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The Cottage Difficulties on the Farm.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

When a farmer sets out to build a cottage for his hired help, he should take into consideration the following points: 1. He will have two houses to keep in repair; 2, he must supply garden space, well appointed, and protected from animals and poultry; 3, he will need to please two people instead of one, as is the case with the single man.

As regards the first, the amount of repairs needed would, including painting and paper, depend largely upon the kind of family engaged. Should the family be clean and orderly things would run smoothly, as far as house is concerned. On the other hand, should the family fail to, take into consideration the cost of keeping a house in habitable condition, and the necessity of keeping it so, there would be just cause for annoyance on the part of the owner. I lived in town four or five years and have had the experience of moving into houses vacated by the latter type of people, and in three cases out of four I have had to live in a dirty house or fix it up with as little expense as possible myself. It is discouraging to the owner to have his house spoiled through carelessness, and it is discouraging to a person who wants to be clean and tries to keep things in proper condition.

In the second place, to the man with a family a good garden is a very valuable and important asset. I had one garden which was doing very well, and I was feeling a little proud of it. However, "pride goeth before a fall." I discovered that there were things that were neither proud nor particular, for hens and chickens cleaned up beets, garden peas, tomatoes, ripe or green, and made the potato patch look like a hen-run. That kind of treatment will be sure to cause unpleasantness, but a farmer wille find he will be appreciated if he sympathizes with and does what he can to help a man who delights in a good garden as a means of reducing expenditure and providing wholesome food for his family.

In the third place, when a farmer hires a married man, it is certain the farmer will have two wives to please, instead of one. The wife will have to go shopping, and the farmer will have to find accommodation. Some women would be satisfied with any old thing, so long as it is safe, and others would wonder why the farmer couldn't take them in his motor Some women would not allow the children to annoy the farmer's wife by too frequent visits to her house, and others would not mind, and would very likely be a little too frequent themselves. Some women would not mind the farmer buying their supplies, while others would say they had a right to spend their own money and that they might, perhaps, be able to spend it to better advantage. As a rule, the married man has no cash other than a small insurance, and I am of the opinion that a farmer should understand that as a rule, those who have to live from hand to mouth are more likely to buy economically than those who have enough and to spare. The reason why married men do not stay on the farm is because the farmer cannot or will not sympathize with conditions that require regular money in order to secure supplies, and where there is a farmer who is not willing to allow a monthly remittance for house keeping purposes he has no right to hire a married man at all. Free milk, free house for free house, free garden, are good things, but a good wage must be distributed at any rate by the month to be of real benefit to the wage-earner and his family.

I have not written the above with

any intention of discouraging cottage building, but to point out a few things that may help the farmer and labore, and to show the farmer that there may and will be as and will be many things that may be as hard to overcome by having help in the

hard to overcome cottage as in the home.

W. J. ANTHONY. Northumberland Co., Ont.