

Making Much of Small Things

Time and Energy are Saved by Taking Advantage of the Short Cuts
JAS. MCARRELL, MIDDLESEX CO., ONT.

"EVERY little movement has a meaning all its own," says the old jingle.

Every little movement has its business significance as well. In a United States magazine a writer tells of how a study of little movements enabled a working man to do much more work in a day, to earn greater pay, and to have more leisure hours to spend with his family.

This working man was employed along with hundreds of others in loading pig-iron on to cars. An efficiency expert took the working man in hand. First he studied every movement the working man made and then he began to direct his movements. The expert started in the morning. He showed the man exactly how to stoop to pick up a pig of iron. He directed every movement the man made until he was in an upright position. He then showed him how to turn as he faced the car. He told him when to move forward to the car, and he directed every little movement as he deposited his burden on the car floor. Not a movement was allowed to be wasted. All day the laboring man worked under the expert's direction, and at five o'clock in the afternoon he found that instead of loading a thousand blocks, his usual day's work, he had loaded 3,000 blocks, and was not so tired as usual at the end of his work. He was allowed to go home on hour earlier. The efficiency expert by studying every little movement had made that working man of more value to his employers, had put him in a position to command greater wages and to have more leisure time at home with his children.

Little Movements on the Farm

Has this little incident any lesson for the farmer? We farmers cover a multiplicity of jobs in the course of a day. Few men have greater opportunities to waste little movements, little minutes, and in the long run little days, than have we farmers. I believe that we could save ourselves much labor did we stop work for a while and spend a few hours co-ordinating the work of the farm. Here is an instance taken from a back issue of Farm and Dairy that illustrates what I mean.

On the Tamblin farm in Durham county they had been accustomed to walk for 40 years around the end of the barn to reach the stable door. In the natural course of events the elder Tamblin resigned his position as farm manager and his son took his place. I do not know whether young Mr. Tamblin had studied efficiency and the significance of "every little movement," but at any rate he had the application all right. No sooner was he in command than he cut a door through the near side of the wall into the stable, which meant that he saved himself and his men 60 feet of walking every time they went to the stable.

Saved 72 Miles a Year

It does not sound like much, does it? Sixty feet is only 20 steps, and the slowest man can walk 20 steps in a few seconds. In the aggregate it means a lot. It means that one man taking three trips a day one way saves 12 miles in the year. But the man who goes to the stable necessarily comes back again. Three trips a day both ways meant a saving of 34 miles. On a farm the size of Mr. Tamblin's there would be at least three persons travelling between the house and the stable, and that little door, which probably represented only a couple of hours' work, will save to the farm the time that it would take one person to walk 72 miles, which is equivalent to the distance travelled in giving a 10-acre field of corn four cultivations.

In the nearby county of Prince Edward is another farmer who believes in efficiency. Like all other good dairymen Mr. James Anderson believes that the milk stand should be a safe distance from the stables and barnyard. The common ordinary way of taking the milk to the stand is to milk a couple of buckets full, walk out to the stand and empty them, and then back to the stable and fill them again. Mr. Anderson has a different plan. He constructed a track from the milk stand right to the stable door. He then constructed a truck to run on the track. The milk cans are loaded on to the truck, wheeled out to the door, the 30 or more cows are milked, the milk loaded into the cans without any travelling whatever, and then pushed back on the truck to the milk stand. I have not figured out just how much travelling Mr. Anderson saves in the year, but it would be as much as Mr. Tamblin saves on his door multiplied by several times.

Efficient Egg Collection

And still another instance taken from a back issue of Farm and Dairy. A few years ago co-operative egg circles were organized in Peterborough county. One of the rules on which members were admitted was that the eggs should be gathered twice a day during the summer months. This looked like a lot of trouble to most of the

circle members. One man solved the problem to his entire satisfaction. When he went to feed the pigs he always remembered to carry a little basket along and collect the eggs at the same time. In coming in from the stable at noon he visited the henhouse on the way. Thus the requirements of the circle were met without any extra trouble. I know for a positive fact that the twice a day collection of their eggs represented two special trips to the henhouse for many of this man's neighbors.

The planning of the interior arrangement of the dairy stable represents a big problem. The problem of whether the cows shall face each other or not is of vastly more importance than most of us would think. Our decision means the saving or wasting of many little minutes that aggregate many hours in the course of a year. The arrangement of litter and feed carriers also represents a big saving that is demanded by true efficiency.

Efficiency in modern business, and in modern business I include farming, means the difference between success and failure. The man whom the employer raises in pay is the efficient man. The employer who succeeds in competition with other employers is the one who can direct his labor most efficiently. We farmers, by studying efficiency, will be enabled to pay higher wages to our men. We will be able to take more leisure hours ourselves and to partake to the full of the pleasures that country life affords when we are not burdened with overwork. Shall we start now to study "every little movement"?

Plowing and Harrowing

Showing It Is Advisable to Harrow Before and After Plowing
J. A. MACDONALD, PRINCE CO., P.E.I.

DON'T plow sod or any stiff land in the spring unless you are certain of a wet season. Plow it the previous fall. Fig. 1 represents such plowed ground, showing air-space between

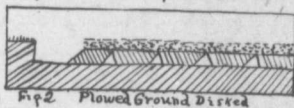


Diagram illustrating the Benefits of Harrowing both before and after Plowing.

the turned-over furrow-slice and the ground beneath. This air space prevents a firm and complete seed-bed from being made and stops capillary connection with the sub-soil.

Fig. 2 is plowed ground disked. Note that the air spaces, as in Fig. 1, still exist. The harrowing has not filled them up. This is what happens when strong ground is plowed without first being harrowed with a disk harrow. The only thing that will close those air spaces is a wet season. With a dry season the crop is usually a failure.

Fig. 3 shows ground harrowed before it is plowed. The mulch breaks the capillary attraction so that moisture cannot escape from the top of the ground. This permits what moisture there is in the ground to come close to the surface.

Fig. 5 illustrates harrowing before and after plowing. When the ground is treated in this manner the seed-bed becomes compact and firm in a much shorter time, and permits capillary attraction. This treatment puts the ground in such condition that whether the season be wet, dry or normal, the farmer is not taking any chance.

Fig. 4 is a view of the harrowed surface shown in Fig. 3, plowed. Harrowing, preferably with a disk, the ground before it is plowed leaves a mulch of fine dirt which fills up the air spaces left between the furrowed slices and the ground beneath, thus making the foundation for a firm and compact seed-bed.

In plowing oat ground for fall wheat the oat ground should be disked immediately after the field is cleared, disking lengthwise and crosswise so as to form a mulch to retain moisture, as in Fig. 4. When this ground is plowed later (Fig. 5) the moisture will be re-aided and, if a dry fall, capillary will supply the needed moisture to the growing wheat. When wheat follows corn this harrowing, as shown in Fig. 4, is still more important, whether the corn ground is to be plowed or not.

But it is in the spring of the year that this

A Cement

By Raymond N. T. is during the growing of the stock, and the home.

Most improvem



Provision for

The cement trough his farm in Prince

but there are things cost during the time that will increase the convenience as well as a small cement trough. For the outside planks, which, if placed in position, of this was placed 8 to 1, which was the end. This is the inside form w