

imposing as it may seem, must finally topple and fall in ruin. It would appear, then, that the course of wisdom and patriotism would be to remove at once those conditions which militate against our farming classes; to stop, if it be possible, this exodus from our farms, and to base our national greatness on agriculture, instead of on manufacture and commerce.

We will not attempt to say how far the conditions pointed out in the present article have influenced our farming population, but we believe that their influence has been very considerable in diverting population from the country to the town. We have sufficient faith in agriculture, the noblest and grandest of occupations, to believe that, given fair play, it will not fail to hold its own. Give it an equal chance with other industries, release it from the burdens it bears, and we believe that we shall no longer see the sons and daughters of agriculture leaving the free, pure air of the farm for the polluted atmosphere of the city. From our farms must come all that is noblest and best in our national life, the strongest and fairest men and women, physically, mentally and morally. Not from the crowded city can spring the men who, patient and constant, can in time of peace, maintain those sane views of life which alone can stem the tide of modern materialism; or who, when

happily, the cloud of war may darken our national horizon, can, strong of muscle and stout of heart, fling back the invader from our shores. Our national greatness can be built upon no other safe foundation than that of a strong and prosperous agricultural population, and it therefore behooves our statesmen, it behooves every patriotic citizen, to consider well those conditions which have, during the past twenty years, caused this part of our population to decrease. Let us turn a deaf ear to those specious arguments by which our merchants and manufacturers, of infinitely less importance than our farmers, would lead us to believe that *their* prosperity is necessary to the well-being of the country. Let our farmers, the most numerous and important class in our country, insist that they shall stand, at least on an equal footing with the rest of the community. They have the power to accomplish this if they will but use it. "The violence and injustice of the rulers of mankind is an ancient evil, for which, I am afraid, the nature of human affairs can scarce admit of a remedy. But the mean rapacity, the monopolizing spirit of merchants and manufacturers, who neither are, nor ought to be, the rulers of mankind, though it cannot, perhaps, be corrected, may very easily be prevented from disturbing the tranquility of anybody but themselves."

E. C. DRURY, B. S. A., 1900.