

A "Town" Lady Who Took Up Dairying

(Miss) E. K. Mackenzie, York Co., Ont.

When a woman who has been brought up in town decides to take to the country—and a farm at that—for the rest of her life, the thing that seems most necessary is to have a lasting interest there. By that I mean some work within her powers, with an element of necessity in it, and in which she can work out an ideal of some kind. In my own case dairying seemed to be the right thing, and the dairy course at Guelph the only way to start properly.

Mrs. E. K. Mackenzie

In Canada to-day, in the country stores, one still gets butter that is no credit to dairying. Plenty of it is bad flavored, very salty and of an appearance that suggests turnips rather than lovely cream, all of which suggests the thought that there must be plenty to learn on the subject of butter making. Specialists tell us that the Danish cooperative method solves the problem. But factory made butter should not be better than "home dairy," made with all the conditions right.

LEARNING AT THE COLLEGE

The most delightful place to learn what those conditions are is at the Ontario Agricultural College. The course afforded there has the advantage of being on the strictly agricultural side of the college, like the poultry course, and the spirit of good work is infectious. Miss Laura Rose is one of the best teachers I've ever had the good fortune to work under, and Prof. Dean's lectures and instruction generally are most interesting and helpful, even to one who was hazy as to many of the terms used—a "fresh cow," for instance, suggesting "baths" to the untutored town mind. However, these days of wolf ignorance are past and the amount of knowledge possible to be gathered on a farm in a twelve-month is truly wonderful.

In my little dairy, converted out of a harness room at the northeast corner of the house, I have produced many pounds of butter that sells readily in Toronto, 30 miles distant, for from 32 to 35 cents a pound. I salt very lightly, use no coloring, and use a culture all through the winter, which keeps the flavor uniform.

WEEDING OUT COWS

I have been able to be a real help in the weeding out of our herd. I arrange the bottles and so forth for our monthly tests, and do the testing for milk fat afterwards on the Babcock tester, which is part of our dairy equipment.

If some of the city women, living on small incomes in the boarding houses of our large towns, could see their way to having a home of their own in the real country, they would renew their youth and find that life was well worth living.

The country needs women, and the writer has said that the exodus into the cities could soon be stopped if the women took hold of the subject strongly. I believe that the Women's Institutes are really doing a great deal in this direction by multiplying country interests.

Jottings from Women

The quieter bees can be kept in October, and through the fall, I find the better they are. I do not care for the fall honey,—all our honey is taken in the summer. The bees then require very little care, in fact not any, excepting to see that their hives remain in position, and to keep the grass from growing up around those hives which are close to the ground. In this part of

the province, bees winter outdoors, so there is no moving of colonies, on account of cold weather.

—Miss M. Anna Golden, Essex Co., Ont.

I find that poultry offers to me a splendid opportunity to keep myself well supplied with spending money. The work is light and pleasant. It keeps a small flock. Most of the feed comes from the table and would otherwise be wasted. They are therefore no expense.—Mrs. K. L. Elliot, Brome Co., Que.

We think that Farm and Dairy is the best farm and home paper we ever saw. My husband says that since the illustrated supplements have been started he believes that he could go into a show ring and judge stock himself. The descriptions of the prize winning farms are much appreciated. The descriptions of the homes on these farms are of peculiar interest to us women folk. We all join in wishing Farm and Dairy success.—Mrs. J. B. McWilliams, Glengarry Co., Ont.

A FIELD OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

(Dr.) Annie A. Backus, Aylmer, Ont.

Fields that are Opening to Women Offering them Independence and a Competency—Many who are Rushing to Work in Offices, Shops and Factories Have Greater Opportunities Right at Home.

WITHIN the last 10 years great changes have taken place in the economic and industrial world. The great question to-day is how to find the people—demand and supply; and hence the devising of all sorts of patent food supplies.

"The good old days," when the man of the house brought in the raw materials, and the woman of the house looked after its preparation, is a thing of the past; now women as well as men are engaged in the production as well as in the preparation of home supplies, and fields of industry, in the past only open to men, are now filled with both women and men. Agriculture as well as commerce finds day after day more women entering its ranks. And this condition is by no means to be deplored.

THE SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE

The economic position of women has been the greatest detriment in the development of women. Every human being who is a dependent upon another fails in reaching that perfection of character which independence assures, and without financial freedom there can be no true independence. So it is that women entering the industrial world of agriculture become self-reliant and a factor of importance in the working day world of to-day.

Our Colleges of Agriculture teach women as well as men. We find in the west lands being taken up and ranches being run by women. The freedom of the west makes it easier for women to engage in those pursuits. But here in Ontario are opportunities begging for women to take hold of them. We need more women engaged in dairy farming and in poultry industries.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY

The demand in our Provincial towns for good butter and eggs is greater than the supply. Any woman with five or six good cows and a small poultry farm of 300 hens, has, if properly looked after a greater money-making industry than in many more pretentious business ventures. We find farmers' daughters rushing off to cities and in shops and in private houses, in factories and offices, who, if they received a little encouragement and help from their fathers at home, could be independent, living a useful, healthful life in the agricultural districts where they were born.

To be born in the country is to be born with a love for the very soil of that farm in which we were born. Every tree and stream and cross-road in that district is dear to the country-born heart and this reads patriotism. An industrious, competent, contented people is a stationary people.

They live and expect to live all their days in this home. They build their barns and improve their houses for their own use and comfort—not to add to their commercial value in order that they may sell, and hence it is we find the greatest prosperity and contentment in those sections where families have grown up together, sons and daughters, inheriting, living year after year and generation after generation on the same soil and in the same neighborhood.

A nomadic people inhabiting different places at different times can have no real love nor interest in any one of them—to live a year in the east and a year in the west, selling out and buying as occasion offers, is not in the interest of the people or the country.

OUR INHERITANCE IN ONTARIO

We have in the Province of Ontario lands as rich as any in the world in their agricultural possibilities. Farms in the very centre of these districts are being left desolate because our men are going west, and our young women are entering employments in the towns and cities, while the great class of unproductive workers are clamoring for the produce which should come from these very farms. The cost of living has become so great on this account that governments are seeking to devise schemes to make it less; and while many young women are wrecking health and contentment trying to earn money in shops, offices, and factories, there are great opportunities in the agricultural world overlooked.

The time has now been reached when women as well as men must work. The curse of Adam, "by the sweat of thy brow," is common to the



A Jersey Herd in Which Two Women are Interested

These cows are producing over a pound and a half of butter a day in straight dairy work. They are owned by the Misses Gibson, Richmond Co., Que., who are members of the cow testing association. Fuller particulars of this herd are given on page 15.

race—and like many another curse, becomes the blessing of the race. No longer can women be consumers only, they must also be producers. It is not a question of race suicide. It is a question of feeding and clothing these who are already here; and the surest source of real independence is to the women and men on the farms.

For women can be recommended the dairy, the garden, the poultry. Than these there is no more sure source of independence existing for the women of to-day.