

receives from the farm. The United States government inspects the meat as it is received at our great cities. Your purses, too, will be affected by the kind of farming done in the neighborhood of your city. In the vicinity of a certain city the farmers are too ignorant or too lazy to raise good chickens or vegetables. The market men are obliged to send long distances to get the grade of produce demanded by their customers. Can a city afford to be surrounded by an unintelligent and shiftless yeomanry? The great change which recent times have brought in the summer habits of city people is an ever increasing means of bringing into clearer light the common interests of farm and town. City boarders are beginning to see that the farmer's surroundings and mode of life may largely affect them for weal or woe. It may be truthfully said to have brought farm and town together on the matter of good roads. How all of a sudden thousands of city people have discovered that it is a matter of vital importance that good roads shall be built to aid the farmer who hauls his produce into town—and

incidentally to accommodate the bicyclist who rides out of town!

The attempt to purify city politics and revive civic pride and self-respect is very encouraging. But this must not be done to the neglect of the interest of the State, which, after all, is the great unit of our national life. In general, to sum up, the problem of our times is not how to send men back to the farms where they are not needed, not how to scatter population into myriads of little communities, but how to raise the level of farm life and farm product, to more thoroughly organize the great towns, to improve the means of communication between farm and town, and to harmonize the manifold elements which compose the modern state, so that each will do its appointed work in the best manner, and the interests of all the people will be conserved. There is a grand old word used in Thanksgiving proclamations in Massachusetts which, taken to heart, should bring town and farm into closest sympathy. Let us never forget that, wherever we may dwell, strong bonds unite us as members of the "commonwealth."

THE TEMPERATURE OF ARID REGIONS.

Mr. Willis L. Moore, chief of the United States weather bureau, and therefore an accepted authority on matters pertaining to climate, expressed the opinion, in a recent paper on "Some Climatic Features of the Arid Region," that the ideal climate as regards equality of temperature and absence of moisture does not exist in the United States. Such a climate, he says, is found only on the plateaus of the tropics, as, for example, at Santa Fe de Bogota, in Colombia, where the average annual temperature is about 59°. The southeastern part of the United States has the nearest approach to this ideal

temperature. Even in the southwest the range of variation is too great, and the rainfall reaches from nothing to a point greater than is to be found in the Eastern or Middle States. The study of meteorological conditions is most interesting, the flavor of speculation that is about it rendering it charmingly attractive. Experts tell us that ranges of temperature depend upon the dryness of the air and the clearness of the sky. Thus, while the summer temperature of the Southwest is high, the real degree of heat as felt by animal life is not indicated by the common thermometer, but by a mercurial thermometer, the bulb of