

# News And Views Of And For The Farmers

## WHAT FARM WOMEN WANT

Shorter Hours, Better Roads—No More Hayseed Jokes—Freedom From Superior City Visitors.

The secretary of the United States department of agriculture recently sent out a circular letter to the wives of farmers who had corresponded with the department about their crops, asking them what they thought farm women needed and what could be done to meet their needs. Only 2,241 replies were received to the 25,000 letters sent and the secretary announces that it is safe to infer that most of those who did not answer are fairly contented. Maybe yes, maybe no. However that is, it might be a good thing for Canadians to lend an ear to what the women on the American farms have to say for there is a striking similarity between conditions on either side of the line. One thing asked for by a large number of these letters is the direct concern of the community at large. This is the plea that the public in general show the farmer and his family more respect. These writers question the right of the public to

minimize, depreciate, even degrade and insult their occupation. The current humor of the press, with its jests about Reuben, with hayseed in his hair, comes in for rebuke. The tendency to ridicule the farmer till the very word "country" has come to be a term of reproach, acts to the disadvantage of the farm homes, it is declared. The young people are unwilling to remain where they are objects of contempt or even of coolly superior condescension. Apparently the farmer's wife, perhaps more than the farmer himself, feels keenly the airs some city sisters give themselves when they run down into the country for the summer—very often to impose a heavy burden of entertainment on the overworked farmer's wife.

**Isolation and Monotony.**  
A large proportion of the letters complained of the isolation and monotony and lack of social interests

Almost all of them speak of the long hours of labor. The long hours of the farmer himself impose even longer hours on the women who serve the needs of the farm hands. The government is asked for a law limiting farm work to 8 or 10 hours a day, for both men and women. It is even asked by one or two men through these letters that it be a misdemeanor to employ women in the fields. In some cases it is said that women do all the housework and half the work on the farm, too.

One woman protests against the hens: "My husband shares the common mistake of the farmer who thinks that chickens will 'buy the groceries.' The truth is that if the fowls on our farm, and on most such farms, were charged up with the grain they eat and the garden they destroy and half the value of the labor and care bestowed upon them they would come in debt every time. To have any 'luck' with your chickens you must give them lots of attention. They make a good deal of work, too. This is my question; When I have cooked, and swept, and washed, and ironed, and made beds for a family of five (two small children), and have done the necessary mending and sewing, haven't I done enough? In any fair division of labor between the farmer and his

wife the man would take the outdoors and the woman the indoors. That would drop the chickens on the man's side, with the probable result that on most farms there would be big flocks. It is a little thing, the side issues, that eat up the profits and make life so hard on many farms. More farm women have turned their faces longingly toward the town on account of chickens than nearly any other thing. Most of us want fowls, but we don't take advantage of what our garden destroyers stand waiting to undo our efforts as soon as our sunbonnets disappear. Don't tell me to 'shut the chickens up.' They eat their heads off visibly if they are shut up and besides they don't thrive in confinement like they do in the open. Nothing 'agrees' with them, apparently, like scratching up a flower bed.

Long hours are partly to blame for the lack of recreation. There are many cases to visit the neighbors or take advantage of social opportunities are offered. Yet it is said that if a central gathering place could be provided the social life of these neighborhoods would develop itself. It is claimed that more money is spent up for the benefits of automobiles and the like, than would be if the letters read used by small farmers who

have no automobiles are left in a bad condition. This makes them impossible for the "horse and buggy" of the women, and moreover the carelessness of the automobiles public causes the farm women to hesitate to go jogging about the country in their "buggies" as of old. More books are asked for, a library in the school or some other centre, for distributing literature. Other letters however, tell of great contentment in the long evenings on the farm, with music and books and in one case three daily newspapers! Here the benefit to country people of the daily press is emphasized again, for it brings the vivifying influence of something new to think of. The photograph is a source of pleasure often named.

**Libraries on Wheels.**  
Better roads and cheaper telephones and real free delivery actually at the house, not the crossroads—are practical means, with the use of school-houses as social centres, to relieve the very satisfactory of the farm life, its isolation. Some means to circulate books, magazines and papers, such as is used in many places already, with the libraries on wheels, the magazine clubs and the like, would be an advantage everywhere. Only a few of the letters

complain of the difficulty of getting a fair price for farm products, but these complain bitterly. They women in some instances remind the world that their only pay is food and clothes, though they often do fully as much work as the men. Many of the women call for household help, which is almost impossible to get in some parts of the country, though a "hired woman" is often as necessary as a "hired man."

One letter tells how the women worked out their own problem without outside help. It says: "A few women of this neighborhood conceived the idea of meeting afternoons at the house of one and then another. Each in turn reads aloud while the others work. This has lasted several years. The results are surprising. At first only one woman would read. They have now gone through hundreds of books. They all now read in their turn. They are fairly familiar with current literature. Their taste has improved to the point that they read the best books. The idea should be given publicity, and anyone seeking to organize such a reading club should be warned not to begin with standard works, but with books with exciting plots sufficient to hold the attention of people who are not trained to think long on any one subject and to whom the reading habit is irksome. Taste in literature will improve by practice, but an effort to start off on a high plane will probably result in failure."

**The Cow's Vacation.**  
How long a vacation should the cow have? It depends somewhat on the cow herself. She, like some people, can sometimes get along with a short vacation and keep in vigorous working condition. It always depends on how she is kept. If fed liberally, and well cared for, she can give milk almost continuously without loss of vigor, either to herself or her offspring. These things should be duly considered in each instance. Usually, however, it pays to allow, or even compel a cow to take six weeks' to two months' vacation each year. That is, she should go dry for that time, to store up enough reserve to do her best for the balance of the year. She will almost invariably have a more vigorous milk if given a good rest.

## KINGSTON MARKET REPORTS

Kingston, May 29.

Meats.	
Beef, local carcasses, lb. ....	11 12
Beef, hinds, lb. ....	13 14
Beef, cuts, lb. ....	15 22
Beef, western, lb. ....	13 14
Hogs, live, cwt. ....	9 00
Hogs, dressed, lb. ....	12 1/2 13
Lamb, frozen, by carcass, lb. ....	15
Lamb, spring, by carcass ....	7 00 8 00
Mutton, lb. ....	13
Ven, by carcass, lb. ....	08 14
Fish.	
Bloaters, doz. ....	40
Cod, steak, lb. ....	12 1/2
Eds, lb. ....	10
Haddies, fannin, lb. ....	12 1/2
Haddock, fresh, lb. ....	12 1/2
Haddock, frozen, lb. ....	08
Halibut, fresh, lb. ....	20
Herring, fresh water, doz. ....	50
Live lobsters, lb. ....	25
Oysters, quart ....	50 60
Plokerel, lb. ....	15
Klippers, doz. ....	30
Perch, lb. ....	10
Pike, lb. ....	10
Rock-bass, lb. ....	10
Salmon, Qualla, lb. ....	15
Salmon, coho, lb. ....	20
Salmon, Chinook, lb. ....	30
Shad, smoked, lb. ....	20
Suckers, lb. ....	05

Trout, salmon, lb. ....	15
White fish, lb. ....	12 1/2 15
Poultry.	
Chickens, dressed, lb. ....	18
lb. ....	18
Chickens, live, lb. ....	12 1/2
Ducks, lb. ....	12
Hens, dressed, lb. ....	15
Hens, live, lb. ....	10
Turkeys, lb. ....	18 20
Dairy Products.	
Butter, creamery, lb. ....	37
Butter, prints, lb. ....	23
Butter, rolls, lb. ....	32
Cheese, old, lb. ....	22
Cheese, new, lb. ....	24
Eggs, fresh, doz. ....	20 22
Fruit.	
Apples, peck ....	30 60
Apples, Ben Davis, lb. ....	15
Bbl. ....	3 00
Bananas, doz. ....	20
Cucumbers, each ....	05 07
Dates, lb. ....	10
Figs, lb. ....	15
Grapes, each ....	05 10
Lemons, Messina, doz. ....	20
Nuts, mixed, lb. ....	20 20
Oranges, doz. ....	20 60
Pineapples, each ....	10 20
Strawberries, per box ....	20 \$2.00
Tomatoes, lb. ....	20

Vegetables.	
Beets, bush. ....	50
Cabbage, new, lb. ....	10
Celery, bunch ....	15
Lettuce, bunch, doz. ....	50
Onions, green, bunches, doz. ....	50
Peas, bush. ....	50
Parsnips, bush. ....	50
Rhubarb, bunch ....	10
Turnap, bag ....	75
Grain.	
Barley, bush. ....	1 00
Bran, ton ....	27 00
Buckwheat, bush. ....	1 15
Corn, yellow feed, bush. ....	95
Corn, cracked, cwt. ....	1 80
Corn, meal, cwt. ....	2 45
Flour, cwt. ....	4 25
Hay, baled, ton ....	18 00
Hay, loose ....	17 00 18 00
Oats, local, bush. ....	70
Oats, Man. ....	75
Straw, baled, ton ....	9 00
Straw, loose, ton ....	8 00
Wheat, bush. ....	1 50
Hides.	
Beef hides, cured, per lb. ....	14c
Beef, hides, green, lb. ....	12c
Heavy bulls, lb. ....	8c
Veals, green, lb. ....	12c
Deacons, each ....	90c
Tallow rendered in, lb. ....	8c
Klips or grassers, lb. ....	8c
Chalf skins, per lb. ....	15c
Lamb and sheering, each ....	25c
Sheep skins, each, up to ....	\$2.00
Horse hides, each, up to ....	3 50

## REARING CHICKENS

The growing of chicks has by many been made a laborious task. There is, however, no reason why chicks should not be reared with very little trouble. The system adopted here makes it possible for a flock of chicks to be successfully grown with attention a few minutes a day. When the chick is from 2 to 8 weeks old (it depends upon the time of year), they are fed in small hoppers. As they get bigger the larger hoppers are used and coarser grains fed. It must be remembered, however, that hoppers are not to be used for dry chicks until they have a good range; but just as soon as they are permitted to run, the hopper system can be used without any ill effect. Feed the same kind of grain they will get when they come into a laying house in the fall. It is a mistake to feed chicks grain that cannot be obtained in larger quantities at reasonable prices for the laying hens later. Soft mashers are not used. Probably a mash will bring the chicken along more quickly than a dry grain, but for breeding purposes a dry grain method will produce better chicks, chicks and more of them. For early broilers or for cockerals intended for market purposes the mash will give the best results, but the feeding of dry grain in hoppers will cut down the labor to the minimum.

The housing of growing chicks in the movable colony houses has the advantage that the chicks can be placed on new ground at any time. The placing of these houses in an orchard along a root or corn field gives ideal conditions to the chicks. This year a number were placed in the Horticultural grounds, running in

## THE MARKETS AND PRODUCTION

Markets are only satisfactory when they yield a reasonable margin over the cost of production. It is then readily apparent that the cost of production has as much to do with profits as has the selling price of these same products. The market for wheat is very satisfactory at the present time because the crop was produced with a selling price of from 65 to 85 cents in view. When it jumped to something over a dollar a bushel it left a very wide margin. The crops are being put in this year practically as cheaply as they have ever been put in, but with wheat at \$1.25 per bushel how long will the cost of production remain at its present level? We can readily see that if the high level in prices is maintained

for another year that much bonanza farming will be undertaken. But we can also see with the high returns that grain farming promises, and the productive power that modern agricultural machinery gives to each man, that upon the cessation of the war prices will soon drop and that there is a big possibility that many will be producing grain at a loss.

We have referred to grain because grain is in an unusually attractive position in regard to markets at the present time. But the same principles apply to all other farm products. They must be produced below average market prices if a margin of profit is to be secured. Just as soon as high prices induce expensive methods of production, then—with the

quarter section farmer needs in growing livestock. His livestock will increase quite as fast as his knowledge of how to care for them. In fact, it is rather his knowledge, than the productive capacity of his farm, that is likely to be the limiting factor in his livestock operations.

Growing livestock necessarily involves growing something for them to eat. Start in with learning how to grow grass, an easy thing to do provided a man will first empty himself of all his previous knowledge, and do what an experienced farmer will tell him to do. The probability is that he won't do it at the start, but will have to learn by experience, but in this way he can eventually become skillful.

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**ROYALTY TO CONSERVE**  
Fur-Bearing Animals Suggested by Deputy Minister.

Toronto, May 29.—A sheriff Deputy Minister of Game and Fisheries, in his report, alludes to amendments to the Ontario game and fisheries act enacted during the session of 1914, which contained two important provisions, one limiting the season's bag for ducks and the other providing for the licensing of fur dealers. According to the report of the conservator, the bag limit has proved so liberal that few have been tempted to exceed it, and the fortunate few have been sufficiently profit-spirited to pay regard to it.

"Such a valuable natural resource as the wild fur-bearing animals should, however, be made to contribute a larger return to the public treasury than could be obtained from license fees alone, and I beg leave to suggest," says Mr. Sheriff, "that this be collected in the form of a royalty on the more valuable skins. The imposition of a royalty, besides affording revenue, should enable the department to restrict the catch within such limits as experience might show to be safe."

While the protective measures enacted have resulted in the preservation of our big game and a marked increase in certain localities, there are certain sections of the Province, says the report, notably in the districts of Kenora, Rainy River, Fort William and Port Arthur, where the brush wolf is becoming a serious menace.

Under the heading of fisheries it is stated that while the productivity of Lake Erie and of the eastern end of Lake Ontario is fairly well maintained, and has demonstrated the value of hatcheries, the conditions of Georgian Bay continues to give the department much anxiety. "There is no body of water that would repay attention better than this," declares the report, "and two or three additional whitefish hatcheries should be located at certain advantageous points." It is further pointed out that, while Georgian Bay is undoubtedly the body of water in the Province in most need of restocking, Lake Erie should also receive attention.

**THE JITNEY.**  
It is Likely to Stay—A Racy Rhyme. About the Machine.

Whether the jitney has come to stay is still a subject for discussion in motoring circles. One thing is certain, however, the five-cent auto ride has made a decided hit with the public in most Canadian cities. Under the title "The Jitney" the following rhyme appears in the May issue of Goodyear Tire News (published by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. of Canada), which illustrates the popularity of these vehicles in a rather amusing way:

The festive jitney gaily glides, providing cut-rate auto rides, and cheats the undertakers; while folks throw out their liver pills and dope for other, or bad air and breath, the cure-all fakers. For air at thirty miles an hour forced in our lungs by engine-power beats all the blamed physicians, good ozone plus a jitney bus may make the railway magnates cuss but heals our dispositions. The family don't their opera wraps, disdaining to haps on street car straps and signals for a motor, when mother goes to do her shopping street cars pass her without stopping; jitney drivers tote her. The kiddies visit movies now piled in some whesky motor scow, their heads afloat with pleasure, while father lights a big cigar, steps in a passing jitney car and goes to lunch at leisure. The funny papers turn their wit upon the pleasure-giving jit, to help fill up a "colony"; "Remember the Maine," how our E-r-e-a-t Eagle fopped down on wee, weak bankrupt little Spain.

S—Sauerkraut, however, has a strong taste for delicate stomachs.

T—True, Teddy might thrive on it, but he is a "rough rider."

U—Use of radical remedies not good for renegades.

V—Vitrol makes them worse.

W—We prefer a gentle admonition.

X—Xceeding hard sometimes to know what to do.

Y—Your great warrior, Gen. Sam, might be puzzled, but we have no one here except Billy Sunday and he is too busy bombarding the booze business to be of assistance in any other direction.

—ZACCHEUS.

**COMMENTS BY ZACCHEUS**  
Who Is Lonely Without the Bagpipes of the 21st.

A—After departure of 21st Contingent, our streets seemed very quiet.

B—Beguiling are martial steps and clarion calls.

C—Count on our boys doing their full duty at the front.

D—Danger no deterrent to them.

E—Eager every one for broil and battle.

F—Fit motto:

G—Glory or the grave.

H—Heads and hearts bent on thrashing the things.

I—In every way fitted for action.

J—Just look for a heroic record from each and every one of them.

K—Killing innocent children and their mothers a cause of rejecting to the Kaiser's cultured demons.

L—Lusitania crying for vengeance.

M—Meekness of President Wilson's astounding. This peace at all cost, public conscience will not endorse.

N—No one outside of Pekin would be so soft and sacrificing.

O—Outlaws! this bland, mild moral seems to say, please, be gentle.

P—Panth, be sweet, come and kiss me; don't crunch my bones, be a good brute.

Q—Quite smooth the water was, but mothers object to their little ones getting their tiny, rose feet wet.

R—Remember the "Maine," how our E-r-e-a-t Eagle fopped down on wee, weak bankrupt little Spain.

S—Sauerkraut, however, has a strong taste for delicate stomachs.

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—ZACCHEUS.

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**Coming, Prof. Pember**

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**For Bald Men**

The Pember lightweight ventilated toupee or wig is the most natural substitute for your own hair ever produced. Also consult him about any scalp troubles.

**REMEMBER THE DATE.**  
**Randolph Hotel**  
**Tues., June 1st**

**TO END ALL WAR**  
Tremendous Undertaking, Lord Bryce Tells F. H. Stead.

London, May 29.—Lord Bryce, writing to F. Herbert Stead, with regard to the meeting held to advocate the abolition of war, says:

"To end all war is a tremendous undertaking, but we are right to keep flying the flag of hope for the attainment, at least, of really permanent peace, however distant that may be. The momentary peace seems to be, in the meantime we must continue to work untidily so to finish this war as to show that the shocking methods that have been used by the German troops must be finally and immediately expunged."

**WAR RELEASES 57 SHIPS.**  
German and Austrian Vessels to be Used.

London, May 29.—The intervention of Italy means a substantial increase in the tonnage of merchant vessels now engaged in the world's trade. Lloyd's list shows that 36 German vessels, total tonnage 142,776, and 21 Austrian vessels, tonnage 77,895, have been sheltering in Italian ports since August last. They will now be able to participate in the carrying trade of the world.

The largest of the ships are the *Moltke* and the *Koenig Albert*, at Genoa, and the *Bayern*, at Naples.

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**PILES**  
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