

**Variety in Farm Life.**

EDITOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE:  
 DEAR SIR,—Although there is probably more variety about farm life than almost any other profession we could mention, I am convinced that there is not enough variety in the life of the average farmer. Because of the increased amount of chores due to winter dairying and stock raising and the rush of work in spring and summer, as well as to the growing scarcity of hired help, many farmers find little or no time for social or religious life, without which their lives must become sordid and narrow.

To be a successful farmer, from the money-making standpoint, is surely not enough. The writer knows of individuals who, while possessed of the money-making faculty, have in their later days shrunken into the veriest shadows of men because they lived solely for one thing, and failed to obtain the means that give wholesome variety to life. It is pitiful, but it is true, that thousands of farmers become so engrossed in money-making and so occupied with the labors and duties of farm life that they lose all interest in, and finally all capacity for, the higher and nobler things.

It has been said that every man should have not only a vocation, but an avocation. A man's regular work will be done with greater dispatch and clearness of mind, I believe, if he has some side issue. Some avocation to divert his attention from the one line of thought and action. There are certain things which even as busy farmers we cannot afford to leave out of our lives if we would develop and reach the highest standards of manhood, as well as know that variety which is the spice of life.

Let us never be too busy to travel a little, if it is only one short trip a year. Travel is a great means of education, not only because of what we see, but because of the people we meet. It gets us away from ourselves and widens our mental horizon as perhaps nothing else can do.

Let us never be too busy for a little good reading. The farmer whose only reading matter is the daily paper is missing a wealth of good things that are, after all, about the cheapest commodity (valued in dollars and cents) to be found on the market. After a hard and trying day's work I have picked up my Whittier or Longfellow and, in the words of the latter, "the cares which infested the day have folded their tents like the Arabs and silently stole away."

Let us never be too busy for a little sport in our lives. After all, we are only grown-up boys, and we will do our work with greater zest and renewed energy if occasionally we shoulder a fish-pole or get out with the boys on the baseball diamond. Don't let the excuse of being too tired or not having time prevent us from getting out at least once in a while with the boys in their innocent and wholesome sports. I have known men who ever seemed possessed of the buoyancy of youth and whose lives were fresh and lightsome because they had the happy faculty of being one with the boys.

"Rare is the soul, fair is the soul  
 That has kept, after youth be past,  
 All the art of a child, all the heart of a child,  
 Holding his childhood fast."

Then let us not be too busy for religion in our lives. There are too many farmers to whom Sunday comes like any other day of the week, except that perhaps it brings a little more rest. A change is sometimes better than a rest, and for a man to throw aside his working clothes and to appear clean and well dressed in a place of worship for an hour on the Sabbath will surely result in mental and physical benefit, not to mention the social and spiritual good that should result as well.

It seems to me that farmers should be religious and reverent, for they work in partnership with the Creator and have so many evidences in Nature of His power and skill. Perhaps, after all, there are many who see Him in His great out-of-doors who are never found in the temples made with hands. Let us, as tillers of the soil, be more religious, but let our religion be not a thing of form and custom, but something that shall

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9	52	16 1/2	4, 4, 5, 5 1/2, 7, 8 1/2, 9, 9	46	
10	48	16 1/2	3, 3, 3, 4, 5 1/2, 7, 7 1/2, 8	49	
10	48	12	3, 3, 3, 4, 5 1/2, 7, 7 1/2, 8	54	
10	52	16 1/2	3, 3, 3, 4, 5 1/2, 7, 8 1/2, 9, 9	49	
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