ARE FARM HOMES UNDER EQUIPPED?

The Average Canadian Woman Carries Over a Ton of Water Each Day.

BY F. E. FOGGLE.

Agriculture or farming, unlike teaching, storekeeping, banking or manufacturing, is a family affair. It is a rare thing when a single man manages a farm, for profit, successfully and continuously. The wife is a necessary partner in the farm business. She has an equal part in making " a full and comfortable living from the land," and in leaving "the farm more productive than when taken," and her's is the major part in rearing a family carefully and well, and being of good service to the community.

If these statements are true, equipment for living is as important as equipment for operation. Machinery and labor-saving devices have benefited the farmer greatly. Modern improvements have entered the farmer's home and benefited the farmer's wife relatively to a very small extent.

Imagine the average farm home with no modern improvements. Picture the wife rising early to light a fire in a cold kitchen; follow her through the routine of the day's work; bear with her until the children are in bed and the mending done. Now let us bring into play the magic of Aladdin's lamp. Give her a modern kitchen and the plain home conveniences. Just those that would be found in any moderate city home. A sink with hot and cold running water, a heating plant, a bath room, with septic tank for sewage disposal, a lighting plant, possibly a power separator, an electric flat iron and vacuum cleaner. Now view the picture at the end of the day. The hardest work has been removed, the work ay has been made shorter.

> THE REQUIREMENTS OF A GOOD FARMER
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> Someone has given us four requirements for a good farmer:
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> First, the ability to make a full and comfortable living from the land.
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> Second, to rear a family cerefully and well.
>
> Third, to be of good service to the community.
>
> Fourth, to leave the farm more productive than it was when he took it.

Imagine the joy and satisfaction at having some leisure time over and above that required for sleep.

And what would it cost? A long spell of sickness with the incident loss of time would put in the most important of the conveniences. The price of an enclosed model of a popular make of small car would buy the whole plant.

Equipment for efficient farm living should have equal place if not preference over equipment for operating. No farm can be considered equipped for efficient work until the commissary and sanitary departments are on an efficient basis.

Let us consider the cost and relative importance of what we shall call, "The Big Five" of modern improvements, water supply, heating, plumbing, lighting and power equipment.

"I have $400 to spend on improvements in our home. Which shall I put in, a lighting plant, a furnace, a water system, or can I put in a bathroom?" This question was recently asked by a farmer. Many farmers have the same question to decide. The answer will vary in individual cases. However, in the majority of cases, after careful consideration, the answer will be the same.

Hot and cold running water in the farm home offers three distinct advantages. First, the saving of labor and strength is great. It would be enlightening to every farmer and his wife to calculate the actual pounds of water handled in a day, including each time it is handled. It will be a ton or more.

Second, running water offers new opportunities for health, comfort and increased efficiency. Piped to a conveniently located sink in the kitchen, it will take some of the dread from dishwashing; piped over the tubs in a laundry room it will take some of the labor out of wash day. It will make possible a plumbing system and a fully equipped bath room.

Third, a water system is one of the most economical conveniences to install and the operating expenses and depreciation are low. A system to furnish hot and cold water may be had for about thirty dollars and all the parts may be used later when a more complete system is installed.

Before extensive plumbing can be installed in a farm home, it is necessary to have a heating system to protect it from freezing. To attempt to heat the whole house by stoves would cost much more than with a central heating plant and the house would not be well heated at that.

Of the methods of heating farm houses, other than stoves, that of the hot-air furnace is the most common.

Since a water system must precede plumbing, and a heating plant is necessary to protect pipes, plumbing must at least take third place in order of installation of improvements in the farm home.

The facts that commercial concerns have persistently and consistently advertised lighting plants, and that light makes a better display than other improvements, are reasons why many farmers have installed lighting plants before they have water systems, plumbing, or a heating system,. The electric plant makes possible many electric driven appliances, as vacuum cleaner, electric washer, flat iron, toaster, etc. But it is doubtful even when this is considered, whether, from the standpoint of comfort derived and labor saved, the light plant can be given higher than fourth place among home improvements.

The remaining item of the "Big Five" in home conveniences is power equipment. This includes power washing machine, power driven cream separator, churn, and vacuum cleaner. While electricity is most convenient for operating these machines, the gasoline engine has solved the problem on many farms. The gasoline engine has been a great boon for farmers. It is a self-contained, compact, convenient power plant that may be added in large or small units.

From benefits derived and the low cost, it appears that the first improvement to install in the farm home is running water. The heating plant must be installed to protect the plumbing which comes third, followed by the lighting plant. Power equipment, not being dependent on other improvements, may be added as occasion demands.

Surely everyone believes that life on the farm should be satisfying, happy and prosperous, and that it cannot be so without some leisure time for every member of the family. Then let us determine to provide modern conveniences as finances permit.

Chase Dingy-Looking Colors Out of Your Kitchen.

Why not bighten up your kitchen after the dinginess of winter? It can be made attractive for summer by using paint and varnish, making fresh curtains, and possibly getting a new covering for the floor.

Dingy-looking colors are to be avoided in the kitchen. Clean and clear, yet subdued colors, make a much more cheerful-looking and comfortable workshop.

Ivory and cool shades of gray, tan, and blue-gray can be used for the walls, with a lighter shade for the ceiling. Additional color can be used in the curtains, the linoleum, or in a border stenciled around the wall next to the ceiling. Cool tones of gray with pink or blue check curtains and white enameled woodwork, or ivory walls and blue painted furniture do a great deal to freshen up a dull kitchen.

Calcimine is a cheap, sanitary finish for the walls, and gives a fresh, clean-looking surface. This finish can be put on by the average housewife. Paint is a much more durable finish and it can easily be washed, but it is a little more expensive and harder to put on. Paper is not practical for the kitchen.

Refinish your old tables and chairs with a little paint and enamel. These, finished in gray, blue, ivory or green, with a simple design of two or three bright colors stenciled on them, help to make an unattractive kitchen cheerful. Old coffee and baking powder cans painted and enameled in bright colors can be used for cereals and spices, and at the same time add bright spots to a white kitchen. A plant or a small window box also help to add freshness.

Crisp white curtains add freshness and attractiveness to the kitchen. Japanese toweling, colored cambric or voile, and gingham make effective curtains that are washable, and help to carry the color scheme around the room.

My garden marker is made thus: I took a rear wheel from a flivver and knocked the iron rim off. Then I drilled three-eighths-inch holes in the wooden rim between the spokes and bolted tapered lugs two inches wide by three inches high to it, and mounted the wheel on a frame made of one-half-inch gas-pipe, similar to a wheelbarrow frame. By wheeling this down the row I can space my hills or plants six inches, twelve inches, 18 inches, etc., by spacing the lugs.—F. K.

A rut is the line of least resistance.

ECLIPSE FASHIONS

Exclusive Patterns by Sheila Bryan

A NEAT HOUSE-DRESS.

Every woman, whether a bride of a few weeks or of mature years, desires to look her best on all occasions. This simple house dress or apron, No. 1066, is easily made. It has but two pieces, front and back, with fullness in the skirt, obtained by means of slashes at low waist-line. We illustrate this pleasing pattern in gingham with plain chambray pockets on which are appliqued a simple design. The neck and sleeve edges are finished with rick rack braid. But when developed in soft dimity, lightweight muslin or linen, the housewife finds she has a dress ready for duty any time of the day. Cut in sizes 34 to 48 inches bust. Size 38 requires 3⅛ yards of 36-inch material. Pattern 20 cents.

A "Change-About" Kitchen.

Have as many things as possible in your kitchen fitted with casters; as, the kitchen table, the stool on which you sit when preparing foods, the woodbox, the flour chest, the fireless cooker, and so on. If you use a coal oil or gasoline stove, have it fastened securely onto a low wooden platform that is fitted with strong casters, so you may move it to suit your convenience. All this will not be expensive and will be well worth it.

A kitchen arrangement, you see, that is good at one time of the year may be just the reverse at another time, because of light or heat.

Also the kind of work you are doing makes a difference as to convenience. For instance, when ironing it is best to have the ironing board and the stove near together, to avoid extra steps. If the ironing board can not be moved near the stove because of the light, it is nice to be able to roll your coal oil or gasoline stove near the ironing board, so you have only to reach out to get a hot iron. When canning fruit, or doing any other seasonal work, it may be desirable to move your table or stove. And on wash days you may like many things moved out of your way.

This "change-about" plan is eminently practicable. If you once try casters on everything, you never again will be willing to work where everything is stationary the year round—unless yours is a "model" kitchen.

Pineapple Vegetable Salad.

One cup chopped cabbage, 1 cup celery, 1 cup drained grated pineapple, French dressing.

Mix cabbage, celery, and pineapple thoroughly with French dressing. Let it stand for one hour before serving, then serve on crisp lettuce leaf.—Mrs. A. P.

JUST INSIDE YOUR DOOR

Your Hall Makes the First Impression on Your Guests—Is it Favorable?

BY JULIA WOLFE.

Pobably your hall is quite small, and has at least three doors opening from it, and a flight of stairs to be fitted in somewhere; not much chance of making it look interesting, but you can make it a cheerful spot, never let it be a dull one. First of all, it wants some color in it.

The walls should not be dark red or brown, or even that soft deep gray green you may have in mind as "useful." Leave such colors for spacious halls with plenty of light. Have your walls cream, yellow, or even a pretty shade of light blue, and then you can have dark painted or stained woodwork to show it up. Whether the walls are painted, papered or what not, the small hall must be light.

Your floor covering may be stained boards, linoleum, or any one of the many commercial floor coverings. But with the two first-mentioned those gay oval rush mats are the best things for bringing in a splash of color. One in yellow, blue and green, would be a good choice with cream walls.

You can buy a plain square umbrella stand and place it in the most inconspicuous corner. The old-fashioned hall-stand always had a mirror and you surely should have a mirror, but not the old-fashioned stand. A plain oval or oblong one, framed in wood to match the umbrella stand, is much better taste than an "oxydized" one. If at all possible, hang it opposite the principal source of light, and by reflection it will make your hall seem very much brighter than before.

And now you most likely have room for a "hall chair," but all the same I would not buy one if you have not one already. Who sits on them? You don't, your family does not, and most certainly your guests do not. If you must have a chair in the hall, see that it is very plain.

A small hall-table is always convenient; one with a drawer that you can keep shoes, etc., in when you are in a hurry. One of plain dark oak, oblong in shape—about two feet by fifteen inches, is a good size. Such a table should have no cover and no ornament save a bowl of flowers, and that is where you can bring in another bit of color. Get a gaily colored bowl.

Pictures, if any, should be black and white sketches or etchings, or else bright colored prints—don't mix them. Never have big pictures in the hall, two or three small ones are better.

You may have a little window that needs curtains, but do not shut out all the light. Why not make curtains of plain net? It gives you privacy, yet admits the maximum of daylight. In orange, or leaf green, it will just suit your hall.

Have as few things as possible in the small hall.

The Prince of Wales, standing beside Admiral Halsey, acknowledges cheers from the quarterdeck of H.M.S. Repulse, voyaging along the coast of Africa, with a visit to South America to follow.

WILD STRAWBERRIES

BY LUCY RANDALL COMFORT.

"You are very quiet this evening, Kitty," said Grandmamma Corbin. Kitty sat in her usual place at the round table, where the cheerful light of the student-lamp fell upon the pages of her geography; but she was not studying. She sat staring down at the red-and-black pattern of the table cover, with her chin resting in the hollow of her hands.

"Yes, grandmamma, I am quiet," said Kitty, with a sigh.

"Are your lessons hard to-night?"

"It isn't my lessons, grandmamma," said Kitty, with a big sob in her throat; "it's my conscience."

"What on earth does the child mean?" said Grandmamma Corbin, peering over her spectacles.

She was a nice old lady, in a black dress and a white lace cap, with a string of gold beads around her neck—just the sort of grandmother to go to, in any sort of trouble. So Kitty jumped down, and ran to hide her face on the old lady's shoulder.

"You said our consciences were like alarm clocks, grandmamma," said Kitty, "and mine keeps striking, striking all the while. Oh, grandmamma! I've been a naughty, wicked little girl! I ought to be eaten up by forty bears, like the children in the Bible, or else thrown into a lion's den!"

"Tell me about it, my dear," said old Mrs. Corbin. "Perhaps it isn't so bad, after all"

"Oh, it is!" said Kitty; "it's awful bad! You know old Nita, the Indian basket-maker? She lives up in the forest—I don't know where—but she comes down here sometimes, with mats and baskets for mother."

"I know there is such a person," said old Mrs. Corbin.

"Well," pursued Kitty, "her little girl Trudy came to school to-day. Oh, she was dressed so funny, in a red cloth shirt, embroidered with white beads, and black leggings and her hair braided in a long tail down her back; and she hasn't any shoes or hat."

"I hope you were kind to her, my dear," said Grandmamma Corbin.

"No, grandma, I wasn't," confessed Kitty. "They all laugned at her, and I among the rest. We pointed at her, and called her names, in the recess, and I threw a tin-cup of water over her bare, brown feet."

"Oh, Kitty!"

"Yes, I told you it was dreadful, grandma!" sobbed Kitty. "But the other girls laughed, and it seemed as if it wasn't me at all, but a mischievous, evil spirit inside of me, urging me on, and then she cried, and ran away into the woods, and said she never wanted to come to school any more."

"I do not wonder at that," said old Mrs. Corbin, gravely.

"And, oh, my conscience does ache and smart so!" said Kitty, dolefully. "Grandmamma, what shall I do?"

"If you knew where she lived, my dear," said Mrs. Corbin, "you might go and ask her pardon."

"But I don't," returned the child, piteously.

"Then you must wait patiently until some opportunity offers itself to set matters straight."

"Do you think it will come soon?" said eager Kitty—"the opportunity, I mean."

"I don't know, my dear," said Grandmamma Corbin. "It isn't often that we can atone immediately for our faults in this world."

The next day was Saturday, a bright, sunshiny day, and Kitty resolved to go strawberrying, up at the mountain.

"The Rice children are going, and so are Ruth and Phoebe Hull," said she, "and Mr. Smith's boys. I'll take my dinner in a basket and stay all day. I can bring home the berries in the dinner basket, you know. Phoebe Hull says the fields are all red with them, up beyond the stone quarries."

And so Kitty Corbin started off, in her little gingham sun bonnet and calico dress, singing gaily as she went.

But either she took the wrong path by the stone quarries, or else she had misunderstood the arrangements made by the other children, for when she reached the sunny pastures, high up on the mountain, where the wild strawberries blushed beneath their leaves, as if the whole field was strewn with red jewels, there was no one there.

"After all, I don't care much," said independent little Kitty. "I can pick berries by myself, and I can think of all the fairy stories I ever read. I don't suppose there are any faries up in these mountain rocks, but if there should be" (gazing wistfully around) "they'll be a deal more likely to come out and talk to me, all by myself, than if there was a lot of noisy children shouting and screaming around!"

However, the fairies did not come, but Kitty picked her basket nearly full of fragrant, delicious strawberries before she perceived that the sky was clouding darkly over, and a certain mysterious hush had descended upon the solitary scene as if all nature was holding its breath and waiting for some signal.

"Oh, dear!" cried Kitty, dropping the basket of strawberries in her consternation: "there's going to be an awful thunderstorm! And the big pine tree by the brook was struck with lightning the last storm we had—and—oh, dear! what shall I do?"

She started to run headlong down the steep path of the mountain-side, her only idea being to get as far as possible from the big pine tree, which was already so unpleasantly acquainted with the nature of electricity; but the faster and faster she ran, the more hopelessly she seemed to lose herself in the gloomy depths of the forest.

The scared rabbits that dashed across her path seemed panthers, or wolves; the harmless little striped snakes that writhed themselves into rocky crevices became, in her startled eyes, rattlesnakes or poisonous adders; the dense hemlock woods grew darker and more tangled; and, although it was scarcely more than sunset, the darkness of twilight had settled over everything, as the rain began to patter down in swift, glistening sheets.

Just at that moment, when Kitty was about to sink down in despair, convinced that she had lost her way in the tempest, a cheerful red light streamed through the stormy darkness. The sound of a human voice struck upon her ears.

"Little girl! little girl!" it said "what is the matter?"

"It's the fairies!" cried Kitty, breathlessly.

But it was no fairy-palace that she saw. It was a little log-cabin, built there beside the brook, in the thick forest, where lived Indian Nita, the basket-maker, and little Trudy, her child.

And the next moment, Kitty found herself seated by a bright fire of pine logs, with Trudy wiping the rain from her hair and face, for the little gingham sun-bonnet hod somehow got lost in the general confusion.

"Don't cry," said Trudy. "You are lost, but it's dry and warm here. I'll give you some supper, and when it stops raining I will show you the way home. You are Kitty Corbin—I know you!"

At this, Kitty cried more bitterly than ever.

"Yes, Indian Trudy," said she, "I am Kitty Corbin. I am the naughty little girl who laughed at you yesterday, and called you bad names, and threw water over your poor little feet! Oh, Trudy, I am so sorry and ashamed! You would serve me right if you put me out into the rain again. Oh, Trudy, will you please forgive me?"

"Of course, I will forgive you," said Trudy, patting her cold hands. "And here comes Mother Nita with the milk, and we'll have some supper. Do you like strawberries and milk?"

"But I—I've lost all my strawberries, and the basket, too!"

"Never mind," said cheerful Trudy. "I'll give you more strawberries. I picked a lot to-day, and Mother Nita will lend you a basket to carry them home in."

So the two little girls ate their supper side by side, and when the summer shower was over, Trudy went down the mountain path with Kitty, until they came in sight of the Corbins' farmhouse.

"Now, good-bye!" said Trudy. "I must run back to help Mother Nita gather rushes for the baskets."

Kitty looked wistfully at the Indian child.

"Won't you kiss me, Trudy?" said she.

Trudy kissed and hugged her right heartily.

"And you'll come to school on Monday? I'll keep a seat for you close to me, and no one will dare laugh at my friend."

Trudy promised she would come, and, what is more, she kept her promise when the time came.

Kitty ran home as fast as she could, and related the story of her day's adventures.

"Wasn't she a dear, good little Trudy, grandmamma?" said she. "And, oh! didn't I feel awfully ashamed of myself?"

"Ah, my dear," said Grandma Corbin, "your 'opportunity' has come sooner than I thought it would."

Tacks Talk.

Many accidents occur which could easily have been prevented if someone had taken time to tack carpets, rugs and other floor coverings properly. Small rugs thrown loosely over other carpets to prevent wear should be firmly tacked in place. Otherwise some member of the family is likely to stumble over them. A few tacks will also do away with the repeated adjustment of such rugs, since they will stay where they are put.

Pieces of carpet used as outside doormats will not be tossed about and blown away if securely tacked at the four corners. Shoes can also be more firmly tacked in place.

To clean water bottles or vinegar cruets put some tacks and crushed eggshells into them, then add strong soap suds and shake vigorously. After they are rinsed with clear water they will look like new.

It is easier to remove protruding tacks than to mend tears or heal scratches. See to it that tacks not usefully employed do not get into mischief.

So Like a Dove.

"Such a sweet girl—she's as gentle as a dove."

"And pigeon-toed, too."