

WAR SALVAGED EXPLOSIVE NOW AVAILABLE TO FARMERS

For the past four years the United States Department of Agriculture has been re-working the explosive remaining at the close of the war and putting them into shape for commercial use. By virtue of a special Act of Congress these explosives have been made available for agricultural use. The department is now engaged in distributing an explosive called pyrotol which has given excellent satisfaction for stump and boulder blasting. Already more than 12,000,000 pounds has been used by farmers with good results.

The average cost of pyrotol delivered in carload lots at any shipping point in Indiana is 9 cents a pound. When it is considered that the retail prices charged for commercial dynamites range from 22 cents to 25 cents per pound, and that it takes 1½ pounds of dynamite to do the same work as can be done with 1 pound of pyrotol, it will be seen that the farmer saves from 13 to 16 cents per pound when he uses pyrotol rather than commercial dynamites. Since July 1, 1924, 111,500 pounds of pyrotol have been distributed to Indiana farmers which saved them more than \$11,000 at the very lowest possible estimate, using wholesale car lot prices of dynamite as a com-

parison. This year, Indiana has been allotted 150,000 pounds which will mean a saving of about \$15,000 if there is sufficient demand to use up all of the allotment.

Distribution is made only in carload lots through the Agricultural Extension Department Purdue University. All persons wishing to obtain some of the pyrotol should confer with the county agent or, in case there is no agent in the county, information can be obtained by writing R. H. Wileman, Extension Agricultural Engineer, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. Orders for a carload are being taken at the present time, delivery to be made about December 15.

Pyrotol is put up in cartridges, the same size and shape as the ordinary cartridge of commercial dynamite. The pyrotol cartridge will do the same work, under ordinary conditions, as a cartridge of commercial dynamite, but as they weigh only six ounces each, while a dynamite cartridge weighs eight ounces, there are 150 cartridges in a 50-pound case of pyrotol and but 100 cartridges in a box of dynamite of the same weight. So a case of pyrotol is about 1½ times as effective as a case of commercial

agricultural dynamite. It is a non-freezing explosive and can be used without causing headaches or other ill effects. If stored in a dry place, it will keep for several months without deterioration.

The Government is not distributing this explosive to farmers because it is better explosive than commercial dynamites, as this is not the case, nor is it doing so because the Department of Agriculture wishes to go into the business of making and selling explosives. It is being done because it is the only feasible way in which an economical use can be made of the surplus war explosives. On this account, the Government makes no charge for the ingredients of pyrotol, but the farmer is required to pay the cost of preparing and cartridging it, and the freight charges.

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