

# PRACTICAL FARMING

## The Importance of Saving Good Breeding Stock.

During the past four years, millions of men who had previously been producers of the largest part of food stuffs required in Europe, have been engaged in fighting for their country, and, as a result, thousands of farms, flocks and herds have been depleted and the finest lands made unfit for cultivation. These European countries are looking to Canada for good breeding stock to re-stock their abandoned farms. The demand is unlimited and European markets will be able to receive double our present production, if we can produce stock of the quality required.

It is the sire of high quality which have made many a herd great and have done so much good to the live stock industry of Canada. Often the highest priced stock is the cheapest in the end.

A pure-bred sire of good type and individuality is the one that should be used by every live stock breeder in the country. The sire whose ancestors have not made good, or that is a poor individual, will likely turn out to be a liability rather than an asset. His use will never improve live stock even if one does get him cheaply. He is dear at any price. It is also very important that the females used as a foundation are good, strong, healthy animals of robust constitution representing the best type of the breeds which you are working with, and that they are descendants from ancestors that have proved worthy of the breed they represent in regard to conformation, quality and production.

This year above all others, with the high price of hay and live stock, farmers should endeavor to utilize to the best advantage possible, all roughages such as straw, corn stalks, etc., by running these through a cutting box and mixing with a small amount of cut hay, with the addition of a few pulped roots and a small quantity of meal, you will have a food which breeding stock will thrive and winter very well on, and at the same time enabling the farmer to keep his usual quota of breeding animals.

A good many farmers are in the vicinity of lumber mills or finishing mills where they are able to procure sawdust or shavings for bedding in the place of straw, or where they could use dry muck for an absorbent. By utilizing all the home grown roughages and keeping more live stock, the farmer will be increasing the fertility of his farm by a method which has been proven most conclusively the best and most economical way of maintaining agricultural production, never more essential than at the present time.

Among the diseases of economic plants there exist some for which effective control measures have not yet been discovered. Besides those are a large number where control is possible, but only after persistent efforts extending over a number of years. And finally there are a goodly number that readily respond to measures of control.

If we take into consideration the enormous losses resulting from plant diseases every year wherever farming and fruit-growing is an industry of importance—as in Canada—then it will be realized that negligence and indifference towards the control of such diseases can be as effectively controlled, are causes of great national loss.

The person causing a forest fire through negligence or carelessness, renders himself liable to prosecution and a deservedly heavy fine, yet it is rarely that the culprit himself is the loser; the loss is debited to the whole nation owning the forests. In allowing plant disease to persist and become widely prevalent, persons are similarly guilty of criminal neglect, particularly at this time when the question of food is of far greater importance than all the gold in the world. Yet though Canada as a nation is the prime loser through the cumulative effect of such waste in production, other nations, now so markedly dependent upon Canada as a source for the necessities of life, also suffer in consequence. Moreover it is not a commercial question of sharing in the loss and thus reducing it, but one of having to do without food which is lost through negligent members of a community.

Grain rust causes annually millions of dollars loss. This can only be reduced by certain safety measures, but cannot so far be controlled. But the same grain that has escaped the rust is yet very seriously reduced in yield by smut diseases. In some years smut, quite apart from rust, has caused losses amounting to more than twenty million dollars in Canada alone. Smut of grain is a disease that is easily controlled by a very simple and highly effective means of seed treatment. Either through ignorance or from negligence, smut is still widely prevalent. Only this year were received reports of smut affecting one field up to 80% and more. Another example of a disease causing severe damage, but

which may be readily controlled, is Late Blight of potatoes. The losses from Late Blight and the rot it causes among stored potatoes amount to several million dollars per annum. On the question of disease control, valuable information has already been published by the Dominion Experimental Farms, but farmers are urged to refer their problems more freely to experts at the Farm, from whom they will receive the best attention.

Disease control is of far greater importance in agriculture and general public. Diseases, once they have attacked economic crops, can rarely be eradicated. A plant that once has fallen a victim to disease, will never give a normal yield. Poor fields are in many cases out of ten due to lurking disease, hence individual effort becomes a necessity in saving the nation the deplorable devastation due to plant diseases.

## Poultry

Hens that are not well-fed cannot be expected to lay well enough to make a profit. Any fowls which have not completed their new plumage by December 1st will not lay much, if any, during cold weather.

In view of the high price of poultry feed it is best to market all surplus poultry except that to be kept for sale, for breeding or exhibition purposes, as soon as possible.

It is very poor business to market any kind of poultry which is not well fattened, because a few cents' worth of grain will often increase the selling price of the stock several times the cost of the grain used.

Don't forget to make use of all of the by-products like skimmed milk, clabbered milk, waste vegetables, kitchen scraps, etc. All these make good food for poultry and help to cut down the cost of feeding.

Washed eggs do not retain their keeping qualities. There is a gelatinous substance on eggs, which seals the pores of the shell, and water seems to dissolve it. When this substance is dissolved the air is admitted and decomposition begins.

Washing also has a tendency to harden the shell, letting too much moisture escape, and thus injuring the vitality of the egg.

Dirty eggs should not be sent to market, however. They may be safely treated by using a woollen rag only slightly dampened with water to rub off the dirt. Stains on eggs may be removed with elder vinegar. Clean nests will insure clean eggs.

Poisonous Plants in the Hay. Much loss may be avoided by paying a little more attention to the quality of food that is fed to live stock. To use as food, hay which is coarse and unpalatable weeds is not the best means of keeping stock in good condition, nor is it more wise to feed them poisonous plants.

# The Sunday School

## INTERNATIONAL LESSON JANUARY 5.

### Lesson 1. Pharaoh Oppresses Israel —Exodus 1:1-14; 2:1-25. Golden Text, Psalm 72:4.

1: 1-7. "The sons of Israel." The names of Jacob's twelve sons are given here and of the entire seventy, including Joseph and his two sons, in Gen. 46: 8-27. These names are of Jacob's children and grandchildren, but they represent a very much larger number of people. The sons of Jacob were already heads of important clans, and must have been followed by their clansmen and servants. These formed a community of herdsmen and shepherds in the pasture lands of Goshen, in the northeastern part of Egypt. It is quite possible, however, that some of the Hebrew clansmen remained with their possessions in Palestine, and that some of those who went down to Egypt may have returned after the years of famine were past. In the correspondence of an Egyptian king of the fourteenth century B. C. we find mention of a people called Chabiri, or Habiri, in Palestine, and in an inscription of the thirteenth century B.C. the name Israil occurs in a list of Palestine states. These names may be identical with Hebrews and Israel.

The period of the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt must have been a long one, how long we cannot tell. According to Gen. 15: 13 it was four hundred years, or according to Exod. 12: 40, it was four hundred and thirty years. But Gen. 15: 16 predicts the return of Israel from Egypt "in the fourth generation," and in Exod. 6: 16-18, Amram, the father of Moses, is said to be the grandson of Jacob, and so the great-grandson of Levi, and Moses' mother is called a "daughter of Levi" (Exod. 2: 1; 6: 20). It is possible that a generation was reckoned a hundred years, but in actual fact four generations could hardly have covered four hundred years. The text seems to be that, in Genesis and Exodus, we are dealing with a period before any definite or exact historical records were kept, and while the main facts of the historical personages stand out clearly and distinctly, the detailed account of the years is wanting, and the reckoning of time varies, therefore, in the different older sources upon which the writers of these books depended.

It is commonly supposed that 1½ lbs. The pods are about an inch long, more or less hairy and arranged at intervals along the stem. A few moments spent each day in looking over the hay will repay even the busiest owner of stock.—Experimental Farms Note.

A very pretty knitting bag or school bag for a child can be made from burrap with heavy initials done in silk or wool. This makes an acceptable Christmas gift.

## Bedtime Stories

The Hill That Wanted To Be A Hollow. Once upon a time there was a little green hill with a neck of lovely mossy stones and a crown of wind-swept willow trees. For many centuries it was a very happy little hill. So many interesting things happened to make it so.

The villagers from the valley below came there on fine Sundays and rested and had picnics under the willows. The most delightful birds made their nests there in the spring. It could be seen so far on every side and felt so close to the big blue sky that it fairly thrilled with happiness.

That was before it got to talking so much with the valley that nestled down below. In the valley were many villages, many busy farms and a merry rushing little river that bubbled along, always talking or singing, and always joking.

When the hill called down to the valley all the things it could see afar off; that a storm was coming, or a company of traveling players, or that presently the wind would change, the valley would nod its trees condescendingly.

"Ah, but you should hear the news that the river has just brought, and you should see the lovely polished stones it has carried back to me from the deep sea!" it would call. It really was jealous of the hill, because it was above her. Then it seemed to the valley that when folk wanted to be particularly happy they left her for the green hill.

Joseph went down to Egypt during the period of the Shepherd Kings, who were Asiatics like himself, and who would have been disposed to welcome the immigration of Asiatic tribes like the Hebrews. The dates of the Shepherd Kings are variously placed between 2000 and 1550 B.C. Joseph and his brethren would, therefore, have settled in Egypt as early as, at least, as 1600 or 1700 B.C. The date now commonly assigned to the Exodus is 1230 B.C., so that a period of four hundred years is quite possible between Joseph and Moses.

1: 8-14. "There arose a new king." The rule of the Shepherd Kings came to an end about 1550 B.C. The kings who followed were native Egyptians of a multitude of dynasties, and one of the greatest of Egyptian monarchs. He is famous both for his victorious wars and his great building operations, in which he used the forced labor of his subjects and of a multitude of slaves. The story of "Rameses" (the same name with slightly different spelling) was called after him, and inscriptions found in the ruins of "Piathon" by recent explorers show that it was founded also by Rameses I.

The increase in numbers and wealth of the Israelites of Goshen excited the jealousy and fear of the neighboring Egyptians. "Let us deal wisely with them," they said. Their wisdom, however, was purely selfish and cruel, and first imposed heavy burdens of forced labor upon the Hebrews, then murdered their infant sons. Rameses built or renovated numerous temples, besides the "store houses," which were for the laying up of provisions, in preparation of war, and goods for trade. Many of the Egyptian kings had used the same system of forced labor, described by the French word "corvée," and we have an example of similar tyrannical cruelty in the treatment of Belgian and French citizens by their German conquerors during the recent war.

"In mortar and in brick." The Black Nile mud was used both for bricks and mortar, and was mixed with water and with straw to give it coherence. The Hebrews were employed at this laborious task of brick-making, and also in constructing dykes and canals for the irrigation of the fields, and in lifting water in buckets attached to long poles, from the river, for the higher cultivated lands.

2: 1-8. "The ark of bulrushes," or papyrus, was made like a boat, of reeds bound together and made watertight with bitumen or asphalt and pitch. Similar boats are still used on the Euphrates river.

A Child. Her voice was like the song of birds, Her eyes were like the stars; Her little waving hands were like Birds' wings that beat the bars. And when those waving hands were still,— Her soul had fled away. The music faded from the air, The color from the day.

An old fur coat badly worn out in parts, can be cut down for a very good robe for baby's sleigh.

the poor hill for having to stand up against all the winds and storm. "Now I am protected and I am never lonely!" she would observe proudly.

"It must be very slow up there without any people!" In the winter the villagers did not go to the hill as often as in the summer, but the hill had never thought of being lonely till the valley mentioned it.

Poor little green hill, it soon began to feel terribly sorry for itself, for it was not, like the valley, smart enough to brag.

# HOT LUNCHES IN THE RURAL SCHOOLS

A chance visitor entering some of our rural schools just before noon is very likely to get a whiff of savory vegetable stews, or spicy hot puddings which are being prepared for minutes; or if he comes ten minutes past twelve o'clock, he is likely to hear the busy clacking of spoons on dishes, combined with lively demands for another helping, for usually the supply made up by the amateur cooks is sufficient to satisfy the appetite of the hungriest boy or girl in the school. Scattered all over the country you will find city or village high schools as well as rural schools serving some hot dish at noon, supplementing the sandwiches brought from home.

A winter's experience has proved to many teachers the value of this warm dish, offsetting as it does school, or a hasty breakfast, eaten with an anxious eye on the clock. Because of their appreciation of the benefit to the children from this source, in many cases the mothers' clubs of the school have undertaken to help the children to raise the money for the necessary equipment by means of socials and entertainments in other districts the school boards or individuals have contributed the funds necessary for the beginning of the project. Oil stoves have been loaned in some cases, by women who were using their kitchen ranges for winter cooking, and "kitchen showers" have, many times, been the source of the small utensils needed.

Approximately sixteen dollars and a half is the amount needed for the work. The principal articles needed are: A two-burner oil stove, dish pan, one large and one small kettle, two paring knives, a fork, two large spoons, asbestos mat, dish towels, and perhaps a drapping pan and oven. Each child brings a cup, spoon and deep oatmeal dish.

Each night the materials needed for the following day's cooking are apportioned to different children, convenience being the deciding factor for each individual. Each child contributing is credited with the book-keepers with the amount brought, retail prices being the basis of credit. At the end of the week when the total cost per child is estimated, it is usually found that the article brought from home is equivalent to the charge for the week. If this is not the case the extra amount is made up the following week by another contribution. Thus, very little money, if any, changes hands. Reports from the clubs of last winter, show that the average cost of serving each child daily with one hot dish was two and one-half cents. One high school served the entire meal daily at an average of five cents per member.

The general procedure in forming a Hot Lunch Club is as follows: The teacher either talks over the proposition with the children, who consult with their parents concerning it, or she may call a meeting of the patrons of the district, at which the project is discussed. The home demonstration agent, if of valuable assistance in presenting the subject. If a favorable conclusion is reached, the children proceed to form a club, electing a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and ways and means of securing equipment are discussed.

The teacher usually acts as the leader of the club, who are particularly women in the district, who are particularly interested in the school are elected as an advisory committee, their function being to co-operate socially with the leader and the club members.

Each week two girls or boys act as cooks; two as house keepers, and two as book-keepers. The work is rotated so that each member who is old enough (ten to eighteen years are the ages for active membership), may get practice in each line of work. After writing up a brief report and story of the three weeks' work, the member is said to have completed the project. The award is then made upon the variety of menus, cost per member, the report and story.

Having the children perform the actual work of the club, leaves the teacher free to follow her class-room work, and takes but little of the children's time, since most of the food can be started at recess, and finished up in the five minutes allowed after dismissal for the children to wash their hands and get their lunch boxes. This lunch box, by the way, need contain only sandwiches, fruit and a piece of cake or cookie, the hot dish being the major part of the meal.

Primarily the object of the hot school lunch is to preserve the health of the children. As was hinted above, a hasty breakfast, a cold and sometimes unappetizing lunch, usually

compels the child to over-eat at supper, and this, as a rule, impairs the child's digestive and nervous system to such an extent that his work in school falls below standard. Teachers unanimously declare that the increased vigor with which the children attack their work after dinner more than repays for the small amount of supervision necessary at noon. Further than this, the vitality of the children in general is raised rather than lowered at the end of the winter's work in school. This explains why many of the teachers who have the interests of the community genuinely at heart continue serving soups and other hot foods year after year.

But there are many other benefits to be derived from the hot school lunch in the rural school. Chief among them is the business side of housekeeping. Keeping the club accounts teaches the value of money and the cost of foods as no other teaching can. It is the domestic science training of the rural school in which the girls learn to balance their diet so that they may be well fed for very little money and a small amount of work. They learn the preparation of simple, wholesome dishes, and from these they get a truer appreciation of the work their mothers perform in getting the family meals. As one mother remarked in this connection: "You have no idea how much easier Viola is to live with."

Best of all, they learn to take responsibility, to work harmoniously in groups, and they are being trained for a future broader service to the community in which they live.

Moving Out. The rooms are cold and empty. The floors are bare and chill. Gone are the red geraniums. From shelf and window-sill. Uncurtained stare the windows. All naked, blank and grey. Pale eyes of desolation— We're moving out to-day!

O home of happy memories. Though now bleak and forlorn. You hold the little bedroom. Wherein my son was born! 'Twas here his baby whisp'rs. Essayed the first prayer, Clasped to his mother's bosom. Hand hidden in her hair.

Here is the vacant kitchen. Where many a task was met, And oft the body wearied, With toil and grief and fret. Yet through the westward window, The slowly dropping sun, Shed promise of the guardian, For battles fairly won.

No more the ticking time-piece. Calls out the passing hours. The doors henceforth shall open To other hands than ours. And here some stranger-mother, Shall teach her child to pray— O home of smiles and shadows, We're moving out to-day!

For paroxysms of coughing, a tablespoonful of glycerine in a glass of hot milk is excellent.

Send your RAW FURS to A. J. Alexandor 428 St. Paul St. West MONTREAL

# THE RISK

For two weeks Julia went over and over her problem, and each time it "came out" the same way. It was not the way she wanted it to work out, but she was not going to be foolish over it, she said to herself. Sometimes people lent money upon character—at least she had heard that they did; and if anyone could borrow money with character and ambition for security, she could do it. So, having finally decided, Julia went down to interview Mr. Parks of the Central Bank. She had known Mr. Parks all her life; she was sure that he would help her. So, although her heart beat nervously for a moment when she was admitted to Mr. Parks' office, it was only for a moment, and she smiled confidently at him across the big mahogany table.

"I've come to borrow some money," she announced. Mr. Parks' pleasant eyes flashed a keen glance at her. "In debt?" he asked. "No, sir!" she said quickly. Then she laughed. "But I want to be to you. You see, I want to take a special course for secretarial work. I've finished the regular business course and have two good positions open to me. I could take the course by working full time, but that seems a foolish waste of time when I can reach my objective so much sooner and more easily if I go right on till I finish. I've heard that banks sometimes loan money on character, so I came to ask you about it. Can I borrow it? Do they do it that way?"

"Not exactly that way," said Mr. Parks. "However," answering the quick disappointment in her eyes, "we have one client who sometimes prefers to invest in people rather than in stocks and mortgages. But you will understand that it is my business to protect his interests. I must be sure that I have gilt-edged security before I offer him any investment. May I ask you a few questions?"

"Certainly," Julia answered. "You work at the school virtually all day. I take it. Five days or six?" "Six."

"And what do you do evenings?" "Study. And things that have to be done, like mending."

"And Sunday? You teach a class, do you not? And attend church?" "Yes, sir." It was growing more and more perplexing.

"Do you walk to and from school?" "No, sir. It would take too long."

"How about your recreation? Do you play tennis or basket ball, or any other game?" "Oh, no, Mr. Parks! There isn't time for that."

Mr. Parks swung about suddenly. "Can't do it!" he said decidedly. "Can't do it!" Julia repeated the words, half stunned. "Can't do it!" he repeated. "Too poor a risk. Ask any insurance man. Don't you see that you're driving your mind and driving your body, and giving neither of them any chance for recreation? However, there's one thing I will do. If you will arrange things so as to give yourself an hour of outdoor recreation every day, I'll lend you the money myself. How about it?"

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FOCH MAY TAKE RHINE BANK Warning is Conveyed in Extension of Armistice.

The German armistice has been extended until 5 o'clock on the morning of January 17, according to a despatch from Trieres, where the delegates of the various countries have been in conference. This prolongation, it is added, will be extended until the conclusion of a preliminary peace subject to the consent of the Allied Governments.

The message states the following condition has been added to the armistice agreement on November 11: "The supreme command of the Allies reserve the right, should it consider this advisable and in order to obtain fresh guarantees, to occupy the neutral zone on the right bank of the Rhine, north of the Cologne bridgehead and as far as the Dutch frontier. Notice of this occupation will be given six days previously."

Marshall Foch, adds the dispatch, has announced in behalf of Herbert C. Hoover, the American Food Administrator, that 2,500,000 tons of cargo space lying in German harbors must be placed under control of the Allies to supply Germany with food-stuffs. The ships are to remain German property.

Poor Patient! The professor of a certain medical college asked a student how much of a certain medicine should be administered to the author. "A tablespoonful," promptly answered the young man. In about a minute, however, he raised his head, and said: "Professor, I would like to change my answer to that question." The doctor took out his watch. "My young friend," he observed gravely, "too late! Your patient has been dead forty seconds!"

The first thing necessary in treating a bad habit is to want to break it.