

SUNNY HOME SUGGESTIONS

**Some Community-Building Ideals—
Some Livestock Needed on Every
Farm—Weed Out the Inefficient
Farm Methods**

A MAN said to me recently: "If farmers would stop gadding about so much, stay at home and work, they would soon get well fixed." My question was, "Well fixed how?" "Why they would have more money," was his reply. And this is probably true, provided they did not stay at home so closely as to miss good buying and selling opportunities. But would it pay after all—this every-day dig after more dollars?



MR. FRENCH

The thing that brought up the conversation was the passing of many farmers along the road to attend a meeting, when an extraordinary effort was being made to improve the schools of the section.

I have been about the county considerably for the past 20 years and observed more or less closely. I have seen communities where the majority of the people were engaged heart and soul in money getting. Other communities I have visited where the spirit of thrift was not lacking, but where the farmers took time to beautify somewhat their homes, to provide excellent schools for their children, and where nearly every one in the community was a booster for the churches and Sunday schools. Then I have visited neighborhoods where there was no money-making or anything else much, save eating, drinking and gossiping.

This last mentioned sort of a community is the kind nobody with any gumption would want to be connected with for a minute; for the most of us, I believe, would rather have people doing something a little mean than doing just nothing at all. And one would soon tire of the conditions in the kind of a community first mentioned, for selfishness is pretty closely rooted in a community where money making is about the only business, and selfishness is at the bottom of practically all the meanness in the world.

How well I remember riding one evening down in a little valley peopled for the most part with what I am going to designate as my sort of farmers—men and women who were too busy to have any time to fool away, but who never get so busy they couldn't stop long enough to put through any good work that needed to be done; who looked upon money-getting as a means to an end, and not as the whole end and aim of life; and who considered the rearing of the highest type of men and women to be really the big business of life. These were not selfish, stay-at-home, money-grabbing farmers, nor were they gad-about loafers and scandal-mongers; but were men and women of the broadest vision—real community builders. This then, as I see it, is what we farmers should aim at:

1. Devote to them the time and thought that is necessary to make our communities the sort of neighborhoods we would wish to bring up our children in;
2. Put into our farming business the necessary thought and work to make of it a home-sustaining business in the first-place, then a business—and this is, I believe, of vital importance—of which our young people need not be ashamed when they make the comparison, in their own minds, between it and some other business as a life work.

The idea that many farm boys and girls have, that it is necessary to leave home when they wish to take up a real profession or engage in a real business, is decidedly obnoxious to me. And I am looking forward to the time when a young person leav-

ing the farm will feel that he is making a personal sacrifice for the benefit of another profession or line of work.

* * *

I trust all the talk in the papers concerning balanced rations, barns, silos, etc., will not scare us out of the idea that practically every farm needs some cattle of good quality to consume the grass on the waste acres, the straw and corn fodder that would otherwise be wasted, and the cottonseed meal and hulls that would, were the cattle not present, be sold from the farm, carrying away fertility and humus—that practically every farm in the Cotton Belt needs.

These animals may be grazed in a pasture enclosed with a four-strand barb-wire fence, and may be wintered under a \$25 shed, and will, handled under such conditions bring just as many dollars of income as they would were their pasture enclosed with a five-foot woven wire fence, and were they stabled in a \$3,000 barn. The fine barn is mostly for style and the economical handling of the work of feeding.

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The churches all over the land have been taking collections recently, for missions, called self-denial offerings; that is, those giving were to deprive themselves of some pleasure or object they had set their hearts on and give to missions the amount of money thus saved. The suggestion of mine to some of our people was that instead of depriving our families of something that was really needed in our homes we deprive ourselves of some of the time we had been idling away heretofore, put that time to work, and use the remuneration received as our offering. In that way we would make our lives more valuable to the world, because of doing more with them; make the same or larger offering for the cause mentioned and still not deprive our families of the necessities of life.

I wonder if, to some of us, the above would not be the real self-denying course? And as I understand the matter the self-denial was to be ours and not our family's.

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The matter of making real profitable, business like use of our time on the farm is, it seems to me, one of the crying needs of our time, and there is so much to the question that it will take a whole book to contain a simple enumeration of the many ways in which we make less profitable use of our time than we should. And all that I wish to say at this time, when the seed time of the year is in full swing, is, that we can use brains to no better advantage just now than in detecting in our work methods by the use of which we are wasting time and then correct them.

A. L. FRENCH.

Ill-fitting Collars Make Sore Shoulders

DO YOUR work animals have sore shoulders? Then look at the collars. Numbers of farmers are troubled with sore shoulders on their horses and mules. There is scarcely a farm on which some trouble is not had every season. Sore shoulders seem to have become a chronic habit on most farms and they are accepted as an unavoidable evil.

Most sores could have been prevented. A good felt lined collar that fits snugly is the kind most appreciated by the animal. It needs no sweat pad, which may work out from under the collar and cause trouble. By keeping such a collar well oiled and the dirt scraped off, sore shoulders may be eliminated in most cases.

Sometimes the hames are allowed to sag at the top, thus throwing the draft on the point of the shoulder. In such cases sore shoulders may result although a good collar is used. The hames should be fastened as close together as possible without pinching the upper neck. This will place the

line of draft square on the shoulder as it should be.

It is easier to prevent a sore than it is to cure one. Bathing the shoulders at night with cold water helps to toughen them, especially at the beginning of the heavy work season. H. G. Clayton, of the University of Florida Experiment Station, recommends an application of strong salt water for sores. Apply at night. Twenty grains of zinc sulphate to an ounce of water makes a good healing solution.

Glue Method of Inoculating Seed

COATING the seed of legumes with inoculated soil before planting is a simple method of insuring soil inoculation at slight cost. County demonstration agents have found ordinary furniture glue effective in holding particles of inoculated soil to the seeds. This method gives each individual seed some of the particles of inoculated soil which it carries with it when it is planted. The scheme requires but a small amount of inoculated soil and costs but a few cents an acre. The method is described in Farmers' Bulletin 704 of the United States Department of Agriculture as follows:

"Dissolve two handfuls of furniture glue for every gallon of boiling water and allow the solution to cool. Put the seed in a washtub and then sprinkle enough of the solution on the seed to moisten but not to wet it (1 quart per bushel is sufficient), and stir the mixture thoroughly until all the seed are moistened.

"Secure the inoculated soil from a place where the same kind of plants as the seed are growing, making sure that the roots have a vigorous development of nodules. Dry the soil in the shade, preferably in the barn or basement and pulverize it thoroughly into a dust. Scatter this dust over the moistened seed, using from one-half to 1 gallon of dirt for each bushel of seed, mixing thoroughly until the seed no longer stick together. The seed are then ready to sow."

The Value of a Farm Paper in the School Room

THE value of a farm journal in every schoolroom can scarcely be estimated. Unfortunately, it happens that most text-books on agriculture apply to the immediate territory with which the author is most familiar. Teachers feel that because a subject is treated in the text, it is necessary for them to teach this subject. For example, the study of cotton and rice would be of little value except in the Southern states.

The farm journal which is published primarily in the interests of a particular section, gives information which is usable. I am inclined to believe that one progressive farm journal in a schoolroom is of more value than several books which apply to remote conditions. Boards of education and superintendents can spend a few dollars in no more profitable way than by subscribing for one farm journal for each of their schools. M. J. ABBEY, West Virginia College of Agriculture.

Let Us Have Pretty Farm Homes

YOU could not do a better thing to improve general conditions than to stimulate our people to beautifying their premises. This is far more wide-reaching than appears on the surface. It will enhance the value of property in our communities, bring in settlers, help our graded schools, help us all to keep things ship-shape and thus save years of time in hunting things which are out of place and finding our tools broken and dull at the time we need to use them.

It increases the self-respect of people to live in a pretty home. It helps keep the young people on the farms.

I thank you from my heart for the stimulus you are giving.

MRS. L. L. HOBBS.

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