

Michigan Business Farming

The First Crop Reporter and Market Guide ever published solely in the Interests of those who make a Business of Tilling the Soil for Profit

No. 11 (vol. 1)

DETROIT, Saturday, December 28th, 1912

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FREE MICHIGAN OF THE LAND SHARKS

UNPRINCIPLED REAL ESTATE DEALERS FLEEING BUYERS RIGHT AND LEFT.

Already Michigan is Reaping the Harvest of Their Misrepresentation—Farmers Should Not Give Options on Their Farms.

We are safe in saying that Michigan at the present time has more genuine "land sharks" than any other state in the Union. A more than 60 per cent increase in the values during the past four years, has brought to the surface a swarm of unscrupulous dealers who are doing the state irreparable injury and at the same time ruining financially the buyers who have been flocking to Michigan and blighting their hopes.

The farmers from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois who have come to Michigan know what they want and think they know what farm lands in the state are worth. These fellows have the money to pay for their farms, and while the dealers get a good big rake off in most instances, it is true that the buyers have sold their farms back home at a big price and therefore can possibly afford to make the sharks a contribution. It is the foreigners and the poor class of farmers that are being imposed upon by the unscrupulous land sharks. No matter what city or village you visit, you will find numerous dealers' signs and they make a special feature of selling farms. Their usual mode of procedure is to take options on all the farms in a vicinity at a certain price, the option extending perhaps over a year, or more if they can possibly get it. They list the farms, add from ten to thirty dollars per acre to the price set by the farmers, and then go after their victims.

Over the northern and western parts of the state, the sharks have been unusually busy, and hundreds of settlers have lost their all in an effort to make a living on the farms they have purchased at exorbitant prices. A story comes to us from Bay City that fairly illustrates the manner in which these agents, who are no less than highwaymen, conduct their business.

"Mrs. Jacob Gettler tells the Bay City police a tale of her dealings with a land shark at Twining, which, if true, will land some of these fellows behind the bars.

"The woman's husband and his brother were locked up at the request of Twining authorities, who want them on a charge of stealing a crop of peas. Her three children, scantily clad, were with the woman. The men speak but little English.

"They came from Germany penniless, and Jacob says he bought a north Michigan farm for \$3,000. They cleared 50 acres of stumps and trees and realized enough from the first year's crop to pay \$450 on the land. The crop failure this year, however, set them back and, he says, although he was given six years in which to pay, he was ejected because he could not make this year's payment. The

(Continued on Page Four)



When your friend sent you that Christmas Present he never thought about the express charges. Next time suggest that he keep the package and send you the Express Charges in cold cash. Cheer up, we are going to have Parcels Post.

HOW MUCH DO YOU FEED

How many know what it costs to winter a horse? Not many, but it is not hard to come pretty close to it, without weighing the feed every day, and keeping track of every minute spent in caring for the horses. If hay is good and sweet the horses ought to eat up every spear of it. An awful waste comes from feeding too much good hay. The horses pick

over a feed and never touch the rest unless starved to it. Weigh the hay fed a few times when things are not rushing and from these occasional weighings compute the winter's feeding. Do the same with the grain. The results are liable to be surprising and may lead to figuring on cheapening the cost of feeding in some way. It will be well worth while.

LAST MINUTE QUOTATIONS.

At the time of going to press, the wires bring us the following "last minute" quotations:

Wheat, No. 1 White (large mills paying)	\$1.08½
Wheat, No. 2 Red (large mills paying)	1.09½
Oats, Standard	.37
Rye	.62
Beans	2.20
Hay (best market today, New York) at	21.50
Potatoes (best market today, Philadelphia) at	.58
Butter	.34
Eggs	.32
Poultry	.13

UNITED STATES FILES BUTTER SUITS

ASK DISSOLUTION OF ELGIN BOARD AND BIG ASSN.

Centralizers' Organization and Elgin Board of Trade Under Fire, Charged With Price-Fixing.

District Attorney Wilkerson, whose headquarters are in Chicago has arranged with government officials in the capital to break up the Elgin Butter Board and the American Assn. Creamery Butter Manufacturers, and that suit has been filed against the organizations, demanding their dissolution.

The American Assn. Creamery Butter Manufacturers is composed of the centralized-creamery butter manufacturers and embraces concerns like the Fox River Butter Co., the Blue Valley Creamery Co., the Beatrice Creamery Co., S. P. Wadley & Co., and others. The government claims that these concerns are organized for the purpose of controlling the price of butter, and they are being sued in connection with the Elgin butter board, which the government believes is also controlled by the centralizers and is used by them to establish the market throughout the country.

There are between forty and fifty concerns included in the association, and they are in the aggregate the largest handlers of butter in the United States, as well as probably the most important speculators. The government aims through their dissolution to put an end to so-called manipulation of the market.

The Elgin Board of Trade was organized in 1872 and chartered under the laws of Illinois in 1879. In 1896 the quotation committee was organized. Previous to this date price of butter was quoted between the figures of the three highest sales.

Under the arrangement adopted in 1896, a quotation committee of five members, two of whom are usually producers, two dealers and one broker is elected. The board convenes each Monday and acts as a primary market. A call board is maintained, on which the receipts of the New York market are first announced. Producers then place their supply before the board and offerings are made.

The bill is signed by Attorney General Wickersham, James A. Fowler, assistant to the attorney general, United States Attorney Wilkerson of Chicago, and Stanley D. Montgomery, Albert G. Welch and Charles F. DeWoody, special assistants to the attorney-general.

Aside from the dissolution of the two organizations, the government seeks to enjoin the defendants from appointing a price-fixing committee; from fixing prices; from quoting or publishing sales of butter; from demanding that the Elgin price be used as a basis in making contracts for butter, and from making fictitious or "wash sales" of butter to mislead as to the actual price at which butter is being sold.

The price of butter fixed on the Elgin exchange, the government maintains. (Continued on Page Four)

10,000 BY JANUARY FIRST

Ask, on a postal, for 25 or 50 copies to distribute among your friends and neighbors. DO IT TODAY, PLEASE.

THE MARKET SITUATION VIEWED FROM THE INSIDE

HAY

It has been our contention from the inception of the season that if we could experience present weather conditions that we in turn would see an improvement in the hay market. We have the long-looked-for weather conditions of a good cold, snappy nature, which we all appreciate is conducive under natural conditions of a better feeling. Now that we are being visited with a good cold, snappy spell, some of you may wonder why it is that we are not experiencing the long-looked-for advance in hay valuations. You will please appreciate that just before holiday season, or the first of the year, market conditions along all lines assume a very much easier tone. No receiver of hay is buying more than enough to accommodate his immediate requirements. All appreciate that on the first of January an inventory will be taken and accordingly the less amount of stock they have on hand, the less trouble they will have in taking the same. This curtails the movement of practically all commodities at this particular period, each season. Therefore, we can not expect anything but the conditions which are facing us at the moment. Regardless of weather conditions or conditions that would naturally confront us, the holiday season would have its regular effect. We are forced to appreciate that the hay situation is in a serious way. We appreciate more and more as the weeks go by that it is absolutely necessary that most prompt and conservative action be taken on your part that this given crop can be put on the market in the best possible manner. We are aware that there is more hay back in the producers' hands for disposition than we were able to appreciate from the start. The feature of the very small percentage of nice quality hay still remains an asset to those who have it for disposition. It is simply a question of proper distribution of the entire crop, and also the manner in which those having the better qualities manipulate the situation. We have asked you continuously, who have the prime qualities of hay to hold back, demanding a premium for your offerings, doing this to help out the situation in general so that those having the more common qualities could make disposition of them to advantage, and also to reflect back on yourselves with an advance in prices possible to obtain. There is always a time when good stuff is wanted. There is never any danger, practically speaking, in holding high quality stock, especially if this true when the price of hay is below normal, based on the last five years. The tone to the situation is very easy this week, and in a good many instances markets are overcrowded. The outlook is not any too good when a condition of this kind exists, with the car situation as we absolutely know it is over the state.

HAY—MICHIGAN ZONE PRICES.

Zone No. 1 Michigan	\$11.50
Zone No. 2 Michigan	12.50
Zone No. 3 Michigan	13.50
Zone No. 4 Michigan	13.50
Zone No. 5 Michigan	13.50
Zone No. 6 Michigan	13.50
Zone No. 7 Michigan	14.00

NOTE—The prices given are on a basis of No. 1 Timothy hay in the different Michigan freight zones. This gives you the price that Michigan dealers should be able to pay for this commodity, f. o. b. their stations, under existing market conditions.

DETROIT—The conditions on the Detroit market made a very quick and abrupt turn from the report given you in our last issue. Apparently every road leading into this city must have had some cars in transit. The result of our this week's condition on this market goes to prove that every side-track in this city is crowded with hay

OUR MARKET SIGNALS

THE Weather Man takes his observations; gets his reports from other stations and "guesses the weather." We take our observations, have our reports from other stations, and with these as a basis we are going to take a chance at the markets. We will not hit it every time; neither does the weather man. But if we keep just a few farmers from getting "soaked" it will pay. Get on your "Slickers" and watch the signals:



No. 1—Good, substantial demand and present conditions favor steady market at profitable prices. No. 2—Market clearing up and better prices predicted. No. 3—Market very quiet; has every appearance of being over-redd. No. 4—No profit at ruling prices. If you can hold, this is an "eleventh hour" proposition. No. 5—Better keep in port. Storm on. Prices may go lower but we would take a chance.

shipments. The market is glutted and demoralized. There is not only a reduction in actual prices possible to obtain of from \$1 to \$2 per ton, but it is very hard to come anywhere near moving stocks on hand even at this severe cut. Our market here is in a very bad way. The receipts of No. 1 timothy, or even nice, bright clover mixed, are very limited. Ninety-five per cent at least of the shipments that have come into this market have been of No. 2 and No. 3 qualities, some grading below this.

HAY—DETROIT MARKET.

No. 1 Timothy	\$16.00
No. 2 Timothy	14.00
Light mixed	14.00
No. 1 mixed	13.00
Rye straw	11.00
Wheat and Oat straw	10.00

PITTSBURGH—The tone to the situation has eased noticeably. There has been quite some change in the situation generally on this market. The demand has eased off by virtue, we expect, of holiday season so close at hand. The market is experiencing a limited demand and a reduction of prices in order to make it an inducement for buyers to take hold. It is an up-hill fight to make satisfactory sales on this market.

HAY—PITTSBURGH MARKET.

No. 1 Timothy Hay	\$16.50
No. 2 Timothy Hay	15.50
No. 1 Light Mixed Hay	15.50
No. 1 Clover Mixed Hay	15.50
No. 1 Oat straw	10.25
No. 1 Clover Hay	15.50
Fine Prairie Packing Hay	11.00
No. 1 Rye straw	11.50
No. 1 Wheat straw	10.50

CINCINNATI—Receipts on the Cincinnati market were not as heavy as last week. However, it was impossible to advance natural conditions over our report as shown one week ago. We feel, however, that this market has done remarkably well to hold conditions on last week's basis. We also appreciate that if receipts had been on a normal basis, or on basis of last week's receipts, that without question we would have realized the regular effect that the country at large has shown. We can not feel that this market holds out any more inducements than any other, although just at the moment conditions there may seem the least bit brighter.

HAY—CINCINNATI MARKET.

Timothy No. 1	\$16.75
Timothy, Standard	15.75
Timothy No. 2	15.00
Timothy No. 3	13.00
Clover Mixed, No. 1	16.00
Clover Mixed, No. 2	14.50
Clover Pure, No. 1	16.75
Clover Pure, No. 2	15.00
Straw, wheat	9.00
Straw, oats	9.00
Straw, rye	10.50

CHICAGO—Arrivals of high-class hay continues to go below the actual demand. This market continues to lead all others in good conditions existing. From the inception of the season this market has not experienced what we would naturally term a glutted condition. The receipts of last week were a little heavier than those of the former, but the demand has

been good, all offerings being cleaned up at quotations. We consider this market in a very satisfactory condition.

HAY—CHICAGO MARKET.

Choice Timothy	\$19.00
No. 1 Timothy	16.00
No. 2 Timothy	14.00
Light Clover Mixed	14.50
No. 2 Mixed Hay	12.00
No. 3 Timothy	11.50
Clover	11.50
Threshed Timothy	9.00
Marsh feeding hay	11.00
Packing	5.00
Choice Alfalfa	18.00
No. 1 Alfalfa	17.75
Rye	8.50
Oats	7.50
Wheat	6.50

BOSTON—Boston has experienced heavy receipts and practically all of the same have run low in quality. This market for the first time this year has been forced to wince under the heavy receipts of low-quality hay. It has been impossible to take care of the same, even with reduced quotations. This market would appear on about a normal basis were they not unfortunate in having an excess of low-quality stuff. If the same were balanced as we would naturally expect it, this market would move along about as before. There is no real change in market conditions to report. No. 1 quality of hay will bring about the same price as last week.

HAY—BOSTON MARKET.

	Large bales.	Small bales.
Hay, choice	\$22.00	\$22.00
Hay, No. 1	21.00	21.00
Hay, No. 2	20.00	19.00
Hay, No. 3	16.00	15.00
Hay, clover	18.00	17.00
Hay, clover mixed	18.00	17.00
Hay, stock	15.00	15.00
Long rye straw	17.00	
Tangled rye straw	12.00	12.00
Oat straw	11.00	11.00

NOTE—Large bales weigh from 200 to 250 pounds; medium bales from 80 to 100 pounds.

NEW YORK—We can not help but note the manner in which the railroads are handling the movement of hay, that the situation of New York City has to be watched most carefully or it will become in a glutted condition. This city, possibly more than most any terminal market, is watched by the railroad carriers more closely than any other. One road or another has been embargoed practically every moment since the inception of the hay season—first one and then another. The principal roads having desirable deliveries for this market are Erie,

HAY—NEW YORK MARKET.

New Hay:	Large bales, per ton.	Small bales, per ton.
Timothy—Choice		
No. 1	\$23.00	\$21.50
No. 2	20.50	20.50
No. 3	19.00	18.00
Shipping	17.00	16.00
Light Clover Mixed	20.00	20.00
No. 1 Clover Mixed	18.00	18.00
No. 2 Clover Mixed	14.00	15.00
No. 1 Clover	18.00	17.00
No. 2 Clover	16.00	
Straw—		
No. 1 Rye	17.00	
No. 2 Rye	16.00	
No. 1 Oat	11.50	11.00
No. 1 Wheat	11.50	

NOTE—Large bales weigh from 200 to 250 pounds; medium bales from 80 to 100 pounds.

New York Central and Lehigh Valley. There is the usual holiday dullness in evidence at the present time.

POTATOES

There is certainly no reason why we should advise marketing potatoes on basis of present market conditions facing us. We can feel that the present condition comes from whatever cause applicable to these conditions, but nevertheless conditions are very grave at the present time. We can not help but admit that a fight faces us in order that this commodity may be placed on the market at a profit to the producer. We have known from the inception of the season that the market would not fluctuate only to a certain level and that this given level was of a low standard—that with anything like a decent movement the market would quickly show a decrease. It is natural to grab at anything and everything in the way of hope for better conditions to exist. This is natural. We feel in the first place that you simply must line up in an organized manner and on some basis and stick together on this given basis or the results will be most disappointing. There is an angle to the situation that we have not mentioned, neither have we seen or heard discussion by any one. The sentiment from the very start was very much prejudiced concerning the keeping qualities of this commodity. You can appreciate that when the trade feels in this manner that they will handle the situation very much differently than if they were all assured that potatoes put into a cellar would keep as in former years. Being afraid of these conditions, the trade has shifted over to a hand-to-mouth basis, simply taking care of their needs from day to day—never putting any in store. You can at once appreciate the handicap this has on the entire situation from the producer's or the shipper's standpoint, on any different commodity. There is never that good, keen demand for an article to put in store because the trade has settled on a basis of taking their chances from day to day. Whenever the situation shows any increase in receipts the tendency is to take advantage at once, while under natural conditions they would take hold freely and put in store and absorb quickly, in that manner, all receipts in sight. The potato situation from all angles is keeping every one guessing this year. We appreciate how you feel, as a producer, with your potatoes on hand for disposition and the market showing as it does. The trade should feel very much better over shipments arriving after the first of the year than they did on the earlier shipments, because they will appreciate that if the potatoes have kept until this time that they certainly should keep a required length of time longer. On this basis we look for a little relief to come to us. It is impossible to tell with any degree of accuracy whatever, the amount of potatoes back for disposition, also the amount that are going to be in shape for movement when they are inspected. We expect that a good many will be disappointed when making an inspection of their holdings in pits or possibly in cellars. Right at the moment the potato situation is almighty sick in every direction. Plenty of receipts, with little demand, puts the big crimp in the situation. Over the state today the average price paid the producer is about 30c, varying a little from this on account of freight rate. We would not sell potatoes at this price. We feel that if the situation shows itself to be secure enough to warrant—that the producers over the state should best settle on a basis that you want for your stuff—we will say 40c, that is low enough. Let every man market a certain per cent of his crop as fast as he can at this given price, not sell one bushel unless we

can get it, and by using the percentage basis, the movement ought to be just about right. At any rate, there is no other way that we can see to govern the situation over a large territory with any degree of uniformity. Some might say that you will not be able to get rid of all the potatoes you have on hand. Possibly that will work out on just that basis. Take one of you, as an individual, for example—would it not be better to hold your potatoes at a certain price which is conservative and which shows you a profit and sell as big a percentage of your crop as possible on that basis, throwing away or consuming at home in some manner the balance, than to sell your entire crop on a haphazard and sacrificed basis? We think so.

POTATOES—MICHIGAN ZONE PRICES.

Zone No. 2 Michigan	30
Zone No. 4 Michigan	32
Zone No. 5 Michigan	35
Zone No. 6 Michigan	35
Zone No. 7 Michigan	36

NOTE—From present market conditions, local dealers in the freight zones should pay you the price quoted above for No. 1 stock delivered at their stations. These prices can be increased by taking advantage of special carlot offers.

DETROIT—There is practically no demand whatever on the Detroit market. All eyes have been turned to holiday business for the last week. During this period it has been practically impossible to draw the attention of the trade to this line. There is no particular tone to the situation, no relief in sight. The trade naturally has some stock on hand. Movement from farmers' wagons continue to be heavy and continue to be placed on the market in any manner whatever to get rid of it. As long as this condition exists, it will be impossible to raise the standard. We hope, however, that after the first of the year conditions may improve somewhat. Very much will depend on weather and road conditions. Potatoes are now being brought into this market on wagons, 40 miles. You can appreciate that this one feature has a great influence on conditions existing. As long as it is kept up, and especially with no regular basis existing, it will be impossible to figure on relief of an authentic nature.

POTATOES—DETROIT MARKET.

Bulk from car, per bu. 40 to 45
 *Sacked from car, per bu. 50 to 55
 *Sacks must be even weight, 150 pounds.
 Price quoted includes cost of sack, about 10½¢ each.

CHICAGO—With a decrease of about 33 per cent in receipts the Chicago market is unable to show any better market, or better feeling existing. Those of you who understand the Chicago situation appreciate that it has been a very hard season. Practically speaking, it has not been a satisfactory condition to the shipper from its very inception. There has been no time when this market has been in line with most places. This is natural, this season, by virtue of the amount of Wisconsin and Minnesota stock. This market, lying so favorable to both Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, is subject to very heavy receipts. It is the center of fire from all direction, therefore it is natural to expect that the situation would be as shown this season, unless governed by the shippers in the way of movement.

POTATOES—CHICAGO MARKET.

Bulk from car, per bu. 40 to 45
 *Sacked from car, per bu. 40 to 50
 *Sacks must be even weight, 150 pounds.
 Price quoted includes cost of sack, about 10½¢ each.

CINCINNATI—There is no great change to report over last week, although the market continues to be a little easier. There has been no abrupt or quick decline on this market. The same has been gradual. The tone to the situation is much affected, and

movement of stock affected accordingly. There is but little change to report in quotations, but we appreciate that there is liable to be a reduction in actual prices possible to obtain at any time. We are advised that it is quite impossible to make sales on this market at the present time on present quotations. The trade will not buy ahead as the conditions now show.

POTATOES—CINCINNATI MARKET.

Bulk from car, per bu. 45 to 50
 *Sacked from car, per bu. 50 to 55
 *Sacks must be even weight, 150 pounds.
 Price quoted includes cost of sack, about 10½¢ each.

PITTSBURGH—The Pittsburgh market continues in a sluggish condition. The receipts continue to be very heavy, with only a limited demand, and no signs of a spirited condition in sight. This market has done comparatively well under the heavy storm of receipts since the movement of the crop. Quotations this week, based on actual sales, are about the same as our last week's quotations, but we are

POTATOES—PITTSBURGH MARKET.

Bulk from car, per bu. 50 to 55
 *Sacked from car, per bu. 55 to 60
 *Sacks must be even weight, 150 pounds.
 Price quoted includes cost of sack, about 10½¢ each.

much afraid that the situation is really easier than quotations show. We expect that if receipts were heavy the market would show its effect at once with reduced prices.

POTATOES—NORFOLK MARKET.

Bulk from car, per bu. 45 to 55
 *Sacked from car, per bu. 50 to 60
 *Sacks must be even weight, 150 pounds.
 Price quoted includes cost of sack, about 10½¢ each.

WHEAT

Regardless of the cause, we have experienced a little advance in wheat quotations over one week ago. We have been constantly advising that the situation from all angles was shaping itself so that some decided and substantial result would be the outcome. Up to the present time there has been no real basis on which to found any prospects of a market. It has been a blackboard proposition and made its

WHEAT—DETROIT MARKET.

No. 1 White. \$1.08½
 No. 2 Red. 1.09½

Speculative Prices.

*December delivery \$1.09½
 *May delivery 1.13½
 *The prices given for December and May delivery represent the future delivery prices. This information merely gives you the future basis of this commodity as figured by those who speculate on future prospects.

changes one way and the other, to make one short and the other long. We would naturally expect something of a mechanical nature just at this season, the same as with all other commodities. We think the present advance, just at this time, means very much to the situation in general. We hope it is not based on some flimsy blackboard arrangement and really do not think it is. It would appear, and

WHEAT—CHICAGO MARKET.

No. 2 Red. \$1.10

Speculative Prices.

*December delivery 84½
 *May delivery 89½
 *The prices given for December and May delivery represent the future delivery prices. This information merely gives you the future basis of this commodity as figured by those who speculate on future prospects.

I think we all believe, that wheat prices have been below what we consider as normal, that the present uprising has been natural as based on the new changes governing it.

BEANS

Last week we had the blues. This week, we will go in port and try to forget this commodity, being in hopes that after the first of the year conditions will improve, from natural causes. The weather condition which we are now experiencing is one great asset to the movement of this commodity. Nothing is more stimulating to a good, sharp demand than good, sharp weather at a seasonable period. Notice the daily papers—you will see that beans have made a little advance during the last week. This has a little influence, showing something from a basic standpoint, but we do not care so much about it. The general situation and its natural influence on results is the big thing that interests you as a producer and should go to bring about results looked for, instead of anything else. We know the demand that has been created for beans. We know that they are of a commercial nature, have placed themselves on the commercial market, and have an actual and decided demand substantially created. Not too many beans have been raised this year to expect a reduction of prices as a result. The situation is healthy enough. There isn't anything particular the matter with the bean situation this season. The patient was all right, coming along fine. You simply gave him an overdose of medicine, which was a little nauseating. If you handle the situation as we have advised, there is no question but what you will see the market thermometer gradually rise back to its former level. Every dealer in the state of Michigan feels most secure in the general outcome of this commodity. None of the dealers over the state have been dumping their beans on the market during this depressed condition. Every bean that has gone forward were beans that were sold in advance of this decline. When the market dropped, they com-

menced to hold, which was proper on their part, and formed a proper basis on which you should work also. All we need is the proper distribution of the bean crop this season, and you will have a desirable price, and a satisfactory one. Would we sell on today's basis? No; we would still hold. Just forget that you have beans. There is no cause for worry. The general situation is O. K.

BEANS—DETROIT MARKET.

White, hand-picked basis. \$2.20
 Red Kidney 2.30

MICHIGAN ZONE PRICES.

Zone No. 2, Michigan. 2.15
 Zone No. 3, Michigan. 2.20
 Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7, Michigan. 2.25

NOTE—We give you above the prices that Michigan dealers should be able to pay you for beans, hand-picked basis, in the different freight zones of Michigan. The Pink Sheet has set the price for beans, hand-picked basis, at the average Michigan points, at \$2.40 per bushel.

OATS

The only thing to report on the oat situation is a continuation of a healthy feeling. There is no question but what a foundation has been established. There is an outlook for this commodity comparatively bright. We are now in shape so that we can figure with a certain degree of expectancy and assurance, which up to about one week ago was practically impossible. The condition of the crop, its movement, etc., were all prime factors in the establishment of a basis on which to form its future possibilities. In practically every direction the tone to the situation keeps getting just a little brighter, so that we feel there is no cause for worry over the general outcome of the same.

OATS—DETROIT MARKET.

Standard 37
 No. 3 white. 36
 No. 4 White.
 No. 2 Mixed. Sold by sample

CINCINNATI—There is no change in quotations to report over last week. Receipts continued heavy—sufficiently ample to take care of requirements.

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Michigan Freight Zones

EVERY BUSINESS FARMER should know the freight rate from his shipping station to the leading market centers. With this key you are in a position to know whether your local dealer is giving you a square deal or not. Below we give you the "Business Farming Zone Map of Michigan." You will notice that in connection with the map we give you the approximate rate per hundred pounds for shipments by freight to the markets named on most of the products of your farm. These rates will vary a little at different points, therefore we advise you to go to your local railway agent and get the rates from him. He is obliged by law to give you the rates, and with these rates and the "Pink Sheet" you are secure.

Zone 1—Sault Ste. Marie.	
New York City	32
Pittsburgh	28½
Cincinnati	29
Chicago	22
Detroit	22
Zone 2—Kalkaska.	
New York City	34½
Pittsburgh	22
Cincinnati	19½
Chicago	16
Detroit	14
Zone 3—Bay City.	
New York City	27½
Pittsburgh	17
Cincinnati	16
Chicago	13
Detroit	10
Zone 4—Greenville.	
New York City	29
Pittsburgh	17½
Cincinnati	16
Chicago	13
Detroit	11
Zone 5—Sandusky.	
New York City	27½
Pittsburgh	22



Cincinnati	18
Chicago	16
Detroit	13
Zone 6—Vicksburg.	
New York City	29
Pittsburgh	17
Cincinnati	15
Chicago	10½
Detroit	11
Zone 7—Pontiac.	
New York City	27½
Pittsburgh	17
Cincinnati	16
Chicago	13
Detroit	10½

Michigan Business Farming

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HONEST ADVERTISING SOLICITED AT THE FOLLOWING RATES:
Ten cents per agate line, flat. No discounts for time or space, and no contract at this rate accepted for a longer period than six months. Attractive combination rate with The Gleaner, monthly.

EDITORIAL

THIS IS CHRISTMAS WEEK. Yes; and the last week of the old year. Let's forget buying and selling, profit and loss, work and worry—for just one week. Let's forget troubles and sorrows; wrongs, fancied and real; ingratitude—anything and everything that will in any way cause us to overlook the fact that "This is Christmas week; yes, and the last week of the old year."

THEY'RE TAKING YOUR MEASURE THIS WEEK

Let's not move a wheel this week toward the market place. Leave the hay in the mow, leave the beans in the bags, keep the oats and wheat in the granary; give the animals that you expected to kill a week's respite; spare for a week that tree which you intended to fell to make into fire wood—and just remember that "This is Christmas week; yes, and the last week of the old year."

You can keep busy this week, very busy—and remember, the busiest people are always the happiest people. Of course we have children who are ungrateful, neighbors who are unlikeable, and troubles galore. Things don't always go right; money is close, the crops are poor, and—well, what of it? "This is Christmas week; yes, and the last week of the old year."

Start out by making every person under the home roof happy. If you are in the habit of being "grouchy," surprise the family by being happy and light-hearted this week. True, that won't keep you busy for a whole week right in your own home; so journey up the highway and join that neighbor of yours in a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Then give those faithful work horses an extra feed at high noon each day; reward the patient butter makers with a little extra care. Patch up the shed that shelters the sheep—yes, turn your attention for a time to the needs of the animals of the field over which you have been given dominion. From the least unto the greatest; they look unto you as their lord and master.

Be a kind and generous master this week. Poor dumb animals, to be sure; but they give unto you their service while living; they yield up their lives at your command that you and your brothers may be fed and clothed. Can you count upon your two hands the blessings you enjoy, that are furnished by your animal friends?

Forget yourself this week, brother. We are mighty important fellows all right; but let's see how the old world will jog along for just one week, while we turn our attention to making others happy. True, it is, that we have been helping old nature pull down the sun at night, and boost her up in the morning—but just for the sake of others, let's see how things will work, while we are busy with LITTLE things—just for a week, you know.

Let's try the plan for a week anyway. And on Saturday we'll journey back to the wood lot, and watch Nature as she shifts the scenery, in staging the last tableaux, for the closing scenes of Christmas week.

And me thinks, as you stand silently in the after-glow, you will realize that, after all, life is just about what we make it. That we have labored, hoped and searched, anywhere, everywhere, for happiness.

While the treasure we so much desired, rested securely in the shadows which we had allowed in our hearts. And we didn't find it because "like begets like"; we didn't let the sunlight in.

"What has this editorial to do with market conditions?" you ask. "Why bless you, everything." You are closing up the books; striking a balance for the year. You are to be measured by the golden rule, my brother. The members of your family, your neighbors, the animals upon your farm; they are all taking your measure.

THIS IS CHRISTMAS WEEK; Yes, and the last week of the Old Year.

FREE MICHIGAN OF THE LAND SHARKS

(Continued from Page One)

man who sold him the farm had transferred his contract to another man. "According to Gettler's story, this man told him last spring that he would help him out of his troubles, that he was a hard-working man and deserved it. It is alleged that he helped Gettler out, but took a mortgage on his tools, horses and other property. This fall, when the payments could not be made Gettler said the mortgagee told him he could not take a bunch of Germans and that they would have to get out. Jacob Gettler says he came to this city to get work in order to buy the children clothing.

"During his absence, Joseph sold the peas and received \$37, with which the mother bought the children clothing and came to this city to join her husband. The family have been in this city less than a week and since then have run out of funds. For two whole days the children, little tots, have suffered from hunger and cold. The father secured a job and worked but one day when he was arrested. Another brother of Jacob Gettler came from Germany but two days ago."

U. S. FILES BUTTER SUITS

(Continued from Page One)

tains, is not the result of free and open competition regulated by actual bona fide sales under the law of supply and demand. The price committee of the board is dominated and controlled, it is alleged, by large butter manufacturers, known as centralizers, and by cold storage concerns. This committee, the petition adds, "has

acted arbitrarily and without any regard to actual values, and fixed prices wholly in the interest of the conspirators."

From May to August, when the bulk of the country's supply is made the petition says, large centralizing concerns are buyers rather than sellers of butter, buying up the surplus product and storing it for the winter, when the price is enhanced. Consequently it is declared, the prices of butter fixed by the board during the summer months have been almost invariably below the price at which the product actually sold upon the market, while during the winter months the prices fixed have been somewhat above the market and private sales.

It is charged that the American Assn. Creamery Butter Manufacturers, composed of about forty-six firms and individuals, is used by the "conspirators" to maintain these seasonal differences in price without regard to trade conditions or competition.

Before the summer of each year, the petition continues, the large centralizing concerns send representatives throughout the butter-producing area, contracting with small manufacturers for their entire season's supply based on the figures of the Elgin Board, usually one-half or 1c higher than the Elgin price.

"If, therefore," the petition declares, "the price fixed by the Elgin Board should fall below the real economic price of butter, as fixed by the law of supply and demand, the profit accruing from the corresponding drop in the contract prices goes to the large centralizers on every pound of butter which has been purchased in advance based upon the Elgin price."

Farmers Problems

Herbert Armstrong the Winner.

LAST week we offered a quarter for the first correct solution of Farmer Kohler's problem. Here's the reply:

Farmer Kohler received 65c per bushel for his beans, \$13.00 for the lot.

Out of the 20 bushels, the elevator man secured 260 pounds, or 12 3/4 bushels of hand-picked beans.

These beans were worth \$2.20 per bushel; therefore the elevator man realized from the transaction, \$27.86.

Farmer Kohler received \$13.00 for the 20 bushels of beans.

The elevator man made \$14.86.

HERE'S THE RESULT.

Farmer Kohler received \$1.86 less for his 20 bushels of beans than the elevator man made on handling the beans, and he had the cull beans to pay for the picking.

The first correct solution of the problem was received from Herbert Armstrong, of Perry, Michigan.

Professor Square Root is very anxious for problems. Remember, we pay a quarter apiece for every one used. If you have had some experience with your elevator man, give us the figures—we will not use your name, nor the name of the elevator man—so send along your problems.



"OLD TOWSER BUTTS IN"



THREE raps at the outer door, then all was silent. The market editor grabbed his stub pen and demanded: "Who's there?" No reply save a gentle rap-a-tap on the outer door. The market editor touched the button which summons the ambulance, signaled for Captain Jinks, of the subscription department, and breathlessly awaited the onslaught. Enter the brave Captain Jinks. "Why this sudden summons?" he demanded. "L-i-s-t-e-n," said the market editor: "rap-a-tap, rap-a-tap, rap-a-tap-tap" came from the outer hall. "Trapped by the elevator men," said the Captain with trembling voice, as he dropped a half hundred new subscription cards on the floor of the outer hall. The brave old Cap'n threw off his coat, grabbed a stub pen and, squaring himself behind the ash barrel commanded: "Come in." Enter the office Devil followed by old Towser. Old Towser looking happy and trying to wig-wag a signal of victory with his stub tail, carried a piece of checkered cloth about the size of a bushel basket in his mouth. "Towser, where did you get that?" demanded the Market Editor. "Oh replied the office Devil: that Huron County Elevator Man who wanted the Pink Sheet suppressed, called again this morning, and Towser took the seat off his pants for a calling card. Shall we ask him to 'front in' or 'back out'?" The Cap'n and the Editor were discussing the question as to what was best to do, when old Towser becoming impatient, said: "Answer the Devil's question or I'll ask the elevator man to take his seat."

Just As Our Field Man Found It.

We call Illinois a great dairy state, yet she does not produce enough butter for her own people. If the state was closed to the butter shipped in from neighboring states, the people of all her cities, outside of Chicago, plus 260,000 of her rural population, would be deprived of butter for their bread. Does that touch our pride on the buttered side?

Our farmers, most of them, are not really farmers at all, but miners, mining the fertility of the soil and selling it for little more than the cost of mining.

Paste this in Your Hat

To Our Farmer Friends:

Numerous inquiries have been received at this office concerning the reliability of certain companies of the city of Detroit which were doing business under the title "Farmers Elevator Company" or "Farmers Produce Company."

With a letter of inquiry received from Mr. H. F. Stimson, of Freeland, Michigan, was a four-page circular sent out by the Farmers Elevator Company of Detroit, Michigan, which contained the following information: "References: We refer to the Dime Savings Bank and the Michigan Farmer" as regards our responsibility and manner of doing business."

We advise our inquirers to secure their information direct from these references. Our investigation shows that this company is not a farmer's company; that its business is conducted the same as any other stock company. We will not insert the advertising of any person, firm or corporation styling itself a farmer's company, unless we are satisfied that the stock in the association is either wholly or partly held by farmers.

This information is given simply to answer the numerous communications received, and to define the company's position.

RURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Here's a Chance, Boys and Girls

William B. Merston, a Saginaw capitalist and president of the Michigan Game Association, has announced that he will award medals to the children of Michigan public schools for the best essays on birds. The state has been divided into three sections, the upper peninsula as one district, the twenty-eight southern counties as the second district, and the counties north of that as the third.

There will be two sets of medals, one for grammar and the other for high schools, while a medal will be awarded to the teacher in each section having the largest number of pupils with accepted essays.

Those competing must relate incidents in their own observation of birds, and must not disturb nests. All prizes will be awarded on arbor and bird day in May, 1913. All essays and photographs must be in the hands of the committee by March 1.

The committee consists of Jefferson Butler, president of the Michigan Au-

dubon society, Detroit; J. H. McGillivray, chief of the Michigan Forest Scouts, Oscoda, and Ben D. Bush, Kalamazoo. The medals will be awarded as follows:

1. For the best essay on "Esthetic and Educational Value of Song and Insectivorous Birds."
2. Best essay on "Economic Value of Birds."
3. For essay showing greatest knowledge from personal observation of life and habits of our common birds.
4. To school or person making most successful effort in feeding quail or other birds during the winter of 1912-1913.
5. For school or person doing most efficient work in protecting birds during summer of 1912.
6. For school or person building and protecting most successfully used bird-houses.
7. For the two best photographs, or sets of photographs, taken in any part of the state of a wild bird or birds.

COUNTED OUT AT LAST.

Equal Suffrage in Michigan Defeated by Seven Hundred and Sixty Votes.

The latest returns show that equal suffrage in Michigan was lost by 760 votes. The first returns showed that suffrage had been carried in the state by from seven to nine thousand; later returns reduced the majority to about 3,500, and it took the official count to defeat the amendment. Re-counts in several parts of the state showed that the election law had been violated in numerous instances, and proved that the officers in charge had violated their oaths and had been criminally careless, but the lax methods were so general, the ladies thought it would be absolutely useless to carry the re-count further.

The saloon element did not expect the measure to carry; as a consequence they depended upon the last few days to accomplish their work. Their money was spent freely, but they could not stem the tide, and there is no question in the mind of any honest person but that equal suffrage carried in Michigan by a good sound majority.

The question of woman's suffrage was taken up in 1874, when the legislature submitted the amendment to the voters. The result showed 40,774 for and 135,957 against the adoption of the amendment. The manipulated result of the recent vote showed 247,375 for the amendment and 248,135 against it.

There is no doubt but that the incoming legislature will be willing to grant a request to refer the amendment again to the people, but the ladies realize that the fight must be made all over again, and that the opposition will be more bitter than ever before. It is a question in our minds whether it is wise to re-submit the question this spring. The breweries, the saloonkeepers and all of their dupes will be set at work to defeat the amendment if it is re-submitted in the spring. The whole bunch realizes that if it is defeated a second time, it will be a decade before it can be again submitted with any hope of success. We advise the ladies to continue their organization, keep up the agitation in a sane, sensible way, get ample funds to carry on their fight, and submit the proposition at the election to be held two years hence.

THE GERM IS WORKING.

Grand Rapids is the first city to get in line for a municipal coal yard. Mayor Ellis has appointed a special committee from the council to investigate the advisability of the city establishing a municipal coal yard. He suggests that a bond issue of \$75,000 be asked, and claims that this will place the citizens of the second city outside the manipulations of the local coal dealers' combination.

COST OF RAISING POTATOES.

Uncle Sam Gets the Totals After Three Years of Figuring.

It is to be hoped that under the incoming administration, the affairs of the Department of Agriculture will be so conducted that a report can be gotten out, within the lifetime of the average mortal. While the figures sent out may not amount to much, it would really be an innovation to have such statements as are published presented in time so that they will be of some service. The United States Crop Report just issued gives some statistics on the cost of raising potatoes:

The data is for the year 1909, and was estimated from reports by 4,000 correspondents. It includes amounts expended, labor and averages for the United States, on fertilizers, preparation of land, seed, planting, cultivating, gathering, yield per acre, cost per bushel, value of product, and other factors of greater or less economic significance.

Some of the data is of considerable value in view of the present agitation regarding farmer's prices and the high cost of living. The average yield in bushels per acre for the whole country was 118, ranging from 84 in the south central states to 137 in the far western and north-Atlantic states, respectively. Unfortunately for scientific purposes there seems to be no relation between yield and cost of production.

The average cost, including the rental value of the land, was 24.6 cents a bushel; but the highest cost

SPECIAL NOTICE

To the Founders of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

If you were one of the loyal farmers who helped found this weekly Market and Crop Reporter in the face of the combined opposition of the Market Gamblers and the Parasite Produce Buyers, by sending Ten or Twenty-five cents to apply on a full FIFTY WEEKS SUBSCRIPTION.

I Ask as a Personal Favor:

that you send the balance in currency, or stamps in an early mail. Remember every issue of the little "pink-sheet" is going to grow better, more practical. And when you send in the balance, be sure to ask a neighbor or two to join with you by sending for a full year or trial subscription. Right now is when we need your help most and we will certainly appreciate your prompt response to this request.

of production, 30.4 cents, occurred in the south-central states, where the yield was lowest; and the lowest cost of production, 21.4 cents, was in the north-central states east of the Mississippi river, where the yield averaged 115 bu. to the acre, coming very near to the average of 118 bu. for the United States. On the other hand, the value of potatoes per bushel ranged from 46c in the north-central states east of the Mississippi river, to 71c in the south-central states.

FARMERS WILL HAVE BEAN ELEVATOR.

The farmers of Gratiot county are enthusiastic over a plan to build a large bean elevator at Alma. Steps have already been taken to secure stock, and it is intended to operate the company along co-operative lines.

The farmers of Michigan grow 70 per cent of all the white beans produced in the United States, and there is no reason why they should not have something to say about prices. Just a suggestion to the Gratiot county farmers: Why don't you organize your bean elevator company as one plant among a dozen or more located in different parts of the state, and have the whole output sold through one central agency? It is only through a combination of this kind, which will reduce expenses and at the same time give the selling agency a greater volume of business, that the best results can be obtained.

WOULD YOU BE SO FOOLISH

As to let ONE-CENT-A-WEEK stand between you and the DOLLAR-MAKING information contained in every single issue of

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

There is not a farmer in Michigan so rich or so poor that he can afford to be without this weekly that is already gaining fame as the "salesman" of every Michigan farm factory.

SEND THIS COUPON, OR COPY IN A LETTER

RURAL PUBLISHING CO., 95-97 FORT ST. WEST, DETROIT, MICH.

DEAR SIR:

I enclose fifty cents in stamps, money orders or currency, for which send "MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING", fifty weeks to—

M

P. O.

R. F. D.

State

THE MARKET SITUATION VIEWED FROM THE INSIDE

Continued from Page Three

Buyers were taking hold with an assured feeling that the situation was healthy. The establishment of that one feature was a real asset to the situation in general.

OATS—CINCINNATI MARKET.

Standard	37
No. 3 White	36
No. 4 White	35
No. 2 Mixed	35½
No. 3 Mixed	35

PITTSBURGH—There is no particular change to report. Arrivals were just about sufficient to meet the demand. All offerings were taken care of by buyers on a good, staple basis. There was no tendency on the part of the trade to reduce quotations. Everything was snapped up in a satisfactory manner.

OATS—PITTSBURGH MARKET.

Standard	37½
No. 3 White	36½
No. 4 White	35½
No. 2 Mixed	35½
No. 3 Mixed	35

CLOVER SEED

There continues to be some little trading on cloverseed from the producer clear through to the large receiver. Tax time has a tendency to draw our attention to whatever commodities are on hand, that will bring the returns needed. The seed situation remains in a healthy condition. This is based on the feeling of large buyers that the future to the situation holds out many prospects. If this were not their conception of the resultant situation, we would not see our present healthy conditions manifested. There is every reason to look forward to a continuation of good long and satisfactory prices on seed.

CLOVER SEED—DETROIT MARKET.

June	\$11.30
Mammoth	11.30
Alsike	13.00
Timothy Seed	2.10

CORN

We see no reason why we should raise any other flag but No. 1 on this commodity. We appreciate the price as well as you, but at the same time the conditions from all angles are healthy. The trade is taking care of this commodity just as fast as you could hope. Never up to the present time has more corn gone on the market than this season. We have an exceptionally heavy crop for disposi-

CORN—DETROIT MARKET.

No. 2 white	
No. 3 white	
No. 4 white	
No. 2 yellow	
No. 3 yellow	.50
No. 4 yellow	
No. 2 mixed	
No. 3 mixed	.49
No. 4 mixed	

CORN—CINCINNATI MARKET.

No. 2 white	
No. 3 white	.49
No. 4 white	.47
No. 2 yellow	
No. 3 yellow	.48½
No. 4 yellow	.47
No. 2 mixed	
No. 3 mixed	.48½
No. 4 mixed	.47

CORN—PITTSBURGH MARKET.

No. 2 white	
No. 3 white	
No. 4 white	
No. 2 yellow	.52½
No. 3 yellow	.51½
No. 4 yellow	
No. 2 mixed	
No. 3 mixed	
No. 4 mixed	

tion. We must consider this point. We can see no possibility of a recurrence of last year's conditions based on the situation as we see it. Practically every corn producing state has a very heavy crop this year. Something will have to be done to stimulate consumption. We would not expect a reduction in prices possible to obtain after this is accomplished. It does seem with conditions as they are at the present time, and have been for some time in the past, that many things could be done to increase consumption of corn. This in turn would have a tendency to help the situation from a monetary standpoint.

APPLES

We can look for nothing from now on but a storage situation to exist on apples. The market lines will be governed greatly by the manner in which the large storers handle the situation. If at any time or for any reason they should break in on their holdings, forcing them out to the trade, we would at once see a depressed condition facing us. The apple situation must be handled just exactly right, in order to maintain a healthy level of prices. On the other hand, we can see no reason whatever why the apple situation should not maintain itself on its present basis or do more than that and show an increase in value of 25 per cent. We have maintained for some time that an advance should be forthcoming, and we still maintain that the same is possible and should be the actual result provided the situation is handled in the proper manner. There are worlds of apples in store, not only in storage plants but also in local cellars. The trade is being worked hard and constantly to take hold. The consumption of apples is very heavy. If the storers of apples are half as game as the producers have shown themselves to be, the apple situation will be satisfactory.

APPLES—GENERAL MARKET.

Fancy, per barrel	2.00 to 3.00
Ordinary, per barrel	1.00 to 2.00

ONIONS

We can give you just a little hope this week by virtue of just a little clean up in conditions existing in some outside markets, but at the same time this feeling is so slight, the relief likewise, that there is no real relief to the for another week and hope that some situation in general as affects you. We know of one Virginia market during the last week which would not take two cars of nice bright red stock at any price, not only would not buy them at any price, but refused to take them in to be handled on a commission basis. Those two cars of onions are now unloaded in warehouse waiting for development of conditions. Every marked practical speaking, is not looking for receipts—much rather they would not show up. The market from the start has been crowded. This was forced by the abundant crop and its hazardous nature. Thirty days of weather

ONIONS.

Detroit.

Yellow Globe, sacked, per cwt.	.80
Red Globe, sacked, per cwt.	
Yellow Globe, bulk, per cwt.	.50
Red Globe, bulk, per cwt.	

Cincinnati.

Yellow Globe, sacked, per cwt.	.70
Red Globe, sacked, per cwt.	
Yellow Globe, bulk, per cwt.	.50
Red Globe, bulk, per cwt.	

Pittsburg.

Yellow Globe, sacked, per cwt.	.80
Red Globe, sacked, per cwt.	.50
Yellow Globe, bulk, per cwt.	.60
Red Globe, bulk, per cwt.	.30

such as we are now experiencing should do much to improve the general situation on onions. It does not seem possible that we can see a very satisfactory market on onions this year. The level of prices must continue on a comparatively low level. The holdings of onions in store are very large. Let's forget our onions thing in the way of relief will show up.

CABBAGE

A demoralized condition still exists in every direction. There is absolutely no angle of escape for this commodity at the present time. There is no outlook in any direction as an avenue of escape. Not an outside market at the present time would any more than pay the freight on a shipment. With weather conditions of the present nature we would naturally look for a brightening up of conditions as a result. Very likely this will be the real outcome. But nevertheless, so far as the present is concerned, there is absolutely no use whatever to give your cabbage situation any attention because, it is simply time thrown away. There is no escape for it. We know of numbers of holders who have been obliged to feed their cabbage instead of making other disposition. Others are turning the same into kraut. If immediate disposition has to be made, an avenue of escape will have to be furnished by yourself at home.

CABBAGE—GENERAL MARKET.

Danish, per ton on track. No market	
Domestic, per ton, track. No market	

BUTTER

There is really no change whatever to give on the butter situation. It has remained just about steady at last week's quotations and on basis of this week's condition. You will appreciate please that butter is high—if not top-heavy, it is up where the situation is somewhat dangerous from a price standpoint. As pointed out in last week's issue, if the sellers of butter are not careful they will put the same to a level where it will be top-heavy and where the consumer or regular purchaser will bolt. We believe the producers of butter on the present basis should be satisfied. We believe the consumer is satisfied with present market levels. We believe that it would be possible under the present healthy conditions of the situation to put butter to a higher level than is now shown, but whether it would be practical and result in a real advantage is questionable.

BUTTER—GENERAL MARKET.

Creamery No. 1, per pound	.36
Fancy Dairy, per pound	.34

EGGS

There has been a curtailing of receipts of strictly fresh stock since the cold snap visited us. This has had an influence on the market accordingly. The large storers of eggs on the New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago markets have maintained a very serious attitude toward their true position and accordingly have made some strenuous steps to relieve the situation that they felt was confronting them. From your standpoint as a producer of fresh eggs, there is no cause whatever for alarm. Your stock will hold on a high market level throughout the remaining winter months, espe-

EGGS—GENERAL MARKET.

Large Fresh	.32
Medium Fresh	.28

cially will this be true if we still continue to have real winter weather from now on.

POULTRY

We wish now we had given these commission fellows in the city another good stiff wallop on the poultry situation. They are a pretty game bunch, long headed and can see every avenue of escape possible. Appreciating that we handled the Thanksgiving situation as we did, and having the Christmas and New Year's trade facing them, a large number of cars of poultry have been purchased from Iowa and shipped to this market. It isn't strictly a new thing for an occasional car of live poultry to be shipped in from western states to some of our very large dressers here, but this season and just at this particular time some of our smallest commission men, simply handlers of poultry in a common wholesale way, one to five coops in a place, have shipped in solid cars to accommodate their requirements. We are just a little afraid that this feature is going to have its influence on the live poultry market here. It would be most natural to expect. We can't look for any other condition to be the outcome. We felt most secure in our advice of the natural situation that we should expect, and from the fact that these fellows have stepped out and bought car load lots in this manner, was a proof of our position and understanding of the situation. We know this, that the general tone of the poultry situation from now until spring should be satisfactory—no reason for its being otherwise. New Year's market is usually as good a market as we have, therefore, we feel that shipments made to arrive not later than Monday next will meet with ready sale and on a very satisfactory basis.

POULTRY—DETROIT MARKET.

No. 1 Turkeys	.18 to .20
No. 2 Turkeys	.14 to .16
No. 1 Spring Chickens	.12 to .13
No. 2 Spring Chickens	.10 to .11
No. 1 Fowls	.12 to .14
No. 2 Fowls	.09 to .10
No. 1 Geese	.12 to .14
No. 1 Ducks	.15 to .18

POULTRY—CHICAGO MARKET.

No. 1 Turkeys	.16
No. 2 Turkeys	.13
No. 1 Spring Chickens	.12
No. 2 Spring Chickens	.10
No. 1 Fowls	.11
No. 2 Fowls	.08
No. 1 Geese	.12
No. 1 Ducks	.13

Note.—A wire from any of our readers will bring last minute quotations. Use care in making shipments and be sure the consignee is financially responsible.

LIVE STOCK

Cattle—Chicago.

Trade at week's close showed more buoyancy than for the past week. Sales of beef were from 10@15c higher, still much lower than ten days ago prices. Receipts of cattle were not large; in fact, just about what the trade could nicely digest. Packers and shippers were not slow in falling into line at present low levels and their keen activity kept a good outlet open for the bulk of offerings, and arrivals

CATTLE—CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

Beef steers, good to prime heavy	8.50 to 9.25
Beef steers, medium to good	7.50 to 8.50
Beef steers, common to fair	5.50 to 7.50
Beef cows, common to selected	4.40 to 7.10
Fat heifers, good to choice	5.25 to 7.25
Feeders	4.50 to 7.30
Canners and cutters	2.30 to 4.25
Good to prime veals	9.00 to 10.00

passed the gates at from \$7@9.25, depending on quality. Dressed beef values, however, have not shown any decline, nor will it, as packers, having facilities, can hold with their ice while stock yards feeding runs into lucre rapidly. Veal calves remain at about level prices, being a basis of from \$9.85@11.50 per cwt.

Cattle—Detroit.

Michigan Central railroad service was reported to be in better condition than for weeks past, and arrivals were more regular, which prevents first a feast, and then a famine—a good healthy passage through the yards resulting. At the close of the week arrivals were rather light and nearly everything sold. The general market was steady on feeders, bulls and stockers, but was from 15@20c lower than prices of the week previous. Trade was active at the decline and closed strong. Stocker and feeder trade was good, better indeed than for several weeks; and quite a large number of the feeder class found their way back to the farm. The demand for milk cows was brisk, but for anything less than milkers went at dull sales. The veal trade was good at last week's prices, a few extra good ones bringing up to \$12, but bulk of sales were from \$9@11.

CATTLE—DETROIT STOCK YARDS.

Beef steers, good to prime heavy	7.50 to 8.00
Beef steers, medium to good	6.75 to 7.25
Beef steers, common to fair	6.00 to 6.75
Yearlings	4.25 to 4.75
Beef cows, common to selected	5.25 to 5.75
Heifers, selected	4.00 to 4.50
Stock steers	5.00 to 5.50
Feeders	5.50 to 6.25
Canners and cutters	3.00 to 3.50
Good to prime veals	10.00 to 11.50
Bulls	4.50 to 5.00

Cattle—Buffalo.

Strong indications of winter weather at this point was expected to help fallen prices onto their feet again; but outside of a few feeble efforts of a few of the better grades the trade remained dull. Prices were regarded as from 40@50c lower on most grades and only the fancy grades survived the decline. The veal trade was spirited throughout, a very noticeable decrease in arrivals causing the stable condition and good to choice vealers passing along readily at from \$11@12.50. In fact, there was room for more arrivals at these attractive prices.

CATTLE—BUFFALO STOCK YARDS.

Beef steers, good to heavy	8.50 to 9.00
Beef steers, medium to good	8.50 to 8.75
Beef steers, common to fair	7.50 to 7.75
Yearlings	7.75 to 8.00
Beef cows, common to selected	5.50 to 6.00
Fat heifers, good to choice	6.75 to 7.25
Heifers, selected	4.00 to 4.75
Stock steers	6.00 to 6.25
Feeders	4.00 to 5.00
Canners and cutters	4.00 to 4.25
Good to prime veals	11.00 to 11.50
Bulls	3.50 to 4.00

Hogs—Chicago.

At this point eastern shippers again took an active part in the hog trade, paying largely 5@10c higher than on Tuesday and Wednesday previous to close of week's business. Packers held back and amassed their droves at a slight recession, yet the general tone at close showed a slight advance along the line, and a top of \$7.42 for several cars heavy hogs. The receipts

HOGS—CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

Bulk of sales	7.15 to 7.30
Common to good mixed	7.10 to 7.25
Fair to medium weight	7.25 to 7.35
Lightweights	7.10 to 7.35
Selected 260-300-lb. packers	7.25 to 7.40
Stags, 80 lbs., deekage	7.00 to 7.50
Pigs	6.00 to 6.90

for the closing day were 16,000 head, yet evening found that a good clearance had been made at the following quotations:

Hogs—Detroit.

With receipts around 8,000 head as against 13,000 the week previous, the market shows a tip upwards. The stuff coming is in fairly good condition with a noticeable decrease in that grade known as culls. Dope on the side was posted a little in advance of scheduled prices as particular buyers at this time of year want it even though a slight advance is required to slide the good his way. Outside of this grade the price showed from 5@10c advance and from this it seemed loth to depart and schedules at close were little changed.

HOGS—DETROIT MARKET.

Fair to choice butchers	7.20 to 7.30
Lightweights	7.15 to 7.20
Boars, according to weight	2.75 to 3.00
Pigs	6.90 to 7.00
Stags	One-third off

DRESSED HOGS.

Block Hogs	10 1/2c
Note—Dressed hogs weighing from 150 to 250 pounds bring best prices. Be careful in shipping.	

Hogs—Buffalo.

Stronger prices under moderate arrivals prevailed throughout the closing day of the past week. Receipts for the day were 6,400 head as against 8,600 head the corresponding day of the week previous. Local packers were well represented, and this with a fairly good outside demand the market opened active, and best grades were advanced from 5@10c. The big end of the day's deal went over the scales at about \$7.60, while a few well cushioned samples went at private schedules at from \$7.60@7.80. Yorkers of the best grades stood up and were counted out at around \$7.65, but the bulk of sales rested near the \$7.60 mark. We quote:

HOGS—BUFFALO STOCK YARDS.

Common to good mixed	7.35 to 7.40
Fair to medium weight	7.40 to 7.50
Lightweights	7.35 to 7.50
Fancy shippers	7.00 to 7.90
Stags	5.50 to 6.25
Pigs	7.35 to 7.40

Sheep—Chicago.

The week's close of business showed activity among the sheep. The lamb market was good in the morning but dropped off slightly as the day wore away. Early sales of prime fat western lambs were made at \$8.15, with natives going at 5c less. Dakota wethers were in slow demand due to poor condition, trading the passover at around \$5.25. As usual, a pick-out was noticed for the fancy trade at prices above regular quotations, and no one knows just exactly where these premiums landed; but probably not on the farm.

SHEEP—CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

Lambs, good to choice	6.75 to 8.00
do, fair to good	6.25 to 7.50
do, cull to common	2.50 to 3.25
Yearling lambs, choice	5.50 to 6.75
do, cull to fair	2.50 to 3.25
Wethers, choice	4.50 to 5.25
Mixed sheep	2.75 to 3.50
Ewes, choice handy weight	3.25 to 4.45
do, choice heavy	5.75 to 7.65
Cull sheep	2.50 to 3.25
Bucks	2.75 to 3.50

Sheep—Detroit.

Receipts at the market for the week were about 8,000, or around 1,000 head less than the previous week. Market was steady at a slight advance over that of a week ago; in fact not enough increase in price to fit the big decrease in arrivals. Some known as culls were noticed among the arrivals and these were snapped up for cheap restaurant and saloon lunch trade and went for whatever was offered. The market at close was well cleared on all grades. We quote:

SHEEP—DETROIT STOCK YARDS.

Lambs, good to choice	7.75 to 8.25
do, fair to good	7.25 to 7.75
Yearling lambs, choice	5.00 to 6.25
Mixed Sheep	3.00 to 4.00
Cull sheep	2.80 to 3.10

Sheep—Buffalo.

This market showed a higher plane in the lamb section, and an unchanged condition as regards sheep. Receipts showed a slight increase over that of a week ago, but in the lamb yards the supply was hardly up to the demand. While prices are yet lower than a week ago, yet the week's close noted a substantial advance over the lower levels a few days previous. Offerings in the yearling line were made up of small bunches and quotations on each as these were allowed to stand, top being \$6.50. Cull lambs found an active demand and values on these showed an advance of at least 25c; best selling from \$7@7.25.

SHEEP—BUFFALO STOCK YARDS.

Lambs, good to choice	8.50 to 8.60
do, fair to good	7.25 to 8.00
do, cull and common	6.00 to 7.00
Yearling lambs, choice	6.00 to 6.50
do, cull to fair	4.50 to 6.00
Wethers, choice	4.75 to 5.25
Ewes, choice handy weight	4.25 to 4.50
Cull sheep	2.00 to 3.00
Bucks	2.50 to 3.00

COAL.

The car shortage has been slightly relieved on account of the release of cars from crop movements and from moving coal to lake shipping docks. The mild temperature during the past two weeks has given the retailer a chance to catch up on back orders and get a small supply of anthracite and soft coal on hand, which will take care of the orders now rushing in on account of colder weather.

The movement of anthracite is a little freer than a few weeks ago. It will be impossible for the mines to actually catch up on the orders before March 1, but believe all consumers will have very little trouble in getting coal if ordered in small quantities at a time.

The prices on coal are practically the same with the exception of Michigan coal which has advanced from 25c to 50c a ton.

Soft Coal.

Kind of Coal.	F.O.B. Mines.
Hocking lump	\$2.20
Cambridge lump	2.00
Cambridge 1/2-lump	1.80
West Virginia Splint lump	2.20
White Ash block	2.20
Kentucky 4-inch lump	2.60
Kentucky 4x2-inch egg	2.40
Harrisburg 6-inch lump	2.40
Pocahontas lump and egg	3.00
Pocahontas mine run	2.00
Michigan Domestic 4-inch lump	3.20
Anthracite egg, stove or nut	5.50

Note: Quotations on anthracite coal is based on gross tons.

FLOUR AND FEED.

Owing to the holiday season, shipments on flour and feed have somewhat relaxed, and the prices remain the same. However, we believe a reaction will take place after the first of the year which will stimulate the trade and will undoubtedly result in a slight advance in prices.

Kind.	Price per bbl.
"Blend" flour	\$ 5.30
Spring patent	4.70
Per ton.	
Coarse corn meal	23.30
Cracked corn	25.50
Chop feed	21.00
Coarse Middlings	23.50
Fine middlings	26.50
Bran (standard)	22.50

The above prices are f. o. b. Detroit, Mich.

Cotton seed meal delivered to any point taking a Detroit rate at \$30.50 per ton in car lots not less than 20 tons.

Those interested can write our Bureau for information.

CHICAGO PACKERS TO BUILD HARBOR ON PACIFIC COAST.

Plan Deepening of Bay Fourteen Miles From San Francisco as Magnet for Factories.

Chicago packers contemplate the expenditure of a million dollars or more for the establishment of a deep water harbor in San Francisco bay fourteen miles from San Francisco.

A tract of 3,000 acres of land along the bay is the property of the Western Meat company. It is being looked upon as desirable as building sites for factories. A number of Chicago packers are stockholders in the Western Meat company. The plan is to deepen the harbor and thereby afford shipping facilities.

"Two plans are under consideration," said Thomas E. Wilson, vice-president of Morris & Co. "One is the building of a pier from the shore to the deeper water, and the other is the building of canals and slips into the land. Louis Swift is among the Chicago stockholders of the company interested in the project."

VINEGAR ACT VIOLATED IN DETROIT, 'TIS SAID.

The state dairy and food department has discovered many violations of the vinegar act in Detroit of late. The law provides that vinegar is of two kinds, cider and distilled. It further provides receptacles holding vinegar must be labeled to show the kind of vinegar they contain.

The law also prohibits the adulteration of vinegar. The addition of chemicals is required to make distilled vinegar and the question has arisen whether this is a violation of the law. The officials also find in many cases that the two kinds of vinegar are mixed and sold as cider vinegar. The attorney general will be asked to decide the questions.

The winter season is the time for the farmer to study out the work of the coming season. Make all plans with great care; much better results may be realized than you have yet attained, if you go at it right. It is your business to go at it right. Brain may save brawn as well as money. Plan to save and utilize the energy that is lost and wasted every year.

Every farm in this broad land should produce sufficient apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, quinces, apricots, currants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and grapes for the family needs. The garden should also produce its full quota of fine vegetables.

Our country schools may be improved by paying better wages to teachers, by providing better school-buildings, grounds and equipment, and by introducing more hand-work, more agricultural and domestic science, and less of algebra and the dead languages.

Potatoes make a first-class hog feed when cooked. Some good authority recently stated that four pounds of cooked "spuds" equalled a pound of grain. A little grain should be added—raw, not cooked; as the potatoes lack proper "balance."

Good farming shows in little things sometimes—a nicely-painted wagon, for instance, and you can paint it yourself. A good brush, some good paint and a careful man will do wonders in a little while with a rusty wagon.

In selecting seed, it is always important to bear in mind that a plump, heavy kernel will produce a stronger plant and nourish it better than a shrunken, light one, or one that has size without proportionate weight.

Some farms would "size up" rather small if measured by net profits instead of acres.

RAILROAD COMPANIES ARE HAVING FITS.

Poor Uncle Sam is Having An Awful Time With Parcels Post.

It is becoming apparent more and more every day that the Parcels Post law which was passed at the last session of congress, would not have had a ghost of a show had it not been that all of the political parties were out after votes. The law is as cumbersome and unworkable as it was possible to make it; the rates charged interfere but very little with the business of the express companies; but it is going to prove to be the opening wedge which will, within a few years, give us real parcels post service. Not only did the proposed law have the opposition of the express companies and the penny wise and pound foolish local dealers, but the great railroad companies have shown very plainly that they would rather deal with the express companies than with Uncle Sam.

As a result of objections by the railroads to carrying the heavier mails that will be occasioned by the parcels post, congress will undertake a complete readjustment of the compensation now given the roads by the government for this service.

The railroads will not refuse to carry parcels weighing more than four pounds, the present limit under their contracts. While threats of such refusal have been made, responsible railroad heads have assured the government that the parcels post business will be handled by the carriers without regard to its volume while the question of compensation is under consideration.

The plea for increased compensation was presented to Chairman Moon of the house postoffice committee a few days ago by a delegation of railroad men representing the American Association of Railroads.

Among them were Ralph Peters, president of the Long Island railroad, and chairman of the association committee on railroads; E. J. Pearson, first vice-president of the Missouri Pacific; E. G. Buckland, vice-president of the New Haven; Charles A. Wickersham, president of the Western Railroad of Alabama; George T. Nicholson, first vice-president of the Santa Fe; W. W. Baldwin, vice-president of the Burlington; C. F. Daly, vice-president of the New York Central, and W. A. Worthington, assistant director of operation of the Harriman lines.

The delegation stated that the railroads are losing \$25,000,000 a year on the present basis of compensation for carrying the mails instead of being paid \$9,000,000 too much, as Second Assistant Postmaster General Stewart contends.

The railroad men said this loss would be increased when they are required to handle the parcel post business, with packages running up to eleven pounds in weight. They asked that a new weighing of the mails be ordered after the parcel post goes into effect and that increased compensation be allowed.

It is probable the reweighing of the mails after the parcel post gets into full operation will be ordered for the purpose of determining the compensation due the railroads.

"Here's the Proof of the Pudding"

The following item from the "Packer," published at Chicago, will give readers of the "Pink Sheet" an idea of market conditions as they have existed in Detroit during the past four weeks. Here is absolute evidence of the feasibility of feeding the market:

"But little change took place in the poultry, butter and egg market here this week. All kinds of poultry were steady with but few fluctuations in price. There was an ample supply with the exception of turkeys, which dealers reported scarce with indica-

The paramount question in this country is the high cost of living. The Democratic party, with a Democratic president and congress, has been elected for the purpose of remedying the evil. Tariff reform, the reduction of the tariff to the revenue necessities of the government, the consequent trust reform—as "the tariff is the mother of the trusts"—and the enforcement of the Sherman anti-trust law, which the Republican party has only pretended to enforce, will bring down prices and reduce the high cost of living.

Every man who goes to market, every householder in the land, knows that the cost of living has mounted unconscionably. It has not been a mere political campaign cry. We have the personal knowledge and have felt the pinch. Besides, there are the figures of Bradstreet.

Bradstreet has kept an accurate record of prices on what are termed staples. These reports run through a period of 26 years, which show the

ONLY FROM 107 TO 300 PER CENT

Pittsburg Grocers Only Want a Fair (?) Margin of Profit.

The committee on food supplies of the Pittsburgh chamber of commerce is making an investigation of the high cost of living. Early in December they sent out letters to the retail grocers in Pittsburgh, asking for information and setting a date when a conference would be held. The retailers did not take kindly to the suggestion on the part of the board of commerce and less than one per cent attended the meeting or replied to the communication. The only report received at the conference was one from the Pittsburgh Produce Trade Association, which was read by Chairman Franzell.

Mr. Franzell stated that the committee had made their investigation and found that retail grocers were charging from 107 to 450 per cent profit on nearly all lines of fruits and produce handled. They took the retail prices on four staple commodities consisting of apples, potatoes, cabbage and onions. On these four commodities they found that retailers were charging from 110 to 300 per cent. Some of the few retail grocers attending showed considerable indifference and claimed it was necessary to have large margins of profit on food stuffs, because of the frequent total losses. It was suggested to the grocers that they ought to give discounts to the customers, who pay cash for their supplies and to those who buy in large quantities. The grocers asserted that this theory would not work, because of the numerous competitors in the business. The grocers who adopted this plan have asserted that they would lose all except the cash customers and even they would not be well satisfied. One grocer even asserted that it was good policy to give credit, under some circumstances, even to persons who it was known would not pay. Such losses in his business, he stated, he charged to "advertising." The gro-

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

prevailing prices during all that time and the falling off or advance in price each article has made each month.

For October the index was \$9.4515, or one unit for the 96 commodities would have cost that sum.

For November it increased to \$9.4781.

Where it cost \$94.51 for a living in October it would cost \$94.78 in November.

The low point, according to these records, was in 1896, when the living cost would have been \$59.12.

There has been a rise of 16.2 per cent over the average of 1902, and 17.7 per cent over 1892.

The average for the 10-year period 1892-1901 was \$69.69, on which basis the index for 1912 shows an advance of 31 per cent in the living cost.

These figures are conclusive that the high cost of living problem is a serious one. The American people, by voting the Democratic party in power, have acted in necessary self-defense.—Houston Chronicle.

cers further stated that they had to compel the honest customer to pay for the losses made by the dishonest customer. They claimed it was impossible to not keep on giving credit, and if the grocer would not give a customer credit, another would, consequently they were "up against it."

The committee took no action and will hold another meeting and continue their investigation. Some of the members of the committee expressed the opinion that the consumers need to be educated in the methods of grocers, as the latter will not likely adopt more business-like methods without considerable pressure.

CREAMERY PLANT GOES UP IN SMOKE.

The first of the week the plant of the Yale Creamery Company, located at Yale, St. Clair county, was entirely destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$5,000, with insurance to cover half the amount. While the origin of the fire has not been definitely determined, it is thought to have started from a defective electric light wire. The only water protection afforded was from the wells near the creamery and this supply soon gave out, and there was no effective means of fighting the fire. The frame building was entirely destroyed, the boiler and engine being the only things saved.

This was not a co-operative plant. The stockholders were James Wallace, E. F. See, Harvey Drake and J. A. Rapply. If the farmers living near Yale are wise in their day and generation, they will organize a co-operative creamery to take the place of the stock company.

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