

The Farm.

Pulling Together.

Some farmers have the "knack" of making the best of environment, and they are the ones who succeed. I knew a young couple who married and moved on a farm. They had only enough money for the barest necessities, and it so fretted the young farmer that he took it for granted that there was no use in trying. He was continually saying: "You can't expect me to do much with so little. If I had some of the modern appliances, like my neighbors, I'd show you a thing or two. Such and such a man gets along well because he has everything to work with. I have nothing.

"But if we have no machinery, we must do the best we can in the old fashioned way, the same as our fathers and mothers did in the long ago, before such things were invented," insisted his wife. "If you have nothing else you can farm with a spade and a hoe. I might as well say because I have no incubator I can hatch no chickens; because I have no separator, I can make no butter; because I haven't a washing machine, I cannot wash, or a sewing machine, I can make no clothing—but that isn't a woman's way—not mine at any rate. I shall do my work faithfully, in the slow, old way, until I can get together what I want for quicker and better work."

It was ten years ago when they began, and Mary has proved her words, for she is now the owner of a first class incubator, a good separator, a sewing machine, a washer and wringer, and I know not what all else, while her husband potters around doing very little of anything, but he is very fond of spreading out his fat hands and saying: "Oh, yes, me and Mary are gettin' long splendidly. There's lots of money in butter and chickens, and Mary has everything modern to work with. We are making money we are. We'll soon have our farm all paid for."

"It sounds like the story of 'Me and Betsy Killing the Bear,' Betsy, if you remember, doing it all herself, while her husband was hiding behind the door," laughed a young man, in talking it over the other day. "If Jake Springer was half as smart as his wife, and made the best of everything, wouldn't they make things go? It is so queer that some men will stand still and let the wife do all the pulling, and never be conscious of it. I don't know what to make of such men."

"It is oftener the women that stand still," I said.

"Well, that is the way it ought to be, if there is any standing at all," said the young man.

I said to myself "There is no sign on earth more beautiful than a husband and wife pulling along together, no holding back or balking by either one. That is as God designed it, from the beginning, when he placed the first man and woman on the first farm."

In the old fashioned days there was little machinery to work with, but many farmers got along better than farmers of to-day, because both husband and wife pulled side by side together, and made the best of everything.—(Mrs. A. E. C. Maskell.

Too Much.

That the farm is a big place is very evident when many things are demanding attention, and the fact is made plain that something must be neglected. The secret of many a farmer's success lies in his ability to plan and outline just the amount of farming that it is within his power to handle. It is much easier to plan a large amount of work than to accomplish what he should do. Many a young, energetic farmer outlines for himself a year's work, and will take three men to properly do it. Early and late hours are kept, the labor and time are spent "going over" the crops. Results are not satisfactory, crops suffering for attention annoy, and the young man becomes discouraged. He reasons that he has worked

hard, and therefore he ought to prosper. This young man has to learn that work to be telling must be intelligently done. In fact, much hard work on many a farm is a complete loss, because it was directed over too large an area. The same time and effort spent in "going over" the large area, the many trees, or the acres and acres of berries, if confined to less acres or trees would have paid.

Nothing is so disheartening as to labor hard for days, with not even the satisfaction of having a neat, attractive farm that at least affords a comfortable living. This phase of farm economics must have the most careful attention. To restrict one's self is a difficult task for the average farmer, for it does seem reasonable that, if one acre will pay well, two acres ought to bring double the income.

If the farm is run down and is depreciating because the land is deteriorating and outbuildings are tumbled down and fences are all out of repair, and crops are not profitable, it might be a paying question to ask, "Am I attempting too much for paying results?" If businesslike investigation shows that less farming would be more profitable, have the force of character and the nerve to attempt less. Some neighbor may smile at small farming and talk knowingly about one-horse farmers, but when your farm shows the results of less attempted and more done, and you yourself don't go rushing along to make a living, but have time for a leisure drive with your wife and children, and get some comfort out of life, the smile will not be one of ridicule, but of commendation.—(Rural World.

Let Chicks Out Early.

There are a great many untruths for the reason that they are so constantly told. We scarcely ever read a poultry journal now in summer, but we note the statement that it is best to keep the chicks confined mornings until the grass is dry and the dew has disappeared. Don't you believe it. If you can safely leave your brood coop doors open all night, do so. Allow the chicks the opportunity of getting out as early in the morning as they like. They will pick up worms and bugs sufficient to afford a good breakfast—a far better breakfast than you or I will be able to supply them. Of course, we will feed them in the morning, but several hours later, for you and I do not "get up" with the chicks—not every morning.—(Thomas F. Rigg.

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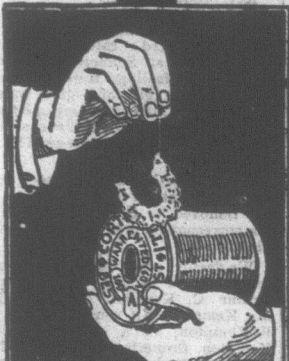
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