

Horticultural Matters.

PROSPEROUS MICHIGAN.

Conditions for fruit and wheat favorable, April 1, in Eaton Co. Wheat suffered greatly from depredations of the fly last fall, and many expect a short crop. Fruit outlook good, though many peach and tender trees were killed last winter. Some severe weather during March. Farmers more prosperous and hopeful than they were a few years ago. While lumber, iron and other goods, including labor, have gone up in price, the farmers' gain has been small.

Expert peach growers at Benton Harbor and in the Nlagara district report buds in excellent condition and prospects promising for a large crop. March was cold and kept the buds back in fine shape. Many are putting on a winter spray for leaf curl. Some big peach farms have changed hands this year at \$50 to \$1000 a p.

One of the most ragged winters in Branch Co for years; a little snow, followed by rain, mud and then freezing up in quick succession. March brought us the deepest snow, but most of that swept up in the fence corners. Wheat is selling at 67c, oats 25c, corn 26 to 28c hay \$8 to 10, hogs 4.50 to 4.65, lambs 5c, medium grade wool starting at 25c p lb.—Oakland Co farmers are becoming quite interested in tobacco growing in four or five towns. It is mostly cigar leaf that is raised. Mich Patrons organized 15 granges during Jan. Since the state grange meeting in Nov. 45 granges have been organized and receipts are \$1000 in excess of those of last year.—One of the successful and enterprising young farmers of Mich is Emory Rose of Williamsburg. Leaving home when 21, he went to work in the pine woods, saved his money and two years later was married. Nine years ago he bought a lumber farm on the G R & I R R and 70 a of it is now cleared. Corn, wheat, rye and potatoes are the chief crops, and considerable stock is kept. Has a bank barn 32 by 44 ft with basement under the entire length. Has never had money or property given him, has no debts and money out at interest.—Peach prospects in the Grand Rapids section are phenomenally bright. In '97 600,000 bu were handled, many believe as many will be marketed this year if conditions hold fair. The local canning factory expects to receive 5000 to 6000 bu peaches daily, preference being given to second quality. Hucksters will be able to buy only the choice fruit, so will come in competition with shipper.

From Seed—Raise the fern-leaved dusty miller, salvia, coleus and ornamental asparagus from seed, sowing it in the hotbed or sunny window. The first two named especially make much finer plants than those raised from cuttings, and probably 50 plants of each variety can be grown for the price one would pay for three or four of each kind at a greenhouse. Coleus seed will produce no two plants exactly alike, are easy to raise and very satisfactory. It does not pay to keep the old plants through the winter when such a fine display can be produced from seed in the spring.—Adelaide Armstrong.

The Rudbeckia, or golden glow as it is commonly called, has proved itself to be one of the finest hardy flowering plants ever introduced. It makes a wonderful growth in a single season and flowers during the hot summer when other flowers are scarce. It is of the easiest propagation; a single plant will produce in a season a dozen or two strong suckers that make fine plants. It requires no protection and is a plant that once set out in your garden will have for all times a wealth of rich golden blossoms and will increase rapidly.

The Chinese Primrose is one of the most desirable house plants, as it will not only flower during the winter but keep on into summer. It is only when very warm weather comes that it will discontinue blooming. If kept in a cool place during summer and never allowed to suffer from want of water, they can be shaken out in Sept and given new soil and started again to bloom the following winter. They are so easily raised from seed, however, that they are not carried over only in some instances.

THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS AT A GLANCE

The highest quotations of wholesale prices for standard grades of farm produce in the leading markets of the world on the dates named, poorer stuff lower

	Boston	New York	Chicago	Cincinnati	N. Orleans	Memphis	S. Francisco	Montreal	London
April	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Wheat, p bu,	—	.78 1/2	.67	.71 1/2	—	—	11.00	.67	.90
Corn, p bu,	.49 1/2	.47 1/2	.40 1/2	.41 1/2	.47	.46	11.15	.46	.65
Oats, p bu,	.30 1/2	.30	.25 1/2	.26 1/2	.31 1/2	.32	11.25	.31	.46 1/2
Rye, p bu,	.65	.61	.54 1/2	.60 1/2	—	—	11.03	.60	—
Barley, p bu,	.54	.52	.43	.50	—	—	1.90	.53	—
Flour, p bbl,	4.50	4.40	3.65	3.90	4.25	4.50	3.75	4.00	4.00
Cotton, mid upland, p lb,	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	—	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	—	—	.10 1/2
Cattle, p 100 lbs 1 w,	6.50	6.75	5.80	5.35	4.50	4.00	4.25	—	12.75
Sheep, p 100 lbs 1 w,	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.00	4.50	4.50	5.00	5.85	—
Hogs, p 100 lbs 1 w,	6.75	6.50	6.45	5.35	4.75	4.25	5.75	—	—
Veal calves, p 100 lbs 1 w,	6.00	7.00	6.50	6.50	5.00	5.00	5.50	—	—
Fowls, p lb d w,	.13	.11	.09 1/2	.08 1/2	.14 1/2	.13	.14 1/2	.15	.20 1/2
Butter, creamery, p lb,	.22 1/2	.21 1/2	.22	.23	.25	.25	.18 1/2	.21	.20 1/2
Cheese, factory, p lb,	.13	.13 1/2	.12 1/2	.13 1/2	.14	.14 1/2	.15	.13 1/2	.12 1/2
Eggs, p dz,	.15	.12	.10 1/2	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	.09	.15	.15	.12
Apples, p bbl,	4.25	4.75	4.00	5.00	5.50	5.00	5.25	4.50	4.50
Hay, p ton,	17.50	18.00	12.50	15.00	18.00	16.00	9.50	10.00	—
Straw, rye, p ton,	14.50	15.00	8.00	7.00	—	—	—	5.00	—
Hops, p lb,	.14	.14	.70	.70	.95	1.00	12.75	—	.17
Onions, p bu,	.70	.75	.70	.48	.75	.65	11.00	.50	—
Potatoes, p bu,	.60	.60	.40	—	—	—	.07	—	.12 1/2
Beef, p lb d w,	.08 1/2	.07 1/2	.06	.06 1/2	.07 1/2	.06 1/2	.08 1/2	.07 1/2	.08 1/2
Pork, p lb d w,	.08 1/2	.06 1/2	.06 1/2	.08 1/2	.07 1/2	.06 1/2	.08 1/2	.08 1/2	.08 1/2
Lard, p lb,	.07	.06 1/2	.06 1/2	.08 1/2	.07 1/2	.06 1/2	.09	—	—
Hides, p lb,	.07	.06 1/2	.06 1/2	.08 1/2	.07 1/2	.06 1/2	.09	—	—

† P. cental. † P. dz. * P. bx. † Estimated d. w.

Business Side of Farming.

PROMOTERS TRICKS EXPOSED

A lot of sharks are going around the country telling of the immense profits in the co-operative canning business. Farmers are asked to build these factories, really paying an enormous price. Those who have been thus taken in find that the business is more than overdone, and that the sharper has the money and the farmer has the factory. For the last two years they have been putting these factories in Pennsylvania, N. J., N. Y. and to some extent further west, a positive imposition on the farmer.

Promoters of co-operative creameries and canneries are slick-tongued fellows and should be turned down every time. Farmers, as a class, have been too prone to take the unsupported statements of the promoters at par, and without investigating whether or not their community is especially adapted to making such a business profitable, have put in a factory at double its real value. The result, unless checked, canning business will be demoralized through overproduction, and all factories under poor management or in communities not especially adapted or equipped to raise vegetables at a low price, will be forced out of business, stockholders losing a large part of what they put in.

POTATOES STILL PLENTIFUL.

The potato season does not promise to close with anything like the strength manifested in certain other farm products. The market is quiet and amply supplied, yet offerings are not burdensome and there is a feeling of moderate confidence. Stock as a whole came through the winter in good condition, and the heavy potato states of the north still hold liberal reserves, but these are fast diminishing. Consideration of the fact that the '99 crop was one of the largest on record, potatoes have moved off fairly well. In many sections low prices have been made up in part by the heavy tonnage.

In the northwest considerable quantities of potatoes are still at country points. In Mich. prices to farmers 25¢ to 32¢ p bu, in Wis. Minn., etc. 22¢ to 30¢. In central and western N. Y. price held at 40¢ for a long time with some recent evidence of weakness. This is also true in northern N. E., although Mich. farmers have sold large quantities at 35¢ to 40¢. A good de-

mand is noted for northern seed stock, hunting at another liberal acreage.

PLANS FOR WHEAT ACREAGE.

Farmers making specialty of wheat are not less interested in the condition of the crop sown last fall than in the probable acreage to be seeded this spring in the northwest. Little is known of a actual crop situation in such heavy wheat producing states as O., Ky., Ind., Ill., Mo., Kan., etc. The scant snow covering throughout much of the winter has caused some apprehension, but March, always a trying month, did not prove particularly harmful to wheat, and early April conditions are favorable.

As for spring wheat area, farmers in Minn., N. D., S. D., Neb., etc., are confronted on one side by the comparatively low price and on the other by the fact that this cereal is a staple crop with them and a natural tendency is always toward a big acreage. But flaxseed is bringing such high prices, this must surely replace much wheat. Meanwhile exports of wheat and flour continue moderately liberal, yet not of a character to afford much support to prices.

Splendid Sheep Prices—Flock masters are favored with more profitable returns this spring than in years. Wool is commanding fairly good prices and butcher sheep and lambs have sold at the best figures in seven years at such points as Kansas City, Chicago and Buffalo. Chicago sheep receipts for three months were 100,000 less than one and two years ago and the demand excellent.

Broom Corn 10c Per Lb—This price, fixed by the trust, still holds and it is a foregone conclusion that the crop of '00 will probably prove a record-breaker, weather conditions favoring. Even N. Y. which long since abandoned the crop will grow broom corn and entirely new areas in the west will swell the total. A record-breaking crop is almost sure to force a sharp decline next fall.

The Interest in Oats is not pronounced, yet the market is stronger around 24¢ to 25¢ p bu at Chicago. An authority estimates that on Mar 1 farm stocks of oats were 322,000,000 bu, or about 37 per cent of the latest crop, indicating nearly a normal movement since last Aug.



Steel Wheels

Staggered Oval Spokes.
BUY A SET TO FIT YOUR NEW OR OLD WAGON
CHEAPEST AND BEST
way to get a low wagon. Any size wheel, any width tire. Catal. FREE.
Electric Wheel Co., Box 56, Quincy, Ill.



STEEL ROOFING

THE ONLY TOOLS YOU NEED.
We have on hand 25,000 square BRAND NEW STEEL ROOFING. Sheets either flat, corrugated or "V" crimped. Price per square of 10x12 feet or 100 square feet.....**\$1.75**
No other tool than a hatchet or hammer is required to lay this roofing. We furnish with each order sufficient paint to cover, and nails to lay it, without additional charge.
Write for our free catalogue No. 27, of general merchandise bought by us at Sheriff's and Receiver's Sales.
CHICAGO HOUSE WRECKING CO.
W. 35th & Iron Sts., Chicago.

FIRE, WEATHER, and Lightning Proof

Black, painted, or galvanized metal ROOFING and siding, (brick, rock or corrugated)
METAL CEILINGS and SIDE WALLS
in elegant designs. Write for Catalogue.
The Penn Metal Ceiling and Roofing Co., Ltd.
234 & Hamilton, Phila., Pa., or 24 Harcourt St., Boston, Mass.



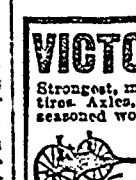
How Many Apples

Does it take to make a barrel of Cider? No matter, it will take less if you use
HYDRAULIC CIDER PRESS
and the cider will be better, purer and will keep longer. Don't say until you get our catalogue.
HYDRAULIC PRESS MFG. CO.
5 Main St. Mt. Gilead, Ohio.



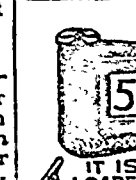
Saw Your Wood

with Smalley or Battle Creek Wood Mower. More money can be made with our sawing outfit than with any other implement you can buy. SELF FEED DRAG SAWS—5 SIZES. Circular or cut off, 10 sizes; also lifting or Market Mills. Every machine sold under a positive guarantee to do perfect work. Also full line of Powers for operating. Catalogue showing our Smalley line complete mailed free if you name this paper.
SMALLEY MFG. CO.
Sole Makers, Manitowoc, Wis.



VICTOR LOW-DOWN WAGONS

Strongest, most durable, all-metal wheels, wide tires. Axles, hounds, bolsters, etc., of thoroughly seasoned woods. Cost one-half less than high wagons.
Positively guaranteed.
Write for description and prices.
GEO. ERTEL CO., Quincy, Ill.



We Want AGENTS For

Keeney Harness Riveter
And other fast-selling articles. The riveter can be used in any position. Needs anything where a well-clinched rivet serves the purpose. For heavy farm work. Agents make \$5 to \$15 a day. Send \$2 for sample. Loaded with 50 rivets. and Terms to Agents.
T. H. Foote Co., Fredericktown, O.

HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA

Eradicates Scrofula

Subdues and heals Salt Rheum, cures Boils, removes Pimples and Eruptions, gives fair, clear, complexion. It thoroughly purifies, vitalizes and enriches the blood.