

A Fair Farmer.

(By "Mickam," in Grand Rapids Press.)

Superintending the cultivation of a 160-acre farm, and at the same time teaching school, is an undertaking which, to most women, would be impossible. Yet this is what one Ottawa County (Mich.) woman has been doing for the last ten years. Aside from the actual management of the farm, this remarkable woman does much of the manual labor, and out of school hours and during the summer months, can be seen any day busily at work in her fields alongside the one hired man whom she employs.

The woman is Miss Cora Goodenow, whose broad acres, lying three miles southwest of Berlin, constitutes one of the finest farms in Ottawa County.

Miss Goodenow has spent all of her hard-working life on a farm and within the school-room. She has farmed since she was a girl of eight years of age, and she commenced to teach when eighteen. Upon the death of her father, ten years ago, she assumed the entire control of his eighty-acre farm, and since then has purchased eighty acres more. She now is fifty-two years of age, and is thinking about retiring. She has adopted two little girls, and is caring for one more, so she desires to go to the city, that the girls can have the advantages of the city schools.

Born at Goodenow, Will County, Ill., 1859, she came to Ottawa County with her father two years later, settling on a 100-acre farm. The father lived on this farm until his death. It was on this farm that Miss Goodenow received her practical training in agriculture.

Being the oldest child in her father's family, she was his helper and companion always. During the last ten years of his life, he never undertook a task without first consulting his daughter and obtaining her sanction.

A country school education acquired, she commenced to teach, her first plunge into pedagogy being made in the Star school, where, during nine months of the year, the children still respond to the old, cracked bell which calls them to their studies. After teaching here one term, she decided that she would be better fitted for her work if she had a broader education.

School only lasted seven months, and during the remaining five Miss Goodenow attended the University at Valparaiso, Ind., where she did a year's work in five months. This programme continued for six years.

Her next school was at Berlin, where she taught for eleven years, being principal of the two-room institution. This school was ungraded at the time, and the scope of her work here can be understood when it is taken into consideration that pupils completing the course at the Berlin school were graduated from the High school in Grand Rapids six months after entrance. Among her pupils were many who now are leading professional men in Grand Rapids.

For the last six years Miss Goodenow has been principal of the school at Lamont. She taught there two years, and then decided to give up teaching and devote her time to her farm. Accordingly, a man was engaged to take her place, but after a few months he relinquished the job, and the school board eagerly sought the services of Miss Goodenow. She consented to finish out the school year, and remained there three years more, the school closing this year with the versatile woman as its principal.

She says that she is through with school work now, however, and that she never will teach again. That this declaration is sincere is evidenced by the fact that within the last month she turned down an offer of a position as instructor in agriculture at the Western Michigan Normal School at Kalamazoo.

During her busy life Miss Goodenow was twice elected to the school commission of Ottawa County. These two terms were served during the last decade of the nineteenth century. Never were the schools of the county more thoroughly inspected than during Miss Goodenow's term as commissioner. No weather was too inclement to interrupt this intrepid woman in her trips of inspection to the various schools of the county.

During her life in the different school-rooms in which she taught, she won the love and admiration of her pupils. A great many of the residents of the county obtained their education under her watchful supervision.

An example of the respect in which she is held, and the confidence placed in her ability by her pupils, is shown in an incident which occurred recently, and which Miss Goodenow relates with pride. One of her former pupils has grown to manhood and now is one of Grand Rapids' sturdy firemen. He is stationed in No. 3 engine house. Recently he and a comrade were confronted by a knotty problem in mathematics. Unable to solve it, he decided to obtain the help of his old teacher, and, although it had been some time since he left her school, he called Miss Goodenow by 'phone at 11 o'clock at night, and received a solution of his perplexing problem.

Miss Goodenow is a practical botanist. She also is an advocate of teaching the fundamental things of life in the school-room.

"Then add the philosophy if there is time for it," she says.

A number of years ago she visited the schools in Grand Rapids. In one school the pupils were being given a lesson on the elm tree. Numerous leaves were being studied by the children, and in the various rooms the teachers were telling the characteristics of the elm. What was Miss Goodenow's surprise on picking up one of the supposed elm leaves to discover that, in reality, it was a leaf from a soft maple.

"The teachers knew no more about nature than did the children they were trying to teach," said Miss Goodenow.

This is a record of teaching that any woman might be proud of, but when it is considered that during all the time she was teaching she also was doing her share of work on her father's and later her own farm, the bigness of this woman's accomplishments can be somewhat realized.

Miss Goodenow plows with a four-horse team, drags, cultivates, builds fences, repairs her sheds, and recently built an addition to her twenty-two room house. She is sturdy, short, and deeply tanned by the sun. She will trust the planting of her farm to no man, and does every bit of it herself.

"Men always leave out a row of corn or do something in a slipshod manner," she says. "I can get better results if I do the planting myself. Look at that thirty-acre field of corn back of the barn there. I planted every hill of it myself, and I am proud of it. That is one of the finest cornfields in the county."

Last year she cut seventy acres of grain which threshed 2,300 bushels. Of this amount, 1,700 bushels were oats, and the balance wheat. This year her granaries are swelling with 1,500 bushels of wheat and 500 bushels of oats, which Miss Goodenow harvested herself. And most of this work was done when she was in school the largest part of the day. She keeps only one hired man on the place.

"I often have tried the experiment of having two men work here regularly," she said, "but two men always quarrel, and spend half of their time standing in the barn gossiping. One man is all I want around. When I need more help I hire it by the day."

Right here it might be mentioned that she has not a great deal of confidence in the ability of men. They tell a story which illustrates this pretty well.

While her house was being remodelled about a year ago, she employed a mason to build a wall under the kitchen. He did his work while Miss Goodenow was in school. When the job was completed she went out to inspect it. It did not suit her. She said the walls were crooked. Going to her barn she got some jacks and raised the kitchen from the foundation. Then, taking a maul and crowbar, she proceeded to knock down the wall, completely undoing the work of the mason. Then she rebuilt it herself, working nights after she returned from school two miles away and had finished milking. Oh, yes, she milks.

She has thirty-five head of Guernsey cattle. Every night after school last year she milked eighteen of these. She milks at the rate of twelve cows an hour, which is a record for a woman or

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