

SMALL BELGIAN FARMS

Bustle and Prosperity on Small Holdings of Brave Race

Many have marvelled at the success of the small farmer in Europe. A Canadian farmer who has been visiting the portion of Belgium which the Germans never reached has a fine account of the wonderful farming there. He writes: The dairy and market gardening farms do not extend, as a rule, more than two or three miles from town. Further on begins field agriculture and cattle rearing. Even these are, however, on a small scale, larger farms being found in Flanders only on heavy soil, upon which heavy ploughs have to be used, and a larger capital is consequently required. With light soil a farm of twenty acres is considered large; the average is from three to fifteen acres, while farms of one acre are not uncommon. One may judge of the small size of most holdings by the number and the size of the corn stacks on them. In the neighborhood of Ghent I have rarely seen farms with three or four stacks; the immense majority had only one or two, and there were farms of from three to eight acres. But I saw also much smaller farms, having less than one acre of land, and in this case there would be only one tiny stack standing close to the cottage, while the emerald green, with which nearly half of the farmer's land was covered—it was in January—told me that next year the family of this homestead would still have their own bread. There is no exaggeration in saying that in the neighborhood of Ghent the average size of the farms is not more than four to six acres each, which would give 100 to 150 farms to the square mile.

It was most interesting and instructive to walk in this part of the country. I went one morning to a neighboring village. It was a fine day, in the deepest part of the winter, and yet what impressed me most was the intensity of life on the road. Those who have lived amongst the peasants will surely understand what such animation means. To see them returning from the market—some leading by a rope a milk cow, or a young bull, or a couple of pigs, others bringing with them new agricultural implements which rattled in their carts as they drove by, and yet others bringing various products of the town industries in their baskets—such a sight means that these people not only work on the land, but that they work for themselves. And when I saw a young husband and wife struggling with a frisky heifer, which they led by a rope, I knew at once that they must have a home of their own, and were not mere hired laborers who have nothing to look forward to. Horse carts and dog carts, cattle, and numbers of people marching with their huge baskets on their shoulders, were crowding on the road, and this activity of rural life on a market day shows, better than anything else, that there is plenty of work and prosperity in the country.

WHERE IS YOUR MIND?

When Thoughts Go Wool-gathering Success Lags For Most

It is permitted to learned professors—almost expected of them, in fact—that they should be absent-minded. They have a tradition to live up—or down—to. But what is good for professors is no good for an ordinary individual. He loses friends; he makes enemies; he alienates customers; he annoys his employer; he earns the epithet "stupid," and that—deserved or undeserved—is fatal. True, his absent-mindedness may amuse some, but they are not the ones who count for anything in his life that matters. If a man looks vacuous—and that's the natural result of an absent mind—he is ranked as a fool.

Analyze absent-mindedness—which means remember, is not confined to such word forms as going upstairs to get a clean collar, and absent-mindedly going to bed instead—and what is it? Forgetfulness, for one thing. And what good is the man who forgets? For another, it's inability to switch the mind from one subject to another quickly. The mind is "absent," brooding in the dead past or projected into the unborn future. That's hopeless. It's the present that matters.

To wait while a man hums, haws, and fumbles until his "absent mind" returns is maddening. Anyone whose time is money or who is paying money for time, it's hopeless. That vague, distract air is a self-imposed handicap. The man who is always saying: "Sorry! I was thinking of something else!" is in the end credited with lacking the capacity to think at all!

THE NEIGHBORS SAY

If he is regular in attending church, he is too pious.
If he doesn't attend church, he is on the road to perdition.
If he sends his family away for the summer, it is more than he can afford.
If he doesn't, he is stingy.
If he happens to be successful in business, he achieved success by swindling.
If he doesn't succeed, he missed his calling.
If he gives freely to charity, it is done for show.
If he doesn't, he is classed as a skinflint.
If his wife does her own work, she is "killing herself" for the family.
If she has servants, she ought to be more economical.

Curious Post Office

One of the many curious post offices to be found scattered about the world is that situated in Beebe Plain, Quebec. The post office was built about 1820 exactly on the boundary line between the United States and Canada. Not many years ago, when the post office was a general store, whisky was known to be sold in one country and delivered in another without ever having gone out from under the roof of the old structure!



A Serbian in Native Costume

This gaily dressed and happy looking individual with the long-stemmed pipe is a typical Serb—one of the thousands that fought so well against the Teutonic hordes. Holiday clothes such as these will be unknown for many years probably, most of the men of the country having worn nothing but military uniforms for so long, and there being no occasion for holiday raiment in Serbia nowadays.

LIQUID OXYGEN

It has long been known that liquid oxygen mixed with substances like cotton wool forms a powerful explosive, but serious difficulties were encountered in its practical use. A new method has now been discovered for handling this oxygen that makes it practical for commercial.

Bags are filled with a special form of lampblack which are soaked in the liquid oxygen for a few minutes just before they are required for use. If the bag is now lighted with a match it will burn quietly and very slowly, but if detonated it explodes with the force of dynamite, and the cost is much less.

Much less carbon monoxide is given off than by most other explosives, and there is no danger from a misfire as the oxygen will evaporate in a short time.

MERCURY BICHLORIDE

How to Prevent Accident by Mistaking For Other Medicines

Various methods designed to prevent the mistaking of bichloride of mercury for medicine, or some other harmless substance, have been proposed with the idea of making it possible to use this deadly poison as an antiseptic without incurring any danger. Two of the latest of these are extremely simple but evidently effective. One method consists in stringing the tablets together and then bottling them in the usual manner. A tablet can only be detached by cutting the string, and this apparently does away with all possibility of mistake. The other method is to incase the tablets in metal guards having sharp prongs, so that it is impossible to swallow them. The tablet can be dissolved with the guard in place or can easily be removed from the guard.

To Economize With Gas

Always keep the main gas tap only half on. If it is turned on full the gas rushes through the pipes, and a great deal is wasted.

It is a great mistake to believe that the higher the gas is turned on the greater the heat and the quicker the saucepan will boil.

When the whole of the oven is not required, lower the "browner" or plain iron sheet half-way down, and use the lower half of the cooking. This will use very little gas.

Get a sheet of very thin iron the size of the top of the gas stove with narrow raised edges. Put this on the stove after lighting the largest burner, and several saucepans can be kept boiling with that one ring.

Tea-growing in India

Scattered all over India we find the British-owned and managed tea gardens. From insignificant beginnings has grown up a huge industry, till we now have 600,000 acres growing tea, and employing 700,000 persons of both sexes. Producing 296,000,000 pounds, India sends her teas all over the civilized world. India is now the greatest tea-exporting country in the world. Australia, New Zealand, Canada—all the British dominions beyond the seas—have shared in this expansion of the tea trade.

A USEFUL HINT ON SELECTING DAIRY COWS

A Guide to the Farmer on the Problem of a Good Milker—Actual Butter Record Best Chooser

There are good cows and inferior cows in all breeds, and the value of a herd must always depend largely upon the owner's selecting the right individuals in any given breed. A first consideration is yield of milk and butterfat; second, conformation of type and third, pedigree. The only infallible guide in the selection of cows is the actual butter record. The amount of butter from a cow is by no means solely determined by the quantity of milk she gives. It depends as much on the richness as it does on the quantity of milk. With heifers and dry cows judgment as to their value must largely be based upon conformation and pedigree.

Dairy temperament is indicated by a spare, angular form, large, bright expressive eyes far apart, a large, straight, prominent backbone and an active disposition as opposed to sluggishness. The spare, angular form indicates the absence of any disposition to lay on fat, and the large backbone, large bright eyes, broad forehead and general sprightfulness indicate a large amount of nerve or working power. Good feeding capacity is indicated by a long, deep barrel or coupling, a large muzzle and a good constitution. A good constitution is indicated by large, bright eyes, deep, broad chest, a large heart girth, large open nostrils and a soft, pliable skin, with plenty of secretion.

How to Prove Milk Tests

Good milk organs are indicated by a large, evenly-quartered, elastic udder, running well forward and back between the thighs; large, tortuous milk veins, running well forward and preferably branched. The teats should be of moderate size and squarely placed. Good quality is indicated by a loose, pliable skin, soft, silky hair, clean bone and a general refinement, especially in the head, neck, withers, thighs and limbs. The udder of the cow is frequently misjudged. Fleishy udders, no matter how large, are undesirable. They possess small milk-elaborating capacity and are more subject to disorders than moderate-sized, elastic udders. A point that needs emphasis is the importance of constitutional vigor in the animal. A good milker is one of the hardest worked of animals, and unless possessed of a good constitution she cannot do her maximum of work.

Dairy Herd Tip

With the average milk producer the cheapest and most satisfactory way of building up a dairy herd is to select good ordinary cows and breed these to a first-class pure-bred sire. Where this is done the selection of a sire is a matter of far greater moment than the selection of a cow, because where non-pedigree cows are bred to a pure-bred sire the calves will take on more of the characteristics of the bull than of the cows. The chief merit of the sire is determined by the butter-producing capacity of his mother, his sire's mother and so on down the line. Unless a bull is descended from good milkers he need not be expected to produce good milkers.

Food and Milk

Good food produces the best results, and it is for the dairyman himself to find out whether it pays him to feed it to his cows. One thing may be taken for granted—that the richness of the food of a cow correspondingly increases the richness of the milk, and this result is more noticeable in sound, healthy cows of the real dairy type, cows with highly developed milking qualities, and whose consumption of food goes chiefly to further this end, than in poor and neglected animals. The latter fail to do their best.

Good grass is an essential factor in the health and productiveness of dairy cows. To obtain these good general farming is needed, one to a large extent supplements the other. A dairy farmer who neglects his soil and pastures makes a great mistake. Poor pastures are largely answerable for poor milk production.

Every farmer should raise bees. Dryness is more essential than warmth in the hog house.

Honey is an especially profitable crop for the fruit farmer.

Bees are easier to care for than chickens, and yield good returns on the investment.

Late sown carrots, beets, etc., store much better than those which are sown early and are too old when harvested.

Cut out and burn the old raspberry canes as soon as they are through fruiting. Cultivate the young shoots and keep out all the weeds.

Crops For Honey

Alfalfa offers one of the best honey making materials. Alsike is also valuable, as is sweet clover, which may be grown to advantage in most provinces.



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LIFEBUDY HEALTHY SOAP

TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM

The popular and thrilling temperance play "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," will be given here on Saturday night under the auspices of the Durham Recruiting League. It consists of five acts, and will be presented by Fred G. Brown, with an excellent cast of ten skilled performers. It is not a motion picture play, but a real live company of stage artists. It is an old play, but the new touches of pathos, the new adventures, and

the new experiences, portrayed by new artists, give a thrilling interest to the old play. The proceeds will be devoted to patriotic purposes. The admission is 25c. reserved seats 35c.

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McKECHNIE'S WEEKLY NEWS

SPRING is here again, and with it comes the need of good footwear. We have it, and lots of it, for men, women, boys, girls and children, having bought it nearly a year ago when prices were lower, thereby giving everyone a fair chance to buy good shoes at the old prices.

We will quote prices on a few of our lines:

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Men's Ext. Heavy Split Blue, guaranteed to be waterproof	\$2.75	Men's Heavy Tan Elk, one of the best on the market.....	\$3.50
Women's Pliable Chrome Bals, good and comfortable.....	1.75		
Women's Heavy Grain Bals, guaranteed waterproof.....	2.00		
Women's Heavy Grain Bals, plain and A1 stock.....	2.15		
We have a special Shoe for men for heavy wear, built on the military last. Don't fail to see it when you call. It sells at.....	\$3.10	If you have a weak or sore foot try a pair of our double E Dongola Shoes. They will sure give you comfort. The old price.....	\$2.35
Boys' Heavy Split Blucher, plain and very soft stock.....	\$2.10	Boys Heavy Split Blucher, toe cap.....	\$2.15

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