



Getting Acquainted with the Business End of a Cow.

*"These are the glorious daughters of the Plough,
Who live laborious days and reap delights;
They hoe tough acres, milk the docile cow,
And tack the porker in his bed o' nights."*

*"Soon will the harvest to their lickers yield,
For they the stubborn glebe have well prepared
They've routed bugs on many a weary field,
Unruffled their faces and their brown arms
bared."*

THE "Farmerette" has been a revelation to the people of Ontario this spring and summer. "I have come up to the front mouners' bench and have been converted to women workers on the farm," is the frank testimony of Dr. G. C. Creelman, commissioner of agriculture for Ontario, and president of the Ontario Agricultural College. He was averse to the scheme when it was first broached by Sir William Hearst, Ontario's premier, a year ago; and he opposed the idea of giving a special course for farmerettes at the Ontario Agricultural College. The Prime Minister insisted that the training course be provided, and the girls and women have made good in such a big way that henceforth, in addition to the elementary training course for farmerettes, women will be accepted in the regular four years course at the Ontario Agricultural College. "I am convinced now," declares Doctor Creelman, "that women have a place in agriculture."

The farmerettes are proving to be a revelation to themselves as well as to others. They, too, are surprised at their capacity for work, at their ability to endure hardships, at the degree of efficiency they have developed, and at the joy of helping to "carry on" and avert a world famine.

Hard Work Well Done

The girls who took the three weeks' course at the O.A.C. in May, were all placed on "mixed farms." They are all doing well and nothing but hearty commendation is heard from their employers. Their experiences are many and varied.

One girl, who was placed on a farm near Strathroy, has had as her special care 25 acres of corn. She first harrowed the ground well, then planted the corn, and early in July had cultivated it four times. She feeds and grooms her team, cleans their stable, harnesses and hitches them without assistance. This same girl has had the care of five acres of potatoes, cultivating them with the single-horse scuffler. "My potatoes," she says, "are the best in this neighborhood."

"I found haying very agreeable," says this energetic young lady, "and although no farmerette is expected to pitch hay, I took my share along with the men and found it not too heavy work for me."

"I milk two cows morning and evening, and help with the other chores." "This week I have been plowing steadily with the team and gang plow. I like it, but somehow or other I was not sorry when Sunday came. I see no reason why we women could not take up land as 'Homesteaders,' if the government would only try us out."

All this from a girl who never lived on a farm before and who never had harnessed a horse until she entered the farmerette course at the O.A.C. this year!

Feminizing the Farm

How Ontario is Promoting Agriculture Among Women

By Laura E. Nixon

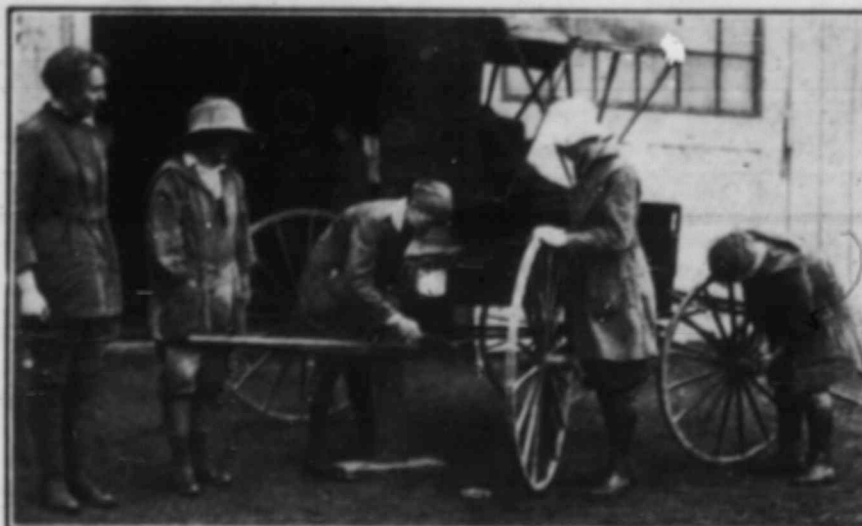
Nine of the girls who took the three weeks' course in May were placed on a large dairy farm near Walkerville. Over 100 milk cows are kept at this farm. The girls milk, feed and groom them, make butter, bottle milk and operate the pasteurizer. For a short time after these girls arrived, seven men were retained in the stable to help, but this number was reduced to three in a few weeks.

The girls each milk eight, nine, or ten cows every morning and evening. A big stride to make in two months, from not being able to milk at all.

One of the five married women who was numbered among the May farmerette class, was placed in charge of a group of untrained girls on a fruit and dairy farm. She worked with the girls, giving them the benefit of her short course of training. They milk, hoe, set out vegetable plants, and pick fruit, and are also helping to harvest the grain. They rise at five o'clock and milk seven or eight cows apiece before going to the fields.

A Practical Short Course

The three weeks' course at the O.A.C.



A Couple of Experienced Hands Demonstrating for the "Green" Ones

provides the farmerettes with a working knowledge of all the ordinary kinds of labor on a mixed farm. The girls come to the college equipped with stout low-heeled shoes, canvas leggings, business-like khaki smock and bloomers, a broad-brimmed hat, and a mind willing for any kind of work. They rise at five and commence work in the stables at five-thirty. They milk; they feed dairy cows, beef cattle calves, horses and swine, and clean their stables; they groom horses, feed poultry and clean their pens. They learn how to run farm machinery and keep it in repair. They learn how to make butter. They learn vegetable gardening, field husbandry and fruit growing. They learn carpentry. The entire course is as practical as possible, most of the time being spent in actual work in the gardens, orchards, stables and farm dairy, with only the necessary supplement of lectures.

In fruit growing the girls learn to prune trees, bush fruits, and raspberries; to plant and hoe strawberries; to spray and dust; to plant trees.

In vegetable gardening they learn garden planning and planting, preparation of land; use of seed drills; seed sowing by hand; transplanting, hoeing, scuffling, weeding, thinning, and so

forth. Each student is given a small piece of land to make an individual garden, and also is required to work in the college garden.

In dairying they learn butter making; use and care of cream separators; milking of cows; handling and care of milk; milk testing. In animal husbandry they feed calves, horses and swine; they groom, harness and hitch horses; cultivate and plow with horses; care for pigs; clean stables. In field husbandry they cut and plant potatoes; plant other root crops; thin roots; learn to identify noxious weeds. The poultry work includes care of chicks; feeding of laying stock; care of poultry houses; treating for parasites; candling eggs.

An Energetic Company

There were 29 women and girls in the farmerette class at the O.A.C. in May. From the beginning they were in earnest in their work. When the baggage wagon brought their trunks they took upon themselves, without hesitation, the task of carrying them up three flights of stairs to their rooms. They came prepared to enjoy their

dwellers in cities. They ranged in age and experience from a girl fresh from high school to a lady who has already done much valuable work as a V.A.D. in England, in the general service section of St. John's Ambulance Association, and as a pioneer fruit picker in the first year of the war, when conditions for farmerettes were less desirable than now. In those "pioneer" days the strawberry pickers rose at four in the morning, did their cooking on an open wood fire and made their tea from rainwater.

Nine of the class had husbands or brothers on active service, and those who had no men to fight felt that to be an additional reason why they should "do their bit." Fourteen were Canadians by birth, eight English, three Scottish, one was Irish, one American, one was from the Island of Jersey, and one a Swiss lady from Geneva, who had come to Canada before the war on a visit and had preferred to stay on this side of the water until the strife in Europe should be at an end. Five were married women, two of whom had left their homes and children (in good care) to help their country. Six were university graduates or students, three were teachers, three house-keepers, two dress-makers, five had been engaged in office work, the rest came from their homes.

The Horse, The Cow and Butter

When questioned as to what part of their work they liked best, many gave first place to care of horses. Some of the girls had been nervous at first in handling the horses. One girl had been warned that when a horse shows the whites of his eyes, he means mischief. Her charge was making disconcerting noises which she interpreted as signs of indignation at being curried-combed by a woman. A glance at the nearest eye revealed something uncanny, and she retired in a panic. He proved to be a harmless and amiable beast suffering from the afflictions of being walled and a wind-sucker.

Milking brought equally exciting experiences. "I shall never forget my first morning in the dairy stable," one farmerette relates, "I tried to milk a Jersey cow. Her name was Reverencia, which suggested to me that she was a gentle, quiet, well-disposed creature whose soul might possibly have migrated from the body of some gentle nun of Chaucer's times. Nevertheless, I felt my heart pounding as I advanced toward her with a pail and stool in either trembling hand. I shakily seated myself. I pulled and squeezed with no results, in spite of repeated frantic efforts. Finally, in my desperation, I extracted a thin stream. I never was more excited in my life, and I renewed the attack with greater energy, and consequent success."

"I leaned my head against Reverencia's flank, in a state of exhaustion and thanksgiving. Then a strange thing happened: My nose and forehead and

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The First Farmerette Class at the Ontario Agricultural College. They are now out on the farms.