MARKDALE STANDARD

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Poultry

D. C. C. I raised about 150 ducks this year but they are dying off until only 1 have only eight left. They seem to go lame and have a matter-like froth in their eyes. They continue in that condition when three or four days and then die. Can you give me the cause and tell me what is the best feed for ducks?

When ducks have sore eyes it is sometimes due to a weakness caused by a lack of grit or the improper assimilation of food. Damp or dusty litter may cause the trouble. Weak legs may result from an unbalanced ration or a general lack of vigor in the breeding stock.

Try a ration consisting of mostly wheat bran with a little low-grade flour to stick it together. Then add only fifteen per cent. corn meal, ten per cent. beef scrap, five per cent. sand and a lot of cut clover or green rye. The use of too concentrated feed sometimes causes weakness in ducks. Plenty of free range is a great help in keeping ducks healthy.

Goslings need only fresh, tender grass for the first two days. Then a good mash can be made of two parts wheat middlings and one part cornmeal. This is moistened but not made into a sloppy mash. Feed four times each day just about the amount they can clean up in a few minutes and still remain hungry. When a week old the goslings can be given scalded cracked corn. They should have a grassy range as they are grass eaters and that must form the bulk of their ration. Some breeders of geese give the goslings bread and milk for the first few days. The bread is soaked in milk and then squeezed out nearly dry before feeding time.

How I Churn a Little Cream.

The average grain farmer's wife seldom handles the milk of more than one or two cows. At some time of the year the cream supply will be necessarily small, and the problem presents itself of how to churn it successfully and easily and yet have good, wholesome butter. If she keeps the cream until she has a sufficient amount for her five-gallon churn, it is usually bitter and not fit to use, owing to its age.

I solved my problem in the following manner: I poured the cream (either one or two quarts) in a common one-gallon stone jar, and churned it with the dasher of my five-gallon earthenware churn. The dasher and lid of this churn were an exact fit for the one-gallon jar. This improvised churn may be placed either on a chair or table. If the rim of your jar is not perfectly even and smooth, lay a small fold of some clean white material (cheesecloth is best, as it is more absorbent) around the edge of same to prevent any splashing or leaking of cream.

I have succeeded in churning butter many times in fifteen minutes, provided I have the cream at the correct temperature. My experience has been that 60 degrees in summer and 65 degrees in winter bring the quickest and best results. There is never any guesswork when you use a thermometer. It not only eliminates by half the drudgery and time of churning, but also insures one of uniformly wholesome, firm, sweet butter.

We are firm believers in healthy sports, but hay pitchers are more necessary than baseball pitchers.

To prevent rust: An ounce of camphor dissolved in a pound of lard is a good preparation to cover the bright parts of machines. The scum that forms in making this mixture should be taken off. The mixture should be applied to the well-cleaned parts and allowed to remain about twenty hours. Any excess may be rubbed off. The mixture forms a coating that will take a good polish when rubbed with a soft cloth. Axle grease is also excellent for keeping plow bottoms from rusting and may be used for the bright parts. Paint is a good rust preventive, but is hard to get off.

The Women's Institutes of Canada

By A. B. CUTTING.

In the Province of Ontario there was started a quarter of a century ago a farm women's organization that has spread from coast to coast of the Dominion and seems destined soon to become world-wide. The movement started in Stoney Creek, a little village made famous by war and women. It is over a hundred years, as every Canadian child knows, since war put Stoney Creek on the map of history. It was on February 19, 1897, that women started there an organization that afterwards spread over the province and eventually over the Dominion. [illegible] the first Women's Institute in Canada, with [illegible] members. [illegible] Women's Institutes, with [illegible] the [illegible] three significant [illegible] and fifty hundred. The organization that fostered it [illegible] Institutes and a Dominion federation embracing all the provinces.

The success of the movement started at Stoney Creek was almost phenomenal. Below the best of its kind in Canada, the difficulties that had to be overcome may be imagined. Public interest had to be aroused and, like the pioneer Farmers' Institute of a few years earlier, the movement had to prove its value before the skeptical could be persuaded that there was "anything in it." The women announced that the object of the institute was "to promote that knowledge of household science which shall lead to improvement in household architecture, with special attention to home sanitation, to a better understanding of the economic and hygienic value of foods and fuel, and to a more scientific care of children with a view to raising the general standard of the health of our people."

Spread Over Ontario.

The benefit that the Stoney Creek community derived from its Women's Institute soon was known to farm women all over the province. The important discovery that the farmer had a wife and family who needed assistance and improvement as well as did the farmer himself, or even his livestock, caused institutes to be organized in other places, until gradually all Ontario was dotted with organizations that centred in the home. At one of the early meeting, a prominent Canadian agriculturist summed up the need in this way:

"Where is the centre of the farmer's work? Is it to be found in the stables and fields, or is it to be found within the four walls of his own home? If we are going to revolutionize the farming industry in this country, if we are going to start along lines of development that will be lasting and helpful, and that have the possibilities of raising the farmer to the status which is his due, we shall do it not by giving him better barns and better stock, not simply by teaching him how to plow a straight furrow, but we shall do it only surely and securely by working this revolution from the inside; by getting right at the very heart of the farm; by getting right within the farmer's home."

And that is the reason not only for the establishment of Women's Institutes, but also for their rapid increase in numbers and for their success. A Women's Institute starts at the right point; it works from the heart of the home out. And when you improve the homes of the farms of a country, all other questions in connection with farm work are more easily and rationally settled.

Five years after the first institute was formed the Ontario Government recognized the movement as distinct from the Farmers' Institutes and gave it separate pecuniary consideration and assistance. By 1905 the membership totalled 7,018, and at 1,428 meetings held throughout the province in the preceding year, there was a total attendance of 54,829. Annually delegates from the various branches met in convention in Toronto or other central places to exchange ideas and to plan future activities.

Learned Nobility of Work.

Through the Women's Institutes, the farm women of Ontario have learned the nobility of work; they have made their work a profession. The old cry of drudgery now seldom is heard. The simple things of life have become just as important as the great. While fifty years ago the whiteness of a woman's bare kitchen floor was the gauge by which her housekeeping was judged, to-day the farm woman is artist enough to appreciate the renovating powers of pot paint. Instead of keeping the blinds down for fear of fading carpets and furniture, sunshine is allowed to stream in for the sake of health. Instead of thinking only of themselves and their hard lot, women's minds are reaching out for practical help and to nobler and higher things. And above all, women recognize more than ever the value of appreciation and consideration and sympathy in the home and in the community.

When another five years had passed, the membership (1910) was 16,104; the number of meetings, 3,483, and the total attendance at meetings, 140,388. The next five-year period showed in 1915 a membership of 29,016; meetings, 9,254; attendance, 231,687. Then the war exerted its baleful influence on this movement as it did on all other good things. Membership and regular meetings decreased in numbers, for the women of the institutes, in common with all loyal Canadians, devoted their efforts to war work. When peace came there was a renewed interest [illegible] work and a new determination for progress. [illegible] the Canadian Institutes [illegible] 72,199 [illegible] Mr. C. A. Duncan, [illegible] Interior, [illegible] development of the movement since the first institute was formed 24 years ago.

Although membership did not increase during the war, there was no decrease in enthusiasm on the part of the old members. The regular institute work was continued to a certain extent, but greater attention was given to patriotic work and living. In association with the Red Cross Society of Canada, the Women's Institutes did their duty nobly. Boxes and bales and parcels by the thousands were sent overseas for the comfort of soldiers and the relief of the destitute. Most of the donations went to the front and other destinations through official channels, but many also were sent directly to soldiers themselves, whether known or unknown personally by the senders.

Active in the War.

The writer, who "soldiered" for a time in both France and England, well remembers an instance associated with an institute parcel that made him both thoughtful and angry. In an army hut in England, one of the soldiers received by mail a half-dozen home-knitted socks from one of the Women's Institutes of Ontario. Wrapped with the socks was a slip of paper bearing the name and address of the institute and the names of the women and girls who had done the knitting. After the chap read the names, he was on the point of throwing the paper in the stove when I asked him to let me see it. On noting the names and the inference, which to me meant a desire for an acknowledgement, I asked the chap if he did not intend to send a word of thanks, and he said: "No, I do not know the people, and I do not know how they got my name." I suggested that that made the obligation of an acknowledgement all the more necessary, and he immediately did write a note of thanks. It was not ingratitude that made him first ignore the duty; it was just carelessness. But it made me think that probably hundreds, yes, thousands, of similar instances had and would occur of "Susie sewing shirts (or knitting socks) for soldiers" without receiving thanks or recognition of any kind. There was no doubt, however, that the soldiers fully appreciated the gifts, even though few of them may have shown it. In the case mentioned, the addressee kept two pairs of the socks and gave a pair each to four hut mates. I made certain that I was one of the four.

Besides the actual work done for war purposes, the institutes made large contributions in money and goods (over $28 per member during the last year of the war alone), including even ambulances. As it seems ages, instead of less than three years, since the war, suffice it to say that the Women's Institutes played their part to the full with women and other women's organizations everywhere.

The institutes have taken part in all home and community problems and many national ones. They have established community halls, rest rooms and libraries in hundreds of centres. They demonstrated the need and practicability of medical school inspection to a degree which led the provincial government to introduce an effective universal system of medical inspection for the rural communities of Ontario. The result has been the creation of a general interest in health problems and effective methods of proper feeding and care of children, the aged and sick, and in preventive treatment for disease. The institutes have demonstrated to the satisfaction of all persons concerned that health problems, school equipment and methods, the social life of the community, the support of charitable institutions and all other community activities require the co-operation of the women in the way of advice and practical assistance. The institutes have created in their members a consciousness of local and national responsibility.

Home and National Problems.

The institutes have aided in making effective the work of various departments of the government and the work of various institutions. In co-operation with the department of agriculture, they have been an important factor in the success of school fairs and of egg circles, and in the improvement of the raw material delivered at cheese factories, creameries and other markets. They have co-operated with the department of public health in distributing the instructive literature of the department, and in making a study of the care of the child, of the treatment for contagious diseases, etc.; this includes the establishment of child welfare clinics. They have co-operated with the department of education in medical school inspection, as already mentioned, in securing school nurses, in establishing libraries, in taking [illegible] have been allowed to fall [illegible] for active [illegible] have co-operated also with [illegible] and with [illegible] Municipal [illegible] also have been greatly assisted by the institutes in making their work effective in rural districts. These include the W.C.T.U., the Soldiers' Aid Commission of the Y.W.C.A., the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Navy League, the Victorian Order of Nurses and others. The institutes have, from year to year, become more and more an organization for the whole people. The next step in Ontario probably will be the appointment of permanent officials of the government to take charge respectively of the following features of the work: Health matters, food problems, house problems, girls' work, business methods and programs, and community undertakings.

Discuss Various Subjects.

But with all these big problems in operation and in prospect, the home and social activities of the institutes are the factors that count most. Demonstration lectures conducted by the government, in food values, cooking, sewing, nursing, other household arts, dairying, poultry, gardening, and so forth, have done much to make home work brighter and better. Meetings at intervals for this and other purposes have had also a social value that cannot be estimated. This sociability is looked upon in many localities, especially where the country is sparsely settled, as the strongest feature of the work. In some districts, the institutes offer practically the only opportunity for social intercourse. Among the innovations adopted for variety of topic and purpose are thimble days, travel days, nature study days, recipe days and "just talk" days. It is impossible to enumerate the many ways in which the institutes are serving the individual, the community and the nation.

The provincial government aids branch and district institutes financially with grants. It maintains a provincial headquarters with a superintendent and staff, to administer the work and the grants, to act as organization experts, to send out lines and suggestions for instruction to officers of institutes, [illegible] [illegible] Institutes [illegible] Institutes [illegible] branches known as [illegible] some other character, such as [illegible] clubs or [illegible] have been organized [illegible] that the larger organization [illegible] for married women [illegible] the meetings. In the [illegible] frolic, physical culture [illegible] amusements of various kinds are given prominence equal with the educational and social features.

In February, 1919, the various women's institutes of the province were centralized under a new name and in a new way—the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Like the local institutes, this organization is strictly non-partisan and non-sectarian in every phase of its work. Its purposes are "to co-ordinate the efforts and further the plans of all local institutes for home improvement and community betterment; to voice the sentiments of the local branches on all matters of provincial importance within the scope of institute work, and to co-operate with the Ontario Department of Agriculture and other departments of the government in work on educational and social lines for the improvement of national life." Standing committees have been appointed similar to those of the Dominion Federation which will be mentioned presently.

Making Water Run Up-Hill

By A. ASHMUN KELLY.

The difference between the water at our spring-house and us lay in the fact that the water couldn't run up the hill to the house, and we wouldn't; at least some of us would not. That is to say, we objected to carrying the water up.

We studied the matter out, looked over the various schemes designed to bring the water to the house through pipes—the wind-mill, gasoline engine, force and lift pump at the house, and finally the ram. It took us some six months to decide which scheme to adopt. In the meantime we had several plumbing firms come and look the thing over. One advised this, another that, but nearly all agreed that the ram was the best motor power. Then we measured the water, to see if there was enough to enable us to use a ram without any difficulty.

We dammed the stream outside the spring and let the water flow through a piece of tin pipe. It flowed twelve quarts a minute, two quarts more than required. Nearby were other good springs, welling up in the meadow; and in case of need these could easily be added to the water-supply for running the little ram. But ours is surely a big, never-failing spring in the spring-house.

To install the ram required a great lot of trench digging, so that the ground near the house and in the meadow looked as if we were getting ready to repel an army. The ram pit was five feet deep and, the same in circumference and, when walled up, looked like a well. Right at the spring-house we placed an empty linseed-oil barrel (this being called the forebay), to act as reservoir for adding force to the waterfall through the supply pipe. In the kitchen we put a large enameled sink and over it a tap, and in the corner a thirty-gallon tank. Then we ran a tank to the barnyard, placing it so that the water, when turned on, fell into a cedar tub.

It is all very simple and works perfectly. The water is forced up to the kitchen boiler, and from there it can be drawn through the tap over the sink. The overflow goes by the natural force of gravity to the barn.

The little ram keeps up its ceaseless thumping day and night, needing no attention whatever, no oiling, no gas, no starting or stopping. It asks nothing but to be let alone at its work. A strainer at the spring-house end of the supply-pipe keeps out anything that might get under the valve. A cover over the ram pit is made strong enough for a cow to walk over. At any time we can draw a glass of ice-cold water from the tap, for the water runs constantly. It never can be stale, and it is pure, soft and sweet.

What about the cost? Well, about $250. But we did much of the digging and all of the filling; we dug and walled up the ram pit, made the cover, etc. There were about 300 feet of piping, including a waste-water line that goes a good distance out in the meadow.

Is the water supply sufficient? Last night wife let the water run in the sink, and it ran for about eight hours. When I came down in the morning the tank had about one foot of water in it. That proves that the supply is not easily exhausted.

"But the water is cold; how can you do on wash day?" In the kitchen we have a very large range, and the hot water tank on its one end will hold nearly a barrel of water. Owing to the very large fire-pot, which takes a twenty-inch stick, the water in the tank heats quickly, and is always warm from the previous evening's fire as we burn wood. On wash day the water is sufficient and hot enough for the rinse water, while the water on the stove is heating, too. We have plenty of water—soft, almost rain-water, and pure as crystal. If cold water, to fill tank, etc., it is necessary to set a bucket under the tap, and while you are at work it fills as if in a jiffy.

Oh, this water system is a perfect boon to the housewife, not to mention some lesser persons who formerly had to carry all the water up-hill. We did not want a tank in the attic, so the resourceful plumber suggested a thirty-gallon boiler right in the kitchen. That gave him the contract, for the other plumbers had more complicated plans, which would have cost more and would not have given better service. I mention these things for the benefit of others who have about the same kind of water problem that we had and for whom a similar plan will be good.

By all means, water in every farm house. Borrow the money if you have to, and pay interest year after year rather than carry the water. The men from whom we bought spent their money on farm tools—we bought at his outfit with the farm, and we were surprised at the amount of machinery he had, some he could have done without while his wife was allowed to go to the spring and lug back to the house every quart of water she needed.

Rats are found in every part of the world, except the Polar regions.

SUFFERED YEARS WITH ECZEMA

"Fruit-a-tives" Cleared Her Skin

POINTE ST. PIERRE, P.Q.

"I suffered for three years with terrible Eczema. I consulted several doctors and they did not do me any good.

Then, I used one box of "Sootha-Salva" and two boxes of "Fruit-a-tives" and my hands are now clear. The pain is gone and there has been no return.

I think it is marvellous because no other medicine did me any good until I used "Sootha-Salva" and "Fruit-a-tives", the wonderful medicine made from fruit".

[illegible]

Power on the Farm.

The best auto tire made will not stand up under skidding. You can skid around a corner by going too fast, or you can throw your clutch in with a slam when trying to start. When you attempt to get the car in motion from a standstill, by slamming in the clutch and giving her the gas the rear wheels will usually spin and not get a ready purchase on the ground. Let the clutch in slowly and smoothly when you start and let the car gets in motion, then let the clutch all the way in. This saves tires from scratches and tears. A spinning or skidding wheel makes ground att like sandpaper on the tread of your tires. R. W.

To clean greasy gears: When a repair job has been passed, instead of trying to wash the hands, smear them over with a liberal coat of lard and give them a thorough rub. This will clean gear grease. Rub the lard together as if rubbing them, and all parts are thoroughly [illegible] take a clean rag [illegible] waste and wipe the [illegible] in the hands. The hands will be [illegible] clean, after which they can be washed with soap and warm water, using a brush. The usual method of getting rid of grease or carbon is by washing the hands in gasoline or kerosene. This makes the hands rough, however, especially in cold weather, while the application of gear grease will leave them soft and velvety. R. F.

We have been using a power and lighting plant in our home for the past seventeen months and have surely derived much benefit from it. We have lights in all buildings at the snap of a switch and have three sets of three-way switches, which are surely handy. We can snap on a light in the house which lights the yard between the house and barn, go in the barn and cut it off. On returning, we can operate the switch at barn and cut it off at the house. Have the same arrangement between the garage and house, and in the stairway of the house. We use a vacuum sweeper and an iron, but have not installed a motor, as we have an engine doing good service. The care of plant and battery takes such little time that it is not worth mentioning.—W. K.

A bug in a rug has nothing on a smut pore in untreated wheat seed.

We never eat a dish of store ice-cream without thinking what a poor imitation it is of the kind made of real cream, on the farm.