

HOME CIRCLE COLUMN

Pleasant Evening Reveries dedicated to tired Mothers as they Join the Home Circle at Evening Tide.

Of all evils prevailing among young men we know of none more blighting in its moral effects than the tendency to speak slightly of the virtue of women. Nor is there anything in which young men are so thoroughly mistaken as the low estimate they form of the integrity of women—not of their own mothers and sisters, thank God, but of others, who, they forget, are somebody else's mothers and sisters.

Don't wait until a man gets into trouble before lending him a helping hand; don't wait until he gets sick to extend him your sympathy; don't wait until he is dead to speak in eulogy of him. Strive to make him happy as he walks down the pathway of life, then you will have done some good, but if you wait until he dies, your hand, your sympathy and your eulogies will avail him nothing as he plunges into the Great Unknown.

The young woman who keeps her hands white at the expense of her mother, who performs the household duties, is never likely to astonish people with her order and cleanliness when she gets a home of her own. Neither is the young man who depends on his father for the necessities of life and the good clothes which he wears, apt to set a very large portion of the world afire.

Would that our busy toilers could realize that they must enjoy passing days, if they would be happy. The pleasure to which they look forward seldom comes. The man or woman who has not learned contentment and how to find delight in the present, this little reason to expect it in the future.

All that the wife can do will not make the home an agreeable one. Neither can a wife be happy with a husband who is addicted to finding fault with his bread and butter. She may try ever so hard to please him, yet when he sits down to meals, she lives in constant fear that some portion of the food will not suit his fastidious taste.

Be polite to your children. Do you expect them to be mindful of your welfare, to grow glad at your approach, to bound away at your pleasure before your request is half spoken? Then, with all your dignity and authority mingle politeness. Give it a niche in

your household temple. Only then will you have the true secret of sending out into the world really finished gentlemen and ladies.

We cannot honor with too deep a reverence the home affections; we cannot cherish them with too much solicitude. Members of the home circle lose nothing by being polite and kind to one another. Little children are such initiative creatures; if the father shows kindly attention to the mother, bright eyes will see the act and be sure to do just like papa.

Every wife ought to know her husband's income, and that knowledge should be the guide of her domestic expenses. Better is a dinner of herbs than a stalled ox with hatred therein. Where a wife makes up her mind to do her duty in this respect she will brighten her little home and make it a place of perpetual sunshine.

Words of kindness do more good than hard speeches, as the sunbeams, without any noise will make a traveller cast off his coat, which all the blustering winds could not do. If we are kind to others, we not only benefit them, but the influence on them is great, and if we cultivate the grace of kindness our characters grow nobler and better.

There are a great many things in this world that we are not sure of but there is one thing we may be sure of—"Be sure your sins will find you out."

Take aim before you shoot; otherwise your shot may go crashing in among heartstrings and still their quivering forever.

Don't try to follow every fashion unless you wish to ruin your health, your good looks and your pocket books.

Wife, your power in the home is unlimited. You are its queen. There, at least your sway is undisputed.

There is always a ray of light to pierce our gloom, if we will not close our eyes and refuse to see it.

Keep the home-fires bright if you would have the winter of life warm and pleasant.

DON'T BURN THE LEAVES

One hundred pounds of leaves will make a good bonfire, but how many of the householders lighting up the street corner blazes these nights realize that for every one hundred pounds of leaves they destroy nearly 20 cents' worth of plant food?

A few months ago every home gardener was anxiously endeavoring to increase the richness of his garden soil. Now is the time for him to accomplish considerable soil enrichment by gathering up all the leaves he can find. He should pile the leaves with layers of garden soil, so that they will not blow away. Dampen the pile slightly and protect it from the rain and snow. If rain falls on the pile much of the nitrogen and potash will be washed out.

Dr. F. Shutt, Dominion Chemist, Ottawa, finds that 1,000 pounds of leaves contain 8.87 pounds nitrogen (the plant food that causes the stalks and tops of vegetables to grow), 1.94 pounds of phosphoric acid (the food that hastens the ripening of vegetables, grain), and 3.92 pounds of potash (the food that gives the plant strength and causes the formation of starch in the vegetable or fruit).

Don't burn the leaves. Their fertilizing value is too great. Either dig them into the garden soil this fall or save them in a pile.

Besides adding plant food, leaves add exceeding valuable plant matter or humus to the soil. This humus gives body to your garden soil if it is light and sandy, or opens it up if the soil is clayey. Leaf humus also forms a home and storehouse of food for millions of soil bacteria, whose work it is to change the soil into such form that it can be used by growing crops.

Don't burn your leaves. Gather all you can and save them for your garden. They benefit the plant home and increase its food supply.

A Good "Buy"

The United States farmer who bought a bond in the Third Liberty Loan receives 4 1/2 per cent. These bonds are now standing in the market at approximately 97 1/2. The Canadian farmer who bought a Victory Bond in 1917 receives 5 1/2 per cent., and this bond, which cost him \$98.66, is now quoted at \$100 and interest. His investment is more profitable than that of his American neighbor, for he gets 25% more in interest return on the amount he invested than does the latter.

What the Drill Sergeant Said

The new recruits were very keen. One man especially did everything with energy. The order was given to march. The enthusiastic one, who was in the front rank, set off with a will.

He strode out, arms swinging, head erect, and eyes strictly in front, never noticing that he had left his comrades behind.

The drill sergeant swallowed hard, then called sweetly: "Say! When you get there, send us a picture postcard!"

Farmers of Canada Have Much at Stake In the Victory Loan

Money From Loan Needed to Finance Exports of Farm Products to Britain.

The Canadian farmer stands to gain or lose much through the success or failure of the Victory Loan. He is much more dependent on it for the ready sale of his products than has generally been realized. Some there are, even to-day, who fail to grasp the facts of the situation.

It is a mistaken idea that all a farmer has to do these days is to raise grain, cattle, hogs, or produce cheese, butter or eggs and he is sure to find a ready market at high cash prices. A keen demand for these



MR. J. H. GUNDY.

Vice-chairman of the Dominion Victory Loan Committee, and a strong leader in the campaign.

products, of course, exists, and Great Britain will take all of them that Canada has to spare; but the demands of the war have been so heavy that she cannot pay cash for all these things. She must have credit. It is here that the Dominion Government steps in, and provides the cash, obtaining the necessary funds through the Victory Loan.

The farmers should be as enthusiastic over the Victory Loan campaign as any other class. If it is not a decided success they stand to lose heavily. But if they subscribe to it liberally and endeavor to get others to do so, its complete success is assured.

BUY MORE VICTORY BONDS.

PRAIRIE FARMERS' EXAMPLE. Saskatchewan, which is almost a purely agricultural province, has given a splendid lead to the rest of the Dominion. Owing to the crop failure in several of the districts, the allotment for the Province in the Victory Loan drive was placed at \$15,000,000. Recently those in charge of the provincial organization said that they would not think of getting less than \$22,000,000.

BONDS OR BONDAGE.

Canadians at Home Must Do Their Utmost

It Is For Them to Demonstrate That the Spirit of the Boys Over There Exists at Home.

Canadians at home must do their utmost in the Victory Loan drive, for the boys in France are looking on. These brave fellows, the pride of the British Army, who have carried all before them during the last three months, must not be disappointed in the folks at home. It must be demonstrated to them that the spirit exhibited in the front line, is to be found also on the home front.

There is no problem confronting Canada to-day, or likely to confront her in the future, which Canadians cannot solve, if they put their minds to it. There is no task for them too difficult. But, while everybody believes this, there is no use talking about it, unless the Victory Loan is put over. It will be, for it must be.

BUY BONDS FOR VICTORY.

DOUBLE UP.

The call is now "Double up." Everybody seems to be doing it. Why shouldn't they? The cause is worth doubling up for. Besides, it would be impossible to get a better investment. It's better than the American Liberty bonds bear only 4 1/2 per cent., whereas ours carry 5 1/2. So "doubling up" is the correct thing. It is patriotic and also good business. Double up.

THE CRISIS.

Your country needs your financial help to meet its crisis to-day. You may need financial resources to meet a possible crisis in your affairs later on. There is one safe, sane, sure way to meet either kind of crisis. In taking it you discharge your duty to your country and to yourself. Take it to-day. Buy Victory Bonds. Buy all you can.

LEND TO CANADA.

TO SAVE SEED CORN

Straw May be Used Much More Freely for Idle Horses.

Vegetable and Root Crops Grown This Summer Must Be Carefully Stored to Prevent Loss—Proper Temperature Checks Decay—Sand Will Ensure Firm Vegetables.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

THE year 1917 provided, both in the United States and in Ontario, conditions very unfavorable for the production of good seed corn. Excess of moisture in the crop was followed by freezing and these conditions resulted in one of the worst seed corn years in a generation. As a result of this, much of the seed corn sown in Ontario in 1918 was, to say the least, of varieties that were late in maturing. A very high percentage of this corn which will be used for seed next year, now contains a large amount of moisture. To make this corn of the greatest value for seed purposes, it should be harvested, if possible, before heavy frost and thoroughly dried. Maturity is one of the essentials in producing good seed corn, but no less important is the thorough drying of the seed.

It is not even necessary for corn to be frozen to lose some of its vitality. It will deteriorate at ordinary temperatures if not well dried. When freezing occurs, greater loss in vitality is experienced. Corn which is harvested with an excess of moisture should be dried as rapidly as possible as this removes the danger of injury from moulding, fermenting and freezing. In the process of drying, a free circulation of air should be provided and, if necessary, artificial heat used. Seed corn can be most readily dried when stored in the ear.

Where the corn is well matured and is grown in large quantities, the corn-crib provides one of the most satisfactory drying mediums, as it supplies the best of air-circulation along with protection against storms and vermin.

A post in which a number of nails are driven at an angle of forty-five degrees, and the ears stuck on the protruding ends, provides a good medium for drying seed corn ears. These posts with a platform at the base may be readily removed to places where artificial heat can be used if necessary.

Where relatively small amounts of seed corn are used, selected ears may be hung up to dry in the attic, kitchen or furnace room.

Corn which has been thoroughly matured and thoroughly dried gives the highest percentage and most vigorous germination, but seed corn which has reached the dough or firm dough stage of maturity, when harvested, if well dried, usually makes good seed. When thoroughly dried and surrounded by a dry atmosphere, even zero weather will not injure the germination of seed corn. Prof. W. J. Squirell, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Straw for Idle Horses.

Straw is a feed very high in fibre and the horse's digestive system is not suited to the liberal use of this roughage. It is not a suitable feed for horses at hard work, but during the winter months may be used to advantage where hay is scarce, and particularly if a little grain is fed along with it. It is just a question whether it is more economical to feed good hay and no grain than it is to feed a percentage of bright straw and a ration of crushed oats. Only clean, bright straw should be used for horses and one or two feeds per day, replacing hay should be found advantageous under certain circumstances. We have seen horses wintered in good condition on oat straw and a light grain ration. If hay were available for a light feed once a day the other two feeds could be composed of straw, and less grain would be required, than where the entire roughage ration was straw. Oat straw makes the best feed, barley straw coming second and wheat and rye straw last. A few roots may be used to good advantage with the straw, and under no circumstances is it good policy to winter horses on straw without supplementing it with at least one or two light feeds of oats per day.—Prof. Wade Toole, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Hints on Harvesting Root Crops.

Root crops should be taken up before the weather becomes too wet and disagreeable in the fall if in any quantity. It is slow work at any time and becomes much more so under cold damp conditions. Lift the roots with a digging fork and twist off the tops, putting them in piles and covering with light tops. If a large area is to be lifted and one is expert with a sharp hoe he can very quickly remove the tops, but they will not keep quite as well. The roots should be ploughed out, throwing them as much as possible on the top. Bins with slatted sides at bottom should be used for storage where possible, as this gives the roots a chance to sweat. If the storage room temperature is above 40 degrees F. cover them with sand. Carrots should not be deeper than two feet in a bin, others may be four feet. Where cellar storage is not available use pits. These should be three feet wide, two or three feet high and of any length. Run the pits north and south where possible, and have them on well drained ground. Put a layer of straw on the ground and cover first with straw six inches deep, then six inches earth, and as frost gets harder cover with fresh straw manure. Have ventilations every 15 or 20 feet as all roots sweat in storage. These may be filled with straw during cold periods.

All roots should be as free from dirt as possible when put in storage. It is often advisable to leave a few days in small piles so that at the second lifting any adhering will be removed.—A. H. MacLennan, B.S.A., Ontario Vegetable Specialist.

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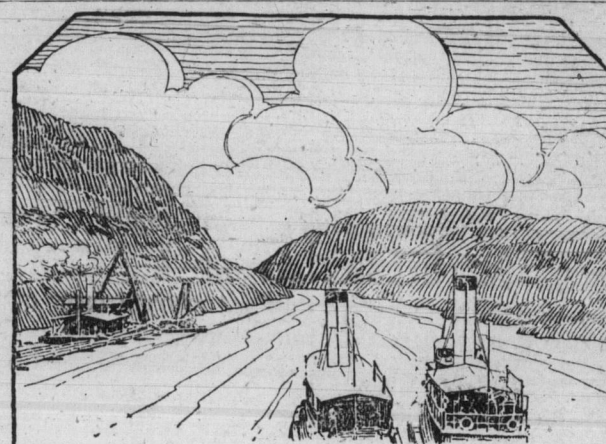
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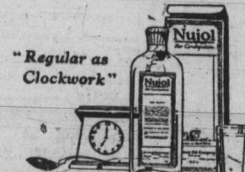
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