

Doubling the Farmer's Wheat Dollar

By Charles W. Holman
(In the Country Gentleman)

By an administrative arm of the Government formed to buy grain or supervise its sale at the prices determined by the commission, and it must do its work on the basis of the new grades. But to return to our farmer and his expectations of price.

Introducing Two Bushels of Wheat.

Lying side by side in his wagon had been 2 bushels of wheat that fate had marked for strangely different ends. They were very much alike, those bushels of wheat, and to look at them you would not have suspected the strange and wonderful adventures in store for them. Yet one was destined to travel abroad for consumption in France; the other to find its way into Georgia, where it was milled and its flour finally reached a New York baker on the East Side. But in the sum of the travels made by the two, as we shall follow them, will be unfolded the international panorama of wheat marketing in time of war.

Finding a Price at a Country Point.

High war costs of production gave our Missouri farmer much concern as to his returns and accounted for his depression over the prospects of his wheat "grading down"; for that meant a reduction of 3 cents per bushel under the No. 1 grade. But it graded No. 2.

The elevator would also deduct an additional 5 cents a bushel to cover the fixed charge made in this locality for handling and selling. The 5-cent charge included the commission of 1 cent per bushel customary in 1917 among commission men for selling the wheat to domestic millers or foreign buyers.

The elevator man was none too sure as to how to get at the price which this wheat should bring. He knew considerably more about human nature than freight rates and decided to "check up" the problem to the nearest some agent of the Grain Corporation. So he wrote a letter to the representative stationed at St. Louis. That letter was referred to the traffic expert in the New York office, who transmitted the following rule for determining the price of wheat at any country point:

There is only one price for wheat at a country point. That price is always to be arrived at by taking as a basis the price at the most advantageous primary market where we have fixed a price and deducting the freight to that market and a fair handling profit. That is the price to be paid for wheat at any station, regardless of the point to which it may be shipped.

Working out the price which should be paid for wheat at your station is a fine occupation for an off day. If you cannot find the answer, write to the Food Administration Grain Corporation in New York City and its traffic expert will give you aid.

Finding the Price of No. 2 Wheat at Sikeston.

Take an actual example: An elevator man in Sikeston, Mo., wanted to know what price No. 2 wheat should bring at his station when No. 1 wheat at New York City was \$2.28 per bushel. Here is how he went about it:

The freight rate from Sikeston to New York being 16.98 cents per bushel, he deducted that from \$2.28 per bushel and found the price at Sikeston to be \$2.1102. From this he deducted 1 per cent per bushel for the commission firm's charges, which put the net price f. o. b. Sikeston at \$2.1002.

He next compared this price with what he could get if he sold at St. Louis, his nearest primary market. At St. Louis the basic price is \$2.18 per bushel, and the freight rate from Sikeston to St. Louis 6 cents per bushel. This would make the Sikeston price \$2.12, less 1 cent per bushel for selling charges, or \$2.11 net. The St. Louis price would therefore govern, being advantageous to the Sikeston seller.

If our imaginary 2 bushels of wheat had started from Sikeston, since it was a No. 2 grade, we must deduct 3 cents per bushel, which would bring the price f. o. b. the elevator point to \$2.0802 per bushel. As our imaginary elevator man is charging 5 cents per bushel for handling, which includes the commission fee just mentioned, we deduct an additional 4 cents to arrive at the price the farmer received. This price would be \$2.0402 at the elevator. Some of that 4 cents will return to our farmer if the elevator prospers; for it is owned co-operatively.

When Farmer and Elevator Man Disagree.

Had this elevator been owned by private firm or person, or had it been a "line" plant, Col. Jenkins would not have been so bland and trustful.

He might have refused to sell at all and arranged to store his wheat or he might have taken it over to a competitive concern which offered a higher price; for the Food Administration has not yet attempted to regulate the prices paid farmers for wheat at country points. It does, however, offer to sell for any farmer or farmers' organization wheat offered at terminal points, but makes a commission charge of 1 per cent for its services.



DOUBLING the farmer's share of the wheat dollar is one of the war time jobs Uncle Sam has done since food control became possible. After five months of grappling with the problem Uncle Sam is now translating into the pockets of both producers and consumers benefits derived by the Nation. He has shut off speculation, produced a free market and movement of all grades of wheat, cut expenses and induced a normal flow of wheat in natural directions, and effected a thousand other economies.

The Food Administration Grain Corporation, which supervises the sale, of itself buys every bushel of wheat produced in the Nation in its progress from country elevator to foreign buyers or domestic consumers, marks a new step toward national efficiency. How in four short months it has been done is told in the following episodes wherein two bushels of wheat traveled to market.

One fine fall afternoon, Col. Bill Jenkins, who farms somewhere in Missouri, loaded his wheat into a wagon and drove along the black road that led across the prairie to town. When he reached the co-operative elevator of which he was a stockholder, he pulled up on the scales, checked his gross weights carefully, and began to unload. The manager came out and asked:

"When you want to sell this wheat?"
"I dunno," he answered. "One time's about as good as another—these days. 'T won't weigh any more later," he added, with a dry smile.
"Wheat shrinks a lot," admitted the manager. "I hear the Government wants as much wheat as it can get just now—understand the Allies do eat a terrible lot of it since the war."
"What's wheat to-day?" asked Col. Jenkins, getting interested.
"Well, let me see," parleyed the manager. "I guess this wheat'd be a good No. 2 under the new grades."
"Grades? What about grades? That Food Administration seems to mix into mighty nigh everything from rabbits to axle grease."

"Hold on, Colonel," said the elevator man, good-naturedly. "The Food Administration is not to blame. Congress passed the act and told the Department of Agriculture to fix the grades. They became effective last July. I sent out a letter on it."
"Well, I guess you better sell for the best you can," said the farmer. "I am needed at home." And he drove away.

A New Order in the Grain World.

CONVERSATIONS of this kind might have taken place in almost every town in the great grain belt of the Nation after August 10; for revolution in grain marketing was taking place. Uncle Sam had started on this remarkable experiment; he was going to see whether wheat could be marketed minus take-offs to the speculators. This necessitated complete control by the Government of storage facilities, transportation and distributive agencies, and the marketing machinery for wheat and rye.

Everybody was troubled; most of all, the officials of the Food Administration Grain Corporation who had undertaken, without salary, and at the sacrifice of their personal connection with the grain trade, to whip into shape the forces that would drive forward the big business machine for marketing American wheat. A single control; and a \$50,000,000 nonprofit-making corporation to do the work.

This work is a necessary arm of the Government to do business quickly and without red tape. Its stock is held in trust by the President of the United States. For the time of the war it will supervise the rate or purchase the part commercially available of the 900,000,000 bushels of wheat and the 50,000,000 surplus of rye grown in America in 1917. Its job is to find a market for every bushel, irrespective of class and grade. Under its patronage, wheat screenings are moving just as easily as No. 1 Northern. It must also work out satisfactorily the local prices for wheat at each of almost 20,000 country elevator points, adjust thousands of complaints, organize the gathering and analysis of data, inspect concerns reported as dealing unfairly, solve vexatious disagreements among the trade, and deal effectively with the allies' purchasing agent and the neutrals who may desire to purchase.

In the early days, following the determination of prices for 1917 wheat by the President's Fair Price Commission, confusion existed in every part of the wheat-producing regions. This was intensified by the inauguration of the new grain grades, as promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, which took place about the same time, and led to diverse complaints and a feeling among farmers that the Grain Corporation of the Food Administration was responsible for both the price as determined and stricter observance of grain grades. But the corporation was responsible for neither act. It is pure well.

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THE ONLY DEMOCRATIC PAPER IN WEBSTER COUNTY

Must Get Substitutes When Flour is Bought

Strict enforcement of the pound for pound substitute rule with sales of wheat flour is ordered by Food Administrator Wattles. If merchants do not have the required amount of substitutes, then wheat flour is not to be sold, only as substitutes can be furnished.

All exceptions permitted have been nullified. Potatoes are no longer a substitute for flour, and cannot be sold as such. The substitutes, and none other, are: hominy, corn grits, corn meal, corn flour, edible corn starch, barley flour, rolled oats, oatmeal, rice, rice flour, buckwheat flour, potato flour, sweet potato flour, soya bean flour and feterita flours and meals.

Consumers are required to purchase at the time the flour is bought an equal amount of any or all of the above products and use them with every pound of wheat flour purchased. Whole wheat or graham flours may be bought with three-fifths as much substitutes.

"This ruling will be enforced to the letter," says Administrator Wattles, "and any merchant violating it will have his supplies cut off."

Recent rulings handed down by Food Administrator Wattles are:

Millers cannot extract five per cent for second or low grade flours any longer unless it be flour made for the United States Army, Navy or Marine. Flour must be 100 per cent and not more than 264 pounds of 58-pound wheat can be used in making 196 pounds of flour.

Bakers, hotel keepers and boarding house operators using less than three barrels of flour monthly can take out a baker's license if they desire. If they take out such license then in buying flour they need purchase only one pound of substitutes for every four pounds of flour, but if they do not take out a license, they must comply with the pound-for-pound rule.

County Chairman Meeting

The meeting called by County Chairman C. H. Miner, which was held at the Orpheum on Wednesday afternoon was well attended.

The object of the meeting was to call the attention of all tax payers in Red Cloud city and precinct to the fact that their presence was desired at the Orpheum on Friday, March 23 at 3:00 p. m. Also to instruct the school boards of the various districts regarding their duty, to have them prepare lists of all tax payers in their respective districts and to have these tax payers present on the date specified.

Addresses were delivered by F. A. Good, Father Fitzgerald and Mayor Damerell.

On Friday evening a patriotic meeting will be held at the Morhart opera house. Judge Dungan will deliver an address.

Telephone reports of the results of the bonds sold and pledged will be received from the various districts.

All patriotic citizens are urged to be present.

Accidental Discharge of Gun

Charles Murphy, a brother-in-law of Frank Coed, was painfully injured by the accidental discharge of a shot gun on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Murphy went out to repair a fence, taking the gun with him. In crossing the field he failed to notice a ditch across his path, and in some manner stumbled and fell to the ground discharging the gun, the load striking him in the hand. He was brought to the city for medical attention. It was found necessary to remove one finger from the hand. The physicians are of the opinion that he will in time, recover the use of the hand. Mr. Murphy had served as a sharp shooter in the Spanish-American war, therefore it is hardly possible that the accident was due to careless handling of fire arms.

Clifford Pope Enters Army

On Tuesday morning of this week Clifford Pope, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Pope, who several weeks ago volunteered for service in the photographic department of the army left for Ithaca N. Y., where he will enter a university and prepare himself to enter the aerial photographic department of Uncle Sam's fighting forces across the water. After 8 weeks he will receive his commission.

Cliff has, for the past 5 years been in the employ of Stevens Bros. of this city and has been very efficient in his work. Steve regrets to see him go, as he states that Cliff has not only proven himself to be a competent and trust worthy employe but a true friend as well.

Report of the work done by the branches and auxiliaries for the sixth shipment made by Webster County chapter of the American Red Cross.

BATIN AUXILIARY: 13 bed shirts, 9 tray cloths, 16 wash cloths, 5 sweaters, 4 pr. sox, 1 helmet, 1 pr. wristlets.

COWLES: 7 sweaters, 6 pr. sox, 1 scarf, 3 helmets, 3 wristlets, 6 comfort pillows, 20 hand towels, 90 pillow cases, 10 draw sheets, 20 operating towels, 25 turkish towels, 24 tray cloths, 5 operating gowns, size 17, 10 bath robes, 10 substitute hdkfs., 20 bed shirts, 5 suits pajamas, 48 napkins, 10 bed jackets.

GARFIELD AUXILIARY: 11 sweaters, 6 pr. sox, 1 pr. wristlets, 11 suits pajamas.

INAVALE: 11 sweaters, 4 pr. sox, 36 substitute hdkfs., 12 towels, 5 infant quilts, 2 bed shirts, 15 suits pajamas.

STATE LINE AUX: 6 bed shirts, 6 sweaters, 5 pr. sox, 6 quilts, 1 dz. towels, 1 doz knit wash cloths, 1 dz. wash cloths, 2 dz. napkins, 1 dz. handkerchiefs.

LESTER AUX: 24 substitute handkerchiefs, 34 wash cloths, 10 sweaters, 1 pr. sox, 1 helmet, 1 pr. wristlets, 14 comfort pillows, 8 pajamas, 8 tray cloths, 10 bed shirts.

RED CLOUD AUX: 34 bed shirts, 10 operating leggings, 10 hot water bottle covers, 20 bath robes, 1 dz. sub. hdkfs., 47 towels, 2 dz. napkins, 17 suits pajamas, 18 sweaters, 36 pr. sox, 1 helmet, 1 scarf.

WAR RELIEF: 10 suits pajamas, 10 bed jackets, 20 towels, 20 hdkfs., 8 baby quilts, 4 wash cloths.

CHAPTER: 6 sweaters, 7 pr. sox, 3 pr. wristlets.

BLUE HILL: 27 sweaters, 1 scarf, 3 pr. sox, 6 pr. wristlets.

BLADEN: 21 sweaters, 7 sox, 4 wristlets, 2 helmets.

GUIDE ROCK: 11 sweaters, 6 pr. sox, 11 pr. wristlets.

The following very excellent report of hospital garments made and shipped direct to the inspection warehouse at Omaha, has been received from Bladen branch A. R. C.: 114 bed shirts, 6 bath robes, 87 suits pajamas.

Blue Hill also reports the following for the month of Feb. 15 to March 15, shipped direct to Omaha: 24 suits pajamas, 12 bed shirts, 1300 surgical dressings.

The aged men, women and children of Belgium and the portion of France which is in the hands of the enemy are in need of clothing and the American Red Cross has been called upon to supply their wants.

A call has come from headquarters at Washington to collect and ship all available new and used clothing. The distribution will be handled entirely by the Commission of Relief in Belgium, but the collection and delivery to the railway is in the hands of the Red Cross. The time for action is short as shipment is requested to be made during the week of March 18 to 25.

Good, staple articles are required, such as men's, women's and children's underwear, stockings, shoes, shirts, dresses, suits, hats and caps. Flimsy and fancy articles are not wanted. Any one having clothing that they wish to contribute may leave the same at Turnure's store not later than Saturday night as the same must be packed and ready for shipment Monday morning.

The Great Duty
As we go about our daily tasks in peace and safety, men are dying every minute on the battlefields of Europe to save civilization. Our own gallant soldiers are shedding their blood in France and our sailors engulfed in the waters of the Atlantic as they go in defense of America's rights and honor. Upon our performance of the work committed to us depend the lives of thousands of men and women the fate of many nations, the preservation of civilization and humanity itself; and the more efficient and prompt we peo-

ple of America are in doing our part, the more quickly will this war come to an end and the greater the number of our soldiers and sailors who will be saved from death and suffering and the greater number of the people of other nations released from bondage and saved from death. To work, to save, to economize, to give financial support to the government is a duty of the nation and to the world and it is especially a duty to our fighting men who on land and sea are offering their lives for their country and their countrymen.

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