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ROOSEVELT HELPS MAN WITH THE HOE

Reserved for the closing days of his administration, President Roosevelt has promulgated a policy that will perhaps arouse greater enthusiasm, and meet with less opposition, than any measure that has marked his eight years in office, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The plan to lend a helping hand to the farmer, to give him a greater measure of comfort, reward and happiness than he now enjoys, is so thoroughly just that it is hard to see how any opposition could be raised. Something has been done for almost every other class. Protective tariff laws have given their help to the manufacturer; help has been extended to laboring men in their fights for justice, as in the case where Mr. Roosevelt espoused the cause of the striking coal miners; merchants have had their interests advanced by a host of new laws against improper combinations and in favor of better facilities for transportation. Alone of all the great classes that make for the future of the nation the farmer has been ignored in the distribution of proper aid.

The farmer is naturally independent. Perhaps in some degree this accounts for the lack of statutes designed to assist him. But as a liberal contribution to the government, and as a prime factor in the nation's very existence, the man with the hoe has a fair claim to the backing of Uncle Sam. He is asking no more than is justly coming to him. Hence the whole people welcomes a movement which will perhaps help to straighten a little that bent back, which Markham so wonderfully described in his famous poem "The Man With a Hoe."

The Roosevelt plan is directed to the production of better economic, sanitary and social conditions. The commission which he has named to investigate is empowered to go into the matter most thoroughly, and make recommendations. When these have been presented, legislation will be enacted that is hoped to be the means of making the farmer's lot so much happier that there will be more of an incentive to take up and stick to this kind of work.

It is a peculiar condition in the United States that while the farmer is an absolute necessity, he has been the victim of most injustices. The great money-dealing classes are, for instance, not essential to the existence of the country. They produce absolutely nothing. They could pass from their sphere of activities without causing the least bit of discomfort to the country at large. But the instant the farmer abandoned his calling the people would perish. Heretofore the man who is most needed to maintain the national life has been least considered, but now all that is to be changed, and fair play for the farmer will be a new slogan of Uncle Sam's.

The men picked to serve on the commission represent exact knowledge of the subject, and should be able to give inspired service. They include Prof. L. H. Bailey of the New York college of agriculture; Henry Wallace of Wallace's Farmer, Des Moines, Ia.; President Kenyon L. Butterfield of the Massachusetts agricultural college, Gifford Pinchot of the United States forest reserve, and Walter H. Page, editor of the World's Work, New York. Prof. Bailey is chairman, and his associates complete a well-balanced body, whose findings ought to be respected and swiftly enacted into measures that will afford relief.

The point that the members of the committee have been asked by Mr. Roosevelt to keep strongly in mind is not that the farmers are not comfortable, for a large percentage of them are, in fact, better off than ever before. But the great thought is that they are not progressing in proportion to the remainder of the country; they are not getting their full share. A way must be found to bring them nearer to it. It takes skill to be a farmer, and the best farmer ought to be the son of a farmer. Knowing the land from boyhood, its capabilities, and the kind of care it needs, the boy raised on the farm ought to follow naturally in his father's footsteps, and take the farm when the sire passes away. But under present conditions, with the man of agriculture getting less than his just deserts, the boy has not the proper encouragement to follow the calling, and wherever his means permit the father educates his son to other things, believing that in almost any other line there is a greater chance to amass that wealth which is essential to a purchase of the world's comforts.

Sometimes it is the farmer's fault that conditions are not better. He has never learned how to get the fullest return from his land. Not less than 30,000 farmers in the south, for example, have lately admitted that they have much to learn about farming, and are improving their products in quantity and quality by adopting methods recommended by Dr. Knapp's farmers' cooperative demonstration work. But it is not alone to the commission that the attention of the nation must be directed. The farmer and his family, the men, women and children of agriculture, also need attention. Many of the farmhouses of the nation are old and poorly built. A large percentage of them went up before the laws of sanitation had come to be understood as they are now, and in cases of lately built farm houses, the great cost of building along modern lines in isolated districts far from the points where material and labor can be cheaply obtained has had the effect of forcing farmers to follow the lines that long since have been abandoned.

The farmer must have a better house for himself and his family. The

commission must decide on a proper model, then it must tell how the cost of building it can be reduced to a minimum, so as to be within the reach of all. Then, too, his facilities for education and for social intercourse must be increased. Living alone has kept many agriculturists from developing as they should. Something in the very life begets tendencies of taciturnity. The farmer is constantly next to nature. In the long hours of tilling the soil he gets so used to being alone that he comes to like it, and thus gradually weans himself from that frequent contact with his fellow-man which is the very basis of development.

The farmer's facilities for selling his crops, for buying his materials and for borrowing when he needs to, need to be greatly improved. At the present time the farmer is largely at the mercy of the commission merchant in the marketing of his foods, and he is also in the power of the railroad. Cases are frequent where magnificent crops have failed to bring just rewards to their creators because excessive freight charges, often discriminatory, have eaten up not only the profit, but often left the sender in the debt of the carrier.

Recent railroad legislation has been directed toward correcting this condition, and the development of the trolley system of delivering the product of the farms has also become a factor. Farms adjacent to the big cities will eventually send the bulk of their crops into town on swiftly-moving freight trolleys at a big saving, and the movement to improve the waterways also points to a cheaper means of carrying the crops. The big rates of interest that have put many a farmer in the hands of the money lender, and the system of borrowing for business purposes he done more in the manner in which accommodation is handled in the marts of trade in the cities. Moreover, a way ought to be found by raising the profits of farming to make it possible for him to find more leisure for his children, so that they could develop in other directions. Many a boy learns to hate farming before he gets half way to manhood, because of the excessive hours of work that his father has been compelled to exact of him.

In theory the life of the farmer should be ideal. He lives a life in the open, next to nature. His farm is his own, his crops are in his own ground. It remains only for his own skill and industry to produce them and reap the rewards. He ought to be independent, a virtual monarch, catering to those needs of the world that nothing can ever abolish. Fact has been found to differ from the ideal in this matter, however, and the farmer faces a constant battle. Uncle Sam has done well to get behind him and the nation will back every effort to give him the deserved help.

SOUTHERN MEN PLAN TO REVIVE FAMOUS MAGAZINE

Richmond, Va., Sept. 23.—With Dr. W. W. Phelan of Chattanooga, as president, and Dr. Smyth of New York, as secretary, a Virginia corporation has been formed to revive the publication of the Southern Literary Messenger, once the famous magazine of the south.

Well known and influential business men and writers in this city and New York are behind the scheme. It is the purpose of the promoters to publish in this city a monthly magazine of the best character, to make it a representative popular production in every sense.

The publication will be largely devoted to contributions by the best southern authors, and it will carry the best scientific and historical articles and fiction that are offered to the reading public. No time has been fixed for the issuance of the first number of the Messenger, but it is believed that about the first of the year the publication will make its bow for public favor.

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Catarth Sufferers Are Nothing But
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Is it possible that in these days when cleanliness and sanitary reform is being preached in the churches, schools and at public gatherings, that thousands of people will continue to suffer from catarrh, when there is an absolutely certain remedy always on hand?

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A complete Hymel outfit, consisting of a strong, hard rubber pocket inhaler and a bottle of Hymel, costs only \$1, and extra bottles, if afterwards needed, cost only 50 cents each at Tallman & Co.'s, or direct, by mail, charges prepaid, from Booth's Hymel Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Hymel also cures Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs and Colds, Croup of infants, and any inflammatory disease of the respiratory tract.

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DR. M. S. KERN, DENTAL SURGEON. Office, room 15, Judd building. 'Phone red 3301.

VAUGHAN BROS., DENTISTS. Office in Judd building. 'Phone red 1411.

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