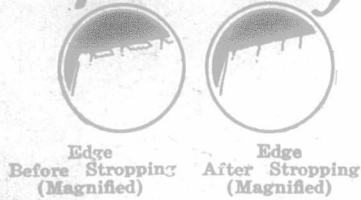


AutoStrop Razor

—sharpens itself



Edge Before Stropping (Magnified) Edge After Stropping (Magnified)

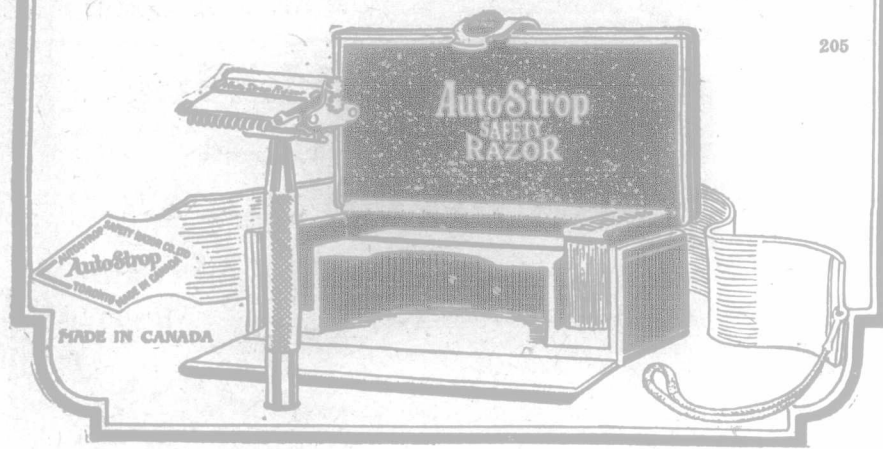
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Write to *The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine*, London, Ont., and find out how you can earn money in your SPARE TIME.

Our School Department.

The Story of a Wormy Apple.

Continued from last issue.

"So you must not blame my mother or me because my three brothers died. I was the strongest because I was in the centre, and consequently my mother could feed me better than the other three. I felt sorry for them, but couldn't help them any, and of course I didn't want to die too.

"Well, although I was sorry for them, I was much better off after they dropped to the ground, because I was the only one left, and could grow as fast as I chose. Plenty of food came my way, because I was right on the end of the small branch which was holding me up.

"Now, I must go back a little to the time when I was about five days old, because all my sadness dates from that time really. One fine morning, Farmer Jones and Tom, his hired man, came out in the orchard with a team, a big tank full of some liquid and a gasoline engine. Mother whispered to us quickly that they were going to spray us with a liquid, which I heard them speak of as arsenate of lead and lime-sulphur. It was very nasty smelling stuff, I can tell you, but mother said it would keep the worms from eating us, and when Farmer Jones said, 'Now, Tom, get up as close as you can and hit the calyx of every one,' my mother told us to 'never mind,' as it would do us good. She told us afterward that she could remember when Farmer Jones never used to spray, and she couldn't keep the worms away at all. The worms liked Northern Spy apples, but they didn't seem to like Ben Davis, who was just a short distance away, and whose children didn't get nearly so wormy as we Spys.

"However, the spraying started, and Tom, who was a very careless fellow anyway, was in had humor that morning, and missed a lot of us, so that we didn't get sprayed nearly as well as we ought to have been. The calyx, you know, is the end of an apple opposite the stem, and most of the worms which hatch out from eggs laid by the codling moth enter an apple through the calyx, especially when we are very small, so you see why Farmer Jones spoke to Tom the way he did.

"I didn't get any spray in my calyx, and my mother was very angry at Tom's carelessness, because I was so big that mother was very proud of me.

"I grew very rapidly after that for quite a while, and soon was quite a bit bigger than most of my brothers. At first I was quite long, but in a month or six weeks I began to get stouter and to eat a very great deal.

"Finally, one day I was to feel the result of Tom's carelessness, and my pride was lowered a great deal. A hungry worm came crawling over me, and instead of biting me in the side and getting inside that way, as he could very easily have done, he crawled down to my feet and went right in at the side of my calyx. Of course, he couldn't eat his way in very fast, but he stuck to it, and I have had to suffer ever since on account of him. He only made a very small hole, and my mother often told me no one would ever notice it, but I am naturally proud, and I hated to deceive people into thinking that I was such a beauty, when I knew down in my heart that I was only a wormy apple.

"However, time gradually lessened a part of my humiliation, and I consoled myself by thinking how big and strong I was. Some of my brothers were deformed, and mother said that was because the insects had not brought enough pollen to their blossoms, and so they did not grow as perfectly as I did. My master's little girl was told by her teacher that fertilization had not been completed before my brothers were born, and he said that meant that enough pollen had not grown down to the bottom of the flower, where the tiny ovules were waiting to unite with them. He said that if any ovule didn't unite in that way, then the part of the apple that ovule represented couldn't grow, and so the apple would be deformed.

To be continued.

Western Hot Lunches.

The rural school hot lunch idea is widely in vogue, and decidedly popular in Western Canada. School inspectors in the Prairie Provinces heartily commend it. In one Manitoba inspectorate eleven schools adopted it in a year. Usually the trustees furnish the apparatus and the pupils bring their own food. In some cases they share a common meal; the teacher always remaining and sharing in the repast. In another division equipments were provided in 30 schools, proving beneficial and highly appreciated both by pupils and teachers. About 60 per cent. of the schools in another inspectorate have equipment. One inspector says it has mental as well as physical advantages, and all difficulties disappear as it becomes a regular feature. The number of schools adopting the plan is increasing every year. In Saskatchewan hot lunch demonstrations were given by experts in many schools, and two editions of a "Rural School Luncheon" circular were soon exhausted, necessitating a third edition of 3,000 copies. Alberta issued an official booklet on preparing and serving hot lunches, with information for equipping the school room. Teachers have been convinced of the value of the hot lunch in fitting pupils for more complete living. ALPHA.



Two School Fall Fair Prospects.

School Medical Inspection.

During the year covered by the last report of the Minister of Education in Manitoba, 43,950 school children were examined medically once, and 6,964 twice. Forty-nine nurses were giving their whole time to the work, ten being employed in Winnipeg. Inspector W. C. Hartley, of Carman, reports much educational value from the employment of school nurses throughout his district, both from an individual and community point of view. Trustees are paying much more attention to the sanitary requirements of the school than before. Alberta has a special school hygiene provincial service, with members of the staff who visit schools and inspect pupils. These officers, as well as the teachers, rendered valuable service during the influenza epidemic in nursing the sick. During 1918 out of 3,855 pupils examined only 868 were found free from defects. Several reports from the Western provinces note a serious lack of attention to physical training in the schools.

School-Building Plans.

A very marked improvement is reported in the character of school buildings erected in Saskatchewan during recent years. The revised regulations of the Department of Education require that all plans for school structure be submitted to the Provincial Architect for approval, who supplies free of charge plans for one and two-room schools and for teacher's residences. Alterations must also be approved by him. In one year lately over 100 plans were furnished to school districts. Special advice by letter is given frequently in regard to lighting, heating, and sanitary arrangement, as well as the location of sites.