

The Farm Home

Hallow-e'en.

The old time-honored Hallow-e'en will no doubt be observed with the usual vim and vigor by the boys and girls on the farm this week. Biting the swinging or floating apple or ducking one's head for the sunken coin are pleasures both innocent and enjoyable. And if a few boys conclude to put a neighbor's cart on top of the barn or exchange gates, what matter so long as no damage to property is incurred? A boy will often work three times as hard in helping to get Neighbor Jones' wagon on top of the cow shed than in the potato patch. But we should not grumble at this. The one is a task that gives him a great amount of pleasure while the other is one of the uninteresting daily routines of farm life. Perhaps a jaunt of this kind will help him to pick potatoes faster the next day.

About the biggest piece of Hallow-e'en sport we ever heard of was the elevating of a wagon load of wheat, which the farmer had ready to hitch the horses to in the morning, to the top of his driving barn. This meant the unloading of about thirty bags of wheat, the taking of the wagon apart, the carrying of the parts to the roof of the barn, the putting of the parts together and placing the wagon straddle of the roof peak, and the carrying of the bags of wheat to the roof and reloading them on the wagon. We never heard the outcome of this piece of Hallow-e'en labor, but we presume the farmer did not get his load of wheat to market next day. He would likely have to call in his neighbors to help him get his property to terra firma, and perhaps the boys who helped to do the deed assisted in getting the loaded wagon down. But, be that as it may, it is not likely that any particular harm was done anyone. It was, however, a kind of prank which in our opinion involved too much labor for the fun to be got out of it.

We wonder if any of the boys who read this know of any Hallow-e'en prank that meant more work than elevating the load of wheat. If so we would be glad to hear from them. In fact, during the next few weeks, we will be glad to publish in this department short letters from the boys and girls on the farm giving an account of their Hallow-e'en pranks and pleasures this season.

The National Council of Women.

The National Council of Women held its annual gathering last week at Hamilton. While the topics discussed covered a wide field, one or two of the sessions were given up to subjects directly connected with woman's

sphere on the farm. On the evening of October 23, Dr. Mills gave an address on "Instruction in Domestic Economy," in which he emphasized the bread and butter side of education as applied to the education of girls. The great need was instruction in domestic economy, which should be taught in the agricultural colleges, in the Normal schools and Normal colleges, in the high schools, collegiate institutes, academies, and, to some extent, in the public schools. He suggested that two extra courses of instruction should be at once prescribed for the public schools of Ontario, one in nature study, another in domestic science, including weekly practice in plain sewing, darning, patching and knitting, with very simple practical talks on cleanliness, tidiness, cooking, laundry work and general housekeeping.

He was followed by Prof. Robertson, who spoke on "What Women May Do for Agriculture." He emphasized the importance of agriculture, stating that the greater portion of the wealth of Canada came from the farms. He strongly urged on the women to become interested in agriculture, with a view to exercising influence for its uplifting.

Mr. L. Woolverton, Grimsby, read a paper on Horticulture as a Profession for Women, and he advised women to work at gardening if they wished to have good health. He was followed by Mrs. Hoodless, who gave

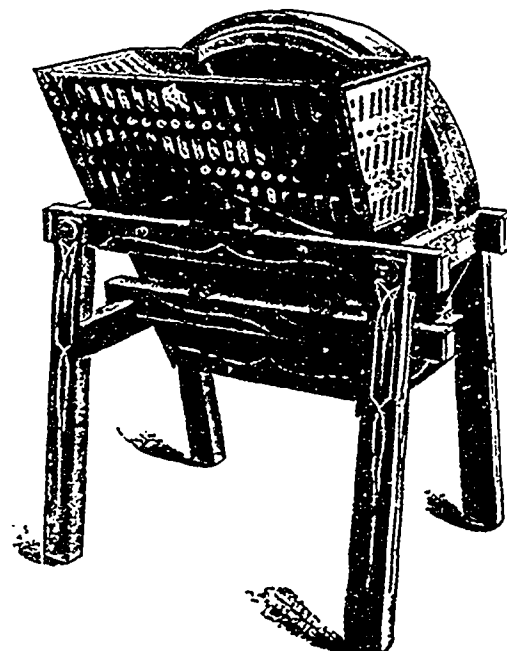
a report of the Woman's Institute at Stony Creek, Ont.

Mr. C. F. Whitley, Ottawa, is corresponding secretary of the council.

The Home Department of the Farmers' Institutes.

Considerable attention has been given of late to the home department of the Farmers' Institutes. There is, however, room for more to be done along this line. In one or two sections Women's Institutes have been formed that are doing excellent work, but we question whether it is the best plan, considering the country at large, to separate the two. Nearly every subject discussed at Institute meetings should be heard by both the women and men, and a subject relating specially to the farm home should prove as interesting to the men as to the women. At every institute meeting provision should be made, if possible, for some subject to be taken up of special interest to the home. This is done in many cases. But where the speakers on the delegation are not prepared to take up work of this kind there may be no one else to do it and very often meetings are held at which not a word is said in regard to the farm home. The local officers should see that no series of meetings is held without some feature of the programme referring to the farmer's home life, and when outside speakers cannot deal

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