

FARM OPPORTUNITY FOR CITY POOR

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GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

It is difficult for those who are concerned more with enjoying the luxuries and pleasures of life than they are in securing its necessities to understand the feelings of those to whom hunger is not an unusual experience. And, yet, we are told that one-tenth of the American people do not get enough to eat; that four-fifths of our wage earners do not earn in excess of \$500 a year. Living on such an income is likewise more or less incomprehensible to those to whom the expenditure of such a year's earnings in a brief outing in the mountains, the northern woods or at the seashore is not an unusual experience.

The problem of achievement of ambition and of success that confront the business or the professional man is radically different from that prob-



GUERNSEYS AT PASTURE

lem of existence that daily demands a solution from 75,000,000 of people in the United States alone. This problem is, of course, most acute in those centers of population and industry where great wealth and great poverty exist side by side in striking contrast. While poverty and misfortune are not unknown in the country districts, they exist there generally as a result of accident, misfortune or disease, and not from the lack of opportunities or the discrimination and injustice apparently incident to our present industrial system. While the problem of the poor has always been, and doubtless will always be, with us, that is no reason why we should accept with complacency conditions which, if not capable of being completely reformed, are, at least, capable of considerable correction.



GATHERING THE GRAIN

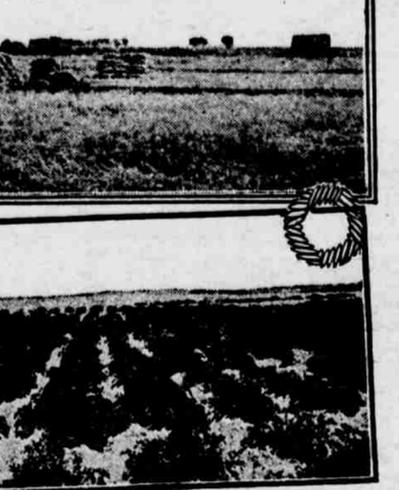
The increase in the cost of living in recent years has given a new interest to attempted explanations of existing conditions, and various theories are offered. We are told that the increase in the amount of gold production, or rather the decrease in the cost of gold production, has lowered its value, and, therefore, enlarged our measure of value, with a consequent increase in the cost of necessities as well as the luxuries of life without a corresponding increase in wages and salaries; that combinations and trusts have increased the price of their products by arbitrarily fixing the price of the raw material to the producer and the price of the finished product to the consumer; that labor unions have increased the cost of the necessities of life by the increase that they have brought about in wages; and finally, the explanation is offered that supply has not kept pace with demand; that consumption has increased more rapidly than has production.

It is unusual that a general condition is to be attributed to any one cause. That all of these influences are more or less responsible for the present conditions is probably true. That a permanent correction of the tendency of the price of the necessities of life to increase must be based upon a proper relation between supply and demand, is at once apparent. A demand increasing out of proportion to the available supply is sufficient in and of itself to cause an increase in prices. And any correction of the other conditions which may have helped to bring about the increase in the cost of living must necessarily fail unless there is maintained a proper relation between consumption and production. The fact that in 1909 the value of our exports of food-stuffs decreased, as compared with 1908, eighty-seven millions of dollars, while the value of the food-stuffs imported into the country increased thirty-seven millions of dollars, making a charge of one hundred and twenty-four millions of dollars upon the wrong side of our national ledger, shows that the consumption of that which we produce has been increasing more than has the production.

To bring about a correction of these conditions it is apparent at once that there must be an increase in production, and the question is how is this to be accomplished. We must either use to better advantage the soil that is already in cultivation, or cultivate that which is now uncultivated. The truth is, we must do both. Production in this country, as compared with other countries, shows that we are not using to the best advantage the great resources with which nature has endowed us. The average production of wheat in the Netherlands is 34 bushels to the acre; in England, 32; in Germany, 28; in France, 20, while in the United States it is only 14. The same disparity is found in fields of corn properly cultivated compared with those not properly cultivated.

In a recent report it was stated that approximately 40 per cent. of the soil that was cultivated was used in such a way as to decrease, rather than increase, its productivity. The correction of this condition of inadequate production, due to lack of scientific methods of cultivation, must come from the agricultural department of the United States and the agricultural colleges of the different states. From these sources the farmers must get the scientific information which will enable them to adopt not only effective methods of agriculture, but effective methods for conserving the productivity of the soil. The other correction must be accomplished by inducing a larger portion of our population to engage in the cultivation of the soil.

We can all agree as to the advisability of the "Back to the Soil" movement. But how to make it effective and successful is another and far more difficult problem. Some time ago George Ade, the



HIS FIRST CROP OF POTATOES



AT THE END OF THE HARVEST

great American humorist, said in a speech before the representatives of the Associated Press that everybody thought they could "write a play, run a hotel or edit a newspaper." He might have enlarged his list by adding "become a successful farmer." To put seed in the ground and see it grow seems so easy that almost every one imagines himself capable of doing it successfully. But we know that farming, that is, successful farming, is both a science and a business. One can make just as complete a failure of farming as he can of practicing law, running a hotel or editing a newspaper. It would be worse than useless to encourage the "Back to the Soil" movement if it is not planned and executed in a way that is likely to be successful. The natural yearning to "go back to the soil" that comes to most people causes such a movement to appeal to those who are well qualified, as well as to those who are poorly qualified successfully to do their part as cultivators of the soil. To go back to the soil is to the man of ordinary means and under ordinary circumstances something like pioneering, and not every man, by any means, is capable of becoming a successful pioneer. To undertake indiscriminately, unscientifically and without proper method and organization, to get people back to the soil will result in more of failures than successes; in more of injury than of good. But this work can be accomplished in a way that will be both effective and successful and which will increase the proportion of producers as compared with consumers. All that is necessary for the accomplishment of this result is that the same foresight and organization should be adopted in starting the business of farming as is adopted in the inauguration of any other business enterprise. If men of means, who also have the disposition to help their fellow men, would realize that they could make a good paying investment, as well as relieve distress and suffering by helping others to return to the soil in the right way, the "back to the soil" movement would then give promise of accomplishing all that its enthusiasts have claimed for it. Such a movement must, of course, be undertaken on a business basis; upon a plan which will promise not only a profitable return on the investment, but result in giving good homes and steady employment to many people who need both.

It is easy enough to say to the poor of the large cities that they should "go back to the soil," but for the successful accomplishment of such a result money, and considerable money, is required. One cannot expect to make a living on a few hundred dollars invested in a farm and the machinery necessary for its cultivation, any more than one can expect to make a living on the same amount invested in any other business. So, in the first place, it requires money or credit to buy a farm, and money or credit to secure necessary implements, machinery, horses, cows, etc., to successfully conduct it. It will take from five to one hundred and sixty acres, according to the character of the soil and the methods of its cultivation, to support a family. You cannot expect large returns from a poor farm, or from a good farm, poorly cultivated. You cannot expect to receive a return from a farming investment out of all proportion to the value of the investment and the labor expended thereon. The difficulty in this proposition begins at once. Many of those whom

we all agree should be brought back to the soil have neither the money nor the credit necessary to accomplish it. It is as to the method by which this difficulty can be overcome and this deficiency supplied that this article is written. There have been successfully established in Missouri and other states in recent years a number of farm home colonies, which seem to offer the best method for bringing people back to the soil in a way which is likely to make the experiment a successful one. The general plan of these farm home colonies for some individual or association to divide a tract of land available for farming and fruit raising into a number of small farms, which are sold on easy terms or rented to persons who desire to go back to the soil, with a central or home farm conducted in a way and with the appliances necessary not only to encourage and to instruct, but also to assist those living upon the other farms; the idea being that the central farm, under the control of an experienced farmer, will be a source of example, and with the establishment at some central place of a church, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, creamery, stables, milk separators and other modern conveniences and necessities of the farm, the chances of success will be increased and the chances of failure correspondingly lessened. The isolation and loneliness incident to individual effort in getting back to the soil is thus, of course, avoided, with a consequent improvement of conditions of social life.

Under the auspices of the Catholic church, and particularly under the direction of Archbishop John J. Glennon of the St. Louis diocese, there have been established in Missouri a number of such farm home settlements which have proven both interesting and beneficial. One was established some years ago at Knobview as an Italian colony, which has enjoyed a most successful career. There has resulted a marked benefit to the settlers, as well as to the people of the surrounding country who have been taught many things in the use of the soil by these foreign farmers that they had not known before.

One of the farm colonies that promises the most successful results is a Swiss colony recently established in Howell county, Missouri.

Another settlement of similar character has been established by Col. J. L. Torrey, who was the organizer of one of the "Rough Rider Regiments" in the war with Spain, and whose regiment through the unfortunate accident of a railroad wreck was perhaps deprived of the opportunity for actual service. Col. Torrey purchased a tract of 10,000 acres upon the southern slope of the Ozarks, which he is selling to deserving people upon terms which practically place it within the reach of all who are looking for an opportunity to engage in farm life who have not the means available to do so. That Col. Torrey is interested in developing good citizens, as well as good farmers, is manifest from the fact that he insists that every one of his tenants, or those to whom he sells a farm, shall own an American flag which they shall, on proper occasion, display from their homes.

These farm home colonies are all established on the same general plan. A tract of land is divided up into different farms with a central farm and village. The land is sold or rented on such terms as puts the opportunity to become a farmer within the reach of any deserving man. The profits or returns to be realized from such an investment will, of course, vary according to the size of the farm purchased and the character of the soil. Horace Greeley said that a man could make a living for himself and his family upon five acres of land. This is true of some land and not true of other land. But it is true that with a small acreage properly cultivated, with cows, hogs and chickens well managed, a good living can be made on a comparatively small investment if the enterprise is conducted with industry and intelligence. It is, however, always dangerous to "count your chickens before they are hatched." The results in farming enterprises, as in other enterprises, will usually fall short of expectation. Bad luck, accidents and other misfortunes will, of course, confront the farmer. But if he has "the right stuff in him," the land will yield him a liberal return if he will use good judgment, work hard and stick to it. He can then be independent of the beef trusts and other trusts; enjoy luxuries that the city man of means cannot secure, and view with complacency an increase in the cost of living when he realizes that he is a producer as well as a consumer.

When President Roosevelt's Country Life commission, after an extended investigation of conditions of country life throughout the country, made its report to the effect that improvement in the social life of the farmer was one of our most important problems, many regarded this statement as a mere academic or theoretical utterance. But any one really familiar with the conditions of country life knows full well that the limited social life of the country is one of the greatest disadvantages that now exists in connection with the cultivation of the soil. To provide a proper social life is an essential if the "Back to the Soil" movement is to be made generally successful.

RESULTS OF PRIMARY

RETURNS ARE NOT MORE THAN ONE-HALF IN YET.

JUDGE LETTON NOW IN LEAD

Rose is third in Judgeship Contest While Dean Leads Democratic Field—Furse Behind Harman of Holdrege.

Lincoln.—Less than 30,000 votes have been reported on the primary election, which can hardly be half of the entire vote cast at this election. The results do not show any material change in the relative order of things with the exception that a mistake of 2,000 on Judge Rose from Douglas county takes him out of first place on the republican ticket and makes him third.

On the democratic ticket Judge Dean leads, with Oldham second, less than 100 votes ahead of Stark. All three of these candidates are more than 1,200 ahead of Albert, fourth in the race. West and Everson must not be considered as possibilities. These results are from 561 precincts of the state.

On the republican ticket Letton leads for judge, with Hamer and Rose running closely together as the other two high men.

The latest figures obtainable from reports now in give these results:

For supreme judge, republican, representing 431 precincts out of 1,640 precincts in the state: MacFarland 8,977, Hamer 12,814, Letton 13,677, Cobbe 11,444, Rose 12,651, Root 19,627, Everson and Mr. Davidson are hopelessly behind unless when the far west comes in it helps the former.

On the democratic ticket for supreme judge 342 precincts give the following results: Albert 7,669, Dean 9,963, Everson 5,335, Oldham 8,878, Stark 8,865, West 6,172. In this case Mr. West and Mr. Everson have dropped so far in the rear that unless they develop extraordinary strength in other sections of the state than in those reporting they have no chance of nomination.

On the republican ticket for railway commissioner, where there were six candidates, the following totals are from 351 precincts of the state: Beebe 4,954, Eager 4,245, Hall 5,590, Langer 2,199, McGrew 3,756, Russell 3,527. Langer is the only one of this group out of the running. Beebe received so strong a vote in Douglas county that he is well up with Hall, but if the latter maintains his strength in the country precincts he will draw away from the Polk county attorney.

On the democratic ticket for the same office Harman leads by 1,250 votes over Furse, the only other candidate who is making a substantial race. Harman has twice as many votes as either of the lowest two on the ticket. These results are from 561 precincts.

For agent on the democratic ticket the following totals are secured from 321 precincts. Anderson 3,359, Knapp 4,450, Kotouc 2,995, Miller 5,915. Kotouc has not developed the strength expected from those southeast sections heard from, and bids fair under present conditions to be a final loser. Because of meager returns concerning Mr. Anderson it is not known whether he will run higher than C. T. Knapp or not.

On report of the university Miller leads, with Knapp 1,200 behind him. Both these candidates will probably be nominated.

From 300 precincts on republican railway commissioner Hall leads Beebe by 500 votes, and Eager runs third, but away behind either of the other two.

Complete unofficial returns from Lancaster county show the following ahead and point to their nomination: District judges—Stewart, Cornial and Frost.

Treasurer—Philip Sommerlad. Sheriff—Gus A. Hyers. County judge—George H. Risser. Superintendent public instruction—W. H. Gardner.

County surveyor—Arthur Edgren. County coroner—V. A. Matthews.

With the exception of the contests between Judge Frost and Judge Cosgrave, and between W. S. Scott and Arthur Edgren for the nomination of surveyor, all of the successful county candidates have substantial leads. Judge Cosgrave is leading Judge Frost by a few votes according to latest reports.

Although the opening of the Fort Berthold Indian reservation is nearly two weeks away, hundreds of people, both men and women, are already arriving at Palermo to look over these lands, which are considered among the finest agricultural lands in North Dakota.

London.—The indemnity of 184,637 pounds awarded by King George as arbitrator to the United States in settlement of the Alsop claim against Chile, has been paid at the American embassy by Augustin Edwards, the Chilean minister to Great Britain.

New York.—The will of John W. Gates will be probated in Port Arthur, Tex., where the financier made his residence. It is believed the bulk of the property will go to "Charley" Gates, his son. The fortune is estimated at between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000.

A WALKING SKELETON.

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Mrs. Margaret Cook, North Market St., Logan, Ohio, says: "It is almost impossible to describe my sufferings. My back ached constantly and so awful was the bearing-down pain that I could scarcely drag myself about. Kidney secretions were in terrible condition and pains through my head were so intense I could scarcely refrain from screaming. I could not sleep, was nervous and lost flesh so rapidly I looked like a walking skeleton. I doctored all the time but had begun to think there was no help for me. Then I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills and was entirely cured. Doan's Kidney Pills gave me a new lease of life."



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