

The Situation as the Farmer Sees it.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The great cry of the day is greater production, but somehow, they seem to forget that for a farm to produce more requires that more labor must be expended on it accordingly. True, better methods, wider machinery and more of it, help considerably; but I think, as a rule, the farmers are using the best methods and best machinery that they are financially able to buy and with the hired help obtainable. It takes a small fortune now-a-days to equip a farm with all the modern machinery on the market.

Just now the papers are urging farmers to tap every maple tree that is large enough to tap, yes, and even tap some on two sides, and even three sides, as I saw written in one article in a paper the other day. Now, what is the use of all this if there is no help to gather the sap and take care of it? Most farmers around here have equipped sugar orchards, but they have all they can do to do their chores to say nothing about sugaring. They know sugar is very scarce, but what can they do? There is a limit to what a man can do. In the sugar season here a number of farmers have their winter's make of manure to haul into the fields and spread thereby enabling them to harrow and prepare their ground for seed as soon as the ground is fit for it. The papers say haul the manure to the fields and spread as soon as made. This certainly is an admirably plan, providing one's buildings are made so as to be convenient to do so. A lot of the barns around here are old-fashioned barns, built many years ago. The stables are planned in such a manner that it is not practical to haul the manure to the field every day, but it must be left until spring. Our hired man is soon leaving us to go on to another place as manager. We have a large sugar orchard, it takes two extra men to carry it on. This year we shall not go near it, unless we have a man, which is improbable, as there is none to be had. We can get along somehow until haying by cutting down the work, such as keeping few cows, raising a smaller acreage of cultivated crops and cutting down on some other such work, thereby lessening production. In haying we have always had one man and most always two, especially for last half. My father is by no means a young man and he is not able to do heavy work; also, it is impossible for two to mow away last half of hay and grain, as it has to go into top of barns.

This is only one case out of dozens. A number of farmers around here are very anxious to sell out for the same reason. One man has offered quite a sum of money to a certain person if he will find him a customer for his farm. Two more farms near here are put into the same person's hands, to find them customers. One of these two farms is liable not to be worked at all if not sold.

They say "put the women and girls into the fields to work." This is not practical. In the first place, they have all they can do in the house, then how many are physically able to do such work for any length of time? It takes a strong, able-bodied man to do all kinds of farm work successfully. Another thing is, can anyone expect men to leave the cities of their own free will to work on the farms? They have short hours, far higher wages than farmers are able to pay, and, in most cases, an opportunity to climb to responsible positions. For these reasons men are continually being attracted to the cities instead of from them.

The city business man or manufacturer is able to pay high wages, because he can raise the price of what he has to sell accordingly, whereas the farmer has to take whatever he can get, regardless of what it costs to produce it. Farmers now are able to make a larger profit than a few years ago, there being a larger margin between the cost of production and the selling price.

We recently sold six hogs for \$225. We paid \$24 for them when four weeks old. This leaves about \$200. Although we did not keep a feed account we are sure that \$100 would more than pay for the feed and the care that they got. We could not do that four or five years ago. This shows that all farmers need is more help. They are willing to pay reasonable and even more than reasonable wages for help, for it is in their interests to do so.

A lot of what I have written may sound pessimistic, but it is sometimes well to

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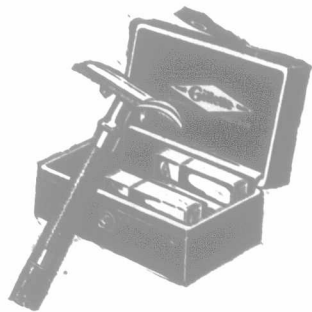
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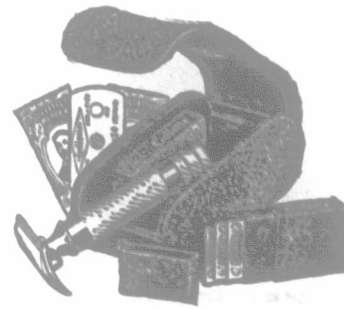


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