

Improvements on Farm and in Kitchen.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Some time since, one of our neighbors who has a large dairy, installed milking machines, and I called on him a short time ago to see these new labor-saving devices at work thoroughly and well, and, so far as I was able to observe, without discomfort to the cow, although I understand some cows are fidgety and nervous during the operation. The cow is rather an affectionate animal. Deprived of her calf, she, as a rule, readily gives down her milk to man, and seems, in a measure, to transfer her affections to the hand that milks her. It is one thing, however, to be stroked and petted by human hands, and quite another to have the teats champed by a thing of rubber and pipes, and milked by suction, without the accompanying sound of a reassuring "So, boss." Milking machines have been long on the way—almost as long as washing machines—and if we have reached the perfection mark in either line, there will be great rejoicing, both in the kitchen and in the dairy barn. It is twenty-five or thirty years since I first heard tell of milking machines, and ever since they have been the hopes of inventors and the despair of dairymen, for the milking of a herd of forty or fifty cows is no light task, especially in our day, when women seldom engage in the work and the man laborer on the farm is such an uncertain quantity. Where you find one good man, there will be two dozen no good. And if we have attained to a perfect machine, we have achieved a national blessing, since there are a good many millions of cows in this country waiting twice each day to be milked. The introduction of these machines into a neighborhood by a single dairyman will doubtless be followed by their general use in the community, if they prove satisfactory to the man who has already installed them, for we are all imitators to a much larger degree than we are willing to admit, or than we are conscious of. And it is well that it is so, for most of our neighborhood improvements are imitated by one man a little more enterprising than his fellows making some improvement which the others strive to emulate.

Cows will make more and better milk when tied in light, warm, dry, ventilated quarters, and cleaned, curried and treated kindly, than under other treatment. Under these conditions the cow will give a good account of herself. Dairies with handy, up-to-date quarters and high-test cows are the ones that pay. It is the man that had to wade through manure to reach damp stables, where loud talk and inconvenient ways prevail who complains of a lack of profit. The improvements are not always expensive ones. One farm I saw lately the owner has put on its feet again. He has put in cement floors, with wood cover under the stock, strengthened the old walls, put on new roofs, added more light to stable, also had walks laid to house and barn, repaired fences, and hired reliable help by the year. He is raising draft horses, Holstein cattle, sheep, and Leghorn hens. None of these improvements come so high that they are prohibitive for the common farmer. Last year, as the harvest was about past, I had the opportunity of going to a neighboring county where twenty or thirty years ago agriculture was in a rather backward state. I was more than surprised to see how everything on these farms had taken a change for the better. The spirit of improvement had taken a good grip on the people; everything went to show of the bountiful harvest, which could not be produced on a poor and neglected soil. On almost every farm we passed was a big barn, new, or only built a few years, the majority of barns being painted, all plainly showing thrift in the community, that some enterprising farmer's step forward had been imitated by his neighbor, until the leaven had leavened the whole section. In many places, what had been mere "front yards," cut once or twice a season with a scythe, and quite often providing a run for calves and cattle of all kinds, had progressed into lawns carefully kept in order with a lawnmower, and set with shrubbery, all indicating a spirit of progress befitting big crops, big dairies, and big barns. The changed scene reminded me of an article I once read of Booker Washington, the negro educator, once made touching the wholesome influence upon his race of the good example of a white man. He said: "When the one-suspender negro in the South, driving his one-mule plow, learned that the white man in the North drove a pair of horses to a sulky plow on which he rode in leisurely comfort, he was immediately seized with the ambition to acquire another mule and a sulky plow—an ambition altogether worthy and gratifying."

Such is the power of good example in the industrial field. As we were driving here, the high way, which, by the way, was the best that modern engineering could devise, and commenced with the outward manifestations of improvement, my friend was moved to observe, "I wonder how many of these farmers who have laid out a such

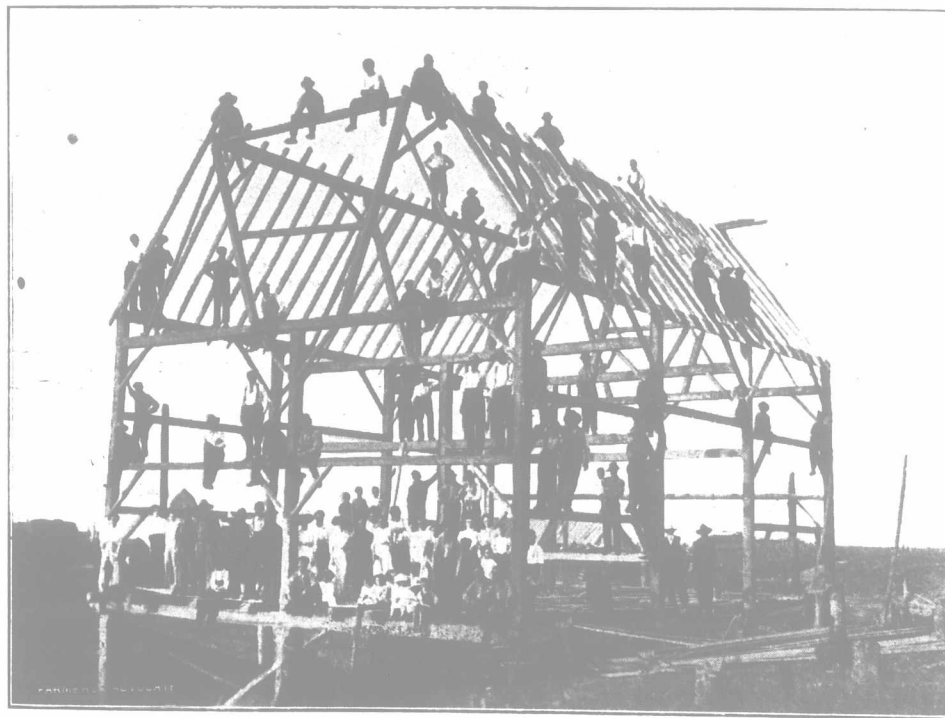
money in modern implements still oblige their wives to slave over a washboard and carry skimmed milk from the cellar, and bring water from a well rods from the house?" This observation at once opened up a new phase of the question of improvements. The up-to-date farmer has installed his hay-carrier, the manure carrier and spreader, his gasoline engine, and what not; while, in many farmhouses there is little improvement, if any, of years ago. Many a housewife is obliged to cook three square meals a day, pump water from a deep well convenient to the barn, but remote from the kitchen; to hang up the family wash after the garments had been cleaned upon a washboard, in a yard where they are constantly menaced by calves and pigs; and to use kitchen tools such as were in use one hundred years ago. My friend declared it did her good to see improvements in any direction, but when the effort is all expended upon the things the man uses in the field or barn, and nothing whatever is conceded to the domain of the kitchen, she is disposed to withhold her word of praise.

However, we are improving all along the line. Very many of our neighbors who have passed middle life have thoughtfully provided a low carriage for the convenience of "mother," as many of the great-hearted farmers among my acquaintance style their life-partner; washing machines are being provided in many homes, and inside water supplies are becoming epidemic in this locality. Like the negro-educator's one-suspender negro, we are taking notice, and the thoughtful farmer is determined that his wife and family shall be as comfortable and as well cared for as the wife and daughter of the city gentleman. It is a good rule for every farmer, when he buys a machine to lighten his labor, to look around and see if there is not its counterpart to lessen the burden for his partner in the kitchen.

A. B.
York Co., Ont.

A New Ontario Raising.

That New Ontario farming communities are developing along lines essentially similar to those of Old Ontario, is apparent to the observant traveler. Mixed husbandry, with clover and fall wheat as features, barns, stock and stables, are all in evidence. It is all quite different from bonanza wheat farming in the West. A very pleasing glimpse of Northern Ontario rural life and development is afforded by the accompanying half-tone reproduction of a barn-raising last July on the farm of J. C. Bogart, ten miles north of



Raising a barn in Temiskaming District.

Barn 35 x 45 feet, on the farm of J. C. Bogart, raised in July, 1911. In dress and appearance of men, women and children, this raising bee would compare favorably with a similar gathering in Old Ontario.

New Liskeard, in the Temiskaming District. The barn, though not one of the largest in New Ontario, is of respectable size for a new settlement, being 35 feet by 45 feet, with 20-foot posts, a hip-roof, and a stable underneath.

M. J. Bogart has 160 acres of land, having settled here on October 8th, 1908. He has about 25 acres cleared and in to crop, and keeps five head of cattle and two horses. He had about 100 bushels of potatoes planted on fresh cleared ground, which yielded about 60 bags. His oats yielded about 60 bushels to the acre last year, and he has a sawmill that puts out about five hundred thousand feet of lumber last summer, besides building a new house. As our country is so far north, the raising of Northern On-

tario! Those having small means and wanting a start will do well to come north to the land of silver."

Methods for Separating Buckhorn from Red Clover Seed.

The system of dampening cheese-cloth tacked on screen doors or sieves, is only applicable to the treating of small lots, such as farmers would use on their own farms. It would be too slow for commercial purposes. Possibly a man could do a bushel or one and a half bushels in a day. Another method for dealing with small lots is to mix dampened sawdust with infested seed. The buckhorn, having a mucilaginous coat, accumulates the sawdust around it, when separation may be made with sieves.

There are a number of buckhorn machines in use in Ontario, but they are slow, and not a perfect separator by any means. They consist of two rollers covered with a rough felt, which roll outward and carry off the buckhorn over the rolls, while the clover seed drifts on down. The felt soon wears smooth.

I once saw an ingenious mill, made by a farmer near Simcoe, Norfolk Co., but it was slow. However, it did very good work, and was constructed on good principles. There are some sieves, made with long narrow meshes, which make fair separations, as the buckhorn goes through it on its edge. A former resident of Milton, Ont., put such sieves on the market. It may be said that such sieves will not make a complete separation.

T. G. RAYNOR.

[Note.—This letter was received in response to a letter asking Mr. Raynor as to the practicability of cleaning buckhorn from clover seed by placing it upon a dampened cloth and allowing it to dry, when the buckhorn will stick, and the clover seed be removed pure.—Editor.]

Dried Potatoes.

The drying of potatoes is an industry that has been developed in the past five years in Germany, which country grows one-third of the world's potato crop. During the past year, under orders of the United States Secretary of Agriculture, an investigation has been made in Germany of the starch and dried-potato industries, dealing especially with machinery and methods in use. Germany has potato-drying plants with a combined yearly capacity of nearly twenty-five million bushels of potatoes, equal to more than seven per

cent of the average annual potato crop of the United States for the three years ending with 1911. The two general methods of manufacture are known as the roll system and the drum system.

In the roll system the potatoes are steamed until softened, and then passed between large revolving cylinders which are heated by steam. The potato forms on the roll in a layer, which dries and is scraped off during a revolution of the roll. This product has the appearance of one of our breakfast foods known as "corn flakes," and is used as a general substitute for the fresh potato in the household, in addition to being ground to a flour and mixed with other flours for

breadmaking and in the making of cereal foods. The drum system makes a product at about half the manufacturing cost of the roll system, and, for all purposes other than human food, the drum system is used. It consists, essentially, of an iron shell about two and one-half feet in diameter, and eight times this in length. Through this a heavy current of air is drawn by means of a fan, and the fire gases from a stove feed directly into it, the mixture of heated and cold air being such as to make a temperature of about 600 degrees F. at the entrance. From a cutting machine, chipped potatoes are conveyed to the slowly revolving drum, which is provided with an interior construction that gives the potatoes the maximum exposure to the drying action of the hot air. The drying operation must be done on