

Possibilities in Market Gardening

Mrs. D. T. N. Mitchell, Simcoe Co., Ont.

Twelve years ago I got a small property at a low cost and decided to work it myself and see what could be made out of it. It consisted of five acres of land just outside of the town of Collingswood so that it was well located. It was, however, in a very bad shape since it was an old brickyard. The top clay had been scraped off a part of it and this part had been dug for brick clay. A small stream ran through the place cutting it up badly. There was a steep hillside on the place; and the buildings were old and in bad repair.

The creek I had straightened and the water run off along the fence. The hillside I had scraped down to fill in the old creek bottom. The buildings were moved and are now being renovated. About six years ago I decided that I could make good use of more land and so rented five acres across the road. This land is quite light, but it is in good condition so that I now have a wide variation in my soil, which gives me a good chance to grow a variety of crops—some doing best on one type of soil while others prefer a different kind.

KEEPING UP PRODUCTION

In order to keep up the productivity of my soil I have to buy manure since I keep no stock except a horse that does all my work. I buy about 150 one-horse loads of manure a year from stables in the town of Collingswood. So far I have not used commercial fertilizers and I do not spray for any of the insects or diseases that affect the crops, except potato bugs. Alternate cropping is practised to keep free of these enemies since it has been my experience that they are most troublesome where the same crop grows on the same land year after year, thus giving them a good chance to propagate.

Tomatoes have paid me the best of any of the crops which I have raised; Jack Rose and Earliana are my choice of varieties because of their good yield, earliness and smoothness. My best record with tomatoes was when I sold 1,200 baskets of 800 plants, getting an average price of 20 cents a basket. Strawberries have also done well with me. This year I sold 4,500 boxes, at an



A Town Lady Who is Enthusiastic about the Health and Profit She Derives from Market Gardening

Many who live on farms, and countless others who reside in cities, towns and villages, will find much encouragement in the experiences of Mrs. Mitchell, which are given by her in the adjoining article. Read it.

average price of 7½ cents, from 30 rows of 125 plants in a row. Senator Dunlop has been the most productive variety with me but Dorman gives the largest and handsomest berries. Raspberries have been very productive—Marborough and King are the most profitable varieties. Growing onions from seed has not been profitable with me, but Dutch Sets have paid well. The larger fruits—plums, pears, and apples—are not as profitable as garden truck and small fruit when located so near to a town.

PAYS WELL FINANCIALLY AND PHYSICALLY

This garden has paid me well, both financially and physically. I feel much better when working

out in my garden in the summer time than when looking after my town house in the winter. In regard to help, I hire one man by the day pretty steadily all summer, and some pickers in berry time. I have not been troubled with the hired help problem since my boys, as they were growing up have always been a great help to me. This has been a good thing for them since it kept them off the streets and gave them the exercise which they required. I am making a home and a good living in the best place of all to live—the country.

Marketing Butter

Mrs. Alex. McArthur, Simcoe Co., Ont.

When you have clean butter of good flavor, there is no trouble to dispose of it. I have had customers send for butter before I had it ready for sale. When catering to a private trade I have found that wrappers with our name and address neatly printed on them are a great advantage. These wrappers cost about one-quarter of a cent each, but you can always get two or three cents more a pound for butter nicely printed and wrapped, than for butter in rolls or in tubs.

The great trouble with most of us butter-makers is that we will not go to the trouble of printing and wrapping our butter properly. Most of us are too fond of the old fashioned method of packing the butter in tubs. It is almost an impossibility to build up a good custom on tub butter. Salting the butter is another important point. Study the tastes of your customers and sail accordingly.

Formerly we were obliged to take our butter to the stores in Creemore and sell for trade. Messrs. S. and J. Hisey, however, have established a good market for our benefit in Creemore where we can dispose of our butter for cash. A cash trade is not only more profitable but as you can go where you like with the cash, it causes you to take more interest in producing a good article.

The Farm Vegetable Garden

Mrs. E. L. Campbell, Oxford Co., Ont.

A good kitchen garden of half an acre or so should be found on every farm. Vegetables are the cheapest and most healthful foods which we

Make the Farm a Happy Home

Marion Dallas, Carleton Co., Ont.

Pleasure must be found in the home or in the immediate vicinity if it is to be had in most rural districts. It is the duty of every parent and



Marion Dallas

indeed of every member of the home to make it a place of happiness. City people, we are told, keep young longer than country people. This should not be when we consider the natural advantages of the country, the pure air, stimulating scenery, fresh food and the freedom from the nerve rakers, which over-run our cities. Most of our homes are far too serious. We need more laughter in the farm home and indeed in all our homes. Study the word happiness. Cultivate a good laugh. It is better than all the medicine. Doctors know the value of laughter. A good story is told which illustrates what I mean. "In a large hospital a patient was suffering from melancholia. He never laughed or smiled and he wore an unbroken expression of gloom. At last, after trying many cures, the doctors agreed that laughter might effect a cure. A big hearty man was brought to the door of the patient's room to laugh! For some days this was repeated without any change. Finally one morning the patient was heard to laugh and to anxiously enquire where he was? The melancholia and gloom had vanished and the man was in his right mind." Laughter had effected the cure. Laughter will carry us through many a perplexity and annoyance. If we would practise laughter, many of us would find our nerves cease to be the bug-bear there are in so many homes.

A HAPPY MEAL HOUR

Cultivate the habit of telling funny stories at the table. No other place is better suited for bright repartee. It is an excellent cure for dyspepsia. Even children should look forward to a happy meal hour. On the public platform recently I heard a prominent politician attribute his first ambition to be a speaker, to listening to his father and visitors telling stories and conversing around the tea table in his old home.

Fill the home with bright, cheerful games and amusements. Just as the flowers need sunshine, so the young lives require amusement.

Music is an aid in making homes happy. Give the young the advantages of music if possible, but if there is no player in the home, buy a phonograph. You will have all the latest soloists, selections from the operas, and hymns for Sunday evening, all brought directly to the home. It is an education and will go a long way toward making the winter evenings enjoyable.

BOOKS AND READING

Books, and reading aloud are other sources of pleasure. There are parents who think the time spent in reading a book or magazines is wasted. Many of us can recall little incidents like the following. Sam comes in from his evening chores; perhaps he has lithered talking to a neighboring boy. It is after nine o'clock. He goes to get a book and his mother calls, in not the mildest tone of voice: "Now Sam you needn't think you are going to read at this hour of the night; it's time you were in bed to be ready for to-morrow." Sam, muttering to himself, goes off to bed. Perhaps he lights a lamp, still retaining hold of the book and his father says: "Don't take that book upstairs to waste the oil. If you want to read, read where the others are sitting." All homes are not like that one, and the thumb marked magazines tell of the pleasure derived from reading about what the world is doing. Reading aloud is a delightful feature in many homes and is a source of profit and pleasure to old and young.

"Make Home Happy!" I hear many a parent

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Mrs. E. K.

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