

THE RAILROAD RATE BILL

Synopsis of the Important Provisions of the New Law.

The Term Common Carriers Includes Railroads, Express Companies, Sleeping Car Companies and Pipe Lines—Passes May Be Issued to Railroad Employees—Authority of Commission to Fix Rates.

Washington.—The following is a synopsis of the important sections of the railroad rate bill.

Section one makes the law apply to corporations or persons engaged in the transportation of oil or other commodities, except water, by pipe line, to those engaged in transportation of passengers or property by railroad or partly by railroad and partly by water, between states.

"Common Carriers" Defined.

The term common carrier is described as follows:

The term "common carrier," as used in this act, shall include express companies and sleeping car companies. The term "railroad," as used in this act, shall include all bridges and ferries used or operated in connection with any railroad, and also all the road in use by any corporation operating a railroad, whether owned or operated under a contract, agreement or lease, and shall also include all switches, spurs, tracks, and terminal facilities of every kind used or necessary in the transportation of the persons or property designated herein.

All charges made for any service rendered or to be rendered in the transportation of passengers or property as aforesaid, or in connection therewith, shall be just and reasonable; and every unjust and unreasonable charge for such service or any part thereof is prohibited and declared to be unlawful.

What Passes May Be Issued.

The section relative to the issuing of railway passes is as follows:

A. No carrier subject to the provisions of this act shall hereafter, directly or indirectly, issue or give any interstate free ticket, free pass or free transportation for passengers, except to its officers, agents, employees, surgeons, physicians, actual and bona fide attorneys, and members of their immediate families; to ministers of religion, local and traveling secretaries of Young Men's Christian associations, inmates of hospitals and charitable and equestrian institutions; to indigent, destitute and homeless persons, and to such persons when transported by charitable societies or hospitals, and the necessary agents employed in such transportation; to inmates of the national homes or state homes for disabled volunteer soldiers and of soldiers and sailors' homes, including those about to enter and those returning home after discharge, under arrangements with boards of managers, and female nurses that served during the civil war; to ex-union soldiers and sailors and ex-confederate soldiers; and to owners and caretakers of livestock when traveling with such stock or when going to point of shipment or returning from point of delivery.

Exceptions to the Rule.

Provided, that this provision shall not be construed to prohibit the interchange of passes for the officers, agents and employees of carriers, and members of their immediate families, nor to prohibit any carrier from carrying passengers free with the object of providing relief in cases of general epidemic, pestilence or other calamitous visitations, nor prevent such carrier from giving free or reduced transportation to laborers transported to any place for the purpose of supplying any demand for labor at such place.

Cannot Own Coal Mines.

All common carriers are prohibited from transporting from one state to another any article manufactured, mined or produced by the carrier or under its authority, and owned wholly or in part by the carrier; except that pipe lines operated by oil companies may transport their own commodities as well as those offered for transportation by competitors.

Section 2 amends section 6 of the present law so as to make it obligatory on the part of carriers to file with the commission and keep open to the public schedules showing all rates, fares and charges between different points on its own route and points on other routes, when a through rate is made, and no change should be made in these rates without giving 30 days' notice of change. It also provides for the filing of all contracts and agreements between different lines.

Penalties Are Provided.

The penalties provided for violation of these rates are as follows:

That section 1 of the act entitled "An act to further regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the states," approved February 19, 1903, be amended so as to read as follows:

The willful failure upon the part of any carrier subject to said acts to file

and publish the tariffs or rates and charges as required by said acts, or strictly to observe such tariffs until changed according to law, shall be a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof the corporation offending shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$20,000 for each offense; and it shall be unlawful for any person, persons or corporation to offer, grant or give, or to solicit, accept or receive any rebate, concession or discrimination in respect to the transportation of any property in interstate or foreign commerce by any common carrier subject to said act to regulate commerce and the acts amendatory thereto whereby any such property shall be by any device whatever transported at a less rate than that named in the tariffs published and filed by such carrier, as is required by said act to regulate commerce and the acts amendatory thereto, or whereby any other advantage is given or discrimination is practiced.

Every person or corporation who shall offer, grant or give, or solicit, accept, or receive any such rebate, concession, or discrimination shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$20,000; provided, that any person, or any officer or director of any corporation subject to the provisions of this act, or the act to regulate commerce and the acts amendatory thereto, or any receiver, trustee, lessee, agent or person acting for or employed by any such corporation, who shall be convicted as aforesaid, shall, in addition to the fine herein provided for, be liable to imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of not exceeding two years, or both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court. Every violation of this section shall be prosecuted in any court of the United States having jurisdiction of crimes within the district in which such violation was committed, or through which the transportation may have been conducted; and whenever the offense is begun in one jurisdiction and completed in another it may be dealt with, inquired of, tried, determined, and punished in either jurisdiction in the same manner as if the offense had been actually and wholly committed therein.

Authorized to Fix Rates.

Section 15 authorizes the interstate commerce commission to fix rates as follows:

Sec. 15. That section 15 of said act be amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 15. That the commission is authorized and empowered, and it shall be its duty, whenever, after full hearing upon a complaint made as provided in section 13 of this act, or upon complaint of any common carrier, it shall be of the opinion that any of the rates, or charges whatsoever, demanded, charged, or collected by any common carrier or carriers, subject to the provisions of this act, for the transportation of persons or property as defined in the first section of this act, or that any regulations or practices whatsoever of such carrier or carriers affecting such rates, are unjust or unreasonable, or unjustly discriminatory, or unduly preferential or prejudicial, or otherwise in violation of any of the provisions of this act, to determine and prescribe what will be the just and reasonable rate or rates, charge or charges, to be thereafter observed in such case as the maximum to be charged; and what regulation or practice in respect to such transportation is just, fair and reasonable to be thereafter followed; and to make an order that the carrier shall cease and desist from such violation, to the extent to which the commission find the same to exist, and shall not thereafter publish, demand, or collect any rate or charge for such transportation in excess of the maximum rate or charge so prescribed, and shall conform to the regulation or practice so prescribed. All orders of the commission, except orders for the payment of money, shall take effect within such reasonable time, not less than 30 days, and shall continue in force for such period of time, not exceeding two years, as shall be prescribed in the order of the commission, unless the same shall be suspended or modified or set aside by the commission or be suspended or set aside by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Any person, corporation, or company who shall deliver property for interstate transportation to any common carrier, subject to the provisions of this act, or for whom, as consignor or consignee, any such carrier shall transport property from one state, territory, or district of the United States to any other state, territory or district of the United States or foreign country, who shall knowingly and willfully, by employ, agent, officer or otherwise, directly or indirectly, by or through any means or device whatsoever, receive or accept from such common carrier any

sum of money, or any other valuable consideration, as a rebate or offset against the regular charges for transportation of such property, as fixed by the schedules of rates provided for in this act, shall be deemed guilty of a fraud, which is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof in any court of the United States of competent jurisdiction within the district where such offense was committed, in addition to any other penalties provided by this act, be subjected to a fine equal to three times the sum of money so received or accepted, and three times the value of any other consideration so received or accepted, to be ascertained by the trial court; and in the trial for such offense, all such rebates or other considerations so received or accepted for a period of six years prior to the commencement of the action may be considered, and the said fine shall be three times the total amount of money or three times the total value of such considerations so received or accepted, as the case may be: Provided, that the foregoing penalties shall not apply to rebates or considerations received prior to the passage and approval of this act.

In addition to the above the commission is empowered to make joint rates.

Orders of the Commission.

Any carrier, any officer, representative, or agent of a carrier, or any receiver, trustee, lessee, or agent of either of them, who knowingly fails or neglects to obey any order made under the provisions of section 15 of this act, shall forfeit to the United States the sum of \$5,000 for each offense. Every distinct violation shall be a separate offense, and in case of a continuing violation each day shall be deemed a separate offense.

Provision for Court Review.

The court-review provision of the bill is as follows:

If any carrier fails or neglects to obey any order of the commission, other than for the payment of money, while the same is in effect, any party injured thereby, or the commission in its own name, may apply to the circuit court in the district where such carrier has its principal operating office, or in which the violation or disobedience of such order shall happen, for an enforcement of such order. Such application shall be by petition, which shall state the substance of the order and the respect in which the carrier has failed to obey it, and shall be served upon the carrier in such manner as the court may direct, and the court shall prosecute such inquiries and make such investigations, through such means as it shall deem needful in the ascertainment of the facts at issue or which may arise upon the hearing of such petition. If, upon such hearing as this court may determine to be necessary, it appears that the order was lawfully made and duly served, and that the carrier is in disobedience of the same, the court shall enforce obedience to such order by a writ of injunction, or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise, to restrain such carrier, its officers, agents or representatives, from further disobedience of such order, or to enjoin upon it, or them, obedience to the same; and in the enforcement of such process the court shall have those powers ordinarily exercised by it in compelling obedience to its writs of injunction and mandamus.

From any action upon such petition on appeal shall lie by either party to the supreme court of the United States, and in such court the case shall have priority in hearing and determination over all other causes except criminal causes, but such appeal shall not vacate or suspend the order appealed from.

The so-called Allison provision provides that all cases for the annulling of a rate as made by the commission should be brought in the district where the carrier against whom such order of requirement may have been made has its principal office.

Other provisions of the bill provide that the commission shall be empowered to require annual reports from all common carriers, and providing that such reports shall be of the fullest character; giving the commission at all times access to the books of common carriers, heavy penalties are enjoined for false entries in accounts. A fine of \$5,000, or both, is decreed for any examiner who shall wrongfully divulge information acquired through examinations of accounts. Circuit and district courts are to have jurisdiction to issue writs of mandamus compelling common carriers to obey the orders of the commission. Bills of lading are to be issued by any common carrier accepting goods for transportation, making railroad companies liable for loss or damage done in transit over their or any other line. The commission is empowered to employ special agents or examiners with full powers.

This act takes effect and is in force from and after its passage.

The interstate commerce commission will consist of seven members, who shall draw salaries of \$10,000 per annum each.

FLOWERS ON THE FARM.

Our Farmers Been Criticized by Foreigners for Their Indifference to Immediate Surroundings.

It has been argued that in this country among our farmers, carelessness is the trait which a foreigner most observes, and some say that a glance at the immediate surroundings of more than the average number of farm houses, proves the correctness of this assertion. Tin-can strewn grounds, unsightly rubbish heaps, empty boxes and barrels, occupy space which, in most European countries, would be put under thorough cultivation. Such environment has a depressing effect all around.

It is our duty, at all seasons of the year, to make our homes pleasant and attractive. The old Athenians spent their money freely to build temples and erect statues, while their own homes were unadorned. This was because of patriotism, for the homes of a country are the true index of its strength and prosperity, and the man or woman who seeks to beautify his or her home surroundings, is a public benefactor even though unknown to themselves.

The beautifying of the home and lawns generally is done by the women folk, or else goes undone. This is not as it should be. The farmer could spare at least one hour of painstaking effort a week, to the work of improvement. He understands the adaptability of certain soils, and is more able to dig and plant than his wife; but first he must know that it is not a loss of time, and even if he be too intensely practical to care for flowers, he must know that a beautiful home has a most decided commercial value.

No home is too humble to join in the good work, and no spot of land should be wasted. In many countries in Europe even the space along the hedges and byways is made to produce something of use to mankind. It is not an area, but taste that counts in landscape gardening. The cost at the start need not be great. Seeds and slips are not expensive. Many plants are easily propagated from cuttings, and a few dollars thoughtfully expended will start a garden, capable of giving pleasure for many years. Perennials are decidedly the best for farm homes. They require less attention than annuals, and when once planted, with a reasonable amount of care, one has a succession of blooms without much labor.—Farm and Home.

WEALTH OF NEW YORK.

Twenty-Five States Valued at Less Than the State's Untaxed Real Estate.

The enormous material wealth of the state of New York is in no way, perhaps, more clearly marked than in the fact that the total amount of real estate—land and buildings—exempted from taxation is larger than the total assessed wealth of 25 of the 45 states of the country, states the Sun.

New York has \$1,500,000,000 of real estate exempted from taxation. It has \$185,000,000 represented in churches and church buildings. It has \$150,000,000 in hospitals and charitable institutions. It has \$100,000,000 in schools, exclusive of \$60,000,000 in colleges, universities and other buildings wholly devoted to the purposes of instruction.

The city of New York includes, of course, by far the largest proportion of these holdings, though in the matter of church property the land and buildings outside of the city of New York represent a total value of \$75,000,000.

The federal government has \$80,000,000 worth of land and buildings in the state of New York, of which \$60,000,000 worth is in New York city and \$20,000,000 worth in Buffalo. The state itself has \$85,000,000 worth of property, land and buildings throughout the state, of which by far the largest single item is at Albany.

There is \$60,000,000 of property within the state of New York in cemeteries and \$40,000,000 worth of property in libraries and scientific and patriotic organizations.

Agricultural societies own \$1,000,000 worth, and townships and village buildings represent \$22,500,000 more.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A simple method of cleaning lamp chimneys—hold in the steam of a kettle and polish with a newspaper.

An old refrigerator which has a lining of tin may be made to look cleaner by applying two coats of white enamel.

Put a few grains of rice in the salt cellar to keep the salt from caking; as the cellar is shaken the rice will keep the salt moving.

To clean a fishy frying pan, fill with cold water and place on the fire to boil. When boiling, put a red-hot cinder in, and then wash in the usual way.

When washing glassware do not put it in hot water bottom first, as it will be liable to crack from sudden expansion. Even delicate glass can be safely washed in very hot water if slipped in edgewise.

Gin is the best thing to use to remove tea stains from a white dress. Place the stained part in a saucer, with enough gin to cover the stain, rub with a piece of the same material, press on the wrong side with a moderately hot iron till dry.

Rubbed well into yellowed knife handles of ivory, turpentine restores the color. Gilt frames can be cleaned by wiping with a small sponge dipped lightly in oil of turpentine. Wet the sponge just enough to take off the soil and dry marks. Let the frame dry itself.—Peoples Home Jr.

Chicken Soup.

Cut up a chicken and cover with cold water in which place a sprig of parsley and a small onion finely minced. Boil until meat drops from the bones, then remove chicken and strain broth. Stand liquor in a cool place and when fat forms hard on top, remove it in a cake. Measure broth and for each pint allow a pint of cream. Heat broth and the cream in another. Rub smoothly together one tablespoon flour and one of butter and stir into boiling broth. Let boil, stirring constantly for two or three minutes, then gradually stir in the scalded cream. Cook about a minute longer and serve at once.

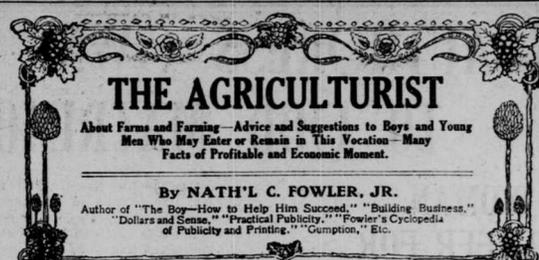
Caution.

"What's the matter with him, anyway?" "Sh! They're trying to keep it quiet. It's gastritis."

"Why, that isn't contagious. Why should it?" "Sh! They're afraid the gas company may send in a bill against him."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Mountain Climbers.

In Germany there are 54 mountain-climbing clubs with a total membership of 142,603.



THE AGRICULTURIST

About Farms and Farming—Advice and Suggestions to Boys and Young Men Who May Enter or Remain in This Vocation—Many Facts of Profitable and Economic Moment.

By NATH'L C. FOWLER, JR.

Author of "The Boy—How to Help Him Succeed," "Building Business," "Dollars and Sense," "Practical Publicity," "Fowler's Encyclopedia of Publicity and Printing," "Compton," etc.

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In the world's dictionary the farmer is defined as a plain tiller of soil, and the agriculturist or planter as one who has lifted the farm on to the plane of business. The term farmer, however, covers that vast company of workers who, by the planting of the seed, raise any kind of a harvest, or who breed and raise cattle and other stock.

The railroad may cease running, and things will continue to live. The stock board may board up its doors, and the world will continue to move as it has been moving for centuries, subject only to transient financial cloudiness. Most businesses may go out of business, and the professional may no longer continue to practice, yet people will continue to live and to propagate. But when there is no longer any farmer, there will be no longer any people for the world will have starved to death.

Farming is our greatest industry, the industry preservative of all industries. Notwithstanding the existence of hundreds of abandoned farms, and the constant exodus from the farm to the city, the farm in its numerical and financial strength is to-day the greatest power in the whole civilized world. The farmer is not recognized as he should be, because he seeks neither notoriety nor prominence, but quietly does his work, allowing others to play at society and to receive its shallow reward. Here, however, has been made a grievous mistake. The farmer, like the lawyer, should be proud of his profession, sufficiently appreciative of it to contribute to it the full measure of his self-respect. Because he does not do so, he has lost both the social and business prominence which really belong to his calling.

Why Farms Do Not Pay.

Some farms do not pay, partly because some farms cannot be made to pay. Probably not more than one-half of our fertile farms pay as well as they would pay if the right effort was made to make them pay. It is but a common remark that a great majority of farms are unprofitable because of the indifference and lack of cultivation on the part of the owners. Altogether too many farmers, instead of working their farms, allow their farms to work them.

The tendency to-day is unmistakably away from the farm. The farmer's boy, partly because he wants a change, but largely because the great unknown shines with a light he has never seen, desires to leave the farm and to earn his living under entirely different conditions, away from nature as he has experienced it, where he may lead a life diametrically different from that of his childhood. The fault, in more than half the cases, is due to the farmer himself and to the way the farm is conducted. The boy, brought up upon the farm which is not properly cultivated, and where most of the work is drudgery, or is made to be drudgery, where intellectual growth is stunted, naturally, in the ignorance of his youth, assumes that all farms are like the farm of his childhood, and that the opportunities of life must be elsewhere. Therefore he gravitates to the city, not so much because he loves the city, but because he feels that that which he knows nothing about, although he may think he does, is better than that which he does know about from actual boyhood experience.

If the average farmer works harder than does the business man, it is not always because he has to, but generally because he thinks he must. I do not deny that there is much of drudgery in farm labor—there is. So is there in almost any other calling or work. But the excess of drudgery is usually the fault of the drudge, not of the work itself. So far as the long farm hours are concerned, they are no longer than those required of the majority of men in business for themselves and of members of all professions.

Brains Needed on Farm.

Although the average city business man may accumulate more money than the farmer can possibly gain under the most favorable circumstances, he pays a greater price for what he obtains; and in the majority of cases is worse off than is the farmer. If the farmer treated his work as he should, and applied to it the intelligence that is given to other trades, he would reduce the drudgery to a minimum, and ready money would not be a stranger to him.

Nearly all farmers make a living. Comparatively few grow rich from the proceeds of the farm; but more than half of the farmers, whether located on the rocky hills of Maine or on the rapidly producing western soil, not only make expenses, but are able to save something every year.

The city clerk or city business man, working in a block and housed in a flat, does not have one-half as much opportunity to progress, in the true sense of the word, as does the farmer on a fairly fertile farm, working as his own master on his own property.

Better Off Than City Man.

With the modern periodicals and the distribution of every class of reading matter, the farmer has every opportunity for mental development. The education of the progressive farmer is superior to that of the rank and file of metropolitan men of wealth.

There always will be some poor and half-storied men among farmers, but this class is far less prominent upon the farm than in the hearts of business; and there are ten times more impecunious city workers than there are farmers in actual want. But right here let it be said that even the poorest farmers are better off than are the average strugglers of the great city. The farmer has a chance to grow. The city man may or may not have that opportunity.

Should the farm boy remain upon the farm? Upon general principles I say

yes, and emphatically, yes. There are exceptions. There are many boys who have no business to stay upon the farm, because they are destined for something not necessarily better, but something entirely different from farming; but, generally speaking, I would advise the farmer's boy to remain on the farm, unless he can give legitimate, sensible, and positive reasons for a change. Where nature placed us would appear to be our natural field of action, subject only to exceptions.

Therefore, the boy born upon the farm should consider the farm the place for his life work, unless there are reasons why a change of base should be made.

For any reason save a good reason, namely a farmer's boy despises the farm, when he should be proud of his agricultural heritage. He is of the nobility of the soil, a nobility, not of many dollars, but descendant from the parent of gods.

The boy who would leave the farm, and who gives no good reason for leaving, may as well go as stay, for he will undoubtedly be a failure anywhere. The boy who dislikes the farm, because he does not like work, will not be a success anywhere. If he is not willing to work as hard upon the farm as he would have to away from the farm, he will not work hard enough anywhere else to earn more than a mere livelihood.

The boy who does not like farming, who dislikes it from his very soul, who has absolutely no love for planting or harvesting, and yet is not a loafer, is not likely to become a good farmer, and forcing him to remain there indefinitely is certainly bad judgment and will prove unprofitable.

Why City Attracts Boys.

Any boy has a right to dislike the farm, if his dislike is sensible; but many boys, perhaps the majority of them, do so because they look upon farming as inferior labor and believe that the farm offers little opportunity. This is all too often the farmer's fault, not the fault of the farm itself. Thousands upon thousands of boys, failures in great cities, might have been successful citizens upon the farm. The drudging farmer, the never-do-well digger of the soil, with weedy garden and shabby house, cannot expect his boy to respect the farm or love the farm; and this boy, unless he is broad enough and intelligent enough to see beyond his father's farm, will probably leave it, even if he has to run away.

Should the city boy leave the city to become a farmer? Yes, if he wants to. If he goes, the chances are that he will become a happier man, a healthier man, and a better citizen; but if he does not want to go, do not force or urge him. Probably a great many more city boys might go to the country, if they only knew the meaning of life in the country. However, there are comparatively few city boys who turn farmers, and it may be a long time before the sense of the city will be strong enough and broad enough to see beyond its brick walls and towering buildings.

Real Success.

The farm, which gives the father a mere living, may give the son a competency. The farmer's boy should realize that success is not so much how much one earns in a year, as how much one gets out of the year in experience, money and opportunity to enjoy life. A few hundred dollars earned on a good farm may leave at the end of the year much more in actual money than five times the amount of earnings will leave to the boy or man in the city. True, the city boy may say that, although it costs more to live in the city, one gets more that is worth while, and therefore city life is worth what is paid for it. There never was a greater mistake made. While the city may give more than does the country, even in some things worth having, the city charges more for what it gives, even when intrinsic value is considered ounce by ounce and pound by pound. Many of the things which city people think they want, they neither want nor need. Our comforts depend largely upon the difference between what we earn and what we need to spend.

The farmer may receive the minimum amount of income, but he also has the minimum amount of worry and expense. What the world needs to-day is more, and not less, farms, and more intelligent and scientific farming, and more business farmers.

There are altogether too few agricultural schools. The states can do no nobler work for civilization than to establish schools, where real farming (not drudgery) as a business is taught. It is difficult to be extravagant in education; but, notwithstanding our great liberality in educational matters, we are woefully deficient in the number of our agricultural schools.

Better farms would make better people, not only better farming people, but better city people, but better city people. In the days of the civilization to come, city centralization will have stopped, and equitable and proper distribution will be one of the orders of the day. The tendency will not be from outdoors into indoors, but will be the migration of both mind and body out into the great and glorious open air, and God's country will become the arena of our greatest contests.

What Schools Might Teach.

I wish the country school, yes, even the city school, would instruct the boy in the elements of agriculture, not theoretically, if necessary, but in some way instill into his mind the truth about planting and its resulting harvest. We are teaching almost everything in our public schools, both in the city and in the country, save the one fundamental science of all, the

science on which depends our health and wealth—that of agriculture.

I would not ask the farmer's boy to remain on his father's farm, if it is improperly cultivated and is a mere place of drudgery; nor would I ask him to remain upon a barren farm where every product is literally forced from an unwilling soil. I would simply say, because you are a farmer's boy, give the farm the preference. If your father's farm is not suitable to your ambition and to your capacity, go to some larger and better farm. Consider your father's farm first. If there be evidence that this is not best for you, then consider some other farm. Give the farm the first choice, consider it from every standpoint and without prejudice, even though your farm experiences may have been unfortunate and disagreeable.

Advantages and Disadvantages.

After you have placed all the advantages of farming in one column, and all the objections in another, study each advantage and disadvantage by itself and collectively; then, if the disadvantages greatly outweigh the advantages, you have every sensible, moral and business right to forsake the farm, either for a mercantile life in the city or in the country. But do not leave the country, or the country town, even if you leave the farm, until you have intelligently exhausted its opportunities. The country needs you; the city may not want you. Do not make a radical change without a high motive, and be sure that your motive is not a mistaken preference.

What kind, and how much, school education can the farmer use to advantage? To specify is well nigh impossible. Upon general principles, however, it may be said that there is little likelihood of the farmer, or the would-be farmer, acquiring too much book knowledge. In this country there are many successful farmers who are graduates of classical colleges, and this broad education has not injured them, although it may not, in every case, have been of financial benefit. If I were forced to answer this question specifically, I would advise the boy who intends to follow agriculture to obtain, at least, a high school education. I would not advise against a classical college course, but I find it impossible to consider higher education essential. I advise most emphatically and enthusiastically the boy to attend, and graduate from, an agricultural college.

If the boy and his parents are not familiar with the location, scope and requirements of these agricultural institutions, information can be obtained from the editor of the local newspaper, the minister, the lawyer, the doctor, or the teacher, or a letter addressed to the secretary of state, of any state, at the state capitol, would either bring full information or would inform the writer where he can obtain it.

Prof. John F. Duggar, M. S., director of the experimental station, at Auburn, Ala., and professor of agriculture at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, in a letter to the author, says:

"I am thoroughly convinced that many a country boy overlooks rich opportunities for a useful and prosperous life in the country. The country has been made unattractive to the farmer's children on account of isolation, on account of the farmer's uncomplimentary talk about his own vocation, and on account of the failure of the average country boy to understand the fascinating operations of nature with which he is surrounded. Awakened public sentiment in favor of improved rural schools and better roads is already notable and will result in partially overcoming the isolation of country life.

Inducements of Country Life.

"Among the considerations which should be weighed by the young man investigating the advantages of country life are the following: First, land is advancing in value, and unless one gets a foothold in this generation, its acquisition in the next may be far more difficult. Second, the highest degree of health and independence and happiness are obtainable in the country. The returns from agriculture are more certain, even though less in gross amount, than in most other occupations, and the opportunities for saving are far greater than in the city. Moreover, increased knowledge of the sciences on which agriculture is based brings increased profits and affords the inestimable satisfaction of pursuing a vocation congenial and fascinating.

Mr. Frederick Grundy, of "The Orchards," Morrisonville, Ill., in a letter to the author, says:

"Among the principal advantages which agriculture offers to young men is complete independence. He is in partnership with nature, and with her assistance produces what all the world must have—food. There is a never-ending demand for his products. His hand is his own, and no petty boss or party chief can hold any rod over him that he need fear in the least. Agriculture does not hold forth to the young man the promise of great wealth, but of independence, comfort, peace and full enjoyment of life.

"The disadvantages are not numerous. The young man who begins with only his hand and fair health has but his mettle. The price of land is high, and only the most skillful management can make an acre pay for itself in what may be termed a reasonable number of years. Skill counts for more than muscle now. If a man is content to be only a common hand, progress toward the ownership of a farm and home will be very slow. But if he makes of himself a really skillful farmer, he will not long remain a hired man."

Hon. O. B. Stevens, commissioner department of agriculture, state of Georgia, in a letter to the author, says:

"Boys, stick to the farm!" "It is an independent profession; it produces bone, muscle, and a strong constitution, and these develop the brain. No profession brings as much revenue from the amount invested as that of farming. No profession gives wider scope for the practical application of the various sciences—chemistry, geology, botany, entomology, engineering—consequently, the ideal farmer is an accomplished scientist. Lastly, no profession brings a man closer to nature."

Not So Foolish.

"I can't understand why men drink whisky," she said. "Does it quench thirst?"

"Of course not," he replied. "If it did they wouldn't be foolish enough to drink it."—Chicago Daily News.

Neutralized.

He—Gracious! Did you notice the terrible smell that automobile made that went by a little while ago?

She—No, dear; I was peeling onions for dinner then.—Yonkers Statesman.

Wants International Observatory.

Prof. Edward C. Pickering, director of the Harvard college observatory, has attracted much attention to himself through his project for an international observatory. He proposes to collect a committee of the most eminent astronomers of the world, raise a sum of money, build a gigantic telescope and set all to work on the most suitable spot on earth.

Girl Zionists.

A Zionist society of young girls has been organized in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Unfortunate.

First Merchant—Well, cheer up, old duck! You never know your luck.

Second Ditto—That's a fact, I don't believe I've ever seen mine.

First Merchant—Always out, I suppose?—Chicago Daily News.

Head on a Pivotal.

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