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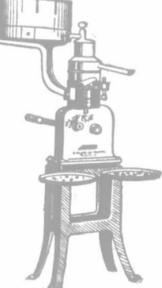
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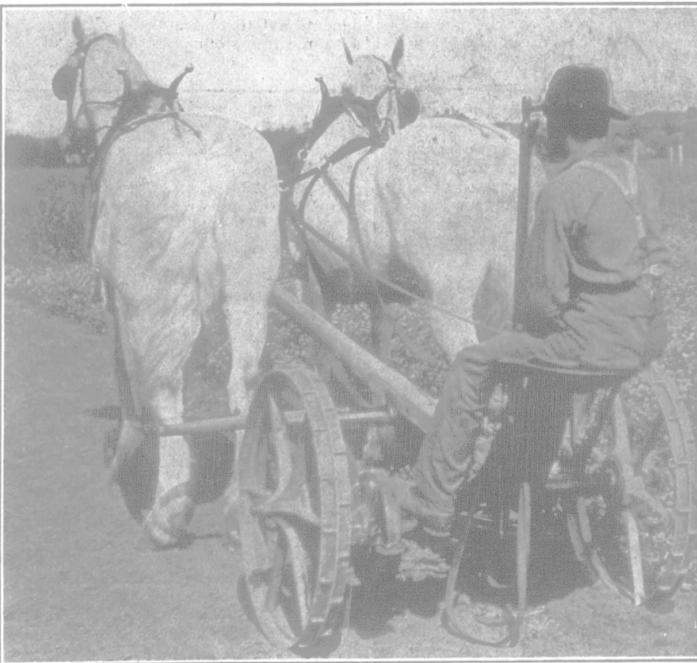
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affecting man may be directly traced to an impure water supply. These are the only two human diseases for cause may be definitely ascribed to polluted water, but scarlet fever, diphtheria and other serious diseases may be transmitted through water as a medium when the germs gain access to the supply through infection of the seepage into the well.

Contaminated water is not alone a danger to human health and life, but has a very deleterious effect on the vigor of the farm live stock and hazards their health as well. Although it has never been discovered that any animal disease originates in impure water, yet it is well known that many disease germs flourish in this medium when once introduced, and an unprotected water supply may thus act as an effective agent in the transmission and spread of disease among the animals on the farm. Such infection may occur in cases of glanders, foot and mouth disease, cattle plague, swine fever, or, in fact, any specific disease capable of infection through the digestive canal. Anthrax may also possibly be transmitted in this way. Many common parasitic diseases of stock are largely

improvements in the protection from surface wash and infiltration would make them safe; 25 were bad only because of poor surface protection and could easily be made safe; one was polluted from unknown, probably distant, sources. One spring supply was polluted because of poor surface protection and could easily be made safe. The rivers, surface reservoirs and cisterns were all polluted, and it is doubtful whether satisfactory supplies can be secured for farm use from such sources. Where their use is necessary, water for drinking should be boiled or otherwise disinfected.

A further analysis of the published report of this investigation throws considerable light on the relative value of different kinds of wells. Out of the 28 common dug wells examined, only 3 were good; 16 were polluted, but capable of improvement; and 9 were totally condemned. Of the 6 bored wells, 2 were probably good, while 4 were polluted, with possibilities of improvement. The bored well is little better than the dug well, differing from it principally in size and containing a casing of wood tile or tin. The bored well is subject to practically the same criticisms of construction as the dug well.



CUTTING HIS FIRST CROP OF ALSIKE.

spread by water. Worms, such as tape, round and thread worms, may gain access to animal hosts by means of the eggs being swallowed in drinking water. The liver fluke of sheep can only be transmitted by passing through an intermediate host that lives in water or wet places. Aside from the danger of disease, impure water has a weakening effect on the systems of all animals that drink it, and prevents them from measuring up to their full degree of usefulness. This is especially true of work animals, such as horses, mules and oxen, and of all animals used for breeding purposes.

If, then, such is the train of consequences which follow the use of contaminated water—and these are facts, not fancies—it is well to look into the farm water supply of Minnesota and see where our farmers stand in this matter. In the year 1908, experts on water purification investigations from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the Minnesota State Board of Health, examined 28 dug wells, 6 bored wells, 13 drilled wells, 19 driven wells, 2 springs, 4 different supplies from a river, 2 surface reservoirs and 5 cisterns, in different parts of this state. Of these 79 carefully selected and typical water supplies in Minnesota, the data show that only 29 were good, while, usually because of careless or ignorant management, 59 were polluted. Of the 47 polluted wells out of 66 examined, 11 were so located that even extreme care would not make them safe; 10 were poorly located, but im-

Of the 13 drilled wells examined 3 were good, 7 were polluted, owing to faulty construction or management, and 3 were condemned. Two of the condemned wells were polluted from indefinite underground sources and one from seepage down the outside of the casing. When properly constructed the drilled well is probably the most satisfactory form to use, as the water is drawn from considerable depth in the rock strata, and an iron casing or pipe extends from the pump, above the surface of the ground to the rock formation or to the bottom.

Of the 19 driven wells examined, 11 were good, 2 were polluted but capable of improvement, and 6 were condemned. The driven well is that type wherein the casing consists of sections of iron pipe screwed into couplings so as to be continuous and watertight throughout. The lower end of the pipe is armed with a sharp metallic point perforated with holes which penetrates the ground when driving and prevents the soil from entering the pipe. The driven well requires little care and is probably as safe as any type of moderately shallow supply, as the above figures show; but it does not touch those deep artesian streams from which usually the most desirable water is obtained.

According to the report of the State Board of Health, the actual proportion of polluted supplies in rural districts may at present be assumed to be about 35 per cent. Other investigations along this line prove this to be a moderate estimate. Prof. Frank T. Shutt, chief

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