HOW TO USE THE ROCKS

BY L. H. COBB.

Rocks on a farm are not an unmitigated evil, though I am very sure I should not buy a rocky farm for the sake of the rocks; I would prefer to haul the rocks from some other man's farm if I had a choice in the matter.

An uncle of mine had a farm that was rocky all over, and he made rock fences that were still standing when he died at a good old age, and I guess some of them are still doing service as fences and rabbit harbors. I never was impressed with his rock fences, though there can be no doubt that they served their purpose well and lasted with the best fences, built as he built them; and considering that the material was near at hand and had to be taken from the fields, his plan was all right for his day. Now I think we can find better use for the rocks.

My uncle also used a good many rocks to build a dam across a draw that was cutting a cultivated field in two, and the dam caused the draw to fill until there was but a slight depression. This was done gradually, but before he died the terrace above the wall was above his head when he stood in the draw below it.

Concrete work calls for an abundance of rock, and an excellent concrete wall six inches or more in thickness can be made with a big saving in cement and labor of rock crushing if the rocks are used whole and the concrete poured around them. To do this it is only necessary to see that at least a half-inch of space is left between the rocks and the forms. Mix the cement with sand, in the proportion of one part to two, and have the mixture thin enough to run down among the rocks freely; then build up the rocks just ahead of the filling so the concrete can be worked down to insure a good job. No better or more lasting wall could be constructed, and the saving in cement is in proportion to the size of the rocks used and the solidity of the rock work, though if small rocks are used it will not do to place them so close as to prevent a strong binding of the cement-and-sand concrete.

A farmer who wanted to build a machine shop and implement shed hired a rock-crusher to come to his place and crush the rock he had picked up and hauled. The crusher was to cost him $1 a yard of crushed rock with a minimum of 50 yards, which was a lot cheaper than hand crushing, and made his rock supply cost him low. With his ton truck, on a rocky hillside, it was no hard job to gather the rocks needed. Quite a few farmers have crushers of their own, and in some cases several farmers own a crusher jointly.

Concrete is the most lasting material we can use on the farm for the purpose that it serves, and it can be adapted to a great many purposes at that—silos, farm buildings, troughs, manure pits, scale pits, floors for feedings, walks and curbs, and numerous other things. One farmer I know paved his barnyard in the semicircle that is formed by the buildings, from the edge of the lawn back, so there will be no mud between the house and the buildings. His arrangement is excellent, for the stock does not come inside the line of the buildings. The poultry-house, machine shop, implement shed, cow barn, silos, manure pit and horse barns all border this concrete yard, while a driveway enters from the highway, along one side of the lawn, runs back to the paved yard and out to the road again at the other edge of the lawn.

Home Fattening.

Is it best to fatten at home? That depends upon conditions. If you are planning to kill for market, by all means first fatten the birds. You may take ever so much pains with the killing, dressing, wrapping and packing but if the birds are of poor quality or are not fat, you have wasted your time. A dressed bird never will be a better grade than when it was living but it does pay to dress them for market if you have the time and can fatten them first.

There are two ways to fatten chickens.

One way is to put them in a small pen, allowing about one and one-half square feet of floor space for each bird. If there is more space, the birds will exercise too much. If less space is allowed, the weaker ones will be trampled upon as well as be crowded away from the feed. The troughs or feed pans should be on blocks at least four inches above the floor to keep the chickens from standing in the feed. Do not keep feed before them all of the time. Give only what they will eat in half an hour then fill the troughs with water until the next feeding time. Feed either a prepared fattening mash or mix one at home. Give cracked corn soaked in milk or water for the evening feed. If possible, fatten the young chickens in a separate pen from the old ones, as they need a longer time since they are growing as well as fattening.

The other way to fatten is to use crates as in the commercial feeding plants. Be sure the crates are not in a draft. A room in a barn, the driveway of the corn crib (if there are doors at the end) or a place in the poultry house may be used. A crate twenty-eight inches wide, thirty-six inches long and fourteen inches high with a partition lengthwise through the centre is a good size. This will hold from twelve to twenty depending on whether cocks and hens or spring chickens are being fattened.

Crate fattened birds shrink too much to be profitable if they are shipped live weight, so unless you plan to dress them, it would be better to fatten them in a pen.

Dress Turkeys Before Shipping.

Authorities agree that whenever possible turkeys should be sent to market dressed. In his bulletin on "Turkeys and their Management," published by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, Mr. A. G. Taylor of the Poultry Division of the Experimental Farm, advises starving the birds during twenty-four hours before killing. During this time they should be given all the fresh water they can drink, which aids in cleaning the intestines and improving the flavor of the flesh. Dressed birds, Mr. Taylor adds, should be thoroughly cooled before packing and the carcasses should be packed firmly in the cases so as to prevent shaking about when in transit.

A Home-made Fruit Bowl.

If you have an old wooden bowl that is not in active use, buy some paint and shellac—dark shades are preferable—and give it a coat of paint, and when thoroughly dry shellac it. The result will be a very attractive fruit bowl. If you know how to make pretty borders, such a finishing touch will make the bowl even more attractive. —I. M. S.

Quality commands best prices, but quality can not be secured from feed alone. Unless the feed is utilized to best advantage, quality will be lacking.

Selecting Stockers and Feeders.

In selecting stocker and feeder cattle the buyer should keep in mind beef type, breeding, uniformity, quality and development for age, says Prof. Wade Toole of the Animal Husbandry Dept. O.A.C. All cattle so selected should at least be sired by a pure-bred bull and should show as much breed character as possible. Blood tells, and, if it is practicable, it is well to select cattle which show similarity in breed character, because this makes for uniformity and uniformity always has a market value. For instance a carload of cattle of the same breed and color, of equal weight and finish will generally meet a more ready sale than a mixed lot. Quality is important and size for age is a factor because stunted cattle rarely come back and make the gains that thrifty cattle do. It is well to select cattle that are low to the ground, showing short, broad heads with strong muzzles and with plenty of heart girth and middle giving every indication of being able to handle large quantities of feed to advantage. The long-legged, shallow-bodied, wasp-waisted, weak-muzzled, cat-hammed steer is almost invariably a poor doer and a money loser. As mentioned elsewhere, the original weight of feeding cattle is important, because whatever spread in price the feeder shows, of course, a profit on this original weight, and for short-keep steers the heavier feeder often gives a greater chance for profit, whereas for the long-keep cattle lighter steers are often selected.

Breeding Sows for Two Litters a Year.

In discussing the breeding of sows for two litters a year the Dominion Animal Husbandman (Mr. G. B. Rothwell) in his recently published pamphlet on Breeding and Feeding the Market Hog, points out that under the two-litter-a-year plan the spring litter must needs be farrowed not later than the middle of April. This is necessary since September may be regarded as the limit month for fall-farrowed litters except in the case of the more specialized breeder who has special facilities for housing and caring for the later litter. The average farmer can, however, so regulate his breeding dates that the second litter will arrive not later than the end of September. Thus enabling the sow to have a brief rest between litters and to be on the gain before being bred for the second litter. It is very important adds the Dominion Animal Husbandman, that the sow be allowed two or three weeks to get on the up-grade, particularly if she has just weaned a large litter. Close breeding should be attempted only when the sow is in good condition, where, for instance, the former litter has been small.

Mr. Rothwell suggests in the pamphlet, which can be had free of cost by applying to the Publications Branch, Ottawa, that for the spring litter the sow should be bred from the middle of November to December 20 or not much later. She will then farrow from somewhere around March 6 to the middle of April. She can then be bred for the fall litter from about the first week of May to not later than June 10 or 12 in order to farrow by the end of September.

Willie heard grandma say she had mislaid her spectacles, and when found they were broken. That evening Willie gathered the eggs, and found one broken. He rushed into the house: "Grandma! oh, grandma! one of the hens mislaid an egg."

VERY SMART FOR THE JUNIOR MISS.

This chic little two-piece dress with skirt joined to lining top has groups of plaits in front and back to give the necessary fulness. Long sleeves gathered into narrow wrist-bands, and a turn-down collar are attractive and becoming features. No. 1391 is for girls in sizes 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires 3 yards 36-inch material; ⅞ yard lining. 20 cents.

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.

Brightening the Kitchen.

So often there is no convenient place in the kitchen for a wood box; the ordinary one is a catch-all for paper and trash of any kind and is consequently an eyesore. I have had a window seat built of scrap lumber; the hinged lid lifts and is held in place with a button which is attached to one side of the frame. This protects the glass while the box is being filled. When closed it is the favorite spot of the whole family. Being near the stove, it is warm. The size depends entirely upon the size and height of the window.

I was real proud of my freshly painted kitchen in the spring, as I had used only one coat of flat paint, which covered the spots nicely. But soon finger marks began to show around the doors and no amount of washing would remove them. While painting the table legs and lower part of the stove with black enamel, I conceived the idea of painting an equal distance above and below the locks on all doors with the black. The effect is very pleasing and now no finger marks can be seen.—L. B.

Use for Surgeon's Tape.

The adhesive tape that every medicine closet holds may be very useful in other household ways than that of helping to hold in place the small bandages occasioned by cuts and burns. One of the best of these is its use in corking salt-cellars, both individual ones and large ones. Cut a tiny strip of the adhesive tape to cover the cork hole of the salt-cellar's base. Fill the salt-cellar. Place the tape over the cork opening. This will eliminate the irritating trouble with corks that fall out of the salt-cellars and get lost. The tape is permanent till you wish to fill the salt-cellar again.

Bottles that have no corks may also be covered with the adhesive tape when standing in the medicine closet.

For marking children's rubber slickers or rain capes and rubbers, adhesive tape is vey useful. Write the owner's name in indelible ink upon the tape's smooth surface. Cut the length and apply to the base of the hanger or at back of the neck of cape or slicker. A good place to put the marking tape in rubbers is at the side or under the storm cap.—P. B.

TERMS OF PAYMENT VARY CONSIDERABLY

When giving a mortgage deal only with reputable firms or individuals and get dependable legal advice. The terms of payment of principal and interest vary a great deal. Very often a first mortgage should be what is called a straight mortgage or one on which interest only is paid periodically and the principal not until the end of five years. This is particularly desirable when a second mortgage must also be carried as in this case substantial periodical payments plus accrued interest must be made on the principal.

You should not only consider the terms of mortgages in relation to your own ability to pay, but also as they affect the sale of your property at any time.

What are the chief considerations in selecting a home-building plan? Arranged in order of importance they are roughly as follows: Economic use of materials and labor; Convenience; Comfort; Interior attractiveness; Exterior attractiveness; Finish.

Building a home is a serious business, and you should undertake it only with a serious sense of the future advantages or disadvantages that may arise from the careful or negligent study of those features which make a home valuable or the reverse.

It is well to reverse what would seem, at first sight, the logical method of planning a home. Don't look at your dream house from the outside inwards. Look at it from the inside out. Try to place yourself in imagination inside it. Study the arrangement of the rooms, stairs, etc., take into consideration the saving of steps, the later installation of labor-saving devices, the question of lighting, passages, cupboards, windows, recesses, heating and ventilation.

Jan Masaryk

Czecho-Slovakian minister to Great Britain.

"TAKE TIME"

BY GLADYS. E. TAYLOR.

One of our professors at College once said that he could preach a sermon on the two little words, "take time." I do not know what he might have said in such a sermon but I have often thought of this counsel and have tried to adopt it into my own life.

The life of the farm woman is of necessity full. I have learned this from experience and yet my advice to all farm women is "take time" to live! Learn to work for speed and efficiency in your housework. Drain your dishes instead of wiping a presumably unsanitary towel over them. Use a pretty oil-cloth table cover that can be wiped off after every meal. Teach the children to put things away after using them. Do not spend time to iron common sheets, pillow slips and other articles which are just as well—and, some maintain—better without it. These are but a few of the time-savers which can be usd and thus permit us more time to "live."

Take time to get acquainted with those children of yours. They need your comradeship and sympathy, whatever their ages. Show an interest in the things which interest them. Learn their strong points and help to develop them. Remember that you are their most influential teacher. Give them daily lessons in honor, kindness and justice. Teach them to like good books and good music.

Take time to read. As a voter, it not only is your privilege but is your duty to keep posted on current affairs. Do not vote for a certain individual because he runs on the ticket of the party to which your husband or father belongs, but vote for him because he is the best man! Read the classics. Good literature will both rest and uplift you.

Take time to care for yourself. Be as careful to make yourself attractive in the eyes of your husband as you were when he was your lover. Pay especial attention to your hair, your nails and your clothes. Have outside interests which will take you among women who have something else to talk about than their neighbors' affairs. Active thought stands off old age.

Take time for picnics and pleasure excursions with your family. Take time to get "snaps" of your children as they are growing up. They will mean much to you in later life.

Take time for spiritual life. Your soul needs food even more than your body.

So I might go on and on, saying take time to do these things which, after all, are not for time but for eternity. Think them out for yourself.

Storm-Bound.

In the midst of the spelling lesson, Miss Allison noticed that the wind was rising. She glanced from the window and saw that snow was beginning to fall.

"That is strange," she said to herself. "The sun was shining a few moments ago. It is probably just a cloud passing over."

The snow, however, continued to fall and the wind blew harder and harder. By noon the air was thick with snow driven before a gale from the north. Miss Allison's room was getting cold in spite of the big stove in the corner.

Miss Payne, the other teacher in the little country schoolhouse, appeared in the doorway.

"It is cold in here," she said, "you had better all come into my room with your lunches. It is much warmer in there for we don't feel the wind so much."

So Miss Allison and all the children accepted the invitation.

"It seems to me," said Miss Payne in a low tone to Miss Allison, "that we ought to dismiss them and let them get home before the storm is any worse."

"We couldn't do that," said Miss Allison. "Look at those drifts. Some of these children come from over a mile away. When the time comes," she added smiling, "there will be a way."

There were no lessons at all that afternoon. The children sat two in a seat and the time was spent in all sorts of ways. First Miss Payne read a story, then one of the boys recited, then they sang a song.

Once one of the children, looking out of the window at the piling snow, wondered how they were ever going to get home.

"It isn't time yet," said Miss Allison. "When it is time there will be a way and a good one."

"Let's sing a song about spring," suggested Miss Payne. So they sang one about soft breezes and bright sunshine and laughed to see the snow go dashing past the windows, driven by the cold north wind.

"It's getting dark," said one of the little girls in a frightened voice.

"That is because the clouds are hiding the sun," said Miss Payne. "See, the clock says it isn't late at all." So the time passed. Then just before the usual time for school to close, one of the boys sitting near the window gave a shout—"Look, look," he cried, and all the children crowded to see.

"Somebody's coming," laughed the little girl who had been frightened a little while before. "I see Uncle Dan, driving Tom and Joe."

"I see Dad," cried another.

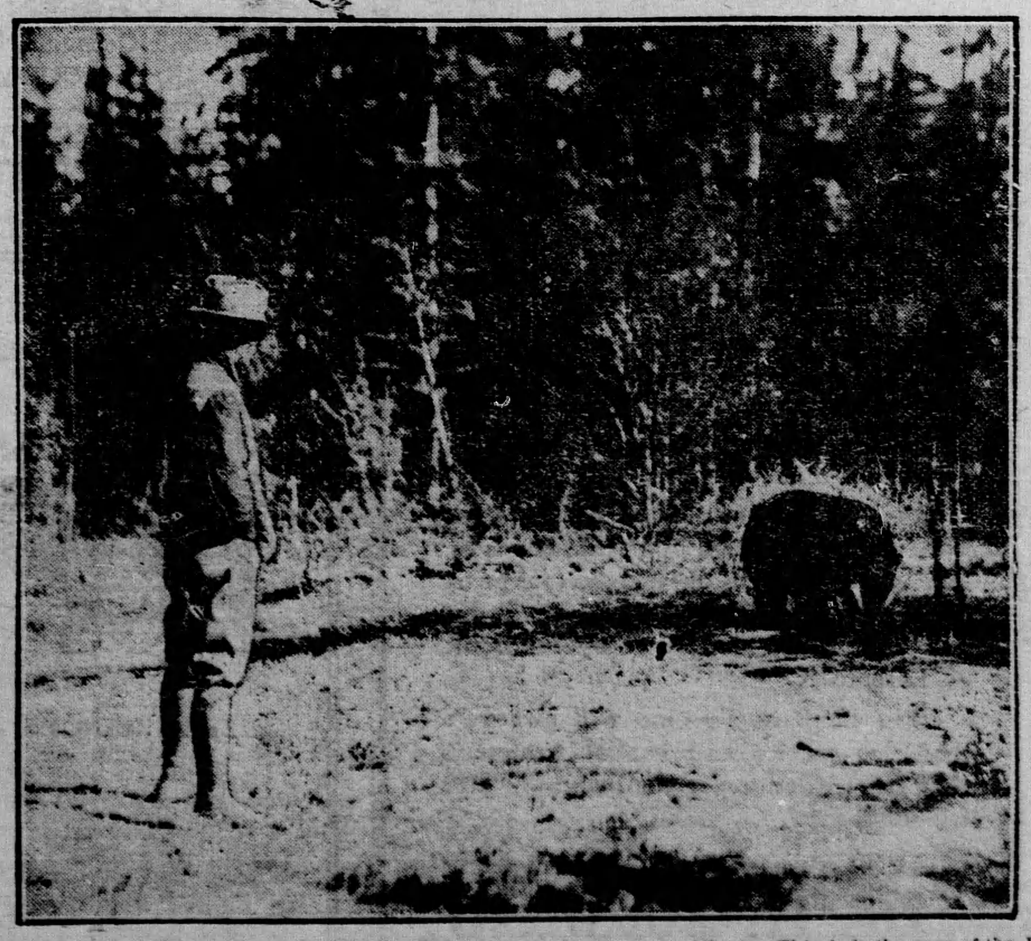
Through the drifts the powerful horses fought their way and four big bobsleds drew up before the door of the little schoolhouse.

"Come on," called Uncle Dan cheerfully. "Lots of room for everybody."

There was plenty of straw in the big sleds and warm blankets and robes to keep out the storm.

Everybody was soon tucked in warm and comfortable. "I was scared this afternoon," confessed the little girl to Uncle Dan as they drove along. "But Miss Allison said there would be a way when the time came, and there was."

"There always is," said Uncle Dan.



Little black bear visits camp at Lake Wabasso, near Jasper town, Alberta. This is in the area of the Jasper National Park, one of the world's great playgrounds.

Stirring.

Native (to a vacationist who is complaining about the dull locality)—"Well, sir, you should stay here until next week, and then you will see the whole countryside stirred up."

Vacationist—"What will happen?"

Native—"Plowing."

Light Burns for "Yard" Dead.

In one of the corridors of Scotland Yard burns a light which never has been put out, and the intention is that it never shall be. It burns in memory of those men of the "Yard" who were killed in the war, and has an inscription to that effect.