

# AD FOR TOWNSHIP, POST ROADS, AIM OF FARM BUREAU BILL

## MICHIGAN INSURANCE AGENTS IN FIVE DISTRICTS OPERATING UNDER FARM BUREAU SUPERVISION GIVEN AWARDS

Efforts Of Michigan's Farm Bureau Insurance Agents Rewarded by Company. Nine of The 72 Awards For New Business Given Michigan District and Local Men

When Michigan agents of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance company carried off the two grand prizes for new business written between September and February, at the fifth annual convention of the company, at Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 14 and 15, their work, totaling more than 7,500 applications for automobile insurance policies written in Michigan during that five months' period, represented an appreciable part in the building of an insurance business which has spread to 20 states and having assets of more than \$2,000,000 in half a dozen years, and which serves upwards of 200,000 policy holders, nearly 100,000 of whom were added to the list during 1928.

This record of growth by the company is unparalleled in insurance history and the Michigan agency of the company, directed by the Michigan State Farm Bureau, has developed new business in a manner which has put Michigan in third place among the states handling this line of insurance.

In two years, the State Farm Bureau has helped to build up an insurance agency in this state which is serving more than 25,000 auto owners. This agency produced sufficient new business during the five months this winter to merit the awarding of the grand prize, offered annually by the company, to one of its district agents and the grand prize to one of its local agents for greatest volume of business. With over 4,000 local agents competing and about 100 district agents, this is a remarkable showing for the Michigan men.

### 51 Michigan Delegates

The Michigan agency was represented at the convention by 51 delegates.

Among the many activities at the convention, which was attended by about a thousand delegates, was the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the insurance company's new eight story office building. While present plans call for use of only six floors of this building by the company itself, the consistent business growth may necessitate utilizing all eight floors for company business when the structure is completed this summer.

One hundred new employees were added to the office force of the company during the past year to keep up with the business development, making a total of 193 on the staff at the Bloomington offices. The Michigan agency is directed by Alfred Bentall, who was formerly director of organization work for the State Farm Bureau.

Michigan agents carried off 9 of the 72 prizes awarded by the company for the work written this winter. C. H. Fowler, of Lansing, in charge of Michigan district No. 3, was awarded grand prize for high production of new business turned in by district agents and J. Taylor Gage of Manchester, first grand prize for local agents.

Other grand prize winners among the 4,000 local agents were, L. B. Fishbeck, of East Lansing, third; Arthur Landon, of Albion, sixth; G. Howard Smith, of Birch Run, tenth, and Ward C. Wood, of Paw Paw, eleventh. Among the district agents, Michigan agents carried off honors as follows: Fowler, first; R. G. Gib-

(Continued on page three)

## Farm Bureau's Tax Counselor

Letters received by the Tax Counselor indicate that there is much misunderstanding as to the proper value of property for tax assessment purposes, and as to the rights and powers of the township supervisors in determining this value.

The constitution of Michigan provides for the assessment of property at its "cash value." The general tax law defines "cash value" as "the usual selling price at the place where the property \*\*\* shall be at the time of assessment, being the price which could be obtained therefor at private sale, and not at a forced or auction sale."

Land Prices Vary  
You will probably call to mind pri-

(Continued on page four)

## Soil Fertility Counts Most For Crop Profits

Use of High Analysis Plant Food Now Recognized As a Necessity

A better understanding of soil needs and "soil response" has developed to a considerable extent in the past few years in Michigan as result of the soils schools conducted as an extension educational policy under the direction of Michigan State College. It was explained in a most interesting manner in a recent interview with Prof. M. M. McCool, head of the soils department of the college.

of producing sugar beets may be as high as \$10 an acre with production running at six tons per acre, whereas, with the production jumped up to 18 tons per acre, which is not unreasonably high, the cost per ton drops to about \$3.50 for production. At the latter figure the Michigan farmer could raise beets with profit while, at the cost of \$10 a ton, he ordinarily loses on the venture.

High Analysis Counts  
Enriching the soils with fertilizers containing at least 14 per cent plant food is the first solution for reducing production costs of agricultural commodities, Prof. McCool illustrates. In his interview he referred to a trip made a short time ago through some of the agricultural sections of the state, in conjunction with representatives of organizations interested in agricultural improvement. He stated:  
"I was gratified to spend a week with representatives of the Michigan (Continued on page two)

## Resolution Number 1

Adopted February 8, 1929, at Eleventh Annual

Both in the state and the nation the Farm Bureau is more and more recognized as having a sound constructive, and at the same time, aggressive program.

Agriculture is going through a period of readjustment effecting the purchasing power of the farmers' dollar and ushering in fundamental changes in the methods of production and marketing of farm commodities. Business is effectively applying the principles of collective bargaining, through chains, effective both in the manufacturing and sales of the products of business.

The need of a thoroughly organized agriculture is greater today than ever before, therefore, we restate and reaffirm our belief in the need of a nation-wide Farm Organization based upon an individual farm membership, and with this in view we recommend that the State Farm Bureau and each County Farm Bureau make a special effort to build and strengthen its organization, numerically and otherwise, during the year 1929. We further suggest a state-wide Farm Bureau Rally Day to be held early in the year, for the purpose of discussing and planning ways and means of furthering the membership and influence of the Farm Bureau. We believe this discussion should culminate in a state-wide membership effort later in the year and we pledge ourselves and our County Farm Bureaus here represented, to this program.

## WORK OF EXCHANGE WINS APPROVAL OF PRODUCER-SHIPPER

Officers and Directors Of Livestock Exchange Are Re-elected

HANDLING LOSSES CUT Six Hundred Participate In Exchange's Second Annual Banquet

The loss ratio on shipments of livestock has been cut in two during the past 10 years and during the past year, a greater application of care in handling livestock shipments meant a saving of \$640,000 through losses prevented during the twelve months compared with the losses of the year previous.

These were some of the high lights in talks given at the annual meeting of some 600 livestock producer-shippers at Lansing, combining the annual meeting of the Michigan Livestock Exchange with that of the Michigan Livestock Loss Prevention Association, Feb. 21 and 22.

The conventions were the most successful ever held by the two sister organizations.

The 1928 losses in hog shipments, delegates were informed, were less than the year before, the reduction in losses being 15 per cent greater than in 1927.

Trucking On Increase  
Trucked hogs increased from about 3,000,000 in 1927 to about 5,000,000 in 1928 on the western markets. The loss figures, however, took into account only the livestock handled by rail.

Some evidence was offered at the meetings to indicate that truck stock shows a greater percentage of shrinkage than rail-shipped stock although no definite figures were found available to substantiate such claims.

The loss of some 53,000 hogs in a year through careless handling is the record as confronting the producers for the past year, despite the increasing amount of care exercised in loading and shipping stock.

The banquet on Feb. 21 was the biggest livestock shippers meeting ever staged in Michigan and included a dinner and an old-time dancing party at Hotel Olds, in Lansing.

The records of the Michigan Livestock Exchange for the six years and eight months of operation since it was organized show that a total of \$52,000,000 worth of livestock has been handled at a total profit of \$129,000 with 78,500 of the total savings returned to the members and a total surplus on hand amounting to \$34,500.

The officers and directors were re-elected for the ensuing year.

Co-Ops Are Successful  
Figures were presented showing that farmers of this country can market their own livestock successfully through their own business organization, as during the year 1928 the co-operative livestock agencies handled approximately 185,000 carloads of livestock or over 13,000,000 animals, having a value of over \$315,000,000.

A few of the accomplishments resulting from co-operative selling and buying of livestock are:

- Better service in handling shipments at terminal markets;
- Better facilities for loading, and a faster movement to market by transportation companies;
- A better method of presenting and obtaining collection of claims;
- Securing a reduction in commission

## NATIONAL RADIO MEETING PLANNED FOR FARM BUREAU

Many Farm Leaders to Speak Over Nation-wide Radio Broadcast Hook-up

SAM THOMPSON, LEADER First Chain Hook-up Made Specifically Aiding Agriculturists

A gigantic, nation-wide farmers' mass meeting to be participated in by more than a million and a quarter members of the American Farm Bureau Federation, together with other invited organized agricultural groups, is being arranged by the officers of the American Farm Bureau Federation. March 14 has been set for this event.

In 15,000 rural communities Farm Bureau folks will gather round the radio loud speakers to share in program which is to be broadcast from the Chicago studio of National Broadcast Corporation.

With Sam H. Thompson, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation in the chair, a community Farm Bureau program such as no community Farm Bureau has ever before been privileged to enjoy, will be placed on the air.

Personages of national reputation, representing every phase of the extremely varied agricultural industry, will talk. Included will be music and other entertainment features, richly reflecting the simplicity and the sincerity of country life.

To carry the program to the folks out in the hinter land, a hook-up of telephone wires and ether waves more extensive than any ever before made, except for political conventions and some addresses of President Coolidge has been arranged.

In country school houses in cross roads churches, in the town hall, the county court house, from Massachusetts Bay to the Golden Gate, farmers with their families will be gathered to listen in. If radio instruments are lacking, an offer has been made by the Radio Corporation of America to loan the necessary set on request from properly authorized Farm Bureau leaders.

Boys and Girls Invited  
To share in the affair, national Farm Bureau officials will invite members of kindred agricultural organizations, The National Live Stock Producers association with its membership of gentlemen throughout the middle west and the plains states, will be one of the Farm Bureau's guests. Farm boys and girls who belong to the National 4-H clubs will be a second invited group. Farmers' co-operative shipping and buying associations, the National Grange with its extensive membership, and many others, are to be sought to help swell this radio mass meeting of agriculture.

Farm Bureau leaders promoting the plan, vision the aggregate audience as the largest assembly of farmers ever brought together at any one time.

Newell Gale has three men lined up to do membership work in Huron; has had two meetings in Huron—a quarterly meeting planned in Sanilac—a good start.

charges and refunding to producers of livestock the savings;  
Promoting educational agricultural activities by boosting Boys' and Girls' Club work;  
Holding livestock demonstrations.

## STATE RALLY DAY UNIFORM PROGRAM IS BEING PLANNED

Each County Farm Bureau is Making Preparations To Meet April 3

To increase interest in all phases of Farm Bureau activities and to plan a program in each Farm Bureau county of the state, a uniform program for a Farm Bureau Rally Day, or quarterly forum, is being drafted in tentative form by the organization department of the state Farm Bureau.

April 3, is the date set for the state-wide program, which is to include a membership meeting in every Farm Bureau county on the same date with all Farm Bureau members considering the same questions at the same time. Each county group will plan and execute a definite program with help from the State Farm Bureau officials and district men in making preliminary arrangements only.

The general plan is to have local folks take part in the programs in each county. The County Farm Bureau will give wide local publicity to the proposed Rally Day and arrange the meeting place and the program. The State Farm Bureau will assist with program suggestions and give the Rally Day state-wide publicity and work with the executive boards to get the program under way, furnishing material for use of those who are to take part in discussions.

Many of the counties have been considering such a program for some time and the State Farm Bureau is setting April 3, as the date for making the big, state-wide observance a success.

## MECOSTA "STEMS UP AT 30 BELOW"

County Unit Joins Co-Op In Staging a Successful Winter Meeting

Occasionally one hears of someone "carrying on in spite of hell and hot weather" but they don't have anything on the farmers of Mecosta county. About 175 of these rugged folk carried on a Farm Bureau meeting with the thermometers registering 30 degrees below zero, on the coldest day of the winter, a week ago. This was the first quarterly meeting of the Mecosta County Farm Bureau and the meeting was held in co-operation with a meeting of the Stanwood Co-Op association, in the Methodist church at Stanwood, Feb. 19.

Much of the success of the affair was attributed to the fact that every person appearing on the program has been engaged in organization work for more than 10 years, and that the farmers of this county have always been willing to co-operate in agricultural activities with a large per cent of the Co-Op members being Farm Bureau members also.

Seating capacity of the church was taxed to the limit despite the cold weather and the fact that only the main roads were open to vehicular traffic and that some of the farmers were unable to start their motors and had to walk in to the meeting, some of them several miles.

Earl Gale, president of the county Farm Bureau, was chairman of the meeting and, after reporting on the annual Farm Bureau convention held at Chicago this winter, introduced several speakers and entertainers, among them being Fred Harger, who reported on the State Farm Bureau meeting; E. E. Twing, county agent, who stressed the need of organization among farmers; B. O. Hagerman, agricultural agent for the Pennsylvania R. R., who gave an illustrated talk on soil rebuilding; Fred Hibst, manager of the Michigan Potato Growers Exchange, who explained some of the needs of organization as a means of saving the potato grower in a season like the present one; M. L. Noon, president of the State Farm Bureau, who talked on tariff revisions sought by the Farm Bureau through its Washington office.

Entertainment was furnished by the Stanwood High School Glee club with community singing led by Mr. Twing. The Ladies Aid society of the church served the dinner at noon.

## Alfalfa Letter Contest Closes

With this issue of the News the Alfalfa Prize Letter Contest which has been running for several editions closes. Some very interesting letters have been published and the contest has been worth while.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO IMPROVE RURAL HIGHWAYS IS SOUGHT IN A MEASURE SPONSORED BY STATE F. B.

Proposed Legislative Measure, Seeking Funds For Country Roads, Proposes No Diversion Of State Finances Until Middle Of 1930; Mutual Plan Embodied.

A state highway measure designed to meet the needs of the rural districts without disrupting the general highway program of the state and one which gives especial consideration to township and rural post roads has been prepared by the Michigan State Farm Bureau and is ready for introduction in the Legislature in the next few days.

This is the result of weeks of diligent study and effort on the part of the special highway committee of the Farm Bureau and the proposed legislation has been approved by the state association of county road commissioners and engineers and aims to bring about an improved condition as sought by the rural mail carriers of the state.

Diversion of part of the gasoline tax is proposed with specific provision for improving township roads and rural post roads, in particular.

That the measure must have the unrelenting support of every rural resident is seen in the situation existing in legislative circles with several "township road bills" proposed and some introduced in the legislature in recent weeks, none of which have undergone any action other than to be "sent to committee."

Just as there was action in December, when the Farm Bureau bill actually had its inception, at a meeting in Lansing about 100 enthusiasts from practically every corner of the state, seeking relief from the "impassable conditions on the dirt roads," the measure should be followed up by Farm Bureau members and local groups, and by other rural residents who may not belong to the Farm Bureau, each of whom should write their Legislative representatives, urging early and fair consideration of this important measure.

## RALLY DAY PLANS MADE AT SANILAC FIRST QUARTERLY

Program Committee Success Brings Repeat Order For April Meet

Sanilac County Farm Bureau held its first quarterly meeting, Feb. 22. Meeting was called to order by John McLellan, president. The program was arranged by Charles Medcoff acting as chairman of the special program committee. Rev. E. Dixon, pastor of the Methodist church rendered several whistling and vocal solos. Rev. Dixon especially delighted the crowd with his whistling interpretations.

Mr. Allen, of the county road commission, discussed township road problems. He explained how the gas tax that is rebated back to the county is used, road maintenance, and clarified many of the problems relative to the handling of County roads.

On the whole, it was one of the most successful meetings Sanilac county has had in recent years and plans were made, by appointing the same program committee, to have a Rally Day meeting, April 3, in line with other counties of the state.

## Alfalfa Seed Situation Needs Careful Buying

Professor of Farm Crops At State College Explains Spring Condition

"From the information available at the present time it is quite apparent that there will be available on the market this coming season both adapted and unadapted seed. There will also be placed on the market seed of unknown origin. The discriminating buyer will pass up all unusual bargains and all lots of seed of unknown or doubtful origin. Hardigan, Grimm and common strains from northern and high altitude sections are adapted to Michigan conditions."

This is the situation as summed up by Prof. C. R. Megee, of Michigan State College, in the current issue of the Michigan Agriculturist, in an article which presents the facts concerning a serious shortage of dependable alfalfa seed in the northern states this year and carries the suggestion that the farmer who wants to obtain a good stand of the legume another year will do well to buy seed indiscriminately because of the probability of there being a lot of unadapted seed offered for sale this spring.

Sponsors Seek To Be Fair  
That fairness has been the keynote in preparing this proposed legislation is seen in the fact that the sponsors have asked that no diversion of funds be made for the purposes specified in their bill until the middle of next year (July 1, 1930) thus giving the state and county units ample time to make preparation for the change in road building programs proposed.

Under the plans proposed in this measure, the appropriated funds would be paid to the counties for work on township roads with the plan in mind of eventually getting the farmers "out of the mud" on the lateral roads. Working under county supervision, the local road builders would thus have the advantages of better equipment and facilities, in the majority of instances, and a more unified system of highway construction and maintenance would be made possible.

Counties To Help  
County Farm Bureau leaders are asked to spread information regarding this measure and to assist in arranging a series of district meetings, planned for the third week in March, at which time the merits of the bill will be expounded. Those who have assisted in drafting the bill will attend these meetings and be ready to explain any and all its features.

In casual discussions of the proposed Farm Bureau road bill, at the state capitol, before its actual presentation for introduction in the Legislature, there has been expressed more real sympathy toward its pro-

(Continued on page four)

Michigan Source Hard Hit  
"Since the shortage occurred in the section which usually supplies (Continued on page three)



**MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU NEWS**

Published twice a month by the Michigan State Farm Bureau at Charlotte, Michigan. Editorial and general offices at State Farm Bureau headquarters, Lansing, Michigan.

VOL. VII FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1929 No. 4

Entered at the post office at Charlotte, Mich., as second class matter. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized January 12, 1923. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. To Farm Bureau members, 50 cents per year, included in their annual dues.

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**Editorials**

**A BIG VICTORY**

What was undoubtedly the greatest fight ever put on anywhere by dairymen seeking to maintain a sane marketing program and the right to sell their product co-operatively has just drawn to an end at Chicago, with the producers coming out victorious after several weeks of obstinacy on the part of the distributors and dealers. The unwavering insistence of the farmers has resulted in their being paid an increase of 14 cents a hundred pounds for their milk. More than this, agreement has been reached whereby every dealer must post a cash bond in the amount of \$2,500 to protect the producer against bankruptcies on the part of the dealer. This latter, in itself, is a great advantage to the dairyman and farmer who have suffered severely from shister dealers' financial failures in recent years.

The Pure Milk Association, the farmers' and dairymen's organization which led the fight through the Chicago milk price war, has again proved the old adage that faith will move mountains.

A few men with an ideal, the ideal of service to their fellowmen, have come through with flying colors. An ideal carried them through. Working with no prospect, nor thought of pay, they have accomplished the seemingly impossible.

The battle of farmers in the Chicago area for a just share of the consumer's dollar and for a permanent solution of the milk problem, began January 1 and an armistice was declared on the morning of January 22.

The dealers in Chicago had been officially notified that on January 1, the price to be paid farmers for their milk would be \$2.85 instead of \$2.50. Farmers were ordered by the officers of the Pure Milk Association to deliver their milk as usual, thus putting the dealer in the position of either accepting the milk or refusing it. In other words, the farmers were not striking; they were forcing the dealers to strike or lock them out, or pay the price, and were putting the dealers in the position where, if babies were to be starved they would be the ones responsible.

The dealers' reply to the farmers' demand for \$2.85 was to post signs at their plants stating that the price paid farmers for their milk would be \$2.50. The first milk was refused when the farmers and dealers clashed at Bristol, Wis.

To the average producer it is hard to realize what has hap-

pened. The apparently impossible has been accomplished. Chicago dealers are now just as strong for the organization as they were against it before.

**CONSIDERING THE PRODUCER**

A very unusual situation has been found to exist in regard to the production and shipping of chieory, a very valuable farm crop in the Thumb district of the state.

Out of this peculiar situation has arisen a victory for the agricultural producer; a victory accorded through a recent ruling of the Interstate Commerce Commission ordering railroads to accept chieory shipments at 29 cents, rather than 44 cents a hundred pounds.

In according the victory to the farmers, who were supported in their pleadings by the St. Clair County Farm Bureau, the commission explained that, while the 44 cent freight rate which has prevailed for shipments of this commodity was not excessively high, yet, because of a depressed condition of the chieory producing industry, this rate should be reduced to a rate more equitable.

Citation was made of various other commodities, some requiring greater care in handling, which are enjoying the lower rate, the 29 cent rate, which the commission says shall now apply to chieory. It was because of the fact that these other commodities have been handled by the carriers at the lower rate, profitably, that the commission ordered the 29 cent rate to apply to chieory shipments from the Thumb district.

This is a fair decision. It is to the advantage of the grower, directly, but cannot help but reflect to the advantage of the carriers in an indirect manner for, with the reduced freight rate, the farmers will be able to carry on in their production of this crop where, under the 44 cent rate, their industry was about doomed to go the way the sugar beet industry has in certain sections, just a lingering of occasional acreages on which but a few producers could hope to reap a fair margin of profit at the season's end.

The commission says that, while the 44 cent rate is not excessive under ordinary conditions, the lower rate is more in fairness and "lies more in the zone of reasonableness and that its establishment will not be incompatible with the maintenance of adequate transportation service."

In other words, the railroads have been taking a rate for handling the farmers' chieory from Michigan to the east which has meant more than a fair margin of profit but the product has stood the burden until now. Now, with the industry about crushed, it is shown that the carriers can still afford to handle the commodity even with their transportation charge cut more than one-third.

Thus the roads will lose direct revenue but they will be able to continue to handle this important Thumb district crop. Thus, also, the farmers will not be forced to immediately abandon production of a valuable commodity.

**FARM-BUREAU-O-GRAM**

"The best time to hold 'n is when you reach the point where the average fellow would quit."—Forbes.

**ALFALFA LETTER CONTEST**

**First Prize Winner**

South Lyon, Michigan.

There's an old saying that "fools rush in where angels fear to tread." I proved the truth of that saying when I bought a run down sand farm of eighty acres. I tried all kinds of clover on it and failed. Then I plowed up an old pasture on the place, put it to corn and the next year, limed it, bought Grimm Alfalfa Seed from the Farm Bureau and sowed it fifteen pounds to the acre. Since then I have had no trouble about hay. That first field of eight acres—sown eleven years ago, cut me sixteen loads last year and I saved half of the second cutting for seed. There's no question in my mind about Grimm seed, because in this neighborhood there isn't a seeding yielding as mine does that was sown as long ago.

Where eight to ten loads of Timothy Hay was my limit on this farm when I bought it, I now cut from fifty to sixty loads. I have also trebled my yield of potatoes since growing alfalfa. I have a plot near the house of 1.6 acres. From it, I cut nine big loads of alfalfa in one year and I raised on that plot 560 bushels of sorted potatoes in the summer of '26 without any fertilizer.

This year I have wintered three horses, twenty-five sheep, and eleven Jerseys and will have hay to sell in the spring. I consider alfalfa hay fine for brood sows during the winter. Fed with a little corn, it brings them through the winter in fine condition. My horses are fat and get no grain thru the fall and winter, until about three weeks before spring's work begins.

I have never had but one seeding fail. I bought Common and Canadian Variegated that year. It was dry and cold that fall and the plants got a poor start so winter killed them.

My advice to any farmer wishing to bring up a farm, is to buy Farm Bureau Seed, Grimm if possible, use lime, and put the seed on your best field; then bring the rest of your land up to good humus content with manure.

Yours truly, W. E. Allen.

**Second Prize Letter**

Hersey, Michigan.  
Lock Box 22.

About thirty years ago I first experimented with Alfalfa. We sowed twenty acres, using twelve pounds of seed per acre; just plain alfalfa of no known origin. We succeeded in getting a fine stand, but it nearly all disappeared the first winter. Fifteen years later, we tried again, sowing two acres with a northern grown variety, which gave us two cuttings per year of about three tons per acre. Since this time, we have grown alfalfa continuously.

Six years ago we sowed five acres of Farm Bureau Grimm. This field has produced two cuttings each year, estimates at 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 tons each, and is still going strong, clearly proving the value of Farm Bureau seed.

We find the hay a most valuable feed for all kinds of stock, and never have any trouble in its use as hay or pasture.

We strongly recommend either Grimm or Hardigan Farm Bureau seed.

Ervin Blanchard.

**Third Prize Letter**

Grandville, Michigan.  
R. R. No. 1

In the spring of 1921, I sowed two pecks of Farm Bureau Grimm on one acre of land, the rest just common seed. The stand was alike all over the field. The next year I cut the field, it certainly was wonderful. I cut four times as much per acre from the Farm Bureau Grimm as from the other.

I certainly think that Farm Bureau seed is the very best there is. I will buy no other but the Farm Bureau seed.

Yours truly, Melvin Weaver.

**FERTILITY OF SOILS IS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CROP PRODUCTION**

(Continued from page one)

State Farm Bureau and with directors and managers of several co-ops and distributors of the various products handled by the Farm Bureau. This afforded an opportunity to co-operate with an organization, the object of which is service for the Michigan farmer. It is our policy to co-operate with any reputable organization which has this end in view. We are especially desirous of having the co-operation of the Farm Bureau in promoting a soils program for Michigan.

"The facts are, indirect extension through co-operation has been very effective in several instances. Laws have been passed due to conferences, which have been of a great deal of service to agriculture. The grading of fruit doubtless has resulted in improved cultural methods. The high grade fertilizer movement is another illustration of this indirect extension method.

"As a result of conferences on the part of farmers and others there are some states in which fertilizers containing less than 16 per cent of plant food cannot be sold.

"Our soils extension workers in this state are carrying on soils schools in each of several counties. Approximately 30 leaders in each county are given rather intensive work in methods of soil improvement. These leaders in turn relay this information to small groups in their communities. By this indirect method it is possible to reach many more people than would be met if we attempted to lecture to all those interested in this subject.

**Co-operation is Needed**

"All organizations should co-operate inasmuch as the yields of the several crops in this state are at a standstill and have been for many years. Yet on the other hand it is well recognized that the cost of production of crops has increased greatly as has the cost of living on the farms increased.

"Doubtless there are many farms in this state which are producing more than they did several years ago; yet irrespective of this condition and the valuable work of various farmers organizations, experiment station, and extension workers and the additional fact that a great deal of marginal land has gone out of use, the average yields according to the census reports are not changing.

**Costs Depend On Yields**

"Soils are basic. When they go wrong or the productivity is not as it should be, it seems that everything on the farm goes wrong, the yields of crops are low and the quality of the products is lacking. A good crop cannot be grown profitably without first having a productive soil! The cost of production of a crop unit depends to a large extent upon the yields obtained.

"It is true that as the yields are increased on a farm the cost involved in the better systems of management increase, but it is fortunate that this increase is not as rapid as the decline in the cost of production as the yields increase.

"It may be cited, for example, a six ton per acre yield of sugar beets costs about \$10 per ton whereas an 18 ton per acre yield costs less than \$3.50 a ton. According to reports, when the yield of potatoes is 100 bushels per acre, the cost of production per bushel is 47 cents, and when the yield is 300 bushels per acre the cost is 27 cents per bushel and the quality of the product is likewise increased. When the yield of corn is 40 bushels per acre the cost per bushel is about 60 cents and when the production is 100 bushels per acre it may be as low as 26 cents per bushel.

"These figures are not absolute and are used only as approximations and illustrative purposes.

**Soil Study is Extensive**

"Owing to the great variation in soils and in climate in this state and the great diversity in agriculture which results, a state soils program cannot be narrow. It must be broad in scope if it meets all the requirements.

"The dairyman who has available large amounts of stable manure is interested in liming his soil for the production of alfalfa and clover and in the use of large amounts of superphosphate to reinforce the manure.

"Mixed fertilizers also have their place on many dairy farms where special crops are grown.

"The less specialized farmer must consider the lime content of his soil, turn under crop residues or green manure and in addition use high analysis fertilizers and, finally, there are those who, of necessity, must rely to a large extent on commercial fertilizers in order to obtain earliness of maturity with some crops, superior quality and high yields.

**Soils Need Organic Matter**

"Doubtless there are many farms or parts of farms in this state on which organic matter should be produced and returned to the soil.

"Indeed, there is a greatly increasing interest in the production of crops for soil improvement, not only in this state but in other states.

"I had the opportunity of traveling through a dozen or more states early last summer, some of which I had visited about a decade ago.

"One of the striking things I observed was the greatly increased acreage of crops being grown for soil improvement purposes; crops such as soy beans, alfalfa and sweet clover.

"Illinois, which is a very low consumer of commercial fertilizers, uses a large amount of lime annually and it is probable that nearly one-half million acres of sweet clover is plow-

ed under for corn each spring.

"There is a great future for this crop in Michigan. On land at the Cass county farm, which does not produce clovers or alfalfa without lime, sweet clover was seeded in 1922, following an application of two tons of limestone per acre. This has not received any additional seed or other treatment since, yet it produced a large yield of clover annually until last year.

"The possibility is very great for the improvement of rough lands and other lands that are not being utilized for crop production owing to the labor situation, by the use of sweet clover and other grasses.

"The Michigan State Farm Bureau in various capacities is in a position to assist in this particular phase of our soil fertility program in Michigan by handling good seed and by stimulating the above practices wherever possible. It is in a position also to do a great deal towards putting over a program for the use of high grade fertilizers in this state.

"Co-operation by the various interests the last few years has resulted in decided changes in the fertilizer practices in this country. In fact, we have turned from a "low analysis" using ratio to a "high analysis" one. In 1922 a large number of commercial fertilizer companies and soils workers representing the states of Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, and Wisconsin, met in Chicago in an effort to bring about changes in the manufacture and use of commercial fertilizers. At that conference a high grade fertilizer was considered to be one which contained 14% or more of plant food; one containing less to be low grade. Furthermore,

the soils workers agreed to recommend 11 fertilizer grades for mineral soils and the manufacturers agreed to manufacture these and to push their sales as rapidly as practicable. "The results of this co-operative arrangement were very gratifying. At the present time about one-third of the tonnage of fertilizers used in Michigan consists of standard grades and doubtless a much higher percentage of the total tonnage are included in high grade fertilizers.

"In 1922 there were sixteen thousand, six hundred tons of standard fertilizer used in Ohio. In 1926 there were ninety-five thousand, two hundred tons and, in addition, the increase in amount of 20% acid phosphate over 16% acid phosphate was very great. In Indiana in 1922, the tonnage of high grade fertilizers was eighty-nine thousand, five hundred tons. In 1926 it was one hundred and forty-six thousand tons.

"The fertilizer situation for 1929 is the most favorable it has been for many years. There are available high grade and high analysis goods to suit all crops and all conditions according to our present knowledge. Prices are about as attractive as they have been and, in addition, the fertilizer industry as a whole is endeavoring to sell the farmer the fertilizer which will give him the largest returns on his investment in it.

"As a result of many field experiments we are in position to make more definite suggestions on the use of fertilizers than ever before.

"Circular Bulletin No. 53, "Fertilizers for 1929", may be had by applying to the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, East Lansing, Mich."

**COUNTING THE COST the WRONG WAY!**



You first have to know cost to determine profit. Any successful poultryman knows that Oyster Shell is essential to profitable egg production.

But here's a good one.

PILOT BRAND OYSTER SHELL is priced slightly higher than other shell—say 5c or even 10c per 100 lbs. more.

But you are figuring wrong if you buy cheaper shell or low priced substitutes to cut down your costs.

PILOT BRAND is all egg shell material, every pound of it.

There is no waste, poisonous matter or rat gathering odor in PILOT BRAND. You don't pay for 30% or 40% of matter your birds won't eat.

You can always safely figure PILOT BRAND as the cheapest egg shell material you can buy.



**OYSTER SHELL PRODUCTS CORPORATION**  
Shell Building, St. Louis  
FOR POULTRY

**FIRE! LIABILITY! COLLISION! THEFT!**

Always Unexpected and Everything You Own or Hope to Own is at Risk Unless

**YOU ARE INSURED**

The State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Co. offers you complete protection against

Fire ..... Property Damage  
Collision ..... Liability  
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at very low annual rates for farm owned cars. We are a strong, legal reserve company. More than 25,000 Michigan farmers are enjoying this protection.

Then, should the unexpected happen, you don't have to worry. We protect your interests.

There is a State Farm Mutual agent near you. Don't delay in seeing him. If you don't know him, or want further information write us.

Be protected before you start on a trip.

Michigan State Farm Bureau

Lansing, Michigan

MICHIGAN AGENT

**STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTO INS. CO.**  
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILL.



# FARMER CONTROL OF LAND BANK IS SUGGESTED BY F. B.

## Michigan Farm Bureau Leader Speaks For Agriculture At Washington

Control of the Federal Land Bank system should be placed under a competent board of members whose sole interest is in agriculture. This, in essence, is the sentiment of the farmers of the country as expressed by their chosen representative, Jesse G. Boyle, of Buchanan, Mich., who appeared at Washington recently to plead the case of the American agriculturist.

Mr. Boyle, president of the Berrien County Farm Bureau and for five years a director of the Michigan State Farm Bureau and a director of the bank in his home town, was picked by Sam Thompson, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, to represent the Farm Bureau as spokesman for the twelve land bank districts by serving as chairman of a special committee of the A. F. B. F. whose membership was made up of one representative from each of the twelve districts.

The chairman of this committee spent several days in Washington, and offered some very valuable testimony



JESSE G. BOYLE, Berrien Farm Bureau President.

on behalf of the farmer, recommending amendments to the farm loan act in accordance with eighteen points worked out by the committee and having the ratification of the delegate body of the American Farm Bureau at its annual convention a year ago.

The testimony offered by Mr. Boyle presented more than two years of study by the committee with the time thought in mind of making the federal farm loan board an independent body by removing it from the status of being a bureau of the federal treasury but leaving its construction such that the secretary of the treasury of the United States shall be ex-officio chairman of the board with six other directors, each representing territory comprising two federal land bank districts.

# ALFALFA SITUATION CALLS FOR CAREFUL PURCHASING OF SEED

(Continued from page one)

Michigan with a considerable quantity of seed, great care must be exercised in the purchase of seed this coming season. Owing to the forethought of some of our leading seedsmen, Michigan should not suffer greatly from this shortage. When conditions last August indicated that a shortage was in sight, some of our seedsmen purchased supplies large enough to care for their usual trade. These seedsmen are in position to under Michigan a real service this coming season.

"Michigan alfalfa seed supply has, for the main, been from dependable sources, as is shown by an increase in acreage, at a time when other northern and corn belt states have suffered heavy losses. In order that this acreage may be maintained and a substantial increase be secured, careful attention must be given to selecting the kind of seed sown this spring. The United States government estimate indicates that the alfalfa seed crop for the past season is about 40 per cent less than that of the previous year.

"Production of alfalfa in four of the northern states ran as follows: Montana, 19,800 bushels in 1927 and 1,500 bushels in 1928; Idaho, 180,000 bushels in 1927 and 51,000 bushels in 1928; Utah, 265,000 bushels in 1927 and 124,000 in 1928; Arizona, 110,000 bushels in 1927 and 99,000 bushels in 1928.

"Total production in the United States for 1927 was 851,400 bushels and for 1928 it was only 591,500 bushels.

"A considerable bulk of the alfalfa produced in the United States is grown in Montana, Idaho, Utah and Arizona, or in a section extending from the northernmost boundary to the extreme southern part of the United States. The climate varies greatly from the north to the south in this section. The high altitude northern parts produce seed adapted to Michigan, while the southern parts are so mild that the seed produced is of no value when sown under Michigan conditions."

# New State Farm Mutual Building



Here is an architect's drawing of what the new State Farm Mutual Building will look like when completed. The structure is being built in Bloomington, Ill.

# MICHIGAN INSURANCE MEN IN 5 DISTRICTS ARE AWARDED PRIZES

(Continued from page one)

bens, Kalamazoo, second; Rolan Sleight, Laingsburg, third; A. N. Brown, Jonesville, fourth and H. R. Andre, of Jenison, sixth.

## District Reports Pleading

Mr. Fowler's district was accredited with 2,407 applications for insurance during the contest period. Mr. Gibbens' district, in second place for the 20 states, was accredited with 1,565 applications. The third prize winning district wrote 1,449 applications and fourth district, 1,396.

Mr. Gage, first producer among the local men, turned in a total of 345 applications written during the five months. This was just one hundred better than the man from Minnesota, who was awarded second prize.

Some idea of the rapid growth of

increased and the territory expanded from year to year until the State Farm Mutual is represented by practically 4,500 agents in 20 states, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border and from the Great Lakes to the Pacific coast.

## Expansion of Territory

The expansion of territory was begun in 1924 when the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation petitioned the State Farm Mutual to appoint that organization as State Agent for Indiana. This was followed by similar petitions from other State Farm Bureaus until the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance service has become a major Farm Bureau project in a score of states.

"Back of every institution or organization of consequence there is an idea supported by an individual with organizing and administrative ability. The individual in the case of the State Farm Mutual is the founder and pre-

# Legislation

The House of Representatives has voted down the Senate measure which would allow the state administrative board to spend \$20,000,000 to be provided by a bond issue that was to have been put to the voters in April. The House vote lacked 20 supporters of the Senate measure, which was given the backing of the Governor and his administration this week, to get its approval.

Thus, temporarily, the question of meeting what the Governor terms an emergency in the building needs of certain state institutions has been killed. The House has undone what the Senate began last week and the Governor is still feeling around for some means of getting the millions he claims are needed.

In a message to the House this week, supporting the Senate measure to submit a bond issue, the Governor indicated that a special session might well be called to determine a means of meeting the building expense with the voters approving the bond issue proposal next month but this suggestion meets with no great amount of enthusiasm on the part of the Legislators, as indicated in their reception of the message which they accepted with a vote of only 47 in favor of the bond proposal and 46 against it. Sixty-seven votes were required to adopt it.

The crime code with amendments taking the liquor law violations, and other felonies termed less heinous, out of the life imprisonment provision, has been adopted to meet the demands of the Governor, the attorney general and the prosecuting attorneys of the state but the issue of fixing the penalties for liquor law violations remains a matter of deep seated controversy in both Houses.

## Would License Groups

Refinement of the yet undefined code of business ethics, which at present govern certain agricultural activities is the object of a measure which has passed in the house. It had been introduced by Rep. James N. McBride, of Shiawassee county.

Under the act, if it is passed by the legislature, the commissioner of agriculture would be given authority to revoke the license of individuals, who, after a hearing would be adjudged to have violated any of the business practices in such manner as to be unfavorable to fair and economic trade conditions.

Two measures which are designed for the relief of unsatisfactory financial conditions in the rural schools of the state came into the senate.

# All Wool--

SUITS—COATS—BLANKETS

Our garments are tailored to your exact measure by expert clothemakers and are made from the best wool materials obtainable. Let us measure you for a suit.

WRITE FOR SAMPLES

**Michigan State Farm Bureau**  
Clothing Dept.  
Lansing, Michigan

# BEST FOR WINTER



WINTER has no terrors for Non-Caking salt users.

THE GENUINE N-C (non-caking salt)

Is strictly non-caking and practically non-freezing.

Non-Caking salt is packed in barrels, 140, 100, 70, 50, and 25 pound non-sweating sacks.

GET THE GENUINE

# Time Tests A Business

Producers Co-operative Live Stock Organizations Have Stood the Test of Time.

Why not buy your own feeders and sell your own fat stock through your farmer-owned and farmer-controlled producer buying and selling agencies established on thirteen of the livestock markets of this country who combine their influence and prestige and function as a unit on all matters of legislation, transportation and publicity through one big national organization known as The National Live Stock Producers Association.

The total membership of the National Producers Association is nearly 400,000, and their total business operations during 1928 amounted to \$5,000 cars, having a total value of \$144,000,000.

SHIP TO  
**Michigan Livestock Exchange**  
Detroit, Mich.

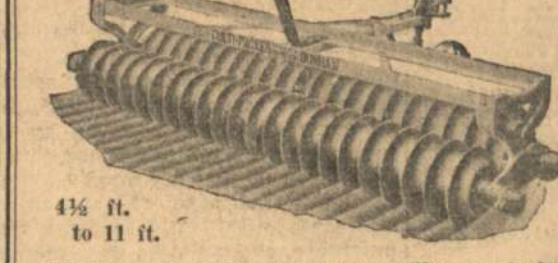
OR  
**Producers Co-Op Com. Ass'n.**  
East Buffalo, N. Y.

# Look Listen

Larger and better than ever. Safe as a bank; \$75,000,000 at risk. \$200,000 in bonds, secured by bonds. \$200,000 resources; \$20,000 real estate. We endeavor to furnish the best Farm Fire Insurance Policy written. A postal card mailed us will bring you information about our blanket policy or we will have an agent call with no obligation on your part. W. T. Lewis, Secretary, 710 F. P. Smith Bldg., Flint, Mich.

# Genuine DUNHAM TILLAGE TOOLS at Bed-Rock Prices Thru Your Michigan Farm Bureau Supply Service

\$34.00 to \$89.95 The Famous DUNHAM Cult-Packer



Crushes clods, levels ground and mulches surface. Cultivates—kills weeds and gently firms the soil to retain moisture. Unequaled for resetting winter-heaved wheat. Perfect for covering clover and alfalfa seed.

Handles all early cultivation. Thousands in use in this state.

# DUNHAM Cult-Hoe



Without doubt, the most advanced type of rotary hoe on the market. It is stronger in every part, cultivates more thoroughly than any other—and can be safely weighted for deeper penetration. Extension attachments are available and can be quickly unhooked to pass through narrow farm gates.

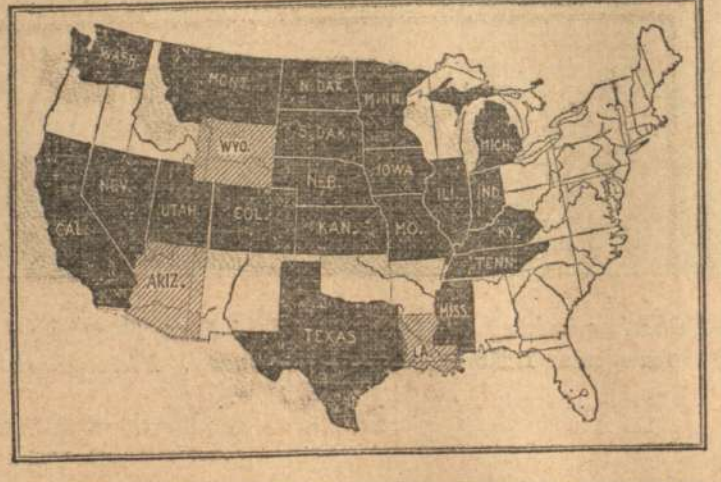
\$34.00 to \$89.95

The DUNHAM COMPANY has long been an ardent supporter of the Farm Bureau, but only recently have we been able to quote such rock-bottom prices on their entire line.

Your County Farm Bureau Service Manager can show you these tools of highest quality. Write today for circular and price list.

Michigan Farm Bureau Supply Service, Lansing, Michigan

# Scope Is Nation-wide



The states shown in black comprise the territory in which the State Farm Mutual is operating, while in addition, Louisiana, Arizona and Wyoming are shortly to be included.

the company's business is seen in the secretary's report which follows:

"The State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance company was organized March 22, 1922, but did not begin issuing policies until June 7, 1922, since it was necessary that five hundred applications for insurance be secured before policies could be issued and the company licensed.

On January 1st, 1924, there were five employees, on the same date in 1925; 9; 1926, 21; 1927, 34; 1928, 69 and on February 14, 1929, 193 employees constitute the office force of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance company.

## Financial Statement.

Following the development along financial lines we find the following to be the assets, reserve and surplus for each year up to the present time:

1922: Assets, \$27,444.87; reserve, \$19,686.75; surplus, \$7,758.12.

1923: Assets, \$64,353.63; reserve, \$44,774.15; surplus, \$19,579.47.

1924: Assets, \$136,833.54; reserve, \$100,051.26; surplus, \$36,782.28.

1925: Assets, \$298,123.22; reserve, \$195,038.24; surplus, \$103,084.98.

1926: Assets, \$570,212.31; reserve, \$429,954.30; surplus, \$140,258.01.

1927: Assets, \$1,154,378.40; reserve, \$931,225.71; surplus, \$223,152.69.

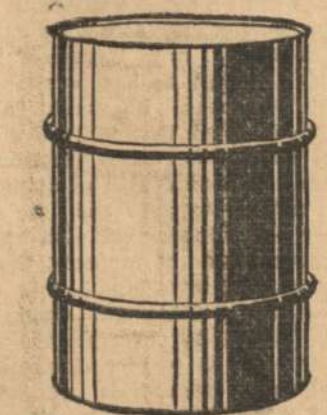
1928: Assets, \$2,136,633.06; reserve, \$1,881,295.63; surplus, \$255,337.43.

"Correspondingly there has been an increase year by year in the amount of business secured and in force. The total number of new applications written have been increased by 100 per cent each year since the organization of the company. In 1928, 93,238 new applications were added to the list of policy holders.

"The agency force has been in-

President, Geo. J. Mecherle. To President Mecherle is due the credit for the new and unique idea and plan upon which the State Farm Mutual has been built. Likewise, it is to his indomitable courage, perseverance, consecration to a purpose and ability to work with men that the successful application of the idea and plan was made and the gratifying result attained.

Those who represented Michigan at the convention at Bloomington were, C. L. Brody, M. L. Moon, E. E. Engren, A. Bentall, Miss A. M. Berg, Miss M. Kieselbach, Mrs. L. Smith, all of Lansing; Miss G. Patterson, of Chicago; R. G. Gibbens, Kalamazoo; A. N. Brown, Jonesville; C. H. Fowler, Lansing; H. R. Andre, Jenison; Rolan Sleight, Laingsburg; Jesse Blow, Lapeer; I. B. McMurry, Midland; Jerry Andrus, Hastings; B. D. Bishop, Benton Harbor; E. O. Goldsmith, Vicksburg; W. C. Hood, Paw Paw; H. Paquin, South Haven; Chas. Scott, Hastings; J. F. Carnes, Ceresco; Roy Howard, Hillsdale; J. M. Barnhart, Ithaca; L. E. Fishbeck, E. Lansing; J. T. Gage, Manchester; E. F. Harsh, Jasper; H. W. Hayes, Chelsea; Chas. McCalla, Ann Arbor; C. C. Olsen, Fowlerville; W. Rorabacher, Ann Arbor; L. Selesky, Grand Blanc; A. L. Landon, Albion; G. W. Ray, Albion; G. H. Smith, Birch Run; F. Walworth, Corunna; D. E. Harvey, Jones; Ben Van Lente, Holland; G. Bateman, Grand Lodge; R. Buehler, Ovid; Mrs. L. Hazlewood, Mt. Pleasant; W. H. Hazlewood, Mt. Pleasant; A. Haradine, Alpine; Clarence Ulberg, Hudsonville; Leo Cummings, Clio; T. B. Gilkes, Howell; C. A. Arnold, Perry; Fred Jackson, Sunfield; Jesse Patterson and wife, Vermontville; W. Keller, Azalia.



OUR GUARANTEE  
Grade for grade, M. F. B. Oils will render service equal to the finest and highest priced oils on the market. If in YOUR opinion and experience you should be dissatisfied with M. F. B. Oils, any unused portion may be returned at our expense and your money will be refunded.

# Lubricating Oils

A New

# Farm Bureau Service

Our source of supply is a company almost fifty years in the lubricating oil business.

This company is supplying lubricating oils to the Iowa, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin Farm Bureaus, and is giving excellent satisfaction.

Michigan Farm Bureau Lubricating oils are 100 per cent paraffine, Sharples dewaxed. We guarantee their high quality.

M. F. B. Oils can be had in 15, 30 and 55 gallon drums, which are extra and are returnable for credit. As an introduction, we offer oil in five gallon cans, though we must add 70 cents for the container. Your greatest savings is in buying 15 gallons or more.

Ask your co-operative association or local distributor of Farm Bureau products about Michigan Farm Bureau Lubricating Oils.

## GUARANTEED SPECIFICATIONS

### Of Michigan Farm Bureau Motor Oil, 100 Percent Paraffine

Stock No.	Gravity	Color	Flash	Fire	Visc. @ 100	Visc. @ 210	Cold Test
103 Light Medium	25.5	4	425	480	400	58	20
107 Medium	25	5	435	490	550	64	20
107 Heavy	25	6	445	500	775	73	20
109 Extra Heavy	24.5	6	450	510	1000	87	20

### Michigan Farm Bureau Tractor Oil, 100 Percent Paraffine

211 Heavy Tractor	22.5	Green	460	525	100	50
213 Extra Heavy Tractor	22.5	Green	470	535	115	50
215 Special Heavy Tractor	22	Green	490	560	130	55

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU SUPPLY SERVICE, Lansing, Michigan



## Mail Your Coupon Book!

Every Farm Bureau member should mail his filled-in and completed Patronage Dividend Coupon Book coupons to the Treasurer of the Michigan State Farm Bureau, 221 North Cedar street, Lansing, Michigan, immediately after March 1, 1929, for auditing and valuation.

Proceed as usual with the coupons remaining in your book. If you need another book, write us.

Michigan State Farm Bureau  
Lansing, Michigan

### FARM BUREAU SEEKING LEGISLATIVE AID FOR TOWNSHIP ROAD WORK

(Continued from page one)

visions than toward any other of the township road measures offered this winter, but the fact that several other township road bills have been brought forth means that the supporters of the Farm Bureau bill will have to work that much harder to secure favorable action on it in preference to the ones already introduced.

Sponsors of other township road bills have expressed a willingness to get behind this bill in preference to others if the Farm Bureau can show that enough interest in the measure actually exists among the farm folk. With the bill drafted and presented to the lawmakers, it rests entirely upon the rural taxpayers to use their individual effort as well as their organized influence to see that this measure is not "ridden down" or lost in committee.

#### District Meetings Set

The district meetings scheduled for rallying support for the measure are as follows, the dates and places being tentative: Berrien, Cass, Calhoun, Branch, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties at Kalamazoo, March 20; Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw, Jackson, Oakland, Macomb, at Ann Arbor, March 25; Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola, Saginaw, Huron counties at Cass City, March 22; Eaton, Ingham, Shiawassee, Clinton, Ionia, Gratiot counties at Lansing, March 23; Barry, Ottawa, Kent counties at Grand Rapids, March 21; Montcalm, Mecosta, Newaygo, Muskegon, Mason, Manistee, Oceana, Osceola, Lake, Grand Traverse counties at Big Rapids, March 26. Meetings are to be all-day affairs, beginning at 10 o'clock and open to any one interested.

The Farm Bureau township roads bill as submitted for legislative consideration follows:

Section 1. A sum of money equal to one-third of the amount deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the state highway fund under the provisions of act number one hundred and fifty of the public acts of nineteen hundred twenty seven is hereby appropriated from the state highway fund for the six months beginning July 1, 1930, and ending December 31, 1930, and for each calendar year thereafter, to the counties, for use in the maintenance and improvement of township roads, subject to the further provisions of this act.

Section 2. On or before January 1, 1931, and annually thereafter, the county road commission of each county shall report to the state highway commissioner, for each township in their county, the total mileage of open roads, exclusive of state and United States trunkline highways, and exclusive of streets in incorporated cities and villages, said reports to be made upon forms and subject to regulations provided by the state highway commissioner; provided, that if for any reason, any county road commission should fail to make a return of mileage of open roads for any township or townships, or if such returns are found by the state highway commissioner to be incorrect, he shall have power to make any and all corrections and additions to the reports by this section required as he shall deem necessary in order to cause said reports to show the true mileage of open roads in each township.

#### Apportionment of Funds

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the state highway commissioner to determine for each county, by townships, its share of the fund appropriated to the counties for use on township roads under the provisions of Section one of this act, by allotting said fund among all townships, one-third in proportion to the total land area of each township, and two-thirds in proportion to the mileage of open roads in each township as determined under the provisions of section two of this act; the state highway commissioner shall certify to the Auditor General on or before February 15, 1931, and on or before August 15, 1931, and on or before the same dates in each year thereafter, the sum of money allocated to each county under the supervision of this section, and he shall certify to the county treasurer of each county the sum allocated to that county, itemized by townships; immediately upon receiving the certification of the state highway commissioner, as provided by this section, the Auditor General shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer for such amounts as are due each county under the provisions of this section.

Section 4. All sums of money received by the several counties under the provisions of section three of this

act shall be subject to the control of the county road commission of each county, to be used for the building, improvement, and maintenance of township roads, with especial consideration for post roads; provided, that all sums of money received by the counties under the provisions of section three of this act must be spent in the township to which they are allocated by the state highway commissioner, and must be used for purposes and according to plans mutually agreed upon by the county road commissions and the township board of the township in which the money is to be spent.

Section 5. If the Congress of the United States enacts a law providing funds to be used for the improvement of rural post roads while this act is in force, it shall be the duty of the state highway commissioner, as soon thereafter as possible, to issue such regulations concerning the use or management of the funds received by the counties under the provisions of section three of this act as are necessary to secure for each township the maximum benefit from such Federal law which it is possible to obtain within the limits of the sum of money to be spent in each township under the provisions of section four of this act, and it shall be the duty of all county and township officers to comply with said regulations in so far as is consistent, with the laws of this state and the laws of the United States.

Section 6. A sum of money equal to fifty per cent of the total weight tax collected under the provisions of act number three hundred two of the public acts of nineteen hundred fifteen, as amended, is hereby appropriated from the state highway fund for the calendar year ending December thirty-one, nineteen hundred twenty nine, and for each calendar year thereafter, and shall belong to the several counties of the state to be applied to the building, improvement and maintenance of highways by the county road commissions; seven-eighths of said sum appropriated by this section shall be paid to the several county treasurers in proportion to the amount of said weight tax received from the owners of registered vehicles within the several counties under the provisions of said act number three hundred two of the public acts of nineteen hundred fifteen, as amended; the remaining one-eighth of said sum shall be paid to the several county treasurers as follows: one-eighth-third to the county treasurer of each county. The Secretary of State shall certify to the Auditor General at the end of each quarter, after this act comes into effect, or as soon thereafter as possible, the amounts received from the several counties for motor vehicle taxes under the provisions of said act number three hundred two of the public acts of nineteen hundred fifteen as amended, for the preceding quarter; the Auditor General shall thereupon draw his warrant on the state treasurer for such amounts as are due the said counties under the provisions of this section.

Section 7. The sums of money herein appropriated to the counties for use on local roads shall be in lieu of the sums heretofore appropriated from the state highway fund under the provisions of sub-section (c) of section nineteen of act number one hundred fifty of the public acts of nineteen hundred twenty seven, and in lieu of the specific sum of six million dollars which heretofore has been returned to the county treasurers of the several counties under the provisions of section thirty-four of act number three hundred two of the public acts of nineteen hundred fifteen, as amended.

Sec. 8. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

## Gleanings

With a good attendance Wright put over the second round of local Forums in Shiawassee and now they plan a round-up of all six locals in the county on March 27. Looks like it's working in Shiawassee.

St. Joseph County's quarterly at Sturgis was attended by 80. Kidman talked on machinery. St. Joe and Kalamazoo are planning a joint meeting in June. Not a bad idea for a summer quarterly Forum, according to A. M. E. (A. M. E. are the initials of the district leader and have no reference to denominations.)

Woodman's business is putting over a new fertilizer deal being tried in four counties. At Allegan last week the Board appointed a committee to have charge of Rally Day, April 3.

### TAX COUNSELOR SAYS SOME TECHNICALITIES ARE DESERVING STUDY

(Continued from page one)

rate sales which actually took place in your neighborhood which would not be a safe guide in estimating the value of property. Sales between relatives are frequently far below the market price, and may be above it. Sales which really involve the trading of real estate, with or without a cash difference paid by one party are frequently engineered on the basis of inflated values. Both properties may be "marked up" far above their cash value in such deals. Then there is the class of sale sometimes referred to as a "sucker sale" when a purchaser from a distance pays a price for land which is based upon his knowledge of land values in another part of the state or nation. Many of these sales are for prices which no one familiar with the neighborhood would have paid, and they are not indicative of the usual price at the place where the property is located.

The law also required the assessor to consider certain additional indications of value, over and beyond the usual selling price. Regardless of whether there has been a sale he is required to consider location, soil, timber, etc. And the courts have gone still further. In 1917 the Supreme Court of the State reviewed the statutory definition of "cash value" and reached the following conclusion:

"The legislative statement of the meaning of cash value, which is really a statement of tests to be applied in determining cash value, is not exclusive or inclusive. The tax law must be read as a whole. The general purpose of the law is to subject property to a proportionate payment of public levies. The first step in giving this purpose effect is listing and valuing of property. The duty of the assessor is to value property at its cash value, following and guided by the statute tests, and it is also his duty to list and to value property if none of the statute tests are helpful. It is usually persuasive of the value of a particular piece of property when its owner after negotiations sells it at private sale at a particular price." (Cleveland Cliffs Co. vs. Republic Twp. 196 Mich. 202.)

From this language it seems that the supervisor is free to depend upon his personal judgment as to whether all the statutory tests are to be applied, or whether he should invoke other tests of value. In fact it would seem that the principal test of whether an assessment is legal or illegal, is whether the supervisor used his own best judgment. This leads us to the conclusion that if the supervisor's judgment is bad, his assessment is nevertheless legal and binding upon the taxpayer so long as it was arrived at in good faith and after giving due consideration to the tests of value established by law.

#### Courts Have Final Say

It should not be presumed, however, that this very liberal interpretation of the supervisor's duty in regard to assessments amounts to a grant of arbitrary power. As was said by the State Supreme Court, in Merrill vs. Humphrey, 24 Mich. 170: "His judgment may indeed be final if he shall exercise it, but an arbitrary and capricious exertion of official authority, being without law, and done to defeat the purpose of the law, must, like all other wrongs, be subject to the law's correction."

In his next article the Tax Counselor will describe examples of acts which are beyond the authority of the supervisor when acting as assessor, because they are inconsistent with the claim that he has exercised his best judgment. It should also be borne in mind that while the courts will not consider cases which amount merely to a difference of opinion between the taxpayer and the supervisor as to the actual cash value of a given piece of property, the law has created township boards of review and a State Tax Commission, with powers to overrule the supervisor and to correct erroneous assessments, regardless of whether they were honestly or dishonestly made. The right of taxpayers to appeal to these bodies will be discussed in this column in the near future.

Don't take life too seriously; you'll never get out of it alive anyway.

### Classified Ads

Classified Advertisements will be charged at the rate of 5 cents a word. Where the ads are to appear twice, the rate will be 10 cents a word and for ads running three times or more, 4 cents a word, each insertion.

WANTED—TO RENT ON SHARES, \$9 to 150 acre farm, furnished, by experienced farmer and stockman. Brought up 320 acre farm near Sault Ste. Marie, also Grand River Farm near Dimondale, Mich., since sold. Can give references from former employers. Married, boys 14 and 16. Ready to go at once. F. R. Dancer, 2020 Williams street, Lansing, Michigan. 11-2-28

MICHIGAN ACCREDITED CHICKS and hatching eggs shipped C. O. D. when you want them. Modern White Leghorn Trapping and Breeding Plant under Michigan Record of Performance. Also commercial chicks for Farm Flocks, at very reasonable prices. Have White Leghorns, Brown Leghorns, Anonas, Barred Rocks, Single Comb Reds. Prices 9c and up. Large Catalog Free. Write today. Townline Poultry Farm, R-1, Zeeland, Mich. 62-2-28tf

CHICKS: 8c AND UP. PUREBRED, strong vigorous, shipped postpaid 100% live delivery guaranteed. English and Hollywood White Leghorns, Brown Leghorns, Anonas, Barred Rocks and Rhode Island Reds. Get our low prices before you buy, if you want to save money. BLACK RIVER POULTRY FARM, Box F, Zeeland, Mich. 47-2-28-tf.

### Market Opinion

By Michigan Elevator Exchange Lansing, Michigan, under date of March 1, 1929.

WHEAT—It will take considerable damage reports to growing wheat to stimulate the market. Stocks on hand of old wheat both in United States and Canada are the largest ever known at this time of the year. Last year the big advance came in the month of April.

CORN—Corn should sell higher. Stocks are rapidly disappearing. Thirteen million bushels of corn from the United States was exported during January.

OATS—Oats will be a very dull, uninteresting market. Prices may work a little higher, but probably not much.

RYE—Rye prices should hold firm. This crop is well cleaned up in the country.

BEANS—We think the bean market has seen top for quite some time to come. Farmers who can sell today at \$9.50 should take this opportunity to cash in their holdings. Present prices are the best in ten years and many things could happen.

### Chicory Car Rate Is Found Too High

Chicory growers of the Port Huron section of Michigan won a victory when the interstate commerce commission, on complaint of E. B. Muller & Co., of Port Huron, backed by the St. Clair County Farm Bureau, found the carload rate on chicory from Port Huron to New York unreasonably to the extent that it exceeds 29 cents per 100 pounds. The existing rate is 44 cents. The St. Clair farm bureau testified that the farmers of the chicory growing section of Michigan have financial difficulties which they are trying to remedy by developing the market for chicory.

"Oh, I beg your pardon."

Garlock-Williams Co.  
2614 Orleans St.  
Detroit

Your shipments of poultry, eggs and veal are solicited. Tags and market information sent on request.

### FREIGHT RATES On Farm Commodities

Sometimes have overcharge errors. Do you have your bills audited?

#### THE TRAFFIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Of the Michigan State Farm Bureau will check up the charges on your freight bills; file overcharge claims; file loss and damage claims; watch all freight rates on your farm products and supplies and be your personal representative to the railroads. Claims collected free for paid-up Farm Bureau members.

No Charge For Auditing

Farm Bureau Traffic Department

221-227 N. Cedar St.

Lansing, Mich.

## Farm Bureau Alfalfa— First Cutting, Fourth Year



35 TONS From 14 Acres

Mr. Fred Curtis admiring his 14 acre field of Farm Bureau alfalfa on his farm near Lake Odessa, Ionia county. Photograph made July 5, 1928.

The Curtis alfalfa field, in its fourth year, is a good example of the hardiness and productivity of Farm Bureau Brand, Michigan adapted alfalfa seeds.

The luxuriant stand we see was characteristic of the 14 acres. Mr. Curtis estimated the first cutting at 35 tons; the second about 17 tons. The field provided fall pasture.

Farm Bureau Brand alfalfa grows and stays because our Hardigan, Grimm and Utah alfalfas are Michigan adapted, domestic seeds of high purity and germination. They are guaranteed as such.

### Wise Men are Buying Their Farm Bureau Alfalfa Now

There is a shortage of Michigan adapted alfalfa seed. Utah, a principal source of supply, harvested 4,000,000 lbs. of clean seed in 1928 as against a three year average of 16,000,000 lbs. Seed crops were short elsewhere.

Seed prices are advancing. Alfalfa acreages have been increasing each year. Farm Bureau Brand alfalfa seeds—first and only choice of thousands of Michigan farmers—are in very strong demand.

We advise getting your Farm Bureau alfalfa seed from your local co-operative association or Farm Bureau representative AT ONCE. If you have no local distributor of Farm Bureau seeds, write us.

**Michigan Farm Bureau Seed Service**  
227 N. Cedar Street  
LANSING, MICHIGAN

### Fire Lines Help Much

The greatest value placed on fire lines is in making the country readily and rapidly accessible and in furnishing a place where it is possible to organize an attack on a fire.

During the past two years 160 miles of fire lines were constructed in nine state forests. The entire mileage built consisted of the standard line brushed out 16 feet wide, grubbed 14 feet and plowed 10 or 11 feet.



### "More Milk with More Cow Left at the End of the Year!"

Milk Maker, a Public Formula Ration, Builds for the Future

THE important part that Milk Maker plays in Michigan dairying is probably best set forth in the claims made by hundreds of Michigan's leading dairymen who have used Milk Maker continuously for one or more years. These dairymen tell us that they have secured the following results by the use of Milk Maker, viz:

1. Cows have kept up in better flesh and better physical condition.
2. Cows have maintained a larger and more even flow of milk.
3. Calves better developed and stronger at birth.
4. Freedom from trouble with cows at calving time; no retained afterbirth and no udder trouble.

The strongest advocates of course are those dairymen who have used Milk Maker continuously since it came on the market in 1922.

#### Buying a Better Herd

These men have realized that in buying and using Milk Maker they are assuring themselves of a better herd of cows two or three years hence. In buying a bag of dairy feed you do not buy the feed for the feed itself, but for the ultimate results obtained. The results to be obtained are not necessarily determined by the price of the feed. The real value of the feed is determined by the per cent of digestible protein and digestible nutrients, both of which determine results.

A common phrase among users of Milk Maker is "More milk with more cow left at the end of the year."

Ask for booklet on "How to Feed for Economical Milk Production."

Ask Your Co-Op Ass'n or Farm Bureau Agent for Milk Maker

Michigan Farm Bureau Supply Service  
Lansing, Michigan