

the immigrant class. However, when skilled farm labor from across the sea once gains a foothold here, this prejudice will be quickly uprooted.

It is a generally established fact that the occupation of farm laborer is not a popular one. This unpopularity is not because the calling is not a lucrative one, for, although on the face the wages do not appear large, the other accessories, such as board, free houses or low rent of houses in rural sections, free gardens and the low cost of farm produce at the farm as compared with at the city market, are of such value that the man who works for a fair farm wage is more money in at the end of a year than the laborer or mechanic in the city, drawing a much larger wage. Besides, for the man with a family the country affords better opportunity for the successful physical and moral development of his children, with nearly equal educational advantages. It seems, therefore, that the unpopularity of farm work lies in the long, irregular hours and the lack of the entertainment and social excitement found in urban sections. Therefore, any condition of farm life that tends to assure shorter and more regular hours for the hired man will aid much in making the occupation a popular one. Of course, there are such seasons as haying and harvest when any reasonable man realizes that the pressure of work demands long and trying hours, and hired men as a rule expect such a condition of affairs. The time has not come when farm work can be performed on an ordinary farm within stated hours, though on some large estates a ten or twelve-hour day has been found a successful practice. However, apart from the busy season it seems unreasonable

for a farmer to overwork his men by long hours, especially doing chores after dark. This practice will either make him discontented and hard to manage or cause him to make up for long hours by shirking his work through the day, often resulting in a smaller amount of work being done than would be accomplished in a shorter time by interested and contented men.

One of the most fruitful causes of annoyance to farmers is the lack of interest and consequent carelessness displayed about their work by hired men. While this is partly due to the class of men who offer themselves for farm labor, much is due to the treatment they receive at the hands of their employers. A good man who appears to like his work should be encouraged by his employer to take an interest in the operations of the farm on which he is employed. If he is given credit for some of the success of the work it will not only please him, but make him more satisfied and willing to take further interest. This leads to more careful handling of stock and implements, a better quality and greater quantity of work, a satisfied man, and consequently increased profits to the owner. If the hired man is found worthy of trust, it pays to trust him to the limit, even to the point of consulting him about the manner in which work should be done. However, he must never be allowed to suppose that his employer does not know his business, for contempt for employer's capabilities is fatal to a good understanding between master and man.

I will say little of the influence that a little attention to the bodily comforts of a man has in making him contented, for it is generally recognized among