Farmers in Mason County, Michigan, bought some seed corn last spring for $4.50 per bushel. They thought they were getting cheap seed. At the same time, seed of over 90% germination, which was certified by the Michigan Crop Improvement Association was being offered by the same local cooperative for $7.00 per bushel. Nearly every one who bought the supposedly cheap seed came back later and tried to buy the $7.00 seed, in order to make replantings. Those growers found that economy is not always a matter of price. They found that in buying seed it pays to be careful about germination.

A farmer in St. Clair County bought some “cheap” clover seed and sowed it on his wheat. In addition to the clover, this man found he had planted a liberal seeding of catch-fly, a nice sprinkling of mustard, and a host of lesser weeds too numerous to mention. He threshed in the field and burned the straw to save infesting the rest of his farm. This man learned a lesson about purity.

A Hillsdale County farmer started out to get a 10-acre field into alfalfa. He had heard about Grimm alfalfa, but decided to turn his farm into an experiment station and sowed only half of the field to the Grimm variety. The other half he planted to “just alfalfa.” The second winter an ice sheet formed over the field—and he learned his lesson about adaptation. Half of his field had to be plowed up because the alfalfa was gone. The other half, where he had planted Grimm, produced successfully for several years.

I suppose, if people were left alone, most of the things teachers are trying to teach would be taught eventually by experience. But experience is the highest paid teacher on the pay rolls.

Farmers, as a class, are not foolish. They are demanding that the information they need to make their business pay be secured from a less costly source than personal experience. They have provided public experiment stations to find out the right way of things, and have added an extension organization to bring that information to them as quickly, as efficiently, and as effectively as possible.

State and federal experiment stations have been learning a lot about seed for agriculture, the success of which is directly dependent upon the use of seed without making costly mistakes. The infor-