

in Northumberland it is 5 per cent. And an examination of nineteen parishes by Mr. Lennard<sup>1</sup> shows that some 71 per cent. of the farmers were sons of farmers, though not necessarily sons of fathers who had actually been farming within the county. Of the other 29 per cent. a very small proportion may have been sons of labourers. But as the total of all classes of labourers outnumbers that of farmers and graziers by nearly seven to one, very few men can rise from the position of labourer to that of farmer. Thus a boy who leaves school at the age of thirteen, or thereabouts, and undertakes minor duties with horses in the stable and the field, may reach the summit of his social advancement as a horseman by the time he reaches the age of twenty-five years. A small minority may become head-carters on large farms working more than one team by the time they reach thirty-five years. If at some time he undertakes another branch of farm work, the boy may become a shepherd, one of the most responsible and best paid jobs on the farm, by the time he reaches about forty years, or he may become a cowman in charge of a fairly large herd at an earlier age. But the number of these positions is exceedingly small; and as may be seen from the figures, most farm workers in this county are destined to become day-men. This class includes a few men possibly possessing as much or more skill than the shepherd or cowman—these are the expert thatchers, hedgers, &c., a class which is rapidly disappearing. But the number of men in the class of general farm labourers is exceedingly important. In England and Wales their proportion to the total of all classes (shepherds, cattlemen, horsemen, and 'those not otherwise distinguished' or general labourers) is 57 per cent.; in Northumberland it is 45 per cent.; in Durham it is 62 per cent.; and in Oxfordshire it is 65 per cent. It appears, then, that there are fewer possibilities of attaining to a position of trust and responsibility while still remaining a labourer in Oxfordshire than is general. This is also the case with regard to the chances of

<sup>1</sup> *Op. cit.*, pp. 57-9.