

share in his business. Or if it is sheep and there are none kept, give him some of your hard-earned money and go with him and help him buy good ones, and don't be forever giving him advice. He will ask for it when it is needed. He will make mistakes galore and lose money, but our older men who have been farming forty years are still making mistakes and losing money.

And then there is the question of field work. I can remember as a lad of being sent out to hoe thistles in a ten-acre field, when the thistles were so thick I couldn't get over a land a day, or weed carrots on my hands and knees, or thin long rows of mangels in a hot burning sun, when I thought my back would break and that noon would never come. Let the father go with the boy at such jobs. He can do twice as much as the boy, but let him help in the other row, make the younger fellow think he is doing his share and both move on together. Let the conversation be cheerful and the time will pass more quickly and the back will not ache nearly so much.

And pretty much the same could be said about the girls in the house. If the daughters are needed on the farm let them be paid wages. They need so much for clothing themselves anyway, and the mother is kind to her daughter who lets her have her own bank account and in so doing teaches her to do things in a business way. If the daughter who is out around comes home with a new idea about hanging the curtains, let her hang them her way; it will help her to follow her own ideas. In time the average girl gets a home of her own and it is nothing but fair to her for the mother to educate her in all lines of housekeeping. The best way is to let her do the work. Let her bake the bread, even if the dog does get sick on the first batch; give her the buying end of the business for a month at a time. She will take more interest in the house and feel it is more her home.

Oxford Co., Ont.

YOUNG FARMER.

Study the Tree.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

What is needed to make the farm home more attractive can also be asked of the town home, or what is the reason home is not more attractive to the children? Being farmers, let us suppose that several trees are given to men to raise and care for. The trees are all given in a healthy state but some farmers will let the grass grow around the roots, the shoots grow up from the base, or wild stock; in fact, let the tree grow without any care or pruning whatever, while others will attend to them from the start, keeping down all weeds and wild shoots and all growth that will be detrimental to them later on, feeding them with proper nutriment, encouraging all fruit-bearing twigs, and, if need be, put up a stick to make them grow straight. The one farmer will grumble because his tree has no fruit, while the other's tree will show its gratitude by bearing a good crop. The Giver of all has given us children to raise for Him, and we must be responsible for the way we do it. All children grow shoots that need pruning directly they show, some have to be led straight with a stick, all require feeding and to be attended to with love. It seems hard to the children at the time to be corrected, but with proper encouragement and training our children will be content with their surroundings and bear fruit where they are planted.

If the fruit is looked for the tree must be studied, and all encouragement given, and so we must study our children, and as they grow let them feel they have an interest in the place and pay them for the fruit they bear, never forgetting that children copy their elders and it is no use for a farmer who is always looking at the black side of the cloud and grumbling about his lot to expect his children to settle down contentedly with him in the shadow, instead of looking for the silver lining.

Que.

BERT COULDERY.

Conveniences the Thing.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Rural society is blamed by a great many writers and speakers for influencing our young people to leave the farms, but to my mind it has not all to do with it. I believe that there is another evil equally great, and I do not hesitate to say that it is the lack of conveniences about the farm home.

When we visit our city cousins we find their home equipped with electric lights, furnace, water on tap and many other things, and we find them a great comfort, but how many farm homes do we find so equipped?

How many times have we wished, after a day's threshing or other such work, that we could take a warm bath without going to too much trouble? If we hadn't water on tap the chances are the bath was not taken. How much more convenient it is to turn a tap in the stable and watch the cattle and horses drink, than it is to drive them away to a trough or spring as we see many farmers doing!

Then there is the question of the convenience of power on the farm. So many jobs that used to be "back breakers" are made easy by the installation of some form of power. I might go on mentioning a hundred and one such things that would add to the comfort of farm life. To my mind, conveniences are more important than attractive surroundings or better live stock, for although these will appeal to some, the former must appeal to all.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Get Them Interested.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

If a boy once gets interested in live stock, takes a pride in all his father's stock on the farm, and enjoys farming, he will likely be contented to stay where he is and work for his father on the old homestead. I think the best way to get a boy interested in live stock is to give him something of his own to feed and look after and of course get the profits from it. Another way would be to give him something to fit for the fall fair and let him show it in his own name. If he gets a prize he will in all probability take enough interest in the stock to want to show again next year.

As a general rule the boys on the farm do not get through with their work in the evening in time for much social intercourse, and even if they have time they feel too tired for it. There are many implements for the farm, such as manure spreaders, manure carriers, hay loaders etc., which if every farmer had the means to buy would induce the boy to take a new interest in farm life and enable him to do a bigger day's work and get off earlier in the evening than he otherwise would be able to without these implements. Thus, if all the labor-saving appliances were put in use the boy would have a better chance to develop the social side of his character and at the same time lessen his desire to leave the farm.

The home is made more attractive by conveniences such as the telephone, electric light, furnace, etc. But with all the conveniences and luxuries that can be crowded into the home, it will still be a dreary place if there is not concord in the family. Whether this state of affairs exists or not depends as much, perhaps more, on the young people than on the parents.

In my estimation the best way to make the farm home more attractive for the boys and girls is to get them interested in their farm work and in the home.

P. E. I.

A FARMER'S SON.

How the Farm Was Made Attractive to Him.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I am eighteen years of age and was born on the farm on which we now reside. My father and mother, two sisters and one brother have made things so attractive on the farm that my greatest ambition is to be a successful farmer. There are several reasons why farm life becomes monotonous to young men, but the greatest reason of all is, I think, that the fathers do not take their boys into their confidence and tell them the whys and wherefores of the different branches of farm life. Another reason is that boys on the farm are not all farmers. Some are mechanically inclined, others have a desire to follow a lawyer's profession, some would like to be school teachers, and I think it the duty of every parent to study the inclinations of his children and encourage them along that line as much as possible. Ever since I was a small boy I have always had some interest in the farm.

When I was nine years old my father gave me a calf, which was not the most promising one in the herd. However, I was delighted to own something of my own and started out in the most practical manner I knew of to make a success with my start in life. At the end of two years I had cared for my calf so well that I had the best two-year-old steer there was on the farm. I then traded with my father for another calf six months old and thirty dollars to boot. The thirty dollars I deposited in the Farmer's Bank and got a bank book of my own, which made me feel as though I was quite a big man. I now had another animal to start with and also a bank account. By careful feeding, in the

fall of the next year I had a yearling calf as good as many two-year-olds. One day father had a drover in the field looking at some fat cattle. After he had sold them to the drover I told him I had a yearling steer I wanted to sell. He looked at it and asked me what I wanted for him. I told him thirty dollars. He said: "All right my boy I'll just buy that yearling." He wrote me out a cheque on the Trader's Bank for the full amount, but I told him my money was in the Farmer's Bank and that I wanted a cheque on that bank so that my money would all be together. Father spoke up and said it wasn't a wise policy to put all your eggs in one basket when going to market as they might all get broken. He told me afterwards I had sold my yearling too cheaply, but to never mind and be a little sharper in the future. I then had thirty dollars in the Trader's Bank and the same amount in the Farmer's Bank.

When I was thirteen years of age I passed the entrance examination and my father's great ambition was to give me a thorough education, telling me that he desired me to go through Toronto University before I quit. After I had attended the Collegiate for about one year I told father that I did not like being cramped up in school and I would rather stay home and farm, although I had never made less than fifty per cent. in any of my exams. I felt that the work was too monotonous for me and I longed to be back on the farm. At last my father consented to let me stay home and I felt as if a great burden had been lifted from my young shoulders.

About this time word was flashed around the country that the Farmer's Bank had failed, and I found to my sorrow that I had lost thirty dollars with interest, but, thanks to father's advice, I still had my other thirty dollars in the Trader's Bank. About two months after the failure of the bank, on a stormy day, father and I were sitting around the house and I told him I would trade him my Farmer's Bank account for a calf he had in the barn. This he readily consented to do, never thinking for a minute but that he would get that money back. I often laugh at him, for all he ever got out of the Farmer's Bank was the book I gave him, although a prominent politician, promised faithfully if his party got into power that the Farmer's Bank deposits would all be paid in full.

I subscribed for "The Farmer's Advocate" and have been taking it for about three years. It is always the first paper I read and I find many useful hints on farming therein. I am now eighteen years old and my one ambition is to become a successful farmer. I have, at the present time, acquired considerable knowledge of farming and think it is one of the most healthful and independent professions in the world.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

Topics for Discussion for Young Farmers.

Each week we shall announce topics for discussion in this department. Topics will appear each week during the winter season, with the dates upon which manuscript must be in our hands. Readers are invited to discuss one or more topics as they see fit. All articles published will be paid for in cash at a liberal rate. Make this department the best in the paper. This is the boys' and young man's opportunity. Here are the topics:

1. What Does Horse Labor Cost?

What does every hour of horse labor cost on your farm? How many horses do you keep—what does it cost to maintain them, and how many hours of labor per week, per month or per year do you get out of them? The cost of maintenance divided by the hours of work done will give very approximately the cost of a horse-hour. Is there any income from the horses, in the way of colts, etc., except that which they yield in actual farm or road labor? Express your views and give actual figures with regard to this question, and mail the copy, not exceeding 800 words, so it will be received at this office not later than February 3.

2. The Difficulties and Advantages of Crop Rotation.

Discuss long and short rotations as they apply to the soil and methods of farming on your own farm. Outline the best rotation for your soil. Be sure to describe the soil and class of farming followed. Have articles at this office by February 10.

Automobiles, Farm Machinery and Farm Motors.

The Lesson of the Shows.

Now that the big motor shows of 1917 have gone down into history, it might be well to try and forget the wonderful decorations that were planned for the show buildings and also the many big social events that took place under their hospitable roofs. Having allowed the details to pass from our minds, we can get to the essentials. Some years ago the great difficulty with many cars was the inaccessibility of parts. We have heard owners state that certain machines could not be repaired, or even fixed temporarily, with a rubber wrench. What they meant was that the vital parts of the power plant were so obscurely situated that it was extremely difficult to operate upon them

without doing a tremendous amount of preliminary work. In some instances, where only trifling trouble had occurred, it became necessary to take down the motor. From year to year manufacturers have improved their output to such an extent that to-day in most good cars practically all minor operations can be carried on quickly and easily. Of course the internal troubles require the services of an expert repair man.

The most noticeable feature of 1917 models is embodied in the fact that nearly all the points where adjustments must be made, are well in the open, or if not, can still be worked upon with comparative ease. Then, too, the oiling and greasing has been so changed in many details that they no longer are a bugbear in any sense of the word. It cannot be said that these

alterations constitute any radical change, but it can be truthfully stated that they make for greater ease of operation, and a smoother running mechanism than has been possible in previous years. The motor car is going to increase in popularity in direct ratio with the increase in the simplicity of the car itself. The chassis have been simplified in many particulars and it is not extravagant to maintain that in the future no modern car can be called cumbersome.

The idea of standardization along simple lines has been given a wonderful amount to thought in body designing. It is not a far cry back to the time when automobiles of reputable manufacture contained many different styles of fenders, running boards, radiators, cowlings and doors. All these are now being brought