

November is a good month to stock up with sheep. Try a few, and if you give them decent treatment you will soon want more. Buy good, strong ewes or ewe lambs, and a pure-bred ram of whatever breed you are partial to.

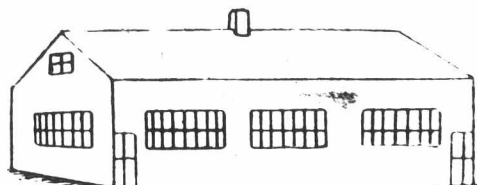
SWINE.

If you have a good warm place for your sows to farrow in, breed them about the last week of this month, or 1st of December; if you have not a warm pen, wait until about 20th December, or even later. Breed to either a pure-bred Berkshire or Yorkshire. Don't keep your sows too fat. Crushed barley and oats is a good winter food.

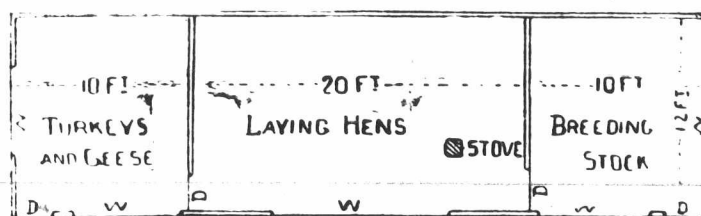
POULTRY.

Turkeys must not be kept with the common hens, as the latter require to be kept warm, and turkeys if kept too warm get swelled heads and "turn their toes up to the daisies." A good plan for a poultry house for Manitoba is to divide it into three compartments, the central one, with a stove in it, for the laying hens; the two side ones for turkeys and breeding stock. I advocate the use of above-ground poultry houses, as they are healthier, more easily lighted, and easy to clean out.

I append a plan of a good and convenient house, such as I am myself about to build for 100 hens and 5 turkeys:—



ELEVATION.



PLAN OF A POULTRY HOUSE FOR MANITOBA.

Building 40 ft. x 12 wide. May be built of logs or frame. If of logs, lathed and plastered outside, built on a stone foundation one foot high, eight feet from floor to ceiling, double doors, good shingle roof, double windows, and plenty of them. Dust boxes also in each room. A house like above should not cost more than \$100, after paying for everything. If the proprietor did the work, half that sum.

GENERAL.

Bank up the house, the barn, and other out-buildings.

Haul home your winter's wood and saw it.

Get your hay home from the stacks ere it drifts over with snow.

Get your wife and youngsters their winter clothing now; don't wait until you are *obliged* to do it; they are less hardy than you are, and if you require warm clothing, how much more do they?

Buy some new stovepiping to replace those old rusty ones.

As you have leisure now, think over some of the hints that you have read in your agricultural paper, and *act* upon them. Merely reading other men's experience won't do you much good; it's profiting by them that indicates the wise farmer.

INVICTA.

Farmers' Societies.

How a Farmer Should Live.

Just at present a number of men, great in one or other of the professions, are telling how men in those professions should live in order to make the best use of their time and to reap the fullest enjoyment of their living; therefore it may not be out of place to consider how the farmer, that backbone of the country, should live; for as he lives so must the state.

In the first place the farmer should live contentedly, not unprogressively, satisfied and dumbly bearing the burdens placed upon him, but in an age when labor and capital are in such a terrible state of contest that fears are entertained for the fabric of society, the farmer, more independent than any other, can calmly view the approaching conflict and thank his stars that he is neither a capitalist to be ruined by striking workmen, a mechanic to be starved by domineering labor unions, or a "scab" to be detested and perhaps ill-treated by these in the labor unions. Far be it from us to say which of these parties is nearest right; that is a question which the greatest minds of the day are trying to solve, but to the man who tills the soil it cannot fail to be a source of satisfaction to feel that he combines in himself labor and capital, and that however banks and markets may go, he has the forces of nature always working for him and compounding his capital just as surely as if he held Bank of England stock. The farmer having, then, no fear either that his output will be stopped by a few dissatisfied men, or that his wages will cease because there are too many men of that trade; in other words, being assured of the permanency of his business he can set himself to learn every feature of that business with no fear that he will shortly be forced to learn a new trade.

It is agreed, then, that the first object of the farmer, and the great object, will be to know his farm and to farm it. Now, this takes in a great deal. In the past there have been too many farmers who trusted to luck and looked upon farming as a perpetual lottery. The fact of the matter is, that farming is the most difficult of all businesses to thoroughly master. The farmer should have a knowledge of chemistry like the cloth manufacturer; a knowledge of veterinary science; a knowledge of natural philosophy; a knowledge of botany; in fact, he should be a good all-round man, and, most of all, he must have this knowledge in a practical form. Then, too, he must have a knowledge of the markets, of the needs of the community and of mankind in general. It will thus be seen that a good portion of his time must be spent in study. Not in a cell poring over books like some monkish book-worm, but like a bee extracting honey from every bud he touches, studying and thinking as he works. Again, he should not be ignorant of the ways and means by which our laws are made and country governed. Bearing a great part of the country's burdens, he should know if these burdens are reasonably and equitably adjusted, and the more the farmers of Canada look squarely at the politics of our country and vote for what they believe to be the right measure, the better and more wholesome will our politics become. If all the good men in Canada would individually do what they could to purify

our political atmosphere, we would soon get out of fog into sunlight.

Having in a general way outlined the duties of the farmer to himself and to his country, let us see how this can be accomplished. It goes without saying, for it has been the custom for ages, that the farmer should be an early riser. Let him go out, then, to a general survey of stock and premises, and then into breakfast. As to how much work should be done before breakfast must depend upon individual constitution and circumstances. Some men can do little before breakfast, others cannot eat until they have worked some time.

The diet of the farmer should at all times be as generous, varied and wholesome as possible. There has in the past been too much false economy among farmers in some sections in selling everything good and putting practically the husks of everything on their own tables. There have been farms with large herds of milking cows, with flocks of poultry and a large garden, where cream, eggs, butter, chickens and vegetables were almost unknown articles of food. Now, this is not right; no matter what the end may be, it is always reached quicker by keeping up a good vital force in the worker. A man who has always used these things in season, and has kept his body well nourished and his digestion good, will in the end have more of money or power, culture or whatever he may desire, than the half-nourished cadaverous dyspeptic, who in order to scrape a few more cents together has in the midst of nature's bounties lived on salt pork and potatoes three hundred days in the year. There may be some people who really cannot see their way to "getting on" if they do this, but if some reduction in expense must be made, use your old buggy, your last year's hat; in fact do almost anything rather than risk your health by eating poor food. And in this connection it may be remarked that the poor food on many of our farm tables has driven quite as many young men off the farm as anything else. When a young man who has been doing all kinds of work from rising till lying down, and living in the meantime on poor food, goes in to see his city cousin, who works in good clothes and in regular hours, and is treated to pie made from fruit and flour from his father's farm, and has cream and cheese and butter on omelette and a broiled chicken ditto, he begins to feel that the farmer after all gathers the fat of the land for others to live on, and he is ready to join in the exodus from the farm. Let every farmer then try to make his table as cheerful and tasteful and wholesome as possible, and at the end of the year his bank account will be the better for it.

Breakfast and other morning duties over, it would be well to consider what things have to be done first, and whether any changes have to be made in the plans for the day. Then assign each person the task to which he is best suited. Encourage him or her by a kindly word, and let the wheels of the day's work be put in motion. By carefully laying out the work, and by being prepared by having tools ready for each season as it comes, the work should, as far as possible, be pushed, so that it does not push the farmer. This, too, is where mixed farming comes in, for by thinking over crops and harvests such things may be sown or planted that the work will not all come down upon the worker at one time.