

woman risk her happiness and self-respect by adopting underhand means to secure the desired object, or concealing purchases from her husband. Better stand a few harsh words than to destroy all chance of trust between you. After all, each family must arrange these things according to its own circumstances, and, while it may not be always possible for the wife to carry her own purse, there can always be a good understanding, so that she need not feel like a beggar when called upon to ask for money.

MIXED FARMING.

F. H. STANDING, Burford, Ont.

Mixed farming cannot be advocated under all circumstances. It depends upon certain conditions. It depends upon the quality of the soil, the distance from market, the demands of the market, and upon the capital of the farmer in question.

If a farmer's lands are flat and low, it may pay him best to go extensively into stock raising and dairying, as it would be impossible to raise the ordinary kinds of grain and vegetables which generally require a warmer and dryer soil. I have sometimes seen farmers year after year attempt to grow oats and sometimes other kinds of grain on very low fields, and perhaps they succeed one year in five if it happens to be a particularly dry season. These fields should be drained if possible, but, if not, it is a great waste of time to be plowing and cultivating and reaping year after year and getting very little more than the seed back. It should be remembered that it takes just as much work to get five bushels to the acre on such land as forty bushels on good land, and perhaps more, because where the grain does not grow the weeds will. Such land is better to be kept seeded down and used for pasture or hay, and there will not only be a larger return, but less trouble and expense.

Again, a man may live near a city, and, if his soil is suitable, he may with advantage go into market gardening or some special line that meets with ready sale, and keep his land fertilized with manures from the city. Of course, it depends on the size of the town how many can do this, because when we get down to gardening, land well manured may be made to produce great quantities of food, and overproduction in any line will soon bring the price down below a paying basis.

It is said that in France and Holland a farmer living on two acres of land not only produces enough for himself and family, but has something to lay by for old age. This may seem like getting things down fine, but it shows what can be done, and if a man's capital is small he can invest in a small farm and if he works it well he will have no trouble in keeping himself busy. But in this country land is plentiful and not very high in price and in most cases it probably pays us better to work a fair-sized farm, even though we rent it, rather than buy too small a one.

With the exceptions already referred to, farmers should as a principle either all go into special branches of farming or all go into mixed farming. And under circumstances under which the great majority of farmers find them-

selves, a system of mixed farming has very decided advantages over special lines. It is often advanced as an argument that a man going into a special branch can become more proficient than one having a number of things to look after. This may be true to a certain extent, but farmers as a class are at least as intelligent as men in other kinds of business, and a man who has the elements of success in him for a special branch is likely, with the extra advantages he will obtain, to make a greater success of mixed farming, providing he make a proper study of it. A man will not make a success in any business or profession unless he make a study of it.

The advantages of mixed farming are many. It is a well-known botanical fact that any certain kind of plant or grain requires food from the soil, and that different kinds of plants use to a large extent different elements of food for their nourishment. Therefore it will easily be seen that if only one kind of crop be grown for a number of years the soil will become impoverished, at least for that particular crop, while the chemicals that might be furnishing food for other crops will be going to waste. For instance, while with a good coat of manure we might scarcely be able to get two good crops of wheat grown consecutively, yet by following wheat with two or three other kinds of grain and a crop of clover, we can grow a second crop of wheat and so on for a number of years.

During the interval between the two crops of wheat the land was being replenished with fresh food material. This is done partly by the rains dissolving the ammonia and other gases from the air and washing them down into the earth, and partly by the action of plants, particularly the clover in drawing, both from the air by means of its leaves and from the subsoil by means of its long root and storing near the surface. For this reason clover is a very valuable crop to grow. It not only yields a good return in the shape of fodder, but leaves a large surplus of food suitable for other crops in its roots which can be plowed as soon as the crop is off.

It is hard to fix any hard and fast rule in regard to the proper rotation of crops. It is desirable to grow wheat immediately after clover, but it is sometimes difficult to get a catch of clover on a spring crop on account of the ground being too dry on top to sprout the seed, while by sowing on wheat early in the spring the catch is generally good. Therefore, as clover is generally recognized as one of the best of fertilizers and almost an essential to successful farming, we may have to arrange the rotation differently from what we would like. Neither is the same rotation always possible, because we cannot always grow the same number of acres of one commodity that we do of another. While it is well to have as large a variety as possible we have to watch the demands of the market and grow those which will meet with the most ready sale and bring in the largest margin of profit.

Some of the coarser grains and root crops, such as turnips and mangolds, can be fed on the place, as a reasonable number of beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and hogs can generally be handled with advantage. In fact it is necessary to keep enough stock on

hand to work the hay and straw into manure because if these were sold the farm would soon become impoverished. There is also a large amount of pasture and grain left on the fields after haying and harvest which unless gathered by the stock would otherwise be lost. If we raise the cattle and the feed why should we not sell the finished product ourselves rather than ship store cattle and then ship the grain, roots and hay after them, as is very often done. There would be a great economy in the cost of freightage as well as in keeping the manure on the place if these cattle were fed at home. The most suitable ones might be selected for dairy purposes and the rest after being properly fattened could then be shipped at very little expense compared with both cattle and feed. There is, perhaps, a more uniform market for dairy produce than for beef, but in the case of the former it is better to have the milk sent to cheese factories or creameries, if there are any near, on account of the better facilities for handling, and the likelihood of getting a more uniform article in grade and color.

The keeping of poultry is also an important factor on a well-conducted farm. To get the best results poultry, like everything else, require considerable attention, but the eggs which they will produce in return will make a material increase in the farmer's income as well as an additional delicacy for his own table. Poultry should not be left entirely to their own resources in regard to food. They are good workers, and will see that nothing suitable to their need goes to waste around them, thereby lessening the cost of their maintenance.

Bee keeping requires a great deal of study to know how to handle the bees and keep them in good condition, but if one has time to keep a watch on them during the swarming period this branch may very well be added. Although there is some expense about the hives the honey itself costs absolutely nothing, as it is gathered from the crops which are grown by the farmer, and instead of detracting from the value of the crops bees are of great value in fertilizing plants. This is particularly noticeable in the case of fruit trees. Sometimes the blossoms of one tree are all of one sex, and to produce fruit these must be fertilized by the pollen from those of another tree. If both kinds are on the same tree the wind may do a great deal towards carrying the pollen, but when on different ones it depends almost entirely upon the work of the bees and insects.

Now while it is advisable to grow crops in rotation it is also advisable to have the farm divided up into fields and grow all the varieties in the same year. This will keep the farmer constantly in seed and give him all the food necessary for his stock as well as for his family. It may also save him from financial embarrassment which might occur through the failure of the one crop upon which he was depending. The same argument holds good in going exclusively into the feeding of stock. If we buy all the feed and the price of stock goes below a certain figure we may be heavy losers, and a good many farmers are not in a position to meet with a reverse of this kind, although the average year may

bring in a fair profit. A man would at least need to have a larger capital so as to be prepared for such an emergency. And if any particular branch of farming pays well enough for a man to go exclusively into that branch it only proves that farmers as a class have not kept their eyes open to the demands of the market or they would have kept the balance by each one extending a little more into that branch.

Another thing deserving attention is that, in mixed farming, one can work almost the whole year doing one thing at a time and at the proper time and without being particularly overcrowded. This is quite important, as you can hire the necessary staff of men for the entire season at season's wages instead of getting a number of men for a few days at a time and paying high wages. Sometimes it is impossible to get extra men in a busy time. Or, in the case of dairy cattle being too much in evidence, it might require a number of men to get the feeding and milking done at the proper time while they would have very little to do the rest of the day. This would, of course, be the case more in summer than in winter.

In going into a special branch there is also the cost of handling and freightage to be considered. If we do not raise everything necessary to our business we must buy from others, and the added cost is sometimes considerable. Every time any article or commodity is handled somebody expects to make a profit, and if it is handled two or three times it increases the price very fast. For instance, if one man sells to another and makes a certain profit the second man not only wants a percentage of profit on the first cost of the article but also on the first man's profit, thereby compounding the price the same as in compound interest. This point is particularly noticeable in the case of dutiable goods, where sometimes 30 or 40 per cent. is charged, and then you pay the importer his profit on the duty as well as on the invoice price. In mixed farming speculation is reduced to a minimum. We have several strings to our bow. If one thing fails we have a number of others to fall back upon. There are no obligations to meet which can not be calculated pretty accurately at the beginning of the year.

A farmer can keep a good table at less cost than anyone else. He can keep an orchard with all kinds of fruit, a garden with all kinds of vegetables, in fact anything that can be grown he may have it fresh at his own door and at the actual cost of production. The farmer's occupation, although it contains a good deal of hard work and some drawbacks, is generally free and healthful and perhaps the most independent of any. There is no machine work such as is generally found in a shop where the operators have to do one thing all the time. The work is constantly changing, making it more interesting and less tiresome. Situations are constantly varying, giving plenty of scope for study and judgment as to the best method to be used in each particular case.

These things are important because, while we are all after money and want to make it as fast as we can, we do not want to leave all our enjoyment until the last ten years of life, but have some of the good things as we go along.