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AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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Take the Drudgery Out of Housekeeping.

"Blithe as a bee, with busy care,
She's here, she's there, she's everywhere;
Long ere the clock has struck for noon
Home chords of toil are all in tune;
And from each richly bounteous hour
She drains its use, as bees a flower."

SO sings Paul Hamilton Hayne of "The Farmer's Wife," and his portrait is a much truer one than that of the "uplifters" and philanthropists who picture the farm woman as a poor, lonely, broken creature, crushed by neglect, isolation and ceaseless drudgery.

But while the poet's picture is nearer the truth, it is not the exact statement of facts it should be. We must all admit, if we are honest, that there are entirely too many farm women who are lonely and overworked, and that even the typical farm woman lacks many of the comforts, conveniences and labor-saving devices she should have.

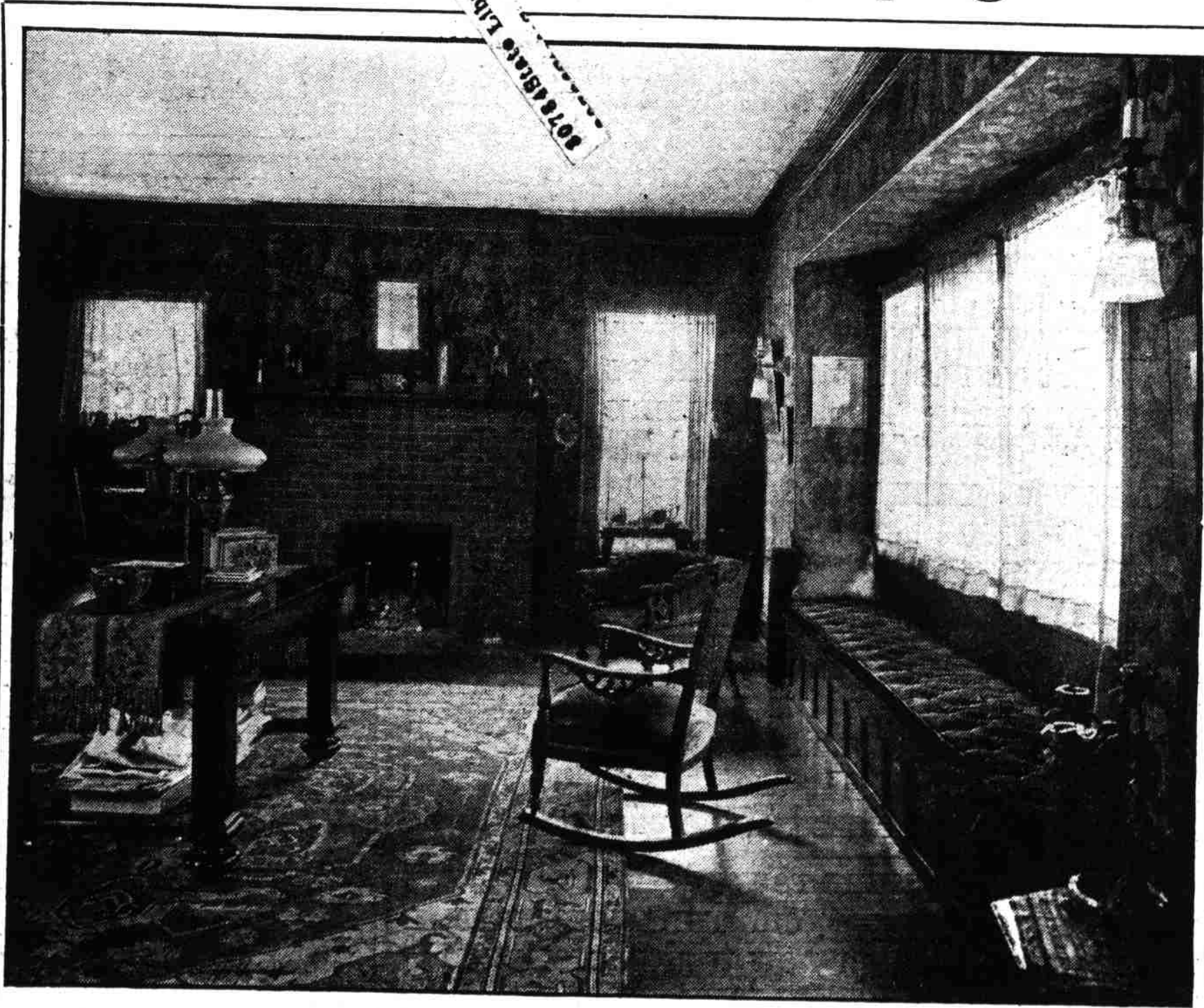
Occasionally some country woman takes her pen and draws a telling contrast between the farmer's abundant—and often neglected—supply of labor-saving tools, and the inefficient, out-of-date equipment with which his wife is expected to work; and there is often good reason for such contrasts.

All this should be changed. One of the best things that could happen in most farm homes would be for the farmer and the housekeeper to get together and see just what could be done to improve the conditions under which the housekeeper works and to make her work count for more. We feel sure that in nine cases out of ten the family is financially able to lighten the work of housekeeping to a degree the man of the house—possibly the woman herself—has never dreamed of. Right here is a wonderful opportunity for a little team work to do great things.

We do not attempt to say what equipment the housekeeper needs—with one exception. We are sure that she needs a system of home waterworks, so that she will be forever rid of the labor of carrying water and of the inconvenience of bathing in the wash-tub. We know that numbers of our readers are putting in such systems of home water supply; but we are confident that for every farmer who has put in home waterworks there are a dozen amply able to provide such equipment this very fall, to their immediate satisfaction and to the ultimate financial benefit of the whole family.

We commend to the attention of all readers the following statement of President Joe Cook, of the Mississippi Normal College:

"The getting of the water from the source of supply to the point of application requires more manual labor than any other item of housekeeping. The water for the kitchen has to be lifted from the well, carried to the kitchen, poured into a kettle, poured out of the kettle into the dishpan, and from the dishpan out of doors. This makes six times the water is handled; and a bucket of water containing two gallons, with the containing vessel, will weigh twenty pounds. When this is handled six times, the total lifting is 120 pounds. The



A COMBINED DINING-ROOM AND LIVING-ROOM.

This combination has many advantages, particularly for small families. It also has serious disadvantages, and is less likely to appeal on the farm than in town. The built-in window seat in this room is a fine thing.

cooking of three meals a day on a meager allowance of water will necessitate ten buckets, which will make for cooking alone 1,200 pounds of lifting per day. When to this is added the water necessary for bathing, scrubbing, and the weekly wash, it will easily bring the lift per day up to a ton.

"An isolated farm can be supplied with a system of waterworks for an outlay of about \$250; pump, \$25; gasoline engine, \$40; tank, \$20; bathtub, \$20; commode, \$20; kitchen sink, \$4; basin, \$4; 500 feet of pipe, \$40; valves and installation, \$75. These figures are for first-class porcelain-lined fixtures; cheaper can be had."

If these figures are correct—and everyone must admit that they are reasonable—they make it clear that for the ordinary farm family a system of home waterworks would be one of the most profitable investments that could be made.

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