The Live Stock Farmer.

As one travels a long distance through the country, he is constantly impressed with the various types of farms that line the road. Some show a very prosperous appearance. Fields and meadows stretch away in a green rolling panorama, and sleek live stock graze contentedly in the distance. Grain, waist and head high, nods in the breeze; the smell of clover sweetens the air, and there is a thrifty appearance to all vegetation that bespeaks a fertile soil and careful cultivation. Invariably modern farm buildings add the final touch to the air of prosperity and success that hangs over such places. And if you have been schooled in the ways of farming you know at once that these are live stock farms, and that live stock was the key to their success.

But there is another type of farm that the traveler encounters. It has a hang-dog appearance. The fields are green but the crops look poor and stunted, as though starved of the elements needed for full development. The absence of cattle or sheep denotes a lack of interest in live stock raising and appearance of the crops. It usually also explains the run-down appearance of the barns and house, for the man of experience knows that without live stock to replenish the soil of the elements that are annually taken away by the crops, there cannot be the highest success.

Show me a community where live stock is not raised and I will show you a community where public improvements are lacking, the roads and schools are poor, the farms are not producing profitably and the buildings are out of date, money is scarce and the rate of interest is high; the young people from this community are leaving the farm and going to the city.

On the other hand, show me a community where good live stock are raised and I will show you a community of prosperous, contented farmers. Their roads and schools are of the best. Farm buildings are in good repair and their homes have all the modern conveniences. Their crops are good, money plentiful, and rates of interest are reasonable. The young people from such a community are staying on the farm. They can see the advantage of such a life over that of a shop life in the city.

Some way must be found to feed the great numbers of people who have flocked from the farms to the cities the past decade, and the solution of this problem is resting with the farmer. The fact that this increase is going on and that meat contributes a large part of the diet of the average Canadian family makes it reasonable to suppose that we will never see any cheap meats again for any length of time.

At the present time good live stock is bringing good prices for food purposes; but we can not see but what the man who is breeding pure-bred farm animals of quality, will get very high prices for all the animals he can spare for breeding stock for several years to come.

The possibilities of the live stock farmer are almost unlimited and almost unbelievable. The men who are getting results in their breeding operations are reaping rich financial rewards; cattle, horses, sheep and hogs of quality and that are typical of their type are bringing enormous prices; there seems to be scarcely a limit to the prices that men will pay for breeding animals in an effort to increase the value of their herd and its progeny. The man that can produce the highest class of live stock at this time need not go begging for his reward, as there are many men just waiting to hear his price, and then write the cheque. The man that can and is breeding good stock, should stay on the job and redouble his energy and do his best to produce better animals than he is now doing and he need have no fears as to being able to be well repaid for his efforts.

Let us all boost for the live stock farmer, not because he needs it, but because our country needs live stock farms, instead of grain farmers; let us boost for them because it makes for prosperity and happy contented farmers and because it contributes more largely than any other branch of farming to maintain the fertility of our farms, let us boost for it because it makes us independent and prosperous and because it brings us everything that is good. Let us all have this for our slogan, "Better and more live stock on every farm," yes, let us go one better and have another slogan equally as applicable and here it is, "Pure-bred live stock on every farm and every farmer a Live Stock Farmer."

Sealing the Silo.

Sealing the silo after it is filled is too often neglected. Sealing the silo cuts down waste and spoilage. A common practice is to level the silage and then tramp over the top thoroughly for twenty or thirty minutes every day for about a week. This eliminates air pockets near the top of the silo and thoroughly compacts the silage. Then oats may be sown after the top of the ensilage has been thoroughly soaked with water.

Another practice is to remove the ears of corn from the last two or three loads which are fed into the silo so that the silage on top is composed entirely of stalks and leaves. This is not so valuable and does not represent so large a loss of feed when the top five or six inches of silage spoil.

Another plan is to cover the silage, after it has been leveled and packed, with tar roofing paper, weighted down and held in place by means of short plank. Under such conditions the silage keeps well for three or four months with only a loss of about two or three inches of silage at the top of the silo. Boys can be used in the silo for tramping and packing the silage during the filling process. They save man labor as well as silo space. One man handling the distributor pipe, with three or four boys to do the tramping, will pack away the feed so that it will all be saved.

Harvesting Beans.

Beans are harvested just before they begin to shell. In dry weather a few of the pods and leaves may still be green, but in wet weather most of the leaves should have dropped off so that the beans will cure as quickly as possible.

Harvesting may be done by hand or with a bean-harvester. With a bean-harvester two rows are thrown together. A man with a pitchfork should follow the harvester and place the beans in small piles, shaking out whatever dirt or stones the harvester may have gathered. A side delivery hayrake is sometimes used to put four rows in a pile. Common dump rakes are not so satisfactory.

If some of the leaves are still green, the beans may be allowed to lie on the field for a few hours before piling. Otherwise, they should be placed in small piles or windrows soon after pulling. The piles should be built high and rather small at the bottom to insure quick curing. Beans should be left in the pile for a week or two until they are sufficiently dry. It is considered a good indication that the beans are ready for storing in the barn when pressing with the thumb leaves but a slight impression on the bean.

Rain, while the beans are in the pile, will not injure the beans if they are turned over after the storm. They should be handled as little and as carefully as possible in order to avoid shelling.

When the beans are thoroughly dry they should be stored in a barn to await threshing. They should not be tightly packed in the mow. They may be left until ready to be threshed by hand or machinery.

Testing cows does no good unless the dairymen study their herd records. For instance, a certain dairyman did not look at his record book once during the year. He could think of no reason why he should join the testing association for another year. The field agent in cow testing examined the record book. The figures clearly showed that the dairyman was losing money on several of his cows. When the dairyman saw this he sold the boarders and joined the association again.

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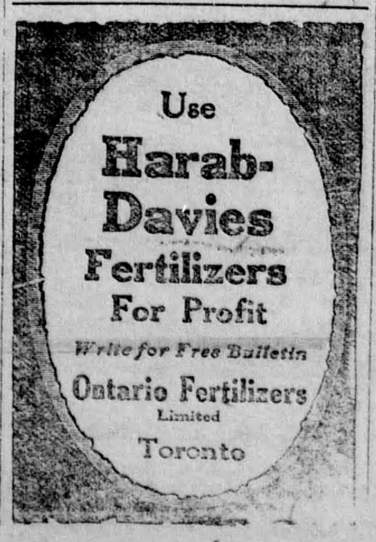


Home Comforts an Aid to Farm Work

That there is a very direct relation between creature comforts and efficient work is well known to every man. Every good farmer applies the principle in the care given his work horses and his dairy cows, yet too many, because of long habit forced on them and their ancestors by stress of circumstances, do not apply the same principle in the equipment of their homes to the extent which they should and profitably might do. Of this fact, the average farm housewife has a better appreciation than has the farmer himself, because she spends nearly all of her time in the home and because her work is largely done there, too often with few, if any, of the modern labor-saving helps which the farmer has found indispensable in his work.

One of the most absolutely essential things used in both house and barn is water. On the average farm some sort of convenient facilities for supplying water at the barn have already been installed, although in some cases the water for the stock still has to be pumped by hand and is supplied intermittently, as it ever must be under these conditions. In all such cases early provision should be made for an automatic water supply at the barn, either through the use of a windmill or a small gas engine. The regular supply of water which will thus be insured to the stock will make the investment a profitable one.

The simplest method is to purchase a thirty gallon crock, mount it on a level with the kitchen sink—or better yet, in the garret above the kitchen—and pipe the water so that it is pumped directly into this receptacle, flowing from there by gravity to the stock water tank, with a service faucet suitably arranged at the kitchen sink. The material required will not be expensive, and the work can be done by the farmer himself after the fall work is completed. The saving in labor for every member of the family, and particularly the housewife, will be very great, and out of all proportion to the cost of installing this simple equipment.

Where still more efficient, convenient equipment for the provision of an automatic, permanent water supply in the home is desired, this can be supplied through the installation of a modern pressure system, of which there are several types on the market at reasonable cost. Any kind of mechanical water supply is a great improvement over the back door pump and where the best kind seems unattainable even a temporary or less convenient arrangement will be found a much appreciated improvement.

Where the owner's circumstances at all warrant it, provision should also be made for a permanent supply of hot water, and for convenient bathing and sanitary facilities. Even the humble homes of city workingmen are now almost universally provided with these facilities which are rightly considered one of the essential home comforts, and every farmer who is financially able should lose no time in putting a well equipped bathroom in his home.

Another important home comfort which is a matter of rather modern development so far as its general use is concerned, yet simply provided and within the reach of practically every farm family, is a screened verandah where the housewife can rest temporarily from her strenuous labors, and the tired men folks spend a comfortable noon hour or cool evening during the heated period. The cost of screening a good sized verandah is very little, and this work can also be done during the winter season, all ready for use with the coming of hot weather next year, if sectional screens are built which can simply be hooked in place when needed. The protection afforded from flies and mosquitoes will make the verandah the most appreciated room in the house.

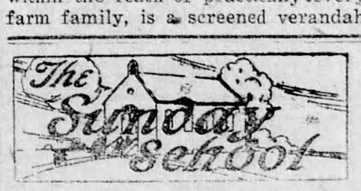
A few inexpensive easy chairs, a hammock and perhaps a sanitary cot will complete the equipment for the added day comfort which the screened porch will afford. Special attention regarding the comfort of the bed occupied by the hired man, as well as every member of the farm family will also pay. Good springs and mattresses do much to restore tired bodies and increase their capacity for effective work in the field or elsewhere.

Another comfort which, while perhaps not next in importance, merits early attention, is the providing of ice for summer use in the home. A cheaply and roughly constructed ice house, or perhaps the utilization of some building already on the farm, and the putting up of an ample supply of ice during the coming winter will be neither costly or difficult for the average farmer.

Good heating and lighting facilities are also home comforts of the first importance. They also have a very direct influence on the health and well being of the occupants of the home. The small, well-heated house is becoming increasingly popular everywhere. The method of heating must, of course, be determined by the circumstances in each individual case. There is no question about the superiority of furnace heat where it can be provided, but in any event all the living rooms should be sufficiently well heated to make them comfortable, with adequate ventilation to insure the health and comfort of the occupants.

Good light is another advantage which is enjoyed in too few homes, although lighting conditions have vastly improved in recent years with the development of various types of lighting facilities at a cost within the reach of all. The farm unit electric lighting plant, with the added advantage of power available for use in house and barn, or the acetylene gas plant which will afford the most efficient and convenient possible fuel for the kitchen range are the most desirable types of equipment. But where these are considered too costly for present installation, there are many types of lighting equipment which can be purchased at small cost, and will add greatly to the comfort and attractiveness of the home.

Mechanical helps in the accomplishment of the housework which are too numerous to permit of enumeration are also entitled to consideration in the matter of home comfort, particularly in its relation to the present and impending labor crisis. Every device which can be successfully introduced to lighten the labor in the home is of just as great economic importance under present conditions as are similar devices for lightening outdoor tasks.



INTERNATIONAL LESSON
AUGUST 24.

Social Responsibility—Luke 10: 25-37; Gal. 6: 2, 9, 10; James 2: 14-16.
Golden Text, Gal. 6: 10.

Luke 10: 25-37. What Shall I Do? That is quite naturally the lawyer's question. That is the question of many who are seeking guidance from the Church to-day in matters of social unrest and change. "What shall we do to save society?" The answer must be Christ's answer, "Love God and love thy neighbor." Within the Church there will be, as there has always been, differences of opinion, differences of judgment, on political or social systems. Where the law of love prevails there will be friendly interchange of opinion, there will be earnest and patient study of the problems involved, and there will be always regard for the interest, the well-being, and the point of view of those who differ. Out of such friendly and brotherly relations true progress will come. The best-planned system of reform or change may prove imperfect. It may have its day and cease to be. But love abides, the unalterable law of God. "Love never faileth."

Who Is My Neighbor? is the earnest inquirer's next question. To whom does this law of love apply? Does it apply to an alien, a foreigner, an enemy, a rival? Does it apply to a man of another race, or color, or creed? The parable of the good Samaritan is the answer. Your neighbor is the one who suffers, the one who has been ill-treated, the one who needs your help and whom you can help. The Samaritan proved himself neighbor to the poor fellow who had fallen among thieves.

It will not be difficult to apply the teaching of the parable to present conditions. If we meet from day to day those who suffer from any cause, whether they have been robbed, or insufficiently clothed or housed or fed, or unable to have the comforts or decencies of life for their children, or are broken in health, or mentally deficient, or without faith and hope in God, we have found our opportunity to obey the law of love. These are our neighbors. What have we done, what shall we do, to help them? To be interested, to feel responsibility, to seek to understand and sympathize and help in the wisest and most effective way, is possible for us all. To pray for power and wisdom to help is our privilege. It is in connection with this very question of right and helpful relations with those about us that Jesus uttered the great promise of Matt. 7: 7, "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." See Matt. 7: 1-12.

Priest and Levite thought only of their own interest and their own security. They put self-interest first. The Samaritan thought first of his duty to the sufferer. Love prompted his willing and ready effort to help and to heal.

The exhortation of James (2: 14-16) is to the same effect. No profession of faith, or good words, will take the place of loving deeds. Our faith will be surely tested by our treatment of those who have need. A little self-denial on our part will always make possible that greatest happiness, the happiness of ministering to the needy or to the suffering. For "happiness is a great love and much serving."

Sing a song of silage, the pasture's brown and dry;
Silage in the manger keep the milk yield high.
When the grass is scanty, silage is the thing
That makes the dairy farmer dance with joy, and sing.

Boiling water poured through the cloth will remove tea stains.

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each queston and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed.

Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 23 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

C. E.:—In filling a hope chest what should I put into it first? What next?

There is no rule, for it really does not matter. The reason for having the chest is to provide a place in which to keep one's possessions and they are placed there as they happen to be made or received as gifts. A sensible girl will not confine her efforts to the making of things that are merely decorative. So much of the fancy work that is stored up in hope chests (and elsewhere) goes out of style before it is used, and many a young housekeeper who before marriage thought that fancy towels and hand-embroidered underwear were of the the greatest importance, has found herself handicapped because of a scant supply of service towels and bed linen. If the contents of your chest are not to be used in the near future, use your spare moments in making the pretty laces to be done in crochet, knitting or tatting. These trimmings will come in nicely in decorating the household and personal belongings which you will make up when you know that they will be needed.

Mother Carey:—Please suggest some games which the children could play out-of-doors.

"Sandpiper" may be played on the lawn, on the beach, or on the sidewalk. To play it, all the children except two form a flock of sandpipers. They hop up and down, while the two who are hunters try to catch them. The hunters put forth their very best efforts to catch two of the sandpipers so that they may become hunters in turn. But it is not an easy thing to catch a little boy or girl sandpiper, because, according to the rules of the game, they can escape as long as they hop or stand on one leg. Let him stop hopping or begin to run, however, and he is liable to be caught by the hunters.

"Target Toss" is another good game. Draw three circles on the grass—the first one to be one foot in diameter, around this draw a circle two feet in diameter, and around this a third circle measuring three feet. Stand about ten feet away from the edge of the outer circle. A bean bag is used to toss into the circles. If it enters the small circle, twenty-five is counted. The second circle counts fifteen, the third five. Any number of people may play.

G. K.:—Would not your friend appreciate a subscription to some good magazine more than anything else? About books, surely you see book reviews in magazines and papers and often you can get a very good idea of a suitable book by reading these notices carefully. Sometimes I know they prove a disappointment but one can tell much from the author and that minimizes the risk of buying a book on the strength of a book review. Whenever you go to the city take an hour to browse in the best book store. Book store folk like people to do this and you do not need to buy unless you wish.

Polly:—Will you tell me what is needed in order to be considered a well-dressed girl?

In order to be well dressed one must be well groomed, which means first of all perfect personal cleanliness. The hair should be clean, well brushed and combed in a style suited to the age of the girl. If hair ribbons are used they should be clean and pressed, and of a color which will harmonize with the dress. Black hair ribbons for general wear are always in good taste. Teeth should be brushed, and nails trimmed and clean. Shoes and stockings should be of one color. Black or tan shoes, always in good taste, are the most practicable for all-round wear. They should always be polished and neatly laced or buttoned to give a good appearance. If white shoes are worn it should be with light clothes, and care should be taken to keep them clean. Shoes of an extreme style and with high heels will detract from the appearance of an otherwise well-dressed girl. They are very detrimental to good health. All garments should be clean, pressed and mended, and suited to the occasion on which they are worn. It is better to plan a complete, simple wardrobe where all garments harmonize than to combine very plain with elaborate things. Carefully planned clothes and a well-groomed person will produce the effect you desire.

X. Y. Z.:—It is hard to want to do some good in the world and help the poor little French kiddies and not have the children whose help you have enlisted, keep up their interest. Why not sometime invite them to your house and talk to them about it and in that way stir up their enthusiasm? Paint them a little picture of what these poor children have been through: starved, wounded many of them, with no homes and possibly father and brothers killed. Have you not pictures of their plight to show them? Then you can serve some sandwiches to eat and maybe you can plan something special by which to earn some money. But do not let your interest wane, for if you can keep that up, you can inspire the others in time, I am sure.

My dear, you need nothing for your complexion but good, healthy work and exercise and fresh air and I am sure you get that. Drink lots of water; eat vegetables instead of rich, greasy, fried foods, and you will be amazed to see how soon your skin will clear. Plenty of sleep will "cure" the dark rings under your eyes. Do write me again and tell me how you succeed in raising pennies for the French orphans.

Gray Eyes:—You write me that you have not spoken to this girl friend for a month and that you are very unhappy and have many embarrassing moments when you are out in the same company together. Maybe you are in the right and she should apologize first. But why not show her you can be big-minded? Put your false pride in your pocket and go to her and ask her to be friends again. It may hurt a trifle but is that hurt to be compared to your present unhappiness? Really these things have to be looked at in a practical and not sentimental way and if you are not sacrificing a principle in holding out the olive branch, and I am sure you are not in this case, then it is only the part of wisdom to do the thing that will relieve you of strain and worry. Such experiences as these, if met properly, make you a sweeter and finer woman in every way; but if you harden yourself, you only make yourself and everyone around you unhappy.

Artificial light to lengthen the hen's working day may seem hard on the hen, but it is good for the poultryman's pocketbook.

A good appetite is characteristic of good laying. Keep a watch on the hens with finicky appetities.

The best winter layers come from chicks that are kept growing all the time, and not permitted to have any setbacks.

When buying hens from a stranger, watch the hens when at work. If they move quick and lively and seem bright and alert, it is a good indication that they are thrifty.

Litter in the hen house becomes hard and packed by constant use, and does not hide the grain scattered in it. The signs are right then for a good house-cleaning. Stir up or renew the litter.

Hens relish fruit, especially apples, plums, and other fruits that so often go to waste. It does not matter if the fruit is decayed; rotten apples never injured chickens. The seeds of apples are a dainty and palatable article of diet.

Different kinds of grain should be placed in different hoppers, so the hens can mix the feed as they want it. Sometimes they need more of one kind than another. I like that plan better than mixing the grains and pouring them all into the same hopper.

Buckwheat and millet sown together (about one-fourth buckwheat) make an inexpensive poultry food. I let it ripen, then cut and bunch it and allow it to dry a few days before housing. The chickens do the threshing during the winter, and it gives them needed exercise. It is the best egg producer I ever tried.

A silo for hens is one of the latest and is likely to prove one of the best improvements for poultrymen. Take an old vinegar or molasses barrel or hogshead and bore a hole in the bottom for drainage. Set the barrel on a stand above the ground, with boards in the stand far enough apart to allow free circulation of air. Fit the top cover so that it will go inside and fit well, yet so that it can be easily taken out. Fill the barrel with any kind of green stuff that fowls will eat, such as lawn clippings, vegetable tops, fine-cut clover, etc. It need not be filled all at once, but can be added to, from time to time, through the summer.

To Prevent Moths.

Take some cotton batting and cut it in little squares or make little wads of it and saturate the pieces with oil of turpentine or oil of cedar. Place these in drawers or closets or in packages containing articles to be protected.

Even if your wife has got the vote, hang on to some of your privileges—splitting the wood, for instance.

We have saved grain that was damp when threshed by sticking stakes down through the bin. Four two-inch strips of board, nailed together in the form of a spout and set down through the grain, will serve the purpose.