

EXCITING DISCOVERIES

One day Uncle Jay was out east of his house and yelled from a knoll, "Bring the team, quickly! And bring a logging chain!"

I hurriedly did as requested.

"A cow is stuck in the muskeg moss on top of this very hill. She can't move!" exclaimed Jay.

"She certainly is mired deeply," I agreed.

I handed him the long logging chain, which he hooked loosely around the cow's neck. The team drew hard upon the chain. It was all they could do to drag the cow from the soft spot.

"Phew!" ejaculated Uncle Jay.

"It must be a spring," I said, as the task was finished.

"Right! Look at the water there!" agreed Uncle Jay.

"Very good reason the creek never dries up!"

"And it never freezes in the winter. This spring keeps it open." We built a fence around the hill to keep stock off it.

"Good clear, cold water, nothing better," Uncle Jay declared.

PROBLEMS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What made Uncle Jay's farm an attractive piece of land?
2. If you were homesteading a farm, what kind of land would you choose?
3. Is distance from town an important item to be considered?
4. Gather soil from various farms and compare it. You may send samples to the University to be tested.
5. Samples of water may be sent for free testing, also.

THE THIRD OX

When Uncle Jay got his house and barn built he began to clear and break land. There were some small trees to clear away; there were some old stumps; this took toil but section twelve had to be made into a farm. Some fields were light clearing but others were heavy. One night there were over a hundred bonfires on a ten-acre field.

Uncle Jay broke in a young ox which he had raised and drove three oxen on the breaking plow, and on the disc. Soon a field for wheat was made ready. When it was hot the oxen would puff. While they rested the young ox would often lie down. They were a little slow but that was a good thing should the plow hit an unseen rock under the sod.

WHAT ABOUT AN EDUCATION?

At first there was no school near Uncle Jay's farm. More neighbors moved into this pioneer district and at last there were eight children of school age.