

WHY FARMERS LEAVE THE FARM



WITH the census showing a loss of population in scores of country communities, a hundred writers, with as many theories, have made comment. Yet many as are the causes that have been ascribed, it is doubtful if all have been enumerated. However, a few things have contributed in very large part in bringing about the country conditions disclosed by the census.

Ask the average man of family who has left the farm and gone to town why he did so, and the substance of the reply that you are almost sure to get is that it was because of the scarcity of help. Question him more closely and the probability is that he will have something to say about the "women folks" and how hard it was to keep help in the house. When you have gotten these replies you are on bed rock, so to speak. You are at the



Antiquated Water System.

root of the matter, be there a hundred branches above.

We have heard much of the need of better roads, of real rural schools and of the passing of the old country

PRETTY CHECKING SCHEME

At Golden Wedding Yellow Carnation Was Given Each Guest Who Had Been Served Refreshments.

"I've just heard of a new checking system," said the woman who always has new ideas. "This was revealed at a golden wedding reception I attended recently in a little country town upstate. Of course, the house was large, but as the whole town, pretty nearly, was there, it was something of a task to feed and otherwise refresh those guests properly and to be sure that no one was overlooked. Well, after greeting the dear old wife and husband, who stood with the golden winter sunshine at their backs, the guests were passed into a room where punch was served. Thence on into the dining-room, where ice cream, cake and other delicacies were handed out. They left this room by another door, which took them out into the hall again, but before they passed out of the dining-room a pretty young granddaughter, who stood by the door with a big basket full of yellow carnations

church with its lasting influence for good. Here we may look, and not in vain, for some suggestion as to the answer to the "why" in a discussion of the falling off in rural population; yet in the final summing up of the causes that have contributed to the loss, or lack of growth, of population in the country, there are other matters of far more import. Many country people leave their farms and go to town not so much from choice as from what is, to them at least, seemingly necessity. They perhaps, and most all doubtless do, look upon better schools, churches and roads as greatly to be desired, but not for these things alone do great numbers of the people actually sell the old farm home, leave tried and true friends and neighbors and go to town. Generally speaking, they go only when they have made up their minds that they must. When the time comes that "the girls" are all married and gone and "mother" no longer has the strength that was hers in her younger days, and when "father" is unable to actively look after the work in the fields—when these times come and help cannot be had in the house or on the farm, something must be done. The chances are that when the turn is made it is toward town—to town, where there will be less work for the women.

What Farmers' Wives Want.

A most important question is, How is help to be secured for the farm home, or how is the farmer's wife to get along without the "hired girl" in the house? For an answer to this question we turn to the wives of farmers, and fortunately we have their replies at hand. The answer is in reply to the following question submitted to Missouri farm women by the state board of agriculture: "What one change or improvement about the farm house would, in your opinion, be of

(especially colored for the event), pinned a flower to each guest. Of course, every one was glad to get such a charming souvenir, but only the members of the family knew that when a guest wore a yellow flower he had been served bountifully and those without had had nothing. Pretty clever for a country affair, wasn't it?"

An Abused Word.

"There are few words in the average man's vocabulary which are misused more frequently than the word 'muted,'" said a retired common pleas judge recently. "When I was on the bench and since I have resumed practice I have heard it used in the most fantastic connections. A woman who had been defrauded by a book agent complained in court that she had been muted. A man who had paid \$200 for an option which he did not exercise felt that he had been muted. A man that I met on the street corner, who had lost \$500 on the Cuba in the world's series confided to me that the winning bettor had muted him. In other words, there is the element of

the greatest element to the housewife—in other words, what one would you rather have?" To this query more than 53 per cent. of the women who replied gave it as their opinion that the greatest need of the farm house, the one improvement that they most wished for, was some system of running water in the house. To one unacquainted with country conditions such unanimity in the replies received may seem rather remarkable. Yet there are reasons why this one reply should outnumber all others combined.

Diverging somewhat, yet considering other things dealing at least indirectly with this question of help in the house, it may prove interesting and perhaps profitable to note further the needs and wants of farmers' wives, as indicated by the replies sent in to the Missouri state board of agriculture. Two improvements most wished for are gas and other modern lighting system; furnace or other modern heating system. Some other replies were: More conveniences, concrete porches and floors, more convenient dwelling, modern kitchen, basement or cellar, power to run washing machine and churn, sewers, more good house room, more convenient out-houses, way to get rid of flies, best washing machine made, icehouse, laundry.

Needs of the Farmer.

"What, in your opinion, is the greatest need of the farmer of today, or the greatest problem with which he must contend?" This question, submitted by the Missouri state board of agriculture, was answered by 440 farmers, each of the 114 counties of the state being represented in the replies. The answers of 111 farmers, practically one-fourth of the entire number, or almost 40 per cent. of the 286 who considered the "problem" rather than the "need," answered, in substance, "Lack of hired help." Many wrote at length on this subject, a general complaint being that much of the good help has gone to town, to the railroad and to public works, where wages (if we do not consider the cost of living) are more than the farmer can afford to pay, and where the hours are generally shorter than on the farm. Farm hands seem to be getting scarcer every year. Too many are drifting to town and when once in town they would rather work there for \$1 per day than go back to the country and



Lack of Help Causes Land Waste.

work for \$2 per day. The labor problem is getting more serious every year.

Modern labor-saving and time-saving machinery will aid in taking the place of men, especially on the larger farms, but for the farmer of moderate means the solution of the problem as to how to get along with but little or no help must, in part at least, come through intensive cultivation—through added bushels rather than added acres.

Want a Half Nickel.

Western grocers intend to have introduced in congress a bill calling for a coin worth 2-1/2 cents. This coin, the grocers contend, is made necessary by the increased cost of edibles. As the wholesaler advances the price on the retailer a half or a fraction of a cent so must the retailer harpoon his customers to make a profit. With the present currency they contend that the customer loses about 2 per cent on the dollar.

false pretense or fraud in the mind of almost everyone who uses the word. As a matter of fact the word 'muted' has but one correct use, the legal use, and all others are obsolete. It is proper to speak of 'muted' an unsuccessful defendant in damages, as the word properly refers to a pecuniary fine or penalty. So far as I can judge, there is no license for using it in any other connection."—Philadelphia Record.

Why They Were Good.

"The men in that hose company from the Tenth ward seem to be death on flies," I remarked to the superintendent of the fire department as I watched the brave boys fighting the flames.

"Yes," he said, "they were all recruited from a lot of ex-apartment house janitors."

Those Hats.

"I see where a scientist has invented something that will make a person invisible."

"The milliners beat him to that a year ago."

Dress Up-to-Date.

PARIS.—This week, and perhaps next week, and the week after, I am going to speak in detail of the fashions specially created for the season on the Riviera, especially the season at Monte Carlo and Nice.

At this time of the year the big dressmakers and milliners are very busy indeed creating original models for early spring wear, and as the Riviera season begins immediately after New Year's day, one can thus early form a very good idea of the fashions likely to be popular in the spring and early summer, writes Idalia de Villiers in her Weekly fashion letter.

For the months of January and February, the Riviera costumes, for day wear, consists largely of tailored suits; in March more dressy costumes find favor with our elegantes.

In the first place, all the walking skirts show the straight lines which are the rage of the winter, but there is a decided tendency toward the round skirt of ordinary length, the skirt which clears the ground by two or three inches, but which does not give the impression of exceeding shortness. A great many of these skirts are made with a narrow panel back and front, and not a few show a band of embroidery or silk braiding, about eight inches in width, at the extreme hem. I have not seen a single model of a tied-in skirt in the showrooms of our leading tailors or dressmakers.

Along Original Lines.

A very original Riviera costume recently created by Redfern was of dark blue faced cloth with the skirt made on the lines just described, plain and tight, with panels back and front.



These panels were piped with black satin and inside the pipings were black silk cords. On the lower part of the panels, close to the hem of the skirt, were sets of small buttons covered in dark red leather. These buttons were arranged in sets of five and they reached up to the knee line. The coat was molded to the figure without being actually tight and was of medium length; similar rows of buttons to those on the skirt appeared on the front and back panels, and there was a collar of black satin and a single rever of red leather. This idea of a large single rever is very new and when cleverly manipulated it is exceedingly smart. In the case of the costume which I am now describing, the rever fell back over the right breast and the coat opened in a modest V, over a finely-tucked shirt of white batiste, which showed a hair line of red. The sleeves of the coat were long and moderately tight, with small cuffs of black satin and little sets of red buttons.

On some of the models created by Redfern and Paquin the coats were double-breasted and then cut away sharply at either side; not the rounded fronts which were fashionable last summer, but sharp points. On very slender figures this style is sufficiently attractive, but it is impossible for any one inclined to adipose tissue. In any

case it has a tendency to make the hips look exaggeratedly large and to cut the figure unbecomingly.

Simplicity in Serge.

For early morning wear, at Nice and Monte Carlo, I have noticed some delightful little suits of pastel-tinted serges, with very simple skirts and with smart little coats which boasted collars and cuffs of glove kid.

I saw yesterday afternoon an ideal spring costume in an exquisite shade of hedge-sparrow egg blue serge. The round skirt was plain, save for some pipings of glove kid in the same blue as the serge, and the half-length coat had a deep collar, turned-back cuffs and pockets of the kid. The buttons were rather large, of mother of pearl, set in dull silver rims. It was the smartest and most dainty costume one could imagine and the lining of the coat was of shot taffetas, which showed delicate shades of violet and old rose.

For Monte Carlo Season.

At least two of our leading tailors are making a number of pure white serge and fine cloth suits for the Monte Carlo season. It is predicted that we shall find white, black and a mixture of black and white still the rage when spring comes back, and even summer. Certain it is that in the land of sunshine, such as Nice and Monte Carlo, white suits are always sure of a success. They suggest beautiful weather and gay doings and besides this they are almost universally becoming. There are few costumes in which a woman looks prettier than in a neatly finished suit of white serge, with handsome white silk braid introduced on skirt and coat and the accompaniment of a spotless shirt waist of the finest batiste and valenciennes lace.

As for the hat, it would probably give the best effects, for morning year, if it were a large white boater, or sailor shape, with a wide band of thick white ribbon round the crown.

White shoes would, of course, go with this costume, and then the needed touch of bright color could be introduced in the guise of a handsome scarf of silk muslin in a subtle shade of rose pink. This scarf should be thrown over the hat and loosely wound round the neck, while at the breast a cluster of marmalade carnation would complete the picture.

Necessary White Suits.

With two or three smart scarfs of suits and several handsome scarfs of this kind a clever woman could get through a few weeks at Nice with pleasure and with credit, so far as morning dresses are concerned. Of course in the afternoon and evening, for the Casino and other places of amusement, costumes of a far more dressy kind are necessary, but I do not propose to deal with these today.

Before leaving the subject of simple tailored suits for morning wear I must just say that the half-length coat is the safest and quite the most becoming. We find in individual cases, that very long coats are in favor and also exaggeratedly short ones; but for the average woman of average figure the half-length coat is safest and best. And it is the favorite coat of such men as Redfern, Paquin and Green.

A lovely costume recently was created by Cheruit for Mme. Coppens de Fontenay. It was worn at a fashionable wedding and it shows how black chantilly lace is introduced this season. Indeed, black chantilly is the favorite lace of the moment for ceremonious costumes. The corage and under dress are of ivory satin velvet in black chantilly, and the tunic is of black velvet edged with sable.

Successes on the Stage.

Cheruit has recently made several, sensationally beautiful costumes for our leading actresses and for society women belonging to the smart set. All the costumes turned out by this firm possess a certain cachet which sets them apart from their fellows.

A quaint little toque is a Riviera model and it shows the sort of thing that will be much worn at Monte Carlo in the early spring. It is simple and toque itself is of black velvet and the motifs are of the same material in a bright shade of coral, embroidered in silver. The introduction of the motif under the brim, in front, is curious and novel. It gives the impression of a bonnet.

Mme. Carlier has recently made a number of these bonnet toques, and it is certain that they will have a great success in Nice. They are not becoming to all faces, but the women who can wear them with success may be sure of making a pleasant sensation.

The simple gown shown in the illustration looks very well in mauve mousseline de sole trimmed with velvet and surmounted with a habit of gold-beaded tulle.