

I've put in a furnace with hot-water heating, an acetylene arrangement, a large bath-room, and a few hardwood floors.

"We don't go in very much for gew-gaw furnishings. If I remember correctly the very first thing we did when we got there was to pack up in the attic all the cut-glass, Dresden china, filagree silver, gilt chairs, lace curtains, and such stuff that we were fools enough to own. And they stayed there. You kill a lot of good time looking after things of that sort. There's no use spending your life dusting when you can spend it dancing. So we refused to be made the slaves of our possessions, and went in for simple, heavy furniture and some good thick dishes that you could throw around without holding your breath when you handled them. In the summer time we have all our meals out on a big cool veranda where we get the scent of the tall pines and a splendid view down over the wide valley. Milady is a crank on asking folks out in the country, and filling them up with fresh air, green vegetables, sound sleep, a little music, a deal of driving, and a lot of rest, and—well, I guess I'm not far behind her. Last year I was rash enough to buy an automobile, and we're getting all sorts of fun out of it, from the children picnicing to making new friends further afield. In the winter we come into the city for a couple of months to do a little pleasuring and shopping. We're sort of planning now to travel every third year, as I'm quite sure our bank reserve will get over-large that often, and need reducing.

"Which, with your permission, completes the story. I don't for a minute think it is anything to brag about, because any fellow can do it, if he'd only say so! Certainly no one ever called Milady or myself clever, and that five hundred we had to start with is no more than most any chap can lay his hands on somehow or other. The thing was, we were bound to try something, and I suppose we happened to strike the bull's eye. We're living now, and we weren't before. It isn't all work and no play. We're getting a great big life out in the open, we're at nobody's beck and call, and I'm not running for any 7.30 car o' mornings. And you mustn't think we're lonely or uncivilized. Our friends come and break bread with us, and we do likewise with them, there is a goodly stack of this month's magazines on our table, and new books on the shelf. We don't wear our last year's clothes, unless we want to, and we don't live on ham and eggs. I'm not very good at figuring, now that I'm off the stool, but so far as I can make out our little journey from flat to farm was a success—by about four thousand a year and a happy life. Do you call that bad reckoning?

WHY THE FARMER SHOULD BE EDUCATED

That the theory and practice of advanced agriculture requires more intelligence and skill than any other profession or business, is no longer a subject for argument. Farming in the highest sense of the word is rightly classed as a "profession" and a "business." When we say, "farming in the highest sense of the word" it is meant that the soil shall be tilled so that it may produce a maximum crop and still retain its fertility, or that any draft on its fertility may be immediately replaced. There is no greater space between the magnetic poles than there is between a trained farmer and a man who is a mere cropper.

There is a common word which will occur to every reader and which sufficiently describes the man who set up in business as a lawyer, who had received no further training or preparation for his life's business than he had been able to pick up at some country debating society or through the "answers" column of a provincial newspaper. The same epithet would apply to the parent who would entrust his young son with a large money capital to start in some manufacturing or mercantile business, who had

not previously been made thoroughly acquainted by years of experience with the intricacies and detail of that business.

This, in effect, is exactly what thousands of men are doing today, both as regards their own performances and that of their progeny. How many men today are placing capital in the hands of their young sons in the form of land and stock, not one of whom has the remotest idea of what it has taken to create that capital, and with not even a smattering of the first principles of intensive agriculture?

We hear it said with nauseating frequency, "O well, I can make a living off the farm anyway, and so will the boy after I am done with it." No doubt they can, thanks to the marvellous productivity of Mother Earth, (especially in the Canadian North West,) but that sordid objective, which cannot be regarded in the light of an "ambition" worth a moment's purchase, is little short of a criminal neglect of an opportunity the most generous and all indulgent creator has entrusted to the great family of mankind.

The parable of the talents naturally occurs to us in this connection, and it is as certain as the course of nature that if these opportunities to cultivate the source of all substance to the best possible advantage are neglected, the privilege of husbanding them will sooner or later be delegated to another who knows what to do, and who will do it.

Some one asks; "How are we to raise more than we seem to be able to get out of the land on our farms?" By education—directed especially to the purpose of finding out all that science teaches as to the chemical properties and possibilities of soil constituents; what system of rotation is necessary so that succeeding crops will supply what are lacking or have been impoverished by previous vegetation on the same field; or what crops will use the local elements of that particular soil to the best advantage. It will also be necessary to get at ascertained facts with regard to balancing rations for live stock so that they will put on the most gain with the least feed, and through education and experience become competent judges of live stock so that we shall select the best animals for our particular use.

No man is ever too old to learn, and it is our purpose to divide this subject so that it will appeal to two general classes, viz: those who may consider they have passed their school days, and those who can yet devote some time to school work. The termination of a school or college career does not mean a "finished education." As a matter of fact, a man's real education is only then begun. The previous years have been spent only in the training ground. Now the battle has to be fought out in a world of hard facts and actual experiences which, however, the previous educational training will enable the man to use and apply with an intelligence and certainty that otherwise would only have meant a career of bungling and waste, a process of "scrambling through somehow."

For the Actual Farmer

One of the best mediums for education in farming communities will be the local grain-growers' conventions and the various Farmers' Associations. Some of these, (in the States particularly) have already been productive of marvellous results and it is our strong desire to see them still more numerous and doing equally effective work in Western Canada. These meetings are usually held fortnightly during the winter months, and the programme takes the form of the old "Mutual Improvement Society," only that the papers and discussions entering into the deliberations of the "Farmers' Association" are necessarily confined to agricultural matters.

"The Grain Growers' Guide" would be glad to encourage in every possible way, the spreading of an intelligent interest in those farmers' educational meetings or Agricultural Improvement Societies, and with this in