REA DIDN'T REACH MANY AREA FARMS UNTIL 1940's

Today power from electricity is taken for granted but many area farmers can still remember when REA brought electricity to the rural community. A lot of them weren't hooked up to the power line until after World War II.

A copy of the Pine Poker dated February 22, 1912, ran the following article. It gave local farmers something to look forward to.

The headline said, ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR FARM HOMES.

Taking the average of summer and winter days, artificial light is needed in the majority of homes not more than four hours per day. This is for the kitchen and living room; in bedrooms it is needed not more than two hours per day.

For the whole house and for the barn, an average of three hours per day for each lamp would seem to be ample, and five lamps will afford much more light than now suffices for all the purposes of the farmstead. If the householder then can divest himself of the idea that, if he introduces electric light at all, he must have clusters or festoons of flashing bulbs all over his premises, and if, in addition, he can—through cooperation with his neighbors or otherwise secure "current" at a cost no greater than that at which it is supplied in most American towns, then the electric light would seem to be within his reach at a comparatively small expense.

Where no power plant or storage battery is to be installed the initial outlay is confined to the wiring of the premises and the purchase of bulbs; the cost of which is so small as to be within the means of almost any householder.

Recent tests at the Colorado Experiment Station with current furnished by the Electric Light Company of Fort Collins at a charge of 13 cents per kilowatt hour showed the cost of burning a 20 candle power Tungsten lamp for 1,000 hours to be $3.80. This includes the cost of the lamp itself, the life of which averages 1,000 hours. The cost of burning a single lamp (light bulb) for a year three hours per day is thus seen to be only $4.16 or a little more than a cent per day. It is to be noted that the lamps used in the Colorado experiment were of 20 candle power; the cheaper 16 candle power is ordinarily used in cities. Five lamps would cost $20.80 a year.

Few improvements in the home are attended with so much satisfaction as that which comes from the substitution of the brillian+ and convenient electric light for that afforded by the kerosene lamp.

In the barn the safety and convenience of the electric bulb as compared with the old time lantern wins instantaneous appreciation. So great are its advantages that many well to do farmers have at a cost of several hundred dollars installed a plant for the production of the needed current for their individual use alone and now regard the electric light as indespensable.

What they have gained individually would seem to be within the reach of any community of farmers through co-operation.

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