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lower it against the wall when
it's not in use.
Plan a storage platform sus-
pended from the ceiling to hold
screens, storm windows, hard-
board panels and other large,
flat objects.

Article Three

History Of The Old Order Mennonites

Because a young Mennonite farmer does not have to buy the furniture for the home, as his bride's parents supply it, nor an expensive engagement or wedding ring, because his church does not approve of it, he is off to a flying start with his agricultural enterprise. About ninety-eight per cent of their young people after they get married live from the income made on their farm or farms during their whole life-time. Mennonites have always been basically an agricultural people, they are true sons and daughters of the soil, and con- sider their land as a sacred trust which must be given their full attention at all times.

Perhaps the spirit of the Palatine Mennonite farmer David Moellinger 1709-1786, of south- ern Germany still exists in these people. His agricultural innovations were rather astounding and may have helped to make these folks the suc- cessful farmers they have al- ways been up to the present time. Moellinger became known as the "Father of Palatine Agriculture" because he raised clover and by spreading gypsum (raw lime) on his land, he greatly enriched the soil. From his vinegar factory and brewery he obtained a mash with which he fattened cattle. His crop rotation system was generally adopted in the Palatine, and as the growing of clover improved the soil, the number of cattle raised on a farm was tripled.

One unusual aspect about the Old Order Mennonites' system of farming is that they make the ordinary 100-acre family farm a going concern, which nets them a comfortable living, and with it as a start, continue in their thrifty manner until they usually own several farms. They have proved that our agri- cultural experts are wrong when they say that a farmer must "specialize" in order to make a living today, and they also tell us that the 100-acre farm is an antique, which won't yield enough profits to cover the cost of machinery, feed, fer- tilizer and the maintenance of buildings and other equipment.

A typical young Mennonite after moving on to his farm usually follow this pattern. He works his land well and tile- drains it if necessary. These people are master farmers, per- haps in their own way, but they have shown outsiders that they don't do things backwards. He knows from centuries of expe- rience, which has been handed down from his ancestors, that a farmer must grow good crops in order to make money. That's why first of all he drains his land and works it to the best of his ability. Next, if he raises heavy crops he can feed more livestock. This in turn gives adequate manure, which is the cheapest yet most important form of fertilizer and humus to keep the soil in

potatoes, that is 1 or 2 acres of each. Many of them still grow these crops. Hay and pasture crops take up another 20 acres each. The remaining 12 or 15 acres is probably made up of bush or woodlot, where in the spring he may tap from 200-500 hard maple trees, or if the woodlot is smaller he may sum- mer-fallow from 5 to 10 acres of his farm. Some market gar- dening is done by a few of these people, and their produce is sold at the Kitchener and Waterloo market or at local stores.

In his livestock program he usually keeps and tends these farm animals. He generally milks from eight to twelve cows, separates the milk and sells the sour cream to the local creamery. This herd as a rule consists of mixed grade cows with a few cross breeds. Some young stockers are usually bought in the fall, fattened dur- ing the winter and sold in the spring. The calves as a rule are all raised and sold for beef, with the best heifers being kept to replace the milking herd. Prob- ably 6 to 10 brood sows are kept and half of the young pigs are sold when weaned, the others being fattened for the market. The skim milk is used to sup- plement the grain for feeding pigs and raising calves. Some of the skim milk may also be uti- lized in the making of the fam- ous Pennsylvania Dutch "Koch Käse," a cooked cheese which is made from the fermented curds of skim milk. Usually about two hundred laying hens are kept on an average farm. At least four horses, two heavy, and two light ones are also kept as his tractor is used chiefly for belt work, such as threshing, grind- ing grain, filling silos and saw- ing wood.

The amazing part about these people is that as soon as their young folks are old enough to work away from home, which is age 14, when they are through public school, they work for a neighbour or a rela- tive on a farm and seldom go to town or a city, into industry, where higher wages could be earned to take home and help to pay for their farms. They pay for their farms with the money which they make from their land.

Thus you see from the agri- cultural program which he fol- lows, and by not spending any- thing for luxuries, which to him are, television, radios, movies, cars, telephones, and entertain- ment, he is bound to accumulate enough money to buy more farms for his children in the future.

A typical pattern of crops grown on a 100-acre farm is as follows. About 35 acres will be sown to grain, maybe 5 acres of this is fall wheat. Approxima- tely one-half of this is seeded down every year to a pasture or hay mixture. Probably 6 or 8 acres of corn is grown for silage, and up until recently most farmers grew 4 to 5 acres in all, of turnips, mangels, and

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