

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



All animals need pure water.

Dairying is the best kind of farming.

Corn may be planted in the young orchard.

Order pure-bred roosters early, to head your flock.

All the various breeds of hogs have their ardent admirers.

The selection and care of the brood sow is most important.

Great things are to be done with chemical fertilizers in the future.

A combination of high roosts and heavy fowls seldom proves satisfactory.

When chickens are kept in yard throughout the year, green food is necessary.

The Tamworths are good rustlers, very prolific, and the meat is of the highest quality.

Hogs are the cleanest animals on the farm to bed and the easiest if given half a chance.

Culling the pullets may seem a small matter to many, but it adds dollars to the year's profits.

What is the use of struggling along with sugar beets when good old alfalfa is the better crop?

Sheep are not subject to diseases such as hog-cholera or the epidemics so destructive among cattle.

A good tank heater, or some other device should be used this winter to warm the water for the cows.

The Poland-China is considered the ideal of the hard type of hog. They are good feeders and early maturers.

Scatter dry grain among the litter on the floor of the poultry houses so that the hens will be forced to exercise.

When laying freely a flock of 50 hens will drink from four to eight quarts of water daily, depending upon the conditions.

Winter feeding is far more expensive than summer feeding, but winter eggs sell for nearly twice as much as summer eggs.

Successful dairy expansion involves the intelligent, systematic grading or building up of a herd, both by selection and breeding.

Never build a feeding floor adjoining the hog house or sleeping quarters or there will be everlasting trouble in keeping it clean.

No crop will respond more quickly or profitably to fertilizers added in the correct proportions and in the proper condition than the tomato.

In culling a flock of either chickens or turkeys, try to choose and market birds of nearly the same size and weight at the same time.

A big hen will eat more than a small one, but she will have enough extra weight at the end of the year to make up for the extra feed.

Lettuce may be sown any time during January or February. They should be picked out of the seed bed somewhat sooner than cabbage.

No farm animal, particularly the pig, can stand out in zero winds, shivering with the cold while eating his meals and make profitable gains.

The preparation of soil previous to the planting of an orchard will depend entirely upon its nature, its texture and its condition of fertility.

There are several comparatively new varieties of early cabbage which are very promising. Wood's Early and Race Horse are among these early types.

Certain breeds of cows produce yellow butter twelve months in the year, and the color of butter from all cows is influenced by the character of feed they receive.

When acorns are fed to pigs, their flesh is apt to become very soft and oily but this difficulty may be overcome by feeding corn for three weeks before slaughtering.

The plan of feeding hens in winter is the best that will provide the content of the egg in the most economical form, and at the same time compel the hens to exercise to get it.

When a mare does not foal after protracted efforts, veterinary aid should be summoned at once, for delay often results in the loss of either the foal or mare, and many times both.

A good sheep breeder contrives to have some kind of green crop to wean his lambs to, such as rape, vetches or whatever he may best be able to grow, and keep them on plowed land as much as possible to escape the worms.

According to the best authorities a standard ration for a 1,000-pound cow should contain 24 pounds of dry matter, in which there are 2.5 pounds of digestible protein, and 13.4 pounds of digestible carbohydrates and fat, which gives it a nutritive ratio of 1:5.4.

Dairying means rich land.

Transplanting beets is common.

The flavor and odor of eggs is often affected by the food.

The Poland Chinas of today are as good as they ever were.

The Duroc-Jersey is not as refined and compact as the Poland-China.

Soil doubtless has a good deal to do with the success of the Ponderosa tomato.

Keep at least one horse about the farm that is easily managed by the women.

There is something about oat straw that seems almost poison to the skin of a hog.

The quality of the silage may be materially bettered by using care in taking it out.

The dandelion has all along been a hard weed to kill on account of its perennial nature.

A young bull not in service may be fed silage liberally, but sparingly when in service.

Those who have succeeded in getting a good stand of alfalfa are enthusiastic over its value.

Fall pigs, or any other hogs for that matter, should be kept off the manure pile during the winter.

All reports show that the demand for butter, milk and cream continues to be greater than the supply.

Any time before growth starts in the spring will be all right for pruning such hardy trees as the box elder.

The practice of removing manure from the stable directly to the field is a good one when it can be carried out.

Potato blight alone is estimated to cause damage to the amount of \$36,000,000 every year in the United States.

In locating your plants be sure that you understand their habits and are able to assign them to their places intelligently.

The hen is admitted to be one of the greatest financial factors in the country today, and she is also one of the most overworked.

Dairying need not imply abandoning wheat, but more wheat on less acres. Both bread and butter should be produced on the farm.

Plant trees only in ground that has been under cultivation for at least two or three years and is in a thorough state of cultivation.

Unless rotten apples are promptly removed from the orchard, fruit pests will have an ideal place in which to hibernate during the winter months.

Cows must be kept clean and healthy, and have pure air to breathe, and then they will return a volume of rich, nutritious milk in paying quantities.

It is not profitable to treat fowls suffering from a contagious disease. It is a better move to at once destroy all such cases, or there may be an epidemic.

In making flower beds it is not desirable to elevate them above the surrounding level. Raised beds shed rain and in consequence dry out more rapidly than level ones.

Outdoor grown tomatoes removed from the vines in a green state, when frost threatens, will take on a more natural color if placed in the dark than when exposed to the light.

The only way to raise chickens in large numbers in a short space of time and have them at the right time to get the highest prices for them is to use incubators and brooders.

After the whole system of pork production has been adjusted to the more modern business-like and systematic basis, we need not fear an over-supply, for we are at present within reaching distance of our known power of production.

The majority of dairymen have now learned by experience the practical value of supplying the wants of the animals, such as food, water and shelter, but we must also consider the importance of gratifying their wishes and alleviating their distresses.

# WASHINGTON

O ripples of Potomac's stream,  
Break gently where the tread  
Of thousands press the hallowed sod  
Above our greatest dead;  
Mount Vernon, Freedom's dearest shrine  
Guard well thy sacred trust,  
Locked in thy loyal heart of hearts  
Ye keep the Patriot's dust.

I see him glide among the huts  
That dot the cheerless gorge—  
The Joshua of a struggling band,  
The Man of Valley Forge;  
Where'er he goes his smile illumines  
The shades that thickly lie,  
And all who hear his words resolve  
With him to do or die.

The pilgrim comes from lands enslaved,  
Beyond the restless sea,  
To meditate where sleeps the man  
Who taught men to be free;  
The glitter of the sword he drew;  
Makes bright the world today,  
And hands unborn will crown its hilt  
With laurel and with bay.

He needs no granite shaft to tell  
Of glorious actions done;  
His monument—the freest land  
That lies beneath the sun!  
Today with swelling pride we seek  
The banquet board once more,  
And drink to him whose fame is far  
Beyond Virginia's shore.

He is not thine, Mount Vernon, though  
Upon thy sacred breast,  
Wrapped in the mantle Glory weaves,  
In peace he takes his rest;  
The voice of Liberty proclaims:  
"He is my honored son."  
And Fame with lofty pride proclaims:  
"The World's one Washington."

—T. C. Harbaugh

# Washington the Man



No Nation or people ever had a richer legacy than Americans have in their ideal of Washington. Great as was his real character and inestimable as were his services to the country Washington was not a demi-god nor even a man of genius. But he did possess a genius for honesty and patriotism and was the incarnation of common sense. His mother, after reading a letter from him during the Revolutionary war which conveyed good news, said: "George generally carries through anything he undertakes." Mrs. U. S. Grant once said, referring to her husband's determination and persistence: "He is a very obstinate man." Grant was not a genius any more than Washington, but both men had the gift of success.

It is well for the American people that they have idealized Washington, and it is to be hoped that they may never lower nor change their ideal, and yet he was very human. As a young man and even after his marriage he was very fond of fox hunting. He could get very angry on fit occasions and sometimes swore. He drank a generous glass of wine every day at dinner and allowed his negro butler and cook each a bottle of beer a day. Nearly thirty years ago a friendly biographer wrote:

"Eighty years have now passed since the death of George Washington, and already he is hidden from us in some degree by a haze of eulogy and tradition. He has been so uniformly extolled that some of our young men tell us with a yawn, that they are tired of hearing Aristides called 'The Just.' He has been edited into obscurity, like a Greek play. Where the genial and friendly soldier referred to one of his cherished friends as 'Old Put,' a respectable editor, devoid of humor, has substituted 'General Putnam,' until, at length, a lover of the man has to defend him against the charge of perfection."

Washington himself never pretended to be more than an average man, though all his contemporaries knew he was. All that he claimed was to be perfect master of himself and to use such powers as God had given him the best he knew how. Once as a procession in his honor passed through the streets of a city he heard a little boy exclaim: "Why, father, General Washington is only a man!" He looked with thoughtful interest on the child and patting him on the head replied: "That's all, my little fellow, that's all." He was one of the most dignified men that ever lived, yet one of the most modest. One finds pleas-

ing evidence of his common humanity in the fact that while quite young he fell easily in love and wrote verses—and sentimental verses at that. When he was twelve years old, shortly after the death of his father, he was sent to school at Fredericksburg after promising his elder brother to be "steady." It was a mixed school of boys and girls and one of his schoolmates, a cousin, said in later life that while George was remarkably studious he was also fond of "romping with one of the largest girls; this was so unusual that it excited no little comment among the other lads." It was while at this school that George wrote the following acrostic:

From your bright sparkling eyes I was undone;  
Rays you have more transparent than the sun,  
Amidst its glory in the rising day,  
None can you equal in your bright array;  
Constant in your calm and unspotted mind,  
Equal to all, but will to none prove kind;  
So knowing, seldom one so young you'll find,  
Ah, woo's me that I should love and conceal  
Long have I wished but never dare reveal,  
Even though severely Love's pain I feel;  
Xerxes the Great wasn't free from Cupid's dart,  
And all the greatest heroes felt the smart.

The first letters spell Frances Alexa. Alexa was the abbreviation of Alexander, and the acrostic was addressed either to a schoolmate of that name or to some fair Frances living in Alexandria, where the boy was well acquainted. There is reason to believe that young Washington was as susceptible as the average young man of the present day. When about seventeen years old he fell in love with a young lady, whom he refers to in a letter to a friend as "your Lowland beauty," and says going into company simply revives his former passion for her. He adds:

"Were I to live more retired from young women, I might alleviate in some measure my sorrows by burying that chaste and troublesome passion in the grave of oblivion or eternal forgetfulness, for as I am very well assured that it is the only antidote or remedy that I ever shall be relieved by or only recess that can administer any cure or help to me, as I am well convinced, were I ever to attempt anything, I should only get a denial, which would be only adding grief to uneasiness."

Intelligent Dog.

The descriptive reporter of a certain daily paper in describing the turning of a dog out of court by order of the bench recently detailed the occurrence as follows: "The ejected canine as he was ignominiously dragged from the room cast a glance at the judge for the purpose of being able to identify him at some future time."

# IMPORTANCE OF ERADICATING INJURIOUS CATTLE TICK

Southern States Need More and Better Live Stock and Larger Dairy Industry—Objects to be Promoted by Destroying Pest.

The eradication of the cattle tick from the southern states is a problem of prime importance to the agricultural interests of that section. Moreover, the good that would result from the elimination of the tick would not be entirely confined to the region directly concerned, and thus the matter assumes to a certain degree a national importance.

The south needs more and better live stock and a larger dairy industry, and these objects would be greatly promoted by the destruction of the tick. The increased production of live stock by reason of its important bearing in maintaining and improving the fertility of the soil, would be of distinct benefit in increasing the yield of field crops. An incidental though important advantage of stock raising and dairying would be found in the distribution of the farmer's income throughout the year, enabling him to live on a cash basis. It can thus be seen that the benefits which would accrue to southern agriculture from the extermination of the cattle tick would be very great and far-reaching.

There are several species of cattle ticks, but the chief one is commonly called the "cattle" or "Texas fever" tick. It is the one most frequently found on cattle and is much more abundant than the other species. When the losses occasioned by this parasite are once thoroughly understood by farmers and stockmen there will be little need for arguments in favor of tick eradication. Some of the losses are not directly noticeable and consequently make little impression, while other losses properly chargeable to the tick are frequently attributed to other causes.

Various writers have estimated the annual loss due to the tick at from \$40,000,000 to \$100,000,000. These figures should be ample argument, even to the most comprehensive, for the eradication of the pest.

In getting rid of the tick, it may be attacked on the pasture and on the cattle.

In freeing pastures the method followed may be either a direct or an indirect one.

The former consists in excluding all cattle, horses and mules from pastures until all the ticks have died from

venient and practical way of treating cattle on the majority of farms. A good style of pail spray pump will be sufficient for treating small herds. About 15 feet of 3-3 inch high-pressure hose is required and a type of nozzle furnishing a cone-shaped spray will be found satisfactory. A nozzle with two small an apertures should not be used.

Every portion of the body should be thoroughly treated, special attention being given to the head, dewlap, brisket, inside of elbows, thighs and flanks, the tail and the depressions at the base of the tail. Crude oil alone may be used, but in general a 20 to 25 per cent. emulsion will be better.

All the cattle should be sprayed every two weeks and the treatment should not be discontinued simply because the ticks have become scarce or seem to have disappeared.

In localities where ticks commonly occur on cattle in considerable numbers during the winter time it will be advisable to continue spraying. In localities where ticks disappear or are present in very small numbers during the winter, the cattle should be inspected carefully each week to remove and destroy any ticks that may be present. When warm weather comes, it will be well in all cases in which spraying has been discontinued during the winter to begin spraying and continue until it can be determined with certainty that eradication has been accomplished. The spraying should not be delayed until ticks show again in considerable numbers. One tick destroyed in the early spring will save the trouble of destroying thousands a few months later.

# MEXICAN STYLE OF FARMING

Most Primitive Methods of Agriculture Are Still Carried on in Many Parts of the Old Republic.

(By VICE-CONSUL R. M. STADDEN.)

The most primitive method of farming is still carried on in many parts of Mexico. The plowing is done by the old-time bull tongue, which is a crooked stick with the point covered with an iron shoe, which only scratches the soil.

Corn is planted by hand, a man following the plow, dropping the seed and covering it with his foot. It is cultivated with the same plow, which gives very poor results in destroying the weeds. The fodder is gathered by pulling the leaves or blades from the stock, which are made into bundles and carried from the fields by pack mules.

Rice is planted, after the native plow has scratched over the land, by being thrown broadcast, and covered by hauling a bunch of brush over the land. When the rice is about one foot or 18 inches high it is cut down with grass hooks; not even a scythe is used for this work. This cutting back is said to make the rice grow more bunched and enables the rice plant to get the best of the weeds, whereas, if the land had been properly plowed before planting, there would be no weeds and this cutting back would not be necessary. Some eight or ten days before cutting or harvesting time the water is shut off from the rice fields to allow the rice to ripen, when it is cut with the same grass hooks. It is then piled up for three days, when it is threshed by being hand beaten on a rock, by which process five to ten per cent. of the grain remains on the straw. During the eight or ten days the field is drying out a loss of about 40 per cent. of grain occurs from various causes.

This style of farming, without farm implements, could be continued through the long list of crops that are raised in that country.



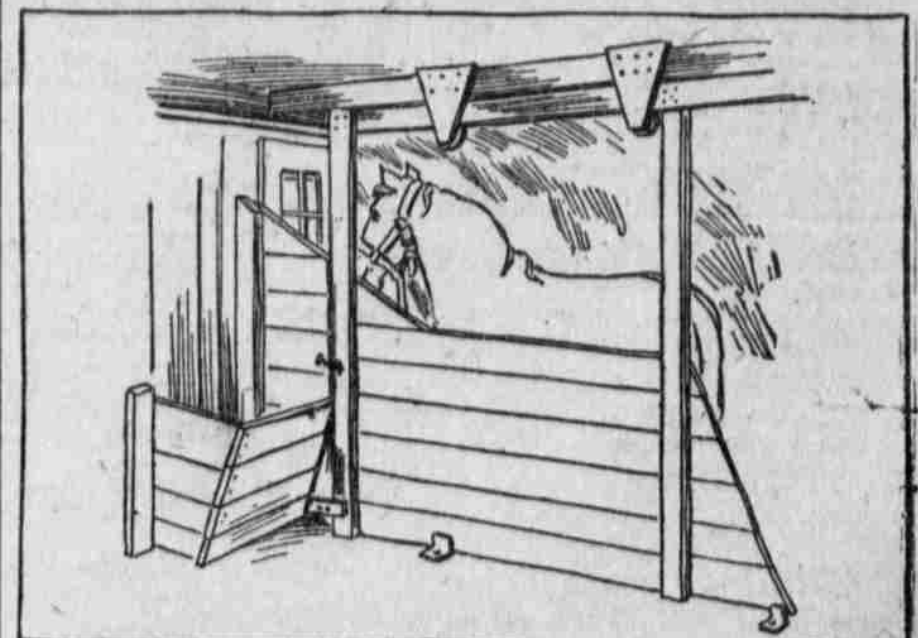
Pail Spraying Pump.

starvation. The latter consists in permitting the cattle and other animals to continue on the infested pasture and treating them at regular intervals with oils or other agents destructive to ticks and thus preventing engorged females from dropping and re-infesting the pasture. The larvae on the pasture, or those which hatch from eggs laid by females already there, will all eventually meet death. Such of these as get upon the cattle from time to time will be destroyed by the treatment, while those which fall to find a host will die in the pasture from starvation.

Animals may be freed of ticks in two ways. They may be treated with an agent that will destroy all the ticks present, or they may be rotated at proper intervals on tick-free fields until all the ticks have dropped.

Spraying is probably the most con-

# SLIDING PARTITION IN STALL



The sliding partition shown in the accompanying illustration provides a safe way to approach the head of a kicking horse to feed it or put on the harness. It does away with the necessity of entering the stall from behind and the risk of being kicked. The partition reaches as far as the manger, and the entire framework and boards are carried on two rollers attached to a joist above. Small metal clips are fastened to the floor on each side of the partition to keep the bottom in place and guide it in sliding back.