

# HOME COMFORT IS VITAL NECESSITY TO FORM LIFE

(BY JOHN J. TAILLON.)

"All the comforts of home." This phrase is more far-reaching than at first appears. It means the right spirit within the home—good ration, good health, happiness, love, service. The house and its furnishings do not constitute home. Many a millionaire's palatial establishment, equipped with every possible convenience, may not be as homelike as the homestead of even the poorest farmer, whose home is sweetened by affection and contentment that are strangers to the palace.

The true home is characterized by that intangible, immaterial, spiritual thing called "the home atmosphere." This spirit is the vital thing in home life, as it is in the life of the individual.

Happiness is a matter of heart and of mind rather than of wealth or culture. The affection, confidence and helpfulness that create the ideal atmosphere in the home of many a poor or uneducated family are more real than all the gold in the world. You cannot buy it with money, or lands, or property, or education—love cannot be weighed or measured. The spirit of the home, like other spiritual attributes, is the real thing.

If you have not this right spirit in your home, strive for it until you get it. It is to be won by kindness, service, thoughtfulness, sympathy, affection, all those little acts and graces which beget love and stimulate happy content.

But vital as is this spirit of the home, how important it is also that the home be equipped with material comforts, so far as possible. Many a man has a full line of machinery to lighten his farm work, who through carelessness, ignorance, selfishness or brutality has not provided labor-saving facilities for the house. Except in the comparatively rare instances of real misfortune there is little excuse for any farm home to be ill-equipped. This life is just what we make it. And so much of this life is spent in the home, that it behooves both the old folks and the younger members to do all they can to make the home a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

Nowadays the best is none too good for the up-to-date farmer, and for each member of his family. In these years of good prices for farm products the average farmer is wealthy compared to his predecessors. He has the means, the disposition and the culture to want and to enjoy the good things of life.

Therefore, let us make the farm home the best home, just as we are going to make the rural school the best school, and the rural home will in time be equipped with every material convenience—running water, hot and cold, modern cook stoves, a kitchen cabinet, all the little conveniences for saving steps and making work easier; a bathroom and toilet, heat and ventilation; a good system of lighting; clean and sanitary wall coverings; plants and flowers; pictures and bookshelves; clean and sanitary wall coverings; an outdoor kitchen and dining room rigged up on the porch, insurance against the typhoid fly; plenty of sun air to protect against tuberculosis; machines for washing dishes and clothes; cold storage, and facilities for making ice cream or cold beverages; a lawn mower, a garden for fruits, vegetables and flowers. An up-to-date homestead has all of these things and more. Most of the farm homes have some of them, every farm home is a market for some of these things or similar devices.

It is astonishing how much a few dollars and a little gumption, taste and judgment will accomplish in this making the home and its surroundings not only more beautiful, but easier to live in. This means to improve the health, vigor and spirits of each member of the family, and this in turn means more capacity in each individual, which results in better farming, better profits.

Thus, home betterment pays financially as well as profiting body, mind and soul. It speaks prosperity in the largest and best sense. Better citizenship results, thus is home betterment the best patriotism.

Now is the time to live. By the word "live" we do not mean that sham called living, which is mere existence. Not at all! We mean that keen appreciation of all that is good and beautiful and ennobling, which depends on activity of thought in right directions, and that is manifested in improved conditions of daily life. Right living is inseparable from right thinking.

No one has such unhampered opportunity for right thinking and living as the farmer. And no one is becoming awake to this fact so much as the farmer himself. Removed from the artificialities of existence and in intimate daily touch with the natural as well as the necessary he may enjoy practically all the comforts of urban living without being forced to forego the characteristic pleasures and privileges of his calling.

Now is the time to enjoy all things richly. And royally the right thinking farmer is learning to live. From coast to coast the ring of the telephone bell is becoming as familiar as the cackle of the hen; from Halifax to Vancouver, acetylene, electric and other improved methods of lighting are steadily replacing the sputtering, smoking, reeking lamps; from fall to spring fayer farmers are roasting on one side and shivering on the other because steam, hot water or a furnace has replaced the dirty, annoying stoves; every day farmers' wives, an increasing army, are ceasing to be drawers and carriers of water, because water systems have been installed in the homes; and every year a larger number of farm families laud the praises of sanitary methods of sewage disposal.

All this and very much more goes to show that the Canadian farmer is enjoying the fruits of right thinking. For who will deny that it is right to be happy and comfortable? We congratulate him on his progress in these directions. Countless farm houses have become farm homes through the adoption of better modes of living and are setting an example for good that is ennobling farm life and manhood and womanhood.

Of all our useful birds the swallows take the first place, as they are strictly insectivorous. One can safely say that they are entirely dependent upon insects for their existence. The swallows secure all their food on the wing, thereby destroying such insects as are generally out of reach or are overlooked by other birds. The number of insects they consume are not only beyond calculation, but almost beyond imagination. There are six species of swallows most commonly found in this country. The barn swallow, cliff or cave swallow, bank swallow, tree swallow, rough-winged swallow and the purple martin. The barn, and cave swallow has almost ceased to exist in many parts of the country. Modern barns have almost entrance for the barn swallow, and no rough projections for the nests of the cave swallow. It is a mistake to tear down from the eaves of a barn the nests of a colony of cliff swallows, for so far from disfiguring a building they make a picturesque addition to it. Every farmer should encourage the presence of these birds on his farm. This can be done by cutting holes in the barn for them to enter, and by nailing up rough boards under the eaves. Martins can be made to nest in birdhouses put on poles out of the reach of cats. Fortunately is the farmer that has a colony of these useful birds on his farm, both from an economic and esthetic point of view.

When the city resident buys a farm it means either a decided gain or a corresponding loss to the country. The average summer resident is of no material benefit to the town in which he and his family spend a few months. If he buys a deserted farm, there will be some gain to the community, for he will spend some money for improvements and live on it a part of the time. But if he buys an occupied farm, because of its location or beauty, and converts it into a typical summer home, the country town is the loser thereby.

Most summer residents do little or no farming, and by allowing productive farms to fall into disuse they become a hindrance, rather than a help to the continued prosperity and advancement of the community.

There are, however, many city buyers who take pride in their farms, and spend labor and money to improve them. In some instances they are revolutionizing methods to the good of the locality. They introduce new methods, improved stock, better seeds and fresh blood. This class of buyers should be encouraged.

The man who goes to law to get justice sometimes finds out that there are two or three kinds of justice.

It is impossible to live a sealskin life on a muskrat income.

A homemade dog bread can be made of three parts corn meal, two parts dog or low grade flour and one part beef scrap, by measure. Season with salt, mix into a stiff dough with water and bake in hard thin cakes about an inch thick.

Where soil is strong a good crop of vegetables may be raised between the rows of trees in the young orchard. This will mean cultivation and manuring. Spray with Bordeaux Mixture for mildew.

Keep clean water where the hens and chickens can get it at all times. They need a great deal in warm weather. Scald the drinking vessels twice a week.

## DAIRYING CONSUMERS ARE SCARED BY THE TUBERCULE BOGEY

Too Many Scientists Take Extreme and Unfair Views.

DAIRY NOT SOLELY TO BLAME.

(BY R. C. SINCLAIR.)

The first and most serious effect of the agitation in the United States by boards of health and so-called milk experts in their efforts to secure cleaner milk is to scare off milk consumers. They picture a few extreme conditions in such a graphic manner as to lead the casual reader to believe that such conditions exist generally. Some have asserted that at least one-third of the cows are infected (based on a test of suspected herds), while other authorities say that not over one per cent of the cows are dangerous in any way.

Nathan Straus, of New York, a pioneer and thorough believer in pasteurizing milk, believes that one-third of the herds are affected. He indicates in the statement of a scientific sawbones that every tuberculous cow is either an actual or potential centre of infection.

Mr. Straus is also authority for the statement that tuberculosis in New York city has almost doubled in six years. He quotes figures to prove it.



CHAMPION GUERNEY BULL ENDYMION OWNED IN WISCONSIN.

This famous Guernsey bull senior and grand champion at one of the dairy shows held at Chicago, exhibited by the Holstein farm of Milwaukee. The competition at the dairy show was keen and this animal considered very high class by the great vigor. Breeding animals of this character do much to maintain Wisconsin dairy prominence.

and would lay the blame for most of this increase on the use of milk. Even though the number of cases of tuberculosis reported by the department of health is much greater than six years ago, it gives no evidence that the disease is more widespread. It may be accounted for partly by the great growth of the city, but more largely by the greater attention given to the disease, and to the larger percentage of actual cases reported.

The Department of Agriculture and Secretary Wilson might be in much better business than in sanctioning the publication of a circular on milk as a carrier of tuberculosis infection, prepared by Dr. E. C. Schneider, of the Federal Experimental Station, if the dairymen by saying that over 90 per cent of the dairies are distributing virulent tubercle germs in the milk.

He plays up the scare in big letters by saying "the actual conditions are so serious that without exaggeration they are almost beyond belief." The effect upon consumers, as well as producers, is evidently given no thought when the statement is made: "The frequency with which tubercle germs are found in milk is so great that no one who uses raw milk extensively or as a beverage can reasonably hope to escape introducing many tubercle bacilli into his body."

Dr. Schroeder evidently has no use for the opinion of Dr. Koch and many other eminent scientists who maintain that bovine tuberculosis is not transmissible to man. His facts are based almost entirely upon a few examinations of Washington milk and dairies where conditions are notoriously worse than in most other cities. Dr. Theobald Smith, of Harvard University, who is often quoted on the side of the agitators, really takes a very reasonable and conservative view of the situation. He concludes that there is no danger in using the milk from cows in the early stages of the disease, and not more than one or two per cent, even from cows in that advanced stage. He points out that the danger lies chiefly in mixing the milk of dangerous cows with that of the rest of the herd, and takes the position that dairies should be repeatedly inspected and the most dangerous cows removed.

No fair-minded person will oppose the position taken by Dr. Smith. They will also agree with Dr. Schroeder that milk or cream should be obtained from healthy cows pastured, stabled and milked in a beautiful environment. But milk producers will not generally consent to pasteurize their milk unless they are paid enough extra to cover the increase in cost. If boards of health are to exact this requirement it will mean a revolution in the milk business, for very few farmers can afford the outlay of an expensive pasteurizer.

"Tis but a little while at best That hena have to lay; To-morrow eggs may add or day; Although quite fresh to-day; So, 't is the touch be very light That takes it from the leg; There is no hand whose cunning skill Can mend a broken egg."

The world moves. Improvements and comforts are everywhere within the reach of the farm home. In altogether too many instances the old ways of one or two generations ago are still in vogue. The picture on this and indicative of the lack too often observed. Exaggerated! Not a bit of it. It is an instance of the meagre comforts, the lack of conveniences, the hint of back-breaking labor for wife and daughter, of scant accommodations around the evening lamp for father and the boys. Move with the world. Get into line with the rest of civilization. It's worth while.

## AGRICULTURE LIGHTING WITH ACETYLENE IS BY FAR THE BEST

Some of the Many Uses to Which It May Be Put.

FIGURES WHICH CONVINC.

(BY H. H. HALL.)

I confess I am an enthusiast over acetylene. Its cheapness, its cleanliness, its softness and its adaptability for use on the farm, all unite in giving it first place as a most desirable farm convenience. When I was a boy we used kerosene—and the lamps were not very good. They smoked, smelled under these conditions was uncomfortable and certainly bad for the eyes. And then everything was so dark out in the country, with the house in among the trees. How different now that acetylene is possible and available!

I visited a farm recently on which an acetylene plant was installed. A score of lights were in the house; the lights in every room, in the cellar, in the attic, the barn and the stables. What a picture it made at night, with the lights all aglow in house and barn and lane! No lanterns, no dull, smoky lamps, no lighting troubles. And what is more to the point, the success of this style of lighting was so marked that the most skeptical to see its results.

In 1854 a farmer named Tripp conceived the idea of originating a new and distinct type of poultry. He made as bases the Leghorn, Malay Game, and Cochon. His ideas were to procure the laying qualities of the Leghorn, size through the Cochon, and hardness, beauty and hustling habits of the Malay. By crossing and selecting birds that came nearest his ideals he produced the R. I. Red.

By these efforts he has given the public one of the best all-round fowls in the whole poultry catalogue, one that produces two eggs where other breeds give one. Although comparatively a new breed, having been admitted to the Standard only a few years ago, they have been known where they originated for over fifty years.

In my observation and experience in testing almost every breed before the public for the past fifty years, I find in the R. I. Red more good points and fewer undesirable qualities than in any other breed tried. They mature quickly and make good broilers at ten weeks. They lay early. Pullets hatched in early May began laying in December and continued interruptedly until the following May.

In size the mature fowl is over medium in weight, the hens averaging 7 to 9 lbs. and cocks 9 to 13 lbs. The leading characteristics of this breed are oblique hocks, full breast, yellow legs and skin, brown beaks, red eyes, and feather quills red to the flesh.

They are great hustlers in the fields and require little feed in fair weather. They lay a medium-sized egg of a beautiful brown color and of very even shape.

They are excellent sitters and are careful mothers, watching their chicks until almost grown. They are hardy, stand the severest weather, and are very free from disease. We have never lost one from disease, while other kinds show much loss. Their propensity for winter laying is exceptional.

one will have them wherever they may be needed. We have two in the cellar, ten on the first floor, one on the porch, six on the second floor and two in the attic. There is no need for a lantern or lamp anywhere in the home.

My lighting system cost in money a little less than \$150. This includes generator, pipes, sewer, burners, plumbers' wages, one three and two two-light chandeliers and five drop lights, together with glass and brass. I would not put all of this glass and brass now, for the chandeliers average out. It would reduce the cost nearly \$25. It costs 80 cents to charge a 20-pound generator. The longest one ever burned was 72 days, the shortest four days. It costs, on an average, less than \$10 a year for a light just as good, brilliant and convenient as any system of city lights.



HOME BETTERMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE DISCERNIBLE ON MANY FARMS TO-DAY.

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## POULTRY SUMMER HATCHED CHICKS SELDOM GREAT SUCCESS

Heat is a Heavy Handicap to the Late Broods.

BEGINNING OF R. I. REDS.

(BY R. A. McDOWELL.)

It has been my experience every season that chicks hatched in early July, when the heat of summer is coming on, never do so well or grow so fast as early chicks, or even those hatched after the extreme heat is over.

In the hot weather the little chicks, hunting bugs and arid hunting shade and sitting out of the sun, consequently they don't grow so fast. It is even too hot to dust themselves, and one must be very diligent to keep down the body lice.

I had an experience with July hatched chicks that I believe was caused by body lice weakening them, and they could not withstand disease. They were left to the care of others for a few weeks. In the early fall the reared roop put in an appearance, through apparently no cause. The chicks were well fed and watered several times a day, had plenty of milk to drink, and coops on the grass away from the dirt fowls.

I looked for body lice, and found them. Then commenced a battle with insect powder. All the sick ones were killed and burned, and as soon as the flock were free from lice the chicks got lively and disease ceased.

One of the first grasses that are wintered in the clover field or pasture, and is tender and palatable. On low lands that are too moist for cultivation it grows throughout the season, and is tender, but on the uplands it becomes dry and tough soon after June 1.

The clovers furnish palatable feed of great value for pasture. Both the June and the mammoth clover make rapid growth, and do not require a large area to furnish sufficient feed for a large herd of hogs. It is better, if practicable, to keep the hogs away from the clover until it gets a good start before they are turned out to it. If kept on June grass early, then turned on the clover after it has started, it is an improvement over the June grass, and the gain will be accelerated. Managed in this manner from 15 to 25 hogs, according to size, can be kept thriving on clover that start before they are turned out to it.

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Alfalfa is also considered one of the most valuable of the grazing plants for hogs. It should be handled the same as clover, as it is injured by hogs tramping on it early in the spring. As it is a very rapid grower, one acre of alfalfa will furnish feed for more hogs than any of the other clovers.

Aside from the protein content of the clovers they are valuable as a hog ration. The fair root and the deep elements that are valuable for the growing pigs and the brood sows. It is a pity that many of the brood sows that have had the run of the clover fields or alfalfa are afflicted with the feverish condition that causes them to eat their pigs at farrowing time.

Where there is a lack of clover for hog pasture, rape makes a good substitute. It can be utilized to good advantage as pasture, and the June grass has become too dry and hard to eat. It can be sown any time during the moist part of the season on rich, moist soil. Hogs take it with a relish after they have learned to eat it.

When land is seeded in the spring with either oats or barley, rape can be sown at the same time, and makes an excellent feed after the grain crop has been harvested.

Hogs are liable to waste more or less of any crop which they are allowed to run over. Movable fences will enable one to hold them in a portion of a field until they have consumed practically all that is valuable at the time. Hogs take to pasture feeds when moist with dew or rain.

Since mill feeds have been so high brood sows have sold all their pigs, buy them in the spring when they weigh from 20 to 30 lbs. The question naturally arises in the mind of both buyer and seller, "how much are such pigs worth," and questions that effect are frequently received at this office. It is impossible for any one to say definitely, a pig ten weeks old is worth \$2 or \$3 or \$4 as its value depends upon such a multiplicity of varying conditions. The best features that must be most largely upon the determination of the value of a pig at birth. This is found by dividing the cost of the pig at birth and the sow's maintenance for a year by the number of pigs produced. The average number of pigs from a sow that produce any at all, but in every herd are some sows that produce none, so the average number many cases be considerably less than eight. As to the cost of the sow's service, it is variously placed at from 50 cents to \$2 per sow, depending upon the cost of the sow, and the cost of maintaining a sow for a year varies from \$8 to \$15, depending upon the weight of the sow and the kind of feeds used. During that part of the year when grain must be fed, eight tenths of a pound of feed per hundred

## SWINE PROPER BREEDING MEANS A DEAL IN SWINE PROFIT

Higher Grain Prices Lead to Study of Feeding Methods.

COST OF THE YOUNG PIG.

(BY N. A. CLAPP.)

At present time, when prices for grain are high, and prices for pork hogs are abundant, it is a matter of course to make as much growth at as little cost as possible. It is important that the methods of producing pork, at this time, should be considered. The many experiments that have been carried on in different parts of the country have shown that by feeding hogs a moderate amount of grain while on pasture, or by their eating some coarse feed, gains can be made much cheaper than when they are fed grain only.

The stomach of the hog is not large enough to enable it to consume coarse feeds enough to make profitable gains on grass or clover alone. But by using both grain and pasture grasses he can get through making the popular kind of meat, lean and fat intermingled, and make profitable returns, even at present prices for grain.

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## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

**NOTE**—Not more than one question from one correspondent can be considered at one time. Questions should be specific, clear and concise, and should be addressed to the Editor of the Agricultural Department of this paper. Any person requiring answers by mail must enclose stamped envelope.—Editor.

**LICE**—J. M. S. want a remedy to kill lice on hogs. Mix 1 qt. creolin with 10 qts. water and apply with a mop to all parts of body of hog.

**ECZEMA**—H. J. P. has a dog with a breaking out on its face and body which causes itching. Mix 1 dram iodine of sulphur with 1 oz. vasoline. Rub a little of this on the affected parts and repeat in one week if needed.

**PIMPLES**—C. D. V. has a horse that has small pimples on his neck where the collar rests. They seem to be very painful. Give 1 oz. acetate of lead with 1 oz. sulphate of zinc with 1 of water. Apply a little to the parts three times a day.

**MOLES**—J. S. The presence of moles indicates an abundance of worms or grubs, for these animals live largely upon insects. Flooding their runways with water will kill them. Use a grate made of cotton waste with sulphuric acid and push these into the runs; the gas will kill many.

**ECZEMA**—R. E. C. has a cow that has bumps on her skin which disappear and return again. Give 1/2 lb. Epsom salts in a dose dissolved in water. After the bumps are gone give 2 drams sulphate of iron at a dose twice a week. Repeat in one week if needed.

**COUGH**—C. G. has a cow that has a cough and keeps in poor condition. Put one teaspoonful flaxseed into a pulp with water. Give 1/2 oz. of this mixture once a day with one of the following sulphate of iron: Divide 4 ozs. pulverized sulphate of iron into 10 doses.

**DERANGED UDDER**—J. G. B. has a cow that has a deranged udder. Give 1/2 lb. of her udder is hard and very little milk can be gotten from it. Mix 2 drams sulphate of iron with 1/2 lb. of a little on the hard part every third day and continue for a month or more if needed.

**CONTINUED HEAT**—F. W. has a mare that seems to be in heat all the time. Give 1/2 lb. of Epsom salts in a dose twice a day in bran mash and continue for 10 days. Then skip a week and give again if needed.

**INDIGESTION**—S. L. S. has a young sow that has a very poor appetite, and is not doing well. Give 1/2 oz. castor oil at a dose and after the physic operates give 1 teaspoonful each of glycerine, ginger and gentian at a dose twice a day in 1/2 teaspoonful of milk and continue for two weeks or more if needed.

**SPRAYING WEEDS**—J. L. G. S. Spraying from iron is not a good idea, as a spray to kill weeds in grain and grass which you cannot cultivate, it would probably injure the grain. Use a mixture of potassium at a dose twice a day in bran mash and continue for 8 days, and then give again. It is likely she will be all right when she comes in from again.

**DERANGED UDDER**—G. A. S. has a cow whose udder caked in the front part and no milk comes from the two front teats. Mix 2 oz. iodine with 2 ozs. vasoline. Rub on the udder twice a day and continue until the hard parts of the udder become soft. It is likely she will be all right when she comes in from again.

**ASTHMA**—C. I. has a mule that has difficult breathing and is affected by a sudden change in the weather. As the chest is in the weather is the cause, medicines will do little use. Try the following: Give 1/2 oz. Fowler's solution of arsenic at a dose twice a day and continue for one week. Then skip a month and give again if needed.

**POULTRY**—Mrs. E. M. R. No one has been able to explain just why chicks die in the shell a day or two before hatching. There is always some loss in this way whether eggs are hatched in incubators or under hens.—E. F. A Buff breed cock that was so badly injured by fighting that he has not the use of his legs will die of no use as a breeder this season. The correspondents are strongly against his recovery.

**ANTS IN THE LAWN**—F. E. The best remedy is to punch some holes in the ants' nests and pour into each a teaspoonful of sulphuric acid. Cover

**A PAIR OF MAMMOTH WHITE PEKIN DUCKS.** The Pekins are the most popular breed with the large duck raisers because of their large size, early maturity and prolific egg laying. They frequently produce 6 lbs. each at 10 weeks old. They are also the noisiest breed, a point which some which makes them objectionable for a farm duck.

The nests for a few minutes with a damp blanket, then remove it and explode the sulphuric acid at the mouth of each hole by means of a light at the end of a pole. The slight explosions will drive the poisonous fumes down into the tunnels and into the mouths of the ants.