

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

If you ever think of enjoying yourself in this life, you had better begin to-day.

A great deal of farm work is now done in the cities and towns—manufacturing implements, for example.

Usually, the man who toils away to acquire a competence with which to retire to town, and have a good time "doing nothing," has lost the capacity for enjoyment before he gets there.

A large percentage of the population of Canada are contriving to get their living out of other people, in preference to extracting it from the soil.

If we teach the youth of the land that fighting is a better business than farming or ministering to the higher interests of the people, we are sowing dragon's teeth to bleed the state.

Not many of us are so prejudiced against new-fangled appliances as the native workers on a South American estate, who allowed a valuable cart to rot, sooner than use it, because it did not squeak like their old wooden ones.

The maternal life of a host of women is being burned out in town factories. Their offspring will be weaklings. Germany conserves the motherhood of the nation in garden and field, and rears a race of strong men.

With corn safely ensiled, apples shipped, roots raised, stock comfortably sheltered, implements under cover, and fall plowing advanced, the gusty November wind whistles almost a musical tune in the thrifty farmer's ear.

Suppose that Essex and Kent, Ont., become involved in a dispute over a municipal ditch, and, instead of settling their claims by arbitration, the councils declared war and started the people shooting each other and burning down barns, houses and county buildings, what would be thought of them? And would it be any greater display of unreason and folly than the fighting that goes on between nations?

Earl Grey, late Governor-General of Canada, on his return to Great Britain, was entertained the other evening at a banquet in the Royal Canadian Institute, London, where he delivered a lengthy address. He took occasion to make clear to his hearers that the people of Canada are as averse to interfering in British internal affairs as they are to interference in their own. "Let it be understood," he said, "that the Canadian people are not in sympathy with any form of imperialism, which involves the idea of the subjection of a self-governing people to any authority outside of any form of government involving the idea of unbridled aggressiveness or arrant interference with the rights of others."

## About the Farm.

Numerous inquiries have been made, personally and by letter, as to the progress and results of operations this year on "The Farmer's Advocate" farm, indicating a widespread interest in the outcome. Up to date, comparatively little has been printed in response to these inquiries, for the reason that we wished to wait until such time as definite data could be given. Scrappy, gossipy notes from week to week or month to month, however much interest they might arouse, would be of little practical value. It is the final reckoning that counts. That a great deal of very useful information will be forthcoming in due course, our readers may rest assured. Many improvements have been made, such as the building of a silo, drive shed, and cement-covered barn approach (replacing a defective wooden one); rearranging and cementing the cow-stable floors, building colony chicken houses, and sundry minor changes. By a system of accounting which includes the keeping of time-cards, we shall shortly be in a position to publish bills of material and other detailed information concerning the cost of these, also more or less minute descriptions of the actual construction. A record of what has been done is always more interesting and helpful than an estimate of what might be. The system of accounting referred to enables us likewise to ascertain pretty closely the cost of raising and harvesting each important crop. The details are being tabulated, and will be ready for publication in an intermittent series of articles to run throughout the winter, commencing probably in the Christmas Number.

## Bad Years Best.

A great many good things are so well stowed away in government reports—blue, black or brown, as the binding may be—that for all practical purposes they are lost to the general public. In the annual volume of the Missouri State Board of Agriculture appears, among many other useful features, a valuable account of "Farmers' Week at the State Agricultural College." One of the most interesting farm experiences related was that of a native of Switzerland, Arnold Martin, who told what can be done on twenty acres of rather poor land in Kansas. In fact, the neighbors all laughed at him as that fool "Hazelbrush Martin," who was going to starve to death. He started with a few hundred dollars, earned as a hired man, but made himself a profitable home, now worth over \$100 per acre, and has lived well, growing fruits and fancy vegetables. One point that he takes pains to impress upon young men and old men is to "get their feet upon the soil, instead of on a wooden floor in shops, and draw from the soil not only wealth, but health and the joy of the earth; not only a living, but life." Too many people seem to lose their grit or grip if things go wrong one season, but Mr. Martin has made the discovery that the bad years are the best years, because they make the man think and give him the most education. He is compelled to do things that otherwise he would not think of undertaking. A wet spring forces him to take up draining. A dry season shows that hay and oats and ordinary pasture are not all-sufficient, and recourse must be had to more corn and alfalfa. As soils grow older, their composition and texture change, and the old treatment will not give the old-time crops. Vegetable matter or humus will probably be lacking, and even gener-

ous coatings of barnyard manure need to be supplemented with some green crop sown after harvest, to be plowed down in November, instead of leaving the field bare or covered with weed growth through the fall. Mr. Martin lays stress upon the safety there is in diversifying crops. To insure his income, the man on the farm must have a variety of products, because a single crop may fail or may not in some years meet a good market. Producing many kinds of crops, one must have a broader knowledge of the management of soils, and necessarily aim to have no waste spots upon his farm. His own resourcefulness and the resources of his farm will both be developed, and this, most of all, in adverse seasons.

## What To Do on Wet Days.

Throughout the autumn season, heavy rains occur from time to time. This necessitates inside work, and most farms can furnish an abundance of it, especially at this season of the year. Stop a moment and consider what should be done. First, there is the stable to prepare for the housing of the stock during the winter. Small and necessary repairs can be made at this time, and when the time arrives when the last of the stock must be stabled—they should have been under cover many times already, but in too many cases have not been—everything will be in readiness. Examine each chain or stanchion, and see that it is in working order. Sweep down all cobwebs and dirt from the walls. Clean the grime off the windows, and sweep the stable out clean.

By this time, much of the farm harness will not be needed again until the following spring. Where this is the case, wet days can be utilized for cleaning and oiling this, and storing it away in its place for winter. The average life of usefulness of harness could be very materially increased if it were cleaned and oiled regularly.

During the summer months it often happens that a number of glass panes have been broken from the windows of the stables and outbuildings. It is necessary that these be replaced before the weather gets too severe. Take the window out and replace the glass at the first opportunity, which will likely come with the next rainy day.

Then, there is the implement shed. In the autumn, the contents of this building will furnish work for many days which are unfit for outdoor labor. This building must be kept well arranged, so that implements, when needed, can be taken out without moving half the others in the building. Some time should be spent in studying the arrangement and placing the various implements and machines. This done, it is well to go over each and every machine and implement and ascertain the repairs needed, and if it is not convenient to replace the worn or broken parts now, make a note of them, that they may be made right before the implement or machine is needed the following spring. Much time is lost each year by these little things passing unattended to until the day the machine is required for use. It is generally best to go over all the implements and machines and make a note of repairs needed first, and this done, if more time remains, commence at once to make the repairs. It is surprising how a little care of this kind in making repairs, tightening loose nuts, and adjusting misplaced parts, will lengthen the period of the machine's usefulness. In going over the machines, it is well to thoroughly clean them, and any that need it should get a coat of paint. There is nothing like paint to preserve farm implements