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THE FARMER'S WIFE

The Magazine for Farm Women

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*TOMORROW is St. Valentine's
day,
All in the morning betime,
And I a maid at your window,
To be your Valentine.
—Shakespeare*

See What's Coming!

MAKE SURE that you receive the March issue of THE FARMER'S WIFE, for the first installment of Ruth Sawyer's great serial, "Folk-house," will appear then. And also make sure that your subscription is in order so that you will not miss any of the later installments.

This new story is truly a great story—we think it is Ruth Sawyer's greatest. That is saying a good deal, for everyone who read her Tad and Danny serial were loud in its praises.

This new story is the story of the building of a home—not merely of the wood, brick and mortar house, but especially of that structure of love, devotion, sacrifice, sorrow, joy, which is the real home after all. It will stir you deeply.

WE HAVE had a great deal of instruction on how to be more successful mothers and fathers and rear our children more skillfully, but not very much about how to be better wives and husbands. So we've arranged for a series of articles on wife and husband relationships.

We asked Dr. Garry C. Myers, head of the division of parental education in Western Reserve University, to write these articles, because he is a distinguished authority on this subject. And too, we whisper it, he has had practical experience in maintaining happy home relationships, for he and Mrs. Myers and their children constitute a successful family.

You will remember that Dr. Myers wrote the series of articles appearing in the past year on parent and children relationships.

THESE features are only two of the many good things that are in store for you in the year ahead. We suggest again that you make sure that you miss not a single issue.

Strike While the Iron's Hot

FORTY different state legislatures will this winter take up the question of raising the standards of rural schools and at the same time keeping school taxes down where the farmer can reasonably be expected to pay them.

Generally the laws proposed will include a way for the state to raise money for school support to be distributed among schools so that richer communities, including cities, would help the poorer communities with less wealth to tax. The purpose is to even up the quality of schools and at the same time even up school taxes; consequently such a plan is known as "a school equalization plan."

These forty states are:

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Farmer interest should be given to these proposed laws, first with a view to understanding them, and second, with a view to getting behind them and asking the legislature to pass them if they seem wise. Read the articles in the December and January issues of THE FARMER'S WIFE dealing with the equalization plan. Ask your county superintendent or your state superintendent of schools to give you information about the proposed legislation in your state. Discuss the whole matter in your family and in your club. And then, *do something about it!* The iron seems to be hot right now; strike!

Unless rural people bestir themselves about the school and school tax situation, how can anyone else be expected to do anything?

What Are We to Believe?

LIKE a cry from Macedonia comes this plea for help from "A Friendly Reader" in Illinois who has been trying to be a good citizen and to interest herself in the politics of state and nation:

Who and what am I to believe? First I read one kind of a statement about public affairs from one person whom I felt I could trust, and then one wholly contradictory from another whom I felt should also be believed. Senators and Congressmen fill the newspapers with attacks upon everybody whose head rises above the common level. I am confused by it all and inclined to think that everybody in public life is a rascal and a liar. Sometimes, too, I feel sorry that we women ever were given the right to vote.

Dear Reader, these disturbing things are merely symptoms of an approaching presidential election. You may expect more and worse for the next twenty months. You will come out of it all with a reasonable amount of confidence in men and affairs if you will keep your sense of humor. That should not be so very difficult to do, for it is all really very funny.

Remember that just now politicians are newspaper head line hunters. They say what they say largely for the sake of getting into big type in spite of crime and scandal news. Usually it is safe to discount what they say by fifty per cent, divide the remainder by ten, and then take the quotient with a grain of salt.

A Simple Formula for Leisure

HERE is a little editorial on finding leisure that we spied in a letter from one of our readers:

Whenever I heard anybody get up and say that getting a little leisure for oneself every day was largely a matter of taking it, I used to say to myself, "It isn't so! Most of us are too badly tied down to our work to have any chance to take time to rest or to read or to play."

But finally I said to myself, "I'll try for a month to get some leisure time each day."

And glory be! I did it and I'm keeping right on doing it.

Tell this to your readers!

Well, there's the story. Who'll be the next to test the very simple formula for getting a little leisure daily, by taking it?

Why Talk About That?

A VERY plain spoken friend, and a farmer, recently asked us this question: "Why do you give so much space to the beautifying of farm home grounds? It just seems a bit highfaluting to me to talk about landscaping the average farm place."

We talk about beautifying farm homes because it is the right of every rural family to live in a home that is attractive and pleasant. And further, because it has been demonstrated again and again that a farmstead can be made attractive with the expenditure of only a little money and labor.

It has been the glory of American Agriculture that farm people have never accepted the European peasant attitude toward farming. They have ever maintained high ambitions for themselves and insisted upon their right to improve their homes and their standards of living.

We believe in modern farm homes, set in green lawns and made beautiful with trees and shrubs and blooming plants. Moreover, we are going to continue to point out in a common sense way how such farm homes may be developed at modest expense.

A Real Bit of Wisdom

FROM a dear old friend, Uncle Asa, who had made a genuine, all-round success of his life, we have a bit of wisdom that we are going to pass on to you. Answering the question as to what his aim in life had been he said:

"To be good, to do good, and to make a little money."

Uncle Asa's bit of wisdom is old, but it's still sound. It is short and easily remembered, but it has in it material for a hundred sermons. It is good to follow when you are young, and when you are old. It points a sure road to real joy in living.

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MORE THAN
A MILLION
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