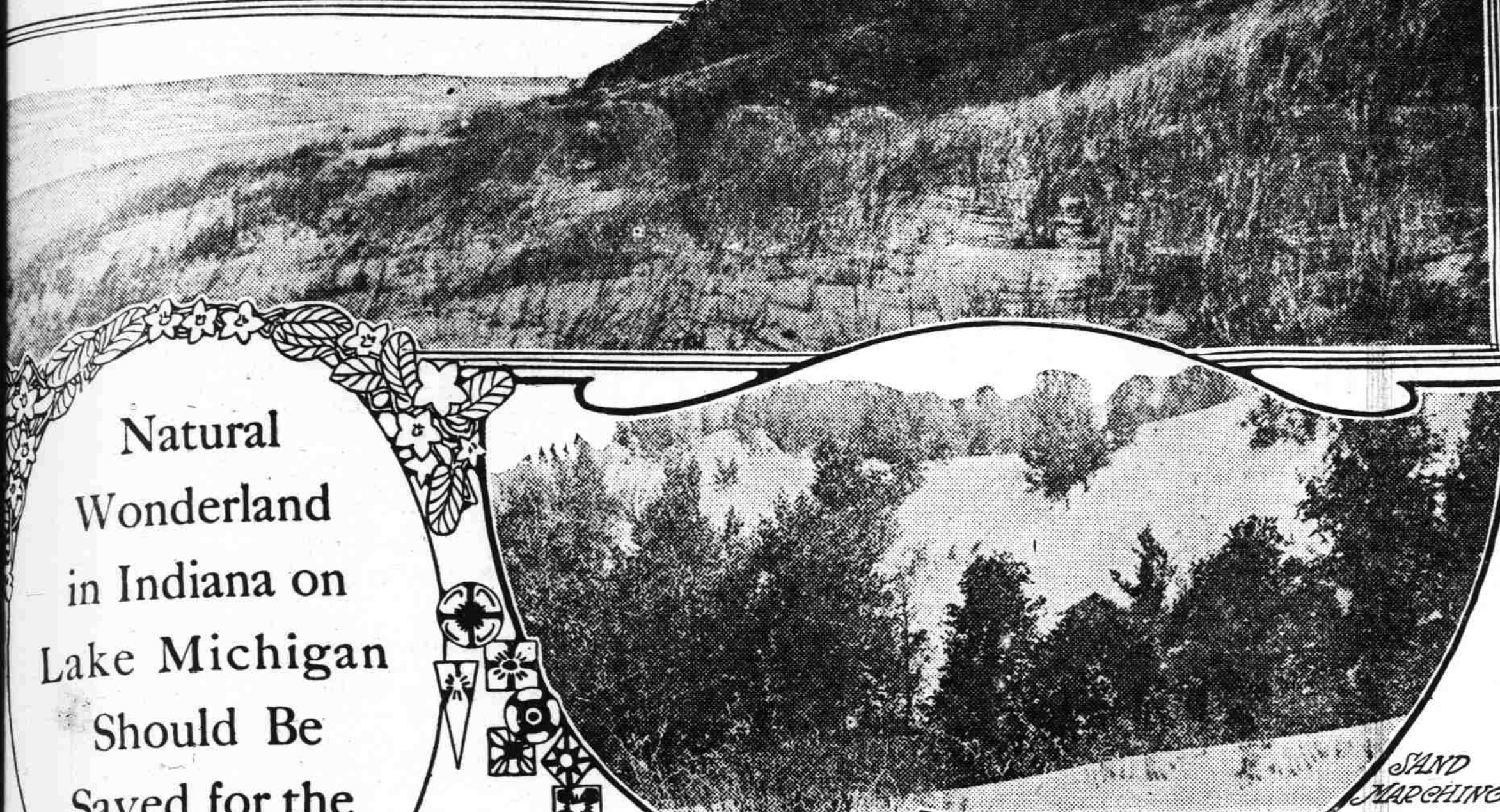


WANTED: The DUNES NATIONAL PARK

JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN
Photographs of FRANCES LA FOLLETTE



Natural Wonderland in Indiana on Lake Michigan Should Be Saved for the People

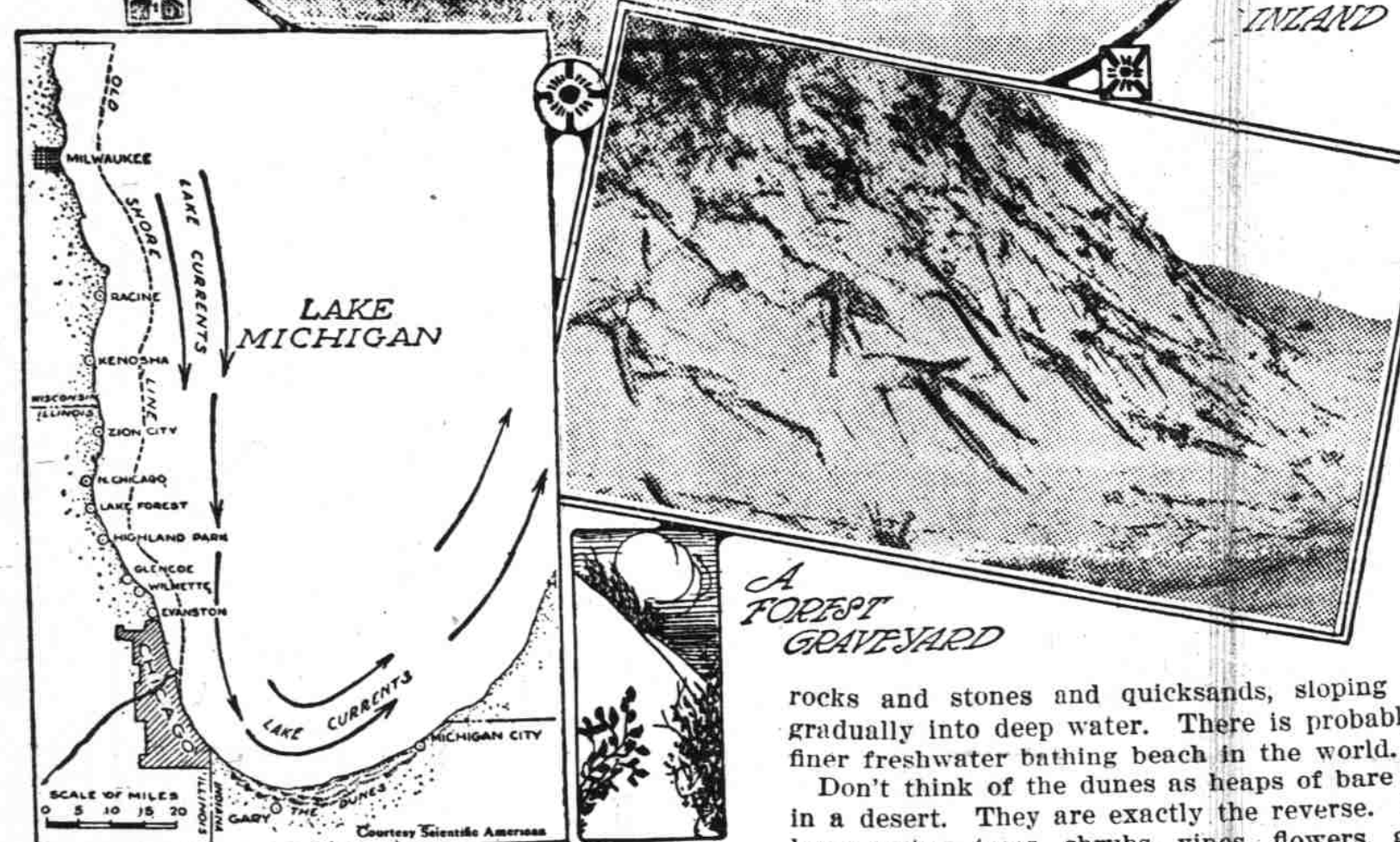
WANTED: The Dunes National park—in the sand dunes of Indiana on the shore of Lake Michigan between Gary and Michigan City! The middle West has visited the playgrounds of the people in the scenic West—the national parks of the Rockies, Sierras and Cascades. It has found them good. It has fallen in love with the national park idea. Now it is asking: "Why not a national park right here, instead of half way across the continent?" For scenic national park worthy of the Rocky Mountain in Colorado and Lafayette on the coast of Maine.

So Indiana, Illinois and Michigan want a national park, and they have picked out the dunes as the right place for it. How they are going to bring about its establishment is a big question. The proposed park area is all under private ownership and is held at speculative prices on the chance of a second Gary being built at the head of Lake Michigan. Even at actual values it would cost about \$2,500,000 to buy the 13,000 acres most desirable for park purposes. The scenic parks of the West were taken from the national forests and the public domain by congress. To date there is no precedent for the appropriation by congress of funds to purchase a national park area. Lafayette was presented to the government for national park purposes by the owners of the property.

Congress has no national park policy. It dilly-dallies with national parks as it does with most other things. It is now generous with appropriations and again niggardly; for instance, it gave Yellowstone \$334,000 and Yosemite \$255,000 in 1910 and kept Rocky Mountain, with twice as many visitors as both parks, down to \$10,000. Politics enters largely into all national park legislation. In the Sixty-fourth congress the interior department supported the bill to enlarge Yellowstone and the bill to add to Sequoia and change its name to Roosevelt. The agricultural department, because the proposed additions would be taken from national forests, and therefore from its control, opposed both bills, beating the former in the senate and the latter in the house. So there is no telling what congress will or will not do in the matter of national park legislation.

Can congress be induced to appropriate money for the purchase of private holdings for national park purposes? This question has been put squarely up to congress by two bills introduced at this session. One calls for the appropriation of a million dollars or so for the purchase of Mammoth cave, Kentucky, and its environs for a national park. The other provides for the establishment of the Mississippi Valley National park on both sides of the Mississippi in southwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa. Here the two states own the land under the river, the federal government controls its navigation, part of the proposed area is a Wisconsin state park, some of the land will be donated and the land to be purchased by the government has been appraised at a very moderate price.

Can congress condemn private holdings for national park purposes? Nobody seems to know. Most lawyers would say off-hand that the state of Indiana can condemn the dunes for state park purposes. And presumably the state of Indiana could transfer the land to the federal government. The national park service has been looking into the question of condemnation. It is advised that the government can condemn private holdings inside of national park boundaries—in fact, a bill is pending to condemn 160 acres in General Grant National park which the owner will not sell for a reasonable price. As to the condemnation of patented land outside of a national park the national park service is yet undecided. Condemnation of the dunes has been advocated by private individuals and by the press. The creation of Lafayette National park has established this precedent: The federal government will accept suitable land presented to it for national park purposes. So, while other questions are being thrashed out, the Indiana, Illinois and Michigan federations of the General Federation of Women's Clubs are engaged in a campaign to raise sufficient money by subscription to purchase the dunes and present them to the government for a national park.



LAKE MICHIGAN DESTROYER and BUILDER

There is no question that the Indiana dunes are worthy of national park honors. October 30, 1916, a public hearing was held in Chicago by the interior department in pursuance of a senate resolution. In September, 1917, a printed report by Director Stephen T. Mather of the national park service was issued. This report eliminated from consideration all of the dune country except a strip along the shore of Lake Michigan about a mile deep between Miller's in Lake county and Michigan City. After describing the dunes with considerable enthusiasm, Director Mather says: "Assuming, without further description of actual conditions in this dune country, that the sand dunes of Indiana are equal to those in any other section of the country; that they are the most accessible dunes; that they possess extremely interesting flora and fauna; that they offer unparalleled opportunities to observe the action of the wind and its influence on the sand and plant life; that the Lake Michigan beach is beautiful and offers bathing facilities for a multitude; that the recreational uses of the region are myriad, should they, or a large section of them, be preserved for present and future generations? If they should be preserved, are they worthy of inclusion in a national park? And if they are worthy of consideration as a possible national park, would it be practicable to establish them as such a park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people?"

He answers the first two questions emphatically in the affirmative. He says this region should be preserved to the people for all time and that it is worthy of national park honors. As to the third question, he thinks it one of legislative policy to be determined by congress, inasmuch as the dunes are not public lands, and private lands have never been purchased for national park purposes. He thinks the park should contain from 9,000 to 13,000 acres, extending 15 or 20 miles along the lake. He finds that options secured by speculators vary between \$350 and \$600 an acre, with one tract of 2,300 acres held at \$1,000 an acre. "Manifestly," says Mr. Mather, "none of these lands are actually worth \$350 an acre at this time. A figure less than \$200 an acre probably represents the actual value of the average tract of land not under the influence of urban values, due to proximity to cities. Practically all of the larger holdings must be purchased in their entirety. I believe that 9,000 to 13,000 acres of dune lands can probably be secured for park purposes for approximately \$200 an acre. The purchase price of a park of the size suggested would therefore be between \$1,800,000 and \$2,600,000."

The proposed Dune National park is really a wonderful place. In the first place, the dunes are an uninhabited wilderness. The fact that there is an uninhabited wilderness within a few miles of the center of population—in 1910 at Bloomington, the center of the very doors of Chicago, the second city of the nation and the fourth city of the world, is in itself a marvel. Incidentally, the dunes are within a few hours by rail and automobile of 20,000,000 people. This makes them unique as a public playground. Again: The dunes are a different world from the monotonous flatness of the Chicago plain. They are a country of hills and bluffs, gullies and valleys. There are all sorts of interesting variations: Little lakes, streams, bogs, meadows. The bluffs above the beach are imposing. The beach itself is a wonder—broad, smooth, clean, free from

rocks and stones and quicksands, sloping very gradually into deep water. There is probably no finer freshwater bathing beach in the world.

Don't think of the dunes as heaps of bare sand in a desert. They are exactly the reverse. They have water, trees, shrubs, vines, flowers, grass, birds and small wild animal life. The truth is that the dunes are a great natural propagating garden with a most astonishing array of trees and plants and flowers. This garden is packed full of flora from the Lake Superior region, the Atlantic coast, the middle South and the western prairie. It seems to have almost everything in the plant line from cactus to cranberries and from pines to tulip trees. A list of only the most characteristic and important plant species numbers 208.

To the ordinary visitor probably the spectacle of the "walking dunes" is the most interesting. Here he sees land in the making. Here today is a towering dune crowned with flowers and plants and trees; tomorrow it is gone and where it was is a great blow-out of glistening sand, with its steep sides strewn with dead trunks exhumed from an ancient graveyard of a previous forest. Today there is a deep gash in the bluff; tomorrow its place is taken by a very lofty heap of white sand that has come up, grain by grain, out of the lake, on which grasses and plants and shrubs and treelets are already struggling for a foothold. Today stands a forest on the edge of a shallow pond; tomorrow it is a cemetery, with even the tree-tops covered by sand marching in from the beach.

The accompanying map and diagram shows where the material that builds the dunes is coming from and how it gets there. Lake Michigan has been taking material from the west shore and depositing it at the dunes for a period reckoned at about 5,000 years. Previous to this period the level of the lake was 50 or 60 feet higher than now and the discharge was toward the Mississippi at a point near where now are the dunes. When the ice-gorge or glacier which prevented the discharge of water into the St. Lawrence was removed and the lake drained into the Atlantic instead of the gulf, the level dropped, the present lake currents set in and the building of the dunes was begun.

Public land surveys made in 1835 and soundings of Lake Michigan furnish the data for these estimates: During the last 5,000 years the waters of the lake have washed away about 500 square miles of land from the shore extending from the miles of land from the shore extending from the miles of land from the shore extending from three to nine miles; then there is an abrupt drop of several hundred feet.

This is an unparalleled erosion; it is accounted for by the softness of the shore, which is largely composed of material that was ground very fine by the glaciers that deposited it. It is estimated that 7,000,000 tons of soil is taken yearly by the lake from the shore north of Chicago. So there is plenty of material for building operations at the dunes.

These facts suggest this interesting question: What will happen to the dunes when the supply of building material stops? And stop it will, and that comparatively soon. For the shore north of Chicago will in a few years be pretty solidly settled by people who have money to spend to prevent further erosion of the shore. In fact, erosion has already been stopped over long stretches, and in many places the shore has been built out. The time is coming when the west shore will be protected from erosion by piers and breakwaters. The supply of building material for the dunes will presumably stop. Perhaps then the dunes will stop "walking."

Let us hope that long before that time the Dunes National park will be a people's playground, dedicated to public recreation forever.

EXCESS PROFITS BEING RETURNED

Collection From Dealers Proceeding and Growers Will Get Their Share Soon.

REPORTS NOT YET COMPLETE

Auditing of Accounts of Large Firms Is Considerable Task—No Refund to Growers Who Consigned Their Clips.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Collection of excess profits from wool dealers is proceeding, and their distribution to wool growers will begin in the near future. This announcement is made by the United States department of agriculture, which is completing the work of the domestic wool section of the war industries board, in accordance with a provision of the agricultural appropriation bill.

Reports thus far received show that excess profits were made by about 10 per cent of the "country" dealers. Correspondence with "distributing center" dealers, whose total reports are not yet completed, indicate that some of them have accumulated substantial amounts of excess profits on the wool which they actually bought. Auditing of the accounts of the larger dealers is a considerable task and will require several months. The bureau of markets, which acts for the department of agriculture



Medium and Finer Grades of Choice Wool Are in Keen Demand.

In this work, will enclose with each check sent to a grower a circular letter giving the name of the firm which handled his wool and which has returned the excess profits, of which the customer is receiving his share.

No Refunds to Consigners.

The department calls attention to the fact that the regulations of the war industries board did not permit the purchase of wool in the great wool growing states of the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast region except in the case of clips of less than 1,000 pounds each. All larger clips were required to be consigned. This region produces about two-thirds of the entire wool clip of the country, which was about 257,000,000 pounds in 1918. Growers in the eastern states were urged to pool and consign their wools and many of them did so. Since the government paid the dealers a fixed commission on consigned wool, excess profits could be made only on that part of the wool which they bought outright. Therefore, growers who consigned their clips should not expect to receive refunds.

Since the government control of wool has ceased the work of the department of agriculture in this connection consists only of auditing the records and accounts of approved wool dealers, the collection of any profits which they may have made in excess of those permitted under the regulation of the war industries board, and the distribution of these profits directly to the growers upon whose wool the profits were made wherever the identity of the wool can be traced.

Permits Issued to Wool Dealers.

The war industries board issued permits to about 3,500 "country" dealers authorizing them to buy wool directly from the grower. Permits were also issued to 179 "distributing center" dealers who had facilities for handling wool in large quantities and most of whom were located on the eastern seaboard near the centers of wool manufacture. These larger dealers were required to handle wool on consignment from either growers or country dealers and were also permitted to buy from country dealers direct, or from growers through their agents.

Blank forms calling for a detailed accounting have been sent by the department to both classes of dealers. Reports have been received from about 3,000 of the country dealers and about one-half of the dealers in distributing centers. The taking over of the wool by the war department was completed so recently that many of the larger dealers have been unable to prepare their reports at an earlier date. The auditing of these reports is proceeding as rapidly as it can be done with the limited force available for assignment to this work, the department says.

Selection of Seeds.

Every farmer should study and promote methods that will insure larger crops and better quality. Close selection of seeds pays big profits.

POTATOES PROPERLY STORED FOR WINTER

Approximately One-Third of Crop Is Marketed in Fall.

Reserve Supply Must Be Protected From Extremes of Heat and Cold - Provide Sufficient Ventilation and Avoid Moisture.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Potatoes properly stored should not sustain a loss throughout the winter season of more than 5 per cent, and under exceptionally good conditions not more than 3 or 4 per cent. The maximum return from the crop after it is produced depends on the care with which the potatoes are harvested, stored, graded, sacked, and the ability of the grower to sell at the most advantageous time. Approximately one-third of the main potato crop is marketed at harvest time, and the remainder is stored as a reserve supply for winter and spring. It is physically impossible, as well as economically undesirable, to attempt to market the entire crop in the autumn, and the only way in which potatoes can be handled successfully, so as to insure a uniform supply, is to provide sufficient storage on the farm or at the shipping station for from 65 to 75 per cent of the crop.

Various types of storage places are now in use, ranging from pits or cheaply constructed dug-outs to large, substantially built storage houses. Plans for the construction of storage houses are given in the department's Farmers' Bulletin 847.

For successful storage, the tubers must be protected from extremes of cold and heat; a temperature of from 35 to 40 degrees F. is considered satisfactory. Sufficient ventilation must be provided to remove foul air and excessive moisture. The storage house must be so constructed as to make it possible to exclude the light, as the table quality of potatoes quickly deteriorates in the light.

The tubers should be dry and reasonably free from dirt when put into storage, an excess of moisture or soil increases the amount of heat in newly stored potatoes. The soil tends to fill up the spaces between the tubers, thus cutting off air circulation, and helping to retain heat that would otherwise escape. All diseased, badly cut, or bruised tubers should be removed from the crop before putting it into storage.

It is a common practice for commercial growers and shippers to store potatoes in bins to a depth of 10 to 15 feet. This is almost certain to entail a much heavier shrinkage loss than when stored to a depth of not more than 6 feet. The heavier shrinkage is the result of the greater amount of heat generated by a large pile of potatoes, which results in a higher amount of moisture loss as well as a heavier loss from decay, as heat and moisture both help to develop organisms causing tuber rots. Frequently the losses sustained when the potatoes are stored under these conditions reach 25 per cent, and where rigid care has not been exercised to remove all diseased tubers before storing the crop, the loss is even greater. It is advisable, therefore, to pile the potatoes not greater than 5 or 6 feet deep, and the floor dimensions of the bin should not be greater than 12x12 feet unless provided with a series of ventilating shafts or division walls for the escape of moisture and heat.

RAISE RABBITS FOR PROFITS

Little Domestic Animals Are Easy to Handle and Remarkably Free From Disease.

Rabbit raising on a backyard scale is not an experiment. Thousands of small rabbits in this country are producing meat crops regularly for family tables. These domestic animals are easily raised and remarkably free from disease when properly cared for.

The Belgian hare is one of the best rabbits for table use. It weighs more than most breeds, develops rapidly



Female Flemish Giant.

and the quality of the meat is superior to all the others. The Flemish giant is a Belgian hare bred exclusively for large size, with the result that the meat is coarser and less delicate in flavor. These characteristics are considered by some persons as desirable, but this is largely a matter of individual taste.

EXPERIMENT IN STEER FEED

Pennsylvania Station Makes Successful Test With Silage, Stover and Linseed Oil Meal.

Twelve head of two-year-old steers were fed at the Pennsylvania experiment station on a ration of 41.00 pounds of corn silage, 2.12 pounds of shredded corn stover and 3.02 pounds of linseed oil meal per head daily. They made an average daily gain of 2.22 pounds per head at a cost of \$13.84 per hundredweight. The cattle were valued at \$14.40 per hundred, making a net profit of \$20.93 per head.