

## "Household Effects \$500<sup>00</sup>"

A True Story  
By R. L. Wood



**R**ECENTLY a farmer died, leaving an estate valued at \$25,000. Of that sum, \$500 represented "household effects."

Before his death he frequently deplored the fact that his grown-up children had left home and gone to the city. His disappointment was not that he had lost money by their desertion, which had compelled him to leave part of his farm unworked for want of help. He was an affectionate father, who liked to have his children near him. He could not understand why they should want to drift away one by one.



Good-Bye Dad

Strangers may have wondered also until they read that item in the inventory of the estate—"Household effects, \$500."

### Waiting for Better Days

For a generation that family had lived in a house with an irreducible minimum of furniture. When as a young fellow the farmer had taken his blushing bride home, he did not have a great deal of money to put into furniture. Both were content to wait for better days. But when better days came, and there was a modest sum available, it was spent on better accommodations and furnishings for the live stock. That was fine. That was humane. It was also good business.

### One of the Best in Several Counties



In time the farm came to be one of the best equipped in several counties. The machinery was of the very latest and best description. The

live stock were glad and content to stay on the farm. But the young folks were not content to stay.

There were four sons and two daughters. A piece of furniture had been added to the house from time to time, generally the second-hand furniture store supplied the need. For years the family managed with just as little and as cheap furniture as could be made serve their turn. The stable and barn were comfortable, but inside the old farmstead there was neither comfort nor beauty.

### \$6,000 at 6 Per Cent

An item in the inventory showed \$6,000 invested in securities paying 6 per cent. Part of that money invested in comfortable, artistic furniture would have transformed the farm-house into a real home and would have paid the farmer infinitely better, both in cash and moral dividends.



The house furnished with suitable and moderately priced furniture, instead of its scattering of cheap odds and ends, would have attracted the children. Children naturally love the beautiful, and their natures crave for its presence. Some of the boys might have been inclined to remain on the farm and the mother might not have been left alone to carry on the dairying and other duties.

### A Hard Chest Against the Wall



Bare walls and scantily covered floors, a hard chest against the wall in lieu of a couch, offer feeble counter-attractions to the lure of the luxurious city.

The children who deserted the farm probably did not blame the lack of home comforts for their desertion. They were not jealous of the cows and horses because of their more comfortable quarters. They carried away with them many happy memories of the old homestead.

But they went, and can you wonder when you read that illuminating item? —"Household effects, \$500."

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