

# Efficient Farming

FIELD INSPECTION OF POTATOES.

The outstanding feature of field inspection of potatoes for certified seed in 1924, was the almost one hundred per cent. increase in the number of applications over the number received in 1923, with a corresponding increase in the acreage inspected. This is illustrated by a comparison of the figures covering the work of the two years. In 1923, applications for inspection were received from 1,297 growers, calling for the inspection of 9,681 acres, while in 1924 there were 2,450 applications for the inspection of 17,079 acres.

Another feature worthy of note is that despite this large increase, 12,046 acres, or 70.5 per cent. passed the two field inspections as compared with 7,099 acres, or 73.3 per cent. in 1923. This would seem to indicate that not only has the growing of potatoes improved generally, but also that commendable care has been taken in the selection and quality of the seed used.

Estimating the yield from the fields which passed inspection at 175 bushels per acre—a conservative estimate—and allowing for a grading shrinkage of 40 per cent., it will be seen that approximately 1,260,000 bushels of potatoes eligible for certification as Extra No. 1, have been produced this year. Unfortunately the market is

somewhat dull at the present time and the returns to the growers may not be quite so favorable as in some previous years, but it is desired to give emphasis to the fact that much of this high class seed is available in the country, and potato growers desirous of securing improved stock would be well advised to make enquiry.

Apart from the disease known as Mosaic, which was again found to be very prevalent and the cause of rejection of a considerable acreage, the two chief causes of the failure of 29.5 per cent. of the acreage inspected to pass were "foreign varieties" and "insufficient isolation." The former is controllable by the exercise of care, the latter by the exercise of judgment. Mosaic disease is communicable in the field by means of insects, particularly aphids. The importance of planting potatoes intended for certification at as great a distance as possible from any other potatoes is quite as obvious as is the fact that where this is not observed, eligibility for certification cannot be considered. Increased regard for this rule has been noticeable this year.

The above figures and remarks cover the inspection work as carried on in all the provinces with the exception of British Columbia. In that province inspection and certification is being continued under the auspices of the Provincial Dept. of Agriculture.—**Experimental Farms.**

## TRAINING OUR CHILDREN

BY MARION BROWNFIELD.

"Mother, did you buy me something?" asked a little girl pausing from play as her mother came up the front steps.

Whether the mother did buy her five-year-old daughter something on that shopping trip is really unimportant. The simple question asked indicates, however, a point that should be considered in child training. Children are naturally eager and expectant, but parents, and mothers especially, might well ask themselves the question, "Am I training my child to expect too much?"

We owe it to our children to give them the necessities and as many of the comforts as possible. But "buy me something" can easily mean a luxury that is foolish and extravagant. That this little girl did not ask definitely for any particular thing, is a pretty certain indication that she did not lack any of the ordinary comforts of life. She undoubtedly had happy birthdays and Christmases. She had pretty clothes and the average number of toys. But "buy me something" had become a habit—to be indulged because a mother had been over-indulgent! With the best of intentions, parents make a practice of bringing gifts to their children when they have been away. If it had been a long trip, and the youngsters have been lonely and have had to exert themselves to maintain certain standards of "being good," rewards are justifiable. But beware lest rewards degenerate into bribes!

Contrast with the child above the twelve-year-old girl who rushed in from school to find her mother still away shopping. "Isn't mother here yet?" she asked. "Goody! Then I can surprise her and have the supper all ready!"

If mothers encourage their children to do little favors for them, especially surprises, the children will enjoy the doing much more than receiving some expensive toy or game. Of course a five-year-old can't be expected to prepare a meal. But it is surprising how young a child can be taught to help make the home. A five-year-old boy in one family, for example, has as his special pride the task of putting out clean milk bottles from the kitchen to the front porch. Simple as such a duty is, it is meaningful as a character builder.

The disagreeable "buy me something" habit is also often indulged when children are taken away from home. Seldom does the child really long for any particular thing. Usually, he merely wants entertainment at that particular moment. If a mother opens her purse as soon as her boy points to a peanut stand, his demands are likely to be endless. The thoughtful mother who realizes that hunger may be a reason when candy is teased for, supplies something from home that is wholesome, such as crackers or sweet chocolate. Or perhaps before she starts on an excursion, she gives the kiddies a last minute lunch of bread and milk. A full stomach is not apt to whine, "Buy me something, Mother!"

One must find out, of course, why the child makes a demand. If the mother herself has unconsciously started the habit she at once must start a cure by making a simple but firm explanation: "Mother can't buy you something every time she goes out. She doesn't buy things for herself every time; she would be poor if she spent money whenever she went where there are things to be bought. She gets only what is needed, except that once in a long time she buys you a present."

Fortunately, most children are sen-

sible. It is only when we indulge them unwisely or put them off carelessly with "Don't bother me now," or "Run and play. Mother's tired," that we are encouraging and fostering the "buy me something" habit.

## Winter Repair Work.

Many farmers could profitably take a leaf out of the experience of city building contractors in the matter of repair and construction work during the winter months. Building operations do not stop in our big cities with the first flurry of snow, nor even with the advent of severe weather. They go right ahead to completion, from excavations for the foundation, to the erection of steel and cement frames and their enclosure and completion.

Winter construction work has come to be a habit in our larger cities, due to the urgent and constantly growing demand for office, shop and housing space. In the country exactly the opposite condition of mind prevails. Winter construction work of any kind is almost unknown. Farmers and mechanics have the same attitude toward the matter. It just isn't done in the country.

To a very considerable extent this attitude is justified. It would perhaps be questionable economy to undertake major building operations during the winter season in any except emergency cases. But this is not necessarily true with smaller construction or repair jobs.

Concrete has come to be an almost universally employed material in farm construction work. There are many jobs involving its use which ought to be done on every farm, but are indefinitely delayed on account of unseasonable weather or because of lack of time for their accomplishment when reasonable conditions are favorable. Very many of these jobs could be done during the winter season if we were familiar with approved winter methods of handling concrete construction work.

It will pay to consider the proposition of winter repair and construction work on every farm at this season of the year, as it will make possible needed improvements which would long await a more propitious time for their accomplishment.

## Certified Seed Potatoes.

The potato has been greatly improved from a cropping standpoint by the system of seed potato certification carried on by the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa. Not only does it ensure a crop practically free from disease, but as a result of this a greatly improved yielding ability. As pointed out by the Dominion Botanist in an address before the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, disease is a very important factor in reducing yield. That is to say, freedom from disease is of fundamental importance in the potato growing industry. It is immaterial how true a variety may be to name and type, says the Dominion Botanist, so long as it is not sound it will never produce a satisfactory crop. Experiments at the Central Experimental Farm carried on some years ago with by no means that type of potato which the present certification service is producing to-day, yielded a crop of 450 bushels to the acre. In a table included in the address, it was shown that the ten year average of the yield of potatoes in Canada was 146 bushels and that the average of the crop grown from certified seed was 238 bushels to the acre. It is assumed from these figures and from other experience, that the yield of potatoes on the farms of Canada may be increased fifty per cent. at least by the use of certified seed.

"The kindest and the happiest pair Will find occasion to forbear; And something every day they live To pity and perhaps forgive."

## OUR NEW YEAR'S CAKE

One of the best ways I know of to get your money's worth of fun in housework is to buy a pastry tube with two or three attachments and set to work to frost a cake. There are times in every home when the plain cake with the very plain frosting, or none at all, loses in favor, but a plain cake with a bit of gaudy frosting will tempt the appetite. Then there are New Year and birthday cakes and company cakes that we like to make look a little prettier than usual and can with the aid of a pastry tube.

A pastry tube of the most workable type is made of heavy firm muslin with grooved points or decorators of metal. It is very easy to make one on the pattern of a triangle, sewing up one side to make a cone-shaped receptacle. The point is then cut out to fit the metal point, which is put into place from the inside. Two or three differently grooved points will give you all the variety necessary for working out a pleasing design.

It is very easy, and such a lot of fun, too, to accomplish leaves and flowers, intricate spirals and delicate flutings by just twisting the bag to force out the frosting and guiding it here and there. With all materials to work with at hand and using ornamental frosting, it takes very little more time than to apply a plain boiled frosting.

A frosting that works well is one I call paper-white frosting, and is made of egg white, powdered sugar and lemon juice. This takes quite a bit longer but is very nice to put on a cake that is to stand several days before using. It tends to keep the inside very fresh and is less rich than the ornamental frosting, which has so much butter in it. For a large cake, beat the whites of three eggs and beat into them two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar; beat for three minutes and add two more tablespoonfuls of sugar and beat again. Continue this process till you have added three cupfuls of sugar, beating in between times. When a cupful and a half of sugar has been added, beat in a tablespoonful of lemon juice. Two teaspoonfuls of egg yolk added at the beginning will relieve the paper whiteness of this icing, giving it a delicate creamy appearance.

In using paper-white frosting in a pastry tube, be careful not to put too much in at a time. A piece about the size of an egg will run through more easily than if you fill the tube and then try to force it through.

Cake ornamenting is by no means the only use for a pastry tube. Meringue for one-crust pies can become very decorative in this way, and cookies may be made as fanciful as ever the heart of a child could desire them. And again for the children, gingerbread men and women can wear all the frills of fashion.

I believe you might like to try this sometime with a steak dinner: To a quart of mashed potatoes, add three-quarters of a cupful of sweet cream and one egg well beaten. Beat thoroughly and force through the pastry tube, using the point that gives the round effect with deep fluted sides. Make several circles of this round the meat on the platter. Now put it on the top shelf of a very hot oven so that it browns quickly, as it will do having egg in it.—J. W.

A piece of coarse-mesh screen over the flower bowl permits the use of short-stemmed flowers.

## Poultry

Did you ever stop to realize that birds will stand a low temperature without frozen combs, or without injury to themselves—in fact, without a check in production—if it is a dry cold?

On the other hand, even a moderately cold temperature with a high moisture content will cause frozen combs and sickness very quickly. The problem then in guarding the birds against the undesirable effects of extreme cold during the next few months is to first of all see that they are kept in quarters which are dry.

See that the droppings boards and perches are arranged along the back part of the house away from the open front, so that the incoming air is modified and tempered somewhat before it reaches the birds.

A careful feeder during the next two or three months watches the winter signs carefully and modifies his grain ration in quantities given and in ingredients slightly depending upon temperature.

Just previous to and during periods of extremely cold weather, it is well to give the birds increased quantities of scratch feed, one which has in it the whole or cracked corn in larger quantities than usual.

Surely there is no better energy or heating feed than corn. Let us feed more of it, especially at night before the birds go to perch. Whole corn for this purpose is preferable to finely cracked corn, because of the ease and quickness with which the birds pick it up, and in the fact that it remains in the crop and in the digestive tract longer.

## A Look Up.

One cold winter night not long ago we put up the screen around the open fire and went out for a look at the sky before going to bed. We stood there on our own land, with the warm lights of our own home behind us, and looked at the stars. We mean to do it more often from now on. There is nothing else like it when it comes to make a man feel that amid the rush and immensity of everything he is not alone and afraid, but at home and at work.

## An Old Year Prayer.

O glad New Year, take not these things from me—  
The olden faith; the shining loyalty  
Of friends that long and searching  
years have proved—  
The glowing hearthfires and the books  
I loved;  
All wanted kindnesses and welcome—  
All safe, hard-trodden paths, to which  
I cling!  
O young New Year, fresh with the  
thrill of spring—  
Leave me the ways that were my  
comforting! —L. S.

One of the greatest helps to realization is to visualize vividly and persistently the thing you are after—whatever you are trying to do or to be. Picture it as already a reality, as though you were right at the moment what you long to be, doing the thing you long to do. Cling to this vision of your ideal with all the tenacity you can muster. Keep your mind on your aim. Think it; talk it; act it; live it. Remember that doubt and fear are your worst enemies, because they sap your determination, take the pep out of your endeavor. Never lose faith in yourself or doubt your power to accomplish the thing on which you have set your heart.

## FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

### The Dundas Women's Institute Exchange

The Dundas Institute has made a most interesting venture in the way of an "Exchange" for women's work. The secretary says: "We feel a little diffident about our Exchange as it is only in the experimental stage as yet, but if we are well patronized we may extend it so that goods can be sold more frequently than just on Institute meeting days."

The objects of the Exchange are: to place at the service of every member the skill and ability of every other member for the lowest money consideration; to provide a revenue for the Society; and to provide a market for members who wish to dispose of their work. A special committee and officers are appointed to look after the Exchange, and the Society receives a commission of ten per cent. on all sales. The rules of the Exchange are as follows:

1. All members of the Institute are members of the Exchange and entitled to a number by which they shall be known.
2. Each depositor shall present a list of articles for sale written on one side only and containing permit number, name, address, and price of each article. Depositors must keep a duplicate list; small articles must be marked with price for single one and reduction if sold by the dozen.
3. Each article must have permit number and selling price securely fastened by depositor.
4. All inquiries and complaints will be listened to and answered by the chairman of Exchange.
5. All work is received subject to approval of the committee in charge.

6. Exchange numbers are not transferable.

7. No member is allowed to consign goods for sale belonging to a non-member.

8. Articles received without identification slip will be sold for the benefit of the Society.

9. The 10 per cent. commission to the Society will be deducted from the price placed on goods by depositor.

10. Articles are placed on sale at depositor's risk.

11. Buying privileges will be open to members and general public from 2 to 3 and at the close of the meeting on Institute day.

Some of the articles that have been sold through the Exchange are: hand-painted salt and pepper dishes, neck charms, Easter post cards, numbers for card tables, place cards, jewel boxes, hand-hemmed handkerchiefs, table napkins with crocheted corners, crocheted nightgown yokes, babies' bonnets, eggs, and all kinds of homemade baking. The secretary says, "We even had one consignment of home-made soap. We have also sold candies, but the possibilities of this and many other lines are just opening. We arranged a table for a display of cake ices last time and the table was trimmed with homemade decorations in paper. We had a demonstration of a plain uncooked icing and a boiled icing, and two cakes were iced in the meeting. These, together with the two cakes used for display purposes, were sold at the close of the meeting. We plan to have a special display at each meeting, with demonstrations, when possible. We will probably have salads next time or varieties of ways of serving potatoes."

## The Sunday School Lesson

CHRISTMAS LESSON

God's Gift to the World, John 1: 14-18; 3: 16-21. Golden Text—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John 3: 16.

ANALYSIS.  
I. THE INCARNATION REVEALS THE THOUGHT OR MIND OF GOD, 1:14-18.  
II. ABOVE ALL, IT REVEALS HIS LOVE, 3:16-21.

I. THE INCARNATION AS THE REVELATION OF THE THOUGHT OR MIND OF GOD, 1:14-18.

V. 14. The term translated "Word" in Greek, "Logos"—combines two things: (1) the thought or purpose of the speaker; (2) the form or expression in which he utters his thought. So here the evangelist must be understood to mean that the thought or purpose of God for humanity has been finally uttered or expressed in Jesus Christ. The divine mind which had been partially revealed in nature, and which had still further expressed itself through the prophets of Israel, assumed final and permanent form in the person and life of Jesus. The Word, in fact, became flesh in Jesus. His humanity, his life, was a phenomenon so glorious and complete that those who have seen him and heard him can never again think of God except in terms of Jesus Christ.

Other things and other being have in some measure given a hint of God's glory. Thus the heavens declare the glory of God, and all great and good men have shown some reflection of his goodness and his wisdom. But Jesus utters the mind and the glory of God so completely that men can only express the truth by saying, as the evangelist here does, that he is God's only Son. No other equally shows the Father's likeness, or so completely enjoys the Father's love.

The glory seen in Jesus combines "grace and truth." "Grace" here means the love of God; "truth" means the real facts of God's being. It is to Jesus that men must look for both of these.

V. 15. All this explains why John

the Baptist spoke so modestly of himself. He recognized fully the transcendent glory and eternal Sonship of Jesus.

V. 16. The evangelist points out that every advance made, and every stage of grace attained in Christian experience since Jesus came, has been due to Jesus, and reflects Jesus. Men got the law of God, indeed, through Moses, but not till Jesus came did any one realize the whole grace of God, or the full truth about him.

V. 17, 18. The Jews imagined that, when the Messiah came, it would be to consign sinners to everlasting death. None did ever dream that, when he came, it would be to love sinners, and to love them so utterly as to die for them.

V. 19-21. Yet Jesus, in the very act of loving, and dying for the sinner, condemns sin eternally, because in him the light, the unassailable truth about God, has come to love sinners, has created a new conscience on the part of men, and it is for men to choose him now, or to reject him for ever. The Cross of Jesus is the throne from which he rules the destinies and lives of men, and all who love the light will inevitably come to him as the divine Redeemer.

## A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

A New Year's party that is also a birthday party will pass the time very well until midnight strikes and the New Year begins its reign.

The guests should be divided according to the months in which they were born. The January group holds a snowball fight with small cotton puffs or feathers blown by the breath from one side to the other. The object of each side is to keep the puff from landing on any person on its own side, and the group that lands it on the other side is declared to be the winner and receives a calendar for a prize.

The February group writes valentine limericks, sings patriotic songs or engages in a contest to determine who can tell the most ingenious story. The most accomplished receives a toy arrow.

Those born in March engage in a potato-rolling contest. Using a toothpick, each player tries to get his potato to the goal first, and the winner receives a quart of potatoes, daintily wrapped in tissue paper and ribbon and packed in a fancy box. Another game for those born in March is "first catch your hare." Each of the party is blindfolded in turn and told to catch as many of the others as possible in two minutes. The person with the greatest number of "hares" to his credit receives a toy rabbit.

The April group, of course, is expected to play practical jokes on the rest of the guests or to tell good jokes on one another, and the prize is a box of April-fool candy.

For May a mothers' day "experience meeting" is called. Some of the mothers present are asked to come forward and tell the secret of raising the paragons of children that the speaker describes at great length. Others are asked to explain certain faults of character (as noted by the speaker) in their children. The faults of course are merely good-natured inventions of members of the company. The "mother" who is voted to have the most successful system receives a neat little whip as a souvenir.

June—the month of graduations—calls for a mock commencement. The members of the group give impromptu orations and essays, or one person takes the part of a college president and confers amusing honorary degrees.

The July group holds an indoor picnic and thus introduces the refreshments, which are packed in little baskets and boxes. A kettle of red lemonade is served from paper cups. A First of July oration puts the finishing touch to this stunt. It is in sections, one of which each member of the group supplies, by taking up the train of thought where the last speaker left it.

August being the favorite vacation month, a "see Canada first" trip is conducted by means of charades that name various cities and places of interest. The prize is a miniature suitcase.

The Septemberites have a spelling match, in which the guests are divided into two sides. Slips of paper are passed round, each one of which bears a single large letter. Each side is required to form the word thus assigned to it by arranging themselves in the proper order with their letters. The side that does it first wins a set of letter blocks.

October provides a mental "nutting party." Conundrums, inclosed in English walnut shells, are hidden in various parts of the house. A nut pick rewards the one who finds and "cracks" the most nuts.

November furnishes a football game, played with a small rubber ball. The winner earns a large turkey feather for his cap.

The festivities close with the Christmas tree—a clothes tree decked out with leaves and the usual ornaments and with inexpensive favors and joke presents tied to the limbs. Old Father Time distributes the gifts and ushers in the New Year with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

## A Handy Pipe Cleaner.

Gas, electricity and furnaces have displaced a great many stoves. But there are still a lot of stovepipes throughout the country which require periodical cleaning.

Here is a simple device which is exceedingly useful in accomplishing that rather disagreeable task.

Take a tin can the size of a No. 3 tomato can, melt off the opened end and with an old pair of shears slit the can from a half to two-thirds its length at about one-inch intervals all the way around. Bend these prongs outward until they will snugly fit the inside of a stovepipe, nail a stick of suitable length to the centre of the can for a handle, and you have a scraper which will more quickly and easily clean out a sooty pipe than anything else I have ever tried.—A. E. C.

For May a mothers' day "experience meeting" is called. Some of the mothers present are asked to come forward and tell the secret of raising the paragons of children that the speaker describes at great length. Others are asked to explain certain faults of character (as noted by the speaker) in their children. The faults of course are merely good-natured inventions of members of the company. The "mother" who is voted to have the most successful system receives a neat little whip as a souvenir.

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## DOING COMMUNITY JOBS

We do not need to go far back in the pages of history to find where the work of any community was done largely through individual effort. Then people trudged along in their own independent way. Gradually, however, new tasks and many of the old ones came to be matters of community concern so that nowadays most live centres have, in one form or another, what we might term local development organizations. These organizations in various ways do many things that as individuals we either could not do efficiently or at all.

In farming communities, there are many things which the members of farmers' organizations seek to do. They may co-operate to improve a road, to build a hall, a church, a better school, a creamery, or a cheese factory, to promote a forest nursery, a marketing association, a testing association, boys' and girls' clubs, and perhaps many other enterprises.

But before community work of this kind can be done, certain factors are necessary. There must be, for instance, leaders who see clearly the purpose of the movement. There must also be followers who have moral and intellectual confidence in that leadership. The purpose of the movement should be worth-while, and based upon an economically sound foundation. Where care is exercised in the choice of projects, an organization should find itself going from one success to another, gaining confidence and power to accomplish far beyond the limits of its first possibilities.

## NEW YEAR NICKNAMES.

The dog owner in England has a month's grace in the matter of paying his license, but so many renew their licenses on January 1st that Post Office officials have come to call that day "Doggie Day."

In France New Year's Day has long been known as Beggars' Day. While begging is against French law, there are two days in the year when all restrictions are removed. These are New Year's Day and July 14th. An army of over twenty thousand beggars infests Paris on New Year's Day, and one is pestered by them from morning till night.

The "Jour de l'An," or "Day of the Year," which is the general French name for New Year's Day, is also the great day for the giving of tips to servants and waiters; while it is customary for young men to send on that day to hostesses who have entertained them during the past year either flowers or gaily-decorated boxes of chocolates. At least \$1,000,000 worth of flowers are sold in Paris on New Year's Day.

One charming New Year custom is still kept up in France. As the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, and for three minutes afterwards, everybody may kiss as many of the opposite sex as possible.

In New York New Year's Eve might well be called Noise Night, for the two musical instruments with which Broadway ushers in the New Year are the cow-bell and the tin horn. The cow-bell is usually tied to a string and allowed to bump along the pavement, so that its owner can devote all his energies and breath to horn-blowing.

New Year's Day is a Bank Holiday in Scotland, and it is from Scotland that English people have borrowed the habit of celebrating "Hogmanay," or New Year's Eve.

The British Court is the only one in Europe which has no State function on New Year's Day.

## Bitter Milk.

It is common for cows to give bitter milk after milking for eight or ten months and in many instances it is necessary to dry off the milk secretion at once. As a rule a cow should only be dried off for six weeks before calving. Try the effects of a pound of Glauber's salt and a cupful of black-strap molasses, administered slowly and carefully as a drench in three pints of tepid water. Have it given by an expert so that none of it runs into the windpipe and lungs. After it has acted, mix in each feed a tablespoonful of a mixture of two parts of powdered wood charcoal and one part of granular hypsulphite of soda.

We need in the country more playgrounds and more shower baths and recognition of the truth that men and women who live in the country need not regard themselves as mere work animals.

Every new settler as well as every farmer is a prodigious user of forest materials. In fact, three-fourths of the timber cut in Canada is used upon the farms. There is every reason why farmers in particular should not outlaw the woodlot.

Farming has never offered greater rewards than it offers to-day to the farmer who farms diligently; but, on the other hand, it promises practical poverty to those who farm indifferently and carelessly.

It has been estimated that the annual loss in Canada to field orchard and garden crops, due to destructive insects, is more than \$200,000,000. The consumption of insects by birds prevents this loss from being far greater, and this forms one of the strong arguments for the protection of insectivorous birds.