

## ARMY MEN GET DISCHARGES

**SURGEONS SAY MINDS WOULD BREAK FROM STRAIN ON BATTLEFIELDS.**

### BLAME WORKERS FOR CAMP LIES

Disgruntled Agitators Said to Be Responsible for Varns About Conditions at Custer.

### Lansing.

Grim precautions are taken daily in Camp Custer to save American soldiers from one of the worst afflictions. This affliction is the increase in insanity through shell-shocks and the destruction of mental equilibrium.

England has been the chief sufferer among the allied nations in the number of those driven mad by battle. One of the stern and warning street scenes by experience of her allies and of Germany was the warning not to enlist the "mentally unstable."

That is one reason why men have been sent home from Camp Custer from time to time.

There are not many of these men but there are enough to show how the government surgeons are considering every contingency, and applying every lesson taught by the war.

Sometimes the mental instability shows itself the first day. In fact, a few of the men sent to Custer were judged as actual cases of insanity.

But quite often, among men who are not defective, it takes several days for the lack of poise to reveal itself.

### Lies About Custer Laid to Workers.

Attention of camp officials has been called to reports circulated that insanitary conditions exist in Camp Custer, that food has spoiled because of lack of ice, and that soldiers are underfed and overworked.

The story was characterized as untrue in every respect and was laid at the door of some workmen, probably disgruntled at his discharge.

"This camp is open for inspection by the public in its every department," said one of the high officials, "and thousands of people from all sections of the state visit the camp weekly and they have been and still are at liberty to investigate sanitary conditions. They may go into the kitchen and watch the food cooked, they may see the men at mess and see what they eat, they may talk with whomsoever they wish as to the character and quantity of the food."

"There has been no scarcity of ice to preserve perishable goods, and a few weeks we will be manufacturing our own ice supply. The quarters are clean, the men are inspected daily for sanitary conditions and as for the food, being overworked their own condition speaks better than anything else."

"We have been compelled to discharge a number of inferior men who were agitators and were attempting to stir up trouble with agitators. Men. Despite the fact that the wages paid here are the highest in the state and were some so patriotic as to attempt to take advantage of the rush to them out of reason. Probably the author of the false reports is one of this class."

### Jackon Under Custer Ban.

Jackon has been placed under the ban of the authorities of Camp Custer. Enlisted men are forbidden to visit the town by an order of Gen. Dickman, though special passes for "exceptional cases" will be granted to "reliable men."

No reason for the barring of men from Jackon is given, but it is understood that the city is undesirable because it has saloons. The military committee has also indicated Jackon as a bad place for soldiers.

The text of the order follows: "On application of the military police, an order forbidding enlisted men from visiting the town of Jackon, Mich., without permission, and all men apprehended in Jackon by the military police or who are known to have been there in violation of orders will be promptly brought to trial. Permission to be granted only in exceptional cases, in which case written passes will be given."

### Short Shortage 1,500,000 Tons.

Michigan needs approximately 1,500,000 tons of coal, both hard and soft, according to figures issued by the state coal committee, which has been securing data from the coal dealers throughout the state. Comparing last year's receipts for the full year and the amount received so far this year, anthracite shipments are short 861,000 tons, while on the same basis the coal shortage is 1,046,000 tons. Detroit's anthracite shortage is fixed at 235,000 tons.

### Court Affirms \$35,000 Damage Award.

In affirming the decision of the Lenawee case of Leo Guy vs. the Cincinnati Southern Railroad Co., the Michigan supreme court established a new high water mark in awards in personal injury cases. Guy, who was employed in the yards of the road at Eastland, was terribly injured in an accident on January 13, 1914, and the jury in the circuit court awarded him damages to the extent of \$35,000, which was approved by the supreme court. His wife the largest award was \$17,000.

## START TRAINING IN CLASSES.

Separation of the sheep from the goats has begun at Camp Custer. The 25th Infantry has started to train the men by classes this week. They have been split for training purposes into three classes: A, or advanced; B, good; and C, the backward men. For the class A men there are three hours of special instruction divided between early morning and afternoon. Class B follows the schedule as issued by the war department, while class C will be held to the school of the squad until it knows them. The two lower classes will be advanced gradually.

For the class A men the most interesting work is the special bombing and bygone instruction. There will also be signal classes, retreating classes, where the men are shown the methods of supporting the sides of the trenches to keep them from caving in.

Except for the three hours work, the men follow the regular schedule. This does not provide for anything startling.

Four hours of next week will be allotted to night work, and two hours to trench construction, but much of it is merely the repetition of work done over under the last two weeks' schedule.

### Seniority Rule Done Away With.

Promotion by seniority is done away with in the Michigan National Guard. While it is in the federal service promotions are to be made because of "fitness and capacity" only.

This news, in a war department bulletin just published at Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas, is something of a disappointment to officers, who, because of the breaking up of the regiment, lost their seniority. Furthermore, it sets at rest the rumor that there would be no promotion of guards officers above the rank of captain. The new regulations provide for all officers up to company grade.

While the officers of the old 31st have settled down in the 125th and 126th and are devoting their entire attention to their new units, the 31st is a new military game, some of the men have not so adapted themselves, especially those of the companies that were split up. Requests for transfers are coming in numbers, as comrades were separated by the breaking up of the companies. In one instance, three brothers from the same family in different organizations and are now trying to get together.

### Custer Men Will Be Made Officers.

New ambition and hope for officers' rank has been aroused in the breasts of Camp Custer men.

This was caused by definite announcement by the war department of officers' training camps to train private soldiers for commissions.

The schools will be opened Jan. 15. One will be opened in each division of the regular army, the National Guard and the coast artillery. This means that a school will be located at Camp Custer, or that one will be opened nearby at Camp Custer men. Any private between a first and second member of the regular army, the draft army or the National Guard, will be eligible for an officers' school. In addition, about 3,000 college men will be received.

Camp Custer will be entitled to send about 100 men to the school, or 700 men, to the officers' school. This will be only the beginning of Camp Custer's contribution to the officers' training camps. The army of 3,000,000 is finally trained it must have 150,000 officers. Camp Custer's quota will be upwards of 5,000.

Of these 5,000 officers, 1,000 will have come and gone in Camp Custer before the army of 3,000,000 is afoot, and her 5,000 officers have tied their gold and silver buttons to the rank of a definite chance of honor is offered the national army men.

### Seaweed Disposal Plants at Custer.

Kalamazoo, Galesburg, Augusta and other towns lying below Battle Creek on the Kalamazoo river, which have been wondering what effect Camp Custer's sewage may have on their health, can now breathe easier, for the war department has ordered immediate construction of two sewage disposal plants, and one of them is now under way. The foot of the famous fall over which each of the 40,000 selected men of the Eighty-fifth division has to pass.

Each plant is a cement structure 100 by 50 feet, containing eight settling tanks, approached by three channels through which all sewage flows, that particular end of the camp must pass. After being chemically treated the sewage will be pumped into the Kalamazoo river. It will cost the government \$36,000 for this one little item.

### CAMP CUSTER NOTES

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Custer, widow of General Custer, from whom the camp is named, has sent a portrait of General Custer to the camp as her gift.

One thing that is never seen in camp is an umbrella. It is considered most unbecoming to carry one, and in reality there is no real reason for using one when ponchos and slickers are so handy.

Several members of the Officers' Reserve corps, it has been discovered, are among the selected men. This was revealed when the surgeon general at Washington requested the discharge of one Detroit man who has been selected to serve duty as a scout in the regular army. Discharged for the others also may be asked.

An unofficial list of restaurants, rooming houses and stores at Battle Creek, which are charging exorbitant prices is being seriously talked of among certain officers as a possible means of bringing down the prices. The principal complaint is against the restaurants, boarding and rooming houses. Not only are prices high, but food is improperly served, it is said, with a refusal to furnish customers with complimentary cigars. Reports for the largest award was \$17,000.

## HOME BEAUTY

Flowers and Shrubs for Their Care and Cultivation



Getting Humus From a Pile of Rotted Leaves and Grass. See How Well Things Grow off This Humus Pile.

### THE VALUABLE LEAF MOLD

By W. R. GILBERT.

This term is applied to leaves when they are so thoroughly decayed as to readily separate into small particles. Leaf mold is a valuable manure in many instances, especially on heavy soils, and one of the most important ingredients for the soil used in the successful cultivation of the majority of plants.

It may be used freely, particularly with the tender seedlings and cuttings of soft wooded objects, provided it be of good quality, and free from injurious fungi growth.

The production of roots in young plants of this description is induced and accelerated with more certainty by planting in this material than by the use of any other.

The quality of leaf mold depends very materially upon the sort of leaves composing it and in the manner of preparation adopted.

It is found from experience that the best leaves are those collected from a wood or other place where the principal trees are beech and oak, and where their leaves fall over a large area every year, and naturally decay slowly, until those beneath the surface become changed into a light moldy mass.

In many instances such leaf mold cannot be obtained on account of the necessary removal of the leaves to preserve tidiness, but on the other hand its importance and additional value to other artificially prepared is not sufficiently recognized in many places where quantities might be obtained in the woods.

Leaf mold of good quality may be used to the extent of about one-third in composts for aninals, greenhouse rhododendrons, and many fine-rooted hard-wooded plants of this description. It may also with advantage be incorporated along with the soil in the preparation of beds for nearly all plants of the herb family which are grown out of doors.

Further, nothing is better for improving the flower beds, or for adding to soil of any description for placing around trees, shrubs or plants whose roots it is desired to encourage.

If leaves have to be gathered into a heap for leaf mold, a place should be selected where they may be spread thinly, so as to avoid any excessive heating by fermentation.

The whole should be turned over occasionally so as to expose all parts to the influence of the weather and air. Where the air cannot reach leaves

that are of a somewhat dry, hard texture, their decay is exceedingly slow, unless there are other substances intermixed to hasten decomposition.

Water may be applied artificially for the purpose, but it never has the same effect as rain, and a large heap is made, this latter matter penetrates far into the interior.

Leaves should be collected free from sticks, if possible, as these are liable to encourage fungus growth, which is a subtle medium for increasing the leaf mold, will in due course render it useless for plant cultivation. The time taken in picking these away under varying conditions of temperature and moisture. But they should not be allowed to freeze, nor should the temperature be so high that they will rot too much and become wilted. An ordinary house cellar, or even a room in the house for winter use, is a good place where the frost is not allowed to get into the cellar or room.

## GRADES OF POTATERS

RESERVE FAIR PRICE

Need Care in Storage

Potatoes Should Not Be Allowed to Freeze and Should Be Protected From Light.

By C. W. WALD, Potato Specialist, Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—The season of the year is at hand when potatoes will be stored in quantity for consumption during the winter. No doubt many more people will buy potatoes in quantity this fall than heretofore, and the very high prices which prevailed last season, especially during the latter winter and spring, will induce the people to buy in stocks.

There is a large crop of potatoes in Michigan this year, but not as large as it would have been had the frost held off to a later date. However, there should be a sufficient supply for all, and it is to the interest of the growers, dealers and consumers alike that a considerable proportion of this crop be in the hands of the consumers before winter sets in.

The buying public should keep in mind the fact that the cost of growing potatoes this year has been very much greater than normally is, and for this reason the consumers should be willing to pay a fair price for potatoes in order that the grower may receive a return for his investment.

If the growers do not receive a fair compensation this season, the planting will be light in 1918, with a correspondingly small crop. It is estimated that the average yield of the high priced crops, especially if war should continue until that time.

In storing potatoes in small quantities for winter use, they may be put away under varying conditions of temperature and moisture. But they should not be allowed to freeze, nor should the temperature be so high that they will rot too much and become wilted. An ordinary house cellar, or even a room in the house for winter use, is a good place where the frost is not allowed to get into the cellar or room.

Potatoes should always be kept from the light, for if they are exposed to light they will be darkened, the potatoes should be covered. Exposure to light causes them to turn green and become more or less unsuitable for table use. The ideal conditions for storage are those which maintain a temperature of from 33 to 40 degrees and is maintained and the atmosphere is quite moist. Under such conditions potatoes will keep in a sound and firm condition for a long period of time.

### SUBSTITUTES REPLACE MILK

Can Be Used With Success in Feeding the Growing Calf—Lessens Cost.

By W. E. J. EDWARDS, Department of Animal Husbandry, Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—The milk of the cow is the natural food for calves, for it contains nutrients in the proper proportions. It will produce larger gains than any other food, and it is the only food that calves can digest and do much harm.

The milk must be fed frequently and kept damp enough to aid in the digesting process. To thoroughly compost eight or ten tons of leaves will require many months, and the matter should be placed in at least four or five heaps to facilitate the forking and handling.

These heaps may be made in the fields where the compost is to be used later, but it should be covered, as suggested. Many gardeners build up a structure of rails or old boards in order to keep the heap in proper shape.

But with the demand for whole milk increasing yearly as a result of growing consumption of it in our large cities, and the fact that milk is not readily available in many farms, several milk substitutes, accordingly, which have been used quite extensively by dairy feeders, are now on the market. A number of these have given very satisfactory results and have shown that they will successfully take the place of milk in the diet of calves.

A good milk substitute will produce practically as healthy and rapid growth in the calf as will milk, and at a greatly reduced cost. Recent investigations have shown, however, that homemade mixtures which cost much less will give equally as good results. One of the best mixtures is composed of equal parts by weight of heavy cream, linseed meal, "red dog" flour and dried blood. A small amount of this mixture may be used with the whole milk when the calves are from seven to ten days old. Gradually increase the milk making it up to seven parts of the mixture to one part of whole milk.

As the mixture is increased, decrease the amount of whole milk so that when the calf has reached the age of three months it will be getting all its food from the mixture. At this time about 14 pounds of the calf meal should be fed daily. Gradually increase the amount to 16 pounds per day.

Finer Field. "Nearly every state has had a song written about it."

A Social Tragedy. "Mrs. Hubbard is quite upset."

## SEED CORN IS SCARCE

Must Be Well Stored to Insure Thorough Drying and Curing.

By J. F. COX, Department of Farm Crops, Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—What will we do for seed corn next year? is a question frequently asked even now, with the season's crop as yet unharvested. It is particularly important that all corn fit for seed be carefully selected in the field and properly cared and stored for next season's planting.

There are many factors which enter into the selection of seed corn. It is equally important that corn so selected be properly dried. If corn from the field containing 35 to 40 per cent of moisture, this must be dried to 12 or 15 per cent of the moisture before it can be stored.

There are various effective methods for drying seed corn. It is important that no two ears corn, and free ventilation be secured in order to rapidly dry the corn.

It is important that the corn be dried in a room or shed where the temperature is not allowed to get into the cellar or room.

Practical Seed-Corn Hangers. Dry out the corn. Racks or strings should be placed in a dry room with the corn hanging from the strings.

Attic. Corn for seed should not be stored in damp places or where it will be exposed to cold.

It is difficult to say whether any single day's work is as important to the farmer who grows corn as a day put in selecting and storing his seed corn. In a single day's time a good man can easily select in the field and arrange on racks or hangers for proper drying five bushels of seed corn, enough to grow over an acre.

The increase secured from ordinary method of handling, using corn, enough to grow over an acre, or it may mean a difference between success and failure. Seven bushels on 20 acres, or 140 bushels increase, should result from the day's work of field selecting and arranging for drying; or at one dollar per bushel, \$140 per day, a pretty good day's work on any farm.

College Suffers Financial Loss. While the rank and file of the Michigan have been assuming that the Michigan Agricultural college, because of federal appropriations, is making a fine thing out of the war, college authorities have disclosed a state of affairs in the institution which has rather upset popular notions. The federal appropriations, instead of benefiting the institution, are in reality doing it harm.

For example, for instance, received by M. A. C. from the government under the Smith-Lever act, it must duplicate the appropriation with an equal amount from its own funds. This money, however, cannot be used in the college. It cannot be employed in paying salaries of professors and instructors, in erecting new buildings or in purchasing equipment, but must be spent throughout the state on county agents, on livestock live stock, experts in farm crops, and so on.

The result is that as far as the educational work of the college is concerned, the new appropriations are a handicap which can be surmounted only by an increase in the college's mill tax.

Girls Win Prizes. Three Grand Lodge girls, members of the girls' club of that village, won prizes in the county fair held in Detroit. The young women were Avis Smith, Emma Clark and Kathryn Brooke. The Hillsdale club succeeded in winning a prize and the Chocomaug club girls.

Feeding Skim Milk to Pigs. "We live on a farm and feed young pigs, they should be given milk gradually and it should always be fed with a little meal and other feed."

Wrong Again. "How is the weather coming?" "About the usual sort."

"Yes?" "I thought I detected a new note in the tone of the veteran character who sat next to me in the police station that I was mistaken."

Worth-While Question. To know how to grow old is the most difficult wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the art of living.—Amiel.

## THE EFFECTS OF THE U.S. CONTROL

GOVERNMENT HAD PREPARED REGULATIONS TO CURB PROFITEERS.

DEALERS MUST GET LICENSES

Food Administration Says Purpose Is to "Protect the Public Against the Speculator in Business."

Washington—Virtually all the staple foods consumed by the American people will be put under government control November 1.

The food administration has prepared regulations requiring manufacturers and distributors of some 20 fundamental foods to operate under it. The regulations are designed to prevent excessive profits and to stabilize prices and hoarding.

Regulations are prescribed for meat, poultry, fruit, storage houses, millers, canners, elevators, grain dealers and wholesale dealers and retailers doing a business of more than \$100,000 annually in the commodities to be named.

"The prime purpose of the food administration is to protect the patriot against the speculator in business," said the announcement regarding the regulations. "It has generally been recognized that the enormous obligation imposed on the American people to feed our soldiers in the front, and the chaos creates a disturbing factor in trade which allows opportunity to a few to improve their position at the expense of the many, and that it is of vital national importance that such control should be exerted as will remedy, so far as may be, the economic disturbances incident to the war."

"Efforts have been made to secure the co-operation of all patriotic men in various trades to eliminate speculation, hoarding, unreasoning profits, wasteful practices, etc., in the great distribution system of the country."

The licensing provision in the food bill is limited in operation to the channels of trade which lie between the farmer on the one hand and the retailer on the other, except as it extends to those few retailers who have an annual business of more than \$100,000.

"The food administration has selected certain basic commodities, and the producer of these commodities, the prime basis of life and has limited its licensing control to these commodities, and also, insofar as practical, eliminated the small units of business in these staples."

A proclamation soon to be issued by the President will require all of those handling the commodities concerned to apply for license before November 1, upon forms which will be supplied on application to the food administration.

The proclamation will name the 20 articles of food covered by the regulation order.

GOVERNOR ASKS FOOD SAVING

Requests Housewives to Do Their Part in Conserving Supply.

Lansing—Governor Sleeper Tuesday issued the following proclamation to the housewives of the state:

"Beginning October 21, duly accredited representatives of the United States food administration will visit every home in the United States with a view to obtaining the signature of the housewife to cards, which will pledge the signatory to co-operate in the nationwide food conservation endeavor."

"Michigan will be canvassed thoroughly, so that it is the hope of every patriotic citizen that our state shall show a shining example to the best. You are earnestly asked to give these canvassers a courteous reception and a moment of your time. They have a few days only in which to canvass your community, and they will be brief and to the point."

"They will explain that the object of the conservation campaign is to save foodstuffs that can be sent abroad for use of our soldiers, and to help feed the starving people of other countries which without our defensive co-operation in contributions of men, money and food will certainly be brought to ruin."

"You will be asked to do your part by doing what you can to conserve food by making certain substitutions in the preparation of family meals. It is a patriotic duty and I feel sure that you will receive, with a willing mind, the suggestions of these agents of the food administration and do your best to follow the subsequent suggestions that will be made to you."

"Therefore, I, Albert E. Sleeper, governor of the state of Michigan, do hereby earnestly request all housewives and others having supervision and control of the disposition of food in their homes, to co-operate with the food conservation forces of this state to the best of their ability."

Attempt to Wreck Train. "Encaba"—An attempt was made to wreck the train of the Copper Country Railroad at Negaunee by the wedging of an angle bar in the switch near the passenger station. One of the men who left the tracks and two persons were slightly injured.

Population Over 1914 Is 49,291. New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston are the only cities in the United States now ahead of Detroit.