

HOME MAGAZINE

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The Warelands Dairy: A Woman's Experiment.

[The following interesting account of a dairying venture undertaken by Mrs. Robert Ware, on a worn-out farm in Massachusetts, illustrates what a woman with some capital and sufficient energy and "head-power" can do. Moreover, it is abundantly suggestive even to those who, by reason of financial limitations, must dairy on a scale infinitely small compared with Mrs. Ware's enterprise. The article, written by Mary H. North-end, is reprinted by us with the kind permission of the Boston Cooking School Magazine.]

Convinced that farm work afforded to women an opportunity of doing something worth while in a remunerative as well as an educational way, Mrs. Robert Ware about four years ago withdrew her energy from city committees and entered upon an interesting experiment in scientific dairying, the result of which is of unusual value to Boston and Massachusetts, but of far more than local interest to all who are interested in the broadening of occupation for women.

Always residing in the city, but possessed of a great love of the country and an enthusiasm for its wholesome out-of-doors joys, she had from early girlhood been much interested in farming and its many perplexing problems. Unlike most people, she did not look upon this occupation as one that any person could engage in; she realized that it was a branch of work that required a great amount of brain work to accomplish properly, and that no other field of labor was more dignified, or worthier of recognition.

The idea of conclusively proving her convictions, however, did not occur to her until some years after her marriage, when Secretary of the Education Committee of the Twentieth Century Club, and in charge of the important Saturday-morning lectures, she was privileged to listen to a series of discourses by Professor Tyler, of Amherst College, and Dean Bailey, of Cornell, which sounded the note of getting back to the soil, and set forth the benefits of country life. The theme of these lectures strongly appealed to her, and was the principal factor that helped her to decide to abandon the work she was then engaged in, and take up country work, with the aim of supplying at least one clean food product.

At "The Warelands," her husband's ancestral home, located on the shores of High Lake, at Norfolk, Massachusetts, she embarked on her venture in earnest, and, in addition to establishing a dairy, she set to work to reclaim the estate from its worn-out condition, which years of neglect had brought about. She reasoned that, if she failed, her experiment would still be of value in saving someone else from making a life mistake, and if she succeeded, the ambition of her life would be gratified. The farmhouse, erected in 1733, and spoken of in all the old records as the "New House," was, in the first consideration, and in the direction it was entered, renovated and restored to its former aspect. Then a new barn and a dairy build-

ing were built, the exterior of each as nearly in conformity with the design of the dwelling as was consistent with the sanitary conditions within. In the equipment of the dairy, Mrs. Ware had the advice and assistance of an expert, and, in addition, she visited several farms, and carefully studied the methods of the best dairies in the United States and Europe.

Complete, both buildings are entirely sanitary. The walls, floors, and ceilings of the various rooms of the dairy are of cement, and in the barn, to which steam is piped for use in frequent scrubbing of floors, walls, and stanchions, the

tered as a disinfectant. It also drains into a cement-lined cistern, from which the liquid is pumped and spread as a fertilizer.

While these buildings were in process of construction, the land was gradually being reclaimed and made ready for planting. Helpful suggestions from a member of the Department of Agriculture were gratefully received and carefully heeded, and as a result the farm to-day is in a flourishing condition. In addition to the heavy fertilizer, barn-yard manure, and liquid fertilizer, commercial fertilizer is also used here, particularly

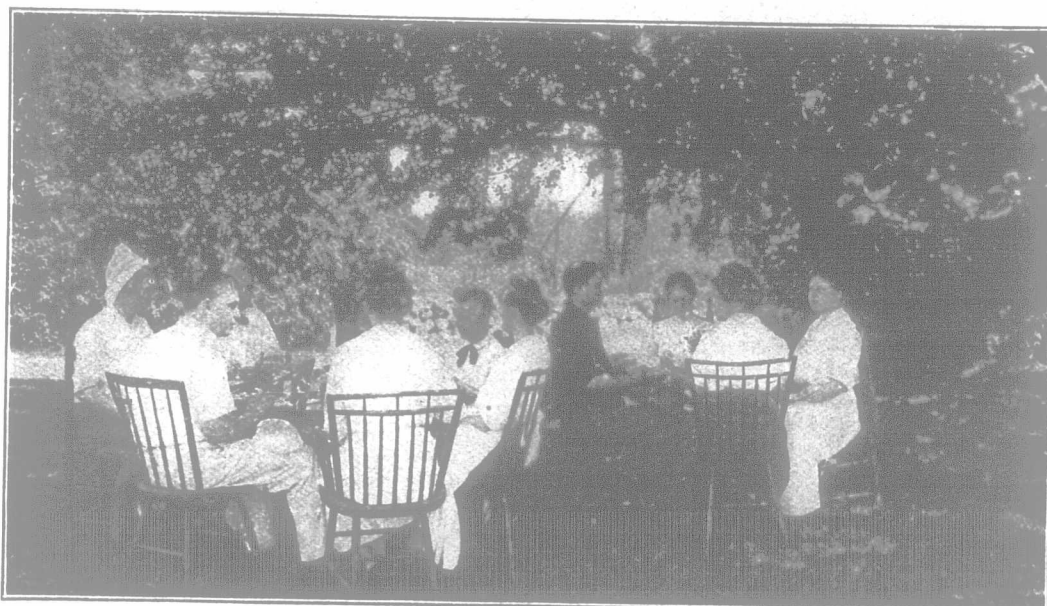
this experiment, Massachusetts was quite a bit behind New York and some of the Western States in its standard of clean milk. She determined that, if she was to do the work, she would do it well, and she devoted all her energies toward securing a new and a better standard for clean milk in her home State. The definition of the word clean, as applied to milk, has been largely decided by physicians as depending upon the number of bacteria found in a cubic centimetre of the product. In Boston, the law requires that milk shall contain not more than 500,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre.

The general understanding, however, is that it shall contain less than 100,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. Some cities require that certified milk shall contain under 30,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre, and the Boston Milk Commission demands that the product shall not contain more than 10,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre, and that it shall meet requirements in chemical analysis satisfactory to them, regarding fat, sugar and proteid. The milk produced at The Warelands Dairy contains an average of only 1,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. It was the first milk certified by the new Boston Milk Commission, and for a year it was the only one. This high standard has to be kept up continuously, for the delivery wagons are apt to be stopped on the street at any time, and samples of the milk taken, without notice, to be tested.

To secure this high-grade milk, unremitting vigilance has to be exercised at the farm end. It is not alone a question of equipment, but largely of the faithfulness of employees all along the line of production. The herd must be kept in a perfectly healthy condition, otherwise, the first requisite for good milk is sacrificed. The herd must also be tested frequently for any signs of tuberculosis, and any cattle so afflicted must be at once eliminated. The sanitary condition of the barn, sunshine, abundance of drinking water, plenty of fresh air and exercise, are all important factors contributing to the satisfactory condition of the herd, and they must be faithfully looked after each day, if the best results are to be obtained.

To achieve success, Mrs. Ware advocates that any woman intending to engage in the work should learn the process thoroughly from beginning to end. The labor problem is always present, and while she may not be needed in the dairy continuously, emergencies are likely to arise, such as the sudden illness or departure of an employee—whereby she must be ready, at a moment's notice, to take up any part of the work. Then, too, she must be willing to bear her share of the hardships as well as the joys of the enterprise, for, like all labor, dairying has some features that are not entirely agreeable, such, for instance, as bottling at 5.30 a.m. on a cold winter's morning. It is only by determinedly shouldering the unpleasant as well as the pleasant parts of the work, that a woman can expect to acquire the standard of excellence desired, and inspire zeal in others, who are working for her. The first attain-

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An Out-door Meal at Warelands.

walls and floors are of the same construction. The barn is solely for the cows; all kinds of fodder and barn tools are stored elsewhere. Here the ventilation is so arranged that no drafts can reach the cattle, and abundant sunshine is provided by four lines of continuous windows. The cows feed from a cement manger, and water is kept constantly before them in self-regulated sanitary drinking troughs, lined with white porcelain. The gutter back of them is cleaned twice each day, and the contents carted to the fields, where land plaster is scat-

in connection with the corn crop, and the fine yield per acre, as well as the two hundred tons of ensilage, which were last year realized, attest to its worth. From a practically barren spot, that would not afford support to a single horse, the farm has, in the course of four years, been brought to a state of high development, and like the dairy, it has frequently served as a guide to persons intending to reconstruct their farms, and seeking to produce a higher quality of milk.

At the time Mrs. Ware engaged in



A "Class" at Warelands.