

**Agricultural Department.**  
W. H. EVANS, Editor

**"What a Little Farm will Do."**

Is the title of an article of great interest in a recent number of the New England Farmer. The writer says: "While on our trip through New York State and Ohio last autumn, we spent a few hours with our friend, and every dairyman's friend, Mr. L. B. Arnold, at his pleasant home near Rochester, N. Y. As everyone knows, who is familiar with the agricultural press of the country, Mr. Arnold spends a good deal of time writing and lecturing on dairy matters, and his literary looks very much like an editor's sanctum, though one rarely finds such systematic work as Mr. Arnold can display in his large pile of scrap-books, containing thousands of articles of his own and others on dairy matters, and his kindred topics, all arranged and indexed, so that it is but the work of a moment to turn to any topic and find about all that one may wish to know concerning it. His system of indexing scraps and newspaper cuttings is well worthy a careful description by the author, for the benefit of others who would like to follow such a system if they only knew how."

Though a voluminous writer, Mr. Arnold has a small farm of five acres, which he works chiefly with his own hands, though hiring some when there is work for other hands than his own. Being within some three miles of the thriving City of Rochester, where suburban lots are in demand for residences, his land has to pay taxes on a valuation of some three or four hundred dollars per acre, and to meet such an expense he has aimed to make every acre and every rod pay an income. We found about an acre set to Doolittle raspberries, grown chiefly for drying. The sets were about six feet by three feet, but were wider apart in the row than need to be. The yield of the last crop was fifteen hundred quarts. A neighbor with cause set thicker harvested two thousand quarts per acre. With a better variety, and the canes eighteen inches apart in the row, the yield ought to be much better. One acre was in apple trees, which bear annual crops ranging from 200 bushels to 600 bushels per acre. The estimate for 1884, at the time of our visit in August, was 400 bushels, all to be evaporated in a drier erected on the farm. Apples are valued at about twenty-five cents per bushel for cutting; and some years large quantities have been purchased from neighbors for evaporation. About six pounds of cured product is yielded from each bushel of average fruit. Of berries it takes about 24 to 31 quarts for a pound of the evaporated fruit. From the apple cores and skins a valuable article of "jelly stock" is made by drying, which sells for enough to pay the whole cost of running the evaporator. This is a real Yankee trick for utilizing a waste product, and one that is well worthy of imitation.

From one to two acres was in corn, grown for poultry, and matured in part with poultry manure, though one cow is kept for family use, and to help convert coarse fodder that might otherwise be wasted, into good human food. The cow is kept wholly on the soiling system, there being not a rod of pasture on the place. The cow is a very profitable member of the concern, and if men with families could realize the value of such an animal, and could believe that a cow and a pasture are not necessarily inseparable, far more family cows would be kept.

The coming year a larger area is to be set to raspberries, which will reduce the breadth of the corn land. Potatoes and the usual garden crops are grown in abundance, and there are also many other fruits in addition to those named, some of which are a success, while others are only partially so. We asked Mr. Arnold whether, if he were to give his whole time and attention to his five acres, he could make them yield him a good living, and his answer was unhesitatingly in the affirmative. We have little doubt that there are many large farms in the State which pay a smaller net income over and above a family living, and require a much heavier outlay for labor and other expenses. It is good for any man to visit such a pleasant and profitable home, for his example shows what can be accomplished upon small areas. A few days since we received a letter from Mr. Arnold, giving the figures of the year's business with the privilege of publishing whatever might be of interest to the readers of the Farmer. We give the following extracts from the letter:

"In regard to the actual returns of my five-acre farm, they turned out in a way to remind one of the mutability and uncertainty of all human affairs. The corn crop, which I estimated at \$100, turned out \$85. The potato crop, estimated at \$50, brought \$26, the crop having blasted and the potatoes becoming scabby. The net proceeds of my forty hens, estimated at \$100, turned out \$96.96, which was pretty close. The acre of newly set raspberries, estimated at \$100, gave me \$115, or rather that is what the crop is worth; it is not yet sold, but can be at any time for that amount. The root crop, estimated at \$40, turned out \$60, and the apple crop, estimated at \$100, brought about \$180, the crop being larger and selling for a higher price than I anticipated. The crop was all evaporated, except 23 bushels sold to make vinegar. The dried fruit is mostly sold. When you see here, the outlook promised, as

we thought, about \$500. In this reckoning no account is made of \$50 to \$75 worth of little incomes from garden and fruit yard, bees, &c., from which quite a little was sold. Neither does this account take in cow food, in the form of grass, fodder, corn, &c., for summer and winter use, amounting to enough to keep one cow half the year, making in all a good round \$600. It is not bad for a little half-tilled patch, is it? I hope to do better hereafter. I intend to put out in the spring 4,000 more raspberry plants. When these get to bearing they will give me about as much annually as the whole place produces now. I shall also increase my flock of poultry to 100, if they do as well the present year as the past. I am now keeping 67 hens, and have just now figured up the egg account for January. It was as follows: Total of eggs gathered 634, of which 520 have been sold for \$12 60; 45 used at \$1 12; 69 unsold, value \$1 48; total \$15 20. Not a bad start."

Poultry and eggs were selling in Rochester at the time of our visit at prices somewhat below New England city rates, but Mr. Arnold was getting an extra price, because of extra quality and care in putting up. Mr. Arnold has been employed the past year, a portion of the time, in giving practical dairy instruction to classes in Canada, going to the butter and cheese factories, and illustrating his ideas and teachings by actual practice in the dairy room.

When the public can let him alone long enough to afford him the time, he ought to take classes of young men for a few weeks in summer, and show them at his own home how to get a good living from a small piece of land. If the 300,000 skilled and unskilled mechanics, who have been out of work the past winter, only knew enough to get a living from a five acre farm, they might have been in different circumstances from what they find themselves at the present time.

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