

THE OBSERVER

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THE FARMER'S WIFE

There is a good deal of space occupied these days by writers who have plans for keeping the boys on the farm. It is just as important to find a way to keep the girls on the farm. And let us remark as one who has had some experience as a resident on a farm, that the farmer's wife as a rule, deserves a great deal more sympathy than he does as much so in the Grande Ronde valley as anywhere. He has to work hard, that is true, but he doesn't have the round of unvarying drudgery that his wife has to endure. And the worst of it is that, as a rule, the more land the farmer gets, the better his standing at the bank, the harder his wife has to work. This is true in Union county as well as elsewhere. Now some individual who doesn't know anything about conditions on the farm will ask why doesn't this rich farmer hire help for his wife? Well, sometimes it is because he is too close-fisted, but a good many more times it is because it is impossible to get the

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WEST'S

help. The farmer can generally manage to hire help for himself. He can generally get hands enough to do the outside work but good help for the house is next to impossible to find. The girls who do housework prefer to stay in town where it isn't lonesome and where the work isn't so hard nor the hours so long.

The work has to be done, however. The crops must be cared for, the washing and ironing must be done. If there are babies in the house they have to be washed and dressed. The house must be swept and the dishes washed. Three meals per day must be prepared for a lot of men whose appetites would make the most ravenous coyote appear by comparison to be suffering from a case of dyspepsia. And the farmer's wife must do it all, not because her husband is unkind, but because there is no one else to do it. Talk about the hardships of the men who have to work in the steel mills 12 hours per day; they don't have to work harder or longer hours than many a farmer's wife. No wonder the farmer's wife often begins to look old and broken at an age when she ought to be in her prime. No wonder either that the girl, seeing what is ahead of her, is

not anxious to stay on the farm. What is to be done about it? That isn't an easy question to answer. There is a way in which conditions could be bettered in many cases. If the house could be supplied with modern conveniences that would lighten the work of the farmer's wife, but it may be that in a good many cases the farmer is not able to fit his house up with modern conveniences, such for an example as a small gasoline engine that will furnish the power to run the washing machine, the churn and the cream separator and run a vacuum cleaner. Most farm houses, however, could be furnished with better conveniences than they have now and probably if the work of the house was made lighter it would not be so hard for the farmer to get help for his wife.

However that may be, the hard fact remains that the life of the farmer's wife is apt to be one of drudgery, a drudgery that increases as the size of the farm increases, that grows more trying as the years pile up. But I am not even certain that it is a good idea to talk about the hardships of the farmer's wives unless one has some remedy to suggest.

Canada has appointed a commission to ascertain how much the people of the dominion lost by the defeat of reciprocity. Maybe Canada is going to demand indemnity.

In Chicago the Palmator restored to life a man who had been apparently dead for two hours. Why not try it on the La Follette boom?

With the dictagraph springing its tell-tale records on conspirators it has become literally true in this day that walls have ears.

A MADE OVER STATUE.

Designed to Pose as a King, It Now Represents a Saint.

The most made over statue in the world is in a quaint little church at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight. It was originally designed for that of Louis XIV of France and was the work of a Roman sculptor who started for France with the statue, but was captured on the way by an English warship. France and England were then at war, and the box containing the statue was taken on board the English vessel with other spoils.

When Sir Richard Holmes, the English commander, examined it and found the head was unfinished he ordered the sculptor to complete it in his own likeness, and so the heroic figure that was intended to represent a French monarch was turned into an officer of the English navy.

When Sir Richard was made governor

nor of the Isle of Wight in 1697 he presented the statue of himself to the Yarmouth church. Half a century after his death a statue of St. John was desired for a certain niche in the church, and an English sculptor was called in to chisel out the face and naval hat of Sir Richard and make them over into the benign features and flowing locks of the saint.

The incongruity of court clothes and a jeweled chain on the figure of one of the apostles did not seem to strike the worshippers as anything unusual, and St. John still occupies his place by the altar attired in the finery of a French king.—New York Press.

The Sign "SS."

The letters "ss" are to be found at the beginning of acknowledgments and other legal documents, but not one in a dozen can tell you what that cabalistic "ss" is for. The abbreviation is a contraction of the Latin word "secretum," which is also a contraction, having originally been written as "secrete," neither of which, you will note has more than one "s." The word entire or in its abbreviated state is equivalent to the old English "to wit," still widely used, the design of both being simply to call particular attention to what follows.

His Egotism.

"What is the matter with Jones? He used to be a modest sort of fellow, but lately he seems almost bursting with self importance."

"Haven't you heard? Mrs. Jones is suing another woman for alienating his affections and puts the damages at \$50,000."—Judge.

Its Utility.

"Helgho!" said Biddad as Jimsonberry flashed by in his motor. "I wish I had an automobile."

"Oh, nonsense, Bill," said Slathers. "What's the use? You couldn't afford to keep it."

"No, by Jiminy," said Biddad, "but I could afford to sell it."—Harper's Weekly.

Different Points of View.

The mercury sought the zero mark. And made the masses rue it. The coal man thought it quite a lark. The plumber said, "Go to it!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Smart Infant.

"Mother, turn the hose on me," said little Willie, as his mamma was dressing him in the morning.

"Willie, what do you mean?" cried his alarmed and loving parent.

"You've put my stockings on the wrong side out," he said.—London Telegraph.

Reward of Genius.

The poet stopped as the boy rushed up almost breathless. "Say," said the boy, "your wife says she forgot to tell you that if you sell that love song you are to fetch a ham home an' if it won't buy a ham p'raps it'll be equal to a can of salmon."—Atlanta Constitution.

The Unabashed.

The hounds of spring, as Swinburne said, are not upon old winter's traces. Yet catalogues, by gardeners read, now fill the bulky mail-bags' spaces.—Denver Republican.

Knew He Was Beaten.

Roscoe Conkling, recognized as erudite in constitutional matters, had submitted a question to the senate, taking the affirmative of the proposition. The following day Senator Edmunds arose and took the opposite view. Edmunds was a great friend and admirer of Allen G. Thurman of Ohio and of Joe McDonald of Indiana.

"May I ask the senator from Vermont if he has conferred with the senator from Ohio on this matter?" Conkling asked. Edmunds replied that he had. "May I further inquire if the senator from Indiana was in the conference?" continued Conkling. "He was," replied Edmunds.

"Then there is no need for me to make further argument," said the New York senator.—Washington Post.

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