

# THE BURDEN

By BELLE MANIATES

Robert Marshall stood in the doorway of the farmhouse reading the letter the rural route carrier had just delivered.

"My dear son," the letter ran, "I am so glad I came to the funeral, and that I didn't listen to all your talk about our being remote and poor relations. Cousin Walter had lost all his money in speculations just before he died, and his poor, dear, little girl is left penniless. And when poverty came in at the window their friends (?) must have gone out the door. I am bringing the poor child back with me, and our home shall be hers. We will be there on the afternoon train Wednesday. Meet us. Your affectionate mother."

This was Wednesday. The letter had been delayed.

Robert harnessed the two-seated buggy and drove to Elmwood, four miles distant, in a state of turmoil. He was so absorbed in his thoughts that he forgot that the express did not stop at Elmwood until he saw it whizzing past. He made all speed to Elk River where it was scheduled to stop, expecting to find his passengers there, but he saw no one save the station master who was locking up the waiting room.

"Your folks rode home with Jim Peole. He had his two-seated rig here," called out the baggage master.

His error and his useless long ride did not tend to temper his frame of mind; neither did his mother's welcoming kiss.

"I forgot that the train did not stop at Elmwood," he explained, "and I went on to Elk River."

"That was too bad. Lillian is upstairs resting. The child is so for-



"My Son, It is No Burden."

lorn. You will feel so sorry for her when you see her."

The smothered forces moved.

"Mother, it's you I'm sorry for, or would be, if I were not so angry with you. To think of you, after your life of overwork, when you have just begun to take things easy and comfortable, to have to take up this burden upon yourself!"

"My son, it is no burden. It will be a pleasure, aside from a duty."

"Duty be hanged!" he said savagely. "A fifth cousin! Duty!"

"We have plenty, Robert," said she in surprise. "Her living will cost us nothing, and the lawyer says she will have a small income when it is settled."

"It isn't the money," he said; "as you say, we have plenty, but it's the care, the responsibility. I won't allow it."

"Robert! This is not like you. Your heart will go out to the delicate little flower-like creature when you see her."

"I don't want to see her."

He went angrily away to the barn remaining there and in the fields as long as he could. He was trying to conquer his ill temper before seeing his mother again. He succeeded in a measure, and returned to the house.

"She is sleeping a very long while," said his mother. "I will run up and peep in her room."

She returned pale and anxious.

"Oh, Robert, she has gone!"

"Gone!" he echoed.

"Yes, she heard all you said. Here, read her note. What must she think after all the praises I have sung of you."

He read the note written in a stylish, feminine hand.

"Dear Cousin Hannah: I couldn't sleep, and when your son came in and I heard you speak of me, I—forgive me—did not try to keep from listening. He was right. I would be a burden to you, and I have no claim

upon you. I have been so selfish in my grief that I took all your kindness as a matter of course. I came with you because I have learned to love you in these last awful days when you were so dear to me. But I see that I should not have taken advantage of your generous offer. I think it better to slip away before I see you again, because you would try to make me stay, and I could never feel right about it after what your son said. Thanking you so much for all your kindness, I am, as ever, Lillian P. S.—I will write as soon as I get home."

When Robert looked up and his mother saw his expression of shame and remorse, she couldn't utter a word of condemnation.

"I will go and bring her back," he said, going out the door.

"Robert," she called after him. "She won't come. For all she looks so small and delicate, she is strong willed and proud."

"She shall come," he declared, squaring his broad shoulders.

Never had he harnessed so quickly, and never had the surprised mare received such reminders to keep up the speed. Robert groaned as he looked at the hot, dusty highway over which she must have walked.

He drove through the town to Elk River, scanning the hotel entrance and shops in vain. He went on to the station and hitched his mare back of the waiting room which was, he noted, still locked. He went on to the baggage room. On a bench, outside, in the hot sun sat a girl, delicate, beautiful, grief-stricken.

He strode up to her.

"See here," he said, towering above her, "I am your cousin, Robert Marshall. I have come to take you back home."

She smiled faintly.

"It's good of you, and I know Cousin Hannah sent you, but—"

"I didn't give her time to send me. I came as fast as my horse would bring me as soon as I read your note. You must come with me."

"No," she said with sweet and firm resolution. "You were right in what you said."

"But I want you—as much, if not more, than my mother does."

"You are hospitable like her, and you are trying to make amends. It is useless to change my purpose."

"Look here," he cried impetuously, "if you don't come, I shall pick you up in my arms and carry you away in spite of yourself."

She lost her lily look.

"But you will come," he continued confidently, "when I show you the letter I got from my mother."

He thrust it into her hand. When she had read it, she looked up questioningly.

"Don't you see," he said with a half groan. "I thought from that letter that you were a child of six or thereabouts. I never dreamed of your being grown up, and when I thought of my mother at her age undertaking the care and responsibility of a child, I couldn't bear the thought. But, now, it's different. You can give her just what the house needs, and what we pine for, the presence of a young woman. The favor will be on your side, if you will come."

"Really and truly?" she said entreatingly, looking up into the dark, earnest eyes.

"Really and truly. Come."

He led her to the phaeton and helped her in. When they had driven a short distance, he said: "When I think of your long, hot walk, so soon after your journey, I am so remorseful—"

She didn't answer. Looking down he saw that she was asleep. He put his arm gently round her and drew her head against his shoulder. He drove up to the veranda where his mother stood anxiously awaiting.

"I have brought our little girl home, mother," he said tenderly.

The little girl opened her eyes and smiled happily.

## Saying Grace.

I own that I am disposed to say grace upon 20 other occasions in the course of the day besides my dinner. I want a form for setting out upon a pleasant walk, for a moonlight ramble, for a friendly meeting, or a solved problem. Why have we none for books, those spiritual repasts—a grace before Milton—a grace before Shakespeare—a devotional exercise proper to be said before reading the "Faery Queen?"—Charles Lamb.

## Retaining Moisture in Meat.

Cold meat becomes dry quickly after cutting, but if wrapped in waxed paper it will remain moist for three or four days. If a towel is wrapped closely over the whole roast, it will keep the grease from drying up.

## Also Ran.

Reporter—What did you do when you met your first lion?  
Teddy—I ran with all my might and the lion ran with all his mane.—Judge.

## Palms.

She—Did you notice the lovely palms in the restaurant?  
He—The only palms I saw were the waiter's.

## MANAGE SWINE FOR PROFIT

Good Sires Are Essential if Hogs of Highest Quality Are to Be Grown—Variety of Feed.

Hogs can be made a profitable class of stock on most Wisconsin farms with proper breeding and care, writes J. G. Fuller and A. S. Alexander of the agricultural experiment station of the University of Wisconsin, in a bulletin, No. 184, issued by the station. Swine production in Wisconsin is generally carried on as a side line to other kinds of farming, principally dairying.

For Wisconsin conditions the lard type is the most profitable to raise, although in a few instances bacon hogs have brought good returns. Good individuals of the Poland China, Duroc-Jersey, Berkshire or Chester White breeds are desirable for breeding stock.

Good sires are very essential if hogs of the highest quality are to be grown and a uniformly profitable herd built up, according to these writers. Only pure-bred boars should be kept, and these should be carefully selected to insure prepotency, quality and soundness. Sows must be carefully selected to insure large and healthy litters.

Rations for breeding swine must be planned according to the needs of the animals. The foods which will keep both boars and sows in best condition are preferable. Breeding animals should be grown, not fattened. Boars and sows need plenty of exercise and a variety of nourishing food, but no fat-forming materials. Corn alone is a very poor feed for sows and should never be given exclusively.

The amount of feed for the sow should be changed to suit her condition, the amount increased while she is nursing a litter, and some wheat bran and oilmeal added to aid the digestive organs. Comfortable bedding should be provided and the sow closely watched at farrowing time.

The care of young pigs is the foundation for fattening the market animal. Common diseases and parasites can only be avoided by the constant, regular use of the best methods of prevention. Constant vigilance is the price of a clean swine herd. Regular dipping, close observation to detect the early stages of the various troubles, sanitary quarters and bedding, with careful feeding, can alone prevent serious losses.

## MILK PRODUCTION IS COSTLY

Connecticut Dairymen Who Has Not Profited Much Through His Business Tells Story.

A Connecticut dairymen writes the Rural New Yorker as follows, touching his experience as to the cost of producing milk:

This is my account for 1909: Average price of cow, \$65. I have 11 cows but give just one. Milk produced in one year, 2,500 quarts; sold at four cents in summer and five cents in winter, \$112.50. Cost of feed, hay, two tons, at \$18, \$36; seven tons silage at \$4, \$28; cost of grain, \$35; pasture and bedding, \$8; depreciation in value and interest, insurance, taxes, \$14; total, \$122. This leaves me in, debit, \$8.50.

Two hours every day carting milk to city, wear and tear on horse and wagon; we must whitewash our barns and keep clean; we must have brushes and clean towels, vaseline and medicine when wanted, salt, etc. For all this we get a calf worth \$2 and \$8 worth of manure.

I know that I am not producing as much milk per cow as some do, but I know lots of others produce less. I have been trying to weed out, but it is very hard to buy good cows, for it seems that everybody is in the same business. Nobody wants to sell a good cow. I am not in a position to raise my own cows.

Every farmer who wholesales milk at less than five cents per quart is in a losing game. If I had sold my milk at five cents all the year round it would be \$125. That would make me come out even. You understand that I have been selling my feed to my cows at less than the market price. The only way for a man who produces milk is to retail it himself or get out of the business.

## Quality and Size of Egg.

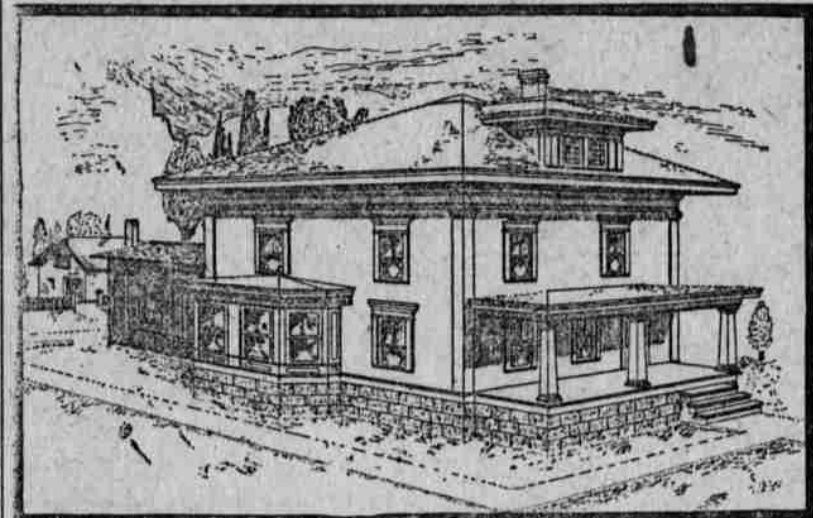
While food affects the quality of the egg, it cannot increase the size of the egg. You can always increase the egg production by feeding the proper kind and amount of food, but you cannot induce the hen to lay a larger egg by methods of feeding. This comes by heredity, and must be done by methods of breeding from large egg strains.

## Dipping Sheep Effectively.

To rid sheep of external parasites or the scab mite they should be dipped in some effective dip. Coal tar dips are effective, non-poisonous and do not ordinarily injure the wool. They are therefore considered among the best. Before using all dips should be tested.

## ATTRACTIVE FARM DWELLING CONVENIENT AND INEXPENSIVE

Detailed Description of House Owned by Farmer in Ohio That May Be Built at an Approximate Cost of \$2,800 to \$3,000.



An Attractive Farm Dwelling.

(By J. E. BRIDGMAN.)

One of the most convenient and modern farmhouses of moderate cost the writer has seen is owned by a farmer in Ohio. It is comfortable and handsome, and the farmer and his family enjoy practically all of the advantages that are to be found in city homes. The house has few angles and corners and it may be built at an approximate cost of \$2,800 to \$3,000, and contain many of the improvements essential to comfort, utility and beauty.

The main or front part of the house is 28 feet square and the kitchen and pantry 14x20 feet. The lower story is 9 feet high and the second story 8 feet 6 inches. The exterior walls are covered with shiplap and lap siding with building paper between. The roofs are covered with best grade of 5 to 2 cedar shingles, that is, five of the shingles, when placed together, will measure practically 2 inches at the thick ends. These shingles will cost slightly more, but they will also last about three times as long as the 6 to 2 shingles.

All interior side walls and ceilings receive three coats of plaster with white finish. All floors are quarter-sawn yellow pine. The trim for dining-room, living-room, hall and library is of birch with mahogany stain. The kitchen and pantry has hard pine trim with oil finish.

Entire second floor has pine trim with flat tints except bathroom, which has enamel finish.

A good solid limestone or cement foundation is placed under the house and a basement excavation under the front part. A hot-air furnace is placed in the basement, also a hollow wire lighting plant. The furnace and

lighting plant may be installed at a cost of \$375.

As both the heating and lighting plants are entirely safe, easy to operate and the expense of running them less than the cost of operating or using oil lamps and stoves, it would seem that their use would pay, to say nothing of the added comfort and pleasure derived from them.

The furnace will without doubt prevent much sickness if the fresh air shaft is properly installed, and the gas lights will save the housewife much labor; also you will have a light equal to any city light, electricity not excepted.

The cellar has an inside entrance under the main stairway, also an outside entrance.

Root cellar, front room, etc., are provided in the basement.

The pantry is so located that it prevents the heat from entering the dining-room during the summer months and contains china closet with doors opening to dining-room, cupboard, flour bin, etc.

All rooms are of good size well lighted, and ample closet room is provided; also a good-sized linen closet.

The living-room has an open fireplace which also has smoke flue for the furnace. The large arches connecting the dining-room, hall and living-room causes these rooms to seem larger than they really are, and with suitable rugs, curtains, etc., a beautiful effect may be obtained.

The house has no fancy work, but when neatly painted will present a very good front and will not look out of place on almost any building lot, and for many reasons this building seems especially adapted to rural districts.

## RACE SUICIDE AMONG FARMERS

Decline in Population Shown by Last Census in Agricultural Areas Due to Discouragement of Married Workers.

(By C. R. BARNES.)

The pitiful story was told recently in a northern daily paper of an industrious and capable farm laborer who had answered several advertisements of farmers in need of just such experienced services as he was able to render; but whose application was rejected, in each instance, because he had a wife and two small children. The farmers wanted neither women nor children about their farms. So this competent farm worker was obliged to accept employment in a city stable.

It is to be feared that this is by no means an isolated instance. Human kindness has been so far eliminated, in many cases, from the relationship between the farmer and his hired help, and that relationship has been put so exclusively on a hard business basis, that the complaint is common that "the farmer cares more for the comfort and happiness of his cattle and hogs than he does for the well-being of his men."

Under healthier conditions in rural life, the married workman would receive the same preference that he generally does from employers in mercantile and manufacturing pursuits; as being more reliable and less likely to seek a change, if fairly well treated, than the single man. Aside from this, however, there is a moral and social obligation, resting at least as strongly on the farmer as on any one else, to encourage family life among workers, and thus to promote stability in rural populations and to discourage the nomadism among laborers which is the bane of our agricultural enterprises.

It is altogether probable that the actual decline in population, shown by the last census to have taken

place in extensive agricultural areas, is due to the discouragement of marriage among farm workers, and the refusal of employment to men with families.

That way lies the decline of states and the ruin of democracy. If we want growth in population, and the perfect working out of the Democratic ideas underlying American institutions, we must reverse our methods, welcome rather than repel the man with a family, and be willing to share with him some portion of the opportunities of the farm.

Utmost Precautions Needed. Impure milk will be the result if the utmost precautions are not taken in handling it, and impure milk necessarily means that its products will also be impure and have very poor keeping qualities. It should be remembered that all contamination depends upon some form of bacteria, which are present everywhere and which multiply very readily under certain conditions and temperatures.

## Overlook Home-Grown Foods.

By following along the lines of scientific feeding many dairymen have overlooked the value of home-grown dairy foods and formed the habit of going to the mill and exchanging their milk check for protein foods.

## Carrier Pigeon in Long Flight.

In a contest flight between carrier pigeons a bird owned in Detroit, Mich., flew 500 miles against a head wind between 4:30 a. m., and 7:30 p. m. of the same day.

## Japanese Farmers.

Of Japan's 45,000,000 people, 30,000,000 are farmers. The whole body is supported by a cultivated area of but 19,000 square miles. Every foot of soil is utilized; the farmer is a specialist.

## Exercising the Bull.

Some men lead the bull about the yard daily for exercise. The man usually gets most of the exercise.