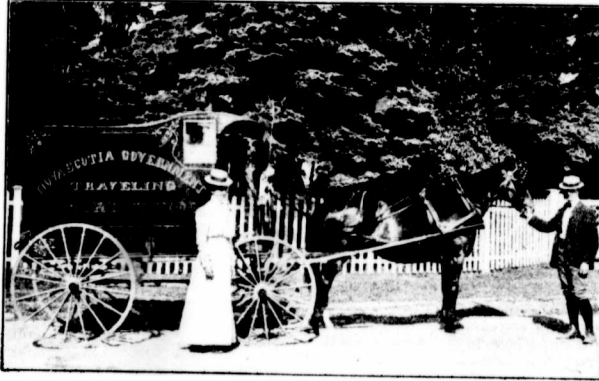


The New Era

Opportunities of the Present Day Farmer—Electric Railways, Rural Telephones, Etc.

These are the days when the farmer finds his buying powers increased, and this increase of buying powers means the possibility of comforts undreamed of on the farm of a generation ago. The farmer looking at life with a new confidence, is grasping at more of

such as good paving, cheap lighting, easy and good water supply. A great number of small conveniences, amounting in the aggregate to great comfort, arise from the extent to which division of labor can be pushed, the man who specializes upon an industry,



The Nova Scotia Travelling Dairy in charge of Miss Laura Rose, Guelph, Ont., who is starring by the wagon. See article by Miss Rose on page 284 September 10 issue of THE FARMING WORLD and in Farm Home Department this issue.

its good things. The advantages essential to life in the country have from time immemorial been his, and with the coming of the new wealth, aided by the advance of science, he is beginning to seize upon not a few of the advantages which from time immemorial have been regarded as peculiar to life in the city or the town.

The dwellers in towns have long enjoyed certain material comforts, which, on the whole, are due to the closeness of their houses. These advantages, until late years, have been quite beyond the reach of farmers, who live scattered over the face of the country, and persons who are not alive to certain great changes wrought by recent developments of science are apt hastily to conclude that the difficulty of distance is still insuperable. But no small portion of modern inventions have been directed towards the annihilation of distance, and modern society is equally fertile in expedients to use and supplement the triumphs of science in this direction. The farmer has, during the past quarter of a century made strikingly bold use of modern mechanical improvements in the form of labor-saving machinery. It is now time for him to see what use can be made in his home-life of trouble-saving, distance-destroying, comfort-bringing devices, whether mechanical, scientific or social.

Living in close proximity has enabled townsmen to acquire a number of great public conveniences,

naturally doing his work better than the Jack-of-all-trades. For instance the average city or town house has been built by a man who is more or less of an expert in house-planning. The close proximity of shop and house, again, greatly lightens the labor of living, which principally falls upon the



The Nova Scotia Travelling Dairy at work in Cape Breton.

women. There are the thousand and one conveniences, such as the daily mail, the newspaper, the keeping in touch with the great world.

A number of these advantages can be seized upon by the farmer of to-day. Division of labor will make its appearance with increased wealth. The farmer who builds

a house in these times need not, as his father was forced to, do the planning of it himself, or leave it to the carpenter. A house has to be lived in, and the misplacing of a door will mean thousands of needless footsteps in the course of a life; the architect whose business it is to plan houses, may surely be consulted when a new dwelling is to be erected. And it may be as well for the farmer to recollect that, as his work lies in the fields and barns, his wife's lies within the four walls of the house, and that an awkward arrangement means as much toil and nuisance to her as the cutting off by a railway of a corner of his farm does to him. A scientifically planned dwelling would reduce by one half the labor needed to keep a house in one of clumsy arrangement. From the milk pan to the barn all the appliances of a farm are scientifically constructed. Why not the house, in which all the household lives and in which half of the household works?

The closeness of shop and house, again, is an advantage of the town to-day quite within the reach of many wealthy farming regions. For one thing, the extension of the electric railway system, which seems but to be beginning, promises a means of rapid communication with city and town. Apart from its economic services, it should enable thousands of farmers and their families to gain access to the shop more quickly and more easily than before. Already there are districts of Ontario where farmers or villagers twenty miles away from a city can attend an unusually good opera, play, or lecture, or an important meeting, by arranging in sufficient numbers for a "late car." People with this new service at

their disposal occupy the position of dwellers in the suburbs, rather than of rural residents of the older and accepted type.

For the electric railway the farmer is dependent upon many considerations, such as his proximity to the highroad served by it, and the disposition of the capital-