

**LEAVING THE FARM.**

**A Young Man's Reasons For Leaving The Farm.**

During the past few years there has been much discussion as to why so many country boys leave the farm. As a rule, this question has been discussed by older men who attempt to analyze general conditions. However, in my reading of eight or nine farm periodicals I have never seen the question discussed by any of the boys themselves.

Since, in order to show my position I shall have to be very personal, do not take it that I am trying to be a little of a braggart and to herald anything I have ever done or hope to do. I tell my own story, because it seems as if it might illustrate the state of affairs of a great many other farm boys.

I am under twenty. I was born on farm and went to country school until I could enter the high school in a nearby city, boarding at home and going to town each day on a trolley which runs near the farm. I always did chores night and morning, and spent my vacation working on the farm. One winter I was out of school working at home. After my graduation I went to college, taking the regular course. Just now I am a sophomore and am wondering about what I'm going to do when college days are a thing of the past.

Just here I want to correct a current idea in the minds of some people to the effect that country boys in college form a class and cult by themselves. Some do. They will not adapt themselves to the condition at hand. They go about wearing the clothes that are years behind the times, with heads in need of a hair cut, using language that they know better than to use. They try to parade their plainness, and lack of mean. Such fellows are rapidly disappearing and I'm glad to say that more of that kind in the modern college hail from the city than from the country. In school, it is no crime to be poor, but it is to parade the fact.

Personally, in high school and in college, I have never been made to feel "out of it" because I'm from the country. It has been my observation that the sons of lawyers, doctors, bankers, merchants and farmers are on equal terms. At college I do not have as many conveniences and as good living as at home, for our home in the country will compare favorably with middle-class town homes.

When in high school I began to go to parties and entertainments with my town school-fellows. The principal reason that I did not associate socially with the country people was not because I felt superior to them, but because there was "nothing doing" in the social line. During the last six years there have not been more than fifteen social gatherings of the young people of the community. Thus, it may be said that I have been driven to town for companionship.

I do not feel ashamed of the farm or of farming. I like both. During the school year I am ever looking forward to home, a pair of overalls and the stock. College, contrary to the popular opinion, has taught me to look up to many phases of farm life rather than to despise everything connected with it.

Financially, farming is the best thing for me, because I can have a fair start in a rich section of the country. At the best, teaching will never bring me more than thirteen hundred to fifteen hundred dollars a year. Newspaper work has almost the same limits, with longer hours than farming. Professional work means several more years of schooling, with many years of living on nothing until one gets established. Professional salaries may look big, but a man can't support a family and live on porterhouse for ninety or one hundred dollars a month. Our family at home lives better than the families of many men who are making fifteen hundred dollars a year or better. Besides, the head of our household with a graded school education and no star at all is "salting" from two thousand to three thousand dollars a year. So as far as the almighty dollar goes, I'll have to be a howling success or my brother will come out several thousand dollars to the good while I'm us-

ing every cent to live.

You perhaps ask why I hesitate a minute in my choice. You are perhaps saying that I'm too "stuck up" to get down and plow. I deny it. I do it every vacation and like it.

Perhaps I'm sentimental. Some say it's good quality. However, I've been taught that there is something the matter with a man who seeks dollars to the detriment of culture, religion and all that goes to make life worth the living. Perhaps a few years' contract with life will drive these very thoughts of altruism and that sort of thing from me, but I've got these ideals now. The money side of existence is not everything.

Our neighborhood is like what man others are and still more are growing to be. There are a number of fine old places that were once kept up by their owners who lived on them. Now, many of the owners have died, and the heirs or other new owners either rent their farms or hire some one to farm them.

Despite the fact that this non-resident ownership of farm property shows the interest which capital has in the country, I am beginning to regard it as a curse to country communities. Generally speaking, the renter does not make a good neighbor. About the only desirable ones are those who are renting to get a start.

Take our community, for instance. For a mile or two along the road is a row of these people. They rarely go to church, their usual Sunday occupations are breaking colts and receiving company. They have no libraries. They read little. There is hardly a thing I have in common with them. Thus, the idea of having to live with them for an entire lifetime does not appeal to me. There are some of the old families in the neighborhood, but their children are being trained for the professions, while their parents are thinking of moving to town.

I don't think it is over-sentimentality that makes me think, in common with other young men of my age about marriage and a home-life of my own. So I question myself: "Do I want to take my ideal of a woman into such a neighborhood, to associate with such neighbors?" We may be sufficient unto ourselves until the glamour wears off; but there will be trouble then. Again, I sometimes ask: "Do I want my children to grow up in such an environment?"

Verily I am a dreamer, but talks with others and my own observations have led me to believe there is a good deal of sense to my dreams. My brothers do not care for more than one of two of the young men of their age who live near us. The only explanation is that they have nothing in common.

But recently I talked with a college graduate, who with his wife went back to a neighborhood such as ours and farmed. He made money. Now he has children. At present he is thinking of finishing his agricultural studies so he can get into governmental work.

Perhaps I'm mistaken in my attitude but I cannot think otherwise. However, if your neighborhood is satisfactory, don't move to town, for you will leave a hired man or renter just where you ought to be. One person's leaving gives another the fever and so it goes on.—Chas. Smith in Farm and Fireside.

**Simplified Pronunciation.**

Johnny, reading aloud in school, "I change my hues like the chameleon."

**Smiles.**

"Good morning, madam," began the hawker in his suavest tones. "I have here a little article of universal utility. It is called the Marvelous Mice Exterminator, and the price"

"No use," interrupted the woman firmly. "We have no marvelous mice in this house—only the ordinary kind. Then the door was shut.—S. H. Review.

Three years old Nellie was standing very close to Mama, who was sewing. "Oh, Nellie, I wish you would not stand so close; you are almost under my nose—you worry me so much." Nellie withdrew a little distance and after a short time inquired, "Mama, am I worrying you under the nose now?"

**Library Notes.**

- List of new books at the library:
- Daybread in Korea—Beard.
  - Mind and Work—Quilek.
  - Modern Machinest—Usher.
  - Mechanical Drawing—Kenison.
  - Southern South—Hart.
  - Thanksgiving—Schauffler.
  - Travels With a Donkey—Stevenson.
  - Vailima Letters, II vol.—Stevenson.
  - Modern Constitutions in Outline—Alston.
  - Elements of Mineralogy—Moses.
  - Story Telling—Lyman.
  - Radium—Levy.
  - John Winterborne's Family—Alice Brown.
  - Power and The Glory—Colke Mac-Gowan.
  - Honesty's Garden—Creswick.
  - Devourers—Chartres.
  - Doctor's Lass—Booth.
  - Ramrodders—Day.
  - Cradle of the Poet—Godfrey.
  - Juvenile.
  - Short Stories From American History—Blaisdell.
  - American Pioneers—Mowry.
  - Graded Literature Readers—Judson & Bender.
  - Wide Awake Readers—Murray.
  - Story Book Friends—Murray.
  - Tales of the Ancient Hebrews—H. Herbst.
  - Pied Paper of Hamlin—Banta.
  - Little Talks to Little People.
  - Rip Van Winkle—Kirk.
  - Luck to The Duddy Grahams—Hain.
  - Dorothy Dainty's winter—Brooks.
  - How Bessie Kept House—Douglas.
  - Patty's Success—Wells.
  - What Kitty Did Next—Coolidge.
  - Panama and The Canal—Hall.
- Special attention was given this month to the Juvenile books. About twenty for the primary grades are not included in this list.

Charles Gridley and wife of Humboldt were guests of Mrs. Pittock in this city Friday.

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**SOBRIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN**

United Kingdom More Temperate Now Than Ever Before, Says Alliance Secretary.

The amount of beer and spirits consumed in the United Kingdom during 1909 is very much less than the amount recorded for all preceding years. In fact, Great Britain is more temperate now than she has ever been, declares Secretary George B. Wilson of the United Kingdom Temperance Alliance. In his report, recently issued in the London press, he estimates that the total expenditure on all alcoholic liquor consumed in the three kingdoms last year amounted to £155,162,485, as compared with £161,060,482 in 1908.

There has therefore been a material decrease of £5,897,997 during the past twelvemonth.

On spirits the decrease was £4,800,000, with a decrease in consumption of 7,022,775 gallons. On beer the decrease was £1,186,000 with a decrease in consumption of 645,396 barrels. On wines, on the other hand, there has been an increase of £93,000, with an increase in consumption of 103,744 gallons.

But, as the secretary's report points out, the amount spent on drink as a comparison, fails to picture the true decrease in drinking. Owing to the increased taxes of 1909, the retail price of all liquors advanced, and hence if the prices of 1909 were the same as the prices of 1908, the decrease in the amount spent would be double what it is. If there had been no increase in prices the actual reduction on the total expenditure would have been £111,147,997.

London press reports state unhesitatingly that the British people have been growing more temperate of late years, and claim that the experience of last year leaves no doubt that taxation is one great influence in reducing the consumption of liquor. It is further added that "if this reduction were to be progressively maintained we would soon have no drink bill to pay at all."

The increased taxes applied on liquors by the budget have been a factor of the recorded decrease in consumption, but it is probably not the only potent factor, and it is contended that a marked change in the social habits of the people is a feature since the masses are being given opportunities for developing other tastes. In this education is the great agent and it is confidently stated that "the turn of the tide synchronises with the coming of a full generation which has been to school. The book is one of the enemies of the bar. There are others. Every park is an alternative, every tram or cheap train, that takes the worker out to the country in his spare time, every slum that disappears, and every livable house that takes its place. The empire of alcohol rests not so much on its own inherent attractiveness as upon the absence of rival attractions. These rivals are growing and before them alcohol is slowly perhaps, but surely retiring from public favor."

In a country which has so long been burdened by the drink evil the progress of reform is slow, but there is progress recorded in Great Britain as the above figures show. The drink question is still one of the most important social problems the nation has to face, yet the recent constant decline in the consumption is regarded as extremely hopeful.

**DRINK CAUSE OF INSANITY**

Liquor Responsible for Nearly 50 Per Cent of Patients Admitted in English Asylums.

Drink and hereditary influence were reported as the cause of insanity in 42.3 per cent. of the cases admitted into Rainhill asylum, in England, last year, drink being responsible in 22.8 of the cases, and a clear history of hereditary taint in 19.5. These remarkable statistics are contained in the annual reports of the county asylum at Lancaster, Prestwick, Rainhill, Wittingham and Winwick, just issued.

On the subject of the causes and the prevention of lunacy, Dr. Gigglesworth, medical superintendent of Rainhill, is very outspoken. Referring to the 22.8 per cent. of admissions for which drink was responsible, Dr. Gigglesworth says the figure is sufficiently large to indicate clearly that havoc which drink makes with the nervous system, and adds: "If the evil affected the individual only it would be bad enough, but unfortunately there is reason to believe that it is often handed on to the offspring, owing to the direct poisonous effect upon the germ of the alcohol circulating in the blood, and that not a little of the terrible amount of nervous instability and degeneracy which we see around us has its origin in this cause."

Regarding the 19.5 per cent. of admissions in which there is a clear history of hereditary taint, Dr. Gigglesworth says that no doubt this figure considerably understates the real influence of heredity, owing to the difficulty experienced in getting reliable accounts of the families of the patients.



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