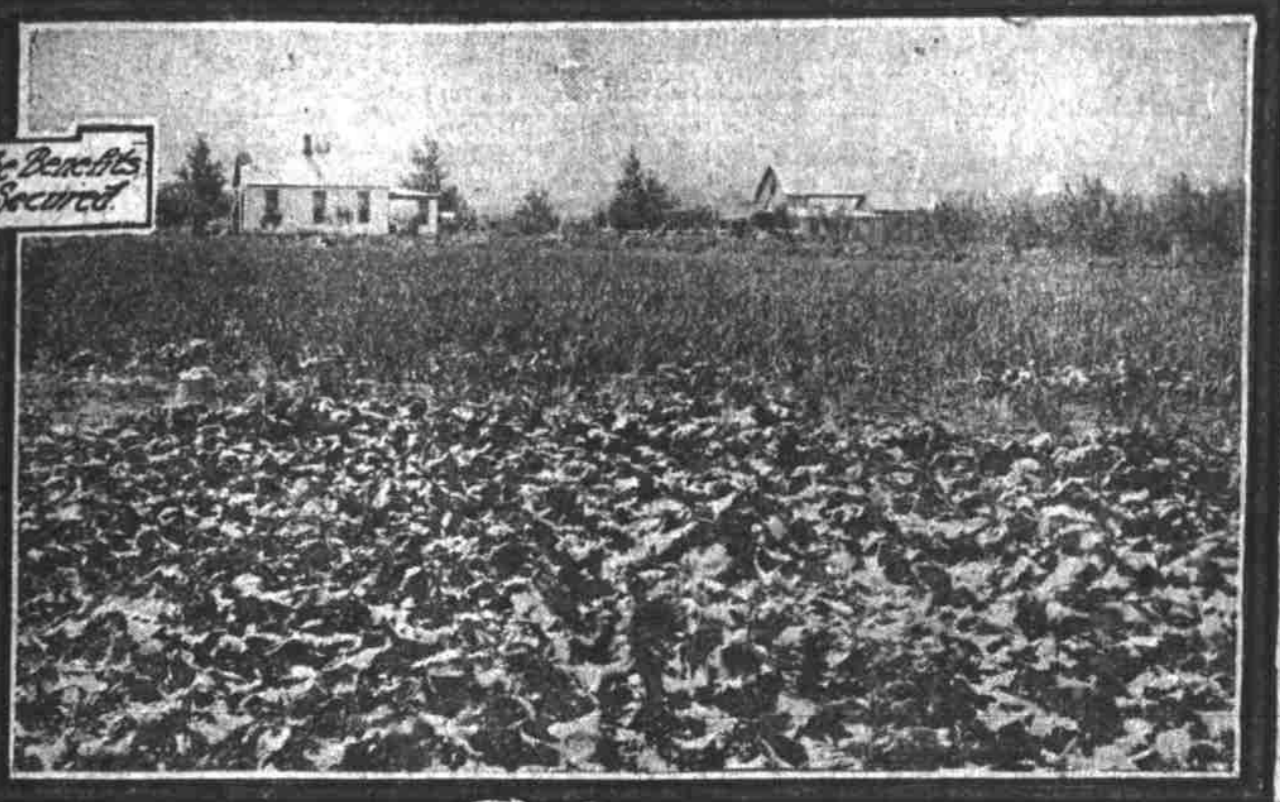


A LITTLE LAND and an IDEAL LIFE

COMMUNITY PLANS FOR THE WESTERN PLAINS THAT ARE FULL OF PROMISE FOR MILLIONS

Before and After the Benefits of Irrigation Here Secured.



Iowa farmers organized a corporation that buys all their supplies, disposes of all their farm products, does a profitable business of \$620,000 in a year, and defeats every trade, railroad and financial interest that has attempted to practice upon the members the familiar tricks of chicanery and extortion.

The farmers have in their own hands the earning of competencies and the assuring of them against any attempts at economic robbery. But they are helpless against the weariness of their sons over the farm's dullness; often hopeless in face of the conditions which keep thousands of able-bodied men walking the cities' streets, while the farms groan under crops that cannot be harvested for love or money.

The most impressive example of what has proved a complete solution of the problem under one set of conditions must be that of the Utopia which has sprung into existence under the reservoirs now reclaiming the arid West into a paradise of plenty.

On the irrigated lands of the West there has come into being a form of community life that offers more to the individual, singly or collectively, than anything as yet proposed by the sociologists. It harks back to the days of our ancestors, when the family grew so large as to form a village and lived in harmonious sociability; but it adds to that life every convenience developed through the passing of the centuries.

CITY AND COUNTRY IN ONE

It combines the advantages of the city and the country into one congenial whole; but, in so doing, avoids the undesirable features of each.

The origin of the community idea, as at present existing, was in such sections of the West as Redlands and Riverside in California, the Salt River valley in Arizona, and the Yakima valley, in Washington.

There was, at first, little value in the land. It was practically useless unless irrigated. The owners of property at Redlands, now worth \$1000 an acre, thirty years ago protested when it was assessed at 75 cents.

Because of their individual inability to provide irrigation facilities they pooled their interests and were able, working together, to provide for a water supply that would serve them all.

The community of interest brought them together in a battle against the common enemy, the desert. They built storage reservoirs, dammed and diverted streams, constructed systems of ditches, did whatever the exigencies of the given case demanded.

After their co-operation for the construction of a water system, similar action became necessary for maintenance and distribution of the water. Organizations were perfected for the administration of the system that provided the life-giving fluid. These organizations, being

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGE)

HAPPINESS on the farm?

The full, rich life enjoyed by the great mass of the American people is to be brought at last to the ten millions and more engaged in the agriculture on which the whole nation's prosperity rests; and to all those dependent on them and on the farm for their daily living.

It has been the hopeless dream of generations. It is the approaching reality of today.

By December of this year President Roosevelt hopes to have in hand, ready for use, in his recommendation to Congress, a comprehensive report upon the economic, sanitary and social conditions attending the life of the American farmer.

A special investigating commission, consisting of highly qualified experts selected by the President in August, is assembling the data available from the various sections of the country, in order that the facts may be in hand for the solution of what the President has declared is, in the truest sense, a national problem.

"Our attention," he observed, in naming the commission, "has been concentrated almost exclusively on getting better farming. But good crops are of little value to the farmer unless they open the door to a good, kind life on the farm. I am anxious to make the country life more gainful, more attractive and fuller of opportunities, pleasures and rewards for the men, women and children of the farms."

The commission includes Henry Wallace, of Wallace's Farmer, Iowa; Kenyon L. Butterfield, president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College; Gifford Pinchot, of the United States Forest Service, and Walter H. Page, editor of the World's Work.

While in no sense a preliminary report of their findings, this article tells of some remarkable betterments already achieved in the American farmer's living conditions—betterments now enjoyed by hundreds of thousands, and destined, within a few years, to be the heritage of many millions.

A little land, and a living—surely. Desperate struggle, and wealth—possibly. Which?

THE alternative has been debated now for some years by many, very many families, who have realized keenly, often cruelly, the hard lines in which their ways were set in the glaring cities of their illusion.

More and more numerously the heart-sick of the cities have gone farmward, allured by the unquenchable ambitions which first drew them to the towns, in the hope of finding riches in the soil their forefathers abandoned. Many of them have proved the truth of promises such as Bolton Hall holds out in his stimulating books, "Three Acres and Liberty" and "A Little Land and a Living," whose title has just been quoted in its significant simplicity.

They have come within satisfying reach of

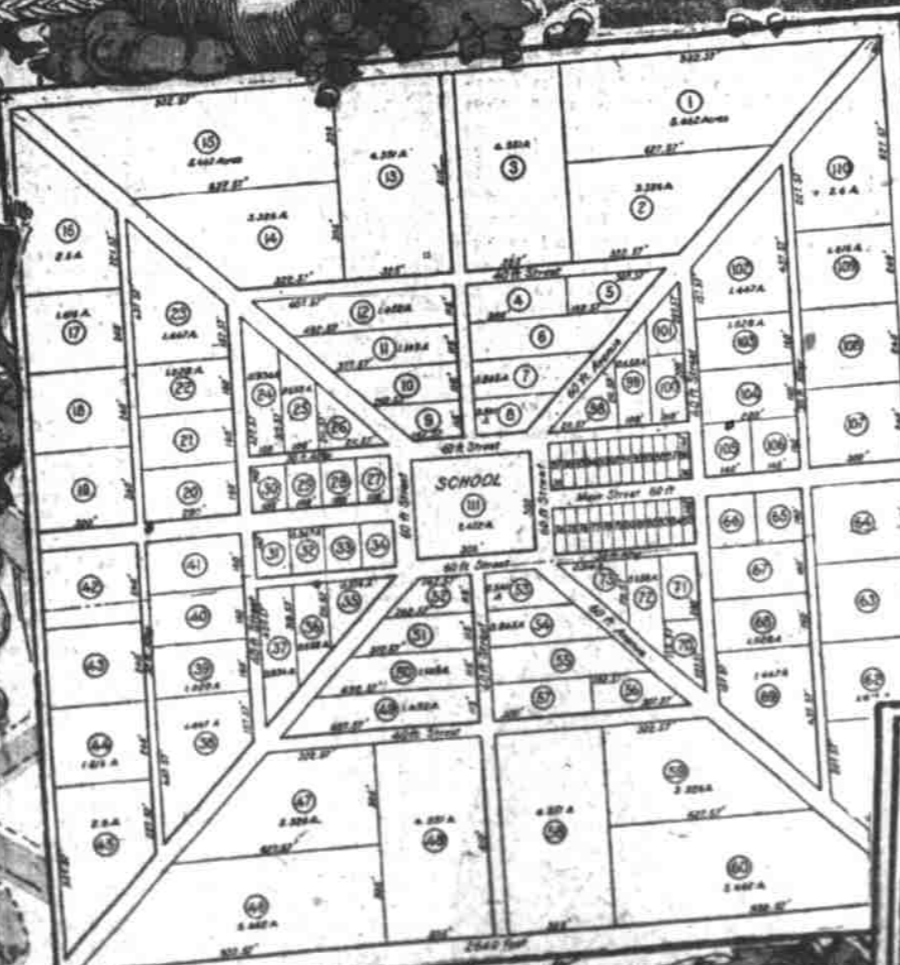
the 1100 baskets of Elberta peaches Mr. Hall tells about as having been picked at Bridgeville, Del., by Cornelius P. Swain from 208 trees growing on a couple of acres, and sold for \$1140. They have proved that an acre of ground can be taught to afford a family a living. They have found that nature is not the niggard so many believe her to be.

But the old lura of the city has drawn many of them back, and those who stay are too few to compensate for the vast horde of farm boys who annually forsake the farm, in disgust of its narrow pleasures and its lean interests of the mind.

An expert like Critchfield, secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture, may

authoritatively indorse the dictum of a Bolton Hall, and declare that great opportunities await the farmer of specialties. An expert like J. H. Reichert, in Berks county, in that state, may demonstrate how 105 acres can support 105 animals—cattle and horses. But always the lack of community life, such as the cities and the towns supply, has left the farm at a disadvantage.

It is, as the President has now recognized, one of the most vital national problems faced by the American people as a whole. For, as a whole, the nation depends for its



Plan for Community Centre Combining Town and Country.

Health for Neglected Children

very existence upon making the farmer content to farm. Under his discontent the nation must inevitably starve.

Again, as the President observed, the achievement of reasonable prosperity is far from being a means of contentment sufficient for the farmer. Food, shelter and clothing are not enough. More than any other people in the world, Americans must have mental activity, or they feel they are perishing.

The opportunities for a competence will figure largely in the commission's report in December, for those opportunities are undoubted and numerous.

It was Mr. Page, of the World's Work, who published the complete account, by H. A. Wood, of the "Farmers' Trust" in Iowa, where 500

