

INDISPENSABLE SERVANTS OF OUR COMMUNITY LIFE.

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2. Rates for service rendered had remained stationary, or had risen very little.
3. The net earnings of most companies had been steadily declining.
4. Companies relying on steam were the most seriously affected because of the high price of coal.

The Standing of the Public Utility Companies To-day.

1. Operating costs following the general price decline have begun to recede.
2. Rates for service rendered have in most cases been increased by popular vote, or by the decision of Public Utility Commissions.
3. During the past few months the net earnings of most companies have shown an increase.
4. A great many Canadian companies generate their power from water and are not seriously affected by coal costs.

SOME RECENT CONTRACTS.

The MacKinnon Steel Co., Limited, of Sherbrooke, Que., have recently been awarded contracts for the steel superstructures of the following bridges:—

- 55 ft. clear span highway bridge over River Pointe du Jourdain in L'Assomption Municipality, at the site known as Pont Jourdain, L'Assomption, Que.
 - 65 ft. clear span highway bridge to be erected across the outlet of Brome Lake, at Fulford, Que.
 - 60 ft. clear span highway bridge in two spans with 25 ft. roadway and 5 ft. sidewalk for the city of Granby, Que.
 - 80 ft. clear span highway bridge over the River Tartigou, between St. Ulric and Sandy Bay, County of Matane, Que.
 - 28 ft. clear span bridge known as Emerson Bridge, for the Township of Sutton, Que.
- Mr. H. H. Welsh, former manager in Sherbrooke, Que., for the E. & T. Fairbanks & Co., Limited, and latterly manager of the scale department of the Canadian Fairbanks Morse Co., Limited, Montreal, Que., has joined the organization of the MacKinnon Steel Co., Ltd., Sherbrooke, Que., as manager, and has already assumed his duties.

PUBLIC HEALTH A FULL-TIME JOB—Continued

- 8.—Baby welfare, particularly among the poor, must be religiously looked after. This is a division of the work which absolutely requires the ministry of a trained public health nurse. No town should be without the services of one instructive visiting nurse, and as many more as may be needed. School inspection can be left safely in her hands, as competent physicians are always available to check up her work.
- 9.—The schools must be inspected and defects in children discovered and as far as possible corrected, and vaccinations must be regularly done.
- 10.—Housing conditions of the poor must be improved, and the hot-beds of darkness, dampness and dirt, making for disease, must receive the health officer's attention.
- 11.—A laboratory should be established at the earliest moment, where specimens of milk, water and material from people suspected of infectious diseases may be examined.
- 12.—Educational publicity. And last but not least, cordial relations must be established with every agency in the community working for the public good, especially the newspapers. The best-informed people are always with the health officer in spirit. It must therefore be his care to let them know what he is trying to do, that they may be given an opportunity to aid in the good work.—American City.

THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

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Greater crops should result from proper soil conservation, from the suggestions of the demonstrators, and from the growing tendency toward more intensive farming. The advantages of diversification should become more generally recognized on the part of farmers, one-crop sections should be turned into diversified districts and area devoted entirely to grain raising should be changed into communities combining both grain farming and live stock farming.

More and better live stock is one of the pressing demands of our land and our markets, and this fact should be brought strongly to the attention of the farmer. The experience of other nations has shown that one of the greatest incentives toward better live stock is found in the organization of a system of co-operative live stock insurance associations.

Soil conservation, greater crops and more and better live stock would bring added prosperity and stability to farming and would do much to give it the business dignity that attaches to so many other forms of industry and as a result of this new prosperity and business pride would grow, the ability to obtain and the desire for better living.

The Community Spirit.

Better living touches the social, religious and educational sides of life, and consequently revolves largely around the home, the church and the school. Probably the first requisite for the development of a general system of better living in any section is a better community spirit.

Better home conditions are of vast importance to the personal comfort of the farming class. Farm houses should be arranged with the idea of utility foremost in the mind and the seldom used farm house parlor should not be a matter of first importance in home arrangement. More attention should be paid to the rooms that are used and particularly to the sleeping rooms. More home machinery should be introduced, electric or gasoline power should be substituted for windmills and muscle, and a washing machine should be indispensable in every farmer's home. Farm sanitation has been until recently a neglected science. Nothing is more important to the comfort of the rural classes and the maintenance of the health that naturally follows a life in the open. Better prepared food and a better understanding of the elements of which food is composed is of the utmost importance on the farm. The farmer of to-day enjoys more food and better food than many other classes, but it is oftentimes cooked in a distasteful manner, is poorly selected and a great percentage of waste exists. Waste is one of the great enemies of the farmer as of most other classes of our people, and it should be eliminated in every department of his life.

These various elements involving better living would bring to the farm a feeling of dignity and contentment, would do much to solve the vexing problem of farm labor, would result in more owners and fewer landlords, and would substitute the busy, intelligent and prosperous country gentleman for the tiller of the soil whom we now sometimes read about in the joke books.

The second thing is to provide good marketing facilities for the farmers. This involves good roads, which we partly have in some districts. This makes easy access to market possible. It involves co-operative processes in giving the farmers cheaper and more efficient methods of disposing of their goods. Furthermore, it involves the education of the farmer in the best method of marketing his produce.

Distribution of farm products should be by the farmers themselves through co-operative distribution societies. Middlemen should be largely eliminated and the farmer should sell his products at higher prices and the consumer should be able to buy at lower prices. There should be co-operative distribution.