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We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

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FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 9, 1914

No. 27

How Children are Robbed of Their Birthright

BY E. L. McCASKEY

MANY boys never "amount to much" in life because their fathers never gave them a chance. This is a serious charge and a true one. The glimmer of the immediate dollar has blinded the eyes of many a father to his son's welfare; not but that the dollar was eventually intended to go to the son. The appeal that the glitter of the city has made to many farmer fathers has also been accountable for many other boys never "amounting to much." And I am glad to say there are an army of fathers who are giving their boys the best chance the farm affords—the chance to develop healthy, robust bodies and pure, educated minds. Let me take types to illustrate my point. These types are not mythical characters. They are boys that I have watched develop from youngsters in their trousers to young menhood, and I know whereof I speak.

John's father was a good farmer. Likewise he believed in the farm. Had John decided that the profession of law was the one for which he was best suited he would have been right on hand to help John to get a law education and to give him the inspiration that would make John a good lawyer. At the same time his ambition was that his son should be an efficient and capable farmer. He did not tell his son this. He just made the farm as attractive as possible. John was given every opportunity to go to school, and when all that he could learn at the country school was digested he drove each day to the nearby town and went through three years of the high school course. Farm life was not made a drudgery to him. As John grew older and his judgment better, his father talked over his plans with his son, and they were really working partners. It was planned that John should go to the agricultural college, but just then his father died and John had a few important questions to solve unexpectedly.

ALL LINES OPEN TO HIM.

John's father was comfortably well off when he died, so well off that John could have had an education to develop him for any line of work he chose to undertake. He would have had capital enough to have started him in a first-class business in the city. But John had been taught to love the soil. Everything about the farm appealed to him and he stepped right into his father's place, and there he has been ever since, happy and contented, and, as his neighbors say, "making things go." He is interest-

ed more than his own farm. He is one of the leading lights of the community in everything that leads to community improvement, and I would not be surprised if some day John will be one of our farmer members of Parliament.

Fred's father considered farm work drudgery. From the time that Fred was big enough to take notice of the things going on around him and to understand what was being said, the most common subject of conversation was the trials and tribulations of farming. Fred heard that

school at the same age and at the same school, John was ready for high school two years ahead of Fred. Fred is now in the city. He has substituted the "drudgery of the farm" for drudgery as a cheap bookkeeper in a stuffy office. He has never made any progress in his occupation, and the chances are he never will. He is in the same class as thousands of others who have been attracted by the glitter of the city.

THE COUNTRY DRUDGE.

My third type represents the most serious problem of all. We will call this boy Alec. Alec's father was one of the wealthiest farmers in my home district. His farm was probably worth as much as any other three farms in the neighborhood. And one of those farms was the good farm on which John lived.

Alec's father had an idea that the only way to get on in the world was to work hard. When Alec was six years old he was milking a couple of cows night and morning. When he was nine the number had been increased to five cows. It was at about this age, if I remember correctly, that Alec began to be frequently absent from school. At every possible excuse his father took him out of school for a day or two to help around the farm. Up to this time, in spite of the multitudinous chores, Alec had been making fair progress with his studies. Absences now became more frequent, and he got so far behind with his work that he lost

heart, and in a few years he found himself a big boy in a class of smaller children, and gave up school altogether. Even when he was in school Alec had no time for "home work." He was up every morning at five o'clock doing chores. Often he finished so late that it was necessary to run all the way to school. After school in the evening it was the same process over again, and when chores were done he was glad enough to drag his tired little body to bed.

Here we have the problem of the country drudge, and it is the most serious problem of all. Alec has several smaller brothers, and all are undergoing the same treatment as he did. I could place my hand on a dozen other farmers right in that immediate locality whose children are drudges. The father worked hard; he expects his children to work harder. These children have had no opportunity to develop their mind. They will never be fitted for anything but the hardest and most poorly remunerated toil.

(Concluded on page 11)

Federal Appropriations for Agriculture

Civil Government	\$ 515,637.50
Experimental Farms; Maintenance of Central Farm, and establishment and maintaining of additional branch stations	776,000.00
Public Works Votes for Experimental Farms	41,000.00
For the development of the dairying and fruit industries and the improvement in transportation, sale and trade in food and other agricultural products	225,000.00
Towards the encouragement of the establishment of cold storage warehouses for the better preservation and handling of perishable food products	290,000.00
Health of Animals	500,000.00
Dominion cattle quarantine, buildings, repairs, renewals, etc.	60,000.00
For the administration and enforcement of the Meat and Canned Foods Act	255,000.00
To enforce the Seed Act, to test seeds for farmers and seed merchants, to encourage the production and use of superior seeds, and to encourage the production of farm and garden crops	155,000.00
For the development of the Live Stock Industry	600,000.00
Exhibitions	400,000.00
Division of Entomology	20,000.00
For the administration and enforcement of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act	50,000.00
Agricultural Instruction Act	100,000.00
For the administration and carrying out of the provisions of THE AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION ACT	25,000.00
National Photodist Laboratory	25,000.00
Grant to Dominion Exhibition	50,000.00
For renewing and improving Canadian exhibit at Imperial Institute, London, and assisting in the maintenance thereof	5,000.00
Total	\$4,499,384.16

no man on earth worked as hard as the farmer, that no man had such disagreeable jobs to perform. If there is anything interesting or inspiring about farming, Fred never knew anything about it, for he never had a chance to see it at home. One thing Fred did hear frequently. It was this: "I never intend that my son shall work as hard as I have had to do. My Fred shall not be a farmer." Fred was given to understand that he was to go to the city and make a fortune. From the country school he was slated to go to the business college.

OFF TO A BAD START.

Fred got the idea that his future was to be away and above that of many of the neighboring boys. He thought it his part to ape the cigarette between his fingers. Not regarding the farm as his life work he never seriously applied himself to the work around home, and developed dissolute habits. He did not know how to apply himself. Although they started to