

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING.

The Situation as Viewed by the Rising Sun of Maryland.

The day of individual effort is past. The times and changed conditions are demanding co-operative effort. When farm wages were 40 cents a day, wheat 90 a bushel, corn 40 cents, a good cow \$16, calico, 10 to 15 cents a yard and other goods at corresponding prices, times were better for all, because all found employment, and production and distribution went hand in hand. But now all these conditions have changed and producers and employers must change to conform to present conditions. The best labor deserts the country for the city, hoping to find a more prosperous field, but in this they fail. Bright young fellows can get but \$3 and \$4 a week in the city, and it costs all of that to support them. The railroads and other corporations pick out the very best, and send ten adrift where one is employed. When the country is abandoned for the city the door is closed behind them and few are able to return, and step by step they sink lower into the depths of want.

The great changes which artificial power and invention have worked in the last fifty years have destroyed the individual's ability to compete in price, and in so doing have multiplied production tenfold, which has thrown labor out of employment. Labor used to own its tools and create the products of the land and shops. Artificial power and invention have taken the tools from labor, and owning the tools a few own the products which machinery and artificial power create, and vast numbers of laborers have no employment. Everything therefore tends to force labor toward co-operation in order that it too may produce cheap and enjoy a large portion of its products. The farmer has clung to his old methods longer than any other producer, but the time has come when combinations of speculators have taken charge of his products, set the price of them and supplied him with tools and merchandise at their own price. In trying to stand alone against such formidable forces, he is being overwhelmed. He must reform his expensive methods and save much which now goes to waste. The expense and unavoidable waste to conduct one farm by the present individual method employed, under a proper co-operative system would do the work of two or three.

Farmers like every other class of business men must study along the lines of co-operative labor and establish their business on that system or sink to a lower plane of society and dependence. They cannot stand alone and resist the fearful odds that are against them. They may hug their foolish conceit and say, "Oh, I am independent. I am capable of attending to my own business." He may, if entirely clear of debt keep his head above water while he lives, if he does not live too long, but where will his children be? The inevitable future his present condition leads to ought to be considered and measures taken to prevent the tenant and wage slavery, degradation and want present conditions point to for the next generation.

The idea of the forty acre farm and the independent farmer, the little farm well tilled is a bit of pastoral poetry, an idle dream, that may be realized by one in a hundred, and for a limited time, but must soon be swallowed up by the great octopus of capital. The large tract conducted on true co-operative principles is the only hope of the farmer to escape the condition of the European peasant. What American farmer would live as the French peasant farmer on a patch of four acres cultivated by himself and wife with hand tools? And this is what the small farm and so-called independent farmer leads to. Either this or the route under a landlord who owns hundreds of farms.

Prince and Yankee.

A musical critic from Yankee-land] Mr. L. C. Elson, who describes in a very "free and easy" way his experience in Europe, was at one of the great Wagnerian performances at Bayreuth. The place was full of congenial people, who had come together for one purpose. As an illustration of the spirit that prevailed, Mr. Elson says:

"I have spoken of the Prince of Hesse. I did not know he was a Prince until I had chatted with him about half an hour, and then it was too late for me to put on any stately behavior. I resisted the temptation to tell him that I was the Duke of Oshkosh or the Marquis of Kalamazoo, and kept my character as a humble American citizen. As for his Highness, any rich Western speculator would have put on more airs.

"Alas! there are no manuals of etiquette on 'How to converse with a Prince,' even the Badkar phrase-book omits this important chapter. I feared to ask if the Prince business was good at this season, and he did not once say, 'By my halidome!' as Princes do in novels.

"On the contrary, he began talking very quietly and most learnedly on music, in which he seemed to be one of the best informed gentlemen I had ever met. He was a very near sighted potentate, and as I also am nearly as blind as a bat, it may be supposed that the bond of myopia drew us together."

Her Name.

The New York Sun has been saying a good word for a class of people who are commonly treated as if they had no names, in the ordinary sense of the word. As one housekeeper expressed herself, "I always call my cook Berks, my maid Mary, and my man John. We're constantly changing, and I can't be bothered with learning and trying to remember their real names."

It might have been suggested to this "lady" that her indolence in learning her servants' names had perhaps something to do with their short terms of service. Servants being human beings, it is not so very surprising that they should like to be treated as such.

If the cook is a married woman, why should not the fact be recognized?

"Mrs. White, Mrs. Brown would like to see you," was the message that the housemaid brought from the cook to the mistress.

The mistress remonstrated. "Mary, why do you not say, 'Mrs. White, the cook would like to see you?'"

"O ma'am, Mrs. Brown wouldn't like it."

"But I wish it."

Shortly afterward the girl returned. "Mrs. Brown says, ma'am, she wasn't baptized 'Cook.'"

The cook was indispensable, and accordingly she remains Mrs. Brown. And why not?

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Alliance Herald: Business is dull. Why? Because the people realized no profit from their labor. Why? Because prices were so low. Why? Because there is not enough money in circulation. Why? Because the money monopoly can realize more benefits when this is true. Why? Because they can price everything at cost of production, take it and sell it back to the consumer at handsome profit. Are you in the swim? Not much. Wall street controls that game and takes in the shekels, growing richer every year, while the remainder of the country is growing poorer.



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