A FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

BY HARVEY A. ISCHE.

"This certainly is a surprise," said a recent visitor, referring to the fact that our family were all at home working in a partnership with Father and Mother on a farm that our great-grandsire purchased from the Canada Company, as part of the primitive forest of America. Well-night onto 100 years ago the name Ische has been connected with these acres. At present the farm is being run by Father and Mother and four of us boys, all grown men. There are no girls in the family, and the four boys comprise the whole of it. The story of how Father managed to retain our interest and co-operation might be of interest to fathers elsewhere.

Prior to 1914, Father had all he could do to take care of the 150 acres and the herd of purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle on it. This herd, by the way, was established in the nineties, and is one of the oldest in Eastern Canada. The writer was the oldest in the family and ambitious to go to college. Unfortunately, the war intervened, and every able-bodied young man joined the famous expeditionary force. My college experience faded into a dream and in its place came an education in field and barn which has been the means of awakening in me a ambition to make of the farm a better place to live and a worth-while business place. I have learned that the breeder's art is a complex one; an art requiring patience and judgment, worthy of the efforts of a real man, and this is how Father interested his oldest in the agricultural industry.

EXTRA MONEY FROM BEES.

About this time, Father became interested in the possibilities of the honey industry. He read and reread every bee journal and book available. Not only this, but he talked bees till every one of us lads became enthusiastic. For years we invested every dollar we made in increasing our bee and honey business. Particular attention was given to the successful marketing of our products, and we were among the first to pool our crop with the now successful co-operative, believing that united the beekeepers could more properly advertise and merchandise their crop. Our belief has been more than substantiated.

The combined farm and honey business carried on by five able-bodied men has been profitable enough to allow us to enjoy modern rural conveniences, and while at times we are compelled to work long and tedious hours, there are always possibilities of holidays and easy spells. We find that by getting away from home occasionally, we can learn much that will be of material benefit to us.

There is nothing unusual about our partnership, except that it exists in a community that is like practically every community. Fathers and sons are trying to carry on individual businesses, paying interest on a large amount of overhead that might easily be eliminated. We believe that this family partnership will be a means of overcoming a great deal of the rural depopulation problem so prevalent today. Why should our boys be forced to work for strangers, making money for strangers, when they might work for themselves in co-operation with their parents? It is not necessary that every family should carry on a bee business; there may be other sidelines, or the farm proper may be enlarged, but we know that any one attempting a family partnership will be well repaid.

ETIENNE BOROSH

110 years old, who lives in the mountains of Rumania, is still very active and in full possession of his faculties. He continues to work about his farm. He is shown seated on the coffin he built for himself, but which he hopes he will not use for many years to come.

Improvements in Fruits.

There are no more valuable experiments being carried on at the Dominion Experimental Farms and stations than those concerning fruit. Not alone are efforts directed to the improvement of varieties, but also to the ascertainment of the kind most suitable for growth in each particular district. Apples being the greatest staple of the country naturally receive special attention and some valuable varieties have been developed or bettered by cultivation. Special efforts are being made to obtain heavier and improved winter sorts, around no fewer than three hundred of the longer-keeping varieties now being under test. Pears are receiving similar attention and particularly with a view to securing better blight-resistant varieties.

Hardy cherries are being looked for and the hybrids between the native American species and the Japanese plum have produced useful sorts for Eastern Canada. A spineless gooseberry is proving promising and blueberries are being experimented with to the encouragement of their wider growth.

Investigations in regard to runner formation and fertilizing of the strawberry have shown that the earlier the runners root the larger will be the crowns and that when nitrate of soda is used as a fertilizer the best results are obtained when it is applied during the month of September.

Tobogganing.

Tobogganing is, perhaps, the most popular of the real winter sports; and it's a made-to-order pastime for country boys, for they have the whole sweep of open country in which to choose a location for their slides. At the big winter resorts they think nothing of runs—a dozen or so, side by side, a mile in length, with a drop of from a few feet to a hundred or more.

Making the runs is an important detail, but it is not such a difficult matter, especially if a few boys are working together.

Use any convenient implement to scoop out the snow, being sure to leave a fairly good coat of snow on the bottoms and being careful to make the side walls uniform. Start at the bottom and work toward the top of the hill. There may be every variety of turn, from the sharp corner to the most gentle curve.

After the run has been made sprinkle both the paths and the sides with water, for, you see, you really toboggan on an iced chute. The thin coat of ice renders the run more rapid and adds to the thrills.

Good toboggans are not very expensive, and if the stores in your community do not have them in stock they may be ordered from sporting-goods houses. These are to be preferred, of course, to home-made affairs, but there is no reason why every one of you cannot enjoy such slides with the sleds you have at hand.

Build An Ice Boat.

An ice boat is one of the fastest things built by man. The fastest time ever caught by a stop watch was a measured mile in 28.2 seconds. That's speed.

By using materials found about the farm, a boy may build a boat at very little expense. Several boys can work together and divide the cost. Only ordinary tools are needed.

Imagine yourself starting out on the frozen lake or river some fine winter morning. The sail is set, the tiller is in one hand and the main sheet in the other. Overhead the white clouds are scudding before the wind, but no faster than you will be going soon. Two or three buddies with you in the cockpit. Another boat or two itching to race you maybe. Fun? try it!

Ice boating is safer than any other sport that provides as many thrills. If you fall out of the boat you cannot drop more than a few inches, then you slide till friction stops you. A patch on the seat of the knickers will repair the damage. If the boat breaks through, its wooden framework floats you. A collision is less dangerous than one between autos, for both boats can skid smoothly for any distance.

Docking Lambs.

Don't attempt concrete work in freezing weather unless the ingredients can be heated before mixing and the work kept above freezing for at least ten days. Foundation can be laid in cold weather if these precautions are taken, and if the work is covered with manure or well-packed straw. Otherwise, wait until spring.

WASH DAY FOR BABY'S CLOTHES

BY NELL B. NICHOLS.

A baby's clothes are laundered three times as much as an adult's garments. Their ability to hold their shape and to make a good appearance when tubbed three times a week for several months is an important factor in determining how satisfactory they are.

Shrinkage is one of the dreads connected with the washing of knitted woolens, such as shirts, stockings and sweaters, and of flannels. In tests conducted in an experimental home laundry I found these difficulties may be avoided.

This method of washing gave best results. Tepid water, not warmer than 110 deg. F., was used for the washing and rinsing. Hard water was softened with a little borax, approximately two tablespoonfuls. All rubbing and twisting was avoided. I made cups of my hands and forced the soapy water back and forth through the meshes of the fabrics. The rinsing was accomplished in the same manner. Three rinses were given. The soap or soap flakes were dissolved in the water before the woolens were added. The borax, when used, was dissolved with the soap product.

The best method of drying was: Placing the shirts and stockings on wooden or wire forms made especially for this purpose; measuring the sweaters and pinning them the right size on a flat surface like a table top; and ironing the flannels while they were still damp. They may be pressed on the wrong side but I find they are more fluffy if a slightly dampened piece of cheesecloth is used as a pressing cloth. This is spread over the right side of the flannel.

Silks are treated like the woolens, only it is best not to hang them out to dry. Danger of streaking is eliminated by spreading the rinsed silk garment on a Turkish towel and rolling it. Press on the wrong side while damp. Shake the silk a few seconds before putting the iron on it.

Another precaution which my tests stressed was the manner of drying woolens so far as temperature is concerned. Direct sunshine is to be avoided—it burns the fibres. Freezing is also harmful—it causes shrinkage.

The sweaters were measured before being washed and the figures written down. Then the washed and rinsed sweater was pinned to a sheet-covered table according to these measurements.

Stains are ever to be dealt with in the baby's laundry. As a matter of safety it pays to try to remove the spots with cool water. It also is easier to succeed if the stains are treated while fresh. Woolens and silks are injured by most stain removers. The only material which I used with success was a dilute acid, such as lemon juice, or a weak solution of oxalic acid. Both of these materials have a tendency to bleach the fabrics. Urine is best removed by soaking the garment in cool water an hour or longer and then washing in lukewarm water and coap. Sometimes sponging with alcohol is helpful.

Removing stains from cotton dresses and slips was less difficult since the cotton fibre naturally is strong. Some of the common spots worked on and the successful methods of treating are as follows:

Milk: Wash in cold water. Follow with a tubbing in lukewarm soapsuds.

Egg: Wash in cold water.

Fruit juice: Pour boiling water from teakettle through the stain, holding the kettle at least two feet above the garment. This method seldom fails. When it does, a little borax may be applied.

Iodine: Wash in warm water with soap while the stain is fresh. If this fails try alcohol. Ammonia also is effective.

Mucus: Soak the garment in salt water, using two tablespoonfuls salt to a quart of water. Soak several hours.

Vaseline: Soak and wash garment in kerosene.

Grease: Employ warm soapy water.

Most of the ribbons on baby clothes may be cared for successfully. In the tests I found that the original finish may be restored when it disappears. To do this dip the clean, dry ribbon in skimmed milk or whey and lay it flat on a clean surface, like the enameled top of a table, or wind it around a clean bottle. While still damp press on the wrong side. It is essential to have the cream removed from the milk or grease spots will develop in the ironing.

Teach the Fowls Confidence.

I have found that those poultry-keepers who are meeting with the most success are the ones who are kind, gentle and sympathetic when among their flocks. It may seem a small matter to have the fowls become acquainted with one's voice, yet I know that speaking to the fowls inspires confidence. It is a woman's way, and women, as a rule, are able to get pretty good results with poultry.

Fear is harmful to fowls. It gives them a setback. I have often noticed the excitement occasioned by placing a strange male in an unmated flock. Every move I made would cause a flurry. It would take weeks, sometimes months, before I could teach those fowls the confidence necessary to successful handling.

But I do not believe in having fowls so tame that they become a nuisance. While I want my stock tame, I do not want them under my feet every time I enter the pen. A certain control is necessary. They should be taught not to be scary, and so gentle that one's presence among them does not excite fear. It is good evidence of a man's shiftless, cruel and excitable ways, when his presence unnerves his fowls, and they fly about wildly the moment he enters the yard or house to take care of the flock.

It takes a lot of patience, kindness and gentleness to operate a plant successfully, and any one lacking those qualities had better let poultry severely alone. He may be a success at something else, but not at poultry-raising.—M. K. B.

Healing Frosted Combs.

Birds which are kept in dry, well-ventilated houses are not so susceptible to frozen combs and wattles as are those kept in tight, damp houses. So it is a good plan to open up the houses. But despite all precautions, combs and wattles will become frosted occasionally, especially on certain individuals which roost in exposed positions, or which in drinking just before going to perch have gotten their wattles wet from the drinking pan. Males whose perches are so high that when they crow in the morning they touch the rafters or roofing boards with the points of their combs are very apt to suffer.

The treatment for such troubles follows: First, gradually remove the frost from the frozen combs and wattles. This means to rub the affected parts with snow or with crushed ice or with cold water. Keep the birds in a cool building. Never remove them to a warm, heated room.

After the frost has been removed slowly and the comb is no longer stiff, the frozen parts should be thoroughly anointed with carbolated vaseline. Males or females which have suffered frozen combs or wattles should not be used for breeding purposes for a period of ten days to two weeks thereafter.

Fertile Eggs.

No more important subject can come in for consideration this month than that of how to secure eggs that will hatch a goodly percentage of vigorous chicks. There is still a lot to be learned along this line, and here are a few worthwhile facts:

Perhaps of first importance is the value of direct sunlight for the breeding hens. The breeding flock should be allowed outdoors in direct sunlight every sunny day during the winter and through the breeding season. It is doubtful whether much is gained by turning the flock out on dull, cloudy or stormy days.

Practical results seem to justify the liberal use of milk in the ration for breeders whenever it can be obtained. While milk is good for chickens of all ages under practically all conditions, it may be worth more as a feed for the breeding flock than for any other chickens.

Fresh green feed, such as cabbage or lettuce, is excellent, but carefully cured green alfalfa, clover or soybean hay will make a good substitute for the fresh greens. The hay need not be ground and mixed in the ration but may be kept before the fowls in wire baskets.

Clover as a Green Feed for Poultry.

Green feed in some form is essential to maintain a flock of laying hens in vigorous condition. It not only supplies succulence but it is the original source of vitamines, and it is on this source that dependence should largely be placed for the supply of these substances, as under ordinary conditions they may be supplied more economically in green feed than in any other form. Beets, mangels, turnips or almost any kind of garden truck makes good forms of green feed, and sprouted grains, clovers, alfalfa, rape and green crops of corn, oats, barley or wheat chopped into short lengths are also used successfully.

In a series of tests at the Experimental Station at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, Quebec, clover gave excellent results as a green feed, and proved superior to either mangels or sprouted oats. The birds in the pen given clover as a green feed were always in good condition, and produced the largest number of eggs at the cheapest cost per dozen. Clovers and alfalfa make excellent pasture for growing pullets. For use as a winter green feed they should be cut green and properly cured. The leaves usually found in mows where hay has been stored are of especial value and should be reserved for the use of the poultry.

Sand for Droppings Board.

The problem of removing frozen droppings can be solved by sprinkling a thin layer of dry sand over the droppings boards each time they are cleaned. A few handfuls will give a thin film of grit over the board and will entirely prevent the droppings from freezing to it.

If we put on with the sand two or three handfuls of acid phosphate to each droppings board the material scraped off will have an almost complete fertilizer balance.

Head Requirements in Horses.

The size of the head in horses should be proportionate to the size of the body. The head of a drafter is rarely criticized for being too large. There are instances, of course, where the head is so large that it looks plain. More frequently, however, the head of the drafter is critcized because it is too small. For this reason, in the case of foals, yearlings and two-year-olds, horsemen voice a preference for heads that are big and ample.

In all types of horses, long, narrow heads, also heads with dished faces are undesirable. Such features contribute to plainness. Width between the eyes, width of muzzle and jaws, width between the mandibles of the jaws, with balanced proportions of the head in all its dimensions, indicate intelligence, feeding capacity and ability. Straight-faced horses, also the Roman-nosed sorts are preferred to the dish-faced types.

Feeding Dairy Calves.

Calf-feeding is of momentous importance to the dairy. The method pursued at Nappan, N.S., Dominion Experimental Farm is as follows, as told in the last report of the Superintendent, Mr. W. W. Baird. The calves receive a mixture of 4 parts bran, 2 parts oats, 1 part oil meal and 1 pound bone meal per 100 pounds meal fed for the first year. Until the calf is around six to eight weeks old whole milk is fed and then a gradual change is made to skim milk. At this time a small amount of flax seed jelly is fed, starting with about one-quarter pound and increasing by degrees to one pound per day. The amount of dry grain hay and roots fed increases as the calf grows older. The main thing, remarks Mr. Baird, is to keep the calf from getting a setback when changing from whole to skim milk and to keep it in good growing condition.

The average weight of the heifers at Nappan farm at one year of age is 600 pounds. The average cost of rearing bull calves (Guernseys) until a year old is placed at $55.86, of heifers at $56.26 and of grade heifers at $43.22.

Hold Your Nose!

Yes, copper-carbonate dust is good medicine for stinking-smut of wheat; but be sure to wear a dust mask when using it. You can buy a mask or you can take a piece of cotton flannel, lint side out, and put it over the nose. Better wear goggles over the eyes, too. A good way to keep down dust is to put the dust and the grain in an old barrel churn, or in a smut-treating machine.

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IMPORTANT OPERATIONS IN THE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR GARDEN

By Henry J. Moore, C.M.H.

February.

1. With the advent of February the preparation of the soil for potting and seed sowing purposes indoors will be a matter of first importance. Soil screened to the degree desired and composed of equal parts of loam and leaf soil, to which is added a little sand will be found proper for the general run of ornamental plants.

A good soil in which to sow seeds is that which is shaken off the roots of potted plants during repotting; to it, if insufficient may be added a little loam and leaf soil and the whole be screened through an 1/8 inch screen. It is essentiol that enough sand be added to ensure porosity.

2. Sow late in the month in all early spring localities in the greenhouse or warm window, seeds of early Cauliflowers, Cabbages and Onions for later transplanting outdoors. If, when large enough to handle, the seedlings are transplanted to other containers a fine root system will be formed and the plants will make a good start and mature early when set out.

3. It is now time to propagate all manner of bedding plants from cuttings so as to ensure that well rooted and sturdy plants will be available by planting time in May. Among the kinds ahe Geraniums, Coleus, Lobelia, Ageratum, Acryanthus and Iresine. If propagated early and after potting on, the plants are pinched back they will become bushy and of good appearance.

4. The selection of early Potato sets should now occupy your attention. Sort the tubers, reserving those of about the four oz. size as "seed." Spread out the required quantity of sets on well lit shelves or floors so that sturdy sprouts will be produced. For this purpose the temperature should be about 50 degrees. When planted in April outdoors the crop will mature more quickly and thus be of greater value.

5. Where greenhouses in any sense of the word extensive are maintained, Lettuce and Radish are usually forced as early crops. If sown now Radish will be ready for harvesting by mid-April, Lettuce toward the end of April or early May. Lettuce from a previous sowing transplanted at this time should be read in about eight weeks.

6. Now is the proper time to prune the hard maple trees. Next month the sap will run and the trees be injured, if the work is deferred. The wounds must be painted to prevent the spores of fungi entering and causing the wood to decay. The limbs should be removed at their junction with others or at the trunk, stubs should not be left.

7. Next month is the time to prune our orchard trees — Apples, Pears, Peaches and the small fruits such as Gooseberries, Currants and Raspberries. Have you the necessary saws and equipment? Saws should be sharpened and everything essential be on hand for an early start.

8. The order for your seeds should now be in the hands of the Seedman. Next month a large number of kinds will be sown indoors. Success with these will depend upon a good start. See that the necessary containers such as pans and flats are on hand for their reception.

9. If you desire to increase the stock of Dahlias by means of cuttings, start the tubers into growth in boxes or the greenhouse bench. Maintain a temperature of around 60 degrees. The growths which will be produced will be taken as cuttings and when rooted and planted out will during the same year grow into splendid plants and should produce the finest flowers.

10. Greenhouse plants of many kinds are propagated by cuttings, during February. Among these are Crotons, India Rubber Plant, Chrysanthemum, Acacia and Dracaena. Seeds of Abutilon, the so-called Flowering Maple, Asparagus plumosus, Tuberous rooted Begonias, Dahlia, Carnations for the border, Gloxinia, Lobelia, Pansy and Verbena are usually sown during late February or early in March.

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