

there is money in the farm for them and they would soon become very much interested in the old place and have no desire to leave it.

Farmers of to-day apparently have very little time to attend to the social side of life. The telephone and rural mail, while indispensable from a business standpoint, have not increased the sociability of the community. I can remember a few years ago when the neighbors would gather in the country post office on "mail night" and discuss the latest "doings" generally, while to-day modern conveniences have eliminated the country post office altogether. If farmers would spend their evenings around each other's firesides and discuss rural problems freely, it would certainly be a help to the sociability of the community.

Bruce Co., Ont.

J. MORLEY HANBRIDGE.

Get the Right Mental Attitude.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

What is needed to make the farm home more attractive? The answer to this question depends primarily on the man and the woman who are the founders and mainstay of the farm home, and the guides and example of their children. They must be so in love with their occupation that no temptation of wealth or honor to be had in other vocations will ever cause them a sigh of regret that they have chosen farming as their life-work. Then, and only then, can they hold up before their children the attractive side of farm life.

Some one has truly said, "Keep right yourself and everything else will go right, go wrong yourself and everything else will go wrong." The farmer who always has something to grumble about, whether it is the weather, the crops, the markets or the chilblains on his toes, is not helping in that way to make his home or occupation more attractive to his children. To see the beauty of rural life it is necessary to have the right mental attitude in oneself. There are some people who can view with indifference the beautiful and harmonious colors of the rainbow, and there are some, too, whose emotions are never stirred by the sight of a well-cultivated patch of corn or a fine herd of cattle grazing in the pasture field. Again, there are others who can see beauty even in a clod of earth, and can take more solid enjoyment out of a study of its relation to their sustenance than many a man gets out of a game of cards. It all depends on the point of view. If the farm home is going to hold the boys and girls they must imbibe the spirit of their parents even before they learn their A B C's, for the impressions they receive before they are seven years old are more important and lasting than any which come to them later.

There are many sides to this question, but I will take the time to dwell only on one or two points in connection with the practical education which young people receive on the farm. No person can be long on a farm without learning that work is never lacking. The man to whom manual labor is distasteful is not fitted to be a farmer. How can work be made a pleasure instead of a drudgery? I would say, by infusing into it the elements of recreation and by uniting it with the elements of heroism. The man who works early and late to save enough money so that he can move to town for the rest of his life is not putting recreation into his work any more than the city man who is driving his brain day and night and restlessly looking forward to the day when he can give up his present occupation and spend his declining years in a peaceful home in the country. In these days when self-sacrifice is demanded of every man, woman and child for the sake of our national safety and welfare, no one should think of doing anything but his very best up to the utmost limit of his strength and ability in the cause of national service. Those who realize the critical importance of the struggle in which our Empire is engaged do not think that their own comfort and pleasure are the highest objects for which they should strive, but they seek rather to develop all the powers within them to the end that they may serve their day and generation and leave the world better than they found it. It is only in doing this that true enjoyment of work can be realized. Soldiers write home from the battlefield that in the thick of the fight they have found themselves—they have found out the meaning of life and tasted the deep joy of life in giving themselves to the cause of their country, to defend those who are downtrodden by the oppressor.

Does the occupation of farming offer as distinct a challenge to the heroic spirit of young men as does the field of battle? That is for each one to answer for himself. Professor I. P. Roberts in one of his books describes agriculture as the most difficult of all pursuits. Insurance companies class it as one of the hazardous occupations. So, if difficulty and danger draw out the heroic in men, farming is not lacking in those elements which call for self-sacrifice and courage, and it is only through the exercise of these qualities that boys and girls of the right stamp can be attracted and permanently held to the farm home.

I conclude that it is not more conveniences, more attractive surroundings, nor better live stock that will make the farm home more attractive to boys and girls. These things are good and well worth aiming at, but it is not such things as these which help to persuade young men to enlist for service overseas. Then, why should they be held out as inducements for them to remain at home? What young people of true worth want is something to satisfy that longing for achievement—something that will give them an opportunity to add to the world's wealth, to produce instead of to destroy, to build up instead of tear down, and to be a worker and not a parasite living on other men's labors. All this and much more the farm home offers to the boys and girls of Canada if they are willing to take it.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

ALTRUIX.

Co-Operate and Economize.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As a member of a Young Farmers' Association in Grenville County, I wish to speak to the junior farmers of the importance of co-operation in connection with the Young Farmers' Associations. From co-operation we are led to economize, which is very important to a person's welfare, and at the present time it is more demanded than it has been for some time previous.

Speaking from the standpoint of co-operation, I regret very much that the junior farmers of this locality, and no doubt many others, are not taking advantage of the opportunities they might grasp. This I declare is due to lack of co-operation. Why do not the young farmers of to-day, through their organized associations, get their heads together and do more for themselves by buying feed and seed in carload lots? By doing this they not only help themselves, but the community in which they reside.

As we are all aware the majority, of farmers do not realize the importance of pure and clean seed. This problem has been given very strict attention in the past few years by all our agricultural institutions, and I strongly advise the young farmers of to-day to persist in this problem, whether through their associations or as individuals. There are other problems which may be dealt with by Junior Farmers' Associations, as buying their own feed in carload lots. We all understand our feed receives its third handling, namely, the manufacturer, the agent and the consumer. Then why does not the consumer order direct and cut out this "middle man," as he is often called?

Another problem worthy of mention is shipping our own produce through our associations, as butter, eggs, in fact, all the farm produce may be shipped through a co-operative society, which very often cuts down shipping expenses. All this co-operation leads to economy. No doubt we should try to economize more at the present time, since hard times have been brought before us by this terrible war. Then why not, as individuals, get busy and help our co-operative societies, and in return receive the benefits ourselves?

Grenville Co., Ont.

M. A. POWELL.

What Will Help to Keep us There.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

There are three institutions in every community, viz., the Home, School and Church. The abnormal drift cityward of our rural young people, and a similar desire in many of those that remain, indicates that one or all three, are at fault. It is easy enough to criticize but harder to remedy. It is also true that many of us fully realize the isolation and disadvantages of rural communities, but having "fallen in love with our job," are loath to leave farming as a vocation. Also, many probably over-estimate the joys and advantages of city life. A closer acquaintance with our urban cousins sometimes dispels illusions. Again, others do not make the most of their opportunities, or lack energy and ambition to improve their education or talents. We must strive to improve our environment instead of slipping behind it. As the home is the first institution we come in contact with, let us examine it.

To judge by some articles, the most common cause of discontent is the incident of "Johnny's pig and daddy's pork." It has almost become a fable, and probably is as true a reason as any. I got "stung at the game" so early I've forgotten the details, but the effects were such, that it is only recently I've taken a personal interest in the stock. Of course, daddy very likely sold Johnny's pig and bought him a new suit with the proceeds, but Johnny wanted to put the cash in his own pocket, and doesn't hesitate to say so. He immediately resolves to run away to the city and there earn his "very own" money. When dad tries to stop his "holer" with a quarter, he likely spends it on cigarettes as a first step in his emancipation. Now, dad! you know you would have been better to have given your boy the cash, assisted him to pay for his own suit, and induced him to start a bank account with the remainder. With that as a foundation Johnny might have saved his dimes and nickels, but a bank-book that looks like thirty cents, and adds up to about the same, isn't much inducement to save. I know you like to feel that fat roll of greenbacks in your pant's pocket, and you want to buy some more stock, but just now your most important stock is that twelve-year-old boy. As he grows older he naturally wants more interest in the farm operations and profits, and where this is denied it causes trouble. More boys are discontented for the reason that they do not know for what they are working, than for any other cause. It is a natural and desirable instinct, and once gratified will result in better work and greater interest. I read once of a prosperous Western farmer with a family of five or six boys and girls, whom he wished to keep on the farm. So he formed his assets into a genuine stock company regularly capitalized and organized. Each member of the family was a shareholder and also a managing director of some branch of the farm. I think if a scheme such as this, but on a smaller scale, were on every farm we would have a more contented class of rural young people.

Given an interest in the business of the farm, we should all, boys and girls, mother and father, try to make our farm home surroundings as beautiful and attractive as possible. How many farms we see with unpainted, dirty houses, tumble-down fences, a yard full of mud, or burdocks and other weeds, and we wonder how people exist there, as you can't call it living in the true sense of the word. Again, you see huge barns with all modern equipment, good pig-pens and silo, and a

miserable, unsightly little shack of a house, and it is not surprising in both cases to find discontented young people there. But if these same young people could make up their minds to improve conditions, surroundings could be helped. Coal oil on the bare roots will kill burdocks, a gallon of paint will cover up a lot of ugliness, a lawn mower energetically used for a season or two on even poor grass or weeds will give a fair lawn. Clear up all the old buggies and machinery that litter up so many yards and plant some shrubs and flowers. Even if dad does laugh at you get a name for the farm, a happy, ambitious sounding name, and be proud enough of your home to make the farm look like the name.

One way parents can become "chummy" with their boys, is by an interest in their hobbies. To collect and to construct is a natural instinct of a normal boy, and hobbies vary from collecting bugs, birds' eggs and weed seeds, to work with pet, tools or photography. Some parents encourage this, but others, usually mothers, burn or destroy the boy's "truck" as often as they can. I have always had a liking for tools and have lately become a camera fiend, and many a rainy day or otherwise lonesome evening has been happily spent in these hobbies. Besides, they have practical results in many handy devices and pieces of mission furniture, also pictures and snaps that are mementos of friends and outings.

In many of our homes there is a sad lack of intellectual stimulus for the young people. In some homes all the reading matter available is the almanac and the modern family Bible, a certain departmental store catalogue. Likely the parents do not wish any, but not so with most children. At a certain age there comes a craving for reading, and some boys would almost do without their meals to read. This is the time to acquire a taste for something worth while, by reading the standard classics, as Scott or Dickens, which can now be had in cheap editions as low as fifteen cents per volume. As we grow older we prefer the modern authors or poets, and every home should add to its library at least two or three good new books yearly.

By exchange with others of a like taste it is possible to keep fairly abreast with the best in modern literature. Nor should we neglect the chance of education in the daily newspaper and in magazines. These should be carefully selected to give us breadth in our reading. To acquire a well-stored intellect is one of the supreme duties of our youth. Our small towns are filled with retired farmers, lonesome old codgers, who while on the farm were so anxious to gain material wealth, that they neglected to gain mental wealth for company in their old days. Let us not follow their example.

To me one of the greatest disadvantages of rural life, is the lack of good music. The city, where for a dime a symphony orchestra can be heard in a "movie," where every church presents a good choir and organ, where famous bands, orchestras and artists can be heard, presents a striking contrast to the dearth of even average music in the country. Again, teachers and colleges present advantages to improve one's talent, as contrasted with the poorly-paid, often inefficient country teacher. Yet many country boys and girls are natural musicians, to judge by the singing and mouth organs you hear. All they need is a chance. Our school teachers study music at Normal, but few schools teach the simple theory of music, such as time and the notes. It is as simple as arithmetic, and in after years would be just as useful. But how few of our rural young people can play, or even read music to assist them singing? How few homes have family singing or an orchestra? We regard a piano and ability to play it as a luxury, while, as an investment, it is about the best possible. I am thankful I had an opportunity and was made to learn to play, for now it is possible to somewhat satisfy my musical wants. Whatever may be said on the dance question, it is a fact that lots of our young people attend dances, often to hear the lively music there. All credit to the "fiddler" who scrapes out "Money Musk" by ear, but would it not be better if our homes were musical centres where the family sang and the children played duets, or if a community orchestra were possible. Yet how few players on orchestral instruments we have, and this could be remedied! I learned the violin through correspondence course, because a teacher was not available, and others could and are doing the same. Almost any boy could soon play the instrument of his choice if he had sufficient perseverance.

Lastly, a happy, contented family is found in a home where play is regarded as a necessity instead of an evil. I have in mind a man in our community who is proud of his large family, and they love and reverence him. One thing that helps is his willingness to spend part of his evenings playing checkers and other games with each child in turn. So, too, in every farm home provision should be made for games of various kinds and in which all should participate. A very popular game some places is table croquet, which is a fine one for developing hand and eye. In summer, tennis is excellent for our young people, as are also baseball and football. They teach us fair play and co-operation and should be encouraged. But it is often difficult to secure grounds, even our school grounds are sometimes denied us. Often thought it odd that thousands of acres are devoted to growing food for pigs and cattle, and the more important crop of young people have no place to call their own for sport. So some of our farm homes could be made much more attractive by the addition of a tennis court. It is an interesting, lovely game for all, even father and mother if they aren't too awfully stiff. It is easily learned and not very expensive. Lots of fun can be had on a fairly level lawn 70 feet long, with very moderate equipment of balls, net and raquets. Besides games, the boys and girls should be encouraged to engage in such sports as skating, skiing or snowshoeing in winter, and, where possible, water sports in summer.