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Two Acres—A Competence
with Contentment

The Eighth
of a Series of Monographs
on the Improvement of
Plant Life

ISSUED BY

THE LUTHER BURBANK SOCIETY

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

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Collected set.

FOREWORD

There is a crispness in the home grown Lettuce which the green grocer neither keeps nor sells; a delicacy of flavor and an evanescent bloom in the home grown Grape or Plum, which money spent with the fruiterer can never buy. A fresh fragrance and undrooping charm in the home grown Rose, which even the most skilled florist cannot preserve; and above all, there is a joy in the production of our own vegetables, our own fruits and our own flowers—a joy in making our door-yards blossom and bear, a joy in making our own soil yield, which far exceeds the profits our gardens give.

* * *

It is the hope of the Luther Burbank Society that this series of Monographs, with their simple, practical instructions, will be of help, not alone to those who now have kitchen-gardens and front-yard flower-plots—but to those, as well, who do not yet know the allurements of the home garden, thus opening up for them this great field of undiluted pleasure.

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TWO ACRES—A COMPETENCE WITH CONTENTMENT

IF success is measured by the amount of gold one accumulates Miles Turner was successful. He had made considerable money in business.

But as “the seekers after fundamental truths” are continually reaffirming—and as experience has taught many of us—money does not always buy contentment and Turner was far from being contented. He was one of those unfortunates who always are on deck with a spy-glass looking for trouble. And the worst of his troubles were those that never came to pass.

So Turner concluded, and with good judgment, that “back to Nature” was the life for him. There he would be rid of the worrying responsibilities of “doing business”; he would be rid of the never-ending daily grind at the desk; and he would exchange the nerve-racking existence in the over-populated city for the quiet and peace that comes with the glories of life in the country.

“If I am to find contentment anywhere”, Turner figured, “it will be in the big out-doors”.

And he did find it there. But his journey was well marked with the ups and downs of experience. To point out the ruts that Turner struck on his road to contentment and a comfortable livelihood is the object of this brief monograph.

*   *   *

Turner bought a farm in Minnesota. It was just "land", flat as a pancake, without buildings—without even a fence to mark its boundaries. So he built himself a house, a barn, a number of other out-houses and fenced in the tract. When he came to figure up he wondered where all his money went.

Then came his live stock, all pure bred and of the best known strains. And as Turner knew nothing about stock-raising a couple of hired men came with the stock to look after it. Seeding time was at hand and a force of men was put to work planting grain—just planting, here and there and everywhere, without rhyme or reason. Turner thought it was a simple matter of putting in the seed and taking out the profit—just as easy as buying and selling had been to him in business. Business experience helps in farming, but without farming experience it's hard to get returns from the farm.

He noticed, too, that his neighbors were not very neighborly. Because of his high-handed way

of running things—a way that may have helped him in business—kindest neighbors withheld their advice. His lavish outlay of money for expensive buildings and woven-wire fences seemed a foolish waste to them. They knew there were other things to be taken care of first if one was to make ends meet, unless, of course, his means were unlimited and the farm was only a plaything.

* * *

“Nature hasn’t given me a square deal”, said Turner after harvesting was over and he had balanced his books. The crops had not turned out as he expected. The farm had not paid interest on the investment; in fact, had not paid in any way. The books showed a large deficit. There was also a pretty big charge to “worry and perplexity”. Contentment and a competence even on a hundred acres were still a great way off.

* * *

During the winter of the third year Turner went to California. There he got a new “slant” on his quest for contentment and a comfortable livelihood. He found that many of the farms, or ranches, as Californians call them, were very much smaller than his own. It took him some time to figure out the object of this. He talked freely with the ranchers, found out what they grew and what their incomes were, made a study of methods, and

discovered that in many cases one man operating a small ranch of only a few acres not only made a good living, but had a big slice of contentment thrown in.

The ranchers did not all conduct their two acres in the same way. Some raised fruit, others grew vegetables for the local market, while others kept chickens or rabbits or pigeons. They all seemed to make a very comfortable living and were happy. There were no signs of discontent and every man was his own master.

Our wanderer in quest of a competence and contentment did not buy a ranch in California, but he did go back to Minnesota to sell his farm. Then he moved to Illinois, near a city, and located on a few acres that seemed to have all the natural advantages he had learned were desirable in a small farm.

So Turner began all over again. His experience had been the same as that of many others who have turned back to Nature looking for contentment and a fair income. He found that he could manage his little "kingdom" without extra help, that the returns provided all the necessities and some of the luxuries of life. He found he could get more fun and profit out of his wee bit of a

place than out of the big one and all of the family, from wife to babies, were happier.

How did he do it?

* * *

The whole question rests upon the planning and upon the methods of cultivation used. Practically no farm of large acreage yields as much as the soil is capable of producing. That is due to the fact that the land in large areas is not cultivated as it should be. So it is not as difficult a problem to make two acres produce to the limit. This is called "intensive farming".

Although there are perhaps more small farms in California than in other sections of the United States, it does not necessarily mean that California is the only state in which a two-acre farm will succeed. The principal difference is that different crops must be grown and different classes of live stock raised on a small farm in different sections of the country.

Let us take, for example, the experience of a doctor who gave up his practice to search for that contentment we all so much desire. He moved onto two acres near a small city and grew vegetables for the early market. In addition to this he started a rabbitry and is now making a comfortable living by selling Belgian hares and early vegetables.

A very profitable amount of vegetables may be grown on a small area when the right ones are selected and when they are properly cared for.

Luther Burbank, when still a boy, practiced intensive farming and taught us a lesson that may still be practiced with profit. He was growing vegetables near Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and desired, quite naturally, to get the highest prices for his products.

He realized that the highest prices were paid for the earliest crops. Sweet corn was one of the best selling vegetables, so he planned to get ahead of his competitors by putting sweet corn in the Fitchburg market two or three weeks before his neighbors' crops matured.

Mr. Burbank soaked the seed in a glass jar and allowed it to sprout. When the sprouts were about an inch long he planted the sprouting seeds in furrows, dropping them in thickly, and paying no attention as to whether they were right side up or not. The bed had previously been thoroughly prepared and almost before he had finished planting, the first kernels were sending their shoots above the soil. This early start was stimulated and the rapid growth was maintained by the liberal application of fertilizer between the furrows. The corn grew rapidly and matured early

and the result was that Mr. Burbank secured twice as much for the corn which he marketed as his competitors received for theirs which came in at the usual time.

This plan may be applied to any other vegetable. Some variation, of course, is necessary for certain crops. Crops that have the smaller seeds, however, cannot be allowed to sprout as long as corn, but sprouting them before planting does hasten the ripening a great deal.

To the man who has been in the habit of growing crops by the hundreds of acres this plan seems very tedious, but to the man who is really securing contentment, this is the most interesting work. It does not take much seed to plant a couple of acres and you have the time to give more attention to the seed you do plant. Cultivation, too, is much easier, and although you do not have a horse or a gasoline tractor to help you, the work does not become drudgery. It is always varied and there is such a small amount of it to do that it is ever new and always interesting.

* * *

He who would make a complete success of the two-acre farm cannot depend entirely on the products of the soil. There must always be some sort of live stock that can be raised on a small tract with a liberal amount of profit.

There are ways of raising poultry on a small place with economy in both time and expense. Squabs yield a good profit and require very little room. Belgian hares can be bred in large numbers on a city lot. Pheasants bring good prices and are really not difficult to raise. Moreover, the pens in which they can be raised take up very little room. Even a few pigs may be raised with profit on the small farm.

* * *

It is impossible to say exactly what profits may be expected from any particular crop or from any particular kind of live stock, but it will be interesting to know just what profit has been made by other persons on small farms. The following figures have been carefully compiled from the recorded experiences of persons in various states of the Union and will be suggestive to anyone interested in this sort of farming, regardless of where he lives.

The income received from an acre of these varied crops is figured, of course, on their market value in the locality where the crops thrive and yield well. The same crop planted in an unsuitable climate or on unfavorable soil would not produce the amount indicated here.

The figures for various kinds of fruit follow—

each variety is figured on the basis of yield per acre:

Blackberries, 10,000 qts. at 7c. a qt.	\$700.00
Dewberries, 9,000 qts. at 7c. a qt.	630.00
Gooseberries, 250 bus. at \$2.00 a bu.	500.00
Strawberries, 8,000 qts. at 5c. a qt.	400.00
Currants, 3,000 plants yield 6,000 bus.	200.00
Raspberries, per acre.	\$200.00 to 600.00
Peaches, per acre	200.00 to 400.00
Pears, per acre	200.00 to 500.00
Apples, per acre	100.00 to 500.00
Grapes.	100.00

Just because these figures are given for an entire acre does not mean that the man with two acres should devote half of his land to any one crop. As a matter of fact, the greatest success usually comes to him who divides his land judiciously and grows a variety of crops.

This is also true of the following figures which indicate yields that have been secured from different kinds of vegetables. It is necessary, perhaps, to caution the prospective small farmer that some of these vegetables do not thrive profitably in some sections, but where they do thrive these yields have been secured:

Asparagus, 3,000 bunches at 20c. per bunch	\$600.00
Cauliflower, 100 to 200 bbls. at \$1.50, approx.	200.00
Onions, 600 bus. at 75c. per bu.	450.00
Cabbage seed, 1,000 lbs. at 40c. per lb.	400.00
Brussels Sprouts, 3,000 qts. at 10c. a qt.	300.00
Celery, 6,000 Bunches at 5c. a bunch.	300.00
Parsnips, 300 bus. at \$1.00 a bu.	300.00
Lettuce, 9,000 heads at 3c. a head.	270.00
Lima Beans, 50 bus. at \$5.00 a bu.	250.00
Potatoes, 300 bus. at 75c. a bu.	225.00
Cabbages, 20 tons at \$10.00 a ton.	200.00

Carrots and beets, 200 to 400 bus., approximately .	150.00
Tomatoes, 200 crates at 75c. a crate.....	150.00
Early Peas, 50 bus. at \$2.00 a bu.....	100.00
Turnips, 400 bus. at 25c. a bu.....	100.00
Spinach, 100 bbls. at 50c. a bbl.....	50.00

Here is a particularly interesting example of how a combination of crops has been made to produce more than a bare competence on a small California farm. This particular farm is located in the Sacramento Valley. The owner has made a success of his farm for over 40 years. It consists of but a single acre and in addition to making a comfortable living he has laid aside, on an average, \$400.00 a year. Just think of it—a man with a one acre farm with money to loan!

These figures, which show the amount of space devoted to the various buildings and to different crops, is a good basis upon which to work in planning a small place.

The barn occupies a space 30 feet by 40 feet, and the rabbitry 25 feet square. The house is 30 x 30 feet. There are two wind mills with towers 16 feet square. The water tanks are in the towers and hold the water for irrigation. The crops are never allowed to suffer from the lack of water or, in fact, anything necessary for their best development.

This One Acre Farmer devotes a space 46 x 94 feet to the growing of vegetables. His blackberry

patch is 16 x 90 feet. Strawberries occupy an area of 65 x 90 feet. He has a small nursery 90 x 98 feet, in which he grows citrus trees. These, of course, are grown very close together and are sold for high prices. He has one row of dewberries a hundred feet long, four apricot trees, three peach trees, six fig trees, ten locust trees, thirty rose bushes, twelve lemon trees, one lime tree, four bread fruit trees, five pomegranate trees, four prune trees, four grape vines and thirteen hives of bees.

So this man combines vegetable growing, fruit growing, the growing of nursery stock, the keeping of bees and the raising of Belgian hares.

A great many other definite examples might be given, but each one would be entirely different. Each farmer works out the details of his plan for himself, but the principle upon which the whole matter is based is this: Care must be given to every product raised. Marketing and the expense of production must be kept at the minimum. The two-acre farm should be operated entirely without hiring outside help. The system of management, of course, will determine just how nearly this is accomplished. Plenty of fertilizer will be necessary. Water must be applied whenever it is needed and cultivation must be given frequently.

Each foot of land must be made to yield its utmost and in many cases the utmost is not a single crop. A great many crops, especially vegetables, may be grown as companion crops or succession crops. Two different crops may be grown on the same area in the same season. Radishes may be sown with beets or carrots, the one crop being planted between the rows of the other. By the time the beets or carrots need the room, the radishes are ready to harvest.

Squashes, citron, pumpkins, or beans, are very good crops to grow with corn. When the beans are planted with the corn they are usually planted in the same hill and the corn, which grows more rapidly, furnishes support for the beans. The best varieties in this case are the climbing ones and it is not best to plant too large an area in this way. If the field were too large the beans toward the center would not receive the amount of sunlight needed.

Early onions may be planted in the same rows with cauliflower or cabbage. The onions, of course, are harvested early and the cabbage or cauliflower has the space to itself after that. Lettuce may be grown with early cabbage. Even the early crops of radishes, lettuce and onions may be grown together without one seriously interfering with the other.

Sometimes it is advisable to grow several crops of the same variety in succession. A man in Iowa has grown as many as 10 crops of radishes in the same bed. Before one crop was ready to harvest seeds were planted for the next crop in rows close beside the growing plants.

Some of the early crops may be grown between rows of potatoes. In the berry patch there is usually space for growing vegetables. All of this is based on the principle of getting the utmost from each square foot of the ground.

While it is impossible to give definite information as to the best varieties of crops to grow in the different parts of the country, the following suggestions will be of considerable value. The varieties here recommended can be grown successfully in nearly every section of the United States, but there are localities in different sections where they will not thrive at all. For that reason information from persons of experience near your farm will be absolutely necessary.

The varieties mentioned, however, are worth trying. They are all standards. It is expensive to experiment with novelties. If you are going to experiment at all, experiment with some of these standard varieties that have proved their worth.

NEW ENGLAND STATES

APPLES	BLACKBERRIES	CHERRIES	CURRENTS
Sweet Bailey	Agawam	Black Heart	Lee Prolific
Ben Davis	Early Harvest	Napoleon	Saunders
Sweet Bough	Erie	Tartarian	Prince of Wales
Early Strawberry	Snyder	Bessarabian	Cherry
English Russet	Taylor	Large Montmorency	Fay
Fameuse	Wilson	Morello	Versaillaise
Gideon		Olivet	Wilder
Gravenstein		Richmond	
Porter			
Stark			
Wealthy			
GOOSEBERRIES	GRAPES	PEACHES	PEARS
Chautauqua	Delaware	Beers Smock	Anjou
Industry	Brighton	Chairs	Angouleme,
Whitesmith	Concord	Champion	Duchess de
Downing	Cottage	Crosby	Bartlett
Houghton	Diamond	Elberta	Brandywine
Pearl	Lindley	Foster	Howell
Smith	Moore	Crawford	Lawrence
		(Late)	Seckel
		Oldmixon	
		(Free)	
			PLUMS
			Arctic Moore
			Bradshaw
			German Prune
			Lombard
			Richland
			Shropshire Damson
			Burbank
			Red June
			Chabot

SOUTHEASTERN STATES

APPLES	BLACKBERRIES	CHERRIES	CURRANTS
Hyslop	Dallas	Windsor	Victoria
Bonum	Erie	Late Duke	Red Dutch
Buckingham	Kittatinny	Richmond	
Early Harvest	Lawton		
Hubbardston	Snyder		
Jonathan	Lucretia		
Red Astrachan			
Red June			
Stark			
Watson			
GOOSEBERRIES	GRAPES	PEACHES	PEARS
Pale Red	Cynthiana	Alexander	Archangel
	Superb	Elberta	Garber
	Delaware	Foster	Kieffer
	Brighton	Salway	Winter Nelis
	Concord	Stump	
	Moore		
			Golden Beauty
			Red June
			Cumberland
			Burbank

MIDDLE STATES

APPLES	BLACKBERRIES	CHERRIES	CURRANTS
Ben Davis	Briton, Ancient	Montmorency	Lee Prolific
Cooper		Morello	Fay
Early Harvest			Cherry
Grimes			Red Dutch
Jefferis			Victoria
Jonathan			White Dutch
Maiden Blush			Houghton
Red June			Downing
Rome Beauty			
Wealthy			

SOUTHERN STATES

APPLES	BLACKBERRIES	CHERRIES	CURRENTS
Belle Bonne	Briton, Ancient	Montmorency	Victoria
English Russet	Taylor	Morello	Red Dutch
Grimes Golden	Lucretia	Plumstone	
Jonathan			
GOOSEBERRIES	GRAPES	PEACHES	PEARS
Industry	Cynthiana	Alexander	Anjou
Crown Bob	Norton	Amelia	Claireau
Whitesmith	Herbemont	Cabler	Bartlett
	Concord	Crawford	Howell
	Lindley	(Early)	Seckel
		Early York	
		Royal George	
			PLUMS
			De Soto
			Imperial Gage
			Golden Beauty

PACIFIC COAST

APPLES	BLACKBERRIES	CHERRIES	CURRENTS
Baldwin	Kittatinny	Bing	Cherry
Ben Davis	Lawton	Lewelling	Fay
Early Harvest		Napoleon	White Grape
English Russet		Tartarian	
Gravenstein			
Jonathan			
Red Astrachan			
Rhode Island			
Greening			
White Pearmain			
Yellow June			
Yellow Newtown			
GOOSEBERRIES	GRAPES	PEACHES	PEARS
Champion	Concord	Alexander	Anjou
Houghton	Alexandria	Crawford	Archangel
	Muscat of	Early	Winter Nelis
	Flame Tokay	Foster	
	Sweetwater	Hale	
	White	Crawford	
		(Late)	
		Muir	
			PLUMS
			Agen Prune
			Bradshaw
			Columbia
			Golden Drop
			(Silver Prune)
			Imperial Gage
			Italian Prune
			Pond
			Yellow Egg

NORTHERN STATES

ARTICHOKE	ASPARAGUS	BEANS
Large Green Globe Jerusalem	Conover's Colossal Palmetto	Extra Early Refugee Prolific Black Wax Kentucky Wonder (Pole) King of the Garden (Lima)
BEETS	CHARD	BROCCOLI
Detroit Dark Red Improved Blood Turnip	Swiss Chard	Early Large White Purple Cape
CABBAGE	CAULIFLOWER	CARROTS
Early Winnigstadt Early Jersey Wakefield Copenhagen Market	California Wonder Early Snowball	Danver's Half Long Oxheart
CORN	CUCUMBER	CELERY
Country Gentleman Golden Bantam Stowell's Evergreen	Arlington White Spine Long Green	Giant Pascal White Plume Paris Golden
	EGG PLANT	BRUSSELS SPROUTS
	Black Beauty New York Improved Purple	Improved Half Dwarf
		ENDIVE
		Green Curled Broad-Leaved Batavian

NORTHERN STATES—Continued

LETTUCE	MUSKMELON	WATERMELON	ONION
Big Boston	Defender	Cole's Early	Silverskin
Black Seeded	Fordhook	Florida Favorite	Prize Taker
Simpson	Early Baltimore	Chilean	Yellow Danvers Flat
May King	Golden Beauty	Tom Watson	Ailsa Craig
	Casaba		
PARSNIPS	PARSLEY	PEAS	PEPPER
Hollow Crown	Double Curled	Laxtonian	Chinese Giant
Long Dutch	Extra Triple	Gradus	Large Bell
	Curled	Telephone	
		Melting Sugar	
RADISH	RHUBARB	SQUASH	TOMATO
Early Scarlet	Crimson Winter	Yellow Summer	Matchless
Globe		Crookneck	Stone
Icicle		Boston Marrow	Dwarf Giant
Long Scarlet		Hubbard Squash	
SPINACH			TURNIP
Bloomsdale Savoy			White Flat
			Dutch
			Purple Top
			White Globe

SOUTHERN STATES

ASPARAGUS Conover's Colossal Palmetto	BEANS Refugee Dwarf Golden Wax	BEETS Extra Early Eclipse Improved Early Blood Turnip	CABBAGE Late Flat Dutch Red Mammoth Solid South
BROCCOLI White Cape	BRUSSELS SPROUTS Perfection	CARROTS Oxheart Half-Long Danvers	CAULIFLOWER Veitch's Autumn Giant Early Snowball
COLLARD Improved Georgia White Southern	EGG PLANT Florida High Bush Golden Beauty	ENDIVE Green Curled Culture	KALE Early Curled Siberian Dwarf Curled Scotch
MUSTARD Southern Giant Curled White Mustard	PARSLEY Champion Moss Curled	PEAS Gradus McLean's Advancer	RADISH Celestial Long Black Spanish
PEPPER Chinese Giant Mammoth Golden Queen	SPINACH Long Season Norfolk Savoy	TOMATO Perfection Stone Bonnie Best	TURNIP Early Red Early White Flat Dutch

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PACIFIC COAST

ARTICHOKE Large Green Globe	ASPARAGUS Conover's Colossal Palmetto	BEANS Improved Golden Wax Refugee Kentucky Wonder King of the Garden (Lima)	BEETS Eclipse Improved Egyptian
BROCCOLI Early Large White Cape Early Purple Cape	BRUSSELS SPROUTS Improved Dwarfs	KALE Dwarf Green Curled Scotch Tall Jersey	CHARD Swiss Chard
CABBAGE Early Drumhead Late Flat Dutch Green Globe Savoy	CARROTS Long Orange True Danvers Oxheart French Forcing	CAULIFLOWER Snowball Veitche's Autumn Giant	CELERY White Plume Giant Pascal Large White Solid

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PACIFIC COAST—Continued

CHICORY	EGG PLANT	ENDIVE	SWEET CORN
Large Rooted	Early Long Purple	Large Green	Country Gentleman
	New York Improved	Curled	Golden Bantam
	Purple	Broad-Leaved	Early Mammoth
		Batavian	Stowell's Evergreen
CUCUMBER	LETTUCE	MUSKMELON	WATERMELON
Early Long White	Big Boston	Hackensack	Fordook Early
Spine	California Cream	Rocky Ford	Cuban Queen
Improved Long	Butter	Burrell's Gem	Prize Taker
Green	Passion	Casaba	Australian
Green Prolific	Romaine		Brown
			White Bermuda

PACIFIC COAST—Continued

LEEK	PARSNIPS	PEPPER	PARSLEY	PEAS
Large American	Hollow Crown	Sweet Spanish	Moss Curled	Gradus
Flag	Long Dutch Sugar	Large Bell	Fine Triple Curled	Late Telephone
London		Chinese Giant		Yorkshire Hero
POTATO	PUMPKIN	RADISH	RHUBARB	SPINACH
Early Champion	Jumbo	Early Long Scarlet	Crimson Winter	Bloomsdale
Burbank		White Tip		Savoy
Early Rose		Icicle		Round Summer
		French Breakfast		Thick Leaved
SQUASH	TOMATO	TURNIP		
Golden Summer	Ponderosa	Early White Flat Dutch		
Crookneck	Golden Queen	Purple Top		
Early White	Trophy			
Bush Scallop	Stone			
Hubbard	Dwarf Champion			

The small farm to be profitable must be located near a market. The amount of produce to be sold at any one time is small and so it is unwise to make any large investment for delivery.

There is considerable profit in the raising of flowers if you are near a town. Cut flowers sell well in any location. Those that can be grown in the garden are especially profitable. One woman has made a nice income by growing daffodils. She takes such good care of them that the blossoms appear early, and although she lives 50 miles from market, she makes good profit by shipping them to dealers in the city. There is a good profit too in raising bulbs and seeds. Even if only a small quantity of bulbs or seeds is produced they may be sold to neighbors and friends at a good profit.

Poultry raised on a small place is usually profitable. If modern methods are employed quite a large number of birds can be handled on a small place without any difficulty. The caring for them on a small tract is really less than where they are scattered over a larger farm. Although the hens do not produce profitably for more than two or three years, they can be replaced economically. The white leghorn has been found to be well adapted to this sort of treatment and is a very prolific producer of eggs.

Common sense methods in feeding must be followed and by common sense is meant the providing of plenty of feed of the kind the hen naturally gets when running on the range. There are a few general principles that apply to poultry production under all conditions.

A soft food is usually best for morning. This may be fed either dry or as a wet mash. Some poultrymen believe they get better results in one way and others count more profit in feeding it another way.

Whole grains are fed at night because the bird goes to roost after eating and has plenty of time to digest these foods. The exact combination of feed may be varied considerably without much change in the results. Although every poultry raiser believes he has the best combination of feed, practically every poultry raiser has a different combination. One thing that is essential is that the fowls should have plenty of green stuff.

The man with a small number of fowls finds it easier to sell at a higher price than the man with a large number. He can afford to spend more time in developing a high class trade. A neat carton always helps in getting a good price. The same customers who will pay a good price for first class eggs are also willing to pay a good price for fruit

and vegetables. By concentrating your selling to these high-class customers in a certain section of your home town, the cost of delivery will be greatly reduced.

There is also considerable money in dressed poultry and it is not a difficult task to secure regular customers who will take a dressed bird every Saturday for Sunday dinner. Dressing and delivering can be done some one day in the week and will thus make it possible to concentrate the work and increase the profits.

If you are to make a success of a small farm, do not hesitate to ask the best prices for high-quality products. The average person is willing to pay all that good produce is worth and if you are sure that your products are of the highest grade, do not sell them for any less than they are really worth.

Many have had considerable success in raising Belgian hares. It is not an unpleasant occupation and the hares increase rapidly. A good doe will raise seven or eight litters a year and each litter contains from six to fourteen. There is a market for Belgian hares in most cities and the hares are ready to sell when they weigh four or five pounds.

A rabbit hutch can be made from an old dry goods box, or if you are going into it on a larger

scale, a series of hutches can be made four or five tiers deep. The rabbits require plenty of fresh air, but cannot stand a draught. They require protection from the cold in winter.

Pigeons are a good investment. Squabs are easy to raise and bring good prices. Enough pigeons to produce an income of \$600.00 a year can be raised on a small lot. Squabs can be shipped by express and if your place is not far from the city limits, the express messenger will call for the shipment, which makes the cost of marketing small and the work very light.

The raising of game birds, especially pheasants, is becoming a paying industry. There is a big demand, both for the birds themselves and for hatching eggs, and there is a profit to be made from selling the feathers. Although pheasants require special care, the methods of handling them successfully can soon be learned.

The breeding of canaries is another profitable industry that can be carried on by the two-acre farmer. One room in the home or a small building outside will accommodate a large number of birds. They multiply rapidly and produce a good profit. A woman in California raised in a single season nearly \$75.00 worth of canaries. She considered the work a recreation and the total cost of feeding

amounted to only about \$16. Singers sell for from \$1.25 to \$2.50 each; the females bring about 50c. each. Cages are inexpensive and can be home-made. Instead of keeping each bird in a separate cage 15 or 20 can be kept in a single large cage made out of a quarter-inch mesh wire screen.

Although the keeping of bees is a business in itself, the man with a little extra time can keep a few hives very economically and with considerable profit. There is not space here to give definite instructions as to methods of bee-keeping, but there are many good books on the subject that can be secured at any library. It is not expensive to start this industry and there is very little work in maintaining it. The only cost is for equipment. There is always a good demand for honey and if it is marketed to special customers, together with other products of the farm, it will bring a very good price indeed.

The two-acre farm requires very little capital. In fact, it requires no more capital than the purchase of a home in a city. It does carry with it a satisfactory competence and a great amount of contentment.

Plant Life Series

A series of monographs for 1914-1915 to create a general interest in agriculture, horticulture, and floriculture with instructions to make it possible for everybody to grow his or her own fruits, flowers, and vegetables, the following being the first twelve titles:

1. Give The Boy His Chance.
2. Start the Boy Right.
3. How Nature Makes Plants to Our Order.
4. Vegetables—From Your Own Garden to the Table or Market.
5. Vegetables—What, and When to Plant—on Your Own Soil.
6. The Joy of Raising Your Own Flowers.
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