

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Always take your wife into your confidence and let her help you work out the hard problems.

Care must always be taken in feeding new oats after old dry oats. The change should be gradual.

The last call to clean out all the stock which will not pay their way through the winter season.

Feed all stock so that there will be a gain. It is a losing business to feed so as to just keep them even.

47 of wife's advice and follow it given. You cannot go wrong when you trust her judgment.

Keep the skim milk on the farm. You cannot afford to let it go. Get a separator, sell the cream and feed the milk to the pigs and calves.

A windbreak for the orchard would prove a good thing and evergreens are about the best for this purpose. Plan to set some out in the spring.

Plan to improve the long winter evenings by some course of study or reading and in planning out the work for next season. Try each year to have new ideas worked out.

One method of feeding molasses to horses or other stock is to mix it with water and dampen the hay which has been cut into short lengths. Then to this the ground feed may be added.

Fall plowing of the ground is good both because it exposes many insects to the killing frosts of winter, and also because it puts the ground into condition for early planting in the spring.

If you have kept a record of your field operations and made note of soil and crop conditions during the growing season you will have valuable memoranda for comparison with the actual results obtained and will thus be able intelligently to determine what are the best methods for you to follow in your farm operations.

Plan work for the rainy days. A good job for the days when the weather shuts you in is that of going over the harness, oiling and repairing it. A majority of farmers are very slack in the way in which they care for the harness. Cleaning and oiling and repairing weak places will make harness last twice as long as it will under conditions of neglect.

The department of agriculture has estimated that the crop values will mount up to eight billions of dollars—five hundred millions more than last year. Who dares to say that this has been a poor year? It has been a trying one in some respects and some sections have suffered, but taken as a whole the farmers have done better than ever before. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

To have good silage one must have a good silo. If you are going to build one and want to get the best in formation regarding the best types of silos, send to the Iowa Agricultural college for its recent bulletin on silo construction. This bulletin gives in condensed form the advantages and disadvantages of all the various types of silos, together with practical hints on their construction. Profuse illustrations aid in making the meaning clear. It is a pamphlet that will be invaluable to any farmer or dairyman who is contemplating the erection of a silo.

Farmers who are in any way interested in fruit raising will be interested in the program planned by the Illinois State Horticultural society for its annual convention at Champaign. It proposes to give a course of lectures and laboratory work along practical horticultural lines in addition to the usually interesting program, which includes instruction in the propagation of plants by seeds, cutting and grafting, the grading and packing of fruits and the selection and judging of exhibition fruits. Three whole days will be devoted to the subject of spraying, in its various phases. Three sessions will be given to the study and demonstration of pruning fruit trees. Due attention will be given to landscape gardening, floriculture and vegetable gardening.

All the uncultivated, unproductive lands are not to be found in the great arid west, nor in the swamp lands of some of our southeastern states. They are to be found in small patches on innumerable farms throughout the country. And why so? Because our farmers are thoughtless and careless and do not by the best methods get the best out of their soil. By special treatment there is scarcely a square foot of ground on any farm which cannot be made to pay a profit. How much of your farm is practically worthless? Study it up. Don't let it lie idle any longer. If it needs draining, tile it. If it needs building up, put stock on it and fertilize it. It must be vigorously stirred all the while, when it gets as smooth as glass. Then add a sufficient amount of hot water to make 150 gallons. Strain through fine wire sieve or netting, and apply while mixture is still warm. Use a good pump with a high pressure, and coat every twig. The time to spray for the San Jose scale is in the fall or the early spring, while the leaves are off.

Mongrel stock never brought success to a poultry raiser.

Ground troubled with white grubs should be fall plowed.

Corn and oats ground together make fine ration for the stock.

It's the slovenly farmer who allows the chickens to roost in the barn.

Cleanliness is an essential factor in successful sheep farming. Provide clean drinking water, and clean yards.

Wheat can't be beat as a poultry feed, but corn should be fed with it to supply the starchy food needed.

Go through the orchard and destroy all cocoons and egg clusters on trunks, branches, etc. Clean up the ground, also, and burn the litter.

Clean milk cannot be produced from cows kept in filthy surroundings. There is nothing which is so easily contaminated as milk.

Corn is not objectionable as a ration for the brood sow if too much is not fed and if oats or other grain rich in protein is provided.

Twenty parts common lime, five parts salt and 15 parts of water when mixed well and then bottled make good fire extinguishing grenades.

Let us raise more sheep and supply the constantly increasing demand for wool. Altogether too much wool has to be imported. The farms would be better and the farmers richer if they raised more sheep.

Put the farm tools and machines up for the winter, but before doing so be sure they are cleaned and oiled. The time spent now will not only prolong the life of the tools but will save you valuable time in the spring.

Care for the cows right now and they will keep up the milk flow all winter. It is in the fall when the change from summer to winter conditions is made that most cows suffer. Let the change be as gradual as possible.

You are burning up good money when you burn up the leaves. Save them for bedding or rake in a pile and cover over with branches to prevent blowing away. It will make fine compost for the garden and for potting plants.

Scatter wood ashes around the poultry yard. They will purify the ground and the chickens will pick up the small bits of charcoal. This is good for them. And this reminds us to urge you not to forget to provide suitable grits for them.

To mark your tools effectively do it with nitric acid. Place beeswax or tallow on place where metal is to be eaten out and scratch the letters through the wax. Pour the acid in the groove thus formed and after a few minutes clean off and you will find your name in the steel to stay.

The Texas experiment station has by test shown that in feeding a ton of cotton seed meal having a fertilizer valuation of \$29.50 to fattening animals, that portion of its fertility which passes into the solid excrement has a valuation of about \$12.40, and that which passes into the urine of about \$15. Here is proof of the importance of saving the liquid manure.

One of the indications that there is a growing interest in agriculture is the increasing space which the magazines of the country are giving to subjects of this kind. Not a month goes by now but that one or more of the big magazines have articles on agricultural tones. "The Awakening of the Farmer," in October Atlantic, should be specially helpful and suggestive to the farmer.

More gasoline engines are finding their way on to the farm every year. A good indication of the improvement in this direction is found in the increasing exhibits each year of gasoline engines at the state and county fairs and the interest shown by farmers in these exhibits. Even on the small farm where the call for power is small, the use of the gasoline engine is proving itself of economic value.

It would be interesting, nay, rather appalling, if accurate figures were obtainable as to the losses sustained by farmers every year through neglect of farm machinery. How much of the machinery of your farm has been properly housed and cared for for the winter? It is not enough to push the machine into the shed after bringing it from the field. It should be cleaned and oiled thoroughly so that rust cannot get in its destructive work.

Why not a course of study in salesmanship in our agricultural colleges? If there is one point in which the average farmer is weak it is knowing how to dispose of his products to the best advantage. Such a course could be arranged to teach the farmer what he should know about the distribution of the farm products of the world. He will then learn to dispose of his goods scientifically, just as to-day the advanced farmer raises his scientifically.

Lime sulphur wash for spraying for San Jose scale is made as follows: To make 150 gallons of the mixture, take 65 pounds of best stone lime and 50 pounds of sulphur. Make a paste of the sulphur and have from 15 to 20 gallons of boiling water in an iron caldron over a brisk fire. Into this put the lime, immediately adding the sulphur paste. This is rapidly cooked, 10 or 15 minutes, or longer, or until it looks as red as canned tomatoes. It must be vigorously stirred all the while, when it gets as smooth as glass. Then add a sufficient amount of hot water to make 150 gallons. Strain through fine wire sieve or netting, and apply while mixture is still warm. Use a good pump with a high pressure, and coat every twig. The time to spray for the San Jose scale is in the fall or the early spring, while the leaves are off.

Faithfulness.

Remember the test of faith is faithfulness. Have we in us the stuff that will not weary or falter, that will make us stand a sleepless sentinel at the post till relief comes.—Hugh Black.

VISITS WITH UNCLE BY

Hinchmeyer's Patent Break.

"During the world's fair," confided Miller, the newspaper man, "in common with several hundred other cub newspaper reporters in Chicago, I was hanging on by my eyebrows trying to keep soul and body together. I was a space writer on the Tribune and because there were so many of us, the picking was mighty sparse."

"For weeks I persevered, because a dumb sort of perseverance meant something to eat while I was wearing out the clothes I brought with me from the country. One night when the world was looking especially cold and distract to me, the city editor threw me a bone and snarled at me to cover some little story down at the city hall. On my way back I dropped into the police department just in time to see 'Old Man' Hinton of the Blank National bank rush into the chief's office with a scare on his face that meant something doing."

"I'm Hinton," he cried, "of the Blank National bank. I've been robbed. Robbed!"

"And just as the story was within my grasp, the chief pushed me out of the office and closed the door on me. When I got in again, he was as clam-like as a Cedar river bivalve. There was absolutely nothing doing with him. The only alternative was the bank. In the excitement, I had confused the name of Hinton's bank with the one over which Melville Stone presided as president, the names being similar. With the assurance of a country reporter, I hurried down to the Stone bank. It was just closing time. Though new, Western Canada is not godless. The finest buildings in every town are the churches. Next come the school houses."

Turning to the wheat fields of Western Canada, the editor of the Laurel (Neb.) Advocate of Sept. 17th says: "I have often thought that the reason that the characters of Charles Dickens are so impressed upon the minds of his readers is because he dwells upon them so long and describes them so minutely that by the time one has waded through his long drawn out stories they are so burned into his brain that he can never forget them. It was this way with the Canadian wheat fields. Had we only seen a few the memory of them might have worn away in time, but a long drawn out experience such as we had is sure to leave an unerasable impression. Never while we live shall we forget the Canadian wheat fields. They call it the granary of the British Empire, and we don't blame 'em. Nobody who has seen these wheat fields can wonder at their enthusiasm." It is worth while to record that these fields have now been harvested, and in many cases yields as high as forty and fifty bushels per acre have been marketed, while the general average has been away above 20 bushels per acre. Oats and barley have also done well, and the profits, the prices of grains being high, have paid the entire cost of the farms of many a farmer. There is now 160 acres of land given away, in addition to the 160 acres that the homesteader may purchase at \$3.00 an acre. Particulars of this as well as the lowest railway rates will be given by the Canadian Government Agent.

Then Stone opened his heart and told me what was doing. It seems that Hinchmeyer, a German, had come to this country with an invention of great merit. One of the best known firms in the United States had engaged him at a salary of \$150 a month, and kept him just long enough to steal his patent. Then he worked some newspapermen. When he had sold his wonderful patent to them for \$100,000, Hinchmeyer took these notes to four banks and disposed of them for about \$80,000. He had valued his patent at \$100,000, and to get even he bought a fine house on the South side, forged a deed and mortgaged the property to five different people. With the full \$100,000, he left the country before the banks discovered they were holding the sack. The Stone and Hinton banks were among the two victimized. And incidentally they never caught Hinchmeyer.

"I wrote that story in a cafe and kept away from the office until I was sure they wouldn't send some regular man out and undermine my \$6 a column when I had tipped it off to them. In some way they had gotten wind of the thing and when I brought the scoop into the office, I was welcomed with outstretched arms. Things came my way rapidly that week and when pay day arrived, I almost had a apoplexy upon discovering there was \$66 dollars due me."

"When I presented the string (it was long enough to reach half way around the block), the city editor rushed up and cried:

"Say, Miller, didn't you know that I put you on the regular staff last week at \$25 a week?"

"By this clever ruse, he beat me out of my princely \$66, but I had been living so long on snowballs that I was happy in the thought of a sure salary of \$25 every pay day, and let it go at that."

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DOWN MISSOURI WAY

CANADA'S RESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER THE SUBJECT FOR FAVORABLE COMMENT.

Those who have visited Canada are always impressed with the strict observance that is given to the laws of the country, and the order that is preserved everywhere. The editor of the Gazette, of Fulton, Nev., recently paid a visit to Western Canada. He was so impressed with the conditions that he saw everywhere, that on his return home he was inspired to write as follows: "Reverence and respect for law is a dominant characteristic of the Canadian people. Wherever one goes in Canada, whether east or west, the law is supreme. The law is obeyed because it is law, seemingly, and not because violation carries a penalty. Canada enforces the law and makes every law effective. No country is more free than Canada. In name Canada is a dependency of the British Crown. In fact, it is almost a third republic. All its taxes are voted, collected and expended by the Dominion and the provinces. The nominal head of the Government is the Governor General, appointed by the English Crown. Practically his only authority is to veto the acts of parliament, which he scarcely ever exercises. Canada gives nothing to the support of the English government or the English king. She gives England the advantage in trade regulations and tariff laws, and in return receives the protection of the British army and navy. Canada enjoys the protection without sharing in the expense."

"The sale of liquor is strictly regulated. None but hotel-keepers may obtain license to vend the stuff, and before a license can be secured an applicant must prove good character and provide two rooms in his tavern for the accommodation of guests. The bar-rooms close at 7 o'clock Saturday evening and remain closed until Monday morning. The schools and churches in Western Canada excite admiration. Though new, Western Canada is not godless. The finest buildings in every town are the churches. Next come the school houses."

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