

ROOSEVELT TELLS FARMERS' NEEDS; SPECIAL MESSAGE

President Transmits the First Report of Country Life Commission.

SCHOOLS TEACH OUTDOORS

Too Much 'Indoors' Education Nowadays—Some Trenchant Suggestions.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Three special needs of country life in America are stated by President Roosevelt today in a message to congress transmitting the first annual report of the country life commission appointed last year. They are:

First, effective co-operation among farmers, to put them on a level with the organized interests with which they do business.

Second, a new kind of schools in the country, which shall teach the children as much outdoors as indoors and perhaps more, so that they will prepare for country life and not as at present, mainly for life in town.

Third, better means of communication, including good roads and a parcels post, which the country people are everywhere, and rightly, unanimous in demanding.

"To these may well be added," says the president, "better sanitation; for easily preventable diseases hold several million country people in the slavery of continuous ill health."

The Message.

President Roosevelt's message follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith the report of the commission on country life. At the outset I desire to state that not only the public money has been paid to the commissioner for his work on the commission.

The report shows the general condition of farming life in the open country, and points out its larger problems; it indicates ways in which the department, national and state, must help the people how to solve some of these problems; and it suggests a continuation of the work which the commission began.

Judging by 20 public hearings, to which farmers and farmers' wives from 40 states and territories came, and from 130,000 answers to printed questions sent out by the department of agriculture, the commission finds that the general level of country life is high compared with other land. If it has in recent years slipped down in some places, it has risen in more places. Its progress has been general, if not uniform.

Yet farming does not yield either the profit or the satisfaction that it ought to yield and may be yielding in places. In places it is discouraging. Farmers as a class do not magnify their calling, and the movement to the city is still strong.

Help Themselves.

Under our system, it is helpful to promote discussion of ways in which the people can help themselves. There are three main directions in which the farmers can help themselves; namely, better farming, better business, and better living on the farm.

The national department of agriculture, which has rendered services equaled by no other similar department in any other time or place; the state departments of agriculture; the agricultural experiment stations; the Farmers' Union; and other similar agencies, have all combined to place within the reach of the American farmer, the best and quality of agricultural information which, if applied, would enable him, over large areas, to double the production of the farm.

The object of the commission on country life therefore is not to help the farmer raise better crops, but to call his attention to the opportunities for better business and better living on the farm. If country life is to become what it should be, and what I believe it ultimately will be, we must dignify it by making it a career, and ways of earning a living—the farmer must take advantage not only of the agricultural knowledge which is at his disposal, but of the knowledge which has been raised and continue to raise the standards of living and of intelligence in other callings.

It would be idle to talk of life on the farm occupies as good a position in dignity, desirability and business results as the farmers might easily give it if they choose. One of the chief difficulties is the failure of country life, as it exists at present, to satisfy the higher social and intellectual aspirations of country people. Whether the constant training away of so much of the best elements in the rural population into the towns is due chiefly to this cause or to the superior business opportunities of city life may be open to question. But no one at all familiar with farm life throughout the United States can fail to recognize the necessity for building up the life of the farm upon its social as well as upon its productive side.

How It Has Improved.

It is true that country life has improved greatly in attractiveness, health and comfort, and that the necessity for it is greater than they were. But city life is advancing even more rapidly, because of the greater attention which is being given by the citizens of the towns to their own betterment. For just this reason the introduction of effective agricultural co-operation throughout the United States is of the first importance. Where farmers are organized co-operatively they not only avail themselves much more readily of business opportunities and marketing methods, but it is found that the organizations which bring them together in the work of their lives are also a source for social and intellectual advancement.

The co-operative plan is the best plan of organization wherever men have the right spirit to carry it out. Undoubtedly any business undertaking is managed by a committee; every man has one vote and only one vote, and everyone gets profits according to what he sells or buys as a fellow citizen. It is not the problem of the farmers alone that I am discussing with them, but a problem which affects every city as well as every farm in the country. It is a problem which the working farmers will have to solve for

DEFICIENCIES IN COUNTRY LIFE SEEN BY COMMISSION

A lack of knowledge on the part of farmers of the exact agricultural conditions and possibilities of their regions.
Lack of good training for country life in the schools.
The disadvantage or handicap of the farmer as against the established business systems and interests, preventing him from securing adequate returns for his products.
Lack of good highway facilities.
The widespread continuing depletion of soils, with the injurious effect on rural life.
A general need of new and active leadership.

SOME OF THE REMEDIES.

The encouragement of a system of thorough-going surveys of all agricultural regions in order to take stock and to collect local facts with the idea of providing a basis on which to develop a scientifically and economically sound country life.
A thorough-going investigation by experts of the middleman system of handling farm products, coupled with a general inquiry into the farmer's disadvantages in respect to taxation, transportation rates, co-operative organizations and credit, and the general business system.
An inquiry into the control and use of the streams of the United States with the object of protecting the people in their ownership and of saving to agricultural uses such benefits as should be reserved for these purposes.
The establishing of a highway engineering service, or equivalent organization, to be at the call of the states in working out effective and economical highway systems.
The establishing of a system of parcels posts and postal savings banks.
Careful attention to the farmers' interests in legislation on the tariff, on regulation of railroads, control or regulation of corporations and of speculation, legislation in respect to rivers, forests, and the utilization of swamp lands.

themselves; but it is a problem which also affects in only less degree all the people of the country. If we can render any help toward its solution, it is not only our duty but our interest to do so.

The foregoing will, I hope, make it clear why I appointed a commission to consider problems of farm life which have hitherto had far too little attention, and the need of which has not only held back life in the country, but also lowered the efficiency of the whole nation. The welfare of the farmer is of vital consequence to the strengthening of country life, therefore, is the strengthening of the whole nation.

Where Aid Is Needed.

The commission has tried to help the farmer see clearly their own problems and to see it as a whole; to distinguish clearly between what the government can do and what the farmers must do for themselves, and it wishes to bring not only the farmers but the nation as a whole to realize that the growing of crops, though an essential part, is only a part of the farmer's life. Upon the essential foundation; but it is no less essential that the farmer shall get an adequate return for what he grows; and it is no less essential indeed it is literally vital—that he and his wife and his children shall lead the right kind of life.

For this reason, it is of the first importance that the United States department of agriculture, through which as principal agent the ideas of the commission are to be carried out, should become without delay in fact a department of country life, fitted to deal not only with crop growing, but with the larger aspects of life in the open country.

From all that has been done and learned of three great general and immediate needs of country life stand out:

First, effective co-operation among farmers, to put them on a level with the organized interests with which they do business.

Second, a new kind of schools in the country, which shall teach the children as much outdoors as indoors and perhaps more, so that they will prepare for country life and not as at present, mainly for life in town.

Third, better means of communication, including good roads and a parcels post, which the country people are everywhere, and rightly, unanimous in demanding.

To these may well be added better sanitation; for easily preventable diseases hold several million country people in the slavery of continuous ill health.

The commission points out, and I concur in the conclusion, that the most important help that the government, whether national or state, can give is to show the people how to go about the organization of education and communication with the best and quickest results. This can be done by the collection and spread of information, and by the community spirit which is the basis of all progress.

Some of the remedies for the deficiencies of country life are:

One Recommendation.

The only recommendation I submit is that an appropriation of \$25,000 be provided, to enable the commission to divide the material it has collected and to digest much more than it is within its reach, and thus to make it available to the farmers. It is the harvest of suggestion which is resulting from the discussion it has stirred up. The commission has served without compensation, and I do not recommend any appropriation for their services, but only for the expenses that will be required to finish the task that they have begun.

To improve our system of agriculture seems to me the most urgent of the tasks which lie before us. But it can not, in my opinion, be effected by the methods which teach only the material and technical side of the subject; the whole business and life of the farmer must also be taken into account. Such considerations led me to appoint the commission on country life. Our object should be to help develop in the country the great character of community life as well as of personal character. One of the most important adjuncts to this end must be the financial and social advancement of the country church and of the need of an extension of such work as that of the National Christian association in country communities. Let me lay special emphasis upon what the commission says at the very end of its report on personal ideals and leadership. Everything resolves itself in the end into the question of personality. Neither society nor government can do much for country life unless there is voluntary response in the personal ideals of the men and women who live in the country. In the development of character, the home should be the most important, not the school, but society at large. When once the basic material needs have been met, high ideals may be quite independent of income; but they can not be realized without sufficient income to provide adequate foundation; and where the community at large is not prosperous it is impossible to develop a high average personal and community ideal. In short, the fundamental facts of human nature apply to men and

cate their pupils in terms of the daily life. Opportunities for training toward the agricultural callings are to be multiplied and made broadly effective. This means an effort to get of all the better schools, and a vastly increased interest in the welfare of country boys and girls to the part of those who pay the school taxes. Education means agricultural culture is to be a part of our regular public school work. Special agricultural schools are to be organized.

Want Good Roads.

The country people everywhere are asking for good roads. Everywhere too they want a parcels post and the extension of the rural free delivery.

The commission purposely avoided indulging any particular bill now before congress, no matter what its value or object. In the opinion of the commission, however, there are two or three movements of the utmost consequence that should be set under way at the earliest possible time because they are fundamental to the whole program of permanent reconstruction. There should be organized under government leadership a comprehensive plan for an exhaustive study or survey of all the conditions that surround the business of farming and the people who live in the country, in order to get a clear picture of our resources and to supply the farms with knowledge.

Each state college of agriculture should organize as soon as practicable, a complete department of collection, extension, local, state, and even national conferences on rural progress, designed to unite the interests of education, organization and religion, should be held.

There is need for young people of quality, energy, capacity, aspiration and conviction, who will live in the open country as permanent residents on farms or as teachers in other useful vocations, and who, while developing their own business or affairs to the greatest perfection, will still have unshaken interest in the welfare of their communities. The farming country is by no means devoid of leaders and is not lost or incapable of helping itself, but even the best relations are being severed by persons who are seeking great fields of usefulness. It will be well for us as a people if we recognize the opportunity for usefulness in the open country and consider that there is a call for service.

The suggestions of the commission only outline a general plan whereby the strong and permanent forces in the country may themselves build up a new and better rural social structure. To accomplish this the entire people must be aroused. The time for this is at hand.

QUAINT COME FROM FARMERS

One of the most illuminating—and incidentally one of the most interesting and amusing—series of answers sent to the commission was from a farmer in Missouri. He stated that he had a satisfactory life in the country, and that he and his wife being each 32 years old; and that they owned 500 acres of land without any mortgage hanging over their heads. He had himself done well, and his views as to why many of his neighbors had done less well were given in terse and vigorous English; they cannot always be quoted in full. He states that the farm homes in his neighborhood are not as good as they should be because too many of them are encumbered by mortgages; that the schools do not train boys and girls satisfactorily to life on the farm, because they allow them to get an idea in their heads that city life is better, and that to remedy this practical farming should be taught.

To the question whether the farmers and their wives in his neighborhood are satisfactorily organized, he answers: "Oh, no, they are not. I am not a member of any local, and every darned one thinks they ought to be a king." To the question, "Are the renters of farms in your neighborhood making a satisfactory living?" he answers: "No; because they move about so much hunting for a better job."

To the question, "Is the supply of farm labor in your neighborhood satisfactory?" the answer is: "No; because the people have gone out of the baby business; and when asked as to the remedy he answers, "Give a pension to every mother who gives birth to seven living boys on American soil." To the question "Are the conditions surrounding hired labor on the farm in your neighborhood satisfactory to the hired men?" he answers: "Yes, unless he is a drunken cuss," adding that he would like to blow up the stillhouses and cut out whisky from the water daily.

"Are the sanitary conditions on the farms in your neighborhood satisfactory?" he answers: "No; to—careless about chicken yards (and the like) and poorly covered wells, in one well on a neighbor's farm I counted seven snakes in the wall of the well, and they used the water daily."

"Are the farm homes in your neighborhood satisfactory?" he answers: "No; to—careless about chicken yards (and the like) and poorly covered wells, in one well on a neighbor's farm I counted seven snakes in the wall of the well, and they used the water daily."

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STABBED AND KILLED WHILE ON A "DRUNK"

Drunken Rioter Seeks Trouble Among His Fellows and Feels His Life.

Bloomfield, Neb., Feb. 15.—Michal Easley was stabbed and almost instantly killed at Maxwell's pool hall by Hammon Sorey Thursday.

They had been drinking and playing poker during the night, and Easley began to pick a quarrel with every one he came in contact with in the morning, making the rounds of all the saloons, and finally stopping in the pool hall where the stabbing took place.

At the coroner's inquest, it was proven by eighteen witnesses that Easley was in fighting mood and that practically Sorey was acting in self defense. At the preliminary hearing Sorey was bound over to the district court in the sum of \$2,000, which was furnished.

FORMER NEBRASKAN INVOLVED IN TROUBLE

Denver, Feb. 15.—Charles O. Charleston, said to be a former member of the Nebraska legislature and of the Chicago board of aldermen, was arrested here today charged with numerous forged checks.

Charleston eight or 10 years ago is said to have been a prosperous contractor in Chicago. He came to Denver about three years ago.

BOSTON MUSIC MASTER ELOPES WITH A WIFE

San Francisco, Feb. 15.—Daniel Maquarre, professor of music in the Boston Conservatory of Music, and formerly a member of the Boston Symphony orchestra, is under arrest at the city prison upon telegraphic advices from the Boston police saying he had written upon an indictment charging him with a serious offense for eloping with Mrs. Matilda Lenon, who occupies a cell near that of Maquarre. According to a telegram received by Chief of Police Cook, detectives are on their way to San Francisco to take the couple back to Boston.

Maquarre is 28 years old. Mrs. Lenon was a member of the Boston Symphony orchestra and is 10 years his senior. Since coming to San Francisco Mrs. Lenon has opened a millinery store and Maquarre was giving music lessons.

OIL TRUST WOULD PAY BIG FINE IN SILVER

Galveston, Tex., Feb. 15.—The Waters-Pierce Oil company, which has been ousted from the state and fined \$1,000,000 for violation of the anti-trust law, announced it will pay the big fine in silver dollars and asks if the state of Texas will not pay express charges on the shipment.

The attorney general replied that the convicted company must deliver into the Texas state treasury every cent of the penalty without cost to the state. Manager Hancock, of the oil company, who is here, says the company would like to pay the fine in pennies if it is possible.

It will cost the Waters-Pierce company \$2,500 to deliver the big fine. It will require three express cars to carry the silver from St. Louis to Austin, Tex., and a small army of guards and laborers to deposit the money in the state treasury.

Sylvia Green to MARRY CANADIAN

Galt, Ont., Feb. 15.—Miss K. L. Wilks today announced her engagement to this city's Mrs. Hattie Green, of New York, the engagement of Mrs. Green's only daughter, Sylvia, and her nephew, Astor Wilks, eldest son of the late Matthew Wilks, of Cruckson Park, Galt, Ont.

Members of the engagement last February are denied. The senior Wilks left a fortune of many millions. The son passes most of his time in New York and Newport.

Cruckson, the Wilks estate here, is one of the most beautiful homes in Canada. Forty-five years ago Matthew Wilks, sr., who married an Astor, came here to settle after finding the New York climate ruinous to his health. There was a second son, Langdon Wilks, who is now traveling with his wife in the South.

WILL PROSECUTE BOOTH OFFICERS

Chicago, Feb. 15.—Criminal prosecution of the author or authors of the falsified financial statement of A. Booth & Co., which "dropped" the matter of \$1,300,000 of the company's debts, is promised today by one of the attorneys representing the company's creditors.

Although the lawyer is unable or unwilling to name the men against whom such prosecutions probably will be aimed, he did declare that "it would be no dummy or beggar." A higher up," said he, "would be the one held responsible for the affairs of the company.

Attorney Olevinson, who is acting for the bankers, pointed out that such a prosecution might be brought under section 96 or 97 of the criminal code, which is relative to the obtaining of money or credit by false representations. The maximum penalty under the second of these statutes is 14 years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$2,000.

RUSSIAN POLICE WOULD ARREST MAXIM GORKY

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15.—The police issued a warrant for the arrest of Maxim Gorky, the well known Russian novelist. In the document Gorky is described as "nizhni-novgorod—a house painter."

Maxim Gorky is at present in Italy and recent dispatches said he purposed to reside permanently at Florence.

BIBLE IN ONE HAND, KNIFE IN THE OTHER

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 15.—Running amuck, attacking men, women and children and throwing the fashionable neighborhood about Poplar avenue and Dunlap street into a panic today, a crazy negro finally was shot and killed by W. B. Clement, one of the hundred pursuers.

The dead negro was Henry Tate. He is believed to have gone crazy on the subject of religion. He carried a bible in one hand and a knife in the other.

What He Put in the Milk.

A London boy, delivering milk, was stopped the other day on his rounds by two police officers, who asked him if his employer ever put anything in the milk.

"Oh, yes," was the innocent answer. The officers, thinking they had a clear case of adulteration, offered the boy six-pence if he would tell them what was put in it.

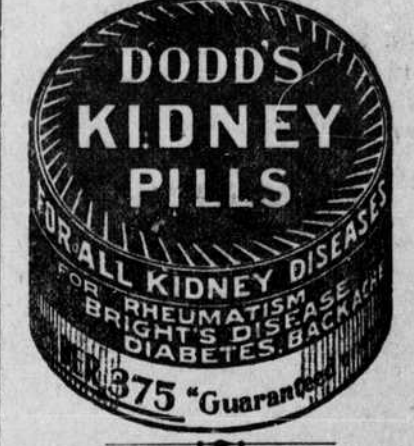
"Ah," said the boy, with a grin, "you will not give me the sixpence if I tell ye."

"Oh, yes, we will," said the officers. "Give it to me first," said the little fellow.

The sixpence was duly handed over, with the question:

"Now, what does your employer put in the milk?"

"Why," said the boy, with a cunning look, "he puts the measure in every time he takes any milk out."



Private Forestry in England.

From the February Garden Magazine. Every where in England you see private forests planted for profit. England first won her naval supremacy in ships built of English oak trees which were practically planted for the purpose on private estates. Public or state forestry hardly exists in England. Here we commonly think that forestry concerns the government only. A few Americans will plant catalpa, locust, or some other tree crop that matures in seven to 15 years, but when the passion for enduring things becomes a national trait with us what will plant oaks and other species that require a hundred years or more to mature. Meanwhile, the bureau of forestry at Washington, D. C., has a plan for co-operating with anyone who has a forest in which profit is the chief consideration.

The Latest Fad.

Anna D. Adams Theatrical Beauty Parlor. 10,000 prizes to those who solve it. Amuses young and old. Send 25c to-day. Room 212, 39 State street, Chicago.

The Real Immortals.

From the Homiletic Review. We have been buying monuments to those who could master the most. In the cathedrals of Europe and in the parks of America you will find 10 monuments to those who have destroyed their kind to every one of those who have brought the world light and life; but a better day is dawning. Seven years ago, when France made up its list of immortals, Napoleon, the greatest of butchers, headed the list, but last year it made another roll of its noble men, and Pastour, the savior of human life, stood first. There is another book which has the list of God's immortals, and above that list it is written, "They that he will shall shine as the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

The Unanswerable Tear.

(From "Corair," Canto 2.) Oh! too convincing—dangerously dear—in a woman's eye, an unanswerable tear. That weapon of her weakness she can wield To save, subdue, at once her spear and shield.

—Lord Byron.

BACKACHE IS KIDNEYACHE

Usually There Are Other Symptoms to Prove It.

Pain in the back is pain in the kidneys, in most cases, and it points to the need of a special remedy to relieve and cure the congestion or inflammation of the kidneys that is interfering with their work and causing that pain that makes you say:

"Oh, my back!"

David Price, Corydon, Iowa, says: "My back was so weak and lame I could hardly walk. The kidneys showed bad disorders. I ran down until almost a skeleton. I thought there was no hope for me and nothing helped me until I began using Doan's Kidney Pills. I improved rapidly and finally became so well that the trouble never returned."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

To Columbia university belongs the credit of offering the first course designed to give students a practical knowledge of the conduct of political affairs. That institution has asked the bureau of municipal research in New York to give the members of the class the benefit of the experience it has derived from the study of the affairs of that city, and the invitation has been accepted. The growing demand for the adoption of the scientific methods of city government lends support to the view that college men will be in demand in this department of the public service, hence the propriety and usefulness of a university course established on the lines indicated by the innovation at Columbus.

"Write It in Letters of Gold."

When you see aught that is good in a friend Write it in letters of gold; Something or other your heart can commend. As on your journey you daily may wend, That the dear import remain to the end, Write it in letters of gold.

Hear the glad greetings as onward you fare, Write it in letters of gold; Over old hills of the thorn and the tare, 'Ye cannot wander outside of My care,' Write it in letters of gold.

There is the message to one gone astray, Write it in letters of gold; Tender is mercy, enduring for aye, Guiding the others who might lose the way, Treasure the meaning for yourself—and stay, Write it in letters of gold.

Several new railroad bridges in Mexico are of white marble of the best grade.

SAMPSON'S BROTHER FOUND DEAD IN BED

Palmira, N. Y., Feb. 11.—George Sampson, father of Harry Sampson, whose wife, Georgia, was arraigned at Lyons yesterday charged with the murder of her husband, was found dead in bed at home here this morning. He was a brother of the late Rear Admiral Sampson, and was an important witness for the prosecution of his daughter-in-law.

DES MOINES COMMANDER TO SUCCEED QUALTROUGH

Washington, Feb. 11.—Captain T. A. Bots on duty at the Washington navy yard, has been selected to command the battleship Georgia, succeeding Captain Edward E. Qualtrough, who was suspended from duty following trial by court-martial at Gibraltar. Captain Bots' last sea duty was in command of the cruiser Des Moines. Lieutenant Commander Walter S. Crossley, on duty at the New York navy yard, has been chosen as an executive officer of the Des Moines.

QUAKE IN MEXICO.

Mexico City, Feb. 11.—A serious earthquake lasting 31 seconds was felt near the volcano Colima yesterday. The eruption of the volcano continues. The inhabitants of the neighboring colony are not frightened despite the frequent earthquakes and results accompany.

ATTACKS TRINITY CHURCH.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 11.—Rev. Maurice Penfield Flukes, pastor of the Woodward Avenue Baptist church, addressed members at the Eastern Union on "Preaching for Souls," last night at the Trinity church, New York, which is the owner of tenement property in the worst districts of the metropolis. Dr. Flukes did not mention the name of the Eastern Union, but an unmistakable He referred to the powerful ecclesiastical body which has done more harm than all the saloons, brothels and atheists in the state of New York.

DES MOINES COMMANDER TO SUCCEED QUALTROUGH

Washington, Feb. 11.—Captain T. A. Bots on duty at the Washington navy yard, has been selected to command the battleship Georgia, succeeding Captain Edward E. Qualtrough, who was suspended from duty following trial by court-martial at Gibraltar. Captain Bots' last sea duty was in command of the cruiser Des Moines. Lieutenant Commander Walter S. Crossley, on duty at the New York navy yard, has been chosen as an executive officer of the Des Moines.

QUAKE IN MEXICO.

Mexico City, Feb. 11.—A serious earthquake lasting 31 seconds was felt near the volcano Colima yesterday. The eruption of the volcano continues. The inhabitants of the neighboring colony are not frightened despite the frequent earthquakes and results accompany.

ATTACKS TRINITY CHURCH.

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BIBLE IN ONE HAND, KNIFE IN THE OTHER