

Pork Demand in U.S. Far Exceeds Estimate, Shown

Over 100,000 Wheat Farmers in Distress, Report Says—1923 Good Year for Cotton.

Washington, Oct. 2.—Agriculture showed continued improvement during September except in the wheat belt, the Department of Agriculture announced today in its monthly agricultural review.

A significant development is the strengthened demand for cotton and pork," the review says. "Consumption of cotton in American mills and export movement have both increased, although the south has had to scale down its expectations on the size of the new crop. The domestic and export demand for pork has absorbed a record run of hogs at better prices than were prophesied by the most optimistic earlier in the season.

"In the wheat belt, the situation is different. More than a hundred thousand homes in the wheat country are in distress. Debts which have been accumulating for five years are now coming due and farmers are unable to meet their obligations. This has been one of the main factors that have brought to a head the acute situation in the farming, banking and business community.

"A serious phase of the situation is that exports of wheat have fallen off 38,000,000 bushels during the first eight months of 1923 as compared with the same period in 1922. Exports during the 1923 period were 105,664,000 bushels as compared with 141,300,000 bushels in 1922.

"The general index of purchasing power of farm products in terms of other commodities advanced one point during the month to 73. The index of 79 farm prices were unchanged while the index of industrial prices dropped slightly. The agricultural index, now 73, is at the highest point it has been since June, 1922."

Couple Celebrates Golden Wedding



MR. AND MRS. JAMES BAKER.
Bloomfield, Neb., Oct. 2.—Mr. and Mrs. James Baker were entertained by 41 relatives at their golden wedding anniversary.

A large assembly tent was pitched on the lawn to accommodate the 250 guests. The Bloomfield band played during the evening.

Rev. A. Spieckermann gave a short talk.

The couple came to Bloomfield 20 years ago. They were married at Grinnell, Ia., in 1873. Both are pioneers of Iowa.

Their children are: Peter Baker, Rodney, Ia.; George Baker, Des Moines; Mrs. Martin Fybo, Onawa, Ia.; Mrs. Soren Raunborg, Turin, Ia.; Edward A. Baker, yardmaster of the Sioux City stockyards; William Baker, also of the stockyards; Charles Baker, Wayne, Neb.; and N. N. Baker and Mrs. William Hoerner of Bloomfield.

MICHAEL O'HALLORAN
BY GENE STRATTON PORTER

SYNOPSIS.
Michael O'Halloran, an orphan newsboy, adopts a little orphaned girl, Douglas Bruce, a young corporation lawyer, is interested in Mickey and in turn interests his fiancée, Leslie Winton.

Leslie and Douglas take a trip to the great swamp and become fascinated with the birds. Leslie and Douglas decide to make another trip and invites Mrs. Winton, wife of a prominent attorney, to accompany her. On their return, Mr. Winton breaks all relations with his wife and Mrs. Winton disappears.

Douglas Bruce and Leslie Winton are attracted by the happening and center their attention on Mickey whom they have determined to adopt.

(Continued from Yesterday.)
"Pshaw, now," cried Peter. "Why bring her out! You bring her right out! That's what we been wanting to know. Just what a city child would think of country things she'd never seen before. Bring her to see us!"

"She's a little bit of a thing and she can't walk, you know," explained Mickey.

"Poor little mite! That's too bad," lamented Peter. "Wonder if she couldn't be doctored up. It's a shame she can't walk, but taking care of her must be easy."

"Oh she takes care of herself," said Mickey. "You see she is alone all day from six 'til six; she must take care of herself, so she studies her lesson, and plays with her doll—I mean her Precious Child."

"Too bad!" said Peter. "By jacks, that's a sin! Did you happen to speak to Ma about her?"

"We did talk a little," admitted Mickey. "She was telling me of the visitor boy who didn't come, and your son who didn't think he'd want to stay; so we got to talking. She said just what you did about wanting to see how a city child who hadn't never seen a chicken, or a cow, or horse would act."

"Good! Good!" cried Peter. "Is there a child in Multiopolis who hasn't ever seen a little chicken, or a calf?" "Hundreds of them!" said Mickey.

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Bank Clearings Show Big Gain at Fremont

Fremont, Neb., Oct. 2.—September bank clearings in Fremont showed an increase of \$106,182.37 over the month of August in the three local institutions, according to a report made public. The September clearings showed a total of \$1,649,235.00.

This sum is compared with \$1,524,072.03 for last month and \$1,546,593.66 for September one year ago. The year 1923 has seen a steady increase in bank clearings, excepting May, July and August. The largest amount was recorded in March, when the total passed the \$2,000,000 mark.

Bank officials of Fremont are optimistic over the financial situation. The fact that Fremont has fully recovered from the financial depression that hit this section two years ago is evident in the clearing house returns.

United Presbyterians Will Hold Institutes

Pawnee City, Neb., Oct. 2.—Each of the five United Presbyterian churches in this vicinity will hold a missionary institute at the respective churches this week and next, at which foreign missionaries will tell first hand experiences in foreign mission work. The churches included are at Pawnee City, Burchard, Lone Grove, Mission Creek and Sumnerfield.

The missionaries included are Rev. Raymond Edle, who has for several years been in charge of a boys' school in the northern Sudan, in Egypt; Miss Jeanette McCrorey, who has been in charge of a girls' school at Benha, Egypt; and Miss Hazel Bennett, who has been in the Gujranwala district in India.

Physician Improves

Table Rock, Neb., Oct. 2.—Word comes from Kansas City that Dr. E. L. McCrea of Table Rock, who was operated on at a hospital in that city recently, is rapidly improving, and will soon be able to be brought home again.



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Canadian Pacific IT SPANS THE WORLD

quite sense it, and I don't know as I do yet. You bring her right out!"

"Your pleasant lady talked about that; but you see bringing her out and showing her these things, and getting her used to them is one thing; then taking her back to a room so hot I always sleep on the fire escape, and where she has to stay all day alone, is another. I don't know but so long as she must go back to what she has she would be better to leave her there."

"Humph! I see! What a pity!" exclaimed Peter. "Well, if you'll be coming this way again stop and see us. I'll talk to Ma about her. We often take a little run to Multiopolis. Junior wouldn't be satisfied till we got a car, and I can't say we ain't enjoying it ourselves. What was that you were saying about my boy not thinking he'll stay?"

"She told me," said Mickey, "about the city bug he had in his system. Why don't you swat it immediate?"

"What do you mean?" inquired Peter.

"Turn him over to me a week or two," suggested Mickey. "I can give him a dose of working in a city that will send him hiking back to home and thither."

"It's worth considering," said Peter.

"I know that what I got of Multiopolis would make me feel like Von Hindenberg if I had the job of handling the ribbons of your creamery wagon; and so I know about what would put sunny back on the farm, tickled most to death to be here."

"By gum! Well, I'll give your just \$100 if you'll do it!" exclaimed Peter.

"You see my grandfather and father owned it, not before me. We've been on the plowing job so long we have it reduced to a system, so it comes easy for me, and I take pride and pleasure in it. I had supposed my boys would be the same. Do you really think you could manage it?"

"Sure," said Mickey. "Only, if you really mean it, not now, nor over do you want son to know it. See! The medicine wouldn't work if he knew he took it."

"Well, I'll be jiggered!" laughed Peter. "I guess you could do it if you went at it right."

"Well, you trust me to do it right," grinned Mickey. "Let me see sunny for a week or two and you can have him back for keeps."

"Well, it's worth trying," said Peter. "Say, when will you be this way again?"

"Most any day," said Mickey. "And your lady said she'd be in Multiopolis soon, and are sure to have a happy meeting before long. I think that is."

Mr. Bruce's car coming. Good-bye! Be good to yourself!"

With a spring from where he was standing Mickey arose in air, alighted on the top rail of the division fence, then, balancing, he raced down it toward the road. Peter watched him in astonishment, then went back to his plowing with many new things on his mind. Thus it happened that after supper, when the children were in bed, and he and his wife went to the front veranda for their usual evening visit, and talk over the day, she had very little to tell him.

As was her custom, she removed her apron, brushed her waving hair and wore a fresh dress. She rocked gently in her wicker chair, while her voice moved to unusual solicitude as she spoke. Peter also had performed a rite he spoke of as "brushing up" for evening. He believed in the efficacy of soap and water, so his body, as well as his clothing, was clean. He sat on the top step leaning against the pillar when the moonlight emphasized his hair frame, accented the strong lines of his face and crowned his thick hair, as Nancy Harding thought it should be, with glory.

"Peter," she said, "did you notice anything about that boy this afternoon different from other boys?"

"Yes," answered Peter slowly, "I did, Nancy. He didn't strike me as being one boy. He has the best of three or four concealed in his lean person."

"He's had a pretty tough time, I judge," said Nancy.

"Yet you never saw a boy who took your heart like he did, and neither did I," answered Peter.

Mickey holding his basket and clover flowers was waiting when the car drew up, and to Bruce's inquiry answered that a lady where he stopped for a drink had given him something for Lily. He left the car in the city, sought the nurse and luckily found her at leisure. She listened with the greatest interest to all he had to say.

"It's a problem," she said as he finished. "To take her to such a place for a week and then bring her back where she is would be harder for her than never going."

"I've got that figured," said Mickey, "but I've about made up my mind, after seeing the place and thinking over the folks, that it wouldn't happen that way. Once they see her, and find how little trouble she is, they're not people who would send her back 'til it's cool, if they'd want to then. And there's this too—there are other folks who would take her and see about her back. Have I got the right to let it go a day."

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