THE FATHER AND SON PARTNERSHIP

A Relationship That is Profitable to Both.

BY AN OBSERVER.

Humanity strives for something in the future, or at least expects something, striving or not. So, when a boy is more interested in any branch of farm work, or in an individual animal because there is going to be some ultimate gain, he is not so much different from the rest of us members of the human race. David Grayson, the writer of the charming Adventures, has lauded the pride of ownership. You, Mr. Farmer, have felt it. How your very being has thrilled as some farm friend has complimented you on your fine farm, your excellent stock. How proud you have been as you have driven to market some exceptionally fine hogs or cattle—your breeding, your feeding, yours. They represent your efforts, your skill. They brand you as successful.

Just so it is with the boys. They also derive a great deal of satisfaction from the pride of ownership. Do you not remember how elated your little lad was when he came into possession of his first jack knife or watch? Perhaps your memory may even go back to the day when you received these tokens of manhood. They were yours, not borrowed, not given to keep for a while, but yours to own and to enjoy.

The other day I came into the barn of a very successful cattleman. His stock was in excellent condition, and as we (the farmer, his thirteen-year-old son, and I) went about, admiring the fine qualities of the stock, the lad remained in the background. But as we moved on toward the end of the row, he pushed forward, and soon we came to where he was standing, his arm about the neck of a sleek roan heifer. For a moment, we contemplated in silence; then, with his face covered with smiles and blushes, he volunteered, "she's mine."

There was more pride, more joy in that short phrase than many of us can imagine. It was a glowing example of Grayson's pride of ownership. For ten months this lad had cared for and "loved" this baby beef into its well-conditioned form. No wonder that to-day he should be proud to say "she's mine."

Soon he hoped to lead her into the local, and perhaps larger, show rings, there to reap the glory and honor of ownership, especially ownership of a prize-winning baby beef. Soon he would cash in on his investment of capital and time. They say that the ultimate end of the beef animal is the block. The lad, though, thought more of the returns than of his pet's end. What boyish dreams were his, I leave for the reader's imagination.

"Yes," the father said, "Laddie shall have the money. When I was a lad, I raised a late-hatched flock of chickens. The money was mine, and I remember the enjoyment I had from owning so much money ($3.65), so Laddie shall have the returns from the roan heifer. And do you know," he added with a twinkle of the eye, "it's going to pay me."

He then spoke of the pride of owning a well-fed beast, and the desire on the part of the owner to do his very utmost in order to make the animal respond. He referred to the lesson it teaches the lad in the value of kindness, of explicit care in feeding, yes, and of enthusiasm. Enthusiasm really is only another word for "love," and without "love" no one can hope to produce a fine beast or flowers. The little crippled girl who, when asked how she managed to grow such excellent pansies, replied, "I love them into growing." The childish remark is true, though, of every line of endeavor, particularly of growing things. Call it enthusiasm if you like, it really amounts to love, and it is contagious. Because the lad has it, he takes greater care of all the calves, as well as of his own. Because the lad does this, the father does the same.

Baby beeves can be turned over in from twelve to fifteen months; and for this reason are exceptionally appropriate for a farm boy's hobby. Boys are fond of quick turn-overs. What lad has not cherished, at one time or other, some get-rich-quick scheme? But boys are not fond of raising a calf or pig as their own, and then handing the receipts to father.

Farmers must realize that in the majority of cases, farm boys are more than earning their keep years before their city cousins do. The boy who cares for the calves or the chickens before and after school, should receive some compensation, or it will seem to him that the parent who allows his city friend his freedom out of school hours is more desirable than the one who extracts work.

You, Mr. Farmer, must realize that your enthusiasm regarding any branch of your farm work, is gauged by the remuneration you receive. You should also realize that your son is of his father's flesh, and desires to "have something in the world." It is quite all right to argue the point that you are really working for your children. But you should remember that they are looking at the question from the standpoint of youth, prompted by the desire to own. Taking it all in all, I believe the happiest farm homes are those where father and son work in partnership from the time the lad is able to more than earn his keep.

I Kept Bill on the Farm.

All the neighbors' sons were going to the city and naturally my boy wanted to do the same. Then the question arose: "How am I to keep my son on the farm?" I needed his help, as farm labor was scarce in my neighborhood.

One morning in early spring I made him this proposition: "Bill, if you will stay with me on the farm this summer I will give you that lower corn field and help you with the cultivation, if you will help me with my work."

Bill agreed to stay and in the fall when his corn was gathered he had 350 bushels. That year corn was selling for $1 a bushel. When all his crop was sold I never saw a happier boy in my life.

The following spring Bill came to me and said that he wanted to rent the lower corn field again.

"Rent," I gasped. "Bill, you know that it is yours."

"But, dad," he said, "I want to rent it this year and I'm going to try gardening." I thought it would be a good plan if I put in some garden truck, too. The summer brought such a bountiful crop that I purchased a truck to haul our wares to town. My truck never went to town without a goodly portion of Bill's products. He became so well satisfied that I never again heard him mention going to the city. To-day Bill is known as one of the county's best gardeners.

And another thing is of great importance—be square with the boy. When you see that he is in the wrong, reason with him kindly, not authoritatively. Some of my neighbors emphatically refuse their sons the touring car, but once a week Bill has my car to drive into town, or whatever he wishes, and more often, if the occasion demands.—L. D.

Farm Fires That Start Themselves.

The subject of farm fires is one on which I can speak from experience, as we lost our first barn from this cause a number of years ago. It burned in the early morning hours. There was no electrical storm, and no one was near it, so far as is known, later than the previous evening. It is idle to speculate on what may have caused this fire, but it may do some good to tell how we came very close to having another one.

I had been feeding about 20 head of hogs on the cement floor of the barn driveway, and it was necessary to clean this floor before each feeding, as the pigs would get it very filthy. The field on which I had been scattering this refuse was too wet to use, and remained so for about ten days, so I piled the refuse, which consisted of corn-cobs, a few corn stalks and hog manure, in one corner until I could get on the field. A pile accumulated about five feet high, and perhaps six feet in diameter.

The day before I intended to haul it out, I noticed the pile smoking and giving off a very offensive odor. When I opened the pile I found corn-cobs and stalks charred black as though they had been in an oven. In the center was a small place where the cobs and stalks were burned to a white ash and went to pieces as soon as air came in contact with them. I hustled that stuff out of the barn pretty quick.

This shows that a hay-mow is not the only place in which a fire can start itself. Yet, in spite of such evidence as this, there are people who will argue that there is no such thing as spontaneous combustion.—D.P.

When I put up strings on which porch climbers are to run, instead of attaching the ends of the strings to sticks stuck in the ground I take narrow boards and drive small nails part way in. I lay the boards down flat and tie the strings to the nails. This looks neater, is more easly worked around and prevents weeds from coming up between the vines. The plants are less likely to be disturbed by strong winds which often pull the single sticks up.—H. L.

Many people in ordinary circumstances are millionaires of cheerfulness. They make their neighborhood brighter, happier, and a better place to live in by their presence; they raise the value of every lot for blocks around them.

CHARMING FROCK FOR THE JUNIOR MISS.

Fashionable frocks for girls from 8 to 14 years of age are developed in fabrics as modish as those worn by the grown-ups. The vogue for combining printed and plain material finds expression in this graceful frock, which slips on over the head and has a flared apron tunic tied at the back with a wide sash. The shoulders are cut kimono, and the sleeves may be finished short, or with an extension gathered into a narrow band at the wrist. The foundation of this frock is perfectly plain and in one-piece, with the tunic set on. No. 1287 is in sizes 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 years requires 3⅛ yards 39-inch, or 1⅞ yards 54-inch material. Price 20c.

Our new Fashion Book contains many styles showing how to dress boys and girls. Simplicity is the rule for well-dressed children. Clothes of character and individuality for the junior folks are hard to buy, but easy to make with our patterns. A small amount of money spent on good materials, cut on simple lines, will give children the privilege of wearing adorable things. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

When Tracing Designs.

When stamping goods with carbon paper, instead of placing the carbon paper between pattern and goods, pin the pattern on the wrong side of the goods to be stamped, and place the carbon paper on the table with the right side up. Place the right side of the goods down on the carbon paper and trace the design. This method avoids the carbon marks of pins.

Good for Something.

About three feet of a discarded automobile casing, leak-proof of course, makes an excellent tray, I find, for holding water under the grindstone to keep it wet while in use. The piece of casing may be attached to the frame of the grindstone by wires or other means.—A. C. H.

The British Ministry of Agriculture has forty boys' and girls' clubs in fourteen English counties.

SUNSHINE BY THE YARD

Use Yellow to Brighten Up Dark Rooms.

BY JULIA WOLFE.

Dark rooms need not be dark. Sunshine that will lighten them up can be bought by the yard. That cheerful color, yellow, will turn the trick, and if carefully applied, it works wonders by chasing shadows out of dark corners.

"Sunshine by the yard" is what we exclaim, when entering a room decorated in yellow, but—gay yellow, it must be, for yellow of a mustard hue is heavy.

Yellow is the color to use in rooms facing the north, and for dark rooms. A light room facing the north may be pale yellow and delicate, but as the room becomes darker, so should the yellow become more orange and brilliant.

In just the same way, the amount of color will vary according to the tone of color. A delicate yellow should be matte or, at most, eggshell in gloss; but a strong buttercup color will be happy with a glossy surface, especially if the room is inclined to be dark.

YELLOW HAS MANY SHADES.

The very pale yellows are to be found in many shades. There is the nicest yellow to go with green. It also should be matte in finish. It may be used on the floor as a paint, or on ceiling. It is a most comfortable color, a cool color, and should not be used in dark places.

Lime yellow is another cool yellow. It has a tone of green in it, but when decorated with pictures having white or cream frames it shows up excellently. In the same way, paintwork of white or cream (or both), and lime yellow walls will look well, especially in halls. But never use this color on floors; it shows the dirt, and is therefore unsatisfactory.

PALE YELLOW INFUSES SUNLIGHT.

Pale orange yellow is the best to infuse a sunlight effect into a north room, provided there is enough light to show it up. To go with it, soft colors must be chosen, and pinks will help most. These will give additional gaiety to the room, as the mixture of pink and yellow is always festive.

Pale apricot yellow is a lovely color, but it is better used in textiles than as a wall decoration. Still, in a room with walls of a soft pale apricot, ivory paint on the woodwork, and light-covered coverings, with a good deal of soft green in them, will be very pleasing. Care must be taken to use apricot, not shrimp pink, as the dividing line between them is very narrow. This is a good color for the evening.

There is a pale golden yellow that is very warm in tone, and is well used in dining-rooms. It gives a pleasant glow, and lights up at night better than most yellows, which are apt to disappear at night and look white or cream.

AS TO MATERIALS.

Pale yellow materials are always delightful. Taffetas, linens, damasks—all are beautiful. One may use a common cotton or linen, in pale yellow, and it will be as effective as the richest material when properly made up. With pink, it is the best color for lamp-shades and will give a most pleasant light at night.

The deeper yellows are not so easy to use. Orange may be had in many tones, and will be good if well used. It is best done in paint on the walls, as it is then clearer in tone. A glossy surface is usually desirable, with a bright orange, or the reflections will break the brilliance of the surface and leave the pleasant effect of the color, yet not too harshly. Orange is not usually a pleasant color to use on woodwork of a room; it is too hard, and does not mingle well with the rest of the room. Thus a patchy effect is created, unless the walls are orange, too, and then there is too much color. The best way to use orange is on the walls and to have the woodwork some other color—say lemon or grey.

The mustard yellows are very difficult to use. They are best avoided in bulk, but now and then a touch of this color with brown is useful, where, by contrast, it will look more golden than mustard.

Old gold, which ranges from yellow to brown, is a favorite color with many people, but to be successful it must be used in good material, such as silk, damask, etc.; if tried in cotton or wool it becomes stuffy.

SCHEME FOR A NORTH ROOM.

Here is a good decorative scheme for a north room. Walls, pale orange, glossy, and very slightly mottled; woodwork, lemon yellow, and cornice to match; ceiling, pale blue, matte surface; floor, pale vermilion, glossy; orange cord carpet with fringed ends; curtains, orange and lemon striped, silk lined, or white with yellow dots; glass curtains, pale orange silk; lamp-shades of pink parchment with vermilion lining.

Let the Boy Serve the Meals.

Do you know that the average man hates carving and serving at his own table as he does poison? What is wrong when this aversion prevails? Just this—it is hard to teach old dogs new tricks, and if a man has never served until he becomes the head of his own household, it is too late for him to acquire the art of doing it with ease. To many a man the carving set is a horrible invention of the Adversary and he would rather be court-martialed than serve a poached egg.

All this confusion and discomfort may be avoided if, when the boy arrives at the age of ten or eleven, he is given the responsibility of serving when only the immediate family is present. Never make the mistake of poking fun at him if he manipuates the carving knife clumsily or forgets to put a helping of peas on somebody's plate Tell him it is all in the game and that he can learn to play it as skilfully as marbles or basket-ball. Watch him enter into the spirit of it. Cold meat forks and tablespoons will soon lose their terrors if manipulated three times a day. Tell him which foods should be served with a fork and which with a spoon, and teach him how much constitutes a helping. It is these little details that try men's souls, but which children comprehend readily and never forget. When the boy has been serving the family regularly for a few months, encourage him to serve when guests are present, not referring to such service in any way, but taking it as a matter of course. Anything the boy hates is to feel that he is doing something different from his pals. This course faithfully pursued will rob table serving of its qualms and make hospitality a pleasure.

If girls are taught how to cook, why not teach their brothers how to serve?

Cabbage for a King.

Remove four or five large leaves from a cabbage. Chop half of a small cabbage as one would for slaw; add six or seven crackers rolled fine, two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, one or two eggs, salt and pepped to taste. Mix the ingredients and fill the several large cabbage leaves with the mixture. Roll the leaves together, and fasten with string or toothpicks. Cover the cabbage rolls with milk and cook slowly in a deep kettle or double boiler until thoroughly done.

The same recipe may be used by baking the ingredients in a baking dish and not using the large cabbage leaves. Cover well with milk and bake slowly for 30 to 45 minutes.

Yesterday we had to accept the government scout's word for the corn borer's presence; to-day we can find it for ourselves without much trouble if we know what to look for; to-mormor its presence will be thrust upon us when we come to find our corn-stalks putrid with the burrowings of the borer.

Four Ways to Use Feed Sacks.

I have a neighbor who uses feed sacks for quilt filling. The sacks are ripped open, washed and dried. Then they are cut all one size and placed one on top of another until there are three thicknesses of lining. This makes a light, warm filling that is easy to quilt.

Feed sacks make novel fringed rugs. after washing and pressing the sacks I cut one the size of the rug desired, then I cut six-inch strips from the others, raveling both sides to four threads down the centre. The fringed edges are then folded together and, beginning at one end of the foundation, I sew the strips crosswise, keeping them close together so nothing of the work except the fringe will show. When half the foundation has been covered I begin sewing from the opposite end. The last or centre strip is almost entirely fringe. The rugs may then be dyed any color to harmonize with the room furnishings. They are easily cleaned and can be kept fluffy and fringy by simply sweeping them with a stiff broom.

I make hooked rugs by drawing narrow strips through the burlap, following a design marked on the sack. In this way all my colored rags and old stocking tops are made into something both useful and pretty. My needle for this work is one my husband made from a piece of hickory wood.

The closely woven sacks make good aprons for doing heavy work. I cut mine and bind them with bright-colored cloth, adding big pockets of the same material. These are the aprons I wear when working in the garden or with my chickens.—C. H. R.

Makes Hemlock Floor Comfortable.

Four winters ago we faced the problem of a creeping baby and a cold hemlock floor. To anyone who has been vexed with a hemlock floor, there is no need to describe the splinters which get into little hands and feet, not to mention the mop when we are cleaning the floor.

Our pocketbook was in such a flattened condition that it would not permit us to buy linoleum or carpet. One day my husband came across with this idea. We had two rolls of three-ply roofing left from re-roofing the barn. After filling the cracks with pieces of wood to fit, he laid the roofing on the floor with the edges just meeting. No nails were used.

For a cheap and durable substitute for flooring, it can't be beat. It is far easier to clean than the wood floor, with the added advantage of being warm. Our neighbors followed the same plan, but laid the roofing with edges overlapping, and it is wearing badly on these seams.—L. B.

Varieties of Alfalfa.

Co-operative experiments have been conducted by the Ontario Agricultural College with varieties of alfalfa for twenty-six years during which time seed has been sent to each of 2,329 Ontario farmers for co-operative tests on their own farms. A definite co-operative experiment has been conducted with the Ontario Variegated and the Grimm varieties on each of 1,790 farms within the past fifteen years. Each experimenter was asked to so locate the plots that they might remain undisturbed for several years. Quite a number of these experimental plots which were sown as far back as 1911 still remain unbroken and the results are both interesting and valuable. On November 27th, 1925, a blank form was sent to each one of the 1,790 experimenters asking for information regarding their experiment. After receiving upwards of three hundred replies we were able to summarize the results. In answer to the inquiry as to which of the two varieties gave the better results in the local test it is interesting to note that of the fourteen years from 1911 to 1924 inclusive, the majority of the experimenters favored the Ontario Variegated in the years 1912, 1913, 1916, 1918, 1920, 1923 and 1924 and the majority favored the Grimm in each of the other seven years. Of the 188 who answered this question, 95 preferred the Grimm and 93 the Ontario Variegated. In response to the question as to the most extensively grown varieties of alfalfa in the various districts, 119 farmers mentioned Ontario Variegated, 65 Grimm, 4 Common, and 1 Turkestan, while 3 others simply mentioned Northern Grown.

A good many varieties and strains of alfalfa secured from various sources have been tested at different times at the Ontario Agricultural College. In 1909 one test of sixty-eight plots and another of seventy-one plots were started at the College. These were continued for ten years. Other experiments have been conducted for shorter and longer lengths of time. The Ontario Variegated and the Grimm varieties have given the best returns when hardiness of plants, yield of green fodder, hay and seed are taken into consideration. Ontario is indeed fortunate at the present time in having an abundant supply of seed of high quality of the Ontario Variegated alfalfa which can be obtained at a very moderate price. The farmers of this province have an opportunity, as never before, of securing seed for sowing on their own farms. The demand for this hardy seed is increasing in the United States. It would be well for the farmers in this province to retain and sow as much as possible of the 90,000 bushels of seed which was produced in Ontario in 1925. Our alfalfa production has been trebled in the last ten years and doubled in the last three years. It is estimated that there were over a half million acres of alfalfa grown in Ontario in the last season. It is believed that the alfalfa area will soon reach one million acres.

Breaking Off Corn Stalks and Stubble.

In a few weeks it will be spring and farm work will commence with a rush; yet many a field of corn, especially in the south-western part of the province, is still standing with thousands of living borers in the stalks. Now is the time to break these stalks off close to the ground. This can be done easily and quickly by dragging over them a railroad rail or a log or plank. Choose the first frostly morning when the ground is bare or nearly bare for this job, and, if going over the field from one direction leaves some of the stalks unbroken, drive crosswise to hit these from a different angle. Then as soon as the stalks seem dry rake them up into neat windrows and burn them. A side delivery rake apparently makes a better windrow than the ordinary hay rake, the latter leaving an underisable amount of loose, straggly stalks.

In the case of those who cut their corn last fall but have not yet plowed the stubble under, it will be wise to break off the stubble now and thus make it much easier to bury it all thoroughly when plowing; for if the stubble is long it is often difficult to make a thorough job of the burial.

The Provincial Entomologist requests every man this year in the infested counties to do his share to save the corn crop of 1926 from the borer.

Blowing Soap Bubbles.

On stormy days, when the children play indoors, let them blow soap bubbles. It keeps them busy hours at a time. For a bubble pipe they use a section of hollow cane thrust into an empty spool. I shave laundry soap into a cup of hot water, let it dissolve and give each child a little of the soapy water in a bowl. An old blanket spread down on the floor catches the bubbles and keeps them from breaking when they fall. A little gum arabic added to the water makes the bubbles tougher, and a drop or two of fruit coloring gives them the soft gleam of a rainbow.—B. H. R.

A square meal and a round table go well together.

INDIAN BRAVES COMPETED AT BANFF

Indian reservations in Alberta sent their best and mightiest young men to compete in various contests which were staged at Banff during the Winter Carnival. Immediately on arriving in Banff the young Indian braves put up their wigwams in the middle of the street, unrolled their blankets, and prepared to make themselves at home for a fortnight.

The Indian competitions consisted of packing and unpacking food, supplies and clothing, as for hunting or exploring expeditions; shooting with bow and arrow at a fixed mark; and running, jumping and swimming.