

Country versus Town Life.

REFLECTIONS FOR FARMERS' DAUGHTERS.

Among all the positions that women occupy outside of domestic life, most of them are in some way connected with the towns. Every situation there available is crowded to the utmost. Shops, factories, offices, etc., are filled to overflowing, and wages are consequently low, so that many can only make a very precarious living. Still they prefer the town.

We hear very little of the life and occupations of women who live in the country, and they seem to fill a position of little importance. We hear it said that the life of a farmer's wife is narrow and contracted and one of great drudgery. This may be true to a certain extent, but it is not necessarily so. In reality, her position is one of great importance in relation to the progress and advancement of our country; not only in being a manufacturer and producer, but more especially in bringing up her boys and girls to be useful, patriotic workers; and unless parents will try to foster a love of country life in their children and teach them the true nobility of agriculture, that it is not degrading, and need not lower them in the social scale—a contemptible idea that exists in the minds of many of our young people—they will still seek to find situations in the towns and cities, the idea being that they can dress more elaborately and have a better time generally, with less work to do; and if this is to be the spirit of the age, I fear our country's progress will be slow. By leaving the farms they are depriving the country of a certain amount of wealth, as in most cases they cease to become producers. Time and money are spent in their education, and every evidence goes to show that the education of to-day is giving country children a distaste for farm work. It is time agriculture was introduced into the curriculum of their studies, and also the rudiments of hygienic cooking might be taught the girls without serious damage. But it rests with the parents greatly to develop in their children a love for the land and an ambition to become successful farmers. In England, at the present day, the nobility shrink from manufactures and trades, but hold agriculture in the greatest honor. Earls, dukes, and even princes cultivate land and preside at agricultural festivals, and our Queen competes for prizes at agricultural exhibitions, and has her table supplied with butter from her own dairy, which she takes a personal interest in. Then why should so many of our young people despise farming, or at least show their distaste for it by leaving the country. The girls, just when they most need their mother's care and she their help, must seek some position in town, and the unhealthy conditions that many of them are exposed to in crowded workrooms, offices, etc., is lowering the standard of health amongst the women of to-day. Also, domestic tastes are undeveloped, for how is a girl who works in a shop or factory, or teaches school all day, to learn anything of housekeeping, and if she marries, what sort of a home will she keep? In the country she can at least develop a healthy physique, and has a better opportunity of studying the art of home-making. There is plenty of profitable work to do on the farm. Take dairying, for instance. Here is an industry that can bring wealth to our country, and at present is not much past its infancy. The foreign markets open to us are unlimited, if we were supplying the best grade of butter, instead of being second, third and sometimes fourth on the British market. Denmark supplies the best quality, and there the butter is made by the women almost entirely. They operate the creameries, tend to the cows, do the milking and all the work connected with the dairy. England purchases \$3,000,000 worth of butter from this small country yearly. If Canada were to produce as much in proportion to her size, England might butter her bread on both sides. Why do not more of our young women take hold of this and other farm work with more spirit and energy? Is it because they do not realize the possibilities of profit and honor that it will bring them?

Every Canadian—man, woman and child—should have a patriotic feeling in connection with their work, and not only labor for their own good, but for their country's honor as well, and with such a country of natural wealth as ours, Canada should stand at the head of all the colonies. It will pay every farmer to see that one of his daughters takes a course in dairying at a proper school of instruction, and for another to learn plain and economical cooking, for much of our health and prosperity depends upon the latter. A course in either of these can be learned in twelve weeks, and the expense will be trifling compared with the knowledge gained. Last season only twenty-five young women took the home-dairying course at the O. A. C., Guelph, which clearly shows that an interest has not yet taken hold of Canadian women to excel in this line of work.

In poultry-raising, beekeeping, horticulture and gardening there is intelligent and profitable employment for every member of the family, so that few need seek the cities. There are always some whom nature has particularly adapted to fill high positions, and these must gravitate to the busy cities.

Is there any life more wholesome, independent, or comfortable for people of moderate wants, than can be experienced on a good Canadian farm?

Huron Co., Ont.

COUNTRY WOMAN.

Experience with Commercial Fertilizer—More Light Wanted.

SIR,—The recent letters in the ADVOCATE on artificial fertilizers have furnished some valuable thoughts for study, and have given rise to some important questions that yet need settling. James Todd, in your issue of May 1st, gave his experience in using bone and potash at \$45 per ton, that using this fertilizer paid, and if it did pay the question arises, Which constituent in a fertilizer is it that deserves most credit for the increase in grain or crop, the nitrogen, potash or phosphoric acid? Secondly: If the soil is only in need of one or less than the three constituents, which are the constituents required? Third: If the need of the soil is known, are artificial fertilizers at \$30 to \$50 per ton the only means of supplying, or can the farmer largely supply his own needs? I have not yet settled these questions for myself, except to the extent of using barnyard manure, which supplies all three constituents—nitrogen, potash, and phosphoric acid. But does stable or barnyard manure in itself supply these constituents, in a properly balanced form, for the maximum production of a crop?

I have learned that phosphoric acid is a constituent that goes more directly to the production of grain than potash, and that both manure and soils are very deficient in it. I have therefore sought to experiment a little along this line.

Last spring I bought three tons of Thomas-Phosphate powder, of which there are large quantities being used around here. It was very late when I got it, however, for I did not sow some of it till after the middle of June, although I understand now that it can be sown in the fall or winter without loss, and better results are insured. I cannot feel, therefore, that I have got the fullest benefit from its use in one season, for I learn that on account of its solubility only to the roots of the plants it lasts some four years. I give, however, the following approximate results I got on a field of peas:

About June 15th I sowed six acres of peas on stiff clay land, upon four acres of which I sowed about 200 lbs. of Thomas-Phosphate powder per acre. On the two acres without the phosphate, but which was new and pastured land, I realized \$3 an acre profit, while on the four acres with phosphate the profit was \$13.10 per acre (valuing the peas at 60c. per bushel), and had about twice the amount of straw per acre. The season was not a favorable one for peas, and we suffered much from dry weather. I followed the peas with fall wheat, and here again I saw a good result from the phosphate. The wheat, however, on the old land was fully three inches higher than on the new land.

I shall watch future results with much interest, and trust others will continue to give their experiences and observations on this important question of manuring, and shall conclude with the question, Is phosphoric acid the greatest present need of the soil?

W. J. TUMELTY.

Hastings Co., Ont.

[NOTE.—Mr. Tumelty is certainly in a fair way to learn some of the facts about manuring he wishes to know, as it is only when we feel a desire for something that we go after it. We would suggest to Mr. Tumelty and any others who wish to know the peculiar needs of their soil, that they do a little experimenting each season upon strips or plots of their farms with special manures, such as nitrate of soda, muriate of potash, superphosphate, and mixtures of the three. An application of well-mixed yard manure could also with advantage be tried on an adjoining plot. If tests of this sort were made year by year on even a very limited scale, there is no doubt but that many valuable facts as to the needs of soils and comparative values of different manurial constituents would soon be made known.—ED. F. A.]

Practical Clover Harvesting.

SIR,—Considering the way in which some, or many, people handle clover, how it is left until too ripe before being cut—blossoms dead and leaves turned yellow with brown spots—and how after it is cut it is allowed to become crackling dry before it is raked (some making a point of cutting on Saturday afternoon, if possible, so that it has all Sunday to dry, besides getting the advantage of two nights' dew), it is no wonder that you in the June 1st issue advocate so strongly early cutting and quick curing. Yet I think that if your readers were to take your advice in regard to the curing of clover literally, they would err on the other side. You say that usually in hot weather, clover cut in the morning can be put in cock the same evening. If instead of the word usually you had said occasionally it would have been nearer the fact. Sometimes, certainly, it is possible, especially if it is not green, to rake and cock clover the same day as cut; but when that is the case people think it is worth talking about. Again, as I take it, you say that clover can be put in cock one day and hauled in the next. Isn't that a little too soon? If clover has been put up in good condition (that is, with the color still fresh, and before it is rustling dry), two days in cock is usually short enough. Indeed, if it is put up too green it will not all dry out in a week except it is turned over. You will please excuse the fault-finding tone of my remarks, as I am not writing thus from a desire to criticise, but because, while I endorse most heartily what you say about the loss of color and flavor from undue exposure to dew, etc., and the wisdom of curing as quickly as

possible, I really think your advice, if followed, would result in musty hay. I remember that one year, long ago, my father's too literal application of what he had read had that result. There is no need to be alarmed over an ordinary shower. If clover has been put up while still a little tough, and properly put up, it will shed an ordinary rain very well. "Properly put up!" Let me tell you how it should not be and then how it should be done.

How It Should Not be, of course, the common way. Take your fork, stab it into the windrow, and pull to one side until there is a decided crook in the row, about a third of a circle; then complete the circle by throwing ends on either side around,



CROSS-SECTION HAYCOCK AS IT SHOULD BE.



CROSS-SECTION HAYCOCK IMPROPERLY MADE.

and you have the foundation. As we all know, a good foundation is very important in any structure. Now on with a big forkful, after you have rolled it up, and fill up the hole in the middle; another on top of that a little less, and so on, the last forkful least of all, and you have a haycock which looks all right, but which will neither dry out well nor turn rain.

How It Should Be Done.—Take a small forkful and place it where the haycock is to be; then even-sized forkfuls after that, each one lifted clear off the ground. No rolling up. If you can turn each forkful over in putting it on, so much the better. Anyway, keep level and solid. Let the last forkful before being put on be shaken up a little, and about the same size as the rest. A haycock put up in this way will allow the wind to pass through almost to the ground, and when settled the sides will droop all around, thus fitting it to turn rain. Let me emphasize the essential difference in the two styles. The one has a wide foundation, and gradually lessens to the top. The other has a small foundation, and even-sized forkfuls to the end.

THOS. BATY.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

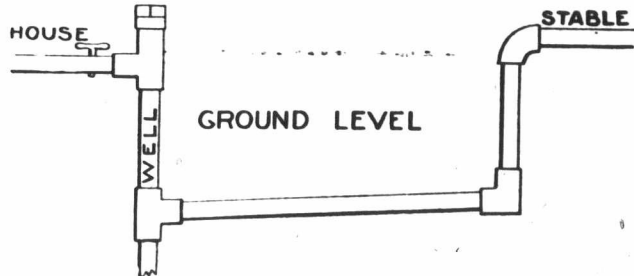
Teaching Agriculture.

[From the Toronto Globe.]

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE, referring to the teaching of agriculture in the schools, says that the great weakness of the Ontario public school course lies in the lack of natural science teaching, and that it regards the increased attention to agriculture as a step in the right direction, agriculture being simply the practical application of entomology, botany, geology, meteorology, and other sciences. The scientific study of agriculture will enable the children to get on better terms with nature and give an intelligent love for outdoor life. The objection has been made that if children are taught agriculture in the schools there is no reason why they should not be taught blacksmithing, carpentering, etc. Our notion is that the idea of teaching agriculture in the schools is not to teach them how to farm, but to give them a broader and more intelligent conception of the scenes among which their daily life is spent; to show them how to read with new interest and appreciation the book that lies spread open before them. The advantage of teaching children in country districts something about the natural sciences connected with farming is that the teaching will not be about something removed from their daily lives, but will be closely related to what they are seeing and doing every day. It will not be stuffing them with a few isolated facts and axioms, but casting new light upon facts with which they are already acquainted. Of course, much depends on the way in which the subject is taught.

Flowing Well to Supply House and Barn.

R. N. LEA, Manitou, Man.:—"I have read Mr. Woods' enquiries and the answer given in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of April 15th re proposed scheme for conveying water to either house or stable. It seems to me that the enclosed rough sketch of my plan would fill the requirements, and simplify matters and save cost of taps, etc. Supply pipe to house is on a lower level than supply pipe to stable, consequently when tap is shut off at house



water must rise to level of stable outlet, and flow of waste water I would allow to flow to creek from a cistern on barrel in stable, continuously. I place tap on house end of supply pipe, for the reason that it is as likely that some one would always be there who could attend to it. There is no reason why there should ever be any sediment in the conduit pipes if the water is pure."