

REASONS WHY SOME FARMERS MISS SUCCESS

An Up-to-date Article on the Mistakes that Farmers Make

Writing to the Country Gentleman, Mr. F. Sasser of Maryland says: Men of all occupations fail sometimes. Every shore of enterprise is strewn with wrecks. Many farmers may fall in a greater or less degree, but a very much larger percentage succeed, and not a few prosper exceedingly. Taken as a class, farmers fail less frequently, perhaps, than men in other occupations. If health, contentment and virtue are regarded as the criterion of success, the farmer generally wins, for no other vocation can offer so fair a promise for the attainment of these essentials of happiness.

Mind the Odds and Ends A want of intelligent attention to details often brings disastrous results in farming operations. Industry is very essential, but it must be in the right direction. The farmer sometimes neglects to put in practice the principle that if you take care of the dimes, the dollars will take care of themselves. He knows general principles and regards them; he is ignorant of details and neglects them. As a consequence, his work is not effective, because it is hindered by numberless annoyances due to a disregard of the little things that should have received his first attention. He may know that his wheat should be seeded by a certain date to ensure a good crop, and yet be unable to have it thus because from neglect of his harness he has allowed his team to become disabled; and sometimes a difference of a few days in seeding means success or failure in the harvest.

Bring Things to Pass Executive ability more than anything else brings practical success in an enterprise. It is rarely possessed in an eminent degree. Combined with talent, it works wonders. A farmer may have industry, he may be well informed in matters pertaining to the farm, and still meet with poor success, because he lacks the executive ability to have his wishes properly and effectively carried out. Those who have the direction of labor should know how to control and manage men, in order to obtain the best results.

Keep the Soil Fertile A very lamentable cause of failure with many farmers is that they neglect to preserve the fertility of the land. They take, but never give. Successive crops rob the soil of humus. Potash and phosphoric acid are essential plant foods, but the supply of these in an available form is limited. If the processes of nature for renewing these essentials are arrested, a fertile soil will soon become barren. Great attention should be paid to the rotation of crops. In this respect science helps, and the educated farmer ought to have an advantage over the ignorant. Cow peas and lime take a prominent place in the economy of advanced agriculture. Wise provision for making an abundant supply of manure will result in permanent fertility of the farm, and aid largely in making the owner prosperous. To this end, the farm should always be well stocked; and by this it should be understood that only thrifty, profitable stock must be kept, and the number limited always to the capacity of the land. Many farmers suffer from neglect of little washes, caused often by a wagon rut. Loose soils in a rolling country, subject to a periodical plowing, left without sod, exposed to storms and floods, waste and deteriorate rapidly, and the depreciation in value is distressing to contemplate. Therefore, a careful selection of grass seed, and the proper seeding of it which will result in securing turf, may be regarded as one of the safeguards of successful farming. With a good turf to turn under, a farmer may always expect abundant crops of all kinds, and a succession of abundant crops is sure to make one prosperous. The continued failure in grass has been the cause of the ruin of many farms, and the ultimate bankruptcy of their owners.

Penny Wise, Pound Foolish I have known farmers to lose from what may be termed "misdirected economy". They try to save, but their economy is exercised at the wrong time, and in the wrong direction. The prudent expenditure of money at opportune times will yield abundant results. It is false economy, for instance, not to make an extra outlay to secure a good crop that will be injured if not harvested at the proper time. There are many occasions when it is true economy to spend. Attempting to work with old and worn out machinery, keeping cheap and indifferent horses, letting crops waste from neglect to hire extra help, may be cited as some in-

stances where farmers exercise economy in the wrong direction.

Be Up-to-Date Misfortune and failure oftentimes overtake farmers because they cannot adapt themselves to changed and changing conditions. Since the civil war agricultural methods have undergone many and serious changes in the South. Our planters who were used to the old order of things were, in many instances, unable to cope with the new difficulties that beset them. Those who can look back for over twenty-five years can realize how greatly the difficulties in cultivating their farms have multiplied. The character of our labor has changed, and is continually changing. Its present deficiency is obviated somewhat by improved machinery. The enterprising farmer of today does not expect to raise crops with profit without the use of the best and most improved machinery.

Markets are constantly changing. Various influences affect the prices of farm products. A system of cropping that was profitable five years ago, may be unprofitable now. Large crops of corn at \$3 per barrel may pay, but when corn is worth only \$1.50 per barrel, it will impoverish the farmer who persists in its cultivation. When wheat falls to 60 c. per bushel, those who make it the chief crop will suffer if they continue to rely on it. So we must change with the times—meet the difficulties of labor, markets, seasons and surroundings in a practical, business-like way. Otherwise there will be disappointment, discouragement and failure, where happiness, success and prosperity ought naturally to be the reward of the honest labor.

The House of Refuge Question

Editor of The Watchman-Warder. Sir:—Will you kindly give prominence in an early issue of your paper, to a clause of the report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Assessment, adopted by the council of the county of Victoria at the session held in November as follows:—

"Your committee have given consideration to the statement made by Col. Deacon, Police Magistrate of the county, before the council, the correspondence with the department of justice, and the amendment of the criminal code in relation to indigent aged or infirm persons. Under the new provisions no such person who has been a resident of the county for two years immediately preceding, can be committed to the county gaol as a vagrant. The change in the law has an important bearing upon the question of the erection of a House of Refuge, which is now engaging the attention of the electors, who are to express their minds on the subject at the ensuing municipal elections. The Dominion parliament has by this enactment made it imperative that a refuge must be provided in this and every other county in the province that has not yet established an institution for housing, feeding and clothing the destitute. Your committee recommend that as great publicity as may be practicable, be given the subject, in order that the electors may be informed of the new element that has thus been projected into the discussion of the question."

In Colonel Deacon's correspondence with the department of justice prior to the passing of the amendment referred to, he contended that as a result of magistrates being prohibited from sending such persons to the county gaol, greater hardship might be caused to the individuals on account of exposure and neglect, than by sending them to the county gaol where they would at least be protected from the inclemency of weather and be kept from starvation. The answer was, that such persons should no longer be treated as criminals, and that provision for their maintenance should be made by local or provincial authority.

It will be evident even to a casual reader how seriously and directly the amendment of the law affects the issue now before the municipal electors of the county. Yours etc., J. R. McNEILLIE, County Clerk. Lindsay, Dec. 15th, 1900.

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THE FARMER'S SONS AND LIFE ON THE FARM

A Lecture Delivered by Mr. John McMillan at the Recent Farmers' Institute Meeting

There seems to be a growing desire among farmers' sons, to leave the farm. Not all of them should stay there. Many of them are adapted for other callings than farming and it would be a misfortune for them to refuse opportunities to enter them. Predisposition should be followed and when a young man clearly has strong faculties that find better operation of the farm he should go. Most failures arise because men choose occupations for which they are not naturally fitted.

After all many leave the farm simply because its conditions are distasteful to them or its prospect discouraging. How to give them a love for the farm and to make them successes on it are great and important questions. Even those who like farming ought to have a chance to farm under the best circumstances.

Give them Nice Homes One way in which the farm can be made attractive to the boys is by providing them pleasant homes. When boys go to town they find that people in no better circumstances than their parents live in attractive houses with adornments outside and in. They compare these with their own and often the mere comparison tends to give them a desire to get away from home. Farm houses can be made as attractive as any other. There is no reason why the surroundings should be slovenly and the rooms poorly furnished, nor why shrubbery and garden, grass plot and flower beds should not adorn the farm premises as well as those of the townsman.

The house itself can be just as attractively built. Its rooms and furnishings just as handsome. Good light, cosy appointments, good literature and up-to-date amusements ought to be in every farmhouse. People should not live in a dowdy kitchen and never open up the better rooms unless a visitor comes. Then they are usually a dismay from the dampness and odor that characterize unused rooms. The home life of farmers is driving the boys away from the farms. It must be improved or serious results are going to follow. Any young man who wants a home to which he can turn with pride or he will go and find one. The hope of the nation is not in its fleets or armies, but in the tillers of the soil.

About the Barns The hope of the nation must not wade to his knees when he goes through his barnyard. Instead of the slough of despond that barnyards usually are in wet weather they should be as dry and clean as the streets of Lindsay. (Here some ironical laughter was heard.) A man is not making the best use of his straw when he throws it out into the yard to be tramped down by the cattle. It should all be under the sheds till taken to the field. Put gravel about your barnyards; lift them up so that they will be dry and clean.

There is Nothing Else Like it Be enthusiastic in your calling. The boys will not think much of farming if their fathers would rather do something else. They will get their ideas of what farming is from the way you regard it. Make them feel that they are engaged in a great and worthy calling—one that which there is no nobler. Give them a little money of their own. Let them keep track of their amounts. A calf, or colt, sheep or hog, as a gift on which they are to put their best efforts and then pocket the proceeds, will encourage them. Farmers are too careless to keep books. I imagine any other business man going on that way. Keep a record of everything. Know your balance of profits or loss at the year's end. It will be a great help to success, if you know exactly how each department and product paid you. How else can you know what to handle.

Describe different animals to your boys. Take an example: point out his good and bad points so that the boys will be able to judge a beast themselves. Make them familiar with the price and value of stock. Have them join associations and read books that will teach them. Let them know the price you want for any animal on the farm so that if a buyer comes along when you are away they can sell. I went to Scotland and brought back a number of horses. Some were worth \$2,000. One day I was coming home when I met a neighbor who said, "You are a foolish man to let those boys of yours go on as they do." I asked what they had done now. "Why said he" that 17-year-old lad has sold one of your best horses" I

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