

CANADA'S BEST AGRICULTURAL PAGE

"RE-CREATE!" TIME SPENT IN RECREATION IS GOOD INVESTMENT

BY J. W. BURGESS.

Before me lies a letter from the wife of a farmer in which is this passage: "It is seldom that my husband and myself take a vacation. We do not feel that we can afford it. I cannot understand how so many afford it. They usually come home more tired than they go. I can rest better in my own home if I can get my work done so that I can take the time."

Oh, the pity of it! Can you not see the colorless lives of those two; the ceaseless grind, grind, grind, days merging into weeks, these into months, months into years, with life and the whole world circumscribed by the boundaries of their little farm and the rising and setting of the sun? They even question the economic right of other people to let go of the plow handles and put away the dish mop for a little while. They regard such action as sheer waste of time. They have fallen utterly to grasp the problem of life in its larger aspect. Not consciously selfish, they are living for themselves alone, and for themselves not well. They are a type. In the busy part of the day they have heard men boast they had not been away from business for a day in twenty years, and when asked why, the answer has been invariably the same: "Can't afford it."

Hardly less pathetic than the above letter is this one from another part of the country: "In my twenty-two years of married life I have had two vacations. When we had been married two years we took a carriage drive of forty miles, taking in a fair and visiting relatives on the way; we were gone six days. Eighteen years later, when my husband was in the legislature, I went back with him and stayed a week." Thirteen days away from home in twenty-two years!

But even worse than this is a third letter: "I have been married twenty-four years and have never made a visit of more than a day away from home, with one exception, when I visited my sister for one week." Think of that! One week in twenty-four years!

It has never occurred to these people to look at this question from the other view-point. It is not a question of whether they can afford to take recreation, but whether they can afford not to take recreation. "Wear out but do not rust out," is good as far as it goes. But a lot of people are wearing out and rusting out at the same time and the dual process brings an early ending.

Recreation is as essential to the mental, physical and moral development of the human being as is food, drink and proper protection from the elements. The life of the locomotive which seldom gets to the shop for overhauling and repairs is short, while the life of the locomotive which goes into the shops at the end of every run is almost indefinite. The human machine is not different from any other machine. To secure its greatest efficiency it has got to be well oiled, well handled and protected from undue strains and neglect.

Recreation comes from the word re-create—to make new. It does not necessarily mean an expensive trip, but rather a change of scene, or occupation, the inspiration of new thoughts and putting aside of old thoughts and commonplace, everyday duties for something quite out of the monotonous routine. Perhaps what this means cannot be better expressed than in the following extract, a letter from one of our Western farm wives:

"At times during the summer we find leisure for a several days' fishing trip with friends, a very pleasant diversion during the season of hard work. Last summer we spent a week with the children camping. Every five years my husband and I enjoy a trip for pure pleasure and sightseeing. This usually of several weeks' duration. The children will have such opportunities later in life. Just now occasional visits to some friends in the city, picnics, or a day or afternoon off for fishing, are sufficient reasons for better and more willing service."

Make this woman's experience your own. You owe it to your health, Mr. Farmer, you owe it to your wife, you owe it to your neighbors, to take some form of recreation and to see that your wife participates in it.

It is commonly stated that people are rated by their bank account only. This is largely true, to the detriment of society. We wish to call your attention, especially the attention of young men, to the bank account and its significance.

Start a bank account, even if you have but a few dollars to put in now and then. The young man has little expense and his earnings should be almost clear profit. The place for every dollar of surplus is in the bank. When it has accumulated in sufficient amount then buy land. But you will never get the land unless you have first formed the habit of saving by putting money in the bank.

Banking has a peculiar influence upon a man. It creates a desire to see his account grow. He at once begins to save money although his necessary expenses are the same as before he opened the account. With money in the pocket one is sure to spend it foolishly, unless he is a miser by nature. With money in the bank the temptation is removed and the little foolish spending is almost stopped.

The wage earner's money is not lost or spent in large sums. It simply slips away in little dribs that are unnoticed at the time. Stop the leak by opening a bank account, and then see if you can't get up a rivalry with some other young man to see who can show the most money in the bank in a year.

When enough has been saved to make a safe investment in farm lands then do that, but refrain from spending it for a horse and buggy, dressy traps and senseloss habits. You will be a man in your own estimation and in the eyes of all who know you, a great deal quicker by carrying a bank book than by having the best horse and buggy in the country.

It is generally conceded that the farmers of this country are very conservative and clear thinkers. They have won the name because the ones who do the thinking are so conspicuous and because those who do not think stay in the background.

One would naturally suppose that the life of a farmer would develop thinking, and it does in many cases, yet there are many who do not learn how to think clearly. They seem to go along in a rut, doing things as their fathers did before them. They will not read—and right here is the secret. Reading stimulates thought. He is dull indeed who is a constant reader of good farm papers and does not have a clear thinker.

You will find men who swallow everything they read until they have mental dyspepsia and suffer financial loss. They become sworn enemies of advanced agriculture, the press and the school. Instead of their reading doing them good it has done them harm.

One has to do some thinking along with his reading. He must reason things out, see if they fit his conditions. While he rides the plow or harvests he can be digesting the things he reads in his farm paper.

There is much room for improvement in arranging buildings, and planting trees and shrubs on the grounds about the farmhouse. A lack of division between the farm home grounds and the barn yards is one of the chief causes of lack of attractiveness about so many farm houses. If buildings are already in place, it is possible in most instances to locate the hog yard, calf pens and poultry yards at a point most remote from the house. Then put a street three or four rods wide between the house and the barns and plant shrubs or low growing trees along border of street next to barns. In time a permanent screen will be provided that will shut out any objectionable view from the house.

Where grounds are being laid out an arrangement is to have the home lot on one side of public highway and the barnyards and business side of the farm on the other, not directly in front of each other, have a slope if possible from house toward barns.

This is a good time to use paint liberally. Remember that a well kept country home means from \$5 to \$10 more per acre when it comes to the selling price. More home beauty, brethren, means a more contented and happy family. Think on these things now.

Watch the growing crop for indications of lack of soil fertility, in a general way one may know what parts of a field need manuring; but a walk through the growing grain will tell the story in very plain language. Every spot where plant food is lacking shows in both color of grain and height of straw; places that should have been drained are called to one's attention; places that need more water, which can be furnished in a way by supplying plants of vegetable matter to the soil, all these have their story to tell.

"I'll make a note of all that when harvest time comes," do you say? No, you won't; you'll be too busy.

He felt that he was working too hard for the pay received; he knew better than the boss how the work should be laid out; he carried on Sunday was dead to the world Monday; he was jealous of the other hired men—he got fired.

He had no regular hours; he shifted teams from one man to another; he spent his time in town; he had plenty of spare room in the house but gave the hired man the best bed in the "hay loft"; he grumbled about trials—the hired man quit.

DAIRYING

TAKING CARE OF THE HEIFER CALF— BREEDING HINTS

Chicago Milk Dealers in Hold-Up Game.

COWS AS FERTILIZERS.

BY T. C. KARNS.

Wm. T. Read wants to know how to feed the calf for milk production and the age for dropping her first calf.

In reply I would say that plants or animals result in best specimens or proportion to the perfection of their feeding system. A starved plant or starved calf will be stunted and make a run. This is a well known fact.

The calf should have all "first milk" from its mother as a medicine or for sake of digestion. Whether it sucks this or drinks it makes no matter. Some dairymen think the calf learns the art of drinking best by beginning to drink milk from the udder.

Give the calf whole milk for at least ten days if not two weeks. Feed three times a day for that period and then twice, but increase the quantity. In reduce skim milk gradually, a pint at a time, till the change is made. Stir a teaspoonful of fat into the milk and oil meal into each skim milk feed to take the place of the absent butter fat. The oil meal tends to prevent scours. Of course, whole milk is better for the calf.

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HORTICULTURE

THIS YEAR'S CARE WILL HELP NEXT YEAR'S CROPS

Handle Fruit Tenderly and Avoid Killing Buds.

SOMETHING IN STRAWBERRIES.

BY WESLEY J. GRIFFEN.

Now when nature is putting forth every twig, leaf or bud, it is not located to suit the system of training, it should be removed. The wound will soon heal and a new bud will put out in another place, which will, when developed, make the tree a shapely one.

The surplus buds if rubbed off just as they start out will leave no scar. This is a good time to examine the cherry trees, plum and quinces for aphides (plant lice). These soft bodied insects, of which there are many colors and which prey on nearly all fruit trees, shrubs and vines, are easily destroyed. A solution of tobacco made of stems boiled down until a dark brown extract is attained, put on with a sprayer with a fine nozzle. One thorough application is sufficient.

Be careful in picking the cherries that the fruit buds for next year's crop are not injured. A great deal of the crop may be destroyed by pulling off the stems in bunches. The best way to pick them is to have a small pair of blunt pointed scissors and clip the stems.

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POULTRY

LATE HATCHERS NOT ALTOGETHER UNPROFITABLE

Turkeys Will Be Late and Scarce; Keelson's Used.

SITTING HENS IN SUMMER.

BY LIDA E. TILSON.

Late Hatches.—These are not generally advised, but this season has been so peculiarly late, cold and unpropitious, that many must raise late chicks, or none. If late chicks have to be raised for range and food with older chicks, the smaller ones get very stunted. But if late chicks have the sweep of the premises, and are well fed, they make good. Thinking in this, and are prompt layers next spring, when in the months of March and April alone they often pay for their whole raising.

Turkey Lice.—Turkeys will be late and scarce. Too much crusting of turkey poulters sometimes kills the poulters quicker than lice. Use only kerosene for lice. Kerosene is used freely on roads once a week, there will be no scaly lice, either. Apply in the morning, so there may be a good winter added. Wash much oil getting on legs, causing lame fowls. One tablespoonful of kerosene in a pint of water is a good remedy. In limited quantities, on the heads of chicks and poulters. With a half teaspoonful of kerosene in a quart of water, wash the face and nostrils of adult fowls. When the weather is cold, feed cold or frozen water. In winter, kerosene is used freely on roads once a week, there will be no scaly lice, either. Apply in the morning, so there may be a good winter added. Wash much oil getting on legs, causing lame fowls. One tablespoonful of kerosene in a pint of water is a good remedy. In limited quantities, on the heads of chicks and poulters. With a half teaspoonful of kerosene in a quart of water, wash the face and nostrils of adult fowls. When the weather is cold, feed cold or frozen water. In winter, kerosene is used freely on roads once a week, there will be no scaly lice, either. Apply in the morning, so there may be a good winter added. Wash much oil getting on legs, causing lame fowls. One tablespoonful of kerosene in a pint of water is a good remedy. In limited quantities, on the heads of chicks and poulters. With a half teaspoonful of kerosene in a quart of water, wash the face and nostrils of adult fowls. When the weather is cold, feed cold or frozen water. In winter, kerosene is used freely on roads once a week, there will be no scaly lice, either. Apply in the morning, so there may be a good winter added. Wash much oil getting on legs, causing lame fowls. One tablespoonful of kerosene in a pint of water is a good remedy. In limited quantities, on the heads of chicks and poulters. With a half teaspoonful of kerosene in a quart of water, wash the face and nostrils of adult fowls. When the weather is cold, feed cold or frozen water. In winter, kerosene is used freely on roads once a week, there will be no scaly lice, either. Apply in the morning, so there may be a good winter added. Wash much oil getting on legs, causing lame fowls. One tablespoonful of kerosene in a pint of water is a good remedy. In limited quantities, on the heads of chicks and poulters. With a half teaspoonful of kerosene in a quart of water, wash the face and nostrils of adult fowls. When the weather is cold, feed cold or frozen water. In winter, kerosene is used freely on roads once a week, there will be no scaly