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About the Farm.

SOME OBSERVATIONS.

It is now the season when the farmer has a little leisure to look ahead and plan for the new year. One of the difficulties most likely to confront him is the question of help, both outdoors and

The following article is well worth reading, as it can be applied to the Canadian Northwest as well as to the adjoining States south of our boundary

adjoining states south of our boundary line:—

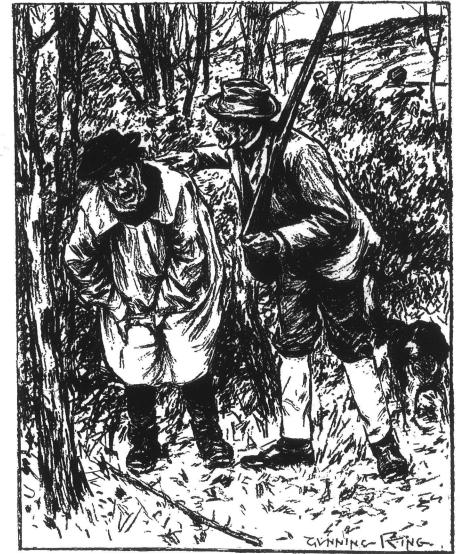
Booker T. Washington, the head of the Tuskegee Institute, in one of his lectures draws a picture of the Iowa farmer riding a sulky plow or a sulky cultivator in preparing or cultivating his corn crop, and contrasts this with the operations of the one-suspender, single-mule negro farmer of the South; and then goes on to show the futility of the latter trying to raise corn in competition with the northern farmer who rides at his work. "If you will watch the white man closely," says Mr. Washington, "you will notice that he is nearly always sitting down." This is somewhat the impression which most persons, remote from the country, have of the agriculturist; yet the farmer knows that it is not sitting down, but

the golden age so far as farm help was concerned. The descendants of these "greenhorns' may now be found at the head of vast business enterprises in the cities, in the professions, in the national halls of legislation, and doubtless not a few of them in the ranks of the "four hundred." Young and lusty immigrants who come from those countries to-day either seek the cities or attach themselves to the region of the cheap lands!

Men. like crows, blackbirds and buf-

of the cheap lands!

Men, like crows, blackbirds and buffalo, are gregarious. The great majority seek their kind, and this is what makes so many men cling to the cities, where the work is harder, the living meaner and life much less helpful. I know a woman who is successfully engaged in convincing sallow, hollow-cheeked, worn-out factory girls how much finer and healthier is service in a farmer's family than within the stifling walls of the mill, with its eternal grind. Missionary work of this sort, it seems to me, would be possible also among the poorly-fed, overworked and ill-housed men of the cities,—if only some means were devised for securing a common meeting place for farm employees after the labors of the day were over.



THE LAW OF COMPENSATION.

DOCTOR (who has shot a beater in the leg): Never mind, my good man, I'll take 'em all out for nothing !

getting up and hustling, that makes thirty bushels of wheat and seventy-five bushels of oats grow to the acre.

Modern invention has done much to lighten labor on the farm, but vastly more to expedite it; and the hired man is not yet eliminated from the situation. I have before me the diary of a forebear who, in the midst of a strenuous life, found time for many years to set down daily the incidents of his busy hours. The time was during and after the Revolutionary war, and from the book I learn that harvest began in June and lasted till along in September. (The capacity of the old barn, which still survives, proves that the crops could not have been more than half of what they are on the same acres today.) I learn, too, that the question of help was then, as now, an important and vexatious one,—the propensity of the harvest hands to go off and get drunk being not the least of this good man's troubles.

With the modern harvest lasting in many sections but a fortnight we still

man's troubles.

With the modern harvest lasting in many sections but a fortnight, we still find harvest help as scarce as when in the earlier times every 'prentice boy claimed and received his "two weeks in harvest":—so scarce, in fact, that the yearning cry from Kansas and Nebraska is so insistent that the husky "halfback" and "left tackle" from the eastern colleges hasten to the help of the Great West.

It is not at the harvest time alone, but at all seasons, that the help question looms up. The time when the ranks of the farm hands were recruited from Ireland, Germany and Sweden was

When all things are considered, in-

When all things are considered, including pure air and greater freedom and comfort, wages on the farm will average as high as the general average in the towns, while the gain in cleaner moral and physical living is almost beyond computation. It is worth a good deal to acquire the healthy, ferocious, dyspepsia-destroying appetite which comes from contact with the soil. I can yet recall, after the lapse of many years, that "all-gone" feeling that came over me along about ten in the morning in the back field, when it seemed as though the dinner gong never would sound!

In some localities I note that there is a disposition to solve the help problem by decreasing the size of the farms; but this, at the best, is only a mistake. The inevitable tendency of the times in the older settled portions of the country is in the direction of more intensive farming, and this requires intelligent labor. To make two blades of grass grow where but one grew before requires more than "main strength and awkwardness." It requires not merely the plowing of a furrow and the broadcasting of seed, but also technical skill, a knowledge of the chemistry of the soil, and trained hands and eyes. The farm employee of the future will be a craftsman, as skilled in his art as any member of other guilds.

The galvanized iron pans such as are used as drip pans under the refrigerator make excellent water pans for winter