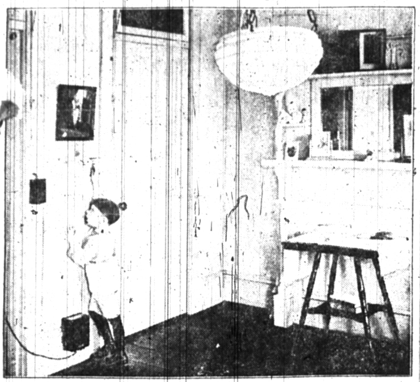
DRUDGERY REMOVED FROM HOME BY ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER



The Ease With Which a House Can Be Lighted Is the Principal Reason That Most People Put Electricity Into Their Homes.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Power on the farm has proved to be one of the greatest time and labor savers the farmer knows. Power in the home is one of the greatest of boons to the busy housewife, but a recent survey made by the United States Department of Agriculture in 10,000 homes in the Northern and Western states discloses the fact that but 15 per cent of the farm homes in the country have this advantage. Power for such frequently recurring tasks as sweeping, running the washing machine and churning would not only remove drudgery but save time and money as well.

The time required to operate the churn, the separator, and the washing machine, and to do the ironing, the cleaning with the vacuum cleaner, and the pumping of water is made available for other things and not infrequently it has been possible to reduce the amount of hired help.

Helps Solve Servant Problem.

Today as never before is the need of labor-saving devices in the home being felt. The servant problem is rapidly becoming more serious. The increasing wages of household servants and washerwomen are approaching a point which the family of average means cannot meet. Through electricity, the tireless servant, is perhaps to be found the solution.

Comparatively few of our farm homes today have electricity available. The number, however, is increasing rapidly, owing principally to the advent of the small farm lighting power plant. In addition to this means of supply, some farm homes are so situated that electricity can be obtained from high-power transmission lines that pass within a reasonable distance; others are near streams of water which may be developed as sources of energy for farm or community hydro-electric plants; while in some localities successful windmill electric generating plants have been the means of supply. Directions for conducting preliminary surveys to determine the possibilities of a particular stream have been given by the bureau of rural engineering of the United States Department of Agriculture and can be obtained for the asking.

Where farm homes are supplied with electricity from transmission lines, central stations, or farm hydro-electric plants taking current directly from the generator, it is usually supplied at 110 to 115 volts. Windmill electric plants may be of this voltage, but on account of the relatively high battery investment, they are more likely to be of the 30 to 32-volt type. The engine-driven farm lighting and power plants, which are multiplying rapidly at present, are mostly of the 32-volt type; but many of the companies supply these plants operating at 110 volts.

Uses Almost Unlimited.

The uses for electricity, or the tasks to which it can be applied about the farm home, are almost unlimited. The man who may install it primarily for lighting will soon find himself applying it to other tasks, and as he begins to see what it can do for him and the multiplicity of its usefulness becomes apparent he will realize how electricity is each day lessening his labors and making this old world a happier and better place in which to live.

The first thought of electricity is usually for lighting, but it should not be overlooked as a source of power.

The utility motor adapts itself wonderfully well to a number of uses, thus saving the expense of installing a separate motor for each job. Several types are available. Sometimes a support rod is attached to the motor base to steady it when in operation. This is a desirable asset.

Then there are the many tasks of the kitchen where a little motor can do in but a fraction of the time consumed by handwork jobs that, though not particularly tiresome, are nevertheless irksome, such as grinding meat and coffee, stuffing sausage, mixing bread, or sharpening knives.

The electric range will be better appreciated as its advantages become better known, and will be used where electric plants of sufficient size to operate a range are available. Many heating units, such as table utensils, fireless cookers, water heaters, griddles and others, are already in use and are proving themselves to be desirable under different conditions. The washing machine, electric iron, vacuum cleaner, sewing-machine motor, and motor-driven pumping units are all helping to make life on the farm more enjoyable and appreciated.

DRYING VEGETABLES AND FRUITS IN OVEN

May Prove Convenient and Time-Saving Economy.

Currants, Gooseberries and Strawberries Are Best Canned—Dried Parsley and Celery Tops Are Valuable for Seasoning.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Drying small quantities of surplus vegetables and fruits from time to time may prove a very convenient and time-saving economy. Soup ingredients, such as cabbage, corn, celery, onions, tomatoes, turnips, potatoes, carrots and lima beans, may be separately dried and stored to be combined for use according to taste. Dried parsley and celery tops are valuable additions to the seasoning shelf. Currants, gooseberries and strawberries are better canned than dried; but a variety of other fruits, including blackberries, black and red raspberries, plums, prunes, figs, apples, apricots and peaches may all be dried at home. Dried peas, young beans, cauliflower, okra and spinach are considered by specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture to be less satisfactory in flavor than other dried vegetables.

The oven of the cookstove may be used. The products to be dried should be spread thinly in baking pans or pie tins and these should be placed upon racks so that they are not in direct contact with the oven wall. The door of the oven should be left open so that the water vapor driven off may pass out, and the fire should be so regulated that the material may not be scorched.

Trays suspended above a cookstove may also be employed. Each tray is made of a rectangular piece of rather heavy galvanized-wire netting having four or five meshes to the inch. The finished trays should have approximately the same dimensions as the stove top. The edges are turned up so as to form sides for the tray. Four pieces of wood 1 by 2 inches in thickness form a frame for the drier which may be suspended by wires from the ceiling, or it may stand directly upon the top of the stove, if the slats making up the frame are allowed to extend six inches below the bottom of the lower tray and a good-sized nail is driven half its length into the end of each slat to form noninflammable feet upon which the drier may rest.

Directions for making and using various types of home driers are given in Farmers' Bulletin 984, "Farm and Home Drying of Fruits and Vegetables."

Tablecloth for Picnic.

Next time you go on a picnic, try a tablecloth made from a rubber sheeting. To make it more attractive the edges may be scalloped and the corners may be decorated with a stenciled design in gay colors.

Making Meat Loaf.

When making a meat loaf, place three hard-boiled eggs in the middle, end to end. When the meat is cut a slice of egg is in the center of each piece. It makes a very attractive luncheon dish.

OF INTEREST TO THE HOUSEWIFE

Fruit popovers are nice served with a sauce as dessert.

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Cauliflower is delicious served with mayonnaise dressing.

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If a roast is basted many times it will be much more juicy.

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Always save twine and brown paper and they will be at hand when required.

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Clean brass beds with flannel dipped in kerosene; polish with chamois or flannel.

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Linen insertion, with a shell crocheted to it with linen thread makes a handsome lace for buffet or bureau scarfs.

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When putting aside a jelly to cool, see that it stands perfectly even, or when unmolded the jelly will not stand straight.

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Tongue is especially nice as a hot weather meat, and the cold tongue is suitable for sandwiches or for serving cold with salad.

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If, after baking, you find that you have an egg yolk left over, put it in a glass with a tightly fitting cover over it and you'll find that it will keep indefinitely.

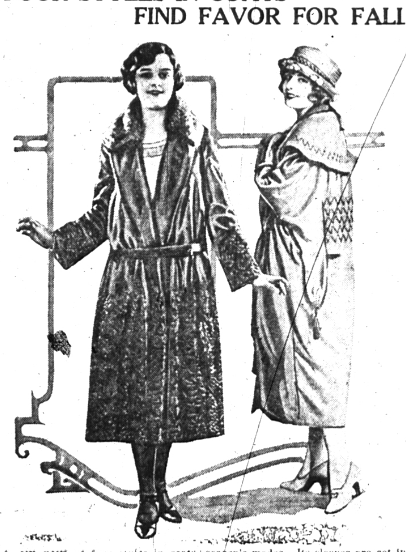
FROCKS FOR PRACTICAL WEAR AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY

Now that Spanish modes are flourishing in the sunshine of fashion's approval we find them exploited in unexpected places. These picturesque styles—the wide skirts, dangling ornaments, shawl draperies, brilliant embroideries, sashes and fringes—one would not expect to find in dresses for practical wear, but they are reflected in work-a-day clothes for fall as well as dressier things. They are romantic touches, artfully handled and they give a new flavor to practical dresses for all-day wear, like those which are pictured above.

As good an example as could be selected of the Spanish influence as it appears in the practical dress for fall, is shown at the left of the two pictured. This dress is of tricotine and has a full skirt shirred into a cut seam at the low waistline. The bodice is trim and almost smoothly fitting, having a long shoulder line and bound arm's eye. The nearly round neck supports a fringe-trimmed collar and the novel sleeves, set in the lining, are also finished with fringe. This fringe is of chenille and matches the dress in color; it is set in four rows on the skirt, extending around the sides and back, the last row at the bottom edge. A heavy silk cord, tacked to place, provides the girdle. Altogether this a very attractive dress, with its faint Spanish accent accountable for its novelty and fascination.

Another dress that will interest young wearers appears at the right. It is a tailored model which refuses to be entirely serious-minded and borrows a fringed sash and single embroidery motif on the bodice from Spanish modes. It is a little wayward at the hem line, where it breaks into points, calling particular attention to the fact with three rows of braid that looks like embroidery, and defines the points. The sleeves are elbow length and set-in, the sash of crepe-satin with chenille fringe and there is a staid little tailored bow of it, at the neck line, topping off a finish in which satin-covered buttons and narrow fold insist upon the practical character of the frock. It can be made of any of the usual suitings.

FOUR STYLES IN COATS FIND FAVOR FOR FALL



Any one of four styles in coats may claim our allegiance this fall, for designers have departed from the dolman styles and wrappy garments of last year. Traces of them are left in some of the new arrivals, but that is all. Many of the new coats are straight-line garments, ample, with dropped shoulder and deep arm hole, and set-in sleeves which are more than likely to be flaring. Next there is the coat that has the fitted basque and full skirt. This style invites trimming and may turn out to be the most popular of all aspirants for favor. Then comes the Russian blouse style, always a favorite with smart women who wear it well, and finally those coats which preserve the dolman sleeve and are capelike. Capes and cape wraps for evening wear may be added to these. All these styles count embroidery and braid among available decorations and look to fur to provide collars and sometimes trimmings, if required.

The two coats shown above are among the simplest examples of the straight-line and the capelike styles. The coat at the left could not be improved upon as an exponent of this season's modes. Its sleeves are set in and slightly flaring. Braid embroidery adorns them and the skirt portion of the coat in a deep border, and the belt, made of the fabric, is inconspicuous. Beaver fur makes a collar that may be brought up about the throat.

The coat at the right is long and full with deep cape-collar of the material. Its sleeves are cut in one with the body of the garment—or have that appearance—and are extended into long tabs finished with a tassel. It is intricate in design but simply trimmed with braid.

Julia Bottomley

Belted in Effects.

Never before has there been such a demand for narrow leather belts for sport wear. They are used on both sport dresses and sweaters. All-white and black and white kid are the favorites, with one inch as the maximum width.

Novel Hat Band.

Sew together narrow strips of silk as carpet rags are sewn. Then knit the ball of pieced silk into a band about twenty-seven inches long, as follows: Use needles such as are used in knitting a sweater and cast on five stitches. At the end of the 27 inches—or the measurement around the hat—knit two stitches together, knit three, turn, knit two stitches together, knit two, turn, knit two stitches together, knit one, turn, knit last two stitches together. By narrowing off in this way the band can be adjusted better to the slope of the crown. Join the strip and arrange it on the hat. Trim the left side with some sort of ornament which will blend nicely with the colors in the strip. By using two balls, one of shades of color, the other black, or some dark color, a simple design can be followed.

Figured Crepes.

Self-tone figured crepes in navy or black are relieving the monotony of the omnipresent plain crepe.

LIVE STOCK

NOT WISE TO OVERLOAD CARS

Death or Injury of Animals Means Heavy Loss to Shipper—Temptation to Crowd Is Great.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

It makes quite a difference in the profits of the farmer stock raiser whether he obtains 8½ cents per pound for his hogs as meat or from ⅛ to ¾ cent per pound for them as dead hogs and soap-grease material. Which of these prices he obtains depends upon how the animals are loaded in the cars. Many shippers, either through ignorance or in an effort to save a small amount of freight, overload or improperly load their live stock when sending it to market, and thereby run great risks of sustaining serious losses through crippled or dead animals, say specialists of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture.

With freight rates at their present levels there is a strong temptation to economize on this item of expense by crowding a few more animals into an already well-filled car. Representatives of the department, however, who see thousands of carloads of live stock unloaded at the great central markets, are of the opinion that if farmers and stockmen could see the condition in which much of the live stock reaches the stockyards they would be impressed not only with the folly of overloading, but also with the absolute necessity of taking every precaution against injury and death of the animals while in transit.

Overloading is one of the commonest, and at the same time most serious, mistakes made by the inexperienced or careless shipper. It seems such an easy matter to crowd just a few more animals into a car, and the fact that once in a great while an overloaded car will go through without serious mishap seems to urge the shipper on to tempt fate just once more. The wise shipper, however, will have nothing to do with this false economy, say specialists of the department. He will lay down a hard and fast rule to load only as many animals in the car as can ride comfortably, and from this rule he will not deviate.

The chances of loss through overloading are greater in warm weather than in cold. Temperatures may be such at the time of loading that the animals are fairly comfortable, but before they reach market the weather turns suddenly hot, with the result

Dead Stock on Unloading Docks.

that anywhere from one to 12 animals suffocate. This is particularly true of hogs. The shipper should remember that stock cars frequently stand in freight yards completely hemmed in by trains of box cars. Under such circumstances, if the animals are crowded in the car and the weather is hot, overheated and dead animals are almost certain to result.

Another mistake frequently made is to load mixed stock without proper partitions. When two or more species of live stock are shipped in the same car they should generally be kept separate by building strong partitions. This is particularly important when large animals are shipped with smaller ones.

It has been found that shipping live animals any considerable distance is an undertaking always fraught with some risk. This risk, however, may be materially reduced, in the opinion of department specialists.

The exact number of animals that should be shipped in a car, naturally, varies with the size of the car, the size and kind of animals, the length of haul, the season of the year, and weather conditions. There can be no variation, however, in the general rule that the animals should have sufficient room to be reasonably comfortable, and that the car should be so partitioned that large animals cannot trample the smaller ones, and that aggressive and quarrelsome animals cannot injure those with a more quiet and timid disposition.

Even at the present comparatively low price of live stock a single dead or crippled animal invariably represents a substantial loss, and in many instances wipes out the profit on the entire shipment.

Pasture Needed for Hogs.

Hogs are almost sure to be profitable on good pasture. They are almost sure to be non-profitable without pasture.

Weight of Fall Pigs.

Fall pigs should weigh 40 to 50 pounds before the cold weather sets in, otherwise they will not thrive.

Pregnant Sows in Summer.

Pregnant sows in summer can be turned on tender, succulent pasture without grain.

Marriage is a synonym for either happiness or misery.

Shark meat is now canned for human food.

Self-control is civilization.

Grass won't grow in the dark.