



Back to the Soil; Idaho or Bust!

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THE FAMILY WASH

BACK to the soil! Idaho or bust! Well, anyway, Chicago woke up the other morning to stare at a scene a bit out of the ordinary on the grounds of the Chicago Motor club at Sixtieth street and Cottage Grove avenue, within a stone's throw of the Midway of World's fair fame. First impressions recorded several big army trucks, 25 automobiles of varied vintages and makes, a score or more of "bungalow trailers," men and women in khaki, children of all ages, faintly washing flapping on lines, fires going, the smell of bacon and coffee, family breakfast groups, and a big sign that set forth that the Chicago Motor club was entertaining "Gen." W. D. Scott's roodern caravan, en route from Brooklyn, N. Y., to Buhl, Idaho.

"Times change and we with them," sagely remarked an ancient philosopher. They do, indeed, though probably we change less than do the times. For Chicago, young as it is—it was not incorporated as a city until 1837—has seen many a caravan headed west in the old days. But they were caravans of "prairie schooners," drawn by oxen or mules. And the men and women were going forth to face the unknown, fight Indians, turn up the prairie sod, contend with grasshoppers and drought and put up a fifty-fifty battle with fate for a home and a living.

Not so this caravan. It was traveling in comfort and at speed. It knew just where it was going. It was scheduled for kindly attentions along the way and a warm welcome. Its land was secured. There was water for irrigation. Houses and warehouses were ready. Everything down to the last detail had been arranged. Failure was unthinkable. Success seemed assured.

Shades of Kit Carson, Marcus Whitman and Brigham Young! What a contrast the Lincoln Highway of 1921 to the Santa Fe trail of the Thirties, the Oregon trail of the Forties, the Mormon trail of the Fifties, the "Pike's Peak or Bust" of the Sixties!

The figures of the census of 1920 show that the trend of the population from the country to the city has become greatly accentuated since 1910. Now, for the first time in the country's history, more than half the entire population is living in "urban territory." That is to say that of the population of 105,683,108 persons 51.9 per cent are living in cities and 48.1 per cent in rural communities. In the census of 1910 the corresponding percentages were 46.3 and 53.7.

This is a condition that is regarded as neither desirable nor entirely safe. Therefore many are the projects to get city dwellers back to the soil. Back to the soil! An American slogan for Americans! Yet the country does not extend a general invitation to all comers. It is not ready to support an indefinite number of miscellaneous applicants. Mother Nature is very far from being the benevolent old soul she is pictured by the fictionists who write farm prospectuses. She does not give her bounties for nothing. She demands full payment, and she exacts full penalty for mistakes.

It is the surest kind of a sure thing that the country home that pays its own way means hard work for somebody. There will be blisters, backaches and sore muscles that will have to be worked from soreness into strength. Ere the billowing grain delights his eye, the city man will understand why providence or nature or evolution provided him with eyebrows.

Moreover, there is a slowness and a deliberation in nature's ways and methods that to the city man, used to doing things upon the instant, will be little less than maddening. It is useless to rage against the ordered processes; they cannot be hurried. The city man must learn to wait for seed time and harvest and to possess his soul in patience. So it is evident that there is a balance to be struck. The city is one thing; the country is another. The city cannot be transplanted in the country. And no one can strike this balance for the would-be back-to-the-lander; he must do it for himself.

In striking this balance, however, there is more to be taken into account than the dollars. There are the beauties of nature. There is pure air, undisturbed by smoke and soot; a place in the sun, with no skyscrapers overhead to shut out the blue sky and the stars and the moon; honest thirst that makes nectar of the gods out of water from the well and buttermilk from the spring-house; an appetite that would put a soul under the ribs of Death; sleep the like of which no city man ever knows.

From many viewpoints farming is the highest and best of callings. Farming is an honest business. The farmer is no useless consumer, no parasite. He is a producer; he contributes directly to the wealth of the nation. He is independent and is beholden to no man for place or favor. He does not climb up by dragging others down. Land is the fundamental natural resource from which the nation draws its life. And the farmer is the bulwark of the country.

Yes; back-to-the-land is the right thing for the right man. He will find independence—mental,



ROY N. ALLEN AND W.D. SCOTT

ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME

moral and financial. He will find a real home. And old Mother Nature will likely throw in health, strength and happiness for good measure.

One of the photographs reproduced herewith shows Roy N. Allen of the Chicago Motor club welcoming William D. Scott, leader of the caravan. Mr. Scott used to live in Minneapolis. Then he went to Boston. Later he became a successful sales manager in Brooklyn, with a home at 236 Decatur street. He is a middle-aged man, with a wife and two children. During the war he made a reputation as a "four-minute man." He had made up his mind to drive to the West this summer, buy a ranch, hang up his hat and grow up with the country. Several of his neighbors grew interested and asked to go along. And that's how the colony idea started.

Then Mr. Scott wrote to commercial clubs and state and county officials in different parts of the West. Gov. David W. Davis of Idaho responded promptly with a definite offer. Mr. Scott went to Idaho and made a study of land in Twin Falls county, along the Snake river. Here's the way Mr. Scott tells it:

"That settled it. When I saw that land I knew it was just the place I was looking for, and I immediately took an option on 5,120 acres. The land was offered to me at the uniform price of \$125 an acre, with water rights, \$25 an acre to be paid down at purchase and the balance within ten years at 6 per cent interest.

"This whole land project is supervised by the state. It is financed by the Idaho Farm Development company, the president of which is E. T. Meredith, who was President Wilson's secretary of agriculture and who is a practical farmer and the proprietor of an agricultural newspaper in Des Moines, Ia. Mr. Meredith and his associates, incorporating under the Cary act, spent \$625,000 developing these tracts. The waters of three tributaries of the Snake river, draining the watershed of the Jarbridge mountains, 47 miles southwestward from our colony, were dammed and impounded in the Cedar Creek reservoir. Thence a steel flume leads the water down through the canyon of the Little Salmon river, irrigating the lands which we have taken up for our future homes and ranches. We have, in all, an area of about three miles by six.

"This irrigation enterprise immediately made marvelously fertile many thousands of acres which theretofore had been merely a sagebrush prairie. The area had been used only as cattle range and was one of the most sparsely settled districts in the state. With irrigation, there isn't a better country for growing alfalfa, onions and the famous Idaho potatoes. On farms in the same neighborhood and enjoying like advantages to ours there have been grown world record crops of alfalfa, wheat to the tune of 92 bushels to the acre, and potatoes rating as high as 642 bushels to the acre.

"Buhl, our nearest railroad town, is about 12 miles from the most distant ranches of our colony. It is a lively town only nine years old, but with about 7,000 population. A fine road, which is more than 50 miles long and which runs directly through our tract, connects Buhl with the new mining town of Jarbridge. Out of the Jarbridge mountains the Guggenheim interests have taken more gold than all the yellow metal yielded by Alaska. The town of Jarbridge is the natural center of that rich country, and our colony will be its nearest source of supply, with a good road running straight into it."

Mr. Scott returned to Brooklyn bubbling over with enthusiasm. His enthusiasm was infectious. He was besieged with applications for membership. But the 5,120 acres will make only 128 tracts of 40 acres each. So a weeding-out process was begun. Every prospective member was put through the third degree. The rule was laid down that every accepted member must be "100 per cent American"; must have at least \$3,000 in cash; must be able to take care of himself and family until the first crops are marketed. Even then the 128 members of the colony were quickly secured.

In the meantime, the Idaho people, who had evidently taken a shine to the Brooklyn people, were doing their part. Governor Davis visited Brooklyn and addressed a meeting of the colonists. The Buhl chamber of commerce sent Ben H. Bushman, one of its leaders and secretary of the Rotary club, with offers of service from the chamber and the club. So the deal went through without a hitch

and the start was made from Brooklyn on July 28. The only semblance of trouble was over the selection of those to form the first caravan. Of course, there was disappointment on the part of those who had to wait. But there were reasons why all could not go. The principal one is that it is impossible to clear the sagebrush off all of the 5,120 acres all at once and prepare the land for cultivation. Also, some members require time to close out their business interests to advantage. Probably the second caravan will not set out till next summer. Of the colonists as a whole Mr. Scott says this:

"Of the 400 or more in our colony about 60 per cent are Brooklynites. Approximately 25 per cent now live in other boroughs of New York city; about 10 per cent hail from New Jersey or New England, while the remaining five per cent come from scattered localities, some of them in the South. About 10 per cent of the whole number of these pioneers are former residents of the West, but not more than 15 per cent of them have had any practical experience at farming either in the East or in the West.

"Nobody is borrowing trouble because of lack of experience, however. Idaho is by no means shortsighted to the advantages the success of so widely advertised an enterprise holds out. Experts from the Idaho Agricultural college are to provide supervision and skilled labor for the first year. We are told that if we work in harmony with these experts, obeying their directions, they will guarantee results. The Idaho authorities predict that we can pay out by the end of the third year on the proceeds of alfalfa, onion seed and potato crops.

As further evidence that Idaho waits for us with welcoming arms outstretched, a construction company already is at work erecting permanent bungalow homes for many of our party, to be available directly on our arrival. And there is being built a warehouse in which may be stored such household effects pending their occupancy of their new dwellings as the colonists may elect to forward to Idaho instead of consigning to the auction man before they shake the dust of Brooklyn from their feet. Probably there will be not less than 30 carloads of freight, chiefly household effects, to be forwarded by rail."

Some people would doubtless think that an automobile journey of 2,500 miles was quite a trip under the circumstances and that the railroad could do the job not only faster but easier. The colonists have figured that all out. Says Mr. Scott:

"In the first place, railroad transportation rates are awfully high; we travel much more cheaply this way. Besides, a motor car is an essential on an Idaho ranch; why not kill two birds with one stone? We've got a pretty complete caravan; we're traveling pretty comfortably. Speeding is not permitted, the idea being to maintain a steady pace of about 12 miles an hour on an average, the caravan touring only during the day and pitching its bivouac each night. In addition to the passenger cars and the bungalow trailers, there are three three-ton service trucks, an administration car, a traveling postoffice and a quartermaster's car and a pair of extra trucks whose duty it will be to run ahead of the caravan during the nights to keep it properly supplied with provisions and equipment.

"And finally, the tour itself appeals to us sentimentally. We're seeing the country to advantage and we're going to have the delight of going through Yellowstone National park."

The caravan reached Chicago by way of Albany, Buffalo and Niagara Falls, Cleveland and Toledo. It started west from Chicago over the Lincoln highway. It will follow the Way to Cheyenne, Wyo., where great doings were scheduled—bronchobusting, a barbecue and a regular "Out-where-the-West-begins" celebration.



IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

By REV. F. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. (©, 1921, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 9 PAUL AT EPHEBUS.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 19:1-41.
GOLDEN TEXT—Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.—Matt. 4:10.
REFERENCE MATERIAL—Rev. 2:1-7.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Paul a Loving Friend and Minister.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Paul and the Silver-smiths.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Experience in Ephesus.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Planting the Gospel in a Center of Paganism.

I. John's Disciples Become Christians (vv. 1-7).

These twelve disciples had only been taught the baptism of repentance as a preparation for the kingdom of God. Paul taught them to believe in Christ, that is, to receive Him as the One who had on the cross provided redemption for them.

II. Paul Preaching in Ephesus (vv. 8-10).

1. In the Jewish synagogue (v. 8). His message is characterized by: (1) boldness. He realized that God had sent Him and that His authority was back of Him. (2) Reason. He reasoned with them. God's message is never sentimental nor arbitrary, but in accord with the highest reason. (3) Persuasion. It is not enough to come boldly with a reasonable message; it must be accompanied by persuasion. (4) Concerning the kingdom of God. He did not discourse on current events, literature, or philosophy, but upon the message of salvation through Christ.

2. In the schoolhouse of Tyrannus (vv. 9, 10). Paul's earnest preaching only hardened the Jews. When they came out and spoke openly against this way of salvation in Christ, Paul separated the disciples from them and retired to the schoolhouse of Tyrannus.

III. God Working Miracles by Paul (vv. 11-16).

So wonderfully did he manifest His power that handkerchiefs and aprons brought from Paul's body healed the sick and cast out evil spirits from those whose lives had been made wretched by them.

IV. A Glorious Awakening (vv. 17-41).

1. Fear fell upon all (v. 17). News of the casting out of these evil spirits created impressions favorable to Christianity.

2. It brought to the front those who professed faith in Christ while not living right lives (v. 18). They believed, but had not broken from sin.

3. Gave up the practice of black arts (v. 19). This means forms of jugglery by use of charms and magical words. All such are in opposition to the will of God; therefore no one can have fellowship with God and practice them. They proved the genuineness of their actions by publicly burning their books. Though this was an expensive thing—valued at about \$12,500—they did not try to sell the books and get their money back. When you find you have been in a wrong business, make a clean sweep of things; burn up your books on Spiritualism, Christian Science, etc.; empty your whisky and beer into the sewer, and have a tobacco party similar to the Boston tea party.

4. Uproar of the Silversmiths at Ephesus (vv. 23-41). (1) The occasion (vv. 23, 24). This was the power of the gospel in destroying the infamous business of Demetrius and his fellows. It was clear to them that idolatry was tottering before the power of the gospel. They were not interested particularly in the matter from a religious standpoint, but because it was undermining the principal business of the city. (2) The method (vv. 25-29). Demetrius, a leading business man, whose business was the stay of others of a similar nature, called a meeting and stated that much people had turned from idolatry and that the market for the wares was materially weakening. He appealed to his fellows (a) on the ground of business, saying "This, our craft, is in danger of being set at naught," (v. 27). (b) On the ground of religious prejudice. He said "The temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised" (v. 27). He became quite religious when he saw that his business was being interfered with. His speech gained his end; the whole crowd was enraged and yelled in unison, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." The mob was quieted by the tact and good judgment of the town clerk.

The Fall of Jerusalem. And Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, even ten thousand captives.—II Kings, 24:11 and 14.

The Day of Reckoning. And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness; now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.—Hosea, 7:2.

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Have you ever stopped to reason why it is that so many products that are extensively advertised, all at once drop out of sight and are soon forgotten? The reason is plain—the article did not fulfill the promises of the manufacturer. This applies more particularly to a medicine. A medicinal preparation that has real curative value almost sells itself, as like an endless chain system the remedy is recommended by those who have been benefited, to those who are in need of it.

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