



Is the Farmer Blameless?

What is wrong with the farm? asks The Farmer's Advocate in an editorial. How is it that in some of the best sections farmers will say: "Never be a farmer, but start early in life to prepare for other occupations." Can a man who has lived all his life on the farm and who has had the practical experience from which to make his assertions expect that the rising generation will do otherwise than act upon his suggestion, believing that experience has taught him that farming is a hard drudging life, devoid of all pleasure, and from which only meagre returns are made? Who is to blame for the boys and girls within hearing of his dissatisfied voice leaving agriculture for city occupations? This same man is very likely the loudest growler in the neighborhood about the scarcity of farm help, when he is at the same driving his own and his neighbors' sons and daughters cityward. How men who have started life's battles in their younger days with practically no means can conscientiously face the public and denounce the old farm which has fed them and clothed them all these years, and which is now paid for and money in the bank or invested elsewhere besides all of which has been made from it, is almost beyond comprehension. What other occupation could these men have picked from all the attractive callings which would have landed them at middle age in a position independent, and made it possible for them if they so desire to enjoy their remaining years in comparative idleness, knowing that their holdings will keep them comfortably. Many a boy and man, too, has left the farm for positions which looked attractive until tried, and wished himself back with the growing things. Farming is hard work, but what real work is not hard work? Remember that which has been kind to you. Count your living at what it would cost in the city, for what farmer does not live as well as his city cousin when he has first choice of the produce of the farm and gets it absolutely fresh? Think of the advantages you have over others not so favorably situated, and, for the sake of agriculture, for your own sake, and the good of the boys and girls growing up in the neighborhood, give farming its just dues—hard work suitably rewarded where good judgment is used. If a good farm does not pay it is in most cases the fault of the operator on the farm.

Printing Butter
In response to a subscriber's inquiry in The Family Herald and Weekly Star Professor H. H. Dean says regarding the printing of butter: "Some buttermakers print their butter and place it in the brine to keep it, but a better plan is to pack the butter solidly in a crock, tub or box then cover with a clean cloth or heavy parchment butter paper and a salt paste made of salt and water to the consistency of thin mortar. Have on top of the crock or paper the top of two or three thickness of heavy brown paper over the crock or place on the cover if using tub or box. This excludes the light and air which cause butter to spoil. When the butter is wanted for use scrape the outside and print after warming slightly in water."

However if it is thought advisable to print the butter when made and then place in the brine with or without wrapping in plain butter paper no printing as this will likely be spoiled in the brine and mark the butter) may be done by dissolving all the salt which the butter will hold. (Warm water will dissolve more salt than cold water.) Simply add salt for the required amount of water to cover the prints until no more salt will dissolve then put in the prints and weigh them to keep them from being otherwise the air will get at the butter and cause rancidity. A common test for strength of brine is the use of an egg. If an egg will float in the brine it is supposed to be "strong" enough for preserving butter, meat, etc. The brine may be held in a crock or clean wooden vessel.

Profitable Dairy Farming

What is successful dairy farming? asks a writer on dairy topics. It is not just squeezing through year after year with little or nothing to show for one's work. There must be a fair margin of profit after all expenses are paid. And yet hosts of farmers seem to be satisfied with the squeezing through process says "Successful Farming." It is poor business and we all know it when we sit down and think it over seriously. Successful farming is doing this year a little better than we did last year. Getting more milk from each cow and better milk at that. Making better butter and more of it. Selling it at a little better figure and pleasing our customers better than we ever did in days gone by. Successful dairy farming means getting together a herd of cows by purchasing if time presses by improving our own stock if that can be done profitably. Without doubt the latter is the more satisfactory method. Successful dairy farming means knowing one's cows better than in the past. Understanding each individual cow is an art. Some folks think a cow is a cow anyway and that is all there is to it. Mistaken ideas. All cows are not cast in the same mold any more than all men are. Then the question of good feeding comes in with successful farming. Economy is not always scrupling. A great big study is this of successful dairy farming. Are you studying it?

Methods of Renewing

Neglected Orchards
Much can be done to facilitate spraying by allowing an expert to do the pruning instead of having it done by an old-time apple trimmer, who removes limbs from the bottom up, instead of removing the tops and opening up the centres to the sunlight and air. By the latter method lower limbs may be developed, so that ladders will not be needed to reach the branches with the spray.

Much improvement can also be made to increase the vigor of old orchards by cutting the sod thoroughly with a plain disc, or better a cut-away disc harrow. At first the harrow seems to make little impression on the turf, but when gone over four or five times the turf is destroyed without severing the roots and a surface mulch is made that will hold the moisture, and four or five discings are cheaper than the one ploughing. The question of water supply in fruit growing is quite as important as food for the trees, and nothing will conserve the water and hold it where the developing fruit can use it, when it is most needed, like thorough discing of the surface.

Many farmers have the feeling that the renewal of these neglected orchards means heavy expense for fertilizers or manure, but by thorough cultivation much of the food and water can be provided from Nature, so what is more needed is a moderate supply of potash, phosphoric acid, and lime, without commercial nitrogen. The last two can be cheaply supplied in the form of basic phosphate slag or finely ground raw phosphate rock, while the cheapest form of potash is doubtless the muriate, although some growers believe the quality and color of the fruit is improved by the use of the more expensive sulphate of potash. Then, where only the mineral forms of plant food are used, and the nitro-gen is supplied from Nature or from cover crops, the expense for commercial plant food need not exceed \$10 to \$12 an acre.

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There's money in hogs, but it requires industry and intelligence to get it out. However, this is true of all business.

Making Poultry Pay

The poultry editor of the "Farmer and Fireside" tells how to make money out of poultry, in part as follows:— "As all large business houses practice the most rigid economy in their sales department, so ought the poultryman to do. He ought to market his products in such a way that they will command the highest prices. If the poultryman ten days or two weeks before he intends to market his poultry, will shut them in a darkened room and feed them three times a day on whole corn, his birds will be in better condition to kill or to ship alive. If when he dresses his poultry, he will only exercise a little more care and be all the more fussy about the packing and the package, he will be amply repaid when his birds arrive in the market, because looks go a long way with all of us when we are buying our food."

There is no satisfaction, and but very little money in exchanging eggs for groceries or grain. By being careful in gathering the eggs, so that they won't become chilled in winter and so the hens won't sit on them overnight, and by using a little care in sizing and selecting, quite an advance over the common prices may be obtained. Carefully clean all the eggs, don't send any small, misshapen or large ones. Stamp each egg with a rubber stamp, using your initials or the name of your farm, and in a short time you will have created a demand for your eggs, and when you have created such a demand, your eggs will bring the highest prices, considerably more than your storekeeper would pay.

"Economy may only be practiced by several poultrymen in one locality cooperating and buying their grain in carload or half car load lots, direct from the mills, in this way saving the two profits of the local grain dealer."

Grain For Fowls

Where it is possible a winter crop should be planted to furnish green food for the fowls. It does not take a large area to furnish green food for the fowls, and usually plenty of space may be found for this purpose. But where one has only a city lot, and a green crop is out of the question, arrangements should be made to sprout oats, rye, wheat or barley. If no other space is available a box of soil will suffice. The box may be filled with rich garden mould if the seeds are to remain long enough for the plants to grow. If the grain is to be fed as soon as the seed sprouts a box of sand is sufficient. The box may be set in a cellar or in the kitchen near the stove in very cold weather.

Green food may also be supplied in the form of any surplus vegetables that you may happen to have on hand. The best plan for feeding them is to place a nail in the houses on the wall just high enough so that the hens will be compelled to jump a little to reach it. Then take a beet or any vegetable that you desire to feed and stick them on the nails. It is a handy little arrangement, and compels the fowls to exercise for their food.

The Small Farmer's Cow

The dairy farmer proper is a specialist, and requires to study cattle— their breeding, feeding and management, in detail—in order to make the most of his specialized industry, but the ordinary farmer or settler also carries on mixed farming, keeps but a few cows, and these are generally more or less a neglected item on the farm. They, however, help the housewife to pay the monthly bills, while the wheat or corn crops are growing, and there is no reason why, in the semi-dairy districts, a great deal more profit should not be derived from the fed dairy cows which are kept on the farm.

The mixed farmer, who carries on dairying to a limited extent and who keeps, say, from five to ten cows, should make up his mind that these cows will be of the best type available, and should not for a moment think of allowing the calf to run with the cow.

Few farmers, says the Victorian (Australia) Dairy Inspector, appear to realize the value of pigs' manure, or we would not see so much going to waste as is the case on the majority of the farms in this State. Most farmers have proved that increased returns are obtainable by manuring crops with some purchased artificial manure, but do not trouble to conserve the more valuable material they have in their pigeries, for besides this containing all the chemical elements required by growing crops, it is teeming with myriads of micro-organisms which are necessary to enable the plants to make use of the food supplied. It should be understood by pig feeders that every ton of feed bought and fed represents so much more manure made available in a more valuable form than it was originally.



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'WOMAN AND MOSES'

(Continued from page 7.)

Chichester," said Arthur gravely, "and for your sake I will go back to the house, but do not ask me to forgive her."

In after days, both realized that that had been the noblest moment of their lives.

CHAPTER VI

There are people with whom wrong-doing seems constitutional. With many good intentions they yet again and again fall into pitfalls from which they are often quite unable to extricate themselves, and from which even their best friends seem unable to defend them. Doreen was one of these. She never even stopped to consider if what she was going to do was a wrong act. That she realized it to a certain degree was evident, by the subterfuges she had resort to, to hide her acts, but in after years Avril could never bring herself to believe that Doreen was as responsible as she seemed, or understood the gravity of her actions. Unfortunately the public and the law do not look upon irresponsibility in the same light as Avril did, and, as a rule, the alternative result is an expression of the "Queen's pleasure."

One morning George Farquharson was surprised to find Doreen in his study when he arrived, looking through his papers. His first impulse was one of surprise, his second of annoyance, for she was upsetting all his neat piles of letters, bills and receipts. But he mastered a rising anger, which could never last long against Doreen.

"Can I find anything for you, Mrs. Trefusis?"

She started, for she had not heard him come in. He noticed the movement.

"I wanted that paper Mr. Trefusis gave you a few days ago about the Groben Mines."

"They are locked up, let me get them for you," as she spoke he loosened his watch and chain to get at the keys.

"By-the-by," said George Farquharson, "Mr. Trefusis said no one was to touch them unless he came for them himself. But of course that doesn't mean you," he added, laughing.

"It was a difficult position for a secretary. Doreen blushed.

"Oh, never mind," she said. "There is no hurry. I'll ask him for them later." Disappointment was depicted on her face, and with it nervousness. The episode soon disappeared from George Farquharson's mind, only to be derived two days later by Doreen herself. One morning, after Trefusis had gone out, she went to the study and threw herself on the little chair by the side of the writing table, looking wonderfully young and pretty, dressed in white with pretty laces at her throat looking creamy by the side of her one row of pearls. She had the tired peaky look women have who are delicate at the end of the season. The strain of her position with regard to Trefusis was also growing upon her. He had never seen anyone so pathetic looking, he thought.

"Mr. Farquharson," she began, "I'm in a dreadful hole. I want some money for my bills, and you know I can't possibly ask Arthur for anything as things are now."

George Farquharson didn't quite know how things were now, but he had a shrewd suspicion. Anyhow, he was certain of one thing, and that was that whatever had caused Trefusis's anger she had done no wrong. His faith in her was still unshaken. He began wondering if she was going to ask him to go to Trefusis for her, or to pay the bills himself.

"Now, will you help me, Mr. Farquharson?" His eyes expressed all she wished them to express. "Anything I can do I'm sure," he was beginning, but Doreen went on without noticing him.

"You see if I could only get those Groben Mine papers I have a friend who would put a little money into them for me. I believe they're going to be an awfully good thing."

(To be continued.)

Suspicion usually finds what it is looking for if it looks long enough.

STORY OF THE PANAMA CANAL

During the last few months the Panama canal has loomed large in the public interest and it may not be amiss to recall the history of the attempts to construct a waterway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

A great ship canal across the isthmus has been a dream of navigators for several centuries. As early as 1581 the first survey was made to determine the feasibility of connecting the two oceans. In 1820 an elaborate report was submitted to King Philip of Spain in favor of the construction of a canal over what is known as the Nicaragua route. Other projects were advanced at various times one of which was to build a railway at Tehuantepec able to carry the largest ships from ocean to ocean.

A number of surveys of the Panama and Nicaragua routes were made during the past half century but it was not until 1879 that the first positive step was taken toward the realization of the project on which so much thought had been expended. In May of that year an international congress was convened in Paris by M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, who had been so successful at Suez, to discuss the plan of cutting a canal through the isthmus of Panama.

This congress adopted a plan which had been previously prepared by M. de Lesseps and, immediately following that action, the Panama Canal was formed. De Lesseps figured that a tide level canal could be completed for \$120,000,000 and he was so confident of the accuracy of his calculations that he invited men of prominence to attend the opening which he set for 1888.

In February 1881 the first detachment of canal employees arrived at Colon. The work went on slowly, in the face of terrible mortality from fevers, until 1888 when there came a crash which shook the financial world. The Company was forced into liquidation to the great distress of \$90,000 French shareholders who had invested in the stock largely through patriotic motives. A commission of enquiry was sent out to report upon the actual conditions and it was found that not more than a fifth of the proposed work had been done, a valuable plant estimated at \$30,000,000 was rusting away, the tide level at Colon was filling in and the harbor was shallowing owing to the cut.

Then came charges on the floor of the French Chamber of Deputies that Deputies had been bribed to grant exceptional privileges to the Company and that investors had been defrauded. There was a mighty clamor followed by an investigation which resulted in the sentencing of the chief men of the Company to prison for various terms. Public opinion would not allow the distinguished de Lesseps to undergo punishment but the spirit of the proud old man was broken and he died in the following year.

Then came a second French effort which was given up in 1895. An American Company organized under a New Jersey charter amalgamated with the French Company to carry on the work but nothing of a substantial nature was accomplished.

At this juncture the voyage of the U. S. warship Oregon, from California around Cape Horn, to take part in the Spanish American war, impressed the U. S. government with the great desirability of building the canal as a national undertaking, and Congress authorized President Roosevelt to acquire the American Panama Company's rights which were subsequently purchased for \$40,000,000.

TWO WOMEN SAVED FROM OPERATIONS

By Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—Their Own Stories Here Told.

Edmonton, Alberta, Can. — "I think it is no more than right for me to thank you for what you have done for me and Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound have done for me. "When I wrote to you some time ago I was a very sick woman suffering from female troubles. I had organic inflammation and could not stand or walk any distance. At last I was confined to my bed, and the doctor said I would have to go through an operation, but this I refused to do. A friend advised Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and now, after using three bottles of it, I feel like a new woman. I most heartily recommend your medicine to all women who suffer with female troubles. I have also taken Lydia E. Pinkham's Liver Pills, and think they are fine. I will never be without the medicine in the house."—Mrs. FRANK EMMERY, 908 Columbia Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Other Case.
Beatrice, Neb. — "Just after my marriage my left side began to pain me and the pain got so severe at times that I suffered terribly with it. I visited three doctors and each one wanted to operate on me but I would not consent to an operation. I heard of the good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was doing for others and I used several bottles of it with the result that I haven't been bothered with my side since then. I am in good health and I have two little girls."—Mrs. R. L. CHILD, Beatrice, Neb.

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