FARMING

In this department each week will be given general information to farmers and stockmen. No attempt will be made to criticize the work already being done by Canadian farmers; but an effort will be made to present to the farmers of the country summarized information contained in government reports, and the actual experiences of men and women who have achieved success in farming by following modern methods. Farmers who have found new "wrinkles" or have made a success in any special line of agriculture are invited to send short letters to this paper giving their experiences, or criticizing any of the information contained in these columns.

MAKE MORE PROFIT ON DAIRY HERDS

Good Sires Will Increase Milk and Fat Production and Increase Returns

Some men breed beef cattle for pleasure, but most men breed them for profit. If you expect to make profit you should breed what the butcher wants, who is the final judge of all block animals.

The butcher wants a steer low down, square, thick fleshed and fat. If you are using a scrub sire can you ever expect to produce such animals?

The answer is "No," because such sires do not possess the low down, blocky, thick-set form. A beef bull breeds into his calves what has been bred into him for generations. If this is scrub blood he will breed scrub calves. If it is good blood he will breed good calves.

The market wants thick, meaty steers and will pay a premium for them. The right kind of a sire will put the meat over the back, loins and in the thighs. This is what the butcher looks at when he buys a steer.

If you are using a scrub sire you are producing steers that are small in size, thin fleshed over the back and loins, and which usually have a large paunch. This is cheap meat and sells for a low price.

Can you afford to continue this practice? Not if you expect to put your business on the same plane as the banker. If you do not have ready money most banks will loan you a sufficient amount to purchase a good beef sire.

A GOOD DAIRY SIRE

Will increase the milk production.
Will increase the fat production.
Will enable one to get more product from same amount of feed.
Will increase selling price of surplus stock.

All these will increase the net profit.

The milk production of heifers out of ordinary cows and sired by Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey and Guernsey bulls increased over that of their dams by 64 per cent. The fat production increased by 52 per cent.

The second generation increased in milk production over the original cows 130 per cent. In fat production 109 per cent.

KINDNESS WITH COWS.

One evening while I was away from home, the young man of the place started in milking his cows, and as he went from one cow to the other he talked to them in a mild, pleasurable voice. "They don't understand what I say," he remarked, "but they sure do like to be entertained this way. They've simply got to give down their milk when I get to gassin' them, and they put out their noses, get their cud up and seem to enjoy themselves chewing away to the tune of good about cows than he was given credit for. He knew how gentleness on his part affected the producing qualities of the cow, he knew the value of quiet handling. His father hired a man to help do the milking. The first night the new man lost his temper when a certain somewhat stubborn cow refused to walk directly into the stables. The lad did not wait for his father to tell the man that his work was done on that farm, for he knew he would not be profitable to have in the stables where the biggest end of the farm's income was made.

According to him, the stubborn cow should have been coaxed, for she was one of the best producers and should have been persuaded instead of driven. In some lots this kind of a cow would have been cornered with a club and made to tremble until she toed the mark.

Look about you and see if it isn't the conteneted cows or other animals that are doing their utmost in your behalf. Kindness is one of the most powerful agents in the profitable care and handling of livestock, whether it be a cow or not, and it should be portrayed both in word and action. If the dairy cow is to make a record in the herd, she must know that her caretaker is a man who knows the value of all little attentions besides being a first class feeder.

Loud talking and yelling are disturbing. A cow which is unruly may be better off in the shambles. Patience and kindness, however, sometimes work wonders with such a cow, success depending a great deal on the individual. A dog which is inclined to worry the cows, whether they have calves about them or not, often excites them to such an extent that their milk flow will fall off. Running cows from the pasture field or in the pasture field is injurious and will decrease the milk flow.

Gentleness, quiet handling and a kind disposition exhibited toward the animals are essential in profitable production of milk.

HER JOB.

Will—So your poor, blind grandmother wants a job?

Wont—Yep. Do you know of any work for her?

Will—Sure. Any sorority will hire her as chaperone.

STORING ROOTS AND POTATOES.

The two methods most used for the storing of roots and potatoes are the pit and the root house. The pit method is excellent but has the disadvantage of not being easily accessible during very cold weather. To make a pit dig a trench four feet wide and two feet deep and pile the crop in level with the sides and heap towards the centre, not having any roots higher than three and a half feet at the centre. Before putting in the crop, nail two twelve-inch boards together forming a V-shaped ventilator the full length of the pit and allow them to protrude each end, rest the ventilators on the two boards, a hole being cut in the boards to allow ventilation to come from below. The ventilator shafts are made from 8-inch boards, two sides not boarded up inside the pit but slatted to allow free air passage and at the same time prevent roots from getting into the shaft. When all is in place cover with straw and put on just enough soil to prevent the straw from blowing away, and allow the roots to cool off for a few days. Then add five or six inches of soil leaving all vents open both at the top and at the ends. As the weather gets colder add more dirt and in very cold weather close the vents by stuffing old sacks or similar material into them. When the weather modifies remove the sacking.

In root houses similar precautions must be taken. Give the house as much air as possible when the roots are first sorted and see that the atmosphere is not too dry. In our dry climate we sprinkle the floor well once in three weeks. Should there be the least sign of shrivelling, more water should be put on the floor. Vegetables that have already gone down a little can be brought back by increasing the moisture of the air. During warm spells close the door during the day leaving it open in the evening till bed time to cool the air. The temperature in a root cellar or pit should not go above 38 deg. Fahrenheit nor below 32 deg. The moisture content of the air can be taken by a hydrometer.

During long spells of cold weather we watch the thermometers very closely and if any danger is feared we use oil burners in the cellar at night. The exposed walls of a root cellar need air spaces if made of stone or cement. When only a small portion of the cellar is out of the ground, bank well with manure and this will keep the frost from penetrating the walls.

Points to Remember.

Allow the roots or potatoes to harden and dry in the field covering them with tops if the weather is cold.

Handle carefully; bruised and damaged products should be kept apart to be used up first.

Don't pile up the crop too high. We make our bins three feet high with a false bottom over the lower bin, and then fill another three feet. This allows free circulation of the air and can be cooled off very quickly.

Let the air in freely from doors and ventilators and keep the holes in the roof for filling the root house open ti'l danger of heavy frost is near.

Watch the humidity of the house and keep the floor well sprinkled to avoid shrivelling.

Do not allow the temperature to go higher than 38 deg., nor lower than 32 deg.

JUST COMMON SALT.

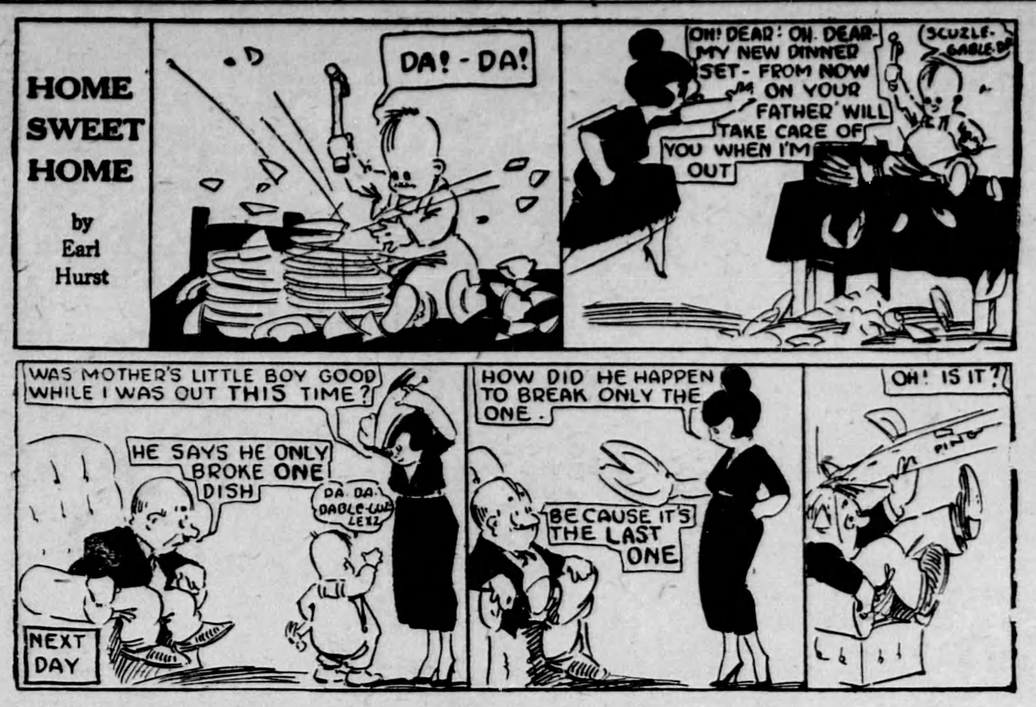
What is the greatest mineral treasure of the earth? Coal? Iron? Gold? No, just common salt. For gold, iron, and coal substitutes may be found, but without salt life would be impossible. In some countries it is formed from the sea, notably at Alvarado, near San Francisco. There tracts of low-lying country are flooded with sea water, which rapidly evaporates in the intense heat, leaving the brine behind in pans, to be harvested and carried to the refineries. Open-air salt farming is hopelessly impracticable in Britain for the simple reason that Old Sol cannot be depended upon. Consequently, the salt in the beds at Droitwich and Northwich has to be recovered by mining and pumping. Beneath the latter town there is a massive chamber, seventeen acres in area by seventeen feet in height, which has been produced by excavating salt. The ground upon which the town is built is steadily caving in, the skin of soil and rock, one hundred and twenty-four feet thick, upon which the buildings are resting, proving too weak to support them. Of course, as most people know, the most amazing salt mine in the world is at Wieliczka, Poland, with its magnificent cathedral, crucifix, altar, pulpit, and statues of saints, magnificent ballroom, bewildering lay-out of broad streets, restaurant, railway station, and other features incidental to every surface colony, but all of salt.

Sewing by a Hand Machine.

The greatest convenience I have is a hand sewing machine. It cost eight dollars and I have had ten times its value in the use I have had out of it. I have had it fourteen years and in that time it has not needed a single repair.

The children like to learn to sew on it, as it is easy to run. If there is any very heavy sewing to do it can be attached to an old machine table and used with the treadle.

The machine is light so I can carry it out under the trees or on the porch in summer and into the living room in winter.—Mrs. R. A. S.



ELECTRICITY FOR THE FARM HOME

Concerted Action by Municipalities Would Provide for Wide Distribution of This Convenience

The necessity for a more adequate supply of electric energy to the smaller communities, particularly in the Prairie provinces, has often been pointed out by the Commission of Conservation. Concerted action would bring this most beneficial utility to every town, village and practically every farm within reach.

The middle west of the United States is very aggressive in this respect. Central stations are building lines as rapidly as possible, and are planning more for the immediate future. Regarding the construction and cost of these the Electrical World states:

"In general the construction is of two sorts for two very different purposes. The first consists mainly of 33,000-volt and 66,000-volt lines, interconnecting generating stations and taking on new towns or industries. The second consists of 2,300-volt and 4,6,000-volt lines, designed to serve groups of farmers and small villages.

"While it is difficult to generalize on prices when the metal markets are so unstable, it may be said that farm lines cost at present from $600 to $800 a mile and the 33,000-volt and 66,000-volt lines cost from $3,500 to $4,500 a mile. Moreover, the cost factor seems at present to be one of the most important items in determining how long this era of construction may last. Certainly the demand for service will not limit the activity for some time to come, especially in the farm-line extensions."—L. G. Denis.

MAKE LIFE ON THE FARM APPEALING

Since the war a problem which has been worrying agriculturists all over the country is that of keeping the boy and the girl on the farm. All the literature that I have seen on the subject shows quite plainly that no panacea has been discovered to meet the digiculty in connection with the exodus of the boys and girls from the farms. I think that hon. gentlemen will agree that we can at least go a long way towards solving the problem by adopting better farm methods; by making the home more attractive; by keeping better livestock; by making more profit on the farm, which will make possible more comfortable conditions such as will be conducive to happiness and contentment; by making conditions tolerable for the farmer's wife; and generally by doing everything we can to make life on the farm appealing. In addition to this, I think that good roads and cheap automobiles should play a very great part in helping to keep the young people on the farms by rendering very valuable assistance to the farmer in different ways in connection with his work and by enabling him and his family to move around and mix with the neighbors, thus obtaining some social pleasure out of life.—Hon. S. F. Tolmie, in House of Commons.

TORTOISESHELL FROM COTTON.

Most of the so-called tortoiseshell rims that are put around eye-glasses never had anything to do with a tortoise. They are made from cotton. In fact, many umbrella handles, hairpins, combs, buttons, buckles, and bracelets are also made from cotton. The cotton is first turned into tissue paper; this is threaded, dried, and dusted. Next the paper threads are dipped into a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids. The moisture is pressed out of it and the remainder is ground fine. It is mixed with ether, alcohol, camphor, and other things to form a dough-like mass. Under hydraulic pressure the dough is kneaded and moulded into cakes. The cakes are sliced and hung up to season. Dies cut the material into its final form, and it is shaped, polished, and drilled. While the material is still plastic the proper dyes are added. The most common colorings are ivory, tortoiseshell, and pearl.

Freeing Potato Skins.

Next time you bake sweet potatoes try placing a dish of hot water in the oven. You will find that the skins do not stick and cause a waste.—Mrs. F. W. G.

Helps for the Housewife

SUGGESTIONS FOR REMOVING STAINS

Stains of any kind should receive immediate attention, and now that no colored goods are guaranteed fast, it is safest to test a small sample of the material before trying to remove stains from a garment.

Colored fabrics are sometimes spoiled by treating with drastic chemical stain removers, but by testing the sample colored fabric in advance this will be avoided, and a milder agent can be tried. Water rings, left after a stain is removed, can be disposed of by holding that portion over steam.

Here are a few suggestions for renovating some of the common stains that the summer season seems to bring to our frocks and linens.

For fruit stains, spread the stained part over a bowl and pour boiling water directly on the spot from a height. Should the stain not disappear with this treatment add a little borax to the water and try again.

Fruit stains on white fabrics, if stubborn or observed some time after they have happened, should be treated with a few drops of oxalic acid placed only on the spot. Use the glass stopper on this and use sparingly. Immediately afterward rinse thoroughly with hot water. Soaking in equal parts of boiling and Javelle water will remove some stains in a few minutes, but Javelle should not be used for silks or colored articles. Use ammonia instead, first testing.

Stains left by milk or cream or ice cream can be removed easily with cold water. Chocolate stains should first be covered with borax, then washed with cold water and finally rinsed with boiling water. This applies to coffee stains as well.

Perspiration stains left on linen or cotton should be washed in warm water and soap and then left in the sun to dry.

Fresh paint stains can be removed with soap and water. But if the stains are old the spot should first be covered with lard or oil to soften it, then washed with gasoline, benzine or turpentine to remove the oil. Tar stains must first be treated with kerosene, then the fabric should be washed with warm water and soap.

Always handle inflammable fluids outdoors. Never under any circumstances attempt to cleanse with them in some room where there is a flame of any kind.

Some of the silks that are not waterproof may show signs of the rain, but they can be freshened by steam. Keep the kettle boiling hard, then shake the spotted article over the steam from the spout until it is moist throughout. Then shake until it is thoroughly dry.

A NEW USE FOR YOUR ALARM CLOCK

I find that an alarm clock can be used during the day as well as to help one rise early in the morning. Often, when baking, I set it as a reminder to look into my oven, when doing bits of work in another part of the house. This saves many a cake from scorching. Frequently I have just a few minutes to lie down and relax. I set the alarm clock at the time I must go to work again, and find that the rest is more beneficial when I do not have to worry about resting too long. I also use my alarm clock in taking doses of medicine which come several hours apart. The alarm clock has become a most valuable household article.

The capital invested in shipbuilding in Canada amounts to $60,000,000. The number of marine plants reported in 1918 was 204, of which 90 were engaged in the building of ships and 114 in the building of boats.

A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT FUR FARMING

Business Still in Experimental Stage---Prospective Fur Farmers Must be Pioneers

The tenor of inquiries received by the Commission of Conservation indicates that some persons imagine that fur farming is an easy business to undertake. This is a serious mistake. Success in fur farming demands a combination of favorable local conditions, moderate capital, perseverance in the face of difficulty and discouragement, enthusiasm for the work and a sympathetic understanding of wild animals. Fur farming is not as simple as raising chickens and not even everyone who attempts chicken-raising is successful.

The fox has been kept in captivity for some years and it has been demonstrated that it can be successfully and profitably raised. Its habits have been studied and much is definitely known as to its management. But, with regard to other fur-bearers, comparatively little is known, though the right kind of man can achieve success with mink, skunks, muskrat, beaver, etc. He must, however, expect to depend on his own wits and to solve difficulties for himself, without having a store of previous human experience to guide him.

A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING

Do not put away bread until thoroughly cool.

Old velveteen makes excellent polishing cloths.

For "small change" in Abyssinia blocks of salt are commonly used.

Baby carriages which are propelled by electricity are now to be had.

Chinese cannot be telegraphed; figures corresponding to certain words have to be used.

Seventy-five years ago the annual production of paper in the world was only 200,000 tons.

The Japanese have a pretty custom of celebrating the blossoming of the fruit trees by a general holiday.

Antipodes Island, not far from New Zealand, was thus named because it is directly opposite to London.

The Chinese boil all their bread instead of baking it—or, if baked at all, it is browned after boiling.

The largest plants in the world are seaweed. One tropical variety is known which, when it reaches it full development, is at least 600 feet in length.

Like many other things which are supposed to be the gift of progress, fish-hatching is an art of great antiquity in China, the most stationary country in the world.

In France noted criminals are made to speak and sing into a phonograph before their discharge from prison, that in future their voice may be identified, in case of need.

The first successful automobile on modern lines was built in Springfield, Mass., in 1891. It was not a financial success at first. Several years later a small steam automobile was put on the market by the same company and succeeded.

The Investment Value of Newspaper Advertising

PROBLEMS of transportation and the high cost of selling and distributing goods at a distance, have prompted manufacturers to look for "logical markets."

"Logical markets" are places that can be served easily and economically.

For example: This community is a logical market for many manufacturers whose plants are located here or hereabouts.

The manufacturer who can send his goods into this locality easily and regularly, ought to be building a permanent investment here through advertising in the newspapers.

Newspaper advertising will create popular demand. Dealer interest and support will come, too, because the dealer knows that newspaper advertising does create a demand for him to fill.

Make this community a stronghold for your product through newspaper advertising.

You can easily establish now a good will and confidence for your product that will prove a permanent investment for the future.