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FARM COMMUNITY INFLUENCES.
As rural life expands through the influence of the automobile, good roads, better schools, scientific methods, labor saving devices and improved marketing systems, it also is desirable that progress on the spiritual side should keep pace with that of a material nature.

It may be said that in older days when the fortune of the harvest was more dependent on favorable conditions of nature the link between God and the farmer was more apparent than now when dry farming and irrigation triumph over the worst that nature can do.

The emphasis today is shifted and the field of the country church has broadened accordingly. This much was made plain in the summer school for rural pastors at Ohio State university.

RELIGION AND PLEASURE.
One of the speakers who addressed the Walther League convention last week emphasized the thought that it is possible to be a Christian and have a good time. For, he said, "Christianity is a religion of happiness."

THOUGHTS FOR THE TIMES.
George Washington, in his farewell address, spoke thus to his countrymen: "This government, the offspring of our own choice, uninfluenced and unaided, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation of its powers uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and support."

STARS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE.
The Literary Digest has been indulging in another of those interesting but inconclusive enterprises it occasionally sets on foot. This time it relates to "Who would you name, offhand, as the five leading American literary stars that have risen above the horizon in the last ten years?"

On Second Thought
There is nothing evolved unless God is involved.

read authors do not get even an honorable mention. These still have the substantial consolation that comes from a "best seller," regardless of other considerations.

WHY THE WEST IS DIFFERENT.
What is this west, to which men are so proud to belong? In so far as it differs from other parts of America, how did these distinguishing characteristics arise?

In that remarkable book, "The Cowboy," Philip Ashton Rollins advances the explanation that our life, our speech and our thoughts have been moulded by the traditions of fraternity and independence of the cattle industry.

It was a spirit that begat personal service and extreme self-reliance, which in their exercise, were, at all times, upon the instant, for however long duration, and without expectation of reward, as subject to the call of others, were they friends or entire strangers, as to the requisition of their owner," Mr. Rollins writes.

It was a spirit that gave to a man an intense individualism, and not only a hatred of class distinctions save such as the west itself created, but also a bitter antipathy to all social usages in limitation of personal action except those which either were prescribed by universal fundamental law or were in the western code. It was a spirit that nurtured an undying pride in the country of the west, a devoted loyalty to its people as a class, a fierce partisanship in favor of that country and its people, and a complete silence about and very generous forgiving of whatever wrongs any of the latter might have done.

Certain continuing results of this are easily traced, but Mr. Rollins mentions three of high importance. One is the influence of the Texas trail which wove northerner and southerner into one piece, so that there never has been any Mason and Dixon's line in the west. This absence of sectional prejudice permitted the building up of an intense solidarity. Even state lines fade in what is often spoken of as "God's country," and a man calls himself a westerner rather than a Montanan or Nebraskan.

A third result is pointed out in the spirit of neighborly co-operation and mutual aid that was fostered in the days of scanty population. "He took it for granted that he and his neighbors should get together and support a university, a hospital, or whatever, just as in primitive days he and his neighbors had joined forces when the roundup had called for collective efforts," Mr. Rollins writes of the westerner.

LITERARY MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE.
Disraeli was at once prime minister of England and a noted novelist. H. G. Wells, himself one of the foremost literary men of the day, is a long way from that political goal, though he is now candidate for parliament on the labor party ticket.

It seems evident that historians and scholars have a rightful place in public life. It may even be assumed that a writer of fiction who has succeeded in interesting a wide audience of cultured persons possesses a knowledge of human nature that might fit him peculiarly for national service.

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OPINION
What Editors Elsewhere Are Saying

Literature and Business.
From the Minneapolis Journal.
Here is a pregnant paragraph:
In these days it is rather the habit to jibe at the scholar in business, and the thought seems to be that a man is all the better for a lack of belles lettres or of an intimacy with the masters of art.

There are, of course, exceptions. A rule, records of soul wringing are less interesting than a journal of events. As a matter of fact, the best place for most diaries of the first kind is in the fireplace. But the others that are allowed to survive a lifetime should, instead of being sent to a fiery grave, be put away in an old trunk for future enlightenment and entertainment. Sooner or later they will be found by a sympathetic spirit and treasured.

The King's Everyday Crown.
From the Hartford Courant.
It is not at all likely that King George intends to "kill" the King, socially—although his appearance in a hat of another shape at the Goodwood races the other day was hailed as accomplishing the death of the "topper" so long at the head of the king in a bowler hat and gray frock coat.

But while the Honorable George V. Windsor was about it, it seems a great pity that the king should go farther towards comfort as to head-gear and wear a soft hat—such as his honored father loved to sport in English fashion. King George's hat is really the hat for comfort. It fits itself to the peculiarities of his crown in a way that no other hat in ordinary breezes without much thought on the part of its owner.

The lordly top hat is all right for weddings and such things where men must shine as a brilliant sartorial adjunct to those who always shine. "Why should I wear a top hat," depending on one's patriotism may do for a king to wear when he doesn't want to pose as a radical, but for the ordinary citizen, it is the thing in all but the most outrageous straw-hat weather. And let us hope that the next time the king will think in a homey old top hat, he will be in the fashion without any resulting discomfort once the soft hat is paid for.

A Real Heroine Appears.
From the Washington Star.
Mary Buhner of St. Petersburg, Fla., should get a medal for her exhibition of pluck, fidelity and endurance been recorded. Swimming with a girl companion toward shore, her friend was attacked by a barracuda, known as the American crocodile, and she herself screamed and sank and rose soon almost helpless from loss of blood. Mary Buhner caught her and swam with her for more than half a mile in the rough sea. She gained the notice of men ashore, who put out a boat and rescued her and her dying friend.

Home Owners in America.
From the Thrift Magazine.
Pennsylvania has the highest percentage of home owners of any state in the union. The population of this state has a population of 5,500,000, average family in the United States consists of 4.3 persons; this would mean that there were 2,500,000 families in the state of Pennsylvania. Of these, 1,730,000 own their own homes. In the next section in the list, home-owning states, this state has a population of 5,500,000, or 1,370,000 families, and of these 1,215,422 own their own homes. Of the 25,000,000 families in the United States, 11,400,000 are home owners. In Greater New York one family in eight is a home owner.

Why Burn Diaries?
From the Los Angeles Courier-Journal.
Again this year picknickers are strewn their refuse over the countryside near Louisville and otherwise making themselves obnoxious to their residents.
"Since no legal agency can be expected to patrol the countryside to see that garbage and papers are left upon the ground, it is left up to the picknickers themselves.

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Russia's Foreign Commerce

Russia's foreign commerce in the first six months of the year has been a record. The principal articles of export consisted of iron, 3,525,000 pounds; flax, 620,000 pounds; petrol, 398,000 pounds; bristles, 48,000 pounds. The principal imports were: Wheat in bulk, 1,139,000 bushels; metal, 1,139,000 bushels; flour, 1,139,000 bushels; wool, 1,139,000 bushels; cotton, 1,139,000 bushels; sugar, 1,139,000 bushels; rice, 1,139,000 bushels; oil, 1,139,000 bushels; and other goods, 1,139,000 bushels.

Articles for the record: 175 68 8
Articles for the reconstruction of industry 19 4 1
Principal articles of the year: Metals, 8,906,000 pounds; food products, 2,737,400 pounds; chemicals, 1,200,000 pounds; textiles, 84,800 pounds.

These figures are supplied by the Narkomvneshtorg (national commission of foreign trade), which recently has compiled a volume of 147 pages dealing with the subject and giving much valuable statistical information.

SAID TO BE FUNNY.
Guile—This is the Laconic.
Tourist—Look as if he'd got mixed up with his suit.—New York Herald.

MY HEROINE.
September's mellow sun is low.
Its soft light waning in the west;
Here she to whom my love I owe.
In patience nears her final rest.

What words can bear such freight of feeling.
What sighs make known such love as this.
The fading smile, the farewell kiss?
Ah! Who can know the thoughts that surge
Upon a mother's tender soul.

And in the hour of death the same
Tears flow and quiver on her cheek.
Triumphant quits this world of woe.
With visions of celestial day.

To hope and trust and keep good cheer
Amidst the gloom of such an hour.
Forgetting self—in such a cheer
Is fruit of true heroic power.
—Bertha P. Cochran.

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