

Pres. St. Catharines Cold Storage Co
Lincoln Co., Ont.

An Orchard Tragedy.

And so we are reminded of what^③ scientists call
the balance of nature

" All are needed by each one.

Nothing is single or good alone.

This tragedy was, no doubt, duplicated in ten thousand orchards and gardens, and warns the fruit-grower and the gardener to be on the alert for the vermin that will go undestroyed because of the untimely death of thousands of garden and orchard guardians.

York Co., Ont.

Use of Sodds in Lawn-making.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The quickest way to make a lawn is by sodding. For small areas, for terracing, and for borders of walks and drives, it is the best method. On large areas, seeding usually is practiced, as it is the least expensive, but the expense can be reduced to a minimum by the use of a sod-cutter, operated by horse-power. It is the cost of sodding that prevents its more general use, and most of the cost is incurred in getting and cutting the sod-laborious work when done by hand.

The illustration shows a homemade sod-cutter that is cheap in cost and effective in operation. A block of pine, 4½ feet long, 10 inches wide, and 8 inches deep, forms the body of the implement. Probably oak would be better, being heavier. The block is beveled in front, as shown. The iron attachments can be made by any blacksmith. The roller is about four inches in diameter, and is placed ten inches back of the anterior point. The sod knife, eight inches back of the roller, has a twelve-inch blade, and was made from a three-inch wagon tire. It is adjustable, being readily raised or lowered to cut sod of any desired thickness. The blade should be tempered. The side knife, midway between roller and sod knife, acts like the colter of a plow, and cuts an inch or so deeper than the sod knife. The handles are iron. Near the front end, a bolt is placed through the block, to the ends of which chain is fastened, and the whiffletree is attached accordingly. One or two horses may be used.

This contrivance will cut sod as fast as land can be plowed, providing that enough men are employed to keep the sod rolled at least an acre a day can be cut. To do best and quickest work, two men are required, one to operate the handles, and one to guide. The latter is a disadvantage on the small farms, the roller

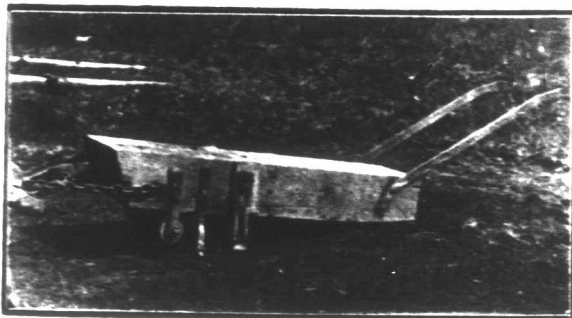
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the soil loose upon which the soil is to be laid. Place the strips close together. Place

firmly with a block of wood until the top of the sod is level with surrounding surface of soil, when edging seeded areas, pound lower, as newly-sown soil will settle. Sod properly laid, and watered frequently, if convenient, will soon make a satisfactory turf.

A. B. CUTTING.

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A Sod Cutter.

Of the two hundred and sixteen convictions for violation of the Inspection and Sale Act, secured during the season 1909-10, upon informations laid by the Fruit Division, the majority originated in the fraudulent packing of apples. The names of the parties convicted will appear in the current report of the Dairy and Cold-storage Commissioner. It is noticeable that the larger number of prosecutions were made in connection with fruit from districts where spraying and good orchard culture are not commonly practiced.

THE FARM BULLETIN

Why Young People Leave the Farm

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

Having lived for over a score of years in a city, and having come, some years ago, to the country to reside, I feel better in a position to write on "Why the Boys and Girls Leave the Farm" than one who has lived in either city or country only.

Mrs. Hopkins, in her letter of February 24th, seems to see clearly what young life reaches out for, and to sympathize with them, and yet she makes some sweeping statements. When she says, "The country boy would be awkward when away from the shadow of his wagon, and the country girl afraid to face the shop girl and duds salesman," she is wrong. Has not the average country boy or girl twice as much common sense as the average shop girl or duds salesman? And why need they be ashamed, when they are vastly better off?

In my mind, the matter of dress has little to do with drawing the younger generation cityward. True, people living in the country do not always dress with good taste, nor yet have many fine clothes. The reason for this, I believe, is that they have all too few occasions to wear them, and consequently their clothes often become old-fashioned before they are half worn out, and, also, as a general thing, country people dress more for comfort than for style. At the same time, I think the progressive farmer and his family will be found provided with what good clothes are necessary.

Now, this brings us to the point which I believe is one of the greatest reasons why the boys and girls leave the farm. It is the lack of sociability. Now, I do not mean friendliness, for farmers are most friendly, but we fail to get together for a social time, and this refers more particularly to farmers' wives and daughters. We seem to be all too busy; we are tied at home for various reasons, and so to many life becomes lonely and monotonous. There are many mothers of little families who for weeks and even months in the winter, do not pass the gate, and perhaps do not see a woman's face in all the time. There is much of cheer and helpfulness in social intercourse, and a social hour or two spent together, and it is all too scarce in the lives of farmers' wives and daughters.

Then, there is the greatest difficulty in getting to concerts, socials, and good entertainments of various kinds—and all these things give spice to life. To have to bother with horses, and the rush of getting off before, and then the drive for miles, both going and returning home, spoils it all, and so these pleasures are scarce with most of us. It is all so easy just to walk when in town, or jump on the trolley, and one is soon at their destination. It is not natural for a young boy or girl to come all day, and then be packed off early to bed in order to be up early for chores again. We must not think of them as old men and women, when they are but boys and girls. They must have their good times. As Roy A.

It is puzzling that in his letter of March 31st, too, there is "nothing doing," and by the way, none of the ideals pictured in Roy A. C. Brown's letters just referred to, were carried out. It is a shame the boys and girls would find out

such a lovely place that they would not care to trot off to the cities. The old-fashioned two or three-seated conveyance is all right, and needs to be renewed.

Now, farm life is much as we ourselves make it. It can become a drudge, indeed, where a woman works all the time, from early morn till late at night, even to the back-aching, health-breaking point. Then it is all wrong, and every farmer should see to it that his wife is not doing so, for every woman owes it to her family to keep well and young. If the daughter grows up to find mother jaded and worn, and broken down in health, will she desire to follow in her steps? And if the burden proves too heavy, and that wife must go at half her time, what will it matter if the farmer owns a hundred-acre farm and a good bank account? There is much work that can be kept out of the house, and many conveniences that can be put into it. Many of these conveniences could be put in for just the cost of one of the farmer's labor-saving implements. The farmer's wife needs every convenience it is possible to give her, in order to save her time and her strength.

Now, Mrs. Hopkins comes down rather hard on farmers: "I don't know what kind they may have in Russell County, but I want to say right here and now that the farmers I have come in contact with in Oxford County are gentlemen, every one. They may not be as finely-dressed as the office man or store clerk (their business doesn't call for it), and they may not be as polished in manners as some city men, but they are, nevertheless, courteous, kind, and gentlemen, every one."

Now, in reference to the farmer's family: Mrs. Hopkins is decidedly wrong in what she says about baby girls not being welcomed by the farmer. Being the mother of a daughter and a son, I can say that one is just as precious as the other to both father and mother, and I have in mind other cases nearby, where the daughter could scarcely be thought more of by any parent. Both boys and girls are needed in the farmer's family. It is only reasonable that a farmer should desire to have sons to help him on the farm, but that does not say he would not care for his daughter. Happy is the farmer who has his own sons to help him, in these days when efficient hired help on the farm is almost unobtainable. The city merchant who has sons naturally takes them into the business when they become old enough; so should the farmer give his boy or boys an interest in the business. But I am sure any reasonable farmer will do justice to his daughters, as well as his sons.

Now, Mrs. Hopkins makes some erroneous statements again in her letter of April 21st. The third paragraph is altogether wrong. She says, "Show me the farmer who, as long as he is able to walk, will let his boy have any lead in the management of the farm. Show me the farmer who, having graduated his son from an agricultural college, will let him prove his knowledge in practical fashion when he returns home, etc." Now, I can name half a dozen young men in our neighborhood who have the controlling interest, or a farm of their own, whose fathers are men in health to-day, and three who have been to the Ontario Agricultural College, and are now practicing the knowledge obtained there.

In conclusion, let me say that the farm is much as we ourselves make it. It can become a beautiful place with a little work and thought expended on it, and the boys and girls will see its loveliness, and want to stay on it; or it can become a bare and lonely spot, on which no boy or girl would care to remain.

Beautify our homes and farms; inaugurate more sociability, and make the farms so attractive that there will be no lovelier place, and then see the effect on our boys and girls.

Oxford Co., Ont.

ROSEBUD.

Farm Management in Missouri Agricultural College.

Our agricultural colleges are a development. In their earliest days, while they did the best they could, yet the teaching of agriculture was in its experimental stage, and the valuable and valueless could not be distinguished. As they have grown, the vision has become clearer, and the usefulness widened, until now almost every phase of farm operations and life is having the searchlight of specialized study cast upon it. A new step in advancement has been taken by Missouri. The college of that State has created a separate department, the first of its kind, devoted exclusively to the subject of farm management. This department will consider the factors of production as they relate to the successful administration of farms. Dr. H. H. Laws, who has been studying the subject some fifteen years, in connection with the United States Department of Agriculture, will have charge of the new phase of the college work.

This is a very different line of study that has not been sponsored by the State, in many agricultural colleges that should be built, for there is no line of work in which investment is more tardy than in agriculture.