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FARM AND DAIRY

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WHEN WE SAY GOOD-BYE TO WASH DAY

What One Community is Doing and What Many Others Could Do to Relieve Farm Women of the Weekly Washing. Some Suggestions that are Practicable for the Smallest District.

GOOD-BYE to wash day! With what joy would the average farmer's wife welcome the opportunity of bidding the wash tub adieu! She would feel that she was saying good-bye to the Monday backache and to the very disagreeable and tiring job that makes the first day of the workaday week the hardest.

The husbands, too! Jokes about slush wash day dinners have become too common to be funny. Even the Weary Willies of the road would rather go hungry on Monday than tackle the overworked housewife for a free dinner. They tell you that even the most amiable women are apt to be "short in the grain" when bending over a hot steaming wash tub.

One need not be a dreamer or a prophet to predict that the day is not far distant when the farmer's wife will say good-bye to wash day. Several hundred women have already done so. Chatsworth, Grey Co., Ont., has started out to make a name for itself as a cooperative centre. It has a long way to go, however, before it will catch up with Chatham, Minn. In the latter place they have a cooperative bank, a cooperative elevator a cooperative store a cooperative creamery and latest and best of all, they have a cooperative laundry. It is around Chatham that hundreds of farmers' wives have recently considered the advisability of calling a combination auction sale for their no longer necessary wash tubs.

This new laundry at Chatham was built out of funds provided cooperatively by the farmers of the district. It has now been in active operation for some time, and although it represents a fairly large investment, it is giving great satisfaction, particularly to the women folks. It is run in connection with the cooperative creamery. Washing is done practically at cost for the members, and so reasonable are the charges that the poorest farmer's wife could hardly afford to do her own washing when the cost of fuel, soap, starch, and so forth is taken into consideration with a moderate value put on the time of the women.

These Chatham cooperators make another claim for their cooperative laundry, aside from the mere dollar and cents value. They tell us that their wives have plenty of work to do without the family washing. The town wives said good-bye to the wash tub long ago. Every town now has a well patronized laundry. And if the town housewife needed relief from the washing, how about the country housewife? Chatham farmers have given their answer.

CAN WE DO IT IN CANADA?

The method applied at Chatham for saying good-bye to wash day is not capable of wide application at the present time. Farmers are not well enough organized. Where, however, there is a cooperative creamery or cheese factory, the shareholders might very well cure on the advisability of adding a laundry. Any Canadian dairy factory has the same opportunities for the successfully operating of such a laundry as they have at Chatham. Steam and power must be generated anyway to make the cheese or butter, and in every section there are scores of farm women who would be only too glad to patronize the laundry were charges reasonable. Launderies might even be installed in connection with privately owned cheese factories and creameries to the benefit of both proprietor and neighboring housewives.

Such an extensive investment as has been made at Chatham is not necessary. Down in the state of Kansas, Miss Francis L. Brown, who is employed by the Extension Division of the Agricultural College there, is the originator of a community laundry that is worth while. She has presented to the women of her state plans for the women of her state only \$125 and the other \$450. Both of these laundries are designed for the community in which there is no creamery with which to cooperate. Here are the figures: Miss Brown gives for the small laundry that would meet the needs of the women of a small community.

Gasoline engine, one-half to three-quarters horse power	\$50.00
Power washer with wringer	30.00
Water heater, 100 gallon	25.00
Wash boiler, copper	30.75
Gasoline hot plate, three burners	2.50
Stationary tub, two compartments	5.00
	7.37

Total cost \$123.62
Such a modest equipment might not appeal to other communities. Where there is more money available for laundry equipment, Miss Brown has the following to suggest, and this she considers the ideal small laundry:

Steam engine, two horse power	\$74.00
Steam boiler, four horse power	50.00
Strong power washer, 24 x 34	65.00
Water heater, 100 gallon	40.00
Gasoline hot plate, three burners	2.50
Drying room, two racks and 810	60.00
Stationary tub, three compartments	22.00

Total cost \$456.00
It will be noted that these prices do not include a building. A very modest building would meet all requirements, and as for the land on which to build it—well, if all the women in the community were interested in the laundry and there was no objection to it being of benefit to all of them they could surely persuade some of the landowners to allow them the use of a wash house, rent free.

Where, however, there is a cooperative creamery, Miss Brown advises the building of a laundry in connection therewith. The equipment of a laundry such as that at Chatham would cost \$1,986. Here is the outfit:

Two 36 x 54 No. 3 wood washers with one partition in each	\$310.00
One 36 x 36 No. 3 wood washer, plain	100.00
One 36 x 36 No. 3 wood washer, with single counter-shaft	125.00
One section of 120 lb. iron steam coils, three sets metal tracks, fan and counter-shaft	225.00
One 15-gallon water retreating steamer, copper-lined	35.00
One 120-lb. iron steam retreating steamer with counter-shaft and mangle	150.00
One 15-hp. motor	125.00
One 16-hp. power boiler with stack and fittings	350.00

Total cost \$1986.00
A laundry of this size will serve 200 families; or more if it is to full capacity. The total weekly expense of running the laundry at Chatham does not cost \$75, and charged at the same rates it could turn over \$300 worth of washing a week. If the washing for the families of shareholders were done free, the surplus capacity of such a laundry put to use in doing the washing of non-members at commercial rates, would leave sufficient to represent a good return on the investment.

This cooperative laundry idea is a good one. It is gaining ground year by year, and plans are under way for trying it out in numerous parts of the United States. Who will have the honor of giving the cooperative laundry its first trial in Canada? He or she who would be followed by the blessings of every farm woman now does her own washing.



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