# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY



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The Rural Publishing Company, Limited PETERBORO, ONT.

"Read not to contradict and to confute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and con sider,"—Bacon.

## A Place for Surplus Dollars

THE greatest convenience that any farm woman can have at hand in performing the duties of her household is an abundance of hot and cold water, with a minimum of effort. Many of Our Folks now have efficient water systems installed in their homes but still there are thousands of farms in this country on which an up-to-date water system could well be afforded, but where the old-fashioned pump is still relied upon for the water supply. We have even visited farms on which an abundant supply of fresh water is carried to an individual basin in front of each cow, but where the busy housewife has to fetch for a considerable distance, and in all kinds of weather, the water needed in the many duties pertaining to her housekeeping

For such a condition there is now less excuse than formerly. Water systems for farm homes have been brought to a high state of perfection and they could well be afforded on a great many more farms than they are found at present. The farmers of Ontario, for instance, have \$100,000. 000 on deposit in the banks at three per cent interest. Part of this amount invested in efficient water systems would yield a much higher return in terms of convenience and labor saved. We seldom question the wisdom of purchasing laborsaving machinery for our field and stable work. The investment of the amount necessary in a good home water system would prove equally

### Women and the City

THERE is not a good sized city in Canada or the United States that does not number more women than men in its population. In the rural districts of every county in Ontario save one, there are more men than women. And the trend

toward the city of country bred girls continues. Are these girls well advised in leaving country homes for the life of the city? Let Mrs. Jean T. Eimmerman, Superintendent of the Chicago Women's Shelter, make the reply. Mrs. Zimmerman reports that during the past year she has given lodging or shelter or both to 22,650 girls and destitute women and childrer. The plight of the out-of-work woman in the great city, the woman without food, shelter or friends, is the most desperate thing in the world. The conditions of which Mrs. Zimmerman speaks do not apply to Chicago only. Similar statistics might be had from any other great city in either Canada or the United States.

## The Church as the Social Centre

IN most rural districts the churches are the social centres of the community. Their avowed mission is human uplift, and since man is a social being, they have felt a demand to provide for his social needs. Of all buildings which can be used for the accommodation of gatherings their's are the best suited for the purpose. Notwithstanding the large falling off in attendance,

## The Farmer's Ministry

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THANKSGIVING Day belongs to the beginning of the Nation, and it may be well on that day to take account of our national perils. And the many to take account of our national perils and the terminal mercles. But first of all it is the time and mercles. But first of all it is the time and mercles. But first of all it is the time and the anishment of the art in the first of the time and the art in the art in the time and the art in the art

which many of them have experienced in the past few years, they still hold a central place in the interest of more people than other institu-For these and many other reasons churches are advantageously placed to minister to the social requirements of their people and are, therefore, looked to by their members and adherents for a large contribution to their social

Country churches have been severely criticised for not living up to their opportunities as centres of social activity, and, although they have not been above criticism in this regard, it would be well to take stock of their contribution to rural social life before condemning them too severely. In winter they provide tea-meetings and fowl suppers, each of which is generally followed by a program, put on by local talent. In summer most of them hold Sunday School picnics, at which both old and young give themselves up to social enjoyment. In the autumn many of them still maintain their grand old institution; the harvest home festival. Throughout the year the young people's societies minister to the social as well as the religious needs of their members. To these activities must be added the social benehts derived by their members from attendance at their regular religious meetings. Take away from the social life of most rural districts that part contributed by the churches and it would be found that whether or not they are living fully up to their opportunities in this regard, their contribution is larger than that of all other institutions combined.

### The New Viewpoint

OR the most part churches look upon their social activities as a means to an end. The main object is to minister to the religious needs of their people and their recreational and social activities are secondary and contributary to that purpose. The same is true of schools, farmers' organizations, secret societies and other institutions contributing to the social life of rural districts. Their work in this connection is aside from their real function and they, as well as the churches, look upon it as a matter of secondary consideration.

Of late years the need for the systematic and intelligent provision of recreation for its own sake has become very apparent. It has been found that one reason why the young people have been drifting away to the cities is that country districts have been barren of social life. It is now conceded that it is just as necessary to minister to the social needs of the people as to their religious and educational requirements Social enjoyment as an end in itself, as a neces sary factor in the life of every community, demands recognition, and churches, schools, farm, ers' clubs and women's institutes are being called upon to look at it from this new viewpoint and to shape their policies accordingly.

#### Community Recreation

THE weakness of the policy, or lack of policy, by which the work of providing recreational and social enjoyment for the people of rural communities is left to the divided efforts of churches and other institutions, is that there has been no provision made for concerted effort in conducting the work. The churches have divided the people along denominational lines, with the result that the work has been rendered in efficient. The same can be said of other in stitutions, in that they have been working independently and dividing, instead of consolidating the efforts of the people in seeking a means for the expression of their social instincts. This divided effort has been the greatest source of weakness in the endeavor to build up a sound social life in rural districts.

It is now obvious that a mistake has been made in considering churches, schools or other institu tions as true units of country life. Far from being such, they are but phases of that life, superficially divided but fundamentally grounded in its true unit. That unit is the community. Each country district is divided into communities with rather clearly defined boundaries. Most of these communities centre around country villages to which the people look as centres of their community life, and community boundaries are marked off by the lines which separate the spheres of influence of these villages. Within these communities there is a common bond of mutual isterest underlying all the apparent divisions along denominational and sectional lines.

The problem of building up the social and re creational features of country life is best attack ed from the community standpoint. Instead of dividing their efforts along denominational line or working in independent groups as member of secular organizations, country people should unite their efforts in an endeavor to build upt strong community spirit. Their social activitis should embrace all the people living within sud a district. To accomplish this object it is neces sary to federate all the forces within a con munity in a united effort to enrich its social life churches, schools and farmers' organization working together with the common object of previding recreation for its own sake and not for secondary considerations.

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