

most people prefer sport for exercise, and let someone work with the lawn mower.

The lady in the country is just as much entitled to some of the good things of life as her sister in the town. But the big houses never prove a good thing for her. In fact, big houses are becoming a burden in towns, as well, owing to the scarcity of help. Girls prefer factories and office, rather than house-work. And there are tragedies in the big houses in the city, also, if you get behind the scene. I met with one case that illustrates this. With some mutual friends, I called upon a couple in a distant town. They had a very large, fine house—just the two of them. The man was then over 70—not much prospect of a large family, unless "hope springs eternal in the human breast." I asked my friends whatever did they build so large a house for. They said they did not know, unless it was to secure his young wife. In equations, this would read: One old man, plus one big, fine house, equals young wife.

There is comedy, as well as tragedy, in this big house business, but where is the common sense of it all?? The comedy, though, happened in town. Later on, Mr. Winter and Mrs. Spring we find living at a boarding-house in the same town where the big house is—the big house shut up and empty. Health poor; been travelling; too hard to secure necessary help; more real freedom and pleasure in the boarding-house, and not very much there. A boarding-house to live in, a big house shut up, no real home anywhere. What starts in comedy ends in tragedy. GEO. RICE.

Oxford Co., Ont.

### Home-made Corn Tester Best.

"A 30-cent homemade corn-tester will give just as good results as a \$30 one," said an instructor at the Ohio College of Agriculture the other day, when asked about the advisability of farmers buying high-priced testers. "There are a good many different kinds of testers on the market, selling at prices varying from \$5 to \$30, but experiments have shown that the farmer can make one himself out of an old box or odd pieces of boards that will be just as satisfactory," continued the instructor. "The farmer who wishes to test his seed corn to see if it will grow need only make a square box about three or four inches deep and fill it with moist sand. Of course, the larger the box, the more corn can be tested at one time. Over the sand spread a piece of cheese-cloth, and mark the surface into two-inch squares, either by stretching strings across each way or by marking the cloth. Each square in the tester is to contain the kernels from one ear of corn that is being tested. After the kernels are properly placed, they should be covered with another piece of cheese-cloth, and about an inch of moist sand placed on top of this, and the whole thing set where it will have the proper temperature. The idea is to approximate field conditions as nearly as possible. And it doesn't require high-priced equipment to do this."

### Does Your Seed Corn Germinate Well.

One of the most important questions to be answered by everyone who is going to plant corn this spring is whether or not his seed corn germinates well. As a result of a dry summer and a wet fall, corn did not mature normally over a large part of the corn belt, and much of the seed does not germinate well. In reply to a request sent to representative farmers, under the direction of Secretary Wilson, of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1,708 samples of corn intended for seed this spring have been tested by the Seed Laboratory of the Department, and they show an average germination of 81 per cent.

State.	No. of Samples.	Lowest germination %	Average germination %
Virginia .....	113	5	90.3
Kentucky .....	69	26	89.8
Missouri .....	151	2	88.7
Maryland .....	41	30	87.1
Iowa .....	141	20	85.4
Pennsylvania .....	144	0	84.2
West Virginia .....	55	8	82.5
Kansas .....	66	0	82.0
Ohio .....	189	10	80.7
Illinois .....	175	0	79.8
Indiana .....	108	0	79.0
Minnesota .....	106	0	76.1
Michigan .....	86	1	75.0
Wisconsin .....	84	0	73.9
Nebraska .....	189	24	73.1
South Dakota .....	7	1	61.6
North Dakota .....	4	0	60.8

The low average germination of the larger corn States shows that, in general, the condition is, many of the seed corn is worthless for seed purposes.

Single-ear germination test is a good one.

all cases where ear corn is to be used for seed. When it is necessary to use shelled corn, of which single-ear tests have not previously been made, the corn should be carefully mixed and tested for germination. Not less than twice one hundred kernels should be used for the test to insure having a representative sample. The rate of planting should then be regulated on the basis of the germination test, so there will be a sufficient number of live kernels planted to give a full stand.

Plant the best seeds you can get.

Selected corn on the cob, each ear of which has been tested for germination, and all of the poor ears discarded, is the best.

If you have to use shelled corn, test it for germination and plant enough, depending upon the percentage of germination to insure a good stand.

### A Seed Corn Test.

A correspondent of "The Farmer's Advocate" informs us that he has just concluded a corn test which surprised him greatly. No doubt, many other readers will be surprised when they test their corn, or, if they do not test it, disappointed later. Thirty ears were tested by this correspondent, and these ears were an exceptionally fine lot—long, even, well filled, and apparently well matured. Six kernels were taken from each ear, three from each side, one from the center, and one from near each end. In all, one hundred and eighty kernels were tested. Contrary to expectations, thirteen of these kernels did not germinate. This is a little over seven per cent. But this is not the most significant feature of the test. One ear did not give a vital kernel, and another gave only one, while only two kernels from all the other ears did not germinate. This shows the importance of buying seed on the cob and of testing individual ears. The two bad ears were especially fine ears, with plump, well glazed, hard and apparently vital seed. Yet they proved useless for seed. Had these ears been planted, several blank hills would have resulted. The only absolutely safe method is to test the seed. Where individual ear tests cannot be made, mix the shelled seed thoroughly and test it. Appearances cannot be relied upon with seed corn.

## THE DAIRY.

### Pasteurizing the Cream.

Having seen requests at different times in regard to difficult churning, I thought I would send in my experience. It would only do for a limited quantity of milk. As soon as the milk is strained (through strainer and cheese-cloth), I put the pan or pans on back part of range and let them heat gradually till almost scalding, and then put them on the table till cooled, or partly so, before putting them down cellar, or where they are to be left for cream to rise; and when a three-gallon crock is about half full of cream, I put in about a quart of buttermilk from the last churning, and keep stirring it frequently, and bring it upstairs to a warmer place the day before churning to let it ripen, and then churn at about 60 degrees, but no higher. Butter comes in ten minutes, and is sweet and delicious. A few drops of color put in the cream will improve the color of the butter. JEMIMA.

Durham Co., Ont.

[Note.—As noted in a recent article, this method proves a decided help under certain conditions, but the vessel containing the cream should not be set directly on the stove. Place it in a larger one containing water, and then set this latter on the stove. So far as churnability is concerned, we see no reason why as good results could not be secured, and labor saved, by pasteurizing the cream altogether a few hours before churning, heating to, say, 140 degrees Fahr. for twenty minutes, then cooling down to churning temperature, and holding there a few hours to allow fat to solidify.—Editor.]

### Ontario Dairy Cows Go West.

Not satisfied with taking nearly all the available men from the East, and also purchasing all our surplus horses, the West is coming at us once more, and this time it is the dairy cow that is the subject of the quest. Dairying is fast becoming one of the strong branches of agriculture in the Canadian West. Towns and cities are finding it difficult to get a sufficient supply of milk, and it is being shipped for upwards of 100 miles to some of the larger centers. Dairying is now one of the most remunerative branches of Ontario agriculture, and the dairy cow is profitable in the East, yet she must leave her home, and, like the cattle, bunches westward, to fill the thousands of order and pint vessels with that white food so indispensable in the human diet; and, while she is doing this, swelling her owner's

pocketbook or bank account, as the case may be. Ontario owners are getting high prices for good cows. Recently, in Oxford County, grade dairy cows sold as high as \$104 each, and many brought \$90, while \$85 was quite common, one large sale being made which average just a trifle less than this amount, and calves three weeks old brought between \$15 and \$20 each. The significant feature of these sales was that two Western buyers were present, one taking a carload to Moose Jaw, and the other to Regina, Saskatchewan. These seem to be record prices for grade stock, and, counting cost of transportation, the cattle will be rather expensive by the time they land at their destination. However, it speaks well for the dairy industry that people are able to pay such prices and still make profits. We sincerely hope that our Eastern dairymen will not be led by the glitter of gold to dispose of their best cows, and thus retard the progress of their breeding business. The good cows are the cows to keep, and they are just as valuable to one man, under proper care and treatment, as to another. Don't let large prices lure you to selling all the promising young heifers. The East needs them, as well as the West.

### Summer Silage vs. Soilage for Dairy Cows.

During the past two summers, the Animal Husbandry Department, Wisconsin University, has compared the value of soiling crops and corn silage as a means of supplying summer feed to the dairy herd. Soiling crops sown from April to June furnished a continuous supply of green forage during the dry season, from July to September. In 1910, green clover, a mixture of peas and oats, sweet corn, sorghum and field corn were used, but in 1911 green clover and sorghum were discontinued.

Half of the dairy herd was fed corn silage, and half soiling crops, each lot being kept on scant pasture and receiving equal amounts of concentrates. Silage was greatly preferred to the early soiling crops, such as green clover, sorghum, and peas and oats, and the silage-fed animals produced a greater amount of milk. Larger yields of corn than of soiling crops were secured. Another important factor is that the soilage system required much more time daily, and that, too, during the busiest season of the year.

A consideration of all the factors involved indicates that the farmer can well afford to have corn silage available for summer feed up to the time the corn crop reaches the milk stage, when he can perhaps better afford to feed green corn than to continue feeding silage.

Any who may have silage left over from the winter feeding may profitably use it during the coming summer. These results would indicate that on large dairy farms a summer silo would be a paying investment.

## POULTRY.

### Marketing Eggs.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There has been a good deal of discussion regarding winter eggs, and I feel at a loss to understand those who do not get all the winter eggs they can. Hens all moult about the same time, and the pullet that first begins to lay will lay the most eggs before moulting. But I wish to refer more particularly to the marketing of eggs. In marketing eggs, the first requisite is to have the eggs to market, and the next to have them in the best marketable condition. Anyone looking at the market reports from different towns, and comparing these with the prices in Toronto or Montreal, must be struck with the difference in price, seeing the freight is so small a consideration; it costs me just 3 cents per dozen to send eggs from here to Toronto. To obtain the Toronto price, without having to pay a commission house for handling them, one must be able to ship at least weekly in 30-dozen crates, and more than one crate at a time makes the freight less. Now, I know that many farmers are not able to do this, but can see no reason why one cannot do the shipping for a number of his neighbors for a small consideration. I am doing this now, and shipping twice a week ten crates in all, or 300 dozen per week. I have never sold a crate through a commission house, and have been able to net those shipping through me more than local prices. I do not believe I could do this if I had not eggs to ship the year round—not always the same quantity; in fact, no grocer sells as many when the price is 50 cents per dozen as when it is 25 cents, but still every grocer appreciates getting them when they are scarce, and will deal with the man who can supply them in winter, as well as summer.

These eggs must be all new-laid; they must be gathered twice daily, if soiled, should be cleaned with a damp rag when gathered; should be kept in a cool place till ready to ship, and all