RETIRED FARMERS UNHAPPY IN TOWNS

They Find Themselves Out of Their Element And Long For Open Life of the Country

When the farmer sells out or rents his farm and moves to town with his family he is like a fish out of water, says the North-West Agriculturist. He has no fields over which to tramp and plan for the next year's crop; or meadows on which for years he has seen his cattle graze and the calves and colts grow and thrive. There are no cows to milk, no pigs to feed, no sheep to shear. In a word, he is idle, and idleness was never yet good for a man, rich or poor.

The times hangs heavily on the farmer's hands. He does odd jobs about the house, then he light his pipe and saunters down to the square. He sits in the bank for a while. He has a right to do that, he thinks, because he has deposited the price of his farm there. But it is a busy place, and no one has time to talk to him, so he goes over to some of the stores and lounges around a while. If he likes horses, you may find him sitting in front of the livery stable. He also takes an active interest in the arrival and departure of the trains, and you will find him at the station, eagerly scanning the passengers and the baggage deposited on the platform. Then he goes to the post office for the mail. The daily papers from the large cities interest him for a while, and if he is a talkative man he will voice his opinions on political questions. When all this excitement is over he wanders back home and tries to put in the time until the chickens go to roost.

Unfortunately the retired farmer does not, as a rule, agree with the progressive spirit of the townspeople. He wants to live among them, but he does not care to become one of them. He very much disapproves of taxes for the benefit of the community. He does not care for public improvements. He can get along without electric lights or waterworks or paved streets or any of those new-fangled notions. For these and other reasons the retired farmer is not considered a valuable addition to a town. He is too selfish, too one-sided for a live, go-ahead place. A curious thing about the matter is that the farmer who moves to the city is more than likely to have the experience of a shrub transplanted to uncongenial soil. It may flourish for a short time, but its life history is short. So with the man who has spent his best years out in the open. The cramped confines of town and city life are not his natural environment, and he fades and withers as do the plants—a few short years and he returns to the soil and becomes, not its tiller, but a component part of it. Better stick to the farm.

How Sea-birds Drink

The question is often asked: "Where do sea-birds obtain fresh water to slake their thirst?" An old skipper says that he has seen these birds at sea far from any land that could furnish them water hovering around and under a storm-cloud, clattering like ducks on a hot day at a pond, and drinking in the drops of rain as they fell. They will smell a rain-squall a hundred miles or even farther off, and scud off for it with almost inconceivable swiftness.

How long sea-birds can exist without water is only a matter of conjecture, but probably their powers of enduring thirst are increased by habit, and possibly they go without water for many days, if not for several weeks.

Scratching Post For Hogs

If a hog knew how to tell his wants he would demand a scratching post for himself. A successful hog-grower adopts this plan. Firmly plant a hickory or oak post four inches in diameter in the hog run. Coil a rope around the post as high as a hog stands and staple it on securely. Then thoroughly saturate the rope with crude petroleum and it becomes an ideal scratching post for hogs and pigs. They will rub against it continually and all is fatal to vermin. Kerosene can be used but it evaporates too readily.

FEW ARE POSTED ON POISON IVY

This Bothersome Weed Which Affects Only Human Beings Easy to Recognize In the Woods

It is safe to say that no poisonous plant in Canada is better known by name than poison ivy. One could consequently expect to find it also one of the most generally known at first hand, of all our plants, but it is astonishing how many people confess themselves unacquainted with it. Not only townsfolk, but many farmers, and not a few of those who profess to be interested in natural history studies, are unable to recognize it, says a report by the Dominion Botanist.

Poison ivy differs from the majority of poisonous plants in that it does not require to be eaten in order to produce its ill effects. Mere contact with it is sufficient, and indeed many people declare that they are affected even in its presence, though they do not touch it at all. The possibility of ivy poisoning without contact is not admitted though, by those who have studied the nature of the poison to which its effects are due. This poison has been found to be a non-volatile oil, to which the name "toxicodendrol" has been given. The poisonous substance is found in all parts of the plant, and a very little of it reaching the skin is sufficient to set up its painful irritation.

It is well known that not all persons are equally susceptible to injury by poison ivy. Some can handle the plant freely without any fear of unpleasant consequences. It would appear also, as if animals were immune, as birds are reported to feed upon the fruit, and cows have been known to eat it and show no evil effects.

Poison ivy grows most commonly along the borders of fields and woods, by roadsides, or in open woods; or less frequently it occurs in deep woods where it may become a tall climber supporting itself on the trunks of trees. In the open it is low and bushy, or often climbing or training. The leaves are all composed of three ovate, coarsely-toothed leaflets, and serve well as a means of identification. There are no other plants of similar habit in Canada with leaves which would easily be confused with them. The Virginian Creeper is often held in suspicion, quite needlessly though, as it has five, not three, leaflets, which spread from one point like the fingers of the hand. The poison ivy can also be known when in fruit, by its upright auxiliary panicles of whitish berries of about the size of peas.

Measures of eradication must be directed toward the uprooting of the plants, as otherwise any effort to kill them would have to be repeated and continued as long as the roots retain enough vitality to send up new vegetation. It may be advisable to mow off and remove the stems before starting to grub up the roots, so as to lessen the danger of poisoning while at work. The tops may be got rid of also by spraying with a mixture of one-half pint commercial sulphuric acid in one gallon of water. As sulphuric acid is corrosive, it will be advisable to apply with a sprinkling can or an old sprayer which can be sacrificed to the purpose.

POULTRY POINTERS

Young turkeys are of a delicate nature until they are fully feathered and have thrown out the red on their heads, which usually occurs at about three months of age. After that they are hardy and may be allowed unlimited range at all times.

When the hens have the run of the farm, which is common, many are disposed to make their nests away from the regular buildings, says The Weekly Witness. Unless they are to be allowed to set, much care is needed in locating these nests and gathering eggs. Indeed, it is best to confine the hens for a time to induce them to lay in the regular nests.

Immediately after dressing, poultry should be placed in ice cold water and allowed to remain there until all the animal heat has left the body. Failure to do this is very apt to cause the carcases to turn green in parts by the time they reach their destination.

Once a week at least disinfect the drinking fountains and dishes used by the poultry by scalding them in boiling water. Infectious diseases are spread very rapidly through feed troughs and drinking fountains.

A chicken never should be eaten the day it is killed. The tenderest fresh killed chicken will be tough immediately after the animal heat has left the body. In about twelve hours however, the muscles will relax and it then becomes acceptable for food.

Novel Street Lighting

To eliminate the glare from street lamps an English engineer proposes to illuminate streets by the reflection of lights thrown against the fronts of buildings.

Handy Shipping Box

For shipping poultry, fruit and vegetables an inventor has patented a crate that folds completely for shipping when empty.

Uses Lots of Leather

Although the United States has more cattle than any other country except India it is the world's greatest importer of hides and skins.

Halibut In the Pacific

The halibut of British Columbia have an enviable reputation, for they are less over-grown and of finer texture than the Icelandic and North Sea fish; a length of five to six feet and weight of 250 pounds is exceptional for the British Columbia halibut. The waters between Queen Charlotte Island and the mainland, especially off Rhode Spit, and off west shore of Banks Island, were at one time veritably overcrowded with halibut. Very large fish were often taken then, some weighing 150 pounds, but the general weight now is only from 20 to 60 pounds.

THE JOY OF GIVING

"'Tis more blessed to give than to receive," says the Good Book, and we are continually receiving letters that prove the truth of this maxim.

Here's an extract that tells how the good work we are doing in the fight against Consumption appeals to every section of the community.

A well-known citizen of Brantford writes: "On Christmas morning my boys gave me $2.50 to get some present for myself that I wanted. I think you can use it to good advantage in your noble work in the National Sanitarium Association, so am enclosing it for that purpose."

Doesn't it make you feel proud to know that there are Canadian fathers with the self-sacrificing instinct so strongly imbued in them?

Isn't it good to realize that the rising generation is getting such a splendid example shown them? Last year it cost over $62,000.00 to keep the Muskoka Free Hospital open. More money is urgently needed to provide for those seeking admission.

The needy Consumptive is right at your door. Won't you help him to help himself?

The smallest gift will be most acceptable. Just slip your contribution in an envelope to-day, while you think of it, addressed to MR. W. J. GAGE, Chairman of the Executive Committee, 84 Spadina Ave.; or MR. R. DUNBAR, Sec. Treas., 347 King West, Toronto, and experience the real joy of giving.

FENELON FALLS MARKETS

Fenelon Falls Friday, Jan, 16. 1914

Wheat, Scotch or Fife, 80c. to 82c.
Wheat, fall, 80 to82
Wheat, spring, 75 to 80
Barley, per bushel, 50 to 60
Oats, per bushel, 34 to 36
Pease, per bushel, 75 to 1.00
Buckwheat, 50c. to 55
Potatoes bush. 60 to 65
Butter, per pound, 27 to 28
Eggs, per dozen, 28 to 30
Hay, per ton, $15 to $18
Hides, $10. to $12
Hogs, live, $7.00 to $8.60
Beef, $ 8.00 to $9
Sheepskins, 50 to 80
Wool, 15 to 23
Flour, Samson, $2.80 to $3.00
Flour, Winnipeg $2.70 to $2.90
Flour, Silver Leaf, $2.50 to $2.70
Flour, Victoria, $2.45 to $2.65
Flour, new process, $2.40 to $2.60
Flour, family, clipper, $2.35 to $2.55
Bran, per 100 pounds, $1.15 to $1.30
Shorts, do., $1.25 to $1.35
Mixed Chop, do., $1.50 to $1.60
Corn Chop, do., $1.65 to $1.70

FARM FOR SALE.

Two hundred acres, West half 26 Con. 7 and east half 26 Con. 6, township of Fenelon, 100 acres woodland, sugar bush, tamarac and cedar; 100 acres cleared; first-class loam; six-roomed house, barn 55x57 on stone wall; cow stable; large drive house 26x50, woodshed, two log hay mows; two creeks running through pasture. Also full set farm machinery. No cause for selling but ill health. For full particulars apply on the premises to

WM. HORE, Fenelon Falls P. O.