

## The Farm and The Farmer

By William R. Sanborn

"I have 80 head of thrifty last fall's pigs, and have lost very few spring pigs," said R. L. Wilson, who lives east of New Paris. Mr. Wilson is a Big-Type Poland Breeder, and is a believer in first class pure bred stock, from the farm dog to the family cow. He believes in culling and improving by cultivating the best strains, not merely for show rings but for better feeding and quicker maturing qualities, at less cost for feed.

"My aim is to raise hogs that will put on weight rapidly, have the frame to carry it, and which will attain market proportions more quickly than the average hog at less expense in feed, and will also run uniform as to size and finish when ready to ship. Blood will tell and a fine pedigree is a good thing, but it isn't everything. In selecting breeding stock, individuality is the first consideration, but when good individuality is backed by a fine pedigree you are not likely to go out, no matter how high the cost." Mr. Wilson wintered 20 registered brood sows, having previously sold 15 head along in the fall.

**Has Lost Sheep and Lambs.** While fortunate as to hogs Mr. Wilson says that he has lost a number of fine ewes and some lambs. The bad weather is partly responsible, in his opinion; the mud and cold rains limited the exercise the sheep needed. But aside from this fact is the truth that many ewes came to the lambing period weak, frequently unable to get around, the result usually being loss of both mother and offspring. We have been raising sheep for several years, have seldom had any trouble or losses, but this year we are having a new experience, in spite of the fact that our sheep have been well fed and cared for. Some other feeders in his vicinity have lost a few spring pigs, and others have had a similar experience with sheep.

**Over Greensfork Way.** "Very few of our customers have complained of losing spring pigs, although I have heard of some losses in this line," said John Ellis, Jr., merchant at Greensfork. "Have heard no one talk of reducing acreage for any reason whatsoever. Guess all will farm to capacity to handle their crops, depending on how they are fixed for help and the size of their farms. We seem to have a contented lot of prosperous farmers out this way, and they are pretty good customers. Business has been good all winter. As to the activities of the farm bureau and its membership, am unable to say."

**Society of Equity Active.** Harry Bragg, secretary of the Society of Equity at New Paris, states that it has an enrollment of 64 members in Jefferson township. He says the society is very active, using such facilities as it now has, and that fire proof elevators will be built in sections, as needed, commencing as early as they can get the material. Mr. Bragg reports the formation of a new branch of the society at Eaton this week, for which a charter is being applied for.

Asked as to the activities of the farm bureau folks, he stated that the Grange and the Society of Equity mostly held the field, but that the farm bureau is planning a "drive", also that the operation of the farm bureau dovetailed in with their own and worked harmoniously. His idea is that a number of sows were sold off last fall and that the spring crop of pigs will be light, comparatively, and that this will reduce next fall's crop around New Paris.

**Will Plow Up 20 Acres.** "A farmer came in today who said he was going to plow up 20 acres of wheat and probably resow to oats," said Peter Marbaugh, of the Bert Roach grocery at Liberty. "To hear our customers talk, you might think that wheat, as a general rule, is N. G. around here, though all do not talk that way. Guess it is all right in spots, and where sown late, but where the fly got there first it looks

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like slim pickings. Business has been good in Liberty, according to the season. What's that; buying automobiles? Yes, certainly; not the grocers but the farmers, of course. Why wouldn't they?"

## Enough Help to Get Through.

"As to the loss of spring pigs out this way, it seems to have been quite serious in spots, more especially of the February litters which came along during the long spell of cold weather. In some cases whole litters were lost," said I. H. Lumpkin, of Losantville, "and we lost a few ourselves, with the best of care. We wintered 14 Duroc sows, many of which are due later, and we should finally have 100 or more youngsters."

"Very few sheep in this neighborhood have heard nothing regarding how the lambs are doing. One of my neighbors reports a loss of 50 pigs out of 75, which could not weather the February cold. I think our farmers will try and raise the usual number of hogs, as a rule, though some sold off a number of brood sows early, which, if not replaced, will cut down their pork crop."

"As to the future of prices; very hard to say. I rather expect to see higher prices next summer. In keeping with the cost of feeding, that being a reasonable proposition. As to farm help I believe our farmers have arranged for sufficient help to farm as usual. So far as I have learned all the men looking for tenants are supplied."

**Is Greatly Dissatisfied.** In our next interview we present the other side of the farm help question, also the result, as one farmer sees it, on next summer's production, not only as to hogs but with relation to crops in general. M. H. Brumfield, living near Centerville, says he has 150 acres and no help to farm them. Says that he "is bound to cut down his acreage," that there is nothing else left to do.

Says, too, that many others are in the same fix; "are more or less disgusted. They will not only farm less ground but will raise fewer hogs, just as in my own case. I pretty nearly made a cleanup of my hogs last fall. What was the use of keeping them, the way the market acted? Shall raise no hogs to speak of this year, and

why should I, or why should any farmer, for that matter?"

"Farmers can't pay the wages now asked for six or eight hours work, especially when they won't even honestly dig in and try to get something done, as is the case with a lot of men. Why, you would have to tie some of them to get them to complete a job in the evening. That kind of a thing won't set well when I am hard at it for 16 hours, myself." As to the outlook for wheat he states that he sowed a lot late in September and that it is so poor he is going to sow the land in oats.

## Are Buying Cars.

According to Omar Miller, merchant at Cottage Grove, things are running pretty smoothly down that way. He says that he can't complain as to business, having done pretty well for a long time, but at that he hasn't invested in any of the latest models in fine cars, although many of his farmer customers have done that very thing.

Says that he has heard very few complaints of losing spring pigs, nor any talk of raising less hogs on account of market conditions. While it is true some farmers are complaining he feels assured that the usual acreage will be planted this year and help enough he somehow obtained to care for it.

**Scarcity of Feeders.** There is a scarcity of feeders, some hog men are complaining, according to P. F. May, grocer at Straughn. He reports a probable loss of 15 per cent of the spring pigs around Straughn, judging from what his customers have said. There are also some cattle being fed in that district, mostly in small bunches, although there are some farmers who have good sized herds on feed.

"Our farmers are organized and have been holding meetings, but haven't heard as to the number of members in this township, or what percentage of them have so far joined. As to wheat, the fly tracked up a lot of it last fall and if much of it is to be plowed up can't be told until later on. Most of our farmers are hopeful of better prices for both hogs and cattle before they are ready to market."

"Many farmers are considering improving their places, possibly with new buildings; others will do repairing and await a more favorable time for putting up new barns, etc., said Warren A. Spring, of Spring Brothers' department store at Eaton. "Haven't heard one farmer in 50

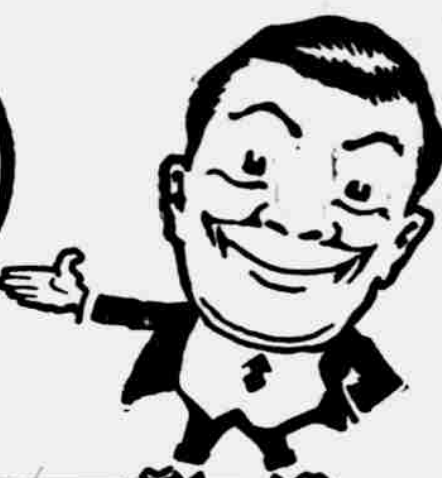
say that he wants to cut his cultivated acreage, but know of several who will have to, as they have been unable to get tenants. An not referring to tobacco, but to general farm crops. Tobacco is a costly crop to grow. Ten acres of the weed means a lot of expensive labor just now and the chances are that the biggest tobacco growers in this county will cut that crop down somewhat. There is some tobacco moving here, some having sold as high as 23 cents; but most of the holders of old leaf want at least 25 cents for it, 'tis said, or even more. "We have been told of losses of spring pigs, the greatest sufferers being those who have moved to new locations during recent cold weather. In some cases these have lost all the new arrivals, we are told. Business has been very fair with us and there seems to be no shortage of money to supply all wants. What is most needed now is warm spring days to paint the country green and these, of course, are on the way."

## Revallee Case To Be Heard By Pardon Board Thursday

A hearing was to be granted Charles Revallee, of Wayne county, now serving a life sentence because of murder, Thursday by the state board of pardons. Revallee was sentenced April 20, 1910, in the Wayne circuit court, charged with murdering Christina Allison, near Milton.

Police records show that Revallee entered the home of Mrs. Allison, who was a wealthy woman, April 6, 1910, to rob her. When Mrs. Allison interfered Revallee is alleged to struck her with a stick of wood, killing her. In an attempt to cover up his crime Revallee is said to have fired the house, burning both the property and the dead woman. After being arrested two times on the charge he confessed, and was given a life sentence. Frank Carter of Wayne county, serving a two to fourteen-year term for burglary, was given a hearing Wednesday. He was sentenced Feb. 26, 1919.

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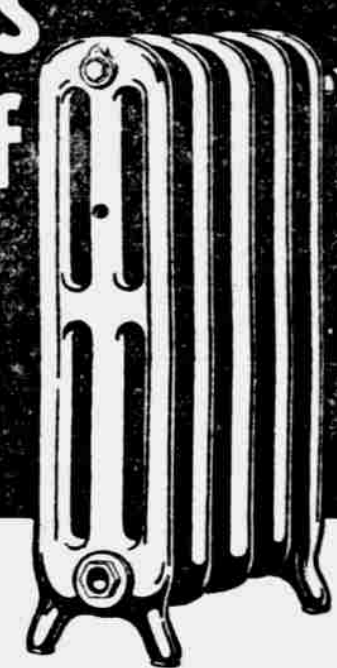
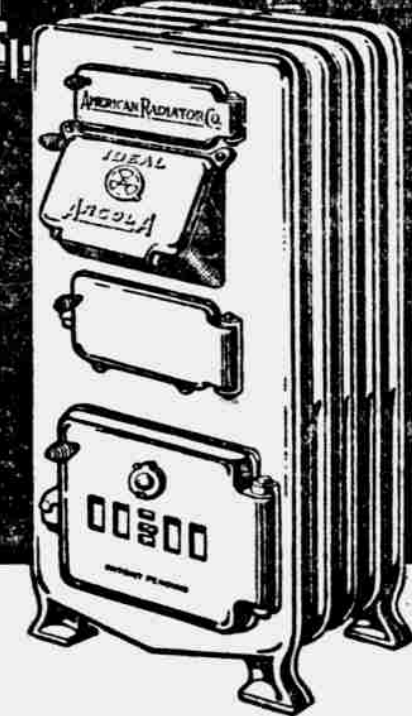
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