

Doubling the Farmer's Wheat Dollar

By Charles W. Holman
(In the Country Gentleman)

Milling Canadian Wheat.
HILE our bushel was being milled a carload of wheat reached this mill from Canada. Importation of Canadian wheat without special consent being forbidden, the mill operatives became curious and made inquiries. This wheat was part of a large supply which the Grain Corporation had brought into the United States to aid in keeping the American mills running.

There was another reason. Domestic wheat was not moving from the farms as freely as the millers needed it, and shortage forced the mills to operate at a great disadvantage and, according to them, at higher costs.

The last journey stage of our first bushel, although considerably changed in its form, was to go as flour to port under rush orders. It now had right of way over all other classes of freight except other munitions of war. Consent of the War Trade Board being obtained, it was loaded on a ship and passed safely through the submarine field to France, where it succeeded the hungry.

We started out to follow the travels of two bushels of wheat from the farm to their points of consumption under war condition with the U. S. Food Administration in control of the marketing. I have previously discussed the journeys of these two bushels from the farm to the elevator at the country point. Here they parted and one of them passed on to a terminal, and from the terminal to a mill and from the mill to seaboard. There it went to France for consumption.

The Other Bushel of Wheat Starts Traveling.

OW us to the other bushel of wheat. A certain Georgia miller, in need of supplies, notified the Grain Corporation and received permission to buy on the open market.

About the same time our co-operative elevator manager had listed a shipment with his terminal representative—a highly reputable commission firm, also under Grain Corporation license. This firm caught wind of the Georgia order and secured permission to sell the Missouri wheat. The second bushel was among those poured into a car and hustled along to its destination. This shipment did not pass through any terminal market. It moved straight to Atlanta, where it went between the rollers of the mill.

Controlling the Jobber by License.

Now, the flour which came from our second bushel of wheat was rolling serenely along in another direction, but the car was diverted by special order of the U. S. Food Administrator and received by a large wholesale jobber in New York City. This jobber also does business under a Food Administration license, but administered by the distribution division. Under license terms the jobbers must sell at a fair profit only, although the exact amount of this profit is not determined, the Food Administration reserving the right in each case to call a halt when a licensee has gone "the limit."



Success in This War Depends Largely on America's Next Wheat Crop.

The New York jobber took for his own, in this case, a profit of 50 cents per barrel. He sold part of this shipment to a retail merchant.

This merchant did a small business and was not licensed, but even here was another social check. For the retail merchants of the large cities and those of many small cities and towns find each morning and afternoon in the daily papers a price list for flour and other commodities which are considered fair by the Federal Food Administrator for their State.

These prices are usually arrived at through the machinery of the wholesalers and the retailers' organizations. The retailer also discovered that the jobber who sold him this flour was keenly interested in the prices paid by the consumer. For the Food Administration has discovered an indirect

means of control of the retailer by making the jobber a voluntary policeman to his customer. The jobber is licensed to sell only to traders who deal fairly, and if it should turn out that a jobber persists in doing business with retailers guilty of profiteering in staples under control of the Food Administration has and may exercise the right to revoke the license of the jobber.

The other part of this shipment contained our second bushel of wheat and went over to the East Side into a small bakery, which quickly made it into creamy loaves. These loaves were placed in groceries and delicatessens and the next day were eaten by hungry little boys and girls with dark eyes and big noses and quaint ways.

Brings Out Startling Truths.
Government control has brought out these startling truths:

More people unnecessarily make their living out of wheat distribution than was suspected. Thousands and thousands of little speculators have had to turn elsewhere for a livelihood. A number of commission men have had to close shop. There are places where elevators should be built and other places where there are too many elevators. The Government, dominating the wheat market, carries its own marine insurance. Wheat handlers at terminals have had their activities restricted.

But most of all it is interesting to see how the price of flour per barrel tumbled from the time Uncle Sam took a positive hand in the matter. The Food Administration has recently completed an interesting chart on the prices of wheat and bulk flour at Minneapolis. In a statement of November 26, the Food Administration says:

The farmer received for the 1918 harvest between \$1.45 and \$1.50 per bushel for the harvest, taking the country by large and small. Last year he received under 50 per cent of the price of the loaf. Today he is receiving over 40 per cent of the money paid for the cash loaf, this being the result of the stabilization of prices and the total elimination of hoarding and speculation in this industry.

The statement reports that farmers on November 26 were receiving with freight charges included from the territory represented to Minneapolis, approximately \$9.50 for 4½ bushels of wheat. The price of bulk flour at the Minneapolis mill is about \$10.25 per barrel, showing that the miller is now receiving about 75 cents per barrel, which must include both his operating expenses and profit.

URING last July and August, while Congress was wrestling with itself to produce a food administration, and there was no Grain Corporation, flour production in the principal centers was 75 per cent under the same period in 1916. In September, October and November, under the supervision of the Food Administration, flour production was 114 per cent of the same period in 1916. What this means in the great national situation, with depleted domestic flour reserves and clamoring foreign buyers, can hardly be over-emphasized, when movement of wheat into primary markets has been hardly

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We have a number of 30x3 tires which we will sell at a discount while they last. 2-28-2t
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On improved real property in Union county. No delays. Current rates. La Grande Investment Co.—Adv. 4t

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WANTED—Clean White Cotton Rags at the Observer Office; 3c per lb.

Classified Ads

FOR RENT—Furnished

FOR RENT—Modern 5-room house. Call Main 780. 5-6-2t.

FOR RENT—Modern apartment. Darland Apts., 6 Depot St. Call Apt. B. 4-19tf

FOR RENT—Furnished 4-room house, with bath; close in. Call Main 728. 5-1tf

FOR RENT—Five-room furnished or unfurnished house. Phone Black 1191. 4-26tf

FOR RENT—Three-room furnished bungalow, 1216 W Avenue, Phone Red 3441. 4-30tf

FOR RENT—Modern furnished apartments, clean; also room and board. 1606 Washington avenue, or Phone Red 3092. 4-20tf

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FOR RENT

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WANTED—A girl for housework. Inquire Grande Rhonde Lumber Co. Retail Dept. Tel. Main 732. 5-7-4t

WANTED—Wideawake, energetic, temperate man, 25 to 35 years of age, to deliver and collect from town and country customers. First class references and \$500 bond required. Permanent position, and good compensation to right party. Address, S. Livermore, Box 845, Portland, Oregon. 5-7-4t pd

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Fraternal Directory.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

—La Grande Camp No. 7703 meets on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month in the K. of P. Hall. Visiting neighbors welcome.

L. J. MUNHALL, V. C.

W. F. ASHMAN, Clerk

ROYAL NEIGHBORS—Iris Camp meets every second Friday afternoon and every fourth Friday evening, every month in K. P. hall. All visiting members cordially welcome.

HENRIETTA GHARST, Oracle.

NELLIE V. VINACKE, Rec.

L. O. O. M.—La Grande Lodge No. 850, Loyal Order of Moose holds regular meetings every Wednesday night at 8 p. m. in Eagle hall next to Elks' Bldg. on Washington Ave. Visitors always welcome. Dues payable at Young's Sweats.

GEO. YOUNG, Dic.

HARRY SWART, Sec.

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CRAWFORD & EAKIN—T. H. Crawford and Robert S. Eakin, Attorneys at law. Practice in all the courts of the state and the United States. Office, West-Jacobson Bldg., rooms 9-10-17, La Grande, Oregon.

COCHRAN & EBERHARD—Geo. T. Cochran and Colon R. Eberhard, Attorneys. La Grande National Bank Building.

O. F. S.—Hope Chapter No. 13, O. E. S. holds stated communications the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Visiting members cordially welcome.

SADIE E. GIVEN, W. M. MARY A. WARNICK, Sec.

A. F. & A. M.—La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. holds regular meetings first and third Saturday at 7:30 p. m. Cordial welcome to all Masons.

ROBERT S. EAKIN, W. M. A. C. WILLIAMS, Sec.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—Red Cross Lodge No. 27 meets every Monday night in Castle Hall (K. of P. Hall). A Pythian welcome to all visiting Knights.

C. K. McCORMICK, C. C. DELILE GREEN, K. of R. & S.

REBEKAHS—Crystal Lodge No. 50 meets every Tuesday evening in the L. O. O. F. Hall. All visiting members are invited to attend.

SARAH McCLURE, N. G. MATTIE GOLDEN, Rec. Sec.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—La Grande Camp No. 169 meets every first and third Monday at Eagles' Hall. All visiting neighbors welcome. Dues payable at the office of the clerk, New Foley Bldg., 5 a. m., to 5 p. m.

J. J. MURCHISON, C. C. R. J. KITCHEN, Clerk

Professional Directory

OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN

DR. J. L. INGLE—Osteopathic physician. Third floor New Foley Bldg. Hours 10-12 a. m.; 2-5 p. m., and by appointment. Office phone, Red 1761, residence Red 881.

DR. MARGARET INGLE—Osteopathic physician. Diseases of women and children and obstetrics.

MECHANOTHERAPY

DR. A. N. MAYVILLE—Mechanotherapy; chronic diseases, myositis; Physical and Mental Science. Hours: 1:30 to 4:30 p. m.; 7:00 to 8:00 evenings. Phone Black 2211. Rooms 1 and 2 over Coolidge Paint Store, Adams Ave.

ARCHITECTS

C. E. MILLER—Architect, room 27, New Foley Bldg. Phone Red 1871

GREEN & RUDOLPH—Attorneys, R. J. Green and L. G. Rudolph, Attorneys at Law, La Grande National Bank Building.

VETERINARY

DR. H. W. RILEY—Graduate Veterinarian. Hospital, 1409 Madison Ave. State Station inspector and inspector of stock for shipment. Home Independent Phone, Black 41; Farmers Co-operative Phone, Main 112.

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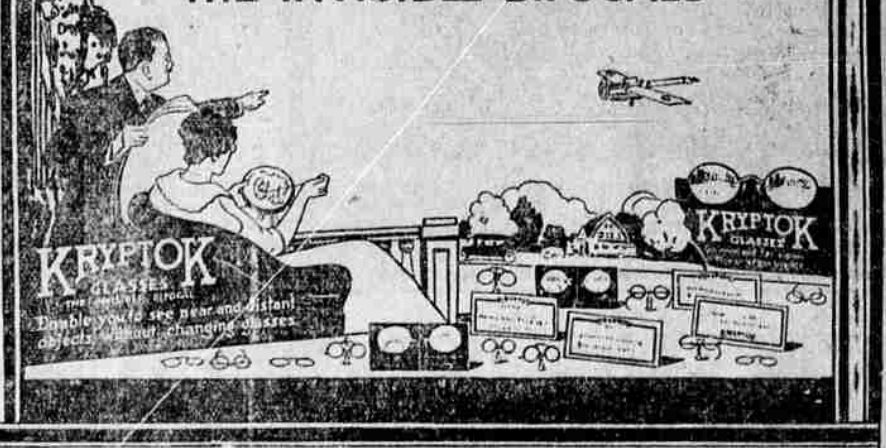
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