

HIGHER PRICES FOR SCRAP METAL AID IN SHORTAGE

Pittsburg, Dec. 23rd. The government's action in revising iron and steel scrap prices to permit larger returns for lower grades was seen today in steel circles as a move likely to end a shortage that was slowing up operations in numerous mills.

"It clears their and will restore a steady flow of supply," asserted one of Pittsburg's largest scrap brokers. "A short time after the new schedule was announced I booked a 750-ton order, one of the largest in weeks."

Price Administrator Leon Henderson announced the revision yesterday in Washington. It represented a compromise from demands for a general price increase and of others for the government to take over the scrap business.

Some weeks ago the Office of Production Management, alarmed at the slowing down of scrap movement, opened an intensive campaign to draw a supply from householders, stores and places. But dealers claimed this was not a success because prices failed to furnish the needed incentive.

Scale Sets Price For Each Grade

The new scale segregates various grades of scrap according to use, with one price ceiling for each type.

For example, a \$20 ceiling for Pittsburgh was established for

seven grades of scrap used in open hearths, in which roughly forty-five tons of scrap and fifty five tons of pig iron are melted with other additions into 100 tons of the steel ingots.

The old scale ranged from \$15.25 for mixed borings and turnings to \$20 for the best No. 1 heavy melting scrap.

Now, as a scrap broker explained, \$20 may be charged for the lower grades, which run in heavy volume, as well as for the best grade so that all will be lumped together.

Another change will permit points to sell at the "more favorable" basing point price rather than the "nearest basing point" figure in terms of transportation charges.

Thus a Toledo dealer, who in selling to Pittsburgh had to use a Detroit basing point price, now may sell at the Pittsburgh price, or at a boost of slightly more than \$2 a ton over Detroit.

Years Consumption Will Set Record

Scrap consumption in the United States is running higher than 4,500,000 tons monthly with steel mills and manufacturing concerns furnishing about one-half of the supply.

This year's consumption will be around 52,000,000 tons, compared with the former all time record

of 41,687,000 tons set in 1940 and the biggest World War I mark of 26,800,000 tons used in 1917.

Open hearth furnaces in the past month have been forced to close in Chicago, Pittsburg, Johnston and other points. In each case, where the mill was engaged on war orders, the OPM has issued priority orders taking scrap from someone's stock, to permit reopening of the furnaces.

Lamp Brooder Takes Another Job Of Hen

A home made lamp brooder, which can be built for from \$5 to \$7.50 is suggested by C. F. Parrish, Extension poultryman of State College for use by those persons who formerly raised a few chicks with hens. Artificial incubation has robbed the hen of hatching her eggs, and now the small brooder takes another of her jobs.

"Of course," Parrish pointed out, "the brick, oil and electric brooders are used by poultrymen with large flocks. But for the farmer who wanted to raise a small flock, the hen was usually used for brooding purposes."

"Thousands of farm families have pledged to increase poultry production as a part of the Food for Freedom campaign. The home made lamp brooder will solve their problem. The brooder holds from 50 to 60 chicks, and from 150 to 200 chicks can easily be brooded per year with this equipment."

The brooder is constructed in two parts: The bottom section houses the lamps; the top section accommodates the chicks. The tray that separates the two sections is covered with 26 to 28 gauge tin. The tin side is placed downward, next to the flame of the lamp, and the top part of the tray is covered over with one inch or more of sharp, coarse, dry sand. The chimney of the lamp should be one to one and one half inches below the metal tray which divides the two sections.

Parrish said that the brooder "is of simple construction, easy to operate, and is heated by one to three lamps, depending upon the severity of the weather. It should be operated in a protected place, such as under a wood or wagon shed."

Detailed information on the construction of a lamp brooder, including Blue Print No. 46, may

be obtained free by farm people from their County Farm or Home Agent, or by writing to the Extension Poultry Office, State College, Raleigh.

January, February Best Months To Prune Shrubs

There are two schools of thought on the question: When is the best time to prune shrubbery?

James G. Weaver, floriculturist of N. C. State College, thinks the best season to prune flowering shrubs in North Carolina is probably during January and February. This is contrary to the usual advice; which is to prune in the spring after the flowers fade on spring flowering plants.

Weaver says that pruning in January and February stimulates new growth and increases vigor. Wounds caused by the cut heal more quickly, and this helps to keep the plant free from diseases.

The floriculturist says that the principal objection to winter pruning is that wood is cut out that would flower in a few weeks. This is not so serious, he said, if care is taken. Only the old and less vigorous twigs and branches should be cut out.

"Every gardener should understand the reasons for pruning," Weaver said. "The first reason is to renew the wood. All dead wood should be removed. Also, it is a good practice to remove the older branches every year or two, so the young vigorous shoots will have more room for development."

"The second reason is to increase the profusion of bloom. By correct pruning you get more twigs and as a result, a corresponding increase in flowers."

"Third, to keep ornamental twigs attractive. Some plants are used for the color effect of their twigs in the winter, such as the red and yellow-stemmed dogwoods. The younger shoots always have the brightest color."

"The fourth and fifth reasons," the floriculturist concluded, "are to make young shrubs bushy and to offset the loss of roots at planting time."

Pork Consumers Want Lean Meat Not Lard

Mr. and Mrs. Average American want and insist upon small, lean cuts of pork, says Prof. Earl H. Hostetler, animal husbandman of N. C. State College. "They don't want lard, when they buy pork," he declared.

The desirable type of hog to produce now, as always, Prof. Hostetler said, is a fast growing, easy feeding, prolific type that will yield desirable cuts of pork at live weights from 200 to 240 pounds. To produce such a hog requires proper feeding, including adequate amounts of protein to build muscle and lean meat, and to aid growth.

"Because swine are fed chiefly on grain, which tends to produce fat, particular care is needed to provide sufficient protein of the right quality in their ration," the State College leader advised. "Important as they are in hog rations, none of the cereal grains furnish protein of good quality. It is necessary to use efficient protein supplements."

Prof. Hostetler pointed out that North Carolina produced approximately 90,000 tons of cottonseed meal from the 1941 cotton crop. "In this material," he said, "hog raisers have available a protein supplement of proved efficiency when used in combination with tankage or fish meal."

"It is especially valuable to reduce costs of protein supplement used with grains, to produce firm

pork, and to aid in providing properly balanced, efficient and economical rations for swine of all ages.

"Selection and use of a good protein supplement is usually the most important factor in swine feeding. Results from the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station show that a mixture of animal and plant proteins makes an excellent supplement to corn for fattening hogs."

Seed Show At Greenville Will Be State-Wide Event

Poor seed are like shells that fail to explode, says A. D. Stuart, Extension seed specialist of N. C. State College. Neither will help win the war. "Furthermore," he declared, "it costs just as much to manufacture a dud shell as it does a live shell, and it costs just as much in fertilizer and labor to produce a poor crop with low quality seed as it does to produce a good crop with good seed."

Stuart says that farmers interested in better seed will have an opportunity to see the very best that North Carolina produces when the annual meeting and seed exposition of the N. C. Crop Improvement Association is held at Greenville, N. C., January 30 and 31. "This is a state wide event," he pointed out, "and farmers from the mountains, as well as the Piedmont, Coastal Plain and Tidewater, are invited to attend and to exhibit seed."

No entry fee is charged for exhibits entered in any class. "If you have some corn, or lespedeza small grain, soybeans, cowpeas, peanuts, cotton tobacco potatoes, crimson clover or crotalaria seed of which you are proud, send it along," the seedsman said. "Then come to the show yourself and compare your seed with the other

fellows." Exhibits should be mailed or expressed to R. R. Bennett, Pitt county farm agent, Greenville, N. C. An entry blank may be obtained by writing to the N. C. Crop Improvement Association, State College Station, Raleigh.

Stuart also called attention to the crops judging contests for 4-H Club members and Vocational Agricultural students to be held on the closing day of the exposition, Saturday, January 31st.

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