# SAFETY FIRST ON THE FARM

## Preventive Measures That Save Much on the Overhead.

BY HENRY R. ZELLEY.

The Tommies didn't wear tin derbies and gas masks to try and scare Heinie. No, they wore these encumbrances for the same reason that a farmer wears a large straw hat when working out in the fields during the heat of summer. And the reason was self-protection, or safety first. Sherman gave a first-class definition of war, but the leaders in the last titanic struggle took every possible precaution to protect their men, for these precautions meant higher efficiency in the business of fighting.

And to-day industry recognizes that Safety First means more efficient production. About the first thing you see on entering any large plant is a large safety bulletin board. Just as Safety First is of vital importance in industry, so it is on the farm.

The hazard we find most on the farm comes under what is classed as poor housekeeping in industrial plants. Old boards and scraps of lumber containing nails are frequently left lying around, and usually the nails are turned up. Now, a rusty nail puncture very often means blood poisoning, so piling up this old lumber not only makes the farm look better, but it is a big factor in preventing accidents to men and stock. If rushed with work so that you haven't time to pile up the boards, you can at least turn down the nails.

The next hazard to consider is ladders. Too often ladders are left where last used, exposed to the elements, until needed elsewhere. Now, a ladder may look perfectly sound, and yet the rounds may be decayed where they pass through the sides. The surest protection against this is to keep the ladders well painted and to hang them up, either in the barn or under a shed when not in use.

Another hazardous practice is nailing strips across the ladder to replace broken rounds. There are attachments on the market which permit the safe repair of ladders, and by using these, broken rounds can easily and safely be replaced.

Are your ladders fitted with non-skid shoes or spikes? If not, then you are certainly tempting fate. All ladders for outdoor use, or for work in the barns, should have spike feet. These spike feet can easily be made by any blacksmith, or even by the farmer himself. They are made from three-eighths by two-inch flat iron, bent to go on both sides of the foot of the ladder, and a spike point welded on the end. For use indoors, or on roofs, there is a cork ladder foot which is first-class and insures safety.

A good pair of goggles should be on every farm, and worn while grinding scythes, sickles, mowing machine knives, and the plow disks. Goggles will prevent any chips of steel which might be thrown off, from entering your eyes, and thereby causing severe pain, or even blindness.

Any engines, belts, circular saws, and other machinery on the farm should be guarded, and gears or drive chains on mowing, reaping or planting machines should be protected by a guard. Now, these guards do not have to be elaborate, and can be built by any farmer. The real purpose of guarding machinery isn't to make it fool-proof, but to prevent the worker being hurt, should he slip, or for a few seconds forget to watch out.

There are a few general principles worth noting: Loose boards should be nailed down, broken floors repaired, broken window panes reglazed, and doors with broken or loose hinges put into first-class working order. Traps leading into the hay mow, etc., should have a railing around them. If you don't want to burn your barn down, make it a rule that only electric torches or lanterns can be taken into the barn. And be sure that inflammable material, such as gasoline and oils, are kept in a building some distance from the other out-buildings.

Safety First on the farm isn't foolishness, but is downright good common sense, for it means not only freedom from many accidents, but also more efficiency on the farm. Because you have never had an accident from any of the causes listed here, does not mean that you never will. Don't be a Mr. Chance Taker, but be a Safety First farmer.

## My Raspberry Methods.

Proper pruning greatly improves, I find, the size and quality of black raspberries. The methods are so simple and easy that everyone may practice them. Suppose we start the work in winter with a patch already established.

First, cut away all dead stems close to the ground. Second, cut out the puny young canes, also at the ground. Third, continue to cut out superfluous canes until only the three or four sturdiest are left. Fourth, cut off all puny branches from these canes, leaving only three to five or six of the strongest on each to bear fruit. Fifth cut off all branches lower than a foot from the ground unless one or two are exceptionally strong and there are no strong ones higher up on the same canes. Sixth, cut off the ends of the branches, leaving only a foot of each. This covers all the winter pruning.

Summer pruning will also help make sturdier plants and finer fruit the following year. It consists of two simple operations. The first is to pinch or snap off the growing tip of each new stem when it reaches a height of two to two and a half feet. This is done as each individual shoot reaches the height desired, at intervals between late May and mid-July. The proper time to do this is while the growing tips of the shoots are so soft that the finger and thumb will snap them with a clean break. If knife or shears are needed the result will never be so good.

The objects of this pinching are to make the stems stouter and have branches develop lower down than on unpruned canes. Also, this plan obviates staking or trellising or tying. Stems pinched back in this way develop like little trees, holding up great loads of fruit without supports.

The second operation in summer pruning is to remove the old canes as soon as the fruit has been gathered. Having fruited, these canes have no further use; it is their nature to die at the close of the season. After having fruited they are worse than useless because they not only waste plant food which could better be used by the young canes, but they also harbor diseases and insects and prevent the free access of air and sunlight, both of which are necessary to growth and to the prevention of disease. The sooner they are removed from fruiting the better.—M. G. K.

## I Tell the Price.

I shall give some experience gleaned from several years of advertising. It may point the way to those who are puzzling over the problem of wording their classified advertisements.

There are two kinds of classified ads. One kind is to make direct sales; the other is for getting names of prospective customers.

The first quotes prices of the article advertised and urges the reader to include the money with the first letter so that the order may be clinched. The second usually omits the price but invites the reader to write for price lists, catalogues and further information.

If the advertiser has a big scope of business and a wide range of prices, then it may be well to invite the prospective customer to write for price lists and information. I have found that when I employ this indirect method I must be in a position to follow up my first reply and make it easy for the prospective buyer to make the purchase. I must have good and attractive stationery. I must be able to write a good letter. If my first letter brings no response I will need to follow up with a second letter and possibly a third or fourth. I have found that I failed to make sales because I at first was unsystematic in my methods and follow-up.

I carried ads in two of the best poultry journals in the country several years ago. Here is what they were like:

"S.C. Leghorns. Eggs. Catalogue. Write for prices. Edgewood Farm."

"S.C. Legghorns. Eggs, $3 and $5 per 15. Catalogue. Edgewood Farm."

The first brought inquiries and a few orders after considerable delay.

The last ad brought home the bacon. Orders rolled in without the usual parleying concerning prices and details.

Let me add a bit of personal experience. While at a farm meeting not long ago a farmer friend inquired concerning some Rhode Island Red pullets we then had for sale. We described them but did not price them since we had no intention then of selling any of them. Some days later we changed our mind and accordingly wrote to him but stated no price, thinking it best to let him see the birds since he lived only a few miles distant. For two months I did not see him. Neither did he come to see the pullets.

Again I met him at a farm meeting. I inquired why he had not come to see our Red pullets. Imagine my surprise when I heard him give me this eye-opener.

"The next time you wish to sell me anything state your price when you write. From your letter I could not tell whether your price was what I could afford to pay." —W. E. F.

## Matrimony Vine Killed the Sheep.

A short time after a certain farmer let a flock of sheep graze in an old-fashioned garden surrounding a recently abandoned house on his farm, eight of the animals died. One sheep was posted by a veterinarian and the digestive tract was found to be highly inflamed, as though affected by acute poisoning.

The vegetation upon which the animals had foraged was examined and suspicion pointed toward a bush that seemed to have been most heavily grazed upon. It turned out to be matrimony vine, a rather common garden plant that belongs to the dangerous nightshade family and that has long been under suspicion as a poisonous species.

The purpose of garden plants is to ornament and not to supply forage. Loss of stock due to grazing on yew, privet hedge, castor-bean plants and other ornamentals is by no means rare.

## My Woods Garden Pays.

I guess I am the only gardener in my section of the country who grows a large variety of herbs and flowers from plants and seed gathered in the woods. I have at least thirty different varieties.

I got my start almost entirely from the plants and seed I brought from a nearby forest. I am still adding to my collection, as every year on my trips to the woods I discover new varieties of flowers and herbs.

I made this garden just to gratify my curiosity and to have something to do. But I very soon learned that I could sell ginseng, yellow root and snakeroot for medical purposes.

Among the wild herbs for which I have a ready sale the ginseng and yellow root bring by far the best price. But it takes each of these herbs quite a while to mature. It requires eighteen months for the ginseng seed even to sprout.

I find that it is a better plan to start with the young plants. The ginseng will mature in about six or seven years after the plants have been set out. I sold quite a quantity of ginseng last year. I replaced the plants I removed with others from the woods. I set out young plants every year, so I have ginseng coming on all the time. As I have followed this custom now for several years I have a certain amount of salable ginseng every year. I get from $6 to $15 a pound.

Yellow root does not bring as good a price as ginseng, but it has a very ready sale. I use the same methods in growing the yellow root as I do the ginseng. It requires about three or four years for this herb to mature. In addition to wild snakeroot, for which I have some sale, I also sell quite a lot of sage, dill and horseradish. My wild garden is not only profitable but it is also beautiful. The trillium, Indian turnip, sweet-william, snakeroot and many others bloom beautifully. I also have many wild ferns.—O. H.

## Egg Eating on the Increase.

Old residents of Canada can remember when it was safe to figure on one or more eggs in every dozen purchased being of bad or doubtful quality, that is particularly in cities and towns. There is no such cause for apprehension now, thanks to the system of grading that has been in force since July, 1923, when regulations were introduced requiring that eggs sold to the domestic trade should be subject to the system that had previously been adopted for export eggs. A housewife to-day knows exactly what she is buying and as a result, says Pamphlet No. 59 of the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture, on the value of eggs as a diet and their place in the Canadian diet, the consumption of eggs has greatly increased and three-quarters of an egg per capita is being eaten every day. The pamphlet referred to, which can be had free by applying to the Publications Branch, Ottawa, besides dealing with the place eggs occupy in the food of the nation, also contains various useful recipes.

## We Veal Our Calves.

We are in the butter business. Here is our answer to the question of how a fresh cow can bring us the most, by making veal or butter.

A fresh cow will furnish us about a pound of butter a day. In five weeks, not counting the first week, when the milk can't be used, she would produce, at 50 cents a pound, about $14 worth of butter.

If we put two calves on her we have at the end of five weeks 320 pounds of veal, which at eight cents a pound totals $25.60.

That's what we do as far as possible. If two cows don't happen to freshen at once we usually can buy an extra calf from some neighbor for about $2. A big-boned male calf is ready to veal in five weeks. It takes six or seven weeks for a heifer or lighter stock. We get an average of about eight cents on our local market. —H. S. P.

## Rear Step for Wagon.

Ever notice how many times a man will climb up into his cart when loading it with bags or boxes? Why not make the work easier by fitting a strap-iron step upder the rear sill, so he can step up into the cart without straining every muscle in his arms and chest? Simple little helps like this make a man's work more efficient and at the same time easier. Don't try to do everything by brute strength, but make your head help lighten the work of your hands and your feet.

A farmer must use his hands and feet, but his brain ought to be thinking up schemes all the time to make their work easier, and therefore more efficient. You can make one of these iron steps in the farm shop, out of a piece of old wagon tire or strap iron, bent into shape.

If fudge hardens before it can be poured from the pan, it may be treated like fondant and made into chocolate creams. To do this knead small amounts of the hardened mixture with buttered fingers until it is the consistency of fondant, and mold into balls.

The next step in the poultry business will likely be a "chickery." Such a plant would operate in conjunction with a hatchery, and would provide pullets for sale. Since it is the pullet, and not the day-old chick that the farmer wants, this development will undoubtedly meet his full approval.

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# PRUNING YOUR GARDEN SHRUBS

By Henry J. Moore.

In this article it is proposed to give a few simple instructions as to the way in which the owners of a home may properly prune the shrubs he has used to beautify the surroundings. To indicate the importance of proper measures of pruning, it should be said that the successful flowering of the shrubs wherever cultivated depends upon it. Unless shrubs are pruned, many of them will grow so high as to become unsightly. They will crowd your small lawn areas and the stems will become so matted as to preclude the production of flowers in profusion.

### Things to Learn.

There are certain things of importance about which we must learn before we can intelligently prune our shrubs. The chief of these is that there are shrubs of varied characteristics. We should know the nature of the shrubs before we may successfully carry out the work. We may for our purpose divide the shrubs into four classes. Even although we may grow only a few we may have a representative of each in the classes.

Class A.—In this class we will place the shrubs which flower upon the current year's growth, that is shrubs which flower upon the growths made in the same year as the flowers are produced. Hybrid perpetual and Hybrid tea Roses and Hydrangeas belong to this class. It is the practice to prune these shrubs as soon as danger from heavy frost is past. As usually the lower buds on the growths will produce strong flower-bearing growth, it is well to prune severely unless for some reason large bushes are desired. The way to obtain large blooms of Hydrangea paniculata is to remove the very weak growths and restrict the shrub to four or five strong ones, then to cut these back just above buds, three or four inches above the wood of the previous year. Hybrid Perpetual Roses are pruned in much the same way except that the growths are shortened a little further above the wood of the previous year, say eight or ten inches. Hybrid Teas are pruned a little more severely about four inches above the previous year's wood.

Class B.—In this class the shrubs which flower upon growths produced the previous year, as Spirea Van Houttei, The Bridal Wreath; Weigelia, Lilac, Lonicera Tartarica, Tartarian Honeysuckle, and Lonicera Morrowi Honeysuckle, and all shrubby Honeysuckles, also Deutzia, the Snow Flower, the Forsythia, the Golden Bell and others too numerous to mention in this short article.

The shrubs in this class are dependent upon the formation of new growth for the following season's flowers and should as a rule be pruned as soon as the flowers fade. The pruning should consist in the removal of old flowering growths to favor the development of the new and the subsequent ripening of the flowering buds before winter. The pruning of these shrubs should more properly be termed "thinning." If the shrubs have grown somewhat tall they should be reduced in size by thinning out the oldest and the longest of the growths and not by drastically shearing or cutting back the growths to a given height. Shrubs should not be allowed to become overgrown on the average city lot; if so their beauty will be sacrificed. In the case of the Lilacs the growths which have flowered should be removed before seed formation takes place, their growths being cut back to the next joint.

Sub-class C. — This class, which might properly be termed a sub-class of Class B, will comprise the shrubs which are valued for their ornamental berries (fruits), or for their colored stems and twigs during winter. It should not be necessary to say that if after flowering these shrubs are heavily pruned there will be few berries or colored stems left to cheer the eye during winter. In this class we have shrubby Honeysuckles, the same as in Class B, and where we desire to preserve fruiting growths we simply do not thin out the growths which have flowered, very drastically. The Symphoricarpos two kinds, the Snow Berry and Indian Berry, Barberry and Euonymus, also belong to the class. The pruning of these should be left until they have served their ornamental purpose during late winter.

Class D. — The evergreen shrubs should reasonably be placed in a class by themselves. It is true that very little pruning is ever necessary. Whether they are used as specimens in the lawn or massed in the border, it is folly to interfere very much with them. As they usually are of very slow growth the only pruning necessary will be to remove a wayward growth occasionally. Any pruning if necessary should take the form of a thinning.

The writer knows that during past years evergreen trees and shrubs have been shorn to grotesque shapes. In all cases, however, this has been done at the expense of the natural beauty and gracefulness of the subject. The beauty of your evergreen shrubs, no matter where planted, except in hedges, lies in their naturalness. Do not despoil this. In this class we have the Japanese Yew, Thuya (arbor vitae) Dwarf Spruce, Dwarf Mountain Pine, Junipers (although not so good for the atmosphere of a city) and similar low growing forms.

### Hedges for Flowers and Ornamental Fruits.

Briefly the pruning of hedges such as of shrubs which flower upon the previous year's growths, such as the Bridal Wreath, should take the form of a thinning (never a clipping or shearing) just after the shrubs have flowered. Even the Caragana, Siberian Pea, should receive this treatment much as to the contrary we often see it clipped. If you desire to defeat the purpose for which these hedges were largely planted—the production of lovely flowers, clip or shear them.

Hedges of the Japanese Barberry valued for the red stems and berries should never be clipped but be thinned out lightly every year, so many growths being left as to leave no suspicion in the mind of drastic pruning.

### Foliage and Evergreen Hedges.

When pruning hedges such as the English Privet, Amur River Privet, or the California Privet (the last mentioned not hardy in cold winter localities), also evergreens such as Arbor Vitae, or as it is sometimes called, "White Cedar," White Spruce or Norway Spruce, the practice is to clip these to cause the branches to thicken out. Such hedges are usually planted to serve a purpose where utility is the chief consideration. The evergreens are usually pruned during July and the Privets in spring and midsummer if necessary. For the ordinary deciduous hedge one pruning a year will however suffice.

### Pruning Shrubs An Art.

To properly prune shrubs is an art which however, when studied is easy of accomplishment. To be able to diagnose the case is of prime importance, for the pruning of any shrub is really an operation. Be certain first to which class the shrub belongs and then prune. The objects of pruning may be summarized as follows:—To encourage the development of vigorous flower bearing growth. To eliminate superfluous and worthless growth or branches, and those which are dead, defective, or which have performed their function. To promote by pruning the production of young growths to replace the old and worthless and cause a general rejuvenation of the shrub.

When effecting this annual pruning of your shrubs, don't leave any stubs. Remove the branches at their junction with others. If necessary, as it sometimes is, to shorten long ones, cut these just above smaller branches or buds with a slanting upward cut. A great reason for encouraging young growth is that the strongest stems grow quickly to the light. The lateral ones are thus badly shaded. This may result in their partial or full defoliation and sometimes death. It simply being a case of survival of the fittest. Unless we carefully prune our shrubs unsightly leafless stems will appear near the ground and dilapidation will quickly ensue. When the practice of proper annual pruning pertains, renovation will constantly take place, much to the enhanced appearance of our plantations. Copyright 1926, MacLean Building Reports, Ltd.

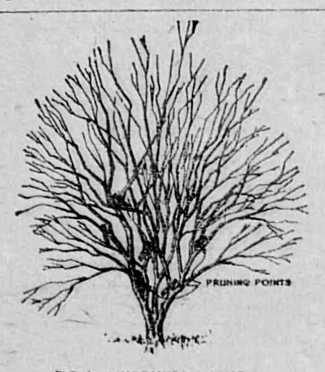


FIG. 1. UNPRUNED SHRUB

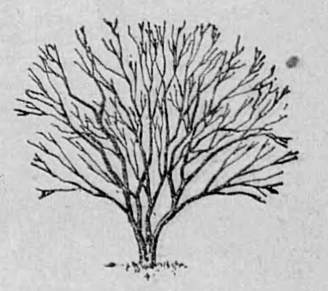

FIG. 2. PRUNED SHRUB

Showing how to prune shrubs of class B

# MY PET CLEANING STUNTS

BY NELL B. NICHOLS.

I have a great admiration for the ability of soap and water in cleansing woodwork and furniture. When properly used they accomplish wonders in removing coal dust, finger prints and other soil that accumulates on wood surfaces.

If my furniture or woodwork is soiled badly I moisten a soft cloth in a basin containing a rich suds made from a mild soap or soap flakes and tepid water. This cloth is wrung very dry and then I rub it on the soiled surface with the grain of the wood, cleaning a small area at a time. With a dry piece of lintless cloth I wipe the clean surface.

After the cleaning is completed, polishing is in order. This gives the wood a bright appearance and restores the oil which is lost as the wood is dried by heat and is washed. I sprinkle my dust cloth, which is an old piece of velveteen salvaged from an ancient hat, with the liquid and roll the material tightly. As this stands the polish is distributed evenly through it. I take especial pains to avoid the application of too much polish, for a surplus serves as a collector for dust and soil.

### BRUSHES ARE AIDS.

Most women have a favorite furniture polish which they use. Frequently I use paste wax. I like this on painted surfaces, for it gives a dull, rich finish.

In cleansing waxed surfaces I frequently employ gasoline instead of soap and water. This method is safe only when there is no fire in the room.

I find that much bric-a-brac, such as vases, candlesticks and picture frames, may be cleaned in soap and water. Then there are excellent polishes for cleaning the metal fixtures in the bathroom, keeping them shining in appearance.

Brushes are aids in my home in cleaning the crevices in cut-glass vases, silver and other ornaments. In every home there are windows and mirrors and glass doors to be cleaned. I have two ways of doing this work: the wet and the dry methods. I strive always to take long, overlapping strokes in cleaning and drying glass, for they are easier than short, jerky ones.

For washing glass I prefer to use clean warm water and a chamois skin. I wet the chamois in the water, wring it out quite dry and then rub the surface with it. I rinse the chamois in a second basin containing clean hot water, and go over the glass again. It is almost dry when the chamois has been used a second time. A chamois lasts a long time if you are careful to rinse it in clean warm water and dry it by spreading on a table away from high heat.

### DRY CLEANING.

On cold days I like to clean glass by rubbing it with denatured alcohol. I would be tempted to use this method all the time, especially on windows, if the alcohol were not so expensive.

My dry methods utilize any one of many excellent commercial preparations now available. I moisten the powdered preparation either with alcohol, ammonia or water, forming a thin paste. Then with a moistened cloth I apply a thin film of paste to the glass. After this has dried I rub it off with a dry cloth.

I clean silver by the electrolic way. It is a quick and easy method, and a safe one. Here are the steps I follow: Heat the water to the boiling point in an aluminum kettle and to every quart add one teaspoonful of salt and an equal amount of washing or baking soda. Stir until these have dissolved. Then place the silver in the kettle. Every piece should be covered with water. Boil until the discoloration is removed. Empty the water out of the kettle, rinse the silver in hot water and then dry it. When I rub it vigorously I find that the polish is satisfactory.

The important precaution to heed in cleansing mirrors is not to use enough water, when the wet method is employed, to permit any of it to get behind the glass. When this occurs a cloudy mirror is the result.

In protection of our supply of milk, the whole proceeding must naturally start at the farm. Unless clean milk is produced, it is impossible to deliver a product that thoroughly satisfies the people who consume it.

It's a good plan to get the machinery repaired before the field work is on.