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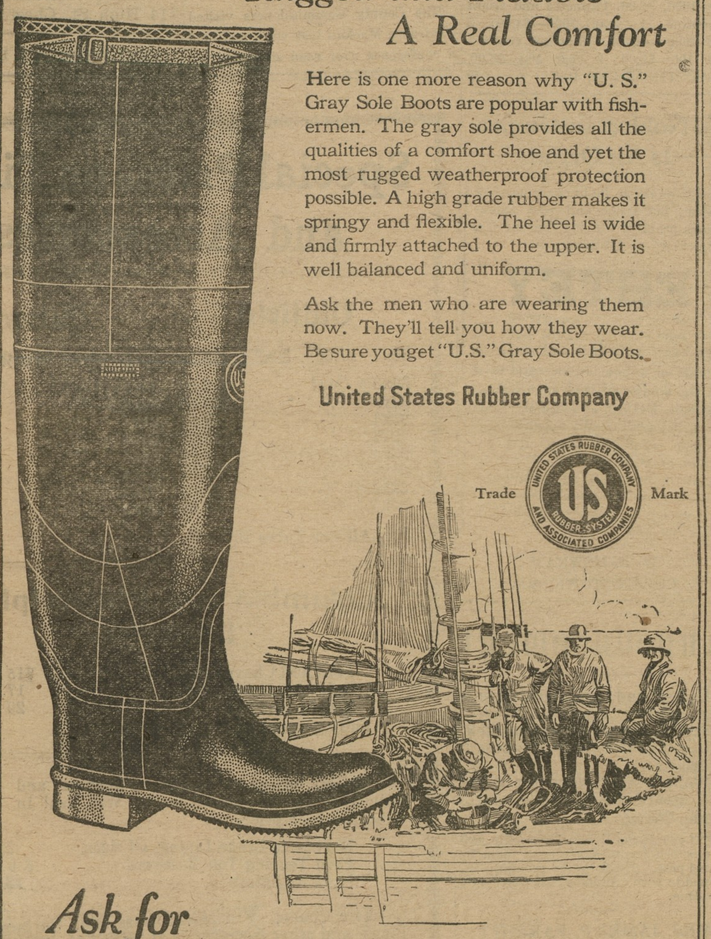

Here is one more reason why "U. S." Gray Sole Boots are popular with fishermen. The gray sole provides all the qualities of a comfort shoe and yet the most rugged weatherproof protection possible. A high grade rubber makes it springy and flexible. The heel is wide and firmly attached to the upper. It is well balanced and uniform.

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Ask for "U.S." Boots

Rural Pastor Tells Of Life On Farm Of Six Decades Ago

Husband Was Self-Indulgent And Wife Was Slave Of Household On Estates In Kent County In 1860, The Rev. S. S. Hepbron Says.

In conversation with a farmer's wife, she said, "You have given us a hopeful view of farm life, but were not things in days gone by very different from what they are now? Did not the farmer get more for his produce and have to pay out less for his labor and his implements, than now?

My answer was, apparently so, but not in reality. The difference is not as great as we are disposed to think. It is a good subject for an old man to write on formerly and now.

Compares Life On Farm.

Farm life as he knew it in Kent county in the fifties, sixties and seventies, was not the comfortable, luxurious life it is today, especially to the farmer's wife and his children. The man in that day was just like the man is now and has been in all his history, the self-indulging member of the family.

He took general supervision and management of the farm, planned the crops and put the hands to work. His horse was bridled and saddled for him and stood awaiting his pleasure. He would ride over the farm and be back n ample time for dinner. He was generally a reader, but books were few and the newspaper, at most, came only tri-weekly.

After dinner he would indulge in a good long nap and then another horse-back ride over the farm. He took little interest in domestic affairs. All inside of the house was turned over to the wife.

Describes His Father.

Few farmers worked themselves. father had a blacksmith shop and could work wood, leather or iron. We rarely went off the farm for anything he could make. He was self-indulgent, as I now view things, fond of a book, an omniverous reader and could hold his end of the discussion on any subject. He was a good farmer and made it pay; a man of whom any son could be proud.

The wife's position was by no means a sinecure. She was mistress of the household, but the greatest slave of the family. In most families there were servants galore. She was the servant of servants. There were 14 members of our family, four in the house and ten in the kitchen, ranging from 2 years up to 40.

All this family were abundantly fed three times daily. It was some job to plan and provide for these meals. Girls, old enough, sweep the house, made up the beds, helped in the washing and preparing food for the cook.

Tells Wife's Duties.

What was left for the wife to do with all those servants to do her bidding? Much of the rough clothing was made of cloth or linsey spun and woven on the place. The woman at the spinning wheel and on the loom had to be supervised. The cloth, if woolen, was made into clothing and if linen into grain bags, towels, etc. The wife was the tailor and head seamstress. She did all the cutting out and all the neat sewing for the family. Her work, literally, "was never done." There were no sewing machines; all the sewing was done by hand.

I have before me now a vivid picture of many women whom I have seen sitting hour after hour unconplainingly stitching away. I can see that nimble front finger of the left hand, rough up to the first joints, from the millions of needle pricks. Besides all this, the woman was the wise doctor and gentle nurse of the whole family.

Praises Housewives.

No more industrious, wise, gentle and self-sacrificing women ever lived than those of that period. They gave birth to the men and women of our day. I am disposed to think that most of the good we find in our generation is due to them.

The "best crop ever grown on the farm is the crop of children." The boy and the girl of the period of which I am thinking were ready to face life and its hardships more uncomplainingly than they are today. Schools were not as numerous as now and yet more numerous than in the preceding decades. Many had to walk from three to five miles. At 8 and 10 years of age my brother and I, rather than walk two miles over land of a farmer whom we disliked, walked four miles to another school, and did it for six years.

I then entered Washington College, riding every day seven miles each way horseback for four years longer.

Thankful For Training.

I was by no means the only country boy of that period and locality who got his training under similar conditions. I am thankful now for that training. It fitted me for 56 years of a country parson's life, from which I have derived happiness almost without alloy, during which time I am not without hope that I have been somewhat helpful to others.

How different the child's lot today, when, under a paternal government, he is not allowed to walk a mile to school. A public conveyance comes for him or his parents take him in an automobile, where everything is furnished him but food and raiment.

Food is in a measure furnished him by hot lunches, and the raiment may possibly come after a while. I fear the boy of the present day will not make the husky men we have raised in the past.

Called Interesting Period.

The sixties was an interesting period in farm life, not entirely unlike the present.

It was a period of anxiety. The farmer was not without his forebodings for the future, but of these I am going to write now. This paper already has gone far beyond my intended limit. It is good sometimes to look backward. The Psalmist did so and he said it gave him confidence in the present and filled him with hope for the future.

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Black Jersey Giants, $22.00 per 100, $12.00 per 50

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Saturdays, leave Baltimore for Tolchester at 7.00 a. m., and 2.45 p. m., leave Tolchester for Baltimore at 9.00 a. m. and 4.45 p. m.

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Baltimore, Md.

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