Third, teaming grain to mill or storehouse, as the wide top makes your load lower, and less liable to upset.

Fourth, to haul manure to field on, as there are no sides in the way of loading or unloading.

Fifth, to take stock to market, put stock rack on top of platform, and chain or block from going sideways, as the 2 x 4 at ends prevents going ahead or back.

Sixth, by placing a two-inch piece, 7 feet long, across each end, and 14-foot plank down each side on top of cross-piece, and a board across on top of rear end of said planks spiked in position, you have an ideal rack for teaming loose hay on.

Seventh, for moving household furniture.

This covers about all the uses to which a sleigh is put, except drawing logs, and to do so will necessitate removing the top, and no changing of bolsters or bunks. Using such a sleigh top reduces very much lifting and changing in order to do the different kinds of work, and it is less likely to upset on bad roads.

Perth Co., Ont. F. C. McINTOSH.

Labor Savers on the Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In discussing the subject of labor-savers, I might say, as an introduction, that one of the points of distinction between the ordinary and extraordinary man or woman is the fact that one sees "things" and immediately adopts them, while the other doesn't. In sending you my farm conveniences, I shall give several which I have adopted, and certainly consider them labor-savers. To begin with, I have a small table on castors, which I move beside my chair at meal time, keeping upon it the dessert dishes, etc. I also set upon it dishes I wish to remove from the table while the meal is in progress. In addition, I have a large tray on which I bring in from the kitchen all at once the meat, gravy and potatoes, and other vegetables I may have. Then I load it up with soiled dishes from the table. I also use it in bringing things from the cellar.

I have a cupboard built into the wall between the kitchen and dining-room, with doors that open into both rooms. I can wash the dishes in the kitchen, put them into this cupboard, and when I wish to lay the table in the dining-room I open the doors into that room, and thereby save myself much labor and many steps.

On wash days I use a home-made washing fluid, made as follows: Take the contents of one can Gillet's lye, and add to one gallon boiling water, and let stand until cold. Then add two quarts cold water, ½ ounce salts tartar, and 1 ounce ammonia. On wash day I put three pails of soft water in the boiler, ½ pound good soap cut fine, and one cup of this fluid, put in soiled white clothes, and let boil 10 minutes, stirring often; then wash, rinse and blue. I can wash in half the time, and with much less labor.

Washing day and ironing day are big days in the week's work. A good washing machine and wringer go a long way towards lessening labor. Sheets folded when taken from the line need no ironing. All the underwear, towels, etc., can be folded and run through the wringer.

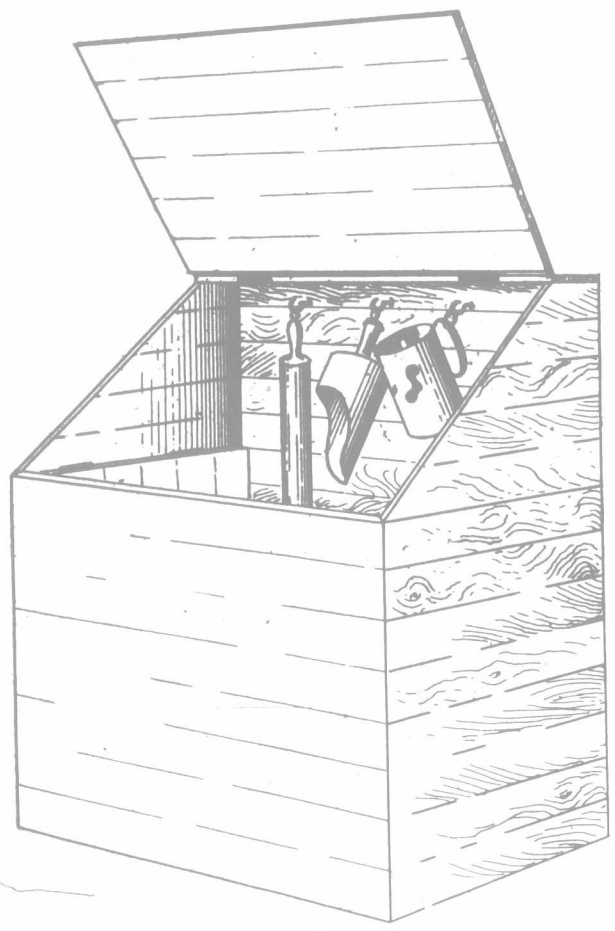
Let no woman who values her health try to go without a carpet sweeper.

Enclosed you will find a sketch of a flour box which I had made by an ordinary carpenter out of some material we had left after building the house. You will observe the bread board that drops down in the inside, also the three small wire hooks, with the scoop, sifter and rolling pin hung thereon. The cabinet, also (as I call it), is made of an ordinary box, cut off on each side at an angle, and the pieces cut away serve for the upper and lower rims. The lid is then divided, and the two partitions are fixed to the slanting sides with half a dozen small brass hinges screwed inside neatly. The thin boards of wood used for the inner shelves require rather careful manipulation, or they may have a clumsy effect. Make small grooves, and slide them in with a touch of glue. Stain the whole case walnut or oak, and varnish. On the lower shelf I keep my patterns, writing paper, ink, pencils, etc.; on the next, spools of thread, thimbles, needles, etc., and on the third and on the top shelf I keep vaseline, tooth powder, salve, and button box.

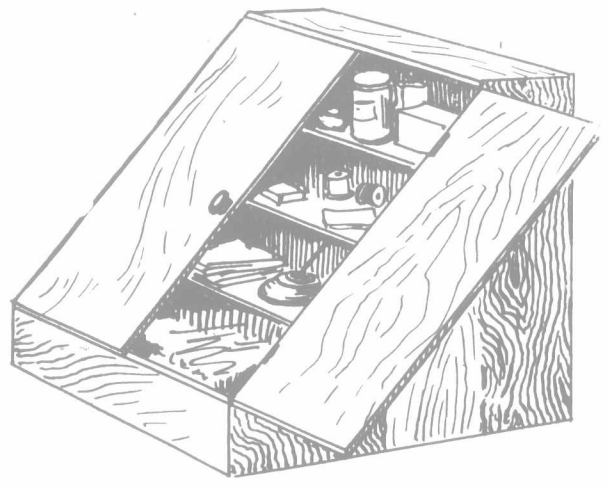
In conclusion, I want to tell you of one thing more, which, though not exactly a labor-saver, yet may save you from many a fright, and perhaps fire. In the fall, before you put up your stoves, take quite a large piece of newspaper, crumple it up, and put it in the stove pipe hole of the chimney, touch a lighted match to it and burn out your chimney before you put up your stove. I did it last fall, and have not had my chimneys burn out during the winter. But be sure and do it some day when the men are around home, or you will be frightened with the terrible fire it will make. If you think it is burning too fiercely, hold a pie tin over the hole to shut off the draft.

This paper has dealt chiefly with the little things that go to lessen labor and which have proved themselves helpful, but there is one labor-saving device that has not been mentioned, but which is by far the most far-reaching in its influence, and that is the spirit in which we approach our work. So much of our work is mere routine, and so monotonous that we get tired, and our heart is not always in it. "He who approaches his task with a leaden heart is out of the race before he is in it. Success means that the heart sings while the hand works.

Norfolk Co., Ont. MRS. L. B.



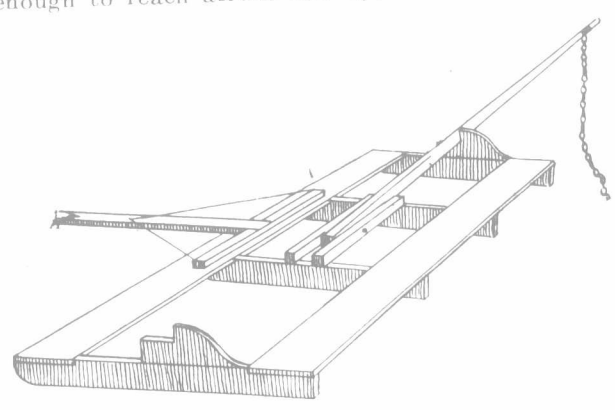
Handy Flour Box.



Homemade Kitchen Cabinet.

Handy Tracer on Corn Marker.

I send you a rough sketch of a corn-marker which I use. It has a folding pole or strip of elm, with a piece of chain about 8 feet long to round. My marker is spaced for rows 3 feet 4 inches wide, so that the marker pole, to be long enough to reach across four spaces and a half, is



R. Richmond's Cornmarker.

15 feet from bolt to chain. With this marker, a man can mark four rows every time he drives across the field, and never needs to get off his marker. All he has to do is to start at one side of field, drive straight to the other end, turn around, with team a-straddle of chain mark, fold marking pole to other side, and drive ahead.

Huron Co., Ont. R. RICHMOND.

The Weed Tax.

Did you ever stop to think of the tax you are paying to keep up the weed crop? If the state should levy a tax on your crops equal to 25 per cent. of the value you would rebel in righteous indignation. Wouldn't you? Yet a good many of us permit a stand of 25 per cent. of weeds to occupy our fields, and think we are doing pretty good farming, too. Why not grow grain or alfalfa, or sugar beets or "spuds," or some other good crop, where that weed tax is now growing? The weeds give no return. They draw more heavily on the water supply and plant-food supply than paying crops. Paying crops and weeds cannot occupy land at the same time. Let us grow paying crops and get profits, rather than pay taxes. Pound for pound, the plant food required by crops and by weeds is almost the same, but weeds are better food-gatherers. The greatest difference comes when the question of water arises. Weeds not only require more water, but are able to get it. From 300 to 700 pounds of water are used in producing a pound of dry matter in our common crops. Weeds require even more. If it comes to a contest as to which will get it, the weeds win.

ALBERT KEYSER.

Choosing Cedar Fence Posts.

Which kind of cedar is the better for posts, highland cedar or swamp cedar, and which will last longer in the ground? R. W.

There are no authentic records proving that either highland cedar or swamp cedar is superior for fence posts. As a general rule, the cedar which grows more rapidly is not so durable as that which grows slowly. The rate of growth of the timber which you wish to use can be determined by comparing the relative width of the concentric rings which appear on the cross section of the stump. The trees in which these rings are narrowest are those which have grown most slowly, and which will, therefore, be most durable in the ground. Another very good rule to use in determining the relative durability of timber is this: those timbers which, while still sound, have the darkest heart wood, are most durable in contact with the ground. Timber owes its durability chiefly to chemical substances secreted by the tree during its growth, and stored in the heartwood. These substances usually cause the heartwood to assume a dark color.

H. R. MacMILLAN.

Alfalfa and Red Clover Help Corn.

That alfalfa has a remarkable effect in increasing yields of other crops, has been abundantly demonstrated in recent years. J. A. Warren, who has charge of the work of the office of farm management in Nebraska, Kansas and Eastern Colorado, has during the past three or four years been collecting data on this point. He has found a good many cases where fields of corn have been planted partly on alfalfa sod and partly on wheat stubble. In all such cases he has carefully determined the yields on the two types of soil. The average increase in the yield of corn on alfalfa sod, as compared with wheat stubble, has been about 75 per cent. But red clover, when properly handled, especially in the eastern portion of Kansas, may have an effect comparable with that of alfalfa. My own farm is just across the line in Missouri. Six years ago this was a typical south-west Missouri run-down farm. The corn crops made twenty-five to thirty-five bushels to the acre. We have adopted a system of farming in which clover occupies an important place. This clover is sown alone in the spring. It is clipped once or twice to keep down weeds, and is cut for hay about the first of August. The next year it is used for hog pasture, and the following year the field is planted to corn.—[W. J. Spillman, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

THE DAIRY.

Summer Management of the Dairy Herd.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Anent the question of soiling the dairy herd during the summer months, as presented in the article, "How I would manage a 50-acre farm," in the issue of April 27th of "The Farmer's Advocate," I feel that it is one that will bear looking into by our dairy farmers in general. The present method, as employed by so many, of depending solely on pasture maintaining the dairy herd from June until November, affords ample room for improvement, but that we should soil wholly, I would hesitate to say. From the standpoint of the health of our animals, this system of continual confinement, or approximately such, would be objectionable. After the long winter season, spent even in well-ventilated stables where ample provision has been made for light and disinfection of surroundings, it would be contrary to nature not to give the animals the benefits and enjoyment which is theirs, of the fresh