

the good, hard common sense of his better half. The fact that a man may recognize that his wife has the ability to do something of the sort does not in any respect detract from his own greatness. If he loves to feed his vanity, let him add another feather to his cap, for he has earned it. To recognize talent and utilize it in compelling success is a desirable trait. The millionaire in oil and steel has done it; so has many a prime minister in forming his official family. After all two heads are better than one. Why not make it a fundamental principle in farm management? "Oh," says Jones, "but my wife gets a stated amount each month to do with as she pleases." Good intentions, no doubt, but no partner will stand for it. It smacks of the way that servants are paid. Partners on an equal footing should have enough confidence in each other's judgment not to ask any questions about small amounts. The pocket book should always be opened to either. If \$5.00 is taken out, he or she should make an entry to that effect in the cash book. In case of large sums talk it over as partners should. Important particulars call for consultation. That's my platform.

Of course, there will be kickers. But did it ever occur to these gentry to figure out how much a man would amount to if he attempted to work out-of-doors and attend to his own home? Let such a one try it. Get generous for once, and persuade your wife to take that long promised holiday for say a month. Then get busy and note the results. If I mistake not, Robinson Crusoe marooned on his desert island will seem like a picnic compared to your troubles. The demonstration will probably be an eye-opener, however.

But you say too free a hand will make her extravagant. Will she be more of a spendthrift than yourself? She has probably heard you preaching about hard times simultaneously with the purchase of various labor-saving devices. Naturally, she gets an idea that you are not so poverty stricken as you would have her believe, and accordingly begins a campaign for a few needed appliances that will lighten her work. If there is really a tendency to overstep there is likewise a remedy, but for goodness sake see that the drawing-in process is extended to your end of the business as well as to hers. In cases of this nature the man is usually to blame. He hangs on to the secret of his financial status with so determined a grip that the wife is often in total ignorance of his real income. By loosening up a little she will know the true state of affairs—just what you are making and what she can afford to spend. This is the viewpoint of the partner. There is no better check to extravagance.

Some farmers' wives have what money they can make out of the butter and chickens as their personal rake-off. They have, in fact, to operate a little side-show of their own in order to secure "pin money." The chickens and butter are all right; they can, perhaps, do this work better than anyone else, and so help along, but it is not an equal partnership. All side-show proceeds ought to go into the general fund, and the necessary cash drawn therefrom. I have known some farmers to pile up large bank accounts, while their wives rather than humble themselves to ask for what was really theirs would gladly add this butter-and-egg combination to a round of already over-crowded duties.

Admittance to a full partnership is a necessity if the wife is to do her best work in her own special sphere. Washing dishes, sweeping and cooking three hundred and sixty-five days a year is the essence of monotony. It is a domestic treadmill, the ceaseless grind of which, slowly but surely wears away the strongest nature. With the farmer, himself, there are constant changes. He plows and sows and reaps. His work takes him here and there about the farm, to town, the blacksmith shop, the mill or the store. He sees new faces and new scenery. In variety he obtains rest and recreation. Were the wife a partner in reality the varied interests of farm management would be transmitted into her life. Consultations on business matters would serve as a tonic and result physically, mentally and financially to the benefit of the firm. AGRICOLA



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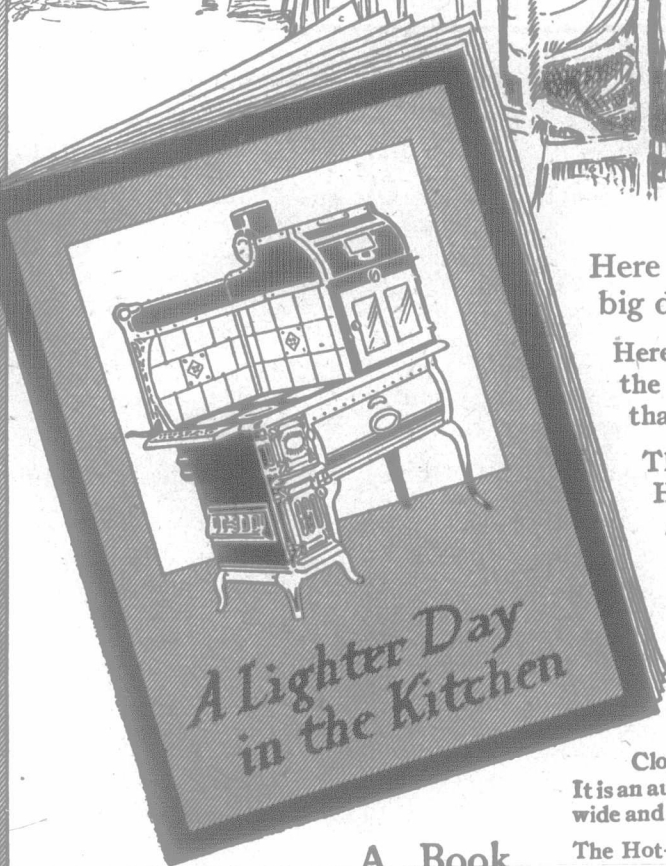
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