

teaches responsibility and a sense of responsibility is a wholesome restraint upon conduct.

Seventh—The farmer learns early in life the true basis of rewards. By having to give a dollar's worth of labor for a dollar's worth of product he is taught that service, to be fair, must be reciprocal. He never falls into the demoralizing habit of expecting something for nothing. He teaches by example that labor is honorable, and has that sense of proprietorship in his handiwork which only those have who feel that they have honestly earned all that they receive. His ideals of life are, therefore, apt to be high and he imparts to others the stimulus which his occupation and environment excite in him.

Eighth—The husbandman is also the most reliable political factor in the nation. He is the best informed and most independent of all who take part in political life. While he is conservative and not subject to frequent change; while he has convictions and is usually a strong partisan, yet his opinions are his own and, as a rule, he can neither be bought nor driven to cast his vote contrary to his judgment.

While it is true that in close states the corruption of voters has sometimes extended to the farm, still it is a well-known fact that repeating and bribe-taking are largely city vices.

The summer days are long and the fatigue of the harvest leaves little energy for study, but the winter evenings bring compensation and the Sabbath day is in the country usually a day for thought and reflection. While the labor organization has done much to turn the attention of its members to the study of economic questions, yet with the growth of great corporations the laboring man has become more and more dependent upon his employer, and the wage-earner is not so free to make his ballot express exactly what he wants as is the man who works for himself, and sells his products in the open market.

Henry Clay, fifty years ago in defending the right of the people of South America to self-government, said:

"Were I to speculate in hypotheses unfavorable to human liberty, my speculations should be founded rather upon the vices, refinements, or density of population. Crowded together in compact masses, even if they were philosophers, the contagion of the passions is communicated and caught, and the effect too often, I admit, is the overthrow of liberty. Dispersed over such an immense space as that on which the people of Spanish America are spread, their physical, and I believe also their mental condition, both favor their liberty."

In enumerating the advantages of farm life, it is not necessary to say that the farmer enjoys all the benefits that are now within his reach. There is probably no field in which there is greater room for improvement. But if the farm as it is has been the nursery of merchants and ministers, orators and statesmen, the farm as it may be and should be is still more inviting. The introduction of acetylene and other kinds of gas, and the perfection of electrical apparatus, will enable multitudes of farmers to substitute a modern light for the dim candle and the smoking lamp. The windmill and the supply tank are not only saving the muscle of the man, but are contributing to the convenience of the housewife. With water running through the house and supplying both the kitchen and the bath room, the lot of the farmer's wife will be very much improved.

Another invention is likely to have a marked influence upon farm life, namely, the telephone. No one who has not lived remote from a physician can appreciate the anxiety which a mother feels in case of accident or sickness in the family. The telephone reduces by one-half the anxious time between injury and relief, and in addition to this makes it possible for the farmer to communicate with his neighbors, receive and send telegrams, and be in constant touch with the outside world. The writer's attention has been recently called to the telephone as a time-saver among farmers, and one now wonders how people could have done without it so long.

The electric car line has already commenced to link city with city and to supply the farmers along the line with cheap and rapid transportation for themselves and their products. It will be surprising if the electric lines and the telephones do not result in the next few years in a large increase in the value of suburban property.

In this connection the Good Roads movement cannot be overlooked. The value of a permanent and at all times passable road is beginning to be appreciated, and the farmer is likely to demand that this consideration be shown to his material, intellectual and moral welfare. The mud embargo is an expensive one to the farmer's purse and not less objectionable in other ways. With

good roads it is possible to have larger and better schools, and then will follow the joint intermediate school with its library and its public assembly room. The rural delivery is another boon which the farmer appreciates.

The state universities are giving increasing attention to studies that will fit young men for the intelligent pursuit of agriculture, and what could be more gratifying? If a father is able to start his son in business with \$10,000, what business is so safe as farming? Given a young man with a thorough education, good habits, willingness to work and a desire to make himself useful, where can he fare better than upon a farm? He can apply his brains to the enriching of the soil, to the diversification of his crops and to the improvement of his stock, and at the same time give reasonable indulgence to his taste for reading and study. He will have all that contributes to health of body, vigor of mind and to the cultivation of the heart—what occupation or profession can offer him richer rewards?

True, the soil will not yield him the fabulous wealth that he might secure by cornering the production or supply of some necessity of life, but it will respond to his industry and give him that of which dishonest gains would rob him—"a conscience void of offense toward God and man." If he must forego the sudden gains that sometimes come to the stock jobber, he is also relieved of fear of the sudden losses that are still more frequent to those whose fortunes rise and fall with the markets, and the terrors of flood and drought and wind and hail are, all combined, less to be dreaded than the conscienceless greed of the monopolists who wreck the business of competitors and swindle confiding stockholders.

To the briefless barrister who is not ashamed to work, to the pale-faced clerk who is not afraid of dirt, to all who can labor and be content with moderate returns, the farm offers a welcome. Even the dumb animals are more wholesome companions than the bulls and bears of Wall street, and the harvests will give back smile for smile.

W. J. BRYAN.

### "Trust Us."

Former Speaker Henderson, writing in the January number of "Everybody's Magazine," says that "when tariff legislation becomes necessary, it should be settled in the calm of national politics and not before or during the heat of a presidential battle."

Mr. Henderson is among the distinguished Americans who "stand pat," those gentlemen who insist that the American people should "let well enough alone" on the tariff question; and we have good reason to believe that he will be very slow to conclude that tariff legislation is ever necessary.

But what does Mr. Henderson mean when he says that the necessity for such legislation should be "settled" in the calm of national politics and not before or during the heat of a presidential battle? Who, if not the people, has the right to "settle" the question?

Mr. Henderson was not willing for the question to be "settled" in the congressional elections of 1902, nor is he willing for it to be "settled" in the presidential election of 1904. What he means to say is that the people should have no part in the settlement of this question, but that they should trust Mr. Henderson's party to "settle" it according to the judgment of Mr. Henderson's party's leaders.

Mr. Henderson says that "the increasing wealth of the country is not confined to trust-made goods," and he says that "all are growing richer, more powerful and happier."

There are a very large number of workingmen who yielded to the republican campaign slogan of 1900: "Four years more of the full dinner pail," who will be able to tell the ex-speaker that "all" are not growing "richer, more powerful and happier."

### One of the Best of Men.

General Victor Vifquain died at his home in Lincoln, Neb., Thursday, January 7. General Vifquain was in the sixty-eighth year of his age, having been born in Brussels, Belgium, on May 20, 1836.

He distinguished himself during the civil war and was voted, by congress, a medal for gallant services at Fort Blakeley. During the Spanish-American war, he was lieutenant colonel of the Third Nebraska, and upon Mr. Bryan's retirement from the service, General Vifquain became the colonel of that regiment.

General Vifquain was a brave man and while he distinguished himself as a soldier, he served his country no less faithfully as a citizen. He

was an intense democrat, ever loyal to what he believed to be the people's interests, ever working for what he conceived to be "the greatest good to the greatest number." He was as tender and gentle as he was brave, and there are thousands of men outside of Nebraska who will join with the people of this state in paying loving tribute to Victor Vifquain, one of the best of men.

### Protection of Trusts.

Referring to "the trust in window glass," the Ohio State Journal, a republican paper, published at Columbus, says that the formation of the new selling organization in the window glass industry will include about 85 per cent of the American manufacturing capacity. The Journal concludes:

"The only relief for the users of window glass lies in the abolition of the protective duties. The State Journal believes in the general principles of protection and recognizes the great influence they have had on American industrial development, but when both the capital and the labor in an industry join hands to exact unfair and excessive prices from the consumers of their product, they forfeit the right to protection and ought to be forced to compete in open market with the world.

"This is undoubtedly the case in the window glass industry in America and the sooner congress applies the remedy the better it will be for the American people.

A Mt. Vernon, O., reader who sends to The Commoner this clipping from the Ohio State Journal, says that "what the Journal says of the window glass industry may well be said of all other concerns that seek protection because of eternal infancy."

Our Mt. Vernon friend seems to have hit the nail on the head; but is it not safe to say that when the election comes around, the Ohio State Journal will be found giving cordial support to the political organization whose campaign funds are supplied by the trusts, and whose purpose is to "stand pat" in its plan to permit the few to prosper at the expense of the many?

### Lend a Hand.

The Commoner will enter upon its fourth year with a largely increased circulation. It is desired during the year of 1904 to place The Commoner before the voters of every precinct in the United States. In order to bring about this result, The Commoner has arranged a special subscription offer and invites the cordial co-operation of its many readers who believe in democratic principles.

The special subscription offer is similar to the lots of five plan adopted last year. Cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.

### THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER

Application for Subscription Cards

5	Publisher Commoner. I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.
10	
15	
20	Name .....
25	Box, or Street No. ....
50	P. O. .... State .....
75	
100	Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this card.

If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.