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EDITORIAL.

All we have to do is to let the weeds alone, and they will grow us out of house and home.

If we take no measures to prevent it, the bugs and the moths will certainly quarter themselves in the orchard and devour the produce.

System is not always easy to follow in farm work, but is desirable in so far as it is practicable. The best system for any particular case is the one which gradually evolves out of one's own necessities.

The scope of the Women's Institute steadily broadens. Dietetics no longer bulks so large as it once did, having been largely subordinated to other questions. Health, improvement of schools, and the like, are receiving increasing attention.

The Women's Institutes are interesting their members in rural-education reform, with regard to such phases as school-gardening. No more fruitful line of effort could be undertaken. Let the mothers become thoroughly aroused, and we shall soon have our country schools educating towards rather than away from the farm.

The same old story has been repeated this spring of tilled land once too wet to work now ready for seeding before the high spots that used to be considered quite dry and early. It is indeed a question whether it will not in time be found advisable to underdrain almost every acre of regularly cropped land in Eastern Canada.

One of the greatest fruits of the agricultural college has been indirect. It has largely pioneered and popularized what, for want of a more precise term, may be styled the vocational-education idea. E. Davenport, of the University of Illinois, declares that the great movement in favor of putting household affairs on a scientific basis is being performed mostly by the agricultural colleges of the country.

The Canadian Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, under the chairmanship of Dr. James W. Robertson, have begun their investigations in Great Britain, starting at Liverpool, and then going to London. Subsequently, the Commission will pursue their inquiries in Manchester, Leeds, Halifax, Bradford, Hull, Leicester, Glasgow, and other points, afterwards proceeding to the Continent. They expect to conclude their inquiry by August, when they will return to Canada.

Statistics published in the London (Eng.) Times show that British expenditures for alcoholic liquors last year amounted to no less than \$750,000,000; but the waste is declining, being \$250,000,000 less than twelve years ago. It is also shown that there is a marked improvement in the general health of the people from increasing sobriety. Of those engaged in the licensed trade, 2,000 die every year who would not have died had they been engaged in ordinary occupations. The statistician observes that in a twofold sense it is a dangerous trade, since it injures both "him that gives and him that takes."

City or Country for Wage-earners.

The city has many attractions. In any discussion of city versus country life, that fact should be understood and admitted at the start. Little consideration need be given to what, by some people, are accounted great advantages, as, for instance, being able to secure genteel employment at which one can keep his coat and collar on, or being within reach of the five-cent shows, the afternoon bridge parties or other diversions at which time and money, and sometimes character, are squandered. But a cement sidewalk is cleaner than a muddy lane or yard. It is an advantage to be able to see and hear the great men who tour the country from time to time. One of the purest pleasures imaginable is to listen to choice music. These privileges are within easier reach of city than of country residents, though not denied the latter in these days of improved roads and radial railways. High School or University privileges cannot be ignored. For the wage-earner, the knowledge that the day's work will cease at six o'clock, whatever the weather or the work, is extremely satisfactory, as compared with the indefiniteness of hours still too prevalent on the farm.

Admitting to the full, however, all the advantages mentioned, and others that might be named, it can be safely maintained that the average wage-earner in the country had better stay where he is than remove to the city.

His work is more healthful. He enjoys, whether he realizes it or not, the privilege of working in God's blessed out-of-doors. He may at times envy those who are out of the wet and the cold, working in a snug shop, and never knowing what it is to have damp feet, but he does not take into account the unwholesome closeness and dust which the other endures every day, or the glorious weather which usually prevails and should be enjoyed, and the value of fresh air in giving zest and length to life. Let him look at shop employees in these spring days linger outside in the sun and breeze till the last moment of the noon hour, and he may learn how his privileges are esteemed by those who lack them.

Work in the country is, on the whole, cleaner than in the city. Barring threshing, underdraining, stable work, and some other odd jobs, farm work is comparatively cleanly. Such a large percentage of it is now done by horse labor that the hands even are scarcely soiled. The writer believes that, of all the many kinds of labor in which man engages, there is none comparable to plowing. With a good team and plow, and the ground working well, the plowman has just about the right amount of exercise to give him a good appetite; the fresh breeze blows through the pores of his shirt as deliciously as if he had gone miles to enjoy it. He hears the whistling bluebird and the other feathered songsters, and the delights of blue sky and white cloud and green earth are his. He can take such pains with his work as to make it a source of pleasure to him, and, withal, his mind is not so tied down but that he may study out intricate problems of finance and management, or, like the fallen angels in Paradise Lost, after their defeat by the Heavenly hosts, who,

"In discourse more sweet,
Apart sat on a hill retired.
In thought more elevate, and reason'd high,
Of providence, foreknowledge, will and fate,
Fix'd fate, free will, foreknowledge absolute,"

his thoughts may take high range and grapple with

those problems in theology that have dazzled and baffled the keenest intellects of the long ages.

Work on the farm is conducive to intelligence and intellectual power. This cannot be said of many kinds of machine-shop work. How tedious and uninteresting it must be, for instance, to stand on the one spot and poke sheets of iron or tin, one after another, into a machine and have it punch a hole or make a crimp 500 times an hour, and ten hours a day, for weeks at a time. The worker does not have to think once; he knows how to do it. He does not think. He tends to become an automaton. How different on the farm. Never a week passes without a change of employment—scarcely ever a day, even. And with every change comes a fresh demand on the brain. Thus, the much mentioned gray matter is kept in constant exercise and development, and the light-someness which changes bring is experienced.

On the question of length of hours, it may safely be said that the workman who puts in ten hours a day, winter and summer, works many more hours in the year than most farmers or their hired men do, or need to do. A teamster of one of the forwarding companies gave the writer a statement of his hours lately. He rises at 5.15 a.m., hustles through breakfast, and starts for his work at 5.45, gets there at 6.15, cleans his team, and harnesses their so as to start work at 7; gets home usually at 4.45 p.m. This, winter and summer, wet or dry.

But, says someone, look at the wages which workmen in the city earn. They do look large, but ask some of the men, and see what they say. The sad fact is this, that, while some come to the city and prosper financially, a few amassing great wealth, the vast majority of city wage-earners live from hand to mouth. Here is the way it commonly works out. A young fellow starts in, and after a time earns good wages. He is worth as much as an older man, and gets as much. He might save, but, generally speaking, he doesn't. It is so much easier to be like the other boys and spend it as it comes. After a time he marries, and the income that did for one has to keep two—more than two, after a while, it is to be hoped. His nine, ten or twelve dollars a week, that were not too much for himself alone, seem far too small. He feels poor, is poor. He has to live in a house not nearly good enough for his tastes; city rents are very high. He does without things that he would like, and feels he has a right to have, but still there is nothing left over. His nose is kept to the grindstone for the rest of his life. The picture is not more darkly colored than the truth. Leaving out the exceptions, such is the lot of the city wage-earner.

There is an obscure passage in the report of the spies sent out by Moses to search the land of Canaan. Among other discouraging statements, they said, "It is a land which eateth up the inhabitants thereof." Commentators are divided as to the meaning of the phrase. But it can be applied with truth to the modern city. Those who have studied the subject assert that if it were not for fresh indraughts of country people and country blood, the city population would soon dwindle to nothing. It is said that the average family which comes to the city becomes extinct in a few generations. Who would knowingly choose such a future for his line? It is to avoid this fate, and the causes that lead to it, that the more wealthy citizens make their homes miles away from the crowded center, and send their families for long vacations to lakeside or wilderness resorts. They desire for their children—though the families of their poorer brethren have to be content with the street for a playground,