

## FARM WOMEN ARE BUSIEST OF EARTH, FINDS INVESTIGATOR

By WILLIAM R. SANBORN

A young woman of inquisitive mind has discovered that farmers' wives have few vacations and that they keep everlastingly busy. She has discovered that farm women are early risers and that they put in many hours of real work before they go tired and early to bed.

She states that the average working day of the farm wife is 11.3 hours the year around, but in summer her working day is 13.12 hours. She presents all this as a general proposition, considering farm homes "in the mass."

This young woman thinks that the farmers' wives and daughters are as much in need, and are as much entitled to a vacation as are any women on the footstool, particularly the mothers. To this we will unanimously agree.

At the same time we must admit that now and again a "downtrodden" farmer should be permitted a fishing or hunting vacation, or a trip to the mountains or sea. On these mountain, seaside, or summer resort trips, he will naturally and dutifully take his wife, if not the whole family.

But that is another story—we were speaking of vacations for the Missus; of her visits home to see mother, or Martha, her sister, who married and moved away. In such cases the farmer himself can go hang. It isn't his vacation, anyway.

Has Very Little Leisure.

Miss Florence Ward, in charge of extension work with women, represents the Department of Agriculture at Washington. Her "survey" covers 10,015 homes, in 33 northern and western states. Much of her data was obtained by home demonstration agents, representing agricultural colleges and the department at Washington, as field agents.

Miss Ward summarizes by stating that half of the farm women are up and at work at 5 o'clock of mornings; that they have but 1.6 hours of leisure in summer and only 2.4 hours in winter. Moreover, the average farm wife has a seven room house to keep in order. Only 40 per cent of farm homes have water in the kitchen, in the remainder the good wife must trot out to the spring or pump for all the water used in the home.

Helping Their Husbands.

According to Miss Ward 60 per cent of our farm women have churning to do, they have most of the feeding and care of the poultry on their hands, and, surprising statement, "24 per cent of them spend more than six weeks in the year assisting in some part of the field work." They also help in the care of live stock, doing feeding, bedding, etc.

Should the farmer's wife have an annual vacation? a real breathing spell amid new and different surroundings? Certainly. But Miss Ward has discovered that but 13 out of 100 do have these vacations, more's the pity. There are so many reasons why this going away isn't possible in millions of farm homes. So many women are content to rest in the shade at home in fervid days, and to use the phone in visiting.

Needlessly Wasted Efforts.

The "survey" discloses the time spent on kerosene lamps, the need for modern kitchen and laundry convenience. "The engine used at the well or barn should be hooked up to the churn, the washer and some lighting machinery." City women rebel at marrying farmers and sequestering themselves away from friends, with so much to do and so little but main strength to accomplish with, according to Miss Ward, and she ought to know.

She overlooks the fact that the automobile has brought the town to the farm; that the farm wife and children often have vacation trips to town, and across the country for miles, visiting friends, seeing new villages or cities, for the days of isolation in the older and settled country have vanished, because the old order changeth. But there are still a million lonely spots where farm homes have been set up, in our broad domain.

Two Sides to the Picture.

Miss Ward's sensible conclusion is that there are two sides to the picture. She tells of the "blessing and satisfaction of living in the open country" and says that the average farm woman is more "fortunately placed than is her average city sister. In this, most of the women on our farms will agree. Farm life has many

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But nevertheless: "If a fraction of the money applied to making field and barn work convenient were applied intelligently to lightening the drudgery part of women's work, it would add to both the profit and comfort of farm life."

Vacations for Women.

Perhaps the farm federalists have overlooked something. We fail to find any pronouncement as to "Vacations for Farm Women" in any of their literature. Who knows but that the banners inscribed, "Votes for Women" have been misprinted. Surely Vacations for Women would meet the approval of millions of wives and mothers, who are not expecting to vote in the next hundred years.

## HENRY FARMERS TO FACE CAR SHORTAGE

On the eve of the threshing season Henry county farmers are facing a serious car shortage which can probably be averted only by the farmers storing their grain in the granaries at their homes, according to word from Newcastle.

The question which Henry county farmers and grain dealers are facing is that about 90 per cent. of the crop for the year must be shipped out of the county and to do this it will require between 300 and 400 cars more than are now available. The grain men of the county say that it will mean that most of the farmers will have to store their wheat at home.

The mills and elevators of the county will be able to store about 10 per cent. of the total wheat crop of the county. The other 90 per cent of this year's crop must be shipped from the county and with the threshing season almost here the elevator men forecast a serious car shortage.

The elevators of the county each receive two cars a month and it is thought that the total number of cars that can be secured in this manner will not amount to over 40 cars.

The Farmers' federation took up the stock car shortage some time ago and it is thought that the work done in this connection has been successful. The federation will do some work on the shortage of grain cars but it is thought that the best solution to this difficulty will be in storing the grain. There was a shortage in grain cars last year but elevator men declare that it much more acute this year.

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## The Farm and the Farmer

BY WILLIAM R. SANBORN

Richard Morrow, of Wayne township, says that last week while he was up to his waist in wheat on his Ohio farm, a bland and genial hog buyer offered him \$18 for a choice lot of hogs, of which he is feeding 200 head. Mr. Morrow felt that he was too over-lusting busy just then to sort and load hogs, so no sale was made. He says that his Ohio wheat looks like 20 bushels but was damaged some by mildew and not likely to be of top grade. That is also true of much of the grain in that neighborhood, which will be "only fair quality."

Farmers will be interested to know that a car of No. 4 new winter wheat was sold from the sample table in Chicago on Wednesday, at \$2.87.

The wheat harvest is practically completed in the Campbelltown district, which had its share of delay from rain. No threshing has yet been done, but will begin some day next week, according to Darrell Swisher, elevator owner at that point. Mr. Swisher says that no hail struck Campbelltown, but did some damage about 1 1/2 miles north.

Timothy a Good Crop.  
"Practically all the wheat in the Economy district is in shock, except that which is left to stand until timothy is ready as a seed crop. Then both will be threshed. I am letting my wheat stand. The timothy is a good crop, the wheat thin, and there are other farmers in the same fix," is the report of W. E. Oler. Mr. Oler says their wheat isn't anything to brag about, though now and then one finds a field that looks like 20 to 30 bushels. Corn is in good condition and growing fast; oats are doing well.

Are Through With Wheat.  
Lawson Sanford, at Cottage Grove, says all the wheat is cut and threshers are fixing to begin operations next week, if there is no rain to delay them. The crop is fair, and the acreage about the same as in 1919, I judge. We are expecting a fair oat crop and a whole lot of corn, unless we strike a long dry spell.

More than half the 1919 Preble county crop is in shock.

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ty tobacco crop remains unsold, and buyers are now in the field, offering 15 and 16 cents, is the report from W. B. Eddins, tobacco man at Eldorado. Mr. Eddins says that he has bought 40 cars of cigar leaf so far this year, also 126,000 pounds of "trash," the latter mostly at 5 cents per pound. Wheat is now all harvested around Eldorado and oats "will be ready in about 10 days." As to the new crop tobacco it is said that about as many acres were planted this spring as in 1919, around Eldorado, and that in spite of late transplanting the crop is doing well.

FARM BOYS RUSH TO SEAS, SAYS M'ADAMS

Farmer lads have a greater hankering for the sailorman's life than do city cousins, Navy Recruiter McAdams believes.

McAdams does not know the reason for the farm plurality except that the farmer boy, because of his rather limited sphere of life, is discontented.

"LUSITANIA" LIFE PRESERVER IS PICKED UP IN DELAWARE

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., July 16.—A life jacket, silent remembrance of the tragic sinking of the Lusitania five years ago and bearing a strand of faded blonde hair, was picked up today in the Delaware river. The name

of the ship the Germans torpedoed with slime and seaweed, with one arm strap broken. On one side were the words "life belt" and on the other, in large black letters the inscription "Lusitania."

The life packet, which was found by two railroad detectives, was covered

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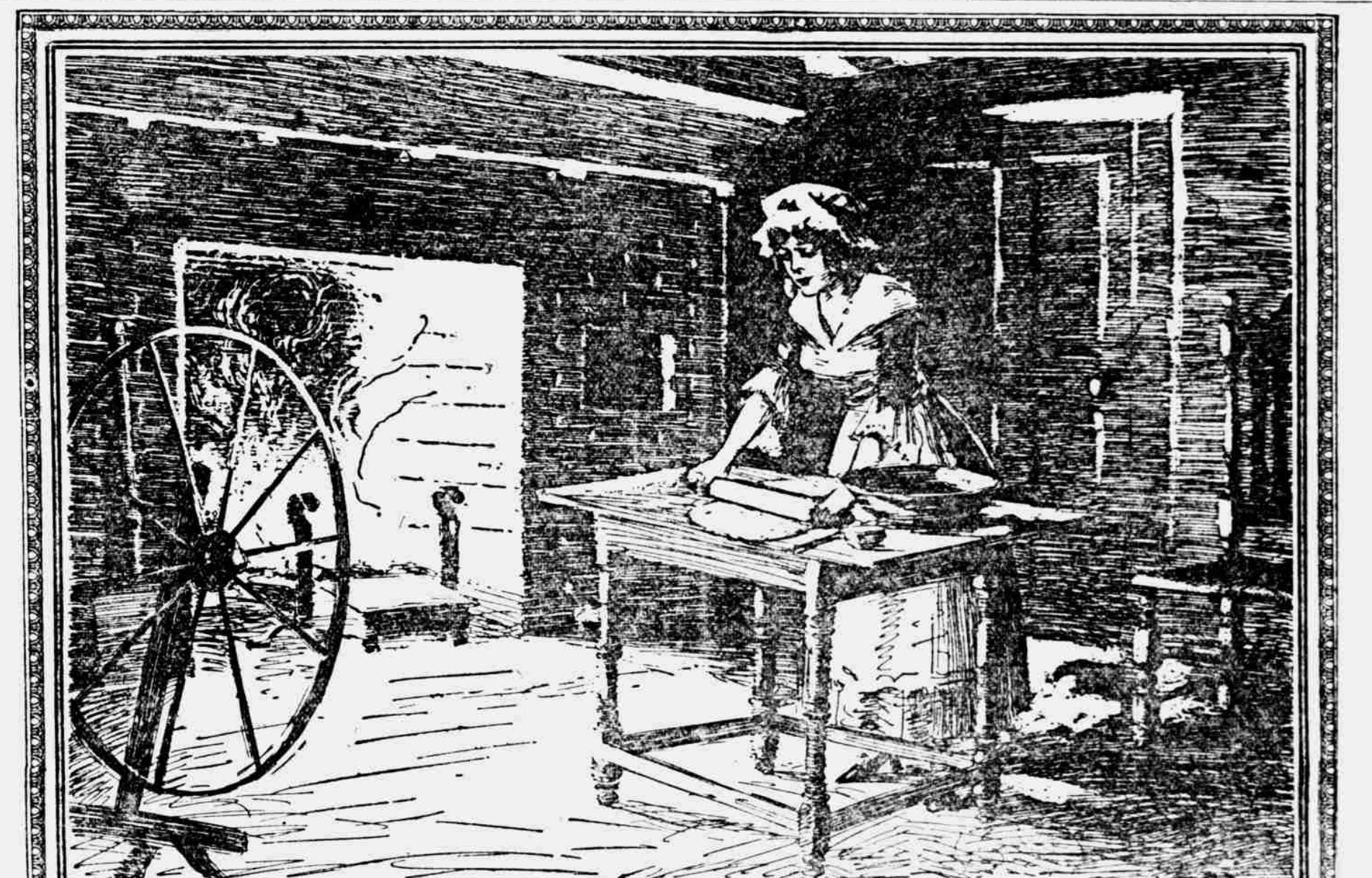
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