

Life in Our Township
Draper, Wisconsin



Published by the
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
TOWN OF DRAPER,
Sawyer County, Wisconsin

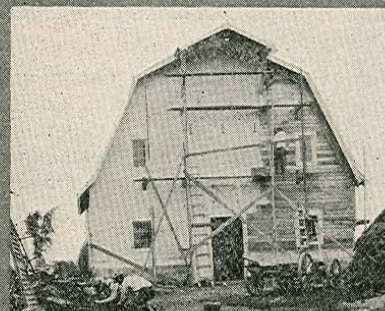
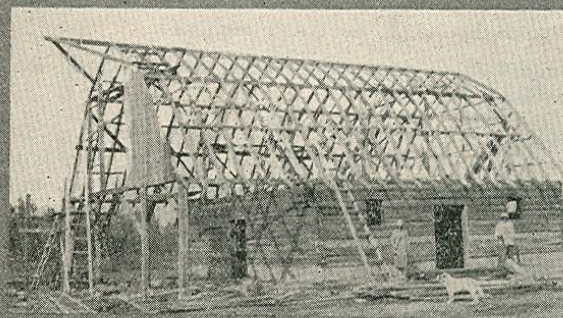
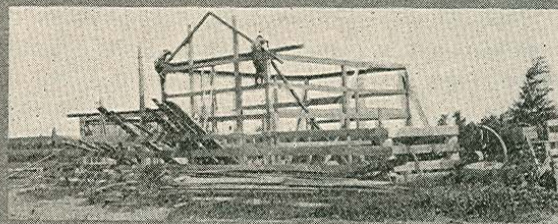
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Barns That Demonstrate Forms of Local Development



Much, if not most of the lumber used in these barns was a home product. They were completed in 1929 and are owned by Mr. Berglund, Mr. Grim, Mr. Slanovich, and Mr. Cvenk.

Township of Draper

Sawyer County, Wisconsin

Area—144 square miles, 45 miles south of Lake Superior and 120 miles northeast of St. Paul, Minn.

Population—579 (1930 census).

Value—all property assessed \$929,010.00.

Villages—Two, with post offices, Loretta and Draper, unincorporated, centrally located.

Nationalities—Native American, Scandinavian and mixed descent.

Education—Consolidated system, township high school, \$50,000 building, brick, nine rooms with gymnasium, pupils transported by motorbus, enrollment 160, teachers 8, annual budget \$21,000, free books and stationery, (Budget includes State Aid).

Soil—Mixed types, chiefly silt loam with some stone, yields well when cleared of brush, partly decayed logs and stumps. Considerable areas unsuited to cultivated crops.

Products—Our 70 farms are only partly developed, some very new, producing milk, cream, eggs, poultry, potatoes and garden vegetables; pasture, hay, oats and barley are leading field crops; other products, logs, pulpwood, poles, railroad ties, laths, and fuel wood.

Transportation—Chicago & Northwestern Railway. State highway 70 extends east and west through center of the town, ten branch roads connecting from the north and four from the south.

Drainage—Four main rivers, Chippewa, Flambeau, Brunet and Thornapple, with numerous small streams emptying into them; altitude 1400 feet above sea level (compared to 600 ft. at Chicago), general slope of land is toward southwest.

Reforestation—Eight thousand acres, are privately owned in northeast part of the town, entered as forest-crop land; owner pays the town ten cents an acre annual tax, and the state pays the town a like amount. High lookout tower manned in dry weather to discover and extinguish brush fires.

Fish and Game—Pike, muskellunge, bass, trout and pan fish; deer, partridges, prairie chickens, varying hares, cottontail rabbits and waterfowls; muskrat, weasel, fox, mink and beaver.

Churches—Lutheran, Presbyterian; Catholic services at Winter 12 miles west on highway 70.

Social Activities—Friendly visits, parties, movies and dances; the school is the social center for all.

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Hard work and thrifty habits are worth the effort in the town of Draper. A few local pessimists are correct in the statement that you won't make much money. But you can establish a home of your own on the land and be independent, which is more than most city workers possess, even more than those holding state jobs can claim. A place to live, shelter, food, fuel, recreation, these are big things in life, and freedom to use your time in your own way. So shake hands with the foreman and boss, strike out for yourself and lead a real life. The resourceful fellow and his wife can do that here, with the occasional outside work to tide them along as the land is prepared, first for clover and then for other crops.

Warm shelter for the family is readily provided. Rough lumber covered with roofing felt, or logs, are not expensive yet satisfactory in the beginning. Logs of fairly good quality commonly may be bought for two dollars each, and forty are enough for a low shed-roofed house sixteen by twenty feet; a low roof is desirable because of the greater warmth. And we like logs because of their durability, strength, resistance to outside temperature, and attractive appearance,—they should be peeled early in the spring and permitted to dry before using to avoid shrinkage. Flooring, windows and doors are moderate in price and may be bought locally. Two carpenters, four dollars a day each, can complete the structure in five days. A brick chimney costs a dollar a foot and it is the only kind to consider. Composition roofing laid on sound tight boards as it should be laid, not hammered full of holes, is preferred to shingles because of the lower pitch of the roof. Two buildings of these dimensions are more economical than a single large one, and they may be built adjoining, connected with covered passageway, after the manner of lumber camps, perhaps with three windows facing south in each of them. Vines and flowers add beauty, and when banked with earth the buildings may be kept comfortable with a surprisingly small amount of fuel.

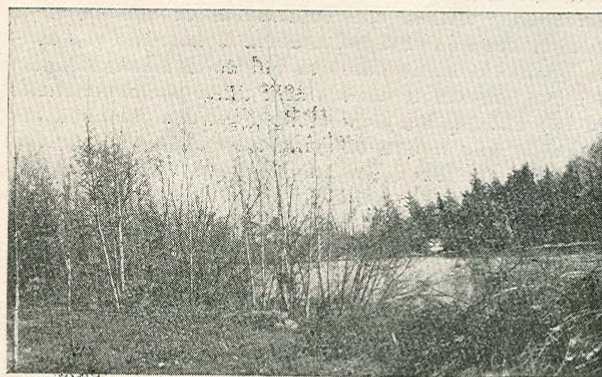
The well is simply a matter of a few days' work.

All the potatoes and hardy vegetables a family may need can be grown if an open space is chosen, preferably one with some elevation. An outside cellar thickly covered with earth provides storage for these products. A few hens will pay. In addition to grain, three tons of hay worth about \$15 a ton, will be needed to feed a cow during winter. The man starting on new land should buy no team the first year, perhaps one horse might be advisable, if

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he has the hay and is able to cooperate with a neighbor similarly situated.

The more easily cleared tracts of land in the farm should be given first attention. Clover adds the nitrogen needed by our soils, hence grass seed including clover, either hay or pasture mixture, should be sowed in open places, and effort made to increase the size of the clearing and number of cows at the same time. This is not a quick way to make a farm but the town of Draper has no advantages for the man locating on new land who wishes to make an easy living. He must work. He and his family must deny themselves the luxuries of city life. We know men who came with hardly any money in their pockets but who worked and now own good partly improved farms. We have cases where men were of



First step in land clearing, cutting brush. Chipewa river in the background.

slight build made headway from the beginning, also cases where broad-shouldered fellows failed because they did not have the fighting heart of the pioneer. Some selected land better suited for reforestation than farming. Opening a farm in a cut-over country means putting money into the land rather than taking much out of it, at first; the tendency is to underestimate the time, work and cash required to fit it for use, and at the same time provide a living. In addition to milk and home-grown vegetables, a family of five should figure on thirty dollars a month for flour, lard, sugar and other groceries while developing the land.

Common labor is paid at the rate of \$3.00 a day, without board. Wages in logging camps range from \$30 to \$45 a month, with lodging and meals.

Each year crops and livestock show steady im-

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provement. And if what is said here possibly may convey to our own people better knowledge of the district, much good shall have been accomplished. Our settlers wish more neighbors. They desire a worthy intelligent class of people who are posted in advance on the kind of country they are coming to and who, knowing this, are less apt to leave us disappointed after a few years' stay.

GOOD ROADS ARE ON THE PROGRAM

The town of Draper is four times as large as many, 93,000 acres. But a single group of town officers can supervise affairs as well as four times that number, perhaps better. Take roads: You may naturally assume that there are more restrictions upon social activities of people who live here than on those crowded in cities, due to the distance residents must travel if any great number are to meet together. Weather and condition of the highways determine the ease and comfort with which gatherings may be attended. Within the boundaries of the town of Draper are two villages, Loretta is one, and the other bears the same name as the town itself, Draper. Parties, meetings, dances and other social activities of the villages are dependent upon the participation of those who live in outlying districts, and anything that hinders this association retards community development. Sixty miles of highway are maintained by ten thousand dollars worth of road machinery,—tractors, trucks, snowplows, scrapers, etc., all standard make.

The soil lends itself well to building and maintaining good roads; it is chiefly a matter of providing adequate side ditches to carry away rain waters. Gravel pits are conveniently located. Ordinarily new roads cost from \$1,500 to \$1,800 a mile. They are built only after petitions of property owners have been filed, and following public hearings where all are given opportunity to be heard. Occasionally the town's share of the expense is reduced by interested property owners paying more than otherwise might be their share of the cost, perhaps by those owning lake frontage. Patrol graders keep highways in condition for travel. Except in the spring, while the land is thawing, roads are good. Main-traveled highways in winter are kept open for motor-vehicle traffic. They are constantly being improved and new ones built; ten hours are considered a day's work upon the road.

There are good reasons why we devote so much space to highways. If they are well kept and comfortable to travel at all seasons, it will do much to encourage frequent social meetings, and the whole life of the community will respond to the inter-

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change of ideas and experiences thus be had. Educators think that in order to give adequate training in rural districts, group or township schools are necessary, and the success of such schools depends upon serviceable roads. On side roads, the most important consideration is not long life but rather possibility of getting the most systematic and economical use of funds raised for highway purposes. In those cases the problem is one of administration, rather than design and construction.

EARLY ACTIVITIES

In the beginning, everything here was studied and considered from the lumber standpoint. First the demand was for white pine which grew on soils both heavy and light, often mixed with other trees. After cruising, the timber estimators filed their reports, surveyors marked sites for camps, and lumbering began. Winding roads were chopped out to streams and lakes. Others were built to Chippewa Falls, Hayward and Phillips—"tote roads" they were called—that food and supplies might be brought to men who ate and slept in wide low-roofed cabins of tamarack. Logging started November 15, operations closed the middle of April. A few watched camps in summer, some helped drive the logs downstream to sawmills, and many sought other work or returned to their homesteads.

As the timber began to disappear, tops and limbs of felled trees decayed or burned, and the sun shone in, causing a variety of tender shoots and twigs of shrubs and second-growth trees to spring forth, furnishing food for deer and other game.

Before the lumberman came there were no song birds, or wild fruits, and no clover and timothy creeping into the clearings. But the supply of game also brought market hunters, with dogs that pursued the deer to water, while men in hiding fired. And only within the past five years have loggers been persuaded to forbid firearms in camps; the local conservation warden must be credited with this measure to protect game.

Farming was started by lumbermen who quickly recognized the natural tendency of the land to produce nutritious grasses. The first clearings were for pasture and hay. Some time later these openings were used by the earliest settlers for raising potatoes, rutabagas and cabbages; in this way they were able to add to their first year's products, and provide vegetables for winter. These beginners were alert, appreciating that the true measure of a man is his ability to meet and conquer the forces against which he has to contend.

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The seventy farms in our town are only partly developed. They are being brought under cultivation by men and women who prefer established homes on the land to many luxuries of city life. Although pioneers, they are such in a modified meaning of the word compared to the Hansons—H. C. and Nels—and Joe Crawford, who came before the days of the highways. One rafted lumber down the Flambeau river for his first house, the others erected log buildings. They followed logging and tote roads to Fifield and Hayward, fording streams, for their flour, lard, sugar and salt. Sometimes they walked, and Hayward was 50 miles away. In those times it was necessary to plan a long time ahead. There were no bridges, so they must stock up with enough provisions to meet the family needs until after the high waters of the spring. Our first real highway extended from the village of Draper westward to the boundary of the town of Winter.

CLIMATE

The experience of the farm in every country and age has shown that fruitlessness of the soil depends upon adequate water supply; no water, no crops, no animals, no human life—indeed, no soil.



In spite of a dry season the town of Draper harvested a good crop of hay in 1929. It is Wisconsin's most important crop.

A pound of bread is the equivalent of 2 tons of water used by the growing crop, and a pound of beef means 15 to 30 tons of water consumed by the steer, both directly and indirectly through feed. An authority declares that each of us consumes 200 pounds of bread and the same amount of meat annually, in addition to drinking a ton of water. If that is true, you and I use 4,401 tons in one year.

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And we have said nothing of water necessary to produce the vegetables we eat, or dairy products, fruits, sugars, etc. The annual rainfall in the town of Draper, 31 inches, totals 306 million tons. Seventy per cent of it descends from April to September inclusive.

Except in extreme southern Florida, out-of-season frosts are apt to occur in any part of the United States and our region is no exception. Official records of the weather bureau do not tell the whole story. Frosts are erratic, possessed of irregular habits, and have no fixed course. But strawberries and apples ripen in Alaska, and wheat and potatoes are grown sixty miles beyond the Arctic circle. "Alaska grown" is a phrase seen on advertising placards as far south as Seattle, where vegetables and berries so labeled command the highest market price because of their quality and flavor. This is not a district where corn may be depended upon to ripen every year; but the writer risks the statement that flint varieties will do three years out of five on sandy loam soil somewhat elevated. Indians grew corn here generations ago, why not we? Try some flint corn.

The town of Draper is almost 1,400 feet above sea level, twice as high as Chicago or Milwaukee, and in a straight line, from 200 to 300 miles farther north. Summer temperatures are somewhat lower, and nights are always cool. There are few days oppressively hot. In summer, northern latitudes have a longer period of daylight, and this greater duration of daylight, even with a lower temperature, may produce as great an effect on plants as a shorter period of light with a higher temperature in localities lying considerable lower in altitude. That, and more days of bright sunshine, may be reasons for the rapid growth that surprises newcomers.

Autumns are beautiful, and usually favorable for harvesting late-season crops. Winter temperatures are about nine degrees cooler than in the southeastern corner of the state, with occasional drops to 40 below, but there is plenty of fuel. During winter there is little alternate freezing and thawing, and rarely is outside work suspended on account of temperatures. Springs are apt to be late.

STREAMS AND LAKES

One can hardly go a mile in any direction without coming to a stream. They twist and turn every way but the general course is toward the southwest. There are 22 in the town, large and small streams, as follows:

Flybow, Hubbell, Hemlock, Larson, Camp 7, Silver, Brunet, Chippewa, Swanson, Balsam, Chris,

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Snuse, Thornapple, Meadow, Cedar, Stark, Hines, Log, Little Log, Long, Flambeau, Branch.

They flow over gravel bottoms. The first six are trout feeders, discharging into the Brunet river and most are spring-fed. Big trout spawn in them early in the spring, and the young fingerlings remain there until the next year. Trout are also found in several other creeks. The total combined length of streams within the town is 100 miles, exclusive of unnamed brooks. The Flambeau river has the most water, with the Chippewa second, and the Brunet third. The coldest water is that of the Brunet river. This and Swanson creek have the clearest water; that of other streams is somewhat tinged by the vegetation through which they flow. For fishing muskellunge the Chippewa, Flambeau, and the lower part of the Brunet rivers lead, in the order given. Blaisdell is the largest lake and is noted for it muskellunge, pike and black bass. Muskellunge and bass are also caught in Mason and Round lakes. The best trapping is along the Chippewa and Thornapple rivers, particularly for muskrats and beaver.

The second-growth timber adjacent to streams differs from that farther back and includes alders, black ash, water maple, and water elm, in addition to poplar, willow and white birch.

GRAINS

The man who comes here and contracts for wild land does not purchase a farm. What he buys is the chance to make one with a good deal of sweat and hard work. It takes time and he must fit his plans to the job ahead, get as much in pasture and tame hay as possible, and then prepare the land to be sowed to grain. This does not mean that all stumps must be blown, but the first harvesting is often done with a scythe.

We have mentioned corn. Of the comparatively small amount of small grain sown, oats lead. It is an almost perfect food for livestock. The crop does well because of moderate summer temperatures, plenty of moisture, and because the nature of the oat plant is such that it thrives on many different soils. Oats may be sowed later than in southern Wisconsin. Early varieties are preferred. Barley ripens sooner than any other important grain in the state. Although it does not yield as well on new land as oats, for the roots do not extend deeply into the soil, it is an excellent dairy, poultry, sheep and hog feed. Ground barley is almost the equal of corn meal, the difference is only about 10 per cent. Winter rye thrives under a wide range of conditions, and with less work than any other grain in prepar-

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ing the soil. It is sowed about the middle of September. Winter wheat may be successfully grown on the heavier soils of the town, in fact, every settler, no matter how little land he has cleared, should sow a patch of either wheat or rye, be it ever so small. It is understood that as soon as possible all grain will be grown in rotation with clover or other hay. Little speltz, flax, or buckwheat is raised, although buckwheat is often used on newly-cleared land in other parts of northern Wisconsin.

POTATOES

Yields of 150 bushels of potatoes an acre, or even more, are not uncommon in the town of Draper. Some parts produce more, and others less, according to the soil, the way it is handled, varieties selected, and care given the growing crop. The Green Mountain, Rural New Yorker, and Early Ohio are popular and deserving of all the good things that



The product of one hill of potatoes on the Fors farm.

may be said of them. This district sells direct to logging contractors, only a small amount finds its way to the outside markets, indeed, until recently hardly enough potatoes have been harvested to supply needs of those growing them. In spite of ups and downs in price and occasional low yields, pota-

atoes are the most important vegetable. They may be grown on well-drained soils in the town and furnish a big amount of wholesome food from small acreage. The quality is excellent. Good seed stock, free from disease, true to type, and of one of the standard varieties, gives best returns.

It is misleading to compare the value of a single food with another, the human body craves variety. But we are tempted to say that a pound of baked potato equals in nourishment 6 ounces of boiled beef or 1 pound of chicken, 1½ pounds of codfish, 1 quart of oysters, 4 pints of clams, 4 pints of beef juice, 1½ pints of whole milk, 5 quarts of beef tea, 8 eggs, 9 ounces of baked beans, 7 ounces of bread, 1 quart of oatmeal or cornmeal mush, 1 pound of green peas, or 3 pounds of beets. The theoretical annual consumption of potatoes per person in the United States is two and two-thirds bushels, that of Germany, 7 bushels. Forty per cent of Germany's potato crop is fed to livestock. To the man developing a farm in the town of Draper, the potato is second in importance only to the dairy.

ROOT CROPS

Rutabagas, mangels, turnips, and carrots of splendid quality are grown in all parts of northern Wisconsin. And it is significant that the countries having greatest yields of other crops are those harvesting the largest acreage of roots. Denmark, a country growing little corn, is an extensive producer of roots, secures yields difficult of belief, and leads the world in dairy development, while the high crop production of Germany—a great part of whose land is poor—in no small measure has been due to their cultivation. The livestock farmers of Sweden, Norway and England would be lost without them. We can go into any community of northern Wisconsin and find where settlers failed because they did not or would not grow roots for their stock. Of all crops it is the one most sorely needed here. As high as 800 bushels may be harvested from an acre. Fed in right proportion to dairy cows with other feeds, roots help to maintain a good flow of milk and keep the animals in good condition.

The notion that root crops are all water is wrong. Tests show the relative yields of dry matter in a given amount of roots and corn to be as follows:

Mangels, 5155 pounds.

Rutabagas, 4331 pounds.

Dent corn silage, 4000 pounds.

What the settler needs is all possible profit from his first efforts; he should grow as much of his stock feed as he can, and an abundant supply of roots

stored in an outside cellar for winter feeding helps sustain the herd. In forcing cows for milk records, root crops are always included in the ration. That is sufficient evidence of their food value.

THE FAMILY GARDEN

Northern vegetables are noted for their fine flavor and texture. The home value of products from a half acre of good garden amounts to \$200. Vegetables furnish our bodies with roughage, minerals—especially iron—and mysterious elements needed for many purposes.

The prevailing upland soils here are sandy loams and silt loams. They are well suited to the vegetables adapted to our climate. It is hardly to be supposed that the town ever will be noted for its melons and similar sensitive garden crops easily affected by frost, unless protected, but other vegetables of prize-winning quality are harvested. Sweet corn is grown. Tomatoes ripen when pruned to a single stalk tied to stakes, properly hoed and given protection on cool nights, but the same plants, if permitted to sprawl on the ground, continue developing vine growth and blossoms until late in September unless sooner killed by frost. If convenient, it is an advantage to plant the more tender vegetables on high exposed land, away from belts of timber or heavy brush, that there may be greater circulation of air at night.

From what has been said the reader will infer that so far as the home garden is concerned, any land in the town fit for farming will furnish a site where sufficient vegetables for the table may be grown with ordinary care, and that is true. If some of the less hardy plants may not mature sufficiently early to make them profitable as market crops, they may, with a little extra pains, be caused to furnish a home supply. The hot-bed and cold-frame are useful in forwarding crops that require a long season, or that it is desired to mature especially early, but the cool-weather plants, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, radishes, rutabagas, turnips, beets, parsnips, salsify, rhubarb, asparagus, peas, onions and celery may be grown in the open ground by the ordinary methods.

The home garden is, or should be the most profitable part of a farm. In amount of food to be secured it is second only to the potato field. The human body need of many substances—no single food provides all—and a marked difference between the fare today and that of 50 years ago is the increased consumption of vegetables, varieties easily grown in the town of Draper.

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FRUITS

Enough apples for home use may be grown here on well-drained soil, but care should be exercised in selection of varieties. The ideal site is a north or northeast slope. It is a waste of time and money to experiment. Select the following: Duchess, Hibernial, Malinda, Patten Greening or Wealthy. Crab apples suited to this locality include the Hyslop, Martha, Sweet Russet, Virginia and Whitney. Plums should be limited to the De Soto, Hammer, Hawk Eye, Forest Garden or Hanska. Cherries do not do well in any interior counties of Wisconsin, north of Oshkosh; forget them. The season is too short for peaches and pears.

This is the natural home of blackberries and raspberries. There are also many wild ones that little attempt is made with the cultivated varieties, although the latter are more dependable, cheaper and better. Sometimes it is difficult to buy disease-free raspberry stock, perhaps it might be well to place no orders without first writing the State Entomologist, Department of Agriculture and Markets, Madison, Wisconsin.

Currants are readily grown. The worm fond of this bush is controlled by spraying with Paris Green or lead arsenate as soon as it makes its appearance near the base of the plant. Good varieties are the Perfection (red) and White Grape.

A bed of Mastodon Everbearing strawberries, say 4 rods wide and twice as long, if taken care of, will furnish the family with fresh berries during the summer and provide plenty of preserve for winter.

HAY AND PASTURES

On the cut-over lands of our town, if the larger stumps are few, it will pay to put the land into hay. Where numerous it is best to sow with a pasture mixture. If everything on the land under six inches in diameter is cut close to the ground and burned, a spring-tooth harrow will prepare the seed bed and the low flat stumps need not interfere with the mower. A combination of equal parts of alsike seed, redtop and timothy, sowed at the rate of 6 to 10 pounds to the acre, is suitable for hay or pasture mixture on heavy lands inclined to be somewhat wet. On lighter loam soils the mixture is changed to one of 6 pounds of red clover seed, 4 of alsike clover, and 2 of timothy for pasture purposes, but for hay on these soils a mixture of 10 pounds of clover seed and 2 of timothy is common.

This is a natural grass country. That is why we have faith in its future. The soil, moisture and temperature encourage the cells of grass roots to

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become filled with sap, which easily makes its way to the cells of the leaves, where it is changed by the air and sunlight, and made fit for its many uses. This is not so true of far-eastern states, those of the south, or the arid west. When we set out strawberry plants it is not long until we have a fight with white clover. It weaves its way into the flower beds. The twin champions, white clover and bluegrass, in time will subdue any field that has been cleared, unless watched and checked. Their almost universal presence and persistent growth tell much that is encouraging to the person searching for evidence that the land is really productive.

DAIRY FARMING

A settler's success in dairying here depends upon four factors—himself, his wife, the feed, and the cow. We have the soil and market, he need not worry about selling cream as soon as he is able to support two or three animals. As a farmer he must produce suitable crops at a cost that will furnish the necessary food elements for less than he can buy them. As a dairyman he must know how to balance the ration. The ability of the cow to handle a large quantity of feed to turn it into milk is equally important.



The plow is the world's most important farm implement.

Some men do not take kindly to cows. But unless these men have had successful experience in other lines of farming, they may easily do themselves an injustice by purchasing land and locating here. This is a dairy country, particularly for dairy minded men and women. The cow is preferred to other livestock because she pays an income from the start. She fits into our development plan.

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One should buy cows only as he has feed for them—stump pasture, hay, and roots. In winter they should be given all the hay they will eat up clean. Sliced roots are fed at the rate of 15 to 30 pounds daily. The Draper farmer without root crops reminds us of the foolish virgin without oil for her lamp. A cow should have a pound of grain for every 3 to 4 pounds of milk produced. Roughly stated, during the year there are 150 days of stable feeding, 165 of pasture season, and 50 of part stable feeding and part pasture.

Home-grown products can be made to form the largest possible part of the ration. Roots will generally produce a cheaper food than silage until the time comes when the settler has 6 or more cows and at least 6 acres on which to grow silage. And even then, we are tempted to say, forget silage and stick to roots. Those succeeding with cows increase their clearings and the size of the herd at the same time, brushing off a little more land each year and getting it into pasture, removing stumps from enough land to grow grain and other crops for winter, and saving the manure. This is no easy or rapid way to make a farm, but it is a system readily followed, insuring land of durable fruitfulness, and a system that has made Wisconsin famous as the leading dairy state.

POULTRY

The number of poultry is increasing, although we are short of meeting local needs, particularly in fall and winter when stores rely upon cold-storage warehouses for eggs. The Leghorns, Reds, Rocks and Wyandottes are popular. The Leghorns are preferred because they are most active in hustling for their own food. The best time to hatch is when the grass first shows green, in April. Many prefer buying day-old chicks. Local demand for broilers is limited, and depends largely upon erratic tourist and resort trade.

Few inexperienced persons have been able to make a living raising poultry. The ability to grow good chickens is not to be acquired in a single season; skill is developed by years of practice, careful thought, a love for the work, and by what some poultrymen call "chicken sense."

But the dairy industry and poultry go well together. A certain amount of skim milk may be used in the ration when chickens are young and more as they mature. As with cows, pullets must have abundant grass or clover range and shade. Winter wheat, barley, and oats can be grown. Root crops, especially mangles, that help make milk in

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winter likewise encourage egg production. We feed cows clover hay; in like manner, chickens relish steamed leaves of clover when other green food is scarce.

Every settler should have 25 to 50 laying hens and a fence around the garden. Vegetables, milk and eggs cut down the amount spent for food. Good foundation stock may be obtained, we have hens that lay 250 eggs in a year. If we read, and put into practice what we read, we will learn that it is easier to grow poultry today than ever before. There is abundant building material and it is neither difficult nor expensive to provide warm light, well-ventilated winter quarters that help reduce the amount for necessary fattening foods.

HOGS

Hogs are raised and slaughtered on the farm for food in every county of the United States. Their production for home use is more widespread than that of any other livestock except poultry. Production for market on the hoof as a principle farm enterprise is largely limited to localities where ripe corn is grown. Ripe corn is uncertain here.

When he is able to feed 5 or 6 cows is soon enough for the settler to consider keeping a couple of pigs, and no more. Our crop system is based on the needs of the dairy cow. She can use a large amount of rough food and has unusual capacity to



Barley is becoming a leading feed crop.

digest it; that is why she is the most economical producer of good food. The only hog suited to our conditions is one that will get out and hustle for a good part of his living. He won't put on much fat doing it, but after a sufficient amount of land has been

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cleared, part of the concentrated feeds required can be grown, at least the greater share of the needs of the hogs which may be kept on the milk by-product available.

Skim milk is excellent for growing pigs and calves, and even small quantities of it added to other feeds give surprising results. Oats, barley, peas, roots, clover and pasture grasses seldom fail to yield well and are considered good hog feeds. There is no reason why we should not grow a larger proportion of the pork required for our needs. Hogs kept for family use do not represent any great money outlay; they usually receive very little feed that could be converted into cash, and they do save the farm family considerable sums in the food supply.

SHEEP

The time for a settler to invest in sheep is when he has more pasture than his cows can consume. He cannot afford to build dog-proof fences and buy them for what they may do in helping to get rid of the brush. Yet the feeds that sheep thrive on grow abundantly. The climate is comparatively cool in the summer and dry in winter, and the water is wholesome. Winter temperatures are no drawback. Expensive shelter is unnecessary. An acre of good grass will take care of three head. Three tons of clover hay will provide winter feed for 10 sheep, or about the same amount a dairy cow would need. All that we have said elsewhere about the importance of root crops is equally true here. Don't feed rutabagas to wethers.

Sheep respond to good feed and careful treatment as readily as most farm animals but they are the first to get out of condition and become unprofitable if neglected. A good local demand for lamb and mutton is being developed. As to the man and his opportunity for success in this field, much depends upon the judgment and intelligent labor that he can and will bestow upon the industry.

MILK GOATS

The few who milk goats in the town of Draper speak well of them for home milk supply where only a small amount is needed. The milk is rich in fat and easily digested. It has as many uses as cow's milk and may be made into butter and cheese. Does freshen in May and have from one to three kids. As soon as the kids begin eating grass or browse they are separated from the does at night. Then the morning's milk is saved for the house, the kids running with their mothers daytimes during summer.

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Cows would starve on feed that will keep goats in good condition. No other animal on the farm can be wintered with so little food; hay, roots, and some grain. They need warmer quarters than sheep. Kids are not so strong at birth as lambs and must be stabled for sometime before they can go to the fields with their dams. Goat fleeces are less valuable than those of sheep. The milk has a flavor resembling that of a cocoanut, and is highly recommended by physicians. We are not sure whether a settler can afford to pay \$35 for a milk goat when he may get a fair cow for \$100. The cow will give much more milk than three goats, but if interested he should



The Draper farmer who raises no root crop for his cows might as well sell them and try some other occupation.

buy a few, give them a fair trial, study their needs and peculiarities, and when assured of their value as milk producers and killers of brush, then go ahead, and gradually build up the flock.

FUR FARMING

Much of the land in the town is adapted to raising fur-bearing animals; a few have started and there is promise of further development. It is the native home of furbearers. With protection, they will increase as second-growth follows removal of

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saw timber, if no extensive drainage of marsh lands is attempted.

Next to weasels and rabbits, muskrats are most numerous. To successfully breed them one needs a spring-fed marshy swamp with outlet which can be dammed to obtain uniform water level. The depth of water and the "musk", or floating bog, must be sufficient that it will not freeze to the bottom in the most severe weather, the result of which would be cutting off the food supply and starvation of the animals, unless artificially fed. Cattails, bull-rushes, duck millet, wild celery and other natural foods are indispensable. There must be surrounding high ground for proper fencing. It may be necessary to grow root crops, to be stored in outside cellars and fed in winter, by using feeding houses.

Chinchilla rabbits are comparatively new in this locality. The pelt is a striking silvery-blue in its natural color, suited for women's garments and appropriate for trimmings. It is a valuable addition to the domestic rabbit family and offers possibilities to persons who are keen observers and who will develop its good qualities. Grass, grains, clover hay or alfalfa meal are the principal foods. Mineral salt is provided. Some breeders feed no green stuff, others use all that is available. Even under the most favorable conditions these rabbits must be raised for both meat and fur to be profitable.

We have no fox farms, but there are several a few miles east. As in most parts of the North, there is ample basis for a sound industry in propagating fur-bearing animals. Fur farming is growing and should become a permanent addition to agricultural development, for it is desirable both in the utilization of non-agricultural lands and in the production thereon of valuable crops of fur.

HONEY

Honey-producing plants bloom in great profusion from spring until late in the fall except where occasional dry summers cut down the quantity of nectar that may be gathered. Bees start first on the blossoms of poplar and alder and quit with the aster. Italians are a popular breed, hardy and excellent honey gatherers.

From 40,000 to 60,000 bees constitute a colony. During honey flow the working bee has a life of about six weeks. The total honey needed during a year for its own support by the colony is not far from 300 pounds. When weather conditions are unusually favorable for nectar secretion the task of gathering this is not difficult. If the surplus is 50 pounds or a larger amount that represents what the

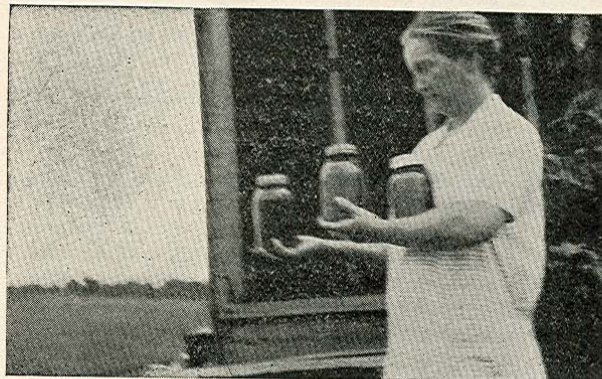
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owner has to use or sell. By failing to control swarming, providing insumcient room for storage, or lack of care in winter the crop is often reduced one-half or more. The winter care of bees starts as soon as the honey crop is harvested. Food must be provided and winter packing with proper temperature and moisture are important. Similarly, attention in the spring to prevent dwindling of the colony, feeding to stimulate brood rearing, preventing chill brood and robbing, are all vital.

There is abundant information to guide beekeepers. The investment for equipment is small in comparison with other branches of agriculture. Honey is a concentrated nutritious food, almost universally liked and assuredly an article of diet preferable to the inferior sirups and jams so commonly used, and which constitute its stiffest competition.

LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT

The preference is for Guernsey cattle. Within the last five years there has been a definite improvement in cows; during that time grades have been



Garden products of wide variety and excellent quality are grown in the town of Draper. Mrs. Berglund poses with sweet corn canned for the winter months.

brought or obtained by mating with purebreds, probably three-fourths by the latter method. A single sire, Begonia's Rogue of Chippewa, has 40 daughters here and in the adjoining town of Winter, most of them developing into promising cows. These in turn are bred to bulls whose ancestors were excellent milk and butterfat producers. Arguments for breeding to good stock have never been more strongly fortified than by following this method. Results are easily noted by driving about the township and

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seeing young heifers and calves (sometimes mingling with deer) grazing on partly improved farms. The Guernsey Bull Club was organized in 1928, it is active, with membership steadily increasing.

The feeds adapted to dairying are discussed elsewhere. It is only necessary to mention that good stock can be ruined any time by poor feeding and improper handling, while on the other hand, cattle can be bred up to be good dairy animals from what are apparently inferior ones, by right feeding. Pasture, hay, grain, and roots, however, become available only as land is fitted for use. Settlers must often seek outside work, especially at first, and unless there are boys at home to help with clearing, progress is slow, and it becomes necessary to buy what otherwise might have been grown. Here as elsewhere in northern Wisconsin, the tendency is to keep too many cows for the amount of land in cultivation.

Visits to nearly every farm show improvement in poultry. The farm flock is superior in breeding and egg producing ability to the scrub collection of 1925. Because this district is new, with dairying the chief objective, there has been little improvement in hogs or sheep.

SCHOOLS

A township system offers opportunity for elementary education limited only by the capacity and desire of boys and girls to study, the ability of parents to keep them in attendance, and the skill of instructors to impart what they know. Autobusses carry pupils to and from a modern brick building erected in 1923 at a cost of \$50,000, and situated midway between Loretta and Draper, adjacent to state highway 70. One-room country schools have been closed. Four years of high school work are offered: a principal and eight teachers employed.

During winter the roads are kept open by tractors. Should unusual weather occur, those living at a distance receive shelter and food in the school building or nearby homes at the expense of the district. No charge is made for textbooks, paper, or other supplies. An up-to-date library is supplemented by additional volumes from the free library commission at Madison, and by current magazines and newspapers. Students publish the Draper Midget, a monthly periodical devoted to school affairs; the district owns a modern expensive radio; a standard motion-picture machine and educational films are a part of classroom instruction. In the gymnasium the same outfit provides evening entertainment, for which a small admission charge is asked.

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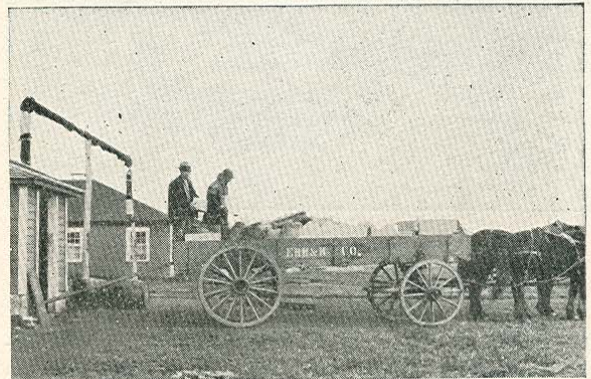
Basketball, local talent plays and dances are other pastimes.

Courses of study are those approved by the State, which inspects and demands reports. Agriculture is not neglected. Domestic science is taught with the purpose of giving a practical knowledge of foods and the principles which underlie their preparation for the table. It is our judgement that the instructors become as intimately acquainted with their pupils as do those who teach in large city schools, indeed, the chances are that they know them better.

The annual cost of operating the school is \$21,000, of which about one-fourth is paid by the state. Wisconsin is one of the leaders in useful education but with much room for improvement. Constant advancement is sought to furnish boys and girls the opportunity to learn. And in this new country, overalls and cheap clothing are not embarrassing to the pupils.

MANUFACTURES

Although most of the sawlog timber in the town has been cut, Loretta is local headquarters for extensive logging operations immediately south. Modern lumbering includes railroad construction. After a district has been cut another is tapped making necessary more grades on which to lay ties and rails.



Logging still is the largest industry in this part of Wisconsin and furnishes a market for home-grown products. Here supplies from the warehouse are being taken to cars that will carry them to camps.

Wages for such work are commonly three dollars a day, the same paid by the town for work on roads. Winter employment in the logging camps brings

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from \$30 to \$45 a month with meals and lodging. Men handy with the broadaxe hew ties, some cut pulpwood and posts, a few work in the local tie and lath mill, about the mill yard, or help repair locomotives and other logging equipment. Sometimes settlers rent their teams to loggers for the winter season. Most of them burn wood, but demand for it in local villages is not increasing on account of coal and kerosene.

IN CONCLUSION

Perhaps there are localities where hard times and adversity never visit; our neighborhood does not happen to be one. Those who win look forward to what their condition may be several years hence, expecting occasional setbacks. They discount a good deal of what they read and hear, particularly criticism of rural life, appreciating that the city has more to learn from the farm, than has the farm from the city. With faith in themselves, in the axe, brush-scythe, explosives, clover and cows, they plan and work accordingly, increasing pasture,



Hemlock logs unsuited for lumber are sawed into railroad ties at Loretta, and the slabs then made into lath.

clearing land and herd at the same time, not forgetting the fish in streams and lakes, and game on the uplands.

That is about the whole story; perhaps we might not say more in a thousand pages. Settlers are looked upon as successful when they have developed the herd of cows to a point where a fair living is provided, according to our own standard if you please, and a few luxuries. It is a frontier settlement. And a poor place for languid men and wo-

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men who wish to pamper and coddle their physical resistance with downy beds, overstuffed chairs, dainty foods, and the rest of the superficial trimmings of the times. The college of agriculture, department of agriculture and markets, traveling library commission, conservation commission, state board of health, and other state organizations at Madison are continually helping the community and look with favor upon its efforts to develop a region rich in historic interest, and still richer in its possibilities for harmonious development of all its resources of land, timber and waters.