

day. The development of a propertyless class of wage-earners in the big industries of our cities, with the attendant developments of institutions for mutual protection and help, e. g. the trade union and the co-operative society, have given the workers a new basis for economic and moral independence. Developments of a similar character might do as much for the agricultural labourer. In this connexion it is worthy of notice that if the late depression had not intervened, the extension and growth of the organization of the labourers in the 'seventies might have had this effect. This was undoubtedly the hope of some of the leaders of the organization who were actual labourers, and it was not until the wage movement failed that they fell back on the allotment demand and similar expedients. Where the union movement was less necessary, as in the north of England, neither farmers nor labourers have been anxious to establish allotments, because the conditions of employment have more nearly supplied the essential needs of the labourer.

There still remains to be considered the part of allotments in an agricultural or rural social ladder. This involves a general view of the possibilities of economic and social advancement open to the man who has spent the years of his adolescence as a farm labourer. The numbers of each class of farm workers employed in the county are :

Bailiffs and Foremen . . . . .	270
Shepherds . . . . .	735
Cattlemen . . . . .	1,282
Horsemen . . . . .	2,302
Day-men . . . . .	8,017
Attendant of Agricultural machinery	?
(classified with owners)	

If all the foremen and bailiffs were drawn from the class of farm labourers (which they are not) there would be an opportunity in Oxfordshire for 2.2 per cent. of members of the other classes to rise to this position. The proportion of such positions open to farm labourers in England and Wales is 3.7 per cent. In the county of Kent it is 4 per cent, and