

THE OBSERVER

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AMUSING, YES. VERY AMUSING.

The Portland Commercial club is very much worried because more people do not farm. Strange, isn't it, that the bunch of men who warm chairs in a steam-heated building, who never get their feet on Mother Earth but always walk on marble floors or paved streets, should worry about anything? But they do; at least, they say they do.

Why do these club members worry? Is it because they are fearful lest starvation stalk abroad in the Oregon country? Not exactly.

Is it because they have a deep seated interest in humanity and really want to do some good? Hardly.

It is because they see with more farmers on the land there will be bigger dividends for Portland. That's all. Just a plain, selfish interest, no matter how they may try to hide it.

And why are there not more Portland people going onto farms?

Everybody knows that Portland is topheavy. She has more people than she knows what to do with. The great problem right now in the Oregon metropolis is how to look after the population and get them Englished out.

Arcade
TheatreREFINED ENTERTAINMENT
FOR ALL PEOPLE.

"PATHE WEEKLY NO 12"

This popular topical weekly has a very large number of interesting news items.

"MRS. ENRY 'AWKINS"

Vingraph

Very pleasing dramatic story

Miss Langdon in popular song.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,

THE PASSION PLAY

"PERCY'S VISIT"

Eclipse

Percy invites himself to stay

a few days at Charlie's house.

The latter is not over-pleased

with Percy's nerve and tells the

servants he will double their

wages if they will get rid of

him.

"THE INDIAN AND THE

CHILD"

Essanay

A western drama.

"CHUMS"

Eclipse

A very lively comedy.

Ray and Rayette—Singing,

talking and dancing act.

In different channels so harmony will prevail.

Yet none of them are going onto the farms.

There is a reason—a good, sufficient reason, and here it is:

Plowing means work. Yes, it means constant effort, early and late. No seven and a half hour shifts when tilling the soil, my boy. No laying off for the ball game when the oats are to be cut. No theatre parties with taxicabs and wine suppers on the farm.

That is why Portland people are not farming.

The great bulk of Portlanders have lived off of the toil of the other fellow until they have grown into the habit of doing so.

It is all right for them to advise the other fellow to go back to the soil, but not for the Portlanders. He would rather be the middle man and squeeze a compliance with the law in his profits from commissions.

FARM DEPOPULATION.

Running directly counter to the growing "back to the soil" movement, rural school teachers are an actual force in the depopulation of the country districts. They set the faces of country boys and girls toward the city and by idealizing city life they induce a movement toward the centers of population that often deprives the country village of its best citizens.

This declaration is made by Dr. Fred Mutchler and W. J. Craig, two members of the faculty of the Western Kentucky State Normal school, in a monograph which the United States Bureau of Education has just published. The tendency of the rural school to encourage emigration to the city, says the government publication, is in consequence of the fact that the course of study in most rural schools is merely a copy of that given to city school children, without reference to the different environment and local needs of the country child. As a result of giving the country child an education modeled on city lines, the authors declare that "Teachers everywhere, with rare exceptions, have idealized city life, and unwittingly have been potent factors in inducing young men and women to leave the farm and move into the city. This movement often carries some of the best blood and brain of the community into the city, often to be lost, wasted, or destroyed; certainly to be lost from the rural community. It is possible and right, indeed a duty, to dignify rural life and to save to it and to its interests the best blood of the country."

"The rural school has not the influence that it should have. One of the chief reasons lies in the fact that the course of study is ill-adapted to rural life in all its revelations. We are united in believing that a school should train its pupils for life and its work while these pupils are living and working. The course of study taught in the rural school today is entirely too much like the course that is taught in the city school; in fact it has been modeled to fit the needs of the latter without consulting even the ends that are to be attained

in the former."

As an indication of the cash value of a course of study, specialized to the needs of the rural community and taught by trained normal graduates the monograph says:

"Canada's rural schools increased the average wheat yield there five bushels to the acre in a few years' time. Suppose that our rural school teachers should set for themselves the problem of increasing the corn crop five bushels per acre what would be the result? Let us see. In 1910 the farmers of Kentucky, planted and cultivated 3,630,000 acres of corn, which yielded 105,270,000 bushels. An increase of five bushels per acre would have made the yield 18,500,000 bushels more. These 18,500,000 bushels of corn would have brought, at the average farm price December 1, 1910, approximately \$10,000,000.

"This money would have gone directly to the rural communities where it is much needed, and would have been of vast importance in solving the problems that confront our rural people. It could have been used to build 2,000 miles of first class pike roads, or it would have paid the expenses of our public schools for two and a half years. It would have gone far toward paying the farmers' taxes, or it would have built and furnished many a rural home. Can anyone figure the comfort and happiness that five bushels more of corn per acre would buy for the rural people of any state?

"What the rural schools can do for improving corn culture they can do for any other farm crop, if they adopt a national course of study and demand teachers who can teach them effectively and efficiently. Fortunately practical principles of agriculture are neither difficult to learn nor irksome to teach. The subject appeals to rural pupils because it comes within the scope of their immediate interests.

"Rural life can be wonderfully improved by the united efforts of teachers to promote real, genuine, uplifting thrift through instruction in the principles and practices of agriculture. To teach these principles the teacher must have had a thorough preparation in this special field."

As between "progressive neurotics" and "political paranoids" it is difficult to judge but we suppose there is a difference.

And now it is said Bryan may be a candidate. Strange, strange indeed, but we have felt all along that it would be said.

It is now stated that the Pullman porters wage is but \$1.04 a day. Probably the four cents is for his work as collector of coin for the company.

The term "Celestial Empire" may now be stored in the garret along with the spinning wheel.

Missouri is going to try to worry along with only one favorite son.

Circles of Latitude.

Each circle of latitude keeps at the same distance from the equator entirely around the earth. Suppose that the arctic circle should be laid with a band of bright metal so that it could be seen for fifty miles each way from a peak. Then, to the eye, the curvature would be a matter of individual judgment. Face the west, then some would say the line is straight; others, curved to the right. The curvature could be detected on that circle of latitude with instruments. As one approached the pole the curvature would rapidly become more and more apparent. Go to within one-half a mile of the poles, then a circle of latitude would be like a race track one mile in diameter. When the sea is still I cannot detect the curvature of the surface of the water, but persons have told me that they can.—Edgar Lucien Larkin in New York American.

Keeping Up Steam.
An Irishman just landed secured a position as fireman in a large factory. The chief engineer instructed him in his new duties, saying, "To run our engine we require 100 pounds of steam. You can always tell how much steam you have by looking at this gauge."

Shortly afterward the engineer noticed that the engine was slowing up. Calling to the boiler room, he inquired of Pat how much steam he had on.

"Oh have a hundred and forty-four pounds, sor," answered the new fireman.

"Why, man, I told you we had to have 100 pounds to run."

"Niver mind that," was the cheerful answer. "Use what ye have got, an' when that's gone O'll have more for ye."—Everybody's.

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Darrow's Trial Starts.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 15.—The trial of Clarence S. Darrow, former chief counsel of the McNamara defense, on a charge of bribery in connection with that case, began today before Presiding Judge Hutton, of the superior court. He is charged with having attempted to bribe, and of bribing George N. Lockwood, a prospective juror, in the McNamara trial. The trial is being conducted in the same room in which the McNamaras were sentenced for dynamiting the Los Angeles Times building. Darrow appeared in excellent health. He was calm when the indictment was read.

Roosevelt Men Elect.

Aberdeen, May 15.—The Roosevelt convention here elected Senator Fal-

coner temporary chairman and C. S. Hall of Vancouver, chief secretary. The Taft convention selected eight delegates at large.

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