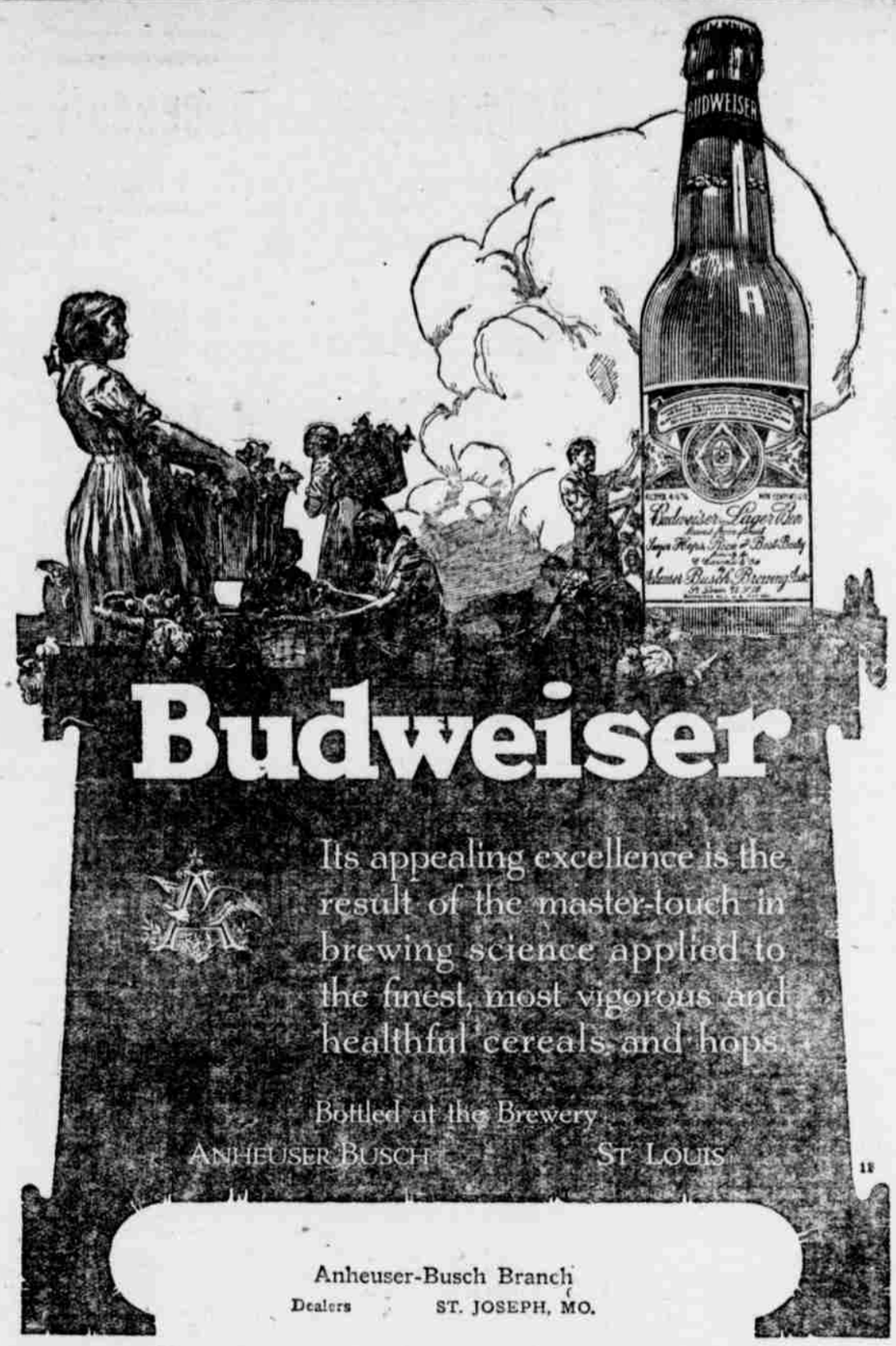

CORN AND HOGS AND AN ARMY

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In emergencies, it may be necessary for some patriots to unyoke the oxen and leave the plow standing in the furrow, but the lasting support of a nation requires efficient patriots to keep the plows going. The soil supports the corn; corn supports animals; corn and animals support an army; and "armies fight on their bellies." Let us properly care for the goose that lays the golden egg. Whether corn prices are high or low, the farmers profit depends on obtaining large acre yields. Large acre yields reduce the expense of both labor and land. It is remarkable that acre yields are increasing most rapidly in the states southeast and the states north and west of the corn belt states. These increased acre yields are largely due to earlier and thicker planting of better seed corn. Unnecessary losses from planting poor seed corn are diminishing as it becomes more fully realized that neither frosts nor droughts can exterminate good acclimated varieties if sufficient seed be saved from good crops to last until another good crop is obtained. Good seed corn will retain its powers of germination and production for 4 or 5 years. Assurance of a good corn crop in the central and southern states, the scarcity of soil moisture in the middle of the summer reduces the corn crop more than all other causes combined. The best assurance of a good corn crop is to get moisture into the soil in as large quantities and to as great depths as possible. To allow weeds, alfalfa, rye or other plants to grow during the spring upon land to be planted to corn is to invite failure of the corn crop. To allow the soil to become dry enuf in the spring before plowing to break up in big clods, is to invite failure of the corn crop. If the plowing has been delayed until spring, the land should be disked before it has a chance to become too dry to plow. Disking is more rapid and should be done before the plowing in order to keep the ground from becoming too dry. Deep plowing should not be done in the spring. If followed by drought, it causes the land to dry out to greater depths than would result from shallow plowing. The main corn planting is now completed in the south. When this main planting begins to form ears, the occurrence of a drought will ruin the crop unless a good supply of moisture has been stored in the subsoil. To reduce the chances of loss from drought 1 or more later plantings should be made. Summer droughts are sometimes broken in time to cause later plantings to yield well. Good seed corn should be in readiness to make these later plantings as promptly as possible should droughts or floods injure the early plantings.—C. P. Hartley, in charge of corn investigations, U. S. department of agriculture.

NEBRASKA TO SELL BEAN SEEDS TO THE FARMERS AT COST

LINCOLN, Neb.—Owing to the present scarcity of bean seed, the extension service of the college of agriculture has secured 2 carloads of seed for sale at cost to all who wish to buy. Beans are in great demand for seed because many persons are planning to grow them as an emergency "war crop," and because they are a good crop to replace winterkilled wheat. So long as the supply lasts, the extension service will book orders for bean seed. The price will not exceed 22 cents a pound for navy beans and 18 cents a pound for pinto beans. The price for navy beans is f. o. b. Lincoln, and for pinto beans, f. o. b. Sidney or some point not farther west than Denver. The navy beans are from Michigan and the pinto beans from Colorado. A statement just issued by Professor C. W. Pugsley, director of extension service, follows: "We are having many inquiries for navy and pinto bean seed. Pinto beans are especially adapted to central and western Nebraska. We have made an effort to locate bean seed in quantities and have succeeded in locating a limited amount. The seed is very scarce and it will be necessary to book the orders at once in case we are to take advantage of the prices quoted. When the beans are laid down it may be found possible to scale the price a few cents a pound. The seed is being located by the college of agriculture for sale to farmers at cost. It is necessary that cash accompany the orders, and in case the orders cannot be filled, the cash will be returned and the party notified at once. I would suggest that the beans be ordered in quantities, a number of farmers clubbing together. This will reduce expense in handling the beans." Orders may be sent to the extension service, college of agriculture, Lincoln, Neb. No definite date for delivery can be given, but within a few days we hope to be notified of the approximate date of delivery. Bean seed is advancing very rapidly in price, and our orders for 2 cars could only be placed subject to the ability of parties to locate beans. A new circular on "Bean Culture," Emergency Bulletin No. 4, has just been issued by the extension service. It will be sent free upon request.

SUMMER SQUASHES MAKE PRETTY VINES

Summer squashes are an attractive addition to the home garden. 2 or 3 hills will supply an average-sized family. These squashes prefer a warm, rich, sandy loam and good cultivation. The hills may be spaced 5 or 6 feet apart. The plants will occupy the ground all summer if the fruits are harvested at usable stage. In preparing a "hill," a hole 2½ feet square and 12 inches deep should be dug; a bushel basketful of manure should then be thoroly mixed with the excavated soil, which is then replaced in the hole. It is better to use well-rotted manure, but if the mixing with soil is well done, there will be little danger of heating from fresh, strawy manure. With chicken manure, use only ½ of this quantity. Squashes cannot endure the slightest frost, so seed should not be planted until the soil is well warmed. 10 or a dozen seeds are planted in each hill. These should finally be thinned to 1 or 2 plants. The soil must be stirred by shallow cultivation until the plants cover the ground. Yellow Summer Crookneck is much planted, and is a good variety.

NO DANGER OF OVER-PRODUCTION THIS YEAR

While the farmer is being urged to greater and greater production, he naturally considers the possibility of over-production. Many farmers in the state have advanced this question. According to Dean F. B. Mumford of the Missouri college of agriculture, over-production is exceedingly improbable this year. It has been agreed that this countrys part in the war will be largely to supply food. "Our food resources have been depleted by shipments to Europe and by several poor crop years," said Dean Mumford recently, "and now with unrestricted export to the Allies the small reserve which we have will be further decreased. Any surplus which the American farmers can produce will be quickly absorbed at war time prices. Millions of people in England, France and other countries at war with the German powers are in need of food. They must have food not only for their civil population but for their armies. They are too busy fighting to provide that food themselves. It then behooves the United States to supply food. But it is not alone for the Allies that we must produce maximum crops. If we should have a poor crop year thruout this country our own people may actually suffer. If Germany is able to continue the ruthless submarine warfare unhindered some food will be lost on its way to Europe. Consequenty the losses will tend toward a further shortage and to absorb any surplus even if there were danger of over-production." What would happen if peace should come within the next few weeks? Would not the markets be glutted? In answer to these questions Dean Mumford said: "It is doubtful if there will be a great decrease in the demand for food immediately following the war. With commerce restored every nation which is now at war will become a market place for American farm produce. These countries have no food reserves left and they will turn to the United States to furnish food during reconstruction and until they can feed themselves." As an example of the actual scarcity of food in America Dean Mumford cited the condition of wheat: "In 1915 the United States produced 10 bushels of wheat per capita; in 1916 we produced 6 bushels per capita, but used 6 1-3 bushels for seed and ordinary consumption and exported 2½ bushels per capita. The present condition of wheat in the United States is 64 per cent of a normal crop. This is 22 per cent below the average for the last 10 years. The condition in Missouri is even worse—59 as compared with the 15-year average of 85 per cent. The latest reports are that the world crop of wheat is far below average." Other foods are correspondingly scarce.

TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF TIN CANS

The steps that have been taken to increase the supply of tin cans for the coming packing season were announced by Secretary Redfield. They consist principally in speeding up the manufacture of tinplate, in arrangements by the manufacturers whereby much of the tinplate ordinarily used in packing non-perishable goods will be diverted to the packers of perishable foods, and in the introduction of suitable substitute containers for many lines of non-perishable goods usually packed in tin. At present the canners are demanding 40 per cent more cans than the can manufacturers feel that they are able to promise. The greatest saving in tinplate can be effected by using substitute containers for non-perishable goods, and the department of commerce, thru the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, is now preparing suggestions along this line. A great many familiar articles are put up in tin containers which can well be put up otherwise. Good substitutes are now in use for packing tobacco, coffee, tea, spices, baking powder, soap powder, white lead, powdered paints, sirup, cocoa, cheese, lard, butter and peanut butter. It is suggested that packers of such products consider carefully the use of such substitutes before ordering any further supplies of tin cans. The department will be glad to assist enquirers who may state the special uses for which they wish containers to replace tin during the present emergency." In some instances the use of substitutes may mean temporary inconvenience but no patriotic manufacturer will hesitate to "do his bit" to prevent a serious food shortage next winter. Some manufacturers who have been approached by the department will be able to use substitutes without any sacrifice whatever. In fact, some of them will welcome an opportunity to abandon the elaborate containers that have come into use largely for advertising purposes during the last few years. A number of important concerns are already notifying their trade that in the future their goods will be delivered in substitute containers. A number of tinplate manufacturers have agreed to co-operate by refusing for the present to enter into new contracts for the sale of tinplate for use in canning non-perishable goods. Economy in the manufacture of tinplate and tin cans is of prime importance and the manufacturers are making special efforts to prevent waste in the mills and factories. The present high price of tin is attributed to the unusual demands of the last 2 or 3 years, combined with the present difficulty of getting the supplies from the Straits Settlements and from the tin refiners in Europe. Practically all of the worlds supply of tin is mined in the Straits Settlements and Bolivia. For a great many years European firms have handled the output of both countries and sold the refined product to tinplate manufacturers in Europe and the United States, altho since the war started a smelting plant has been ereced in New Jersey and the ore is now brought here direct from Bolivia.

Jim Keats writes from Canada that a very early spring prevails up there, and that he is planting wheat. The early spring in the north means early high water in the Missouri river."

RAISE MORE HOGS URGE U. S. EXPERTS

No branch of live stock farming is more productive of satisfactory results than the raising of well bred swine, if conducted with a reasonable care, according to the specialists of the bureau of animal industry, U. S. department of agriculture. Hogs fit into the modern scheme of farming on nearly every farm, and are 1 of the most important animals to raise both for meat and for money. They require less labor, less equipment and less capital, make greater gains per 100 pounds of concentrates fed, reproduce themselves faster and in greater numbers, and give a quicker "turn-over" of money than any other animal except poultry. Farmers of the south and west particularly have awakened to the merits of the hog and are rapidly increasing their output of pork and their bank accounts. The hog has no rival as a consumer of by-products and numerous unmarketable materials, which but for him might be wasted. Kitchen refuse, not only from farms, but also from hotels and restaurants, when cooked before being used, makes an excellent feed. The value of skim milk as a hog feed is known on every farm, tho not always fully appreciated. In the neighborhood of many large dairies, pork production is a very prominent and lucrative supplement to the dairy industry. To prevent tuberculosis, all milk and products should be cooked before being fed to hogs. To control hog cholera, use sanitary precautions and anti-hog-cholera serum treatment. Give your hog a chance to become meat. The hog is also a large factor in cheapening the production of beef. Hogs are placed in the cattle feed lots to utilize the corn and other feeds the cattle have failed to digest, and which otherwise would be wasted. Hogs following steers in many cases have increased the profit per steer by from $6 to $9. Hogs should not be allowed to follow dairy cattle unless the cattle are tuberculin tested.

COTTON-SEED MEAL FOR POULTRY

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Cottonseed meal in rather limited amounts, has been fed, since last November, with excellent results, to a pen of 39 pullets on the experiment farm of the U. S. department of agriculture. These pullets have averaged 52.2 eggs each in 29 weeks, from Nov. 1 to March 20, which is practically equal to the best egg yield received this year from any of the other experimental rations. No bad effects have been noted from this feed, either in the eggs or in the condition of the fowls, and the hens eat this feed freely. The ration is as follows: Scratch mixture—1 pound cracked corn; 1 pound wheat; 1 pound oats. Dry mash—2 pounds cottonseed meal; 2 pounds beef scrap; 4 pounds bran; 3 pounds middlings; 9 pounds corn meal. The scratch mixture is fed sparingly so that the hens eat about equal parts of this mixture and of the dry mash. A large per cent of cottonseed meal in a dry mash without any beef scrap has not given satisfactory results. Pullets fed a ration with 22 per cent cottonseed meal averaged only 32.2 eggs apiece in 1 year. A considerable per cent of these eggs had discolored yolks, with green or brownish-green spots, making them unfit for market. The hens did not like this mash and had to be forced to eat it by feeding a very limited amount of scratch grains. These results appear to indicate that cottonseed meal can be fed at the rate of 10 per cent of the mash, or 5 per cent of the total ration, with an equal per cent of beef scrap with excellent results. In sections where cottonseed meal is produced, ½ of the beef scrap in the mash apparently can be replaced by cottonseed meal with excellent results.

A BILL TO GOVERN RAIL UNDERCHARGES UP IN CONGRESS

A bill has been introduced in the house of representatives by Congressman Keating, of Colorado, which would require railroads to present undercharge bills within 90 days from delivery of the shipment or be subject to a fine not to exceed $5,000. Under the present general custom a carrier can, and does, present its bills for balances alleged to be due on shipments previously delivered any time the error may be detected and instances are of record where 4 or 5 separate bills have been presented long after the transaction has been entirely closed. The bill would in effect require railroads to check up their bills before presentation and would prevent innocent parties being forced to pay freight bills when they no longer have an opportunity to deduct the amount from the 1 responsible. The bill known as the Keating bill (H. R. No. 130) is now with the committee on interstate commerce of which Congressman Adamson is chairman, and all interested in this important legislation should take up immediately with their congressmen, urging action during the present session.

USE MORE HORSES AND SAVE MEN

Labor is the limiting factor in crop production this year. Horses are relatively plentiful in comparison. O. R. Johnson, of the department of farm management of the Missouri college of agriculture, suggests that farmers lay aside 1 man and 2 horse tools and use those that require more horses so that more work per man can be done. 1 man with 3 horses to a 16-inch breaking plow will turn over 3 acres or less in a day. The same man with a gang plow consisting of 2 12-inch bottoms, will average 4¾ acres a day and will use 1 more horse. This means that by increasing the horse stock 1-3, 1 man can increase his efficiency in breaking ground nearly 75 per cent. Investigations have actually shown that a man on a riding implement will do more work in a day than the same man and the same team with implements that require him to walk. The use of the bigger tools and thoro preparation of seedbeds will also cut down the time required for cultivation of the corn crop. Cultivation is the operation which limits the amount of corn 1 man can grow. If a good seed bed is prepared, some time can be saved in cultivating the crop, and consequently more acres can be grown.

OFFERS MISSOURI FARM TO BELGIANS

JEFFERCON CITY, Mo.—The call of Missouri to Belgian, Servian, Roumanian and other refugees of Europe to flock to this state and till the fertile lands which remain uncultivated and which offer a tempting future to all farmers who will wrest wealth from their fertility is bearing fruit. Commissioner William H. Lewis, of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, has received from E. A. Haycroft, of the Haskell Institute, at Lawrence, Kan., a communication in which he makes the tempting announcement that he has a Missouri farm he will turn over to a deserving, thrifty, energetic European refugee family for cultivation. Mr. Haycroft outlines his plan as follows, after stating that the farm he offers is in Marion county, not far from Hannibal, Mo. "My plan is to furnish the refugee family a home and pay a stated salary the 1st year, and, later, a system of profit sharing may be worked out. If you can furnish me with the addresses of persons interested in locating such families, I will appreciate it very much." Orders were issued by the bureau of labor statistics to the state free employment bureaus at Kansas City, St. Louis and St. Joseph, to lay the offer of Mr. Haycroft before the Belgian, Servian and Roumainian consuls in their cities and enlist the services of these officials in supplying a refugee family to accept the proposition of Mr. Haycroft. Similar services will labor statistics to others owning Missouri farms or lands they cannot themselves till and who are anxious to secure refugees to do this work for them either for pay or on a profit sharing basis.

MANY SHOE FACTORIES IN GERMANY TO CLOSE

Of 1,400 shoe factories in Germany, 1,070 will be closed and the remainder placed under government control. Of the latter, 100 will be operated to meet the requirements of the army, and the other 280 to satisfy the needs of the civilian population.

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