

The farmer, on the other hand, is in his own home. He is not worried about rent, nor about the thousand and one things the other has to wear him out. He is just sorry he cannot work on the farm, that is all. His crops are growing just the same, and he has enough around him to make him feel independent. Taking all things together, he has lots to make him feel more content with himself and the world standing in a suit of over-alls on his farm, one bit of God's earth he knows to be his own, than the most successful merchant who has every luxury but in a rented block.

Then how much less is the happiness of the wage-earner in the city, compared with the farm-owner on his farm. The wage-earner (I am one myself) is not a very happy man. Every year, in fact every month in the year, he finds the cost of living has increased. He has been noticing it for a long time. He can hardly get along now, with perhaps no family or a very small one. What is he going to do later as the family wants become greater? With living expenses increasing on every hand, in a rented house, he studies these things over. The future has no bright, hope for him. His salary will be increased a little he thinks, but even so, he is not much better off then. The increasing cost of living will be greater than the increase of pay.

These are a few of the many things of which the man who is living on a salary has to think. No wonder he loses interest in himself sometimes, and has not the look of contentment about him the farmer from the country has. Is it to be wondered at that he is not more interested in the affairs of the country? No, sir, it is not. He stands and faces the battle of life and earns a livelihood with courage equal to a soldier on the field of war, and he sometimes rises above the ranks. When he does, mark him well; he is like many a great warrior who has risen from the ranks—a very difficult man to defeat in whatever sphere of life he stands. He has been through the fire of