences behind the sire that influence the percentage of fat in the milk produced by the offspring.

In Denmark, a country celebrated for the excellence of its dairy herds, the cows are nearly all Holstein-Friesians, with a very few Jersey herds. But the Danes, like the Hollanders, had for many years been increasing the milk flow by selecting the calves from cows which gave the most milk and not paying any attention to the butterfat. Their cows sometimes gave 14,000 lbs. of milk a year, but as a rule the milk was very thin. The dairymen sold their milk to the creamery for so much a hundred pounds. Then came the use of the Babcock tester business was changed in a very short time.

The farmers formed associations with about 500 cows in each, bought a tester and hired a man to go from farm to farm and test the milk from each cow. The poor milking cows were by and by turned out and better cows put in their places. At the shows the judges are now paying more attention to the amount of milk and the fat percent than to the outward looks of the cow. In the creameries the milk is tested and the farmers are paid according to the amount of butterfat, so that it is to everybody's

interest to produce rich milk. These small cow test associations have been working successfully for more than twenty years. Since their beginning the quantity of milk required to make a pound of butter has been reduced nearly three pounds, which plainly shows that the milk is getting richer. By selecting the calves from the richest milking cows, and bringing the heifers to bulls only from a rich milking family, by frequently using the tester, they have for each generation been adding a little to the fat percentage.

Many of the most prominent breeders in America are making no effort to get above the four percent fat standard. The market does not demand a richer milk and besides the increase in the percentage of fat is sure to be followed by a diminished quantity. The demand for other milk products is also having its influence upon the demand for greater milk production rather than too great an increase in its richness. Many economists are of the opinion that eventually cream will be considered merely a by-product; and the price of milk will be influenced largely by the demand for its other food nutrients. Some of the powdered milk factories now ship cream to the cities and call it a by-product. It is to every dairy farmer's interest to breed his herd up to a fair standard in the production of butterfat, but it is doubtful if it will pay him to attempt to get above the four percent mark, unless he has a special market for his milk.—C. B. Ford.

## ARE JERSEYS A HARDY BREED OF CATTLE?

A criticism often directed against the Jersey breed is that the animals are not hardy enough to stand the severe weather. Possibly such criticism has as its basis the fact that the climate of Jersey Island, the birthplace of the breed is rather mild. But the criticism has no basis; in fact, Eminent's Bess, one of the world's most famous cows was bred, raised and made her great record in the severe climate of the Michigan Peninsula and Passport, a Pennsylvania Jersey which has just broken the milk record of the breed, lived while on test in an open shed during a winter when the thermometer registered at several times, 30 degrees below zero. Wherever the Jersey cow has gone she has shown her ability to adapt herself readily to all conditions, climate and otherwise.—W. Milton Kelly.

## Veterinary Department

My cattle have a skin disease which appears in spots over the body. I have been using sheep dip, applying it about twice a week. Have stopped the disease from spreading and scabs have formed over the spots. The cattle rub these off, causing them to bleed. I would like to know when the disease is cured and if I should continue same treatment or some other.—F. M., Lapeer, Michigan.

Your cattle are suffering from Herpes-Tonsurans, which is an affection of the skin, the first manifestation of this malady consists of the appearance of very small, hard and rounded wart-like nodules. They may appear on various parts of the body simultaneously; however, the different locations usually become involved successively. In this stage the animal will be noticed rubbing the parts on posts and other objects. The disease commonly is infectious and transmissible in nature, usually affecting a number of animals in the herd. It is transmissible to man also, and the caretaker of infected animals not infrequently develops the disease; the disease is slightly more prevalent in young cattle than in old ones, and occurs under all conditions of housing as well as at

pasture. In the course of three or four weeks the nodules increase to a considerable size. They are no longer rounded, but now appear irregularly flattened and raised on the normal skin surface. Their color is of a grayish, ashlike tint, and their thickness sometimes exceeds half an inch. The immediate outer edge of the formation is usually free, and a considerable portion can be jerked loose without disclosing any vascular basic attachments. These bark-like formations frequently assume the size of the hand. The disease evidently interferes in some manner with the nutrition, because the animals affected lose some weight, almost invariably. This impairment of the usual well-being can hardly be attributed to the irritation which exists because, as a rule, after the nodular stage has been passed there is apparently little or no itching. In treating this disease, first remove all formations that can be removed and paint the parts twice daily with pure iodine tincture for about a week. The formations which can not be safely extracted because of extensive contact with the dermal tissues are to be soaked several times daily with olive oil, after three to five days of these soakings most of the formation can be removed without trouble. The exposed area is then submitted to the Iodine treatment twice a day until cured.

## AMONG THE BREEDERS

By W. MILTON KELLY, Field Editor  
Home Address: Howell, Michigan

C. V. Tracy of Ithica, Mich. offers two young roan and white Shorthorn bulls for immediate delivery. These young bulls are from good lines of breeding and are very low for quick sale.

Floyd H. Bannister of Springport, Mich. has some O. I. C. males and females of good quality that he will price right. All of these pigs will be crated and shipped C. O. D. to readers of M. B. F. who are in the market for that kind of stock.

Mr. M. J. McPherson Farms Co. of Howell, Mich. recently returned from Florida where he and Mrs. McPherson have been spending several weeks. Mr. McPherson has three farms well stocked with good Holstein cattle. Having been in the business 22 years, is in a position to fill large or small orders.

When writing to advertisers do not forget to mention the fact that you saw their advertisement in M. B. F. It not only insures an immediate reply but it gives our advertisers the benefit of knowing how their advertising is paying them. It only requires a few words and it will help us and the men who are advertising with us. I thank you.

The young bull offered for \$200 by T. W. Sprague of Battle Creek, Michigan, should find a home at the head of some of our Michigan herds. Mr. Sprague has gained a reputation for honesty and fair dealing. If you are in need of such a young sire you should lose no time in visiting Mr. Sprague's farm and giving this handsome young bull the once over.

Dorr D. Buell of Elmira, Mich. breeds Percheron horses, Holstein and Angus cattle, Shropshire sheep and Duroc hogs. Mr. Buell has a large farm and is in a position to handle your orders to good advantage. If you are in need of animals on any of the above kinds and breeds write Mr. Buell or better still take a trip to Elmira and make your own selections. You will find all of his stock as represented and prices in keeping with the quality of his offerings.

Mr. W. Van Appledorn, proprietor of Holland Hatchery of Holland, Mich. gives us some very good advice concerning the handling and care of baby chicks. He says "Be sure to have a place ready for chicks when they arrive. Do not allow them to become chilled when removing them from box. Watch them carefully until fully accustomed to their new homes. Warm their drinking water a trifle at first and feed a little and often. We give our chicks dry mash feed from the start. Mash is composed of equal parts of weight of bran, middlings, gluten feed and cornmeal, with about five per cent of beef scrap added. Also give a light scattering of prepared chick feed three times a day. Aim to keep your chicks active and also contented. Using good judgment with a little extra care the first two weeks you should raise 95 per cent of all the chicks received.



## CATTLE

**"TOP-NOTCH" HOLSTEINS**

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

Extract U. S. Dept. of Agric. Bulletin.

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

King Colantha DeOakdale, No. 16257, Born Nov. 4, 1915.

His Sire's 3 nearest	Better	7 days	30.97
Dams average	Milk	7 days	579.66
His Dam's 3 nearest	Butter	7 days	30.59
Record	Butter	7 days	585.00
	Milk	30 days	124.19
	Milk	30 days	2436.69

(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	546.66

(Including 2-3 and 1-41-2 yr. old.)  
Ideally marked, about half and half. Price \$250.

McPherson Farms Co., Howell, Mich.

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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.

**DISPERSION**

Twenty Head of Registered Holstein Cows. Strong in the blood of Pontiac Korndyke. Eight head sired by Sire Abbe Kirk De Kol Marceca. Large, thrifty young cows in good condition. A number of these cows have made good records. I want to sell this offering to men who have use for a carload or more of such stock. EDGAR COLLIER, Fowlerville, Mich.

**HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN CATTLE**

Account present labor conditions and sickness in the family we offer for immediate sale our entire herd of about 20 choice cows. This herd is composed of large vigorous cows, of the most popular lines of breeding. The individuals offered are in excellent health, good flesh condition and are capable of going on and doing a profitable year's work. The entire lot will be priced right.

DELOSS EDDY, Byron, Mich.

**READ WHAT MR. HOOVER SAYS**

"We have a very good lot of young bulls coming on 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 selections. 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 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 Nilander, 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. 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 Holsteins—Bulls ready for service, and bull calves from 30 lbs. bull and A. R. O. dams; also females of all ages.  
Wm. Griffin, Howell, Mich., R. No. 5.

**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.

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**PERCHERONS,  
HOLSTEINS,  
SHROPSHIRE,  
ANGUS,  
DUROCS.**

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Spring pigs sired by the Five greatest boars in use in one herd in America and from the sows that were undefeated at Ill. Mo., Ohio and Mich. state fairs. Write for our catalogue, it's free, we want you to see it before you buy. We guarantee satisfaction. Crandell's Prize Hogs, Cass City, Mich.

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**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.

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Yearlings sired by 30 pound bull and from heavy-producing cows. Also some choice Duroc open gilts.

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**HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN CATTLE**

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**HOLSTEINS** Two bulls old enough for service. Sons of Maple-Crest Korndyke Hengerveld, the bull with greatest yearly record in the world. Prices reasonable.

Lewis D. Stark, Dryden, Michigan.

**THE RINKLAND HERD**

Registered  
**HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN CATTLE.**  
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**CATTLE FOR SALE**

2 Loads feeders and two loads yearling steers. Also can show you any number 1, 2 and 3 years old from 500 to 900 lbs. Isaac Shanstun, Fairfield, Iowa, R-8.

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To Wm. B. No. 47049. Longfellow No. 18575 Sire of 1st prize young herd at Iowa State Fair. Fall pigs and breed serviceable boars.  
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(Continued from page 12)

of prices of the year in all departments of the trade, and to the development of the healthy undertone that suggests that this is not to be one of those "soda-fizz" bulges such as have been experienced so frequently in recent weeks and months, but one of more enduring character. With 7,700 fewer cattle at Chicago during the week ending last Saturday than the week previous, yet with nearly 26,000 more yarded than appeared the same week last year, beef steers advanced irregularly 50c to \$1.00 per cwt. in value, the bulk showing gains at the week-end of at least 75c over the close of the week previous. A top of \$14.75 was produced on the Saturday session, a new high point for the year by 25c per cwt., while the bulk of the beef steers of decent to good beef class, weighing from 1,100 to 1,400 lbs., sold during the latter half of the week from \$11.75 to \$13.50. The market displayed an extremely gratifying breadth to demand for all kinds, more especially for the good, thick cattle with weight that showed a somewhat extended corncrib cross. Butcher cattle gained 50 to 75c in value, also touching new high levels for the year on the rank and file of the offerings, while yearling calves, despite increasing receipts and a big April run of calves from the dairy regions on the market horizon, advanced to new record altitudes, showing the phenomenal advance of \$2.00 or more per cwt. within the week, and a few fancy vealers selling up to \$17. The yearling calf end of the trade alone wears a top-heavy appearance, and with other meats, including poultry, commanding such high prices, it is improbable that this branch of the market will experience such a violent downward revision of the price list as it frequently shows when the heavy spring runs of bowling bovine babies sets in.

Not to be outdone by other departments of the trade, and evidencing faith in the future market and desire of our beef makers to "keep the home fires burning," insofar as they are able to continue or expand to manufacture the meat on foot needed by the added millions of mouths the war has called upon them to feed, the stock and feeding cattle trade has been hitting the high spots only.

Top hogs passed the \$18.00 notch on the Chicago market last Saturday for the first time since November, reaching \$18.05. The price was \$2.25 higher than on January 26, the low day of the year, and only the inability of shippers to get all the cars they wanted kept a higher top out of circulation. The top was 25c above the previous Saturday, while the general average at \$17.55 was 20c higher. Pigs did not share in the week's upturn. The advances noted were scored in face of a run of 243,800 hogs for the week, the second largest in over a year. Shippers took over 70,000 of the crop, the largest number since the second week of January 1917. Average hog weight for the week was 239 lbs., 32 lbs. heavier than a year ago, and 12 lbs. heavier than the general average for the corresponding week in the past seven years.

In the live mutton trade last week advances of 35 to 50c were scored on lambs, while sheep and yearlings were marked up to 50c to 75c more in spots. The whole trade hit new high price levels for the year. Fed western lambs in the fleece sold up to \$18.50, yearlings to \$16.75, wethers and prime heavy native ewes to \$14.50, while ewe lambs sold to breeders up to \$18.10. Among the short varieties, fall clipped lambs touched \$15.90, fresh shorn lambs \$14.40 and shorn matured wethers \$12.75.

### East Buffalo Quotations

Choice to medium weighty steers \$13 to \$13.75; medium to good weighty steers, \$12.25 to \$12.75; plain and coarse weighty steers, \$11.00 to \$11.50; Choice to prime handy weight and medium weight steers, \$11.50 to \$12; fair to good handy weight and medium weight steers, \$10.75 to \$11.75; choice to prime yearlings, \$12.50 to \$13; fair to good yearling, \$12 to \$12.50; medium to good butcher steers, \$10.50 to \$11; fair to medium butcher steers, \$9.50 to \$10; good butcher heifers, \$10 to \$10.50; fair to medium butcher heifers, \$9 to \$9.50; good to choice fat cows, \$9 to \$9.50; medium to good fat cows, \$8 to \$8.50; fair to good medium fat cows, \$7 to \$7.50; cutters and common butcher cows, \$6.25 to \$6.75; canners, \$5 to \$5.75; good to choice fat bulls, \$10 to \$10.50; medium to good fat bulls, \$9 to \$9.50; good weight sausage bulls, \$8.25 to \$8.75; light and thin bulls, \$6.75 to \$7.25; good to best stock and feeding steers, \$9.50 to \$10; medium grades of stock and feeding steers, \$8.50 to \$9; common to fair stock and feeding steers, \$7.50 to \$8.00; good to choice fresh cows and springers, \$9.00 to \$12.00; medium to good fresh cows and springers, \$7.5 to \$8.50.

## The Citizen's Mutual Automobile Insurance Company of Howell, Michigan

The Largest and Most Successful Mutual Automobile Insurance Company in the World

Organized on the 30th of August, 1915

The following Shows the number of Members and the Cash on Hand December 31st the past three years:

	Members	Cash on Hand
Dec. 31st, 1915	1,738	\$ 4,083.34
Dec. 31st, 1916	15,337	7,740.87
Dec. 31st, 1917	27,431	27,175.45

Summary of Claims paid for 1917:

75 Claims for Fire	- - -	\$12,601.70
142 Claims for Theft	- - -	22,822.99
257 Claims for Liability	- - -	23,514.22
Total		\$58,938.91

This Company Has Never Borrowed One Dollar, and Every Claim Has Been Promptly Paid as Soon as Established

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Protects You Against Fire, Theft and Liability. Costs Only \$1 for Policy and 25c per H. P.

W. E. ROBB, Secretary  
Howell, Michigan

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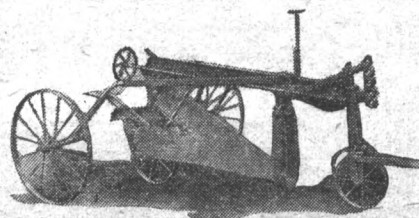
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means healthier stock, cleaner and better milk—bigger profits and more dairy wealth. Natco Hollow Tile has fire-proofed most of the great "skyscrapers" of our large cities. The same material will protect your stock, grain and tools from the fire peril and will lower insurance charges. Natco buildings save painting and repairs. They cost less than other forms of masonry yet add greatly to the value of your farm. Your building supply dealer will gladly show you samples and practical building plans. He has, perhaps, just the plan for which you're looking. But write us direct today for new illustrated "Natco on the Farm" book—1918 Edition—it's free!



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