call on Mr. Louis. I take pleasure in introducing to you Mr. Theodore Louis.

Mr. Louis—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—I come before you really not upon my own desire, but upon the invitation of Mr. Morrison to give you my practical experience in the raising of swine, and I will give you only such what I have practical experience in. I will use no notes but speak from practical experience. As your chairman has remarked, there is considerable money in the hog. Your county has an investment of $200,000 at least in pork, but I believe I can demonstrate to you, as I have demonstrated to a great many of the counties in the state, that there is something lacking in the feeding and raising of our swine to a profit. I have listened to the discussion of warm water and cold water, and it is always astonishing to me why, when a man speaks from practical experience, when he demonstrates the facts, when he demonstrates the profits, that there is naturally a resistance in the farmer to say, no, I will not do it, I will feed my ice water just as I did before. And it often occurs to me in the same way in my practical experience. Just as I passed down your street here to get my notes a farmer was standing up here. He says, I tell you, Bill, farming doesn’t pay, all I got off from it was fourteen cents. That is so, the other man says, it doesn’t pay a bit. Now I don’t believe that man will come here to–day, he won’t learn anything or take an agricultural paper or do anything to improve himself or the condition of his family. He will be everlastingly saying farming doesn’t pay. Before you stands a man that commenced with his bare hands in Dunn county. I had just as much when I commenced on my farm as I hold in my hands now. I never will be a millionaire, but I am satisfied, I am contented, and is not that about as much as any of us can gain?

The breeding and feeding of swine under the present condition, I will say the farmer makes one great mistake, not only in the state of Wisconsin, but where pork raising is made a business. In the first instance, he breeds from im-
mature stock, either from the sire or from the dam, and we are constantly breeding downward in size, in constitution and in vigor. Now any farmer here that has been in the habit of doing that, I wish him to note that down, that we are breeding downward in size, in vigor and in constitution. We are breeding an animal that will not assimilate the food or digest it as we give it to them and give us a proper return for the money laid out.

We should under all circumstances breed from a thoroughbred animal as this class of animals are so easily obtained by most any farming community or the individual farmer and are not high enough to abstain from purchasing them. I will not speak of breeds, any of the standard breeds are good enough, but have a mature animal, let him be an animal of vigor and keep him so. If you receive him as a pig make him so by feeding him. Don’t feed him corn, feed him middlings, oats, bran and clover. Keep him away from your herd and keep him separate, make him an animal of vigor for his offspring will be the same. I keep my sires in yards by themselves 5 or 6 rods square with a tight board fence, where they can have their own choice but I give them free exercise, especially for the first part so they become muscular and stout. I feed sires only such food that will build up muscle, frame and bone. I don’t know as you have been troubled with hog disease, but if you have let me tell you, it lowers the constitution of an animal the same as it does in the human family. In summer I feed my sires clover. I take my wheel-barrow and go to the field and get it, don’t depend always on your hired man to do it, but depend on yourself unless you have a trusty man. I don’t say they are all not trusty. I have had them, they are trusty, if you treat them as men they generally are trusty. But it is always well if we give our attention to all these matters of feeding and breeding. We must study the nature of the animal. I have found by cutting clover for my sires that there is a possibility that we may make 1,300 pounds live weight of pork from an acre if we get a good style of animal, but labor is too high and in order to do that I run my hogs on clover fields in order to receive a pro-
fit and in order to reproduce the fertility of my soil. I must break right in here and say that by wheat raising, force of circumstances forced me to adopt another branch of agriculture aside from wheat raising. I had depleted and ruined my farm by so doing. I had not only depleted my farm but I had ruined my financial circumstances by so doing, and any farmer that doesn't have a bank account in his soil will ruin himself and will always say farming doesn't pay. I can truly say that. I live upon a sandy farm in Dunn county. I don't know exactly what your soil is in this county, although 35 years ago I moved a family from Watertown to Wolf River and the roads were muddy and bad so I came to the conclusion you have a good deal of clay soil here. However, that may be, I live on a sandy farm and it needs the watching and care of the owner, but as I said before, I have reproduced the fertility of my soil. I have doubled it. Where I grew 14 years ago ten bushels of oats to the acre, and couldn't produce a stem of clover, I now raise 80 to 90 and 100 bushels of corn.

The dam, what she should be: She should be a mature animal; she should be intelligent. When I say a mature animal in my estimation a hog or a swine does not reach maturity until fourteen months of age. This is my experience, but don't stop there if you have a dam that is a good breeder, retain her, keep her, keep her until she will breed no more. Keep her five years, keep her six years if she is intelligent and of a kind disposition. Now mind, a kind disposition in the sire and a kind disposition in the dam should always be looked for, and when we have one, an animal of a kind disposition, keep her so. Don't keep a dog at your heels or a club in your hands. A vicious hog is a nuisance on a farm, especially if you retain them to old age, so I say let her be gentle, let her be intelligent, let her be broad over the loin, and that build that a sire should have, let her be roomy and plenty, let her have twelve good developed teats; if you breed from her the first year and she has good milk and a good mother, retain her. It does not take very much of an estimate to say that a sow with a litter will bring $80 to $100 if he takes care of her. Don't go
to work, if she is round and large and brings the scale to four or five hundred pounds, and say I can pay my taxes with her. No. The litter will next year itself three times pay the taxes. Retain her, and treat her gently always and you will have no trouble. The problem probably rises in your mind that she will over-lie the pigs and kill the pigs with her fat. If she is gentle, as I said, if you have trained her to be gentle, if you speak to her as a mother pig, if you treat her as a mother pig should be treated, you will have none of these troubles in the time of gestation. At all times treat her gently, don’t let her drag over bars, don’t let her drag through gates. A farmer expects little, immature sows to go through the severe trial of maternity, and in the spring he says: I had very good luck; I had so many pigs. What does he do? He calls on neighbors B. and C. and says, don’t you want to buy some pigs? and he sells them for fifty cents apiece, not knowing that they virtually cost him more than what he is selling them for. What has he got? He has got little animals, lower type, lower constitution, lower vigor. So I say, treat her gently and give her such food as is calculated in its nature to stimulate and grow a future herd in that kind of a condition as to give to you an animal of perfect health and perfect condition.

It is only last spring I received a letter from the Best Brewing Co., in Milwaukee, a gentleman asked me, he says: “Mr. Louis, can’t you give us some advice, all our sows are eating our pigs?” Now here is the same condition, a sow that is fed on corn and water during the winter, and that cold water to boot, you have been talking about this morning, that ice water, she probably went to some hole and drank or where the cattle have made a hole she probably drank. With me success must be, if possible, it is not good luck. A certain number and a certain number in return is my principle, and I have succeeded for years now in so doing. I don’t know as I shall succeed this winter. I read an article in the morning paper this morning, these men around with the institutes are making lots of money. Mr. Klotz, I think, brought in a bill. Now we leave our own affairs at home, and I think I am generous when I give
you my experience dearly bought with years, and the legis-
lature ought to be ashamed of a bill of that kind.

When the time of fallowing approaches I shut my sows
up in a pen or at least I give them access to the pen where I
wish them to breed, and feed them there at least two weeks
so they become accustomed to their stall. Remember she
will walk off and wander off where you don’t want her and
probably overlie her pigs. If she is gentle you can handle
her in any kind of way, you can approach her and put
them in a basket one by one and put them in a warm place,
when they have all appeared take them back to that loving
mother and she will answer in that motherly grunt, ugh,
ugh. She will be grateful to you for the attendance. She
will not harm you. She will let you do almost anything
because you always treated her gently. My principle is
that a pig must commence to fat and gain from the day it
is born, and there is no time in a pig’s life when it will gain
more than when it nurses its dam. Now then here comes a
consideration that many farmers never think of, there is an
old habit, a habit of our forefather’s — if I say our forefathers
I am an adopted son of your country, and I consider I have
borne your weal and woe — of feeding from a sour swill
barrel and I say a sour swill barrel is poison. Would any
dairyman think of feeding his calves sour milk? What
would you think of giving a pig sour milk when it has the
sweet milk of the dam?

When does an animal grow the most? When it has
nature’s sweet food. Nature prepares all food sweet and I
think it is criminal to put it to the process of fermentation,
sour, fermented and as you might say rotted and made a
poison. So I say feed her sweet food; if you want to
ferment your food to make it easily digestible fer-
ment it in the same way as you ferment your bread, let it
become just that acid and no more. Give her warm food
during the winter. I am in the habit of giving my breeding
sows and my stock whatever I have, during the winter,
warm food. I am steaming my food. A steamer can be
bought for 20 or 25 or 40 dollars and it will pay any farmer
who is warming water for his cows or warming water for
his pigs and steaming food for his pigs to make the outlay. I am speaking from experience. It is warm food where I save my corn, the food I buy, I buy considerable food over what I raise because I can afford it. I can put it back on my farm. So I say give her warm food. And here is another mistake, I say a pig should commence to eat with the dam as soon as possible, and here comes the deep trough that holds I don't know but a barrel of swill. Now a man expects the little pig to get right there with the big dam. Trough room in length and not in width. I am very often astonished with agricultural papers. They say give them trough room but they never say it ought to be in length or depth or width. A plank 2x6, a plank 2x8 nailed together, a 2x6 and a 2x8 is sufficiently deep enough for any fodder; and it forms a trough where a pig can't so easily stand in and spill the food for its dam and for its own self. So give always room enough, it doesn't matter to me if you are fattening a hundred hogs, give them room enough. If you are fattening a great many try to separate them. You will always find you are feeding to a profit when they are feeding quietly and they will feed as quietly and as cheap if you give them sufficient room and don't have too many together, and you will find that you always receive a return for food somewhere.

I feed my sows during the winter season bran, middlings and oats, very little corn and I steam it. I give them roots, I give them squash. I make it a practice on my farm to raise squash. I raise all my corn fields in squash. When you plan your squash in your corn field you don't want to say to your boys, go and put them in the squash, you want to put them in yourself or else they put them all in one hill. It is a variety of food that stimulates digestion, it is a variety of food where I have made success. This carbonaceous food like corn is what ruins our hogs in constitution, is what ruins them in muscle, size and bone. Not that I have to say anything against corn, it has its proper place but it has not its proper place in the time of breeding and time of rearing pigs.
Give the sow warm food. I feed my sows food at least as warm as 90°, and you will very soon notice that if you put about a pint or two of linseed oil with your food you will then replace the nitrogen that may not be there, that you would naturally have in the milk. If you replace it with that you will find your pigs will make a rapid growth. Here is another time the man that feeds sour swill, he loses his pigs by diarrhoea. Thousands of pigs through our state get lost through that source. On the other hand, when a dam goes first to clover or change of food that evil appears in her pigs again, and in order to remedy it give her some dry corn while she goes to clover; at the same time, if you wish to remedy it, give the dam, if it is very bad, give the dam half a teacupful, if she is a large dam, of sulphur in her food mornings. If that will not remedy it give her half a teacupful of castor oil. Give it to her in sweet milk and with potatoes, and you will sure have a success then in doing it. I leave my pigs with my dams — breeding only one litter a season — I leave them with the dam for three months, and after I wean the dam and wean the pigs, which is very easily done that time of the year where they have been nursing three months. I withdraw all the grain from them. It works on the same principle where you keep a breeding sow from year to year as it will with a cow, the high feed will burn her up. I feed my cows all they will eat clean. I feed them no more than they will eat clean and come hungry to the next meal. That is an essential point in the success of food. I have seen farmers feeding their hogs throw the whole load over the fence and dump it right into the field and say my hogs are doing well. That man never knew his hogs did well; he never used a pencil in his life; he made so much money out of his hogs, and he got the cash, but the balance on the other side he has never figured up, and I will come to this point a little later. I have brought with me a pattern of a breeding pen which is used largely in the state of Indiana and in the state of Illinois, by breeders. I have a large hog house at home but still I use seven or eight of them. But while I am traveling through the country I find the hogs sleep most anywhere. They sleep in a
straw pile, on the south side of a wire fence and they sleep in barnyards, under barns saturated with ammonial gases and all that sort of thing, and it seems to me the swine is the most neglected animal there is, still it pays to the state of Wisconsin $10,000,000 yearly, and it could pay very largely more so if we would take care of them, and we would really be the gainers. With us the material for a pen of this kind costs $1.50; with us lumber can be bought from $6.00 to $8.00 a thousand. I don't know what it costs here. The pen is 7x8 on the ground, seven feet high in front and five feet at the rear. Now you can nail your boards either way, up and down just as you choose, but leave this girt right here, this lower girt twelve inches from the bottom of it; take your corner posts and have that girt on three sides of the building, on the front, and on the side, and on the door side, but not on this side, where the sow passes in and out. Have your door twenty inches wide and four and a half feet high, so you can go in there every day and clean it out. I have found by experience that it is just as essential to the welfare of the soil of the farm and the health of the hog and profit to our pocket to clean out the hog pen daily. In the time of fallowing I bed with marsh hay. If she is gentle I go in and clean the fender, around the fender. Don't leave the edges sharp, for an animal in its labors will avoid it if it is too sharp. The young pigs will always seek the fender. Nature teaches any animal to protect its own life, and however heavy your sows, in a day or two those little fellows will get right under her and stick their noses out and wait for ma to get down, and she will scratch and ugh, ugh. What does it cost to winter a pig? I wonder if every farmer in the audience will tell me what it cost to winter a pig? Mr. Arnold says it cost half a cent a day, and when I was at his place he shoved the corn right off the upper shelf right down to his hogs. I wonder if he knew it? In Winnebago county you wintered in 1885, or when the census was taken, 22,235 hogs. You slaughtered them; that was $195,888; you kept on hand 21,523 hogs; their average value was $4.28. Your hogs were sold at a price of $8.81½, so if pork was five cents that year your hogs didn't
weigh 200. Still, however approximately correct this may be, or not correct, there is something in it that is correct. It has cost you to winter these hogs at least $10, that is, in order to get them to market; you have sold them at $8.81. I conclude that it cost $10.90. At that rate you have lost $2.09 on each hog. Now if that virtually is correct, if I am correct in saying that the hog has cost you $10.90, feeding your hogs six or nine ears of corn a day, and you need fifteen bushels to winter it; take it on the basis of corn at 30 cents, that is $4.50, add a dollar for clover, then at eighteen bushels you ripen a hog; you find you are in debt to your hog and you have done all this for the fun of the thing. I say a pig ought to grow from the time it is born until it goes to market. I have made some mistake; I gave you my success, but I have not given you my failures. I have been feeding 80 to 100 hogs a season, and I commenced to winter them in November, and lo and behold, my corn fields were empty and my pigs were just as big in the spring as they were in the fall. But I say this: I have never pinched the almighty dollar like a great many farmers. I went and bought an agricultural paper, one after another. I keep all agricultural literature in my house which enlightens me on those subjects, and which sets me to thinking. I believe every farmer ought to be thinking. If this is virtually correct, if I have the audacity to tell you this, it ought to set you to thinking what you are doing with your swine, if you are virtually losing $2.09 on each of your hogs. Twenty bushels will ripen a pig from the time of its birth until it comes to about 250 pounds, with the utilizing of other food on the farm, and there must be a gain; but you can not do that if you breed from immature sows or immature sires. You can not do it if you go out and call your pigs out of the straw stack, and when they come out foaming with steam, throw out your corn on the ground, on the snow, and say, I serve the Lord and feed my pigs. Think of the condition of a man getting out of his bed and put him right out doors, and then speak about healthy hogs. Kill one of those hogs and you will find that it has ulcerated lungs and hepatized lungs.

I have found this winter, by feeding dry corn meal — by
and by I will give the man credit for it whom it belongs to — I learned it from Prof. Henry. He says, Mr. Louis, try it, and I made a trial of it and I find my hogs have gained more this winter than ever before. I am not certain, because I have not weighed the hogs, because I have been off, but I think they have made fourteen pounds of pork to the bushel. I have fed them warm swill and dry corn meal mixed with oats. Dry corn meal alone is too compact; stops the digestion; it is heavy.

And here is another failure: A man will winter a great many hogs; crowd them into straw stacks, let them crowd together, throw out his corn on the ground; they eat greedy, they grab the corn one from each other, and, mark, they eat their earnings, and if you have any diseased hogs in your herd, you transfer it from hog to hog. Two gentlemen came in the capitol last week talking with Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Adams introduced them to me. He says, these are a sample of big farmers of Dane county, hog raisers. One of the gentlemen said, Mr. Louis, I am glad to make your acquaintance; I want to learn a little something. I says, why wasn't you to the institute? Hadn't time; and the story I will tell you will convince you he hadn't time. That kind of men never have time to go to an institute or read an agricultural paper. He says, I have got 130 shoats at home and they are lying principally upon their backs. I says, if you will answer me truly and correctly I will tell you what ails your hogs, although I am not a prophet. I says, in the first place you breed from immature stock, and have been doing so for years. He says, that is so, I have. I says, you never feed your hogs in a pen. He says, that is so, too. I says, you give them no alkali of any kind to aid and stimulate digestion or kill the intestinal worms which are so common to a hog. He says, that is so, sir. Another thing, says I, you sleep these 130 hogs in straw piles. Says he, I do. Says I, they come out steaming and foaming every morning. He says, they do. Now was it any wonder that the animals were sick and lame in their loins? These poor animals were suffering for salt. If he had got his pork barrel, in which he packed his new pork, and emptied it in
the yard he would have gone in the next morning, he would have said: Mary, all my pigs are dead. Because they would have eaten themselves blind and killed themselves; and that is the cause why a pig often dies when a man has emptied his pork barrel out in the yard. Give them all the salt they will eat clean; give them charcoal. In my yard I have a box; I cut out six inches at the lower side, dry goods box, having a tight cover. I put in this box two bushels of charcoal, pound it fine as hazel nuts, half a bushel ashes, eight quarts of salt and, mix it thoroughly; then I add a pound and a quarter of copperas, dissolved in hot water, and then stir it again. If you leave that stand in your yard if you have thirty or forty hogs, you will find it is empty before you are ready to buy new charcoal. And on the side of this I have a trough filled with salt, and they always eat it. Last year I made it a trial to lay it intelligently before the institute of farmers of Dunn county, my own county, and convince them of the truth of how much salt, or anything of that kind, a hog needs while it is under a high process of feeding. Remember, a pig does not root for the fun of the thing; a pig roots for the alkali it finds in the soil. Grab a pig by its throat when it is rooting and you will find something crack between the teeth, and you will find it is a stone or something between its teeth that contains alkali. That year I had forty-eight head. I gave this mixture every day, every twenty-four hours: A pail full of this charcoal on the floor, where I surely knew they would eat it; eight pounds of salt, which made nearly two ounces, and sixty pounds of the upper strata of the potsdam sand stone mixed with clay. They would eat all this foreign material, aside from all the food they could eat. These hogs, when I put them in the market, averaged 335 pounds. They were shoats. Prof. Henry says to me once, Mr. Louis, you are a crank on salt. I says, when chemistry convinces me different from what the animal convinces me, I will admit it, but as long as you science men can say I am a crank and don't show me the facts, so long will I feed salt.