

The Bachelor and His Problem

CONCERNING MENDING AND WASHING

After a few weeks homestead life the bachelor is surprised to find some small triangular tears in his clothes, if he investigates their cause he will discover that his barb wire fence is responsible for the ragged state of his garments. No matter how careful he may be, in some mysterious manner these holes continue to appear. They are one of the banes of a bachelor's existence. Even a pair of overalls do not overcome the difficulty, although they are to be strongly recommended for the protection they afford to the garments that are worn beneath them.

Some men are content to allow the damage to remain without attention, but those who believe in the maxim "a stitch in time saves nine" endeavor to counteract the evil as much as possible by taking it in its early stages and making as presentable a mend as possible. The clumsy, puckered results so often obtained would be laughable indeed did we not feel pity and sympathy for the unfortunate who is compelled to darn his own pants.

A plan that is to be commended is to offer to some old lady living on a neighboring quarter a certain amount of money, within certain dates, to attend to all the clothes that need attention. If this plan can be followed, then the bachelor has banished one of his problems in an efficacious and satisfactory manner, provided he has no trouble with the old lady. An even superior method would be to become on friendly terms with some engaging person of the opposite sex and then gently hint at the desirability of some kind friend overhauling a wardrobe so dilapidated as to be like every other bachelor's in the West.

Some must do their own mending and these we would warn against a very common mistake with men. It is best described by relating the experience of a "Greenhorn" whom we shall call Tom Jones. Tom had a high opinion of his own abilities, so when he came "out West" he determined to show the "natives" how a man can be independent of womanly aid. Yet he appreciated the fairer sex for every Sunday morning his buggy might be seen calling regularly at the home of a certain young lady.

On one occasion, whilst carrying the milk to the house (it happened to be Sunday) he fell and burst the knee of a certain garment. Following the common custom of bachelors he had laid in bed a little longer than usual, which left him little time to prepare for his weekly outing. In mad haste he rushed for the house, removed the offending garment and started in on repairs. After an hour's steady laborious sewing he had managed to draw the gaping ends together. With feverish speed he started to climb into his clothes once more, only to find a sudden obstruction half-way down the leg. Investigation proved that he had sewn both ends of his clothes together. The sequel of this touching tale must be supplied by the imagination of the reader, as the writer did not linger any longer round Tom's shack when he discovered his mistake.

Button sewing has, to a certain extent, been done away with on the introduction of the "bachelor's button," yet even this would not suffer if a few additional improvements were made. However, it is superior to a nail, or piece of stick in holding clothes together. A fortune awaits the man who can invent some sort of button that, when being sewn on, does not viciously jab the needle into the hand of the unsuspecting man who is inoffensively trying to improve the "shutting apparatus" of his shirt.

A pin cushion with needles already threaded will prove a boon to the bachelor, as will also an arrangement simply made, to contain spools of various colors and quantities of thread. It being only a piece of 1/4" board, covered neatly with colored cloth and provided with ribbons, for hanging purposes. Into this are driven some half-dozen nails to serve as support for the spools, the holes in which act as a means of affixing these nails.

Darning socks is easy after it is properly learnt. A piece of shaped wood placed inside the sock makes the operation of darning simpler, and leaves freer scope to the hands. If one sees somebody else darn and closely watch the method, no difficulty will be then experienced even by the tyro. As has been recommended in a previous article, one day each week should be set apart for baking, mending and washing. If the washing is conducted every week regularly and systematically, it will be so insignificant as not to cause any inconvenience, but woe betide the man who leaves his to accumulate for a considerable length of time, then he will wonder how washing can be such dreadfully hard work.

The labor can be lessened by steeping the clothes overnight. Take some good laundry soap, soak the garments and rub well with the soap, roll them up as tightly as possible, procure a wooden tub or pail and pack in the rolled up clothes as closely as they can be. Fill the pail or tub with soft water. The water need not be warm. Socks and flannels should never receive this treatment, but be retained on one side till the close of the washing. Next morning the "washing" that has been soaking should be unrolled and placed in a washtub of boiling water and opened up. After thoroughly saturating one may proceed to wash in the usual manner, using frequent changes of water till they are clean. It is essential that the water should be soft. Retain the soapy suds in which the socks and flannels are to be washed. Never on any account use hot water for woolen clothing.

A washboard is a paying investment, even if one has not many soiled clothes each week. The profanity and bad temper that it prevents makes it an inestimable boon to the bachelor.

Floor scrubbing is considered by many to be such a nuisance that it is often evaded to such an extent as to make existence a perfect misery. The accumulation of dust in a shack is certainly startling and causes great wonderment on the part of the owner as to its origin. To merely sweep the floor each morning is not sufficient to banish dust, an occasional scrubbing of the floors will repay the industrious person whose desire it is to have a healthy and cleanly home. If linoleum is laid upon the floors the labor of house-cleaning will be considerably lessened, the chief objective to this is the added expense that it entails.

Every man can be his own cobbler and so save an outlay in that direction. An outfit called "Awl-U-Want" and also a last will fit a man up so that he can half-sole and mend his own shoes and perhaps make a little extra cash in the evenings doing the same for his neighbor who is not so capable, or who has not the inclination of doing such work.

Alta.

LOUIS C. BELROSE.

Batching Experience

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Looking back on a period of ten years spent batching I can truthfully say that some of the most pleasant years of my life were in that period. I always batched for a purpose and not from inclination, but always being more or less of an observant nature, I noticed that if a man married, and was not blessed with some of this world's goods, married life, especially if misfortune and sickness came along, was a very serious grind both for the man and woman. However, when I did change, I was fortunate enough to get a prize and of course it would now, after a number of years of married life, be impossible to return with any comfort to batching.

I found that batching was like every thing else if you started in the right way it worked along quite smoothly, at least it did with me, and also with some of my chums. Then again, of all the miserable failures, it has been my lot to see some of the worst, no order, no system, dust and dirt everywhere and I am sorry to say the latter class was the most numerous, and as soon as they got their patent the greater portion of them either sold out or quit disgusted.

My shack was 10 feet by 12 feet, 8 feet in front and 6 feet behind. I found that for all purposes it was sufficient in size and comfort for what it was intended, a make-shift. After using it for a few years, I put up a larger and more commodious house but I found not so much comfort in that as in my small shanty. Now reader, just imagine for a day or two, that you are I, and I am some one else, and I will in as few words as possible give you my mode of procedure.

At 9.45 at night, after we will say, a day spent at haying, get ready for bed, put water in the kettle, make kindling and have fire wood ready for morning; put the cat out and jump into bed and in a few moments you will be lost to everything; six to six-thirty next morning get up, light fire, put kettle on, go out and attend to the team, come back and put your rolled oats on as water is generally boiling; leave it on stove and go and milk the cow. Back to breakfast and while finishing getting it ready, put your supply of bread for the day in the oven. On an average, I used two pie plates of either sour milk and soda, or baking powder, generally the former, as it is so much sweeter and by eight, or a few minutes before, you should be ready to start work. Work until twelve or twelve-thirty and in to dinner. (I never worked after seven). I usually cooked up a supply of fruit, potatoes, pudding, etc., and so when I came in to dinner had only to make tea and cook a piece of meat or eggs. I was soon seated enjoying myself and generally by two was ready for a full afternoon till seven. After supper I washed up the three sets of dishes, cooked, read, or did a few odd jobs. Sunday morning I generally took a bath and put everything straight and clean, went to church, fishing, or over to see a neighbor and passed the day as pleasantly as I could.

The whole secret of batching as far as I could find out was the grub supply and the only way when busy was, when you were eating one meal to be sure that you had a sufficient supply on hand of the main thing for the next meal, as bread, fruit, cake, etc take just about the time you are eating to cook, and so by taking this way very little time is lost, for I have timed myself a number of times and I found fifteen minutes was time enough to make tea and put a good meal on the table.

One word more before I close. In the winter or slack time, chop up a good supply of wood, for I would not advise anyone to attempt the above who, when a quick meal is wanted, find they have only green or half dried wood on hand to do it with.

Now reader, I will go back with your permission, to my little girl and with you bachelors all "good luck."

Alta.

CONTENTED

Wealth and Waste

I notice Mr. Trafford again contributes to the above mentioned subject, ending his remarks with doggerel rhyme, seemingly to me, the output of some of the ingenious tribe of Chamberlain tariff reformers whose policy would, if allowed by the electorate of Great Britain, land them in worse trouble than the masses of the people suffered during the first half of the nineteenth century under protection. When free trade was in the air at the latter part of that period, there was a noted rhymist, a Sheffield man, and he rhymed to some purpose and with truth, but the so-called tariff reformers of the present period do not rhyme with truth, re tariff reform. I may just mention that the late W. E. Gladstone was a tariff reformer, a real one, he abolished duties and reduced them wholesale, and it seemed as if the more he had taken off or abolished, the greater his surpluses. Why? because there were fewer barriers to trade and commerce, the more he gave the more he received. But it is the reverse with the Chamberlain party. Truth is before anything else, protection duties upon the necessities of life, save and except for revenue purposes, is dishonest, and getting to the bottom of the matter, is, that duties upon articles of necessity are intended to discourage their importation in order that the home producer gets a fictitious value and the monopoly of the home market. That is the object aimed at by the selfish—or to be charitable—"ignorant"—classes of the United States, Germany, France, and some other countries.

But someone may say "The workers in the United States earn higher wages!" Yes; but that country is a self-containing one, a world in itself, and there is free trade between its numerous States, some as large as other kingdoms! so it is not comparable with Great Britain in that respect. But look at protection in Germany and France! How do the workers there compare with the masses of Great Britain as regards wages? Their earnings are considerably less and the purchasing power of their earnings is less also, as Lord Avebury, — one of the cleverest and most experienced men in England — recently said (in a speech at Queens Hall, London) "Free trade is the sheet anchor of our commerce," also "that during the last ten years the exports of France had increased in value £80,000,000, but the British exports had increased £170,000,000," also "British exports were £17,000,000 more than the United States and £45,000,000 more than Germany. Under free trade, British capital has not only exploited industry at home, but it has also helped to build up the Empire abroad, and the return is the food supplies and raw material, without which the industrial system could not be maintained."

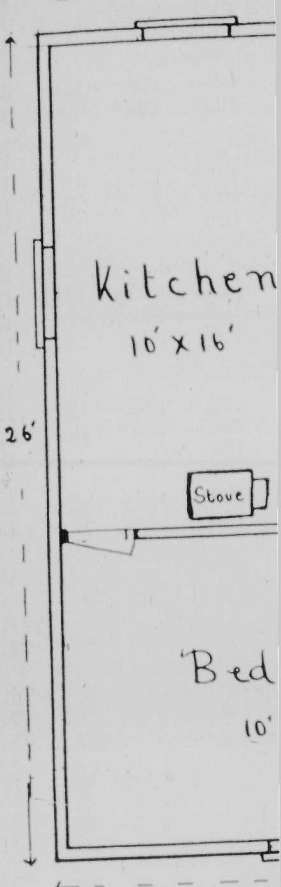
Mr. Trafford refers to the English laborer as getting but £1 per week. Well, all English country laborers do not earn that much, but at that he would be one of the best paid laborers in the world, as good men are generally in work all the year round and often cottage and garden found. He generally has an allotment of ground near the village and if he rents his cottage it would be 9d. or 1s. per week. I do not think the town laborer is quite so well off although men desert the country for towns for a few shillings per week more wages. I would not have written upon this but Mr. Trafford mentioned the English country laborers wages, though he omitted about beer. 99 per cent. of them and over, will have their beer; they expect a couple of pints of beer—or rather ale as it is called here—per day, or more, but allow me to inform Mr. Trafford and others, they are no spirit drinkers. Thousands have never tasted spiritous liquors, but drink ale every day, and are steady, sober and industrious.

But I prefer to write upon free trade and protection in general and may add that under protection many years ago, that the wages of the English farm laborer was only about eight shillings per week, with bread always 50 to 100 per cent. higher than he now pays for it, also groceries over double the price; and as the British Prime Minister recently remarked "free trade has given us a higher standard in regard to wages and hours of labor," also "It has enabled us to develop from these islands the fabric and resources of the British Empire. It has made our marine, and our capital the clearing house of the world's financial transactions, and last—but not least,—by excluding from our politics the sinister and illegitimate pressure of selfish forces, and artificially fostered and manipulated interests, it has maintained the purity of our public life. That is what free trade has done for us. That is what tariff reform threatens to put into jeopardy. But I do not say that free trade is in danger. I do not think it is. The assault can be repelled as it's been repelled before, but there is the responsibility of driving back the most formidable attack levelled in this generation."

I would prefer to show Mr. Trafford and others how protective duties hinder agriculture in a country like Canada, especially, which I will endeavor to do in another article, but at present reminding protectionists that free exchange is a natural right and that the curtailment of individual liberty is a wrong, as long as a man does not harm his neighbor. The special advantages which protection gives one man, if a barrier were placed against others in favor of him, who, either through selfishness or ignorance or both, fails to see that other trades and interests all round would clamor for protection likewise, ending in the fact that he would be worse off than

A More Pretentious

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A LITTLE BETTER THAN T

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