

### The Farm.

#### The Independence of the Farmer.

The farmer, by virtue of fact and position attains his independence rather more positively than does average humanity. There is a difference between theoretical and practical independence. "The inalienable rights" of liberty are no more the farmer's than they are the heritage of any other man. But when translated into the common everyday experience of life, when the dividends from the great fund are commuted into their practical purchasing power, it is easy to see how the farmer pockets a larger share than any other class of men. He shares in the general social interdependence. He is under the obligations of law and customs and usage. He is subject to the restraints of public opinion, and must contribute his share to the written and unwritten law of the common weal. From all these he neither claims nor desires exemption.

But by virtue of his position and profession, he is absolutely free from a large measure of subjection to conditions beyond his control, which involve all lines of ordinary pursuit. He is not entangled in the complications which affect the merchant and the manufacturer. Merchants of whatever line of wares stand in a line with one another. They are subject to general prevailing conditions which their individual strength and standing do not render assured. Their value of stock and capital are fluctuating, and their basis of dependence is often their occasion of suspension. It is not so with the farmer. In this respect he is absolutely independent. The success of his farm does not rest upon the success of other farms. It represents an actual value which lies at the basis of all security. The farm is absolute capital, and is its own guarantee.

The farmer who owns his farm is not under vassalage to bank officials. He is not obliged to stand with hat in hand before some such autocrat, and await his imperial decision as to whether the proposed note shall be discounted or not. He has to work and often make long days. But he is master of his own time. The twenty-four hours of the day are all his own, and are not included either in salary stipulation or official censorship. Less than any other man the farmer is under subjection to the whims and caprices of his fellow-mortals. The minister, high as his calling is, is yet in measure dependent on the moods and notions of his parishioners. He must look out for tender toes, and keep a list of sensitive points, if he would avoid a diet of cold shoulder or a request to resign. The doctor must listen patiently and sympathetically to the innumerable details of pains and aches and qualms, and be in no hurry to send in his bill if he does not wish to see his rival installed over his head. The storekeeper must not only keep his temper, but his good humor, and train his facial muscles to a perpetual smile as he adapts himself to all his customers' idiosyncrasies.

But the farmer is independent of all these provocations and vexations. Professionally he finds no call to conjugate the varying moods and tenses of human nature. His mood is indicative and imperative rather than subjunctive.

In the crops of public providers, the farmer leads rather than follows. He does not have to accept from the butcher's swagon what other customers have refused, and take what is left when the butcher gets around to him. To a very large extent he is his own commissary. He commands on his own premises a large measure of the staples of life. Poultry yard, and pen, and stall, and garden, and orchard, enable him to resist a siege, when quantity or quality or price is opposed to his desire and choice. What every one else has to pay for he receives pay for, and, to a certain extent, at least, can control "the corner." We do not claim that all conditions and experiences of the farm are parasitical. But for practical everyday independence who can equal the farmer?—(Isaac L. Kipp.)

#### Points in Cultivation.

A prevailing custom not many years ago

was to "hill up" corn and potatoes, so e-times making mounds or ridges from 8 to 12 inches in height. What argument can be brought to substantiate such a practice or what led to it is hard to say; but there are many legitimate reasons for discouraging the method. First, it exposes an excessive surface of soil to the action of wind and sun. Second, it lowers the level to which capillary water is naturally raised, thus making the supply more difficult for plants to obtain. Third, it breaks off and exposes roots that should be a help to the plant.

Level culture, or as near an approach to it as is possible, is the ideal, but with level culture goes shallow culture. Surface cultivation kills the weeds, breaks the crust of the soil, keeps it loose and pliable, and through this layer of loose soil, which acts like a mulch over the surface, moisture is conserved.

To make this natural soil mulch efficient care is needed, and cultivation merely for the purpose of keeping down weeds will not suffice. After each shower, as soon as the ground will permit, cultivate the soil, otherwise the efficiency of the loose layer of soil will be lost and evaporation will go on as rapidly as ever. During the dry time frequent cultivation by keeping this soil mulch in active operation prevents evaporation and keeps at the disposal of the growing crop an amount of moisture that could not otherwise be maintained without irrigation.—[Bulletin West Virginia Experiment Station.]

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A few years ago it was not thought possible to ship eggs from far-off Australia to England and have them in a fresh condition. To-day, eggs arrive from Australia in such first-class condition that they pass as new-laid. This has been rendered possible by the universal employment of refrigerating apparatus on shipboard. The eggs, while perfectly fresh, are forwarded by the Australian farmers to the cold storage, and are shipped to England at the time when eggs are scarce, and consequently at their dearest. Many thousands of dozens, packed in boxes with cardboard divisions filled up with dry pea-husks, are now forwarded to England from November to January. In a recent consignment the local price of eggs in Australia was five-pence-halfpenny per dozen, and the freight and packing cost about three-pence per dozen, and they realize one shilling and sixpence per dozen retail on arrival in England. Why cannot Canadians follow the same plan?—Farming.

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Chatham Advance: It is reported that some fishermen near Millerton on the S. W. Miramichi, aided by the crew of the boom steamer, captured a bull moose which they found swimming in the river at an early hour on Tuesday morning and that, after a struggle, they landed the animal and put him in the barn of Jas. Robinson, Esq., M.P., lessee of the boom, where he was at last accounts. The penalty for taking a moose out of season without a permit ranges from \$50 to \$200, and news of the capture having reached the Surveyor General, he has directed the Provincial Secretary to act for him in having information laid in the matter, which has been done.

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