

The Servants in the House

**Up-to-date Appliances Calculated to
Lessen Work in the
Farm Home**



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It is frequently stated that housekeeping is the most backward industry in the world—less progress made in it during the last hundred years than in any other business. There is truth in the statement—so much, in fact, that no one even attempts to contradict it. Yet when we compare the kind of work which the housekeepers are doing to-day with what they did two generations ago, we must admit that the character of the work in the home has changed very materially. One hundred years ago women were doing many things that are now taken out of the house entirely. To-day they are doing a great many other things that were never dreamed of even two or three generations ago. Our grandmothers did the spinning and weaving of cotton, wool, and flax; they made carpets, did the tailoring and dressmaking, some of them made boots, hats, gloves, collars, cuffs, underclothing, mattresses and pillows. Between times, and by way of recreation they made soap, candles, yeast, perfumes, medicines, liniments and cheese. They browned the coffee, dried the fruits and vegetables, and pickled the meat. And yet, judging by family records, we discover that those busy grandmothers had just as much time to be hospitable and entertain their friends as we have to-day. Their entertaining was, perhaps, not accompanied with such a blaze of light and blare of trumpets as in this day, and visitors did not come so often. But when they did, what a good time everyone had—from father down to the small boy, who found it an excellent opportunity to lay in an extra supply of cookies and fried cakes!

There have been many improvements in household equipment since grandmother's time. Instead of candles we have kerosene, gas and electricity—even the last in some country homes. We can send for an electric or steam vacuum cleaner and clean our houses in half a day instead of undergoing the torture of a "regular spell" of spring cleaning lasting for several weeks.

We have sewing machines, but unfortunately have added more ruffles and lace to our garments, and still have a great deal of sewing to do. We have water systems and plumbing in town houses, and in many progressive ones in the country, and these two items simplify labor immensely. Many modern homes, even in the country, are heated with hot air or steam or

hot water, and that makes another big cut-off in hard work. There are numerous sanitary appliances for the home, all of which make life easier and pleasanter, and allow more time for other work.

SOME WOMEN ARE CONSERVATIVE.

Then why is it women in town and country have always, everywhere, the same old story to tell—too much hard work in the home, on the farm particularly? Why is it that experts and specialists are working and thinking to find some way to make house-work less of a bug-bear to the average woman?

There are several answers to the question. One is, that until recently, women have not thought it possible, or worth while trying to make house-work easier. Some of them think that way still. They have been using their grandmother's brains all these years instead of their own. They have been following her methods in spite of the fact that times have changed and new conditions have made many of these methods obsolete.

The second reason is, because living has been getting more complicated year by year, until now something must be done to make it even passably livable for this and future generations.

A third difficulty in the way of progress is that comparatively few women have taken the trouble to systematize housework, or to think enough about the importance of any branch of it to decide whether it is wiser to continue it, or to eliminate it from the regular routine of daily or weekly duties.

A fourth difficulty—and it is the saddest of all—is that many women are exceedingly conservative and absolutely refuse to change their methods, or to adopt appliances for lightening labor, even if they have been proved to be genuine labor-saving devices.

A final reason for lack of progress in housekeeping methods is one for which the men are chiefly responsible. They hold the purse strings, and sometimes they positively refuse to unloosen them for anything in which they cannot see a direct advantage to themselves. Nine times out of ten this last reason exists because of lack of education, lack of thought, lack of forehandedness, and sometimes a bad "bringing up" for which women were largely responsible.

FARMER DECIDES BETWEEN TIME AND COST.

A farmer doesn't haggle many hours over the problem: if a \$60 mowing machine will make it possible for him to cut as much hay in one hour as his father cut in one day with a scythe, should he spend that amount of money for a single piece of machinery? He gets the machine if he has to give a chattel mortgage on a horse to do it. But if a \$60 vacuum cleaner will make it possible for his wife to clean her entire house in one day, better than his mother could in two weeks—that is quite a different problem, and generally solved in a different way.

To equip a farm with machinery and labor saving devices that are necessities because they enable the farmer to make one hour accomplish the work of ten without them, may cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$18,000, not counting horses, wagons, harness or any building machinery.

To equip a farm home with every contrivance that will actually lighten labor and make the home in the country as comfortable as it might be in the up-to-date city may cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$2,000; the difference depending largely on the quality of material and finish.

But these are the extremes in both cases; the farm and the farm house can both be made much more up-to-date than they usually are with about one-half that expenditure.

Every woman should be the possessor of the best labor-saving device that any home can possess—a good brain and a keen interest in her work. There is a great deal of wisdom in the advice "Make your head save your heels." Every farmer's wife must decide for herself what particular tasks in her home consume the greatest amount of time and strength. These are the tasks for which she should provide the best contrivances calculated to make them easier.

POWER EQUIPPED LAUNDRY.

A laundry provided with stationery wash tubs, with power equipped washing machine and wringer, and a power-equipped mangle is an innovation, but by no means an impossibility for the farm home. A farmer no longer reaps his grain with a sickle or cradle, though his father may have done so. He rides his plow, and often his harrow. He rides his drill, and his grain planter. He loads hay by machinery, and pitches it into barns by horse power. Why should a farmer's wife be afflicted with an aching back, disfigured hands and ruffled temper, because she is compelled to do the weekly washing for her family with tub and board in the way her mother and grandmother did before her?

Even making allowance for new conditions in our North West, where finances are just beginning to be adjusted to a paying basis, the cost of equipping a power laundry is not prohibitive, as the following prices, secured from Winnipeg dealers will indicate.

Power washing machine, with wringer attached	\$32.50
Small gasoline engine to operate all machinery	\$40.00
Power mangle, 31 inch roller	\$52.00
Stationery tubs with 3 compartments	\$30.00
Piping and connections for water	\$5.00

The total cost of equipping such a laundry will be less than \$200.00, and it will be found to pay for itself many times over in the course of fifteen years, the length of time it may reasonably be expected to last.

GASOLINE ENGINE AS GENERAL SERVANT.

For an outlay of from \$40 to \$75 you can provide the farmer's wife with a single piece of machinery which will practically do all the mechanical work of the house. Washing, mangling, churning, running the cream separator, sewing machine, vacuum cleaner and so on, are tasks which are rendered almost child's play by this willing little servant, which, in a remarkably short time, pays for itself not only in dollars and cents, but in ease and satisfaction. If no other appliances than those operated by power can be afforded, they will rob the work of the farm of 90 per cent. of its drudgery.

THE SUCCESSFUL DISH WASHER.

Until recently this has been considered a machine of the future. But there is now on the market a satisfactory dish washer costing from \$18 to \$20 large enough to wash the dishes for a family of eight or ten persons in from five to ten minutes. It is so arranged that dishes of various sizes and shapes can be packed in it; and with a couple of gallons of real hot soap suds pumped over them by a small hand pump and then rinsed with the same amount of boiling water, applied in the same way, will leave the dishes perfectly clean and dry. The former objection to dish washers was they had so many crevices and attachments, that to keep them clean consumed almost as much time as washing the dishes. This simple contrivance, which is simple enough for a ten year old child to operate, would in itself lighten work in the farm home tremendously also eliminate one of the tasks which is the bug-bear of many women.

THE WATER SYSTEM.

This should be one of the first really large conveniences to instal. It costs considerably less than many people suppose. It has been estimated that a practical water system can be put into an eight or ten-room house for about \$150, the price to include tank in the attic, force pump in cellar, bathroom and kitchen fixtures and all necessary piping. Of course, this price will not permit of the most expensive materials, but will allow style and quality that will last many years. A cheaper system is one having force pump in kitchen sink.

A HEATING SYSTEM.

It is much cheaper to heat an eight room house with a furnace than with stoves, to say nothing of the saving in labor and dirt. This is proved by many people who have made the experiment. A hot air furnace to heat a six or ten room house can be installed for \$200 to \$250. A steam or hot water heating system will cost probably one-half more to instal, but the hot water requires a little less fuel, and gives even better satisfaction in windy localities. Still the advantage of the hot air furnace over ordinary stoves is so great, that the wisdom of installing such a system is unquestioned if one cannot afford the other styles. It has been estimated that the actual running expense of any heating system is less than heating with stoves.

LIGHTING SYSTEMS.

Tallow candles for general illuminating purposes went out of style many years ago, very soon the coal oil lamp will follow them. Even now they are classed among emergencies in many homes and the daily care of them is counted among the tasks that easily might be eliminated. The lighting systems possible in any country home are electricity, gasoline, gas and acetyline. This last system can be installed in Canadian homes for \$200 to \$250. Quoting from a United States bulletin: "In 1906 142,000 buildings were lighted with this gas. The daily cost of acetylene gas is rather lower than kerosene with carbide at $5\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound and kerosene at 25 cents a gallon. Acetylene gas is not dangerous if cared for by a responsible person, in reality it is not so dangerous as kerosene; the gas is not poisonous if taken into the lungs by accident. If a standard carbide feed generator is used, there can be no danger from its use for a safety pipe is used which makes accidents almost impossible.

VACUUM CLEANER.

Many different kinds of vacuum cleaners are on the market. Those operated by hand can be bought for \$10 to \$30—electric for \$125 and those operated by a gasoline engine cost about \$75.00.

This machine cleans the house from attic to cellar with a thoroughness that no amount of "elbow grease" can equal. The most exacting and painstaking housekeeper will be surprised to find how much dust the vacuum will work out of carpets, rugs and curtains, after she has given them a most thorough sweeping.

REFRIGERATORS.

A refrigerator, or some kind of artificial cooler, should be included in the furnishings of every kitchen. If nothing better can be afforded, it is possible to build a cupboard on the shady side of the house, having access of the cool outside air and with shelves of wire netting to permit of constant circulation of air. A home-made ice chest, made of two layers of wood, with an inner layer of saw-dust, the chest lined with galvanized iron, is a simple contrivance not to be scorned if nothing better is possible.

THE ALCOHOL OR GASOLINE IRON.

To operate these costs a mere trifle, and what they save in time and energy, make them invaluable to the housewife. The weekly ironing can be accomplished in half the time with 75 per cent. less effort; with the addition of a mangle for all flat pieces, the labor of the weekly ironing for a large family can be reduced to almost nothing.

KITCHEN UTENSILS.

Each kitchen should be provided with any and all tools required for its work, and no more. A man cannot do good work with poor tools—he does not try. A woman will waste hours of valuable time trying to work with dull knives, broken scissors, leaking pans, and an insufficient supply of dishes. This is the height of folly. It is almost as foolish to litter the kitchen with a variety of useless articles, just because they are on the market and some one has persuaded you to buy. Cooking utensils should

be of good material, light, durable and easily kept clean. Decide for yourself whether you prefer enamel, granite or aluminum ware, then provide yourself with the necessary articles in the best quality. It rarely pays to buy "seconds." Each particular kind of cooking utensils has its peculiar advantages and disadvantages, but they all require intelligent use and reasonable care. The fireless cooker, steam cooker, coal oil or gasoline stoves for hot weather, the "dinner wagon" to carry food and dishes to and from kitchen and dining room are included in a long list of useful articles calculated to make housework easier. The wise housekeeper is the one who makes a selection of those articles which will be of the greatest assistance in her work.

CEMENT WALKS.

Cement walks should be listed among the necessities of the rural home in Manitoba. Prevention is always better than cure, and it is more sensible to prevent the dirt getting in the house, than to spend time getting it out. Half the cleaning in every home could be saved, if cement walks were used around the house. Board walks are better than none, but the cost of cement is not prohibitive, and a well laid walk around the house and out-buildings often proves an incentive to other improvements.

