

# "CIVILIZATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH THE PLOW"

## THINGS TO PLAN TO THROUGHOUT COMING YEAR

- Poultry loading depot with facilities for grading eggs.
- An annual poultry show.
- Monthly livestock sales.
- Farmers' own line of delivery trucks.
- Purebred sires and seeds.
- Guernsey cattle association.
- A semi-annual seed exchange day.
- A Harvest Carnival one day of the bread and butter show.

## Just About the Farm

Well, a pretty good frost has come. About the only outstanding thing that is to be commented on about it is that had our farmers worked—and so planned their work so that they would have had profitable work to do—all the year as they have worked to get in their fall crops, Macon county would have been at least one million dollars better off than it is now.

And wouldn't that million dollars have made our homes better to live in? They would have all been painted, had lights and water, good barns, self feeders for hogs, up-to-date poultry houses, flower gardens, an all-year-round pasture, an all-year-round garden, good books and magazines in every home, a nice radio set; the girls could all have music lessons, the boys would all have had a well-appointed workshop where they could put in rainy days or they could have had good hunting dogs and fishing tackle and so on and so on.

All the above is not a mere dream. Some day I am going to write you a dream—a dream within everyone's reach. Then you will begin to see

single man or woman or child in this county is to be blamed for things as they are, for we have just now got in touch with the rest of the world and got a chance to show our stuff.

There will be room for blame plenty in the very near future if we sleep on the job from now on.

Speaking of being a sleep on the job. Wonder if there are a half dozen farms in this county that are going to have every field a green field this winter? I know of only two so far.

Wondering again are there one-half dozen farms in this county that are arranging for a good permanent pasture for their needs? I mean by that are they putting down a good grass mixture.

### RATS

The department of Washington estimates that about \$100,000,000 worth of property a year in these good old United States. How many Macon county farmers realized their corn so that the rats will have no trouble in helping themselves to as much as they will want all next winter?

There was one man told me the other day that he estimated that rats ate up more than twice as much as his taxes came to every year. No wonder taxes are hard to pay—the rats get at them.

### BEEF CATTLE

Every once in a while a friend of mine comes in and, in the course of a general conversation tells me that he wishes I would help on the beef cattle situation more than I do. Well, I just want to say right here and once and for all, that I am anxious and will do any and everything in my power for the beef industry if those that are fixed for and want to work beef cattle will raise them. But I am not going to assist any man to speculate in buying and selling only. I am especially emphatic in this where it means working against the small man.

I have worked beef cattle in my time and like it and think that there is a great future for it in Macon county. When we are raising a thousand head of beef cattle annually we may well say that we are on the road to prosperity.

There is another very serious thing to consider in beef cattle production. The time from peak to peak in beef prices is eleven years. We have had high prices now for some years. I'd be a wise guy, indeed, if I helped a man go head over heels into this game only for him to realize that about the time he got well into it that the bottom fell out of the market. I study these trends in production and prices if the man most vitally concerned does not. So there.

## KEEP YOUR FARM AND IT WILL KEEP YOU AND YOURS

### "Four Pounds of Lard In Thirty Years"

H. B. Bradshaw, of Wilson county, North Carolina, looks on his farm as a place to live and make a living. Only one year out of thirty has his farm failed to show a profit. He has raised eleven children, has bought only four pounds of lard in 30 years and has never bought feed for his stock but one year since he began farming. The cotton and tobacco that he grows is just so much "velvet." He has two tenants who follow his system and clear money every year. Thirty-five years ago, J. W. Gaston, of Spartanburg county, South Carolina, started farming with a rented mule. Adding a work animal every year for 25 years, he acquired a 26-horse farm of over 900 acres. He sells around \$1500 worth of bacon every year without robbing his smokehouse. Needless to say, poultry and dairy cattle account for no small part of Mr. Gaston's substantial income from

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### Three-Way Proposition Gets Results

#### Success Comes to Dairyman With Aid of County Agent and Michigan Central

Six years ago a young farmer, located near Gaylord, Michigan, sat in the office of the county Agricultural agent, discussing the perplexing problem of how to make money out of a farm without the necessary capital.

He had come up from southern Michigan a few years before and had been struggling along without much success until he and his capable wife

county agent had been urging him to build up a good dairy herd, and when he repeated his advice, this young farmer said, "Why that takes a life time, and anyway I haven't the money to buy a good foundation stock, to say nothing about the pure bred sire."

County agent Lytle replied: "Sam you have three cows in your herd good enough to start with. I will get you a good pure bred sire free of charge. Then, if you will follow my advice, I will guarantee you a herd of ten cows within ten years which will return you two dollars for every dollar you spend on them for feed."

Amazed and incredulous, Sam Hagadorn closed the deal, wondering how the party of the second part could possibly deliver. As for the latter, he never bet on a surer thing in his life. He had been informed a few weeks previously that the Michigan Central railroad, through its Agricultural Department, had become so thoroughly convinced that dairying on the Mackinaw Division would result in increased mutual prosperity for both the farmer and the carrier, that it had decided to lease good pure bred sires free of charge to such groups of responsible farmers as were earnestly striving to build up more efficient dairy herds. He was satisfied that Mr. Hagadorn and his neighborhood would qualify.

#### Discouragement Takes to Its Heels

A few months later Mr. Hagadorn was notified that a Guernsey bull calf was waiting for him at the Michigan Central station at Gaylord, and he hastened down to transport it back to his farm. From then on the battle was waged in earnest, and too much cannot be said for Sam and his family, as they endured the daily grind. Sam's determination and Mr. Hagadorn's inspiration and helpful hand proved too much for Old Man Discouragement and year by year a few more choice heifers replaced the old scrub and grade cows, until, at the end of six years, we find the herd consisting of eight heifers from the Michigan Central sires—a different sire was leased to him two years ago—and the two foundation cows. In the cow testing association records we find that the herd averaged a return of \$2.31 for every dollar's worth of feed given them.

The county agent had, indeed, made good. He delivered the pure bred sire, the herd produced in six years what he had promised it would within ten years, and the most amazing of all, he did not have to furnish Sam with very much advice after the first year because the latter began to study farm papers and soon became well informed on the subjects of "feeding, breeding and weeding." The scene returns after six years, to the county agent's office September 1927, with Messrs. Lytle and Hagadorn present. The records of the

The farm pages of The Press are edited by the county agent in collaboration with the editor.

cow testing association are before them and Mr. Lytle says: "Well Sam, your herd placed first in the cow testing association this year, your cows averaged 393 pounds of butter fat a cow and they returned you \$2.31 for every dollar's worth of feed. This is a remarkable performance, but much more so because four of these ten cows are only two years old and only two of them are mature cows. Moreover, you are now recognized as a well informed dairyman. May I consider the contract made six years ago as fulfilled?"

The reply was still more surprising. Mr. Hagadorn said: "You have more than filled the contract and I am glad you think I have done my part. However, I am not stopping now. I have just purchased two pure bred cows for \$340 which will each produce over 600 pounds of butter fat in a year, and I am starting all over again with that production as my goal for the herd average. Moreover, my neighbors and I have just bought a pure bred Guernsey bull calf worth \$500 which is recognized as one of the best bred Guernsey bulls in the state."

Mr. Hagadorn's statements have been verified and, without a doubt he is on the way to become one of northern Michigan's leading dairymen as well as a prosperous patron of the Michigan Central railroad. To add to his joy he is rearing a mammy of which he may well be proud. All of them are in 4-H club work and are winning many prizes. The oldest girl, Fern, aged thirteen, won first

Her brother, fifteen, placed second in the same contest. Fern also won second in an essay contest conducted by the Top of Michigan Potato Show association, while her brother Edward was awarded a trip to the state fair representing his county as the boy who had the highest average at the eight grade examination.

#### Michigan Central Does Its Part

Thus working hand in hand with numerous agencies, a man who would be a farmer but was handicapped by insufficient capital and scientific training, has become a prosperous, contented, skilled farmer—an asset to every business agency dealing in the community, and a success before his family and friends. It is but an illustration—somewhat outstanding, we admit—of the work which is going on in Northern Michigan and elsewhere, a work in which the New York Central Lines are playing a part.

A definite dairy program for north-eastern Michigan was launched by the Agricultural Department of the Michigan Central railroad in 1919, when five pure bred Holstein sires were purchased and released to responsible parties. This was followed by a pure bred sire train in 1921 when seventy pure bred bulls were traded for as many scrubs. In 1922 and 1923, this was followed up with the purchase of twenty additional sires which were leased to groups of farmers. Some of them were purchased at nominal prices, through the cooperation of broad-minded breeders. Among the latter was John W. Endicott, president of the Merchants National Bank, Detroit, who raised the calf on which later was founded the splendid Hagadorn herd. C. J. Spencer, prominent business man in Jackson, Michigan, breeder of Holstein cattle, also assisted in this movement.

Since 1923 representatives of the Michigan Central railroad have cooperated in every way possible to encourage the dairy business, giving rallies at Standish, organizing a cow testing association at Pinconning, purchasing cows for individuals and groups, arranging exhibits and giving prizes at county fairs, etc. Assistance was given to the Gaylord Bank last year when it launched a campaign to finance the purchase of two carloads of high grade cows a year until Otsego county takes its place among the leaders in the dairy business.

#### Does It Pay?

Naturally, the question arises, "Does it pay the railroad to take such an active part in the development of the dairy business?" Some would say that it is worth while from the public relationship standpoint alone. Others would wish to consider the monetary value of a contented prosperous farmer patron to the carrier. This was estimated by James J. Hill, the railroad builder, at not less than \$15,000 each. Others would consider the increase in direct revenue which

the car reh irsrceived, and this is probably the most tangible.

The dairy business of necessity develops very slowly, especially in a new country, without capital. Hence, it is a little early to look for striking increases in revenue at the end of six years. Nevertheless, using Gaylord as an example, because the dairy program of the railroad has largely centered there, it is found that the revenue on milk and cream shipped by baggage has multiplied itself six times since 1921. The butter shipments by express have increased in direct proportion. Although these percentages do not represent a vast sum of money, it is an indication of the results which may be looked for within the next six years because it is satisfactory to know that the dairy business is being firmly established in that country. No less than twenty pure bred sires of outstanding breeding have been placed in Otsego county this year, replacing largely the Company-owned sires, of which there are only five left in the county.

#### Prosperity In Sight

It is work if this type which promoted the editorial written in the Michigan Business Farmer in the issue of November 19, in part as follows:

"Michigan is fortunate in having such a railroad as the New York Central Lines serving its citizens in many sections. Any movement to improve agriculture in the state usually has their ready moral and financial support."

County agent Lytle, commenting on the encouragement given the pure bred sire idea by the railroad writes, "I consider that these sires and the development of this herd have been a direct influence in encouraging the

Great movements are not brought about by any one man or agency. They usually result from the combined intelligent, coordinated efforts of a group of individuals or agencies. The development at Gaylord is no exception. With bankruptcy staring them in the face, the Gaylord business men and the Otsego county farmers joined hands in 1920 in employing county agent Lytle to work out an agricultural program that would stave off disaster. In this he enlisted the support of the Michigan Central railroad, the Northeastern Michigan Development Bureau, and others. The result is as satisfactory as the most optimistic dared hope, comparative prosperity is in sight, disaster has been averted through the adoption of a sound dairy program. A concrete evidence of this result is the case of Sam Hagadorn.

### NETWORK TO BROADCAST FARM PROGRAM FROM WASHINGTON

The United States department of agriculture announced the opening on Tuesday, October 2, of a five-day-a-week broadcast direct from Washington to the radio audiences of a network of 14 stations associated with the National Broadcasting company. The broadcast is scheduled at 12:15 to 12:30 p. m., Central Standard time.

W. M. Jardine, secretary of agriculture, will inaugurate the program Tuesday with an address, "Putting Facts to Work on Our Farms."

Stations associated in the network are audible over an expanse of farming territory reaching from the Alleghenies to the Rockies and from the Canadian border to the Gulf Coast. It is estimated that 400,000 farm homes within good reception radius of the 14 stations are equipped with radio receiving sets.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week federal workers in charge of investigations in farm production and farm economics will give the most timely farm facts of the day to this audience. The new broadcast is established, at the invitation of the National Broadcasting company and associated stations, as a unit in the radio information service of the department. It is considered a valuable supplement to the already existing arrangements with more than 200 radio stations for transmission of weather, markets, and general agricultural knowledge.

Stations in the network for the noon-hour broadcast from Washington are KDKA, Pittsburgh; KWW, Chicago; WCCO, Minneapolis; WOC, Davenport; WHO, Des Moines; WOW, Omaha; WDAF, Kansas City, Mo.; KWK, St. Louis; KVOO, Tulsa; WOAI, San Antonio; WHAS, Louisville; WSM, Nashville; WSB, Atlanta; and KOA, Denver.

The Radio Service of the department is in charge of the arrangement of programs.

## THINGS TO PLAN FOR RIGHT NOW

- That cream check every two weeks.
- That cannery check every time you come to town.
- Bread and Butter Show next fall.
- Encourage the 4-H Clubbers.
- Big Farmers' day next fall.
- Local Curb Market.
- Breed sows so that the pigs will go on the market in March, April, August and September.

## BUILD BETTER SOILS WITH SWEET CLOVER

Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 2.—As a pasture and soil improving crop, sweet clover is winning a popular place for itself among good farmers in all parts of piedmont and western North Carolina.

As a cover crop for plowing under in the general field, in the orchard, or pasture, it is said to be unexcelled. Recent tests in Illinois show an accumulation of nitrogen in the tops and roots of around 250 pounds per acre from clover planted one spring and tested in May of the following year. This is as much nitrogen as is contained in 25 tons of average farm manure or in over 1,600 pounds of nitrate of soda.

Success with the crop, say those who have grown it, depends on a good seed bed, well limed. At least one to two tons of finely ground limestone must be used to each acre. Inoculation of the seed is also important. In many instances farmers have not obtained a good stand with the first trial even under the best of

sweet clover will be found one of the most valuable crops on the farm.

A recent bulletin from Kentucky says, "Sweet clover is perhaps the most valuable of all legumes for pasture and soil improvement on Kentucky farms. Properly managed, sweet clover pastures will support at least one steer or dairy cow per acre from early spring until late fall, which is two or three times the capacity of Kentucky pastures at the present time. The growth of grasses is greatly stimulated by sweet clover when it is included in the pasture mixture."

This has also been the experience of those who have tried the crop in North Carolina. D. J. Lybrook of Davie county, Charlie Brown of Rowan and Sloan Brothers of Scotts are three successful growers who sing its praises.

### Field Selected Seed Increases Corn Yield

Go through the corn field before gathering time, with a bag strapped over the shoulder, and secure seed ears from the proper type of stalks growing under average conditions and thus spend a highly profitable day.

This is the formula for better corn yields advocated by C. R. Hudson of the farm demonstration department at State college. The seed corn, according to Mr. Hudson, should be secured from stalks that are strong and stocky and have stood up under the storm conditions of the summer. Two-eared stalks give larger yields. The ears should be of medium height from the ground and the stalk should have no advantage over the other stalks as to space on the row or fertilizer.

Other good qualities in the seed stalk are that the ears droop over to prevent the entrance of rain into the husk, the shuck should cover the tip of the ear to keep out insects and the ear should be large and short rather than long and slender. Once the seed corn has been selected, the ears should be hung in a dry place or spread on a dry floor to permit evaporation of moisture. Never store them in bags, boxes or barns until thoroughly dry. It is a good practice to make a germination test sometime in the winter and use only those ears with high germinating power.

Mr. Hudson states that good seed corn is adapted to the soil and climate where it is to be grown; is of a high yielding variety and from high stalks; is well matured and properly cared for from maturity to planting time and is free from insect and disease injury.

By following these suggestions for a few years, any farmer may have good seed corn for his own needs and may in time build up a trade with his neighbors in the same locality.