

# Of Interest to Maid and Matron

Edited by Virginia Sloane

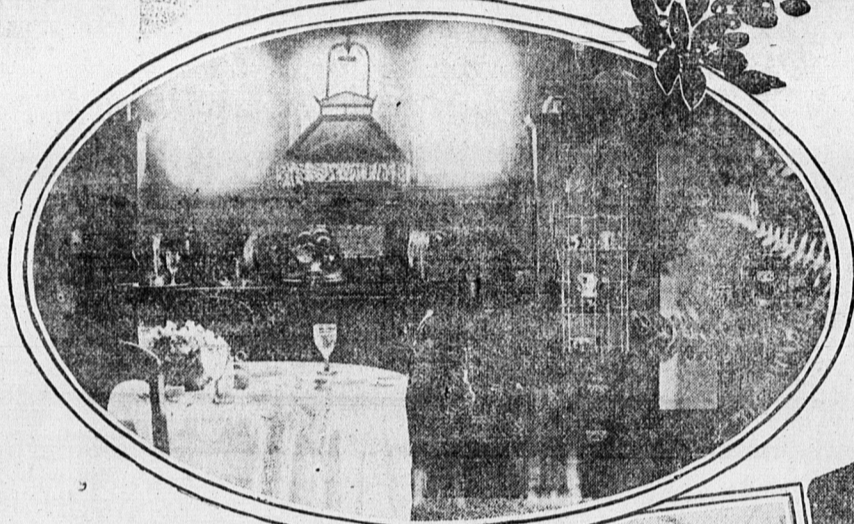
## WONDERS A WOMAN WORKED WITH ONE THOUSAND ACRES



Mrs. Kelly's Dakota Home Twelve Years Ago.



Mrs. Kelly's Home To-Day, Overlooking the Lake Fifteen Miles Each Direction.



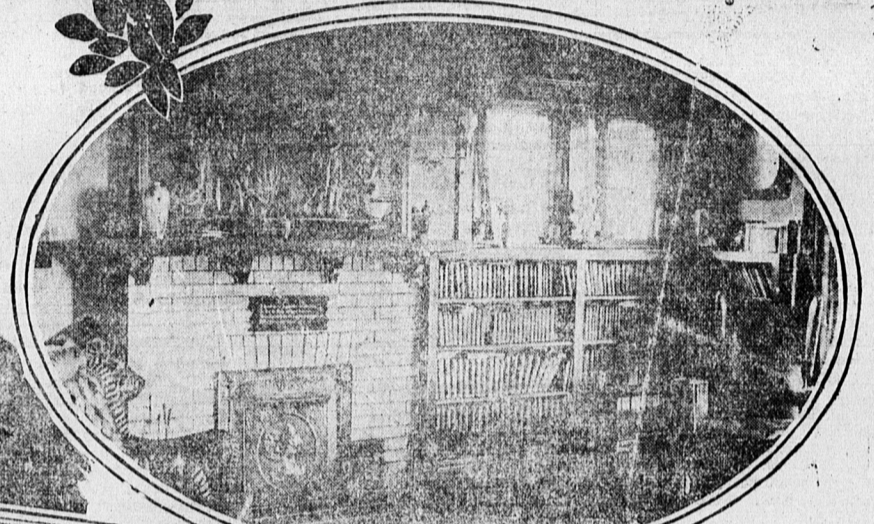
Dining Room in the New Home.



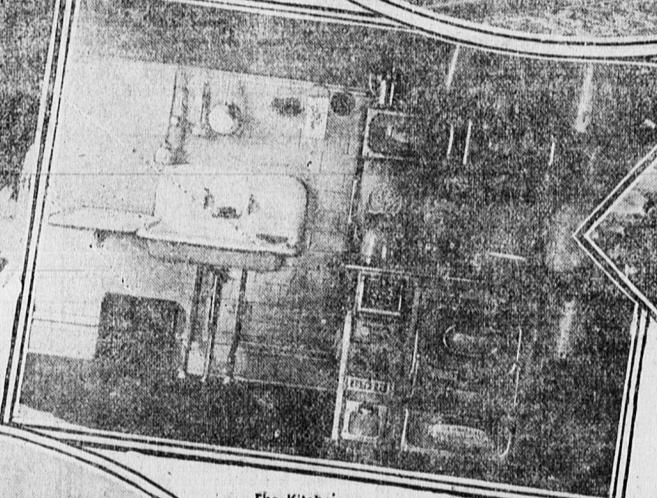
A Corner of Mrs. Kelly's Barnyard.



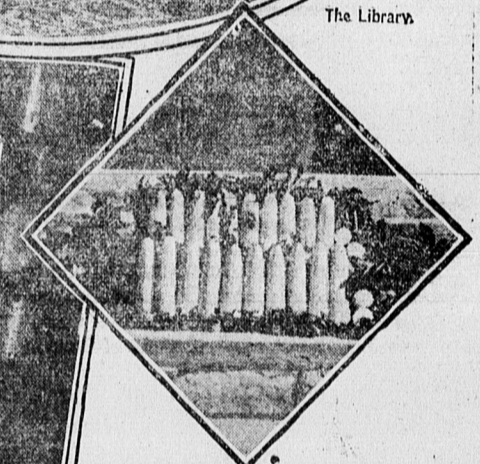
Mrs. Clark W. Kelly, of Devil's Lake, N. D., President Farm Women's Congress of America and Vice President of the International Congress of Farm Women.



The Library.



The Kitchen.



Mrs. Kelly's Prize Winning White Dent Corn for Exhibit.



Getting Ready for the Afternoon's Work.



Alfalfa Ready for Stacking.

By Emma Kelly McClellan.



SITUATED three miles southeast of the busy little city of Devil's Lake, N. D., is a model farm of one thousand acres which only twelve or fourteen years ago was considered no more than a barren knoll on the shore of Devil's Lake itself. The old county turnpike ran through this bleak, undesirable land, close to the lake. This was the established road and had been travelled many years by the Sioux Indians, but this particular stretch was dreaded by all teamsters, being heavy gumbo, filled with treacherous pot holes and always rough and muddy. Teams were constantly stalled there and the traveller who succeeded in getting through that two or three mile section without the assistance of some fellow teamster considered himself lucky indeed.

Now this once dreaded stretch of highway has been transformed into a beautiful and picturesque drive, that is a delight to behold and has an especial fascination for motorists, who use it as a speedway. This was the first step undertaken by Mrs. Clara W. Kelly toward carrying out her "cherished idea" of establishing a model scientific farm. Since then her energy and perseverance have never for a moment wavered. Her motto has always been, "What is worth doing is worth studying and doing right," and nothing has been done in a slipshod manner under her able supervision. Every tree, bulb, plant and seed on the entire one thousand acres must be of the best pedigree stock. There is no more work involved in raising and caring for good grain than in cultivating inferior crops, and with other growing things the same holds good.

At first the road ran too near the little square house that was the homestead; but Mrs. Kelly obtained consent from the county to move the road back two hundred feet. The ground between the house and the road was broken up and pulverized into a garden spot, where rows of cottonwoods, box elders, willows, elms and poplars were set out in attractive order. Then a little nursery was started to replace the weaklings as they died out. Verandas were added to the plain little house and vines planted. Soon the deso-

late place began to take on a homelike and inviting appearance. Meanwhile the fields were being ploughed deep, disced and harrowed; the obnoxious weeds killed; the sloughs drained, ditches and culverts put in the proper places. Indeed, a general renovation and "housecleaning" was constantly going on in every part of this thousand acre farm.

Then Mrs. Kelly decided to look into the chicken industry. Up to date chicken houses were built and well filled with barred Plymouth Rock chicks. From the first year it was a paying investment, as freshly laid eggs always bring a high price, even out there in the country.

But the owner's chief attention was given to her perennial fruits, to her flowers, shrubs and vegetables. Currant, blackberry and gooseberry bushes were set out, sage, rhubarb and asparagus beds made, and a little orchard of apple, crab-apple, plum and cherry trees planted. Hotheads were installed, where all the flowers and garden stuffs are propagated, in order to secure the earliest results. Evergreens were tried again and again, but without satisfactory results.

Now came the very first experiments with alfalfa ever made so far north. One acre was tried by this enterprising woman and three cuttings were obtained during the season, producing seven tons of hay. This result was sufficiently encouraging and was sufficient evidence that a nice little field of fifteen acres would be a boon to the live stock on the farm.

Nearly every thrifty farmer in North Dakota has profited by Mrs. Kelly's experiment in alfalfa.

It was found necessary to introduce crop rotation to rest the soil from the heavier crops—wheat, flax, barley, &c.—and timothy and medium red clover were sowed for this purpose. Other roads or lanes were laid out between the plots or fields; the place was fully equipped with all modern machinery. Discs, drags, sub-surface and surface packers, pulverizers, mulchers, manure spreaders—in fact, all new methods that have proved practical were applied, according to the special needs of the several fields.

Soil conditions, regulations, the various systems—not for one instant did Mrs. Kelly cease studying, so as to keep pace with the rapid strides made in agriculture. At the present time this one thousand acre farm yields abundantly—wheat, oats, flax, barley, buckwheat, winter rye, winter wheat, timothy and clover seed—and is rapidly developing into a pedigree seed producing farm. Tons of valuable

hundred bushels to the acre. At the rear of the garden there are eighteen rows of early sweet squash corn, which yields, over and above some consumption about three hundred dollars at the Devil's Lake market. The white beans bring in from fifty to sixty dollars a season—\$1 a bushel. Radishes, lettuce and peas are planted in four rotations through the season, so that they may always be had fresh and tender. As for onions, the Minnesota Red Globe will yield about six hundred bushels to the acre and are a splendid hardy onion, oftentimes weighing from one to two pounds apiece. Cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, endive, turnips, rutabagas, cucumbers, egg plant, beets, peppers, spinach, parsnips, carrots, parsley, salsify, zucchini and Hubbard squash, pumpkins, pomegranates, citrons—all nature with wonderful rapidity and ere crisp, juicy and firm. No better vegetables grow anywhere on the globe than in a well regulated garden of North Dakota.

Experiments with cantaloupe have proven quite satisfactory; but the season is too short and brisk for good results with watermelons. They develop to some size, but do not ripen.

After a few years the development

in the chicken department was so rapid and satisfactory that it was decided to give a little more attention to poultry and swine. Additional chicken houses were provided, including a brooder house large enough to accommodate five hundred chicks. With all modern equipment installed, Mrs. Kelly then changed her Plymouth Rock brood for full blooded White Orpingtons, and became a fancier of white poultry. She added White Holland turkeys, Peking ducks, Rose Combed White Leghorn chicks, white guinea fowl, peacocks and pheasants. And then to harmonize with the pure white poultry, pets were added—white Persian cats and white collies.

After much study and scientific experimenting in the hog industry it was fully demonstrated that for this northern section the improved Yorkshire of the bacon type is the most profitable to raise. A start was made with one young sow—Mary Ann, a blue ribbon winner at the State fair, when a young pig. In three years her offspring netted more than \$600; then she sold for \$22, weighing 750 pounds at the same time of her disposal. Her descendants raised equally valuable families, with a

very small outlay for feed. They consume great quantities of roughage, in the form of alfalfa and pasture hay, and they are hardy, very prolific and develop rapidly.

Having thoroughly established herself in the swine-breeding industry, Mrs. Kelly's present ambition is to add a perfect herd of white shorthorn cattle to complete her scientific white farm, which must eventually prove of great benefit to the State.

An up to date farmhouse and yard to replace the old fashioned homestead is one of the latest efforts. Mrs. Kelly decided that her home must be thoroughly modern in every detail to be in keeping with the rest. A deep well—150 feet—supplies an abundance of soft water that is carried to every corner of the house by a modern air pressure system. A gasoline lighting plant furnishes plenty of gas light that is clear, soft, mellow and perfectly satisfactory. A splendid septic tank has proved an adequate sewerage system.

The house has eight large, airy rooms, bath and closets. There is a splendid basement, walled with rocks from the lake shore. Every known convenience is found in the basement laundry—drying room, mangles and washing machine, operated by a gasoline engine. There are spacious verandas, where the cooling breezes from the great blue lake may be enjoyed. The front lawn slopes to the water's edge in a sort of double terrace effect. Here Mrs. Kelly has preserved the natural beauties God has so bountifully bestowed on North Dakota's rolling virgin prairies, though cultivation is fast effacing them. Bitter wild cherry, June berries and hawthorn clumps adorn the green stretch to the lake, with red and white dogwood peeping through here and there. Scattered in reckless profusion are wild currants, gooseberries and strawberries, with myriads of wild roses that bloom no where on earth as they do in North Dakota. Wild columbine, Black-eyed Susan, three varieties of wild asters and tiger lilies grow in masses, while the wild hops and woodbine climb over the ice house and pigeon lofts and up the old rustic dinner bell post. Dressed in their emerald green gown, they smile down on the wonderful kaleidoscopic view beneath them, until Jack Frost steals upon them and gives them his first cold kiss, when they blush a radiant glow of crimson that remains throughout the balmy days of Indian summer—in fact, till bleak December claims every leaflet for his own and adorns all nature with a soft mantle of fluffy white.

Mrs. Kelly's second motto has always been "Make use of what is nearest to hand," so in clearing and cleaning the fields from stone it was all brought into

the yard and utilized in fences, gate pillars and borders round the flower beds. The gravelled driveways are about fifteen feet wide, and are edged with bowlders from the lake shore.

To improve the main drive through this ideal farm one mile of elms was planted, the trees being set far enough apart to permit the passerby to obtain glimpses of the lake. The road is completely outlined with white clover, and on the north side there are five rows of gigantic sunflowers, one mile long and one thousand plants to the row. Think of driving by there in depressed spirits: impossible with those 5,000 lifting their brilliant heads, throwing their golden smiles at you, their every rustle a song of joy, just that they are allowed the privilege of growing and looking up at God's blue sky. Late in the fall they stalks cut down with a corn binder, the stalks used for kindling and the seed in the heads, by way of variety, as chicken feed.

Mrs. Kelly's love for the stately sunflower is not difficult to understand, since she was reared in the Sunflower State—Kansas—which explains, too, her wonderfully progressive nature, which bids her go ahead and do something worth while.

At the Dry Farming Congress at Colorado Springs, Mrs. Kelly was elected vice president of the International Congress of Farm Women. She was chosen to represent the same gathering at the Congress of Farm Women held last year in Belgium. She served as president of the Tri-State Farm Women's Association, covering North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota; then she was honored by an appointment of the Country Life Commission, representing the Tri-State Grain Growers' Association. At the Farm Congress held at Tulsa, Okla., last fall, her splendid work being recognized, she was elected president of the Farm Woman's Congress of America, and re-elected vice president of the International Congress of Farm Women. And she well deserves all the honors these various bodies have bestowed upon her, for her studies and efforts have been diligently pursued and the results of these gladly imparted to all interested in the improvement of agriculture for the betterment of the State.

Mrs. Kelly's husband, Mr. Clark W. Kelly, is a retired business man who owns several farms himself. He is President of the Board of Regents of North Dakota Agricultural College, Vice-President of the North Dakota Farming Association, Member of Executive Committee of the International Dry Congress, Member of the Farmers' Institute Board and half a dozen other agricultural organizations.