

## REMEDIES THAT WOULD INCREASE RURAL DEPOPULATION

ARTICLE No. 13.

Among the most commonly advocated remedies for rural depopulation are the building of better country roads, the construction of trolley lines, the extension of free rural mail delivery and the establishment of a cheap parcels post. None of these suggested remedies will stop rural depopulation. Instead, they will help to increase it.

Just as it is natural for water to run down hill, so it is natural for people to buy the goods they require wherever these goods can be purchased at the lowest cost. Just as a large horse can outdraw a lighter animal, so the town store can undersell the village store. In the same way, the merchant in the city can undersell the merchant in the town. The reasons are apparent. The trade of the country merchant is limited. He has to buy most of his goods in small quantities. He cannot carry a large stock of any one line of goods. The city dealer, on the other hand, has a large constituency. He buys at wholesale, or jobber's rates. Large concerns like the T. Eaton Co. and the Robert Simpson Co., of Toronto, or Scroggie's, of Montreal, frequently purchase the entire outfit of factories manufacturing staple lines of goods. Because of their great organizations they are able to advertise extensively in the daily and agricultural press. More and more the farm press are being used as mediums for this class of advertising. Thus the low prices at which these town and city firms sell their goods are being constantly brought to the attention of people living in the country. Anything that will make it easier for those of us who live on the farm to pass by our country merchants and deal with the larger firms in nearby towns or more distant cities will not only not check but on the other hand will increase rural depopulation.

### LOCAL CENTERS ARE NEEDED

Our country districts need more, not less, social centers. The more of these there are the more attractive will be life on the farm. And yet these social centers are rapidly disappearing. They first become stagnant, then die. Small grist mills are being driven out by large ones located elsewhere. Small implement factories are being crushed by the competition of the huge establishments in our cities. The small country merchants are being forced to the wall by the great mail order firms, located it may be, hundreds of miles away. And as each rural industry in the course of the industrial warfare that is becoming more intense year by year, is driven out of existence, the value of farm land tends to depreciate, country life becomes more isolated, cities grow in size, city land values advance, and rural depopulation is increased. The census figures reveal how intense is this tendency. During the past ten years—in spite of the great influx of settlers to the farms in western Canada—the rural population of Canada has increased only 16 per cent. while the population of our towns and cities has increased 84 per cent.

### WHAT THE PROPOSED REMEDIES WOULD DO

The building of better country roads and of trolley lines, as well as the extension of rural mail delivery and parcels post, will help to increase this trend of population by drawing away more and more of the trade of the country from its local centers into the larger towns and cities. As better roads are established, an increasing number of our leading farmers who can afford the expense—as conditions in portions of the United States prove—will invest in automobiles and drive 30, 40 or 50 miles for a day's shopping and business in the nearest large town or city. With the extension of the trolley line our wives and daughters, and we, ourselves, will use the electric cars to travel long distances to trade in the larger centers. As rural free mail delivery is extended, more and more of us will take the large city daily papers. Thus our minds will be diverted citywards and our trade will follow in the same direction. Should parcels post be granted the large mail order firms in the cities will flood our farmers with their circulars, catalogues and advertisements and trade with them will be so facilitated that scores of our smaller country concerns will vanish while our cities grow in size and influence.

### THE GROWING POWER OF CITIES

This growing power of the city to suck up the trade and wealth of the country districts has reached startling proportions in the United States. Conditions are just as serious in Canada. Ex-President Roosevelt recognized the portent of this situation some years ago, when he appointed a country life commission, the members of which were instructed to investigate and, if possible, find the cause and remedy. The chairman of this commission was Prof. L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. This is the conclusion Prof. Bailey reached, after investigating conditions throughout the United States, as expressed in his book, "The State and The Farmer":

"Canals, railroads, telegraphs, postal routes have drained the country into the city. Wealth 'has been piled up at the terminals, which are the trading places, until society has become gregarious in its organization. Banking systems take the money from the hands of those who earn it, and put it into the hands of those who trade with it. \* \* \* The organizations that control farmers by controlling their products are in the cities. The tariff-protection system has fostered this general aggregational movement. It has tended to the concentration of wealth. If it has aided the farmer, it is because it has aided some one else first and more. We have been living in 'an epoch of city development, with no adequate means of redistributing or returning the energy to the regions of its origin. It has been a process of dump. We are now, however, at the beginning of a new species of rural drainage consequent on the wide extension of highway building, of trolley lines, of rural free deliveries, of telephones, and other local centering agencies. In other words we are now entering the epoch of the small city; into these cities the surrounding country now will drain."

### ANOTHER REMEDY REQUIRED

Farm and Dairy is not opposed to the building of better country roads or to any of the other suggested remedies for rural depopulation to which reference has been made. Instead we favor them all. We merely want to point out that instead of preventing rural depopulation they will but increase it until the real remedies are understood and applied. One of these remedies has already been mentioned. It is the taxation of land values on a provincial and national basis so that the wealth from the country that is now being piled up in the cities, as shown by the enormous and rapidly increasing value of land in our cities, will be returned to the country districts through the increased taxes this land will pay. These taxes will not fall on the poor in the cities but on the land holders and speculators, who now reap wealth which they do nothing to earn. Other remedies will be pointed out later. The true solution of the problem of rural depopulation lies in so framing our laws and adjusting our methods of taxation that the burdens now borne by us farmers—although most of us do not recognize it—will be removed and agriculture thereby be made so profitable that people instead of deserting it will be glad to engage in it.

### A Great Boom in Spraying

M. B. Clarke, F. E. Co., Ont.

As recently as 1907 there were not over a dozen fruit growers spraying in Prince Edward County. In 1911 the most conservative estimate places the number at 1,000. What has brought about this remarkable boom in spraying?

A great deal of credit is due our District Representatives, who have been tireless in their efforts to assist and encourage the fruit grower. In 1909 our representative held a series of orchard meetings, pointing out the different diseases and insects and explaining the method of controlling them. A few of us became interested and started spraying, cultivating, pruning, etc.,



Just Ready for the Final Spraying

The eggs of the codling moth are in the calyx end of the newly set fruit, and if spraying is to be effective we must leave the poison inside the calyx. The apples in the illustration are in the proper condition for the final spraying with a poisoned solution. In a few days the calyx will be closed and further spraying will do little if any good.

and the marvellous results obtained were so noticeable that the movement has spread to its present proportions.

### THREE SPRAYINGS ENOUGH

It has been found that three sprayings will control practically all the orchard pests in our section: First, Lime-sulphur at one to 11, just as the leaf buds are swelling; this is for bark lice, leaf blister-mite, aphids and canker. Second, Lime-sulphur, one to 35, and arsenate of lead, two pounds to 40 gallons water, just before blossom buds open. This spray is for bud moth, leaf-eating insects and scale, which often attack the delicate stems, causing the fruit to drop later in the season. Third, Same formula as second spray. This is for the codling moth and apple scale, and should be applied immediately after the blossom leaves fall.

It is very essential to spray at a high pressure if we would get the best results; the only way to be sure of knowing is to have a pressure gauge on your spray pump. Our District Representative called on a large number of men at spraying time two years ago and attached a pressure gauge to their pumps, and found the majority of the ordinary barrel pumps would produce only about a 60-pound pressure. We cannot get satisfactory results at less than 100-pound pressure; 150 pounds is still better and 200 pounds is best. Of course this latter pressure can only be had by using a good power outfit.

### DON'T SPARE THE MIXTURE

We drench our trees every time we spray, using from four to 10 gallons a tree. It is absolutely essential to coat every particle of the tree if we would control bark-lice, San Jose scale or apple scab.

(Continued on page 8)

### Concent

A.

Why do British Columbia commercial lime spray? In last year's production through this acreage as same as in 1911, 30,000 tons of land in the exclusive of the relations has an \$25,000. The comes as a fits that making from of high quality. And in all the sulphur is usually used in a barrel of horse manure to be for the ley.

These grow commercial lime they have for the economic value. It is an age of age. They would like to make the treated lime they would own clothes, dry, etc., or. They recognize it is the direction of the preferred to selves make.

Many fruits to look an ourselves have money go back home. For trouble connection of the common we get a better

### Poi

John

My pear orchard parts of my neighborhood of \$200 loan. Each spray on the land to humus that is dry, but this is with common land is plowed and thoroughly and thoroughly. Every third bushels of good or murate of amount of potato manure for cessive wood good not blight; but our

I start to produce one-third of the 12 to 15 inches. I think out the thinning of the vitality of the tree tied the fruit in flavor.

Two other po