

THE RURAL PASTOR

Intelligent and Consecrated Leadership
Ship the Need of the Hour.

By Peter Radford,
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The rural pastor has greater possibilities than any other factor in our national life. The rural civilization of the Twentieth Century has opened up a new world of activities for him. There lie before him unexplored continents of usefulness, unemployed forces of civilization and tremendous responsibilities such as have never before confronted the pastor.

The need of the rural communities today is intelligent and consecrated leadership. There must be a marshaling of forces that build life, strengthen character and broaden vision. The pastor should deal with living problems. In addition to the service he now renders he should help us lift the market basket, hold out a helping hand to the farmer and develop the potential energies of the community he seeks to serve.

A More Useful Ministry.
The farmer needs the personal touch of the pastor. He seldom comes in direct contact with his halting influence, except when he is baptized, married and buried. We need to further extend Christian influence in the homes, as well as to spread the gospel in China; to instruct our children in the art of living, as well as to convert the barbarian and the Hottentot, and we should devote our energy and talent to the solution of problems of our own locality, rather than consume our energies in fighting vice and ignorance beyond our borders. It is as important that we discuss from the pulpit, the building of macadam highways from the church to our homes, as that we preach of the golden streets of the New Jerusalem. It is as much a part of the duty of the pastor to exhort us to own a home while on earth as to inspire us to build a mansion in the skies and that we should construct Christian character in our own community, rather than that we fight foreign sins in other lands. We want a religion we can farm by as well as die by.

Christian Influence Needed.
There is an emptiness in the life of rural communities and we want preachers who can weave into the social fiber, educational pastimes, profitable pleasures and instructive amusements. Too often we find the games of our young people a search for a suggestion in immorality and a stepping-stone to sin. The pastor should supervise the growing lives of young people, approve their amusements, create expressions of joy and pleasure that makes for Christian character and bless their lives with Christian modesty.

The farm is the nursery of civilization, and the paragon of all religious denominations. Too long has the farm furnished the cities with their great preachers, until today the rural church is the gangway to city pulpits. The current should be reversed. The power of the pulpit is most needed in the country where the fundamental forces of human life originate. The farm is the powerhouse of all progress and the birthplace of all that is noble. The Garden of Eden was in the country and the man who would get close to God must first get close to nature. Many communities are church-ridden. We frequently have three or four churches in a community with a circuit rider once a month preaching to small congregations and all fail to perform the religious functions of the community. In many instances, more harmonious effort might result in a more efficient service. The division of religious forces and breaking into fragments of moral effort are oftentimes little less than a calamity and defeat the purposes they seek to promote.

A pastor in a neighborhood, studying the economic, social, moral and educational problems of the community, presenting fresh visions of potential possibilities and native power with beauty and new meaning, interpreting the thought-life of the community and administering to their daily needs, will contribute more toward the advancement of a locality than a dozen preachers who occupy the pulpits at irregular intervals, preaching on subjects foreign to the life of the community.

Church prejudice is a vice that saps much of the spiritual life of a community, and wasteful sectarianism is a religious crime against society. Denominational reciprocity should take its place. Non-support of church institutions and religious lethargy can often be traced to causes inherent with the church. There should be co-operation between churches and co-ordination of moral effort along economic lines, and there must be if the rural churches of this state are going to render a service which this age demands.

Dickens as an Actor.
While the world at large gained by Charles Dickens' devotion to literature, the stage lost one who, if he had chosen to adopt it as his calling, would probably have been the greatest actor of his time. None who had the good fortune to see the plays in which he acted can forget his mastery of stage technique. None who can remember his readings can forget his vivid and lifelike powers of characterization. Comedy and tragedy, humor and pathos, each came readily within his means. By his mastery of the

actor's art, terror, tears and laughter were compelled at his command as by his pen he compelled them in his writings.—John Hare.

ISOLATION AND DRUDGERY THE TWIN ENEMIES OF AGRICULTURE.

The Rural Church the Guiding Star of Progress.

THE NEW RURAL CIVILIZATION

By Peter Radford,
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

We are confronting a new rural civilization. It is so radically different from the life of the past that it may well be called new, not merely because of its characteristics, but because of its triumph in rural co-operation and leadership. The utilization of modern agencies, and the use of farm machinery have greatly increased the efficiency of the farmers, broadened their vision and made life more satisfying.

The most serious enemies to country life are isolation and drudgery, and perhaps the worse of the two is isolation. It is the curse of the country. The hunger of young people for companionship has been disregarded and in various ways the social instincts have had their revenge. The fruits of modern inventive skill and enterprise have enriched country life and afforded the facilities of banishing forever the extreme isolation which used to vex the farm household of the past. The telephone is a great social asset in the rural home; the rural free delivery brings the world's daily message to the door; the parcel post delivers ten million packages per annum at a half million homes, and the automobile annihilates distance, making isolation a myth. The building of public highways has brought communities and farm homes closer together.

The Slave of Drudgery.
It is a dramatic moment on the farm when machinery emancipates the slave of drudgery. The evolution of farm machinery is a continued story of human ingenuity. One man now, by the aid of modern mechanical devices, can do as much as five or ten men used to perform and the work is less burdensome and more fascinating. The miracle of conquest will lift the curse of drudgery that has crushed the courage out of farm boys and caused them to retreat to the cities. There are many labor-saving devices for the homes that can relieve the wife of back-breaking tasks. Labor-saving machinery has wrought educational problems that have engaged the attention of the boys, relieved the housewife and added new economies and values to farming and has taken away self pity and given them a genuine pride in their calling. We need to take full advantage of these facilities.

Co-operation the Key-Note.
One test of modern civilization is the capacity for co-operation. The selfish days of the independent farmer are rapidly passing and we are beginning to catch the vision and share the profits of organized efforts. There are many farm machines adapted to serving a community, but organization of farmers is required to purchase and operate them on a co-operative basis, and new laws are needed to permit these transactions.

New Tasks for the Rural Church.
The rural church has been slow to adjust itself to the new order of things. The churches are discovering new opportunities for service, broader community usefulness and a greater social mission. The church must gird itself for new tasks and under a new virile type of leadership undertake real community building with the modern church as the center of activity and source of inspiration and guidance. The triumph over isolation and the gradual emancipation from drudgery, the development of good roads, telephones, rural mail service and the wonderful evolution of farm machinery make for religious advancement. The increase in intelligence, new social consciousness, growing spirit of co-operation, added efficiency of rural institutions, character, home building and better rural morals afford opportunities for a community-serving church to demonstrate its power. The rural church to fulfill its mission must swing around to the influences for progress.

Take good roads for your text and go everywhere preaching the gospel of better farm conditions.

The average bird is the farmer's best and truest friend—stand by your friends—the feathered songsters.

It is an admitted economic fact that there can be no permanent prosperity without a permanent agriculture.

An up-to-date farmer must have an accurate knowledge of today and a clear vision of tomorrow.

In this age of advancement in agricultural science there is no excuse for soil depletion to further menace the nation's prosperity.

VARIETIES OF LIGHTNING.

The Luminous Ball is as Destructive as a Dynamite Bomb.

There are several varieties of lightning or visible electric discharges in our atmosphere. They are—first, the linelike, wavy, often branching, forked lightning; second, sheet lightning; third, St. Elmo's fire and the "brush" discharge; fourth, ball lightning (also called "fire balls" and "thunderbolts"; fifth, the aurora borealis (or "polaris," since it occurs at both poles of the earth).

The "zodiacal light" is not, as has been supposed, an electric discharge. Forked lightning is the familiar, dangerous, sparklike form of discharge, and sheet lightning is merely the reflection on clouds of forked lightning, too distant to be itself visible.

St. Elmo's fire is a continuous brushlike silent discharge given off sometimes at the masthead of ships. A similar harmless discharge is seen on mountain tops and is described by Alpine climbers. It was seen and studied at the observatory on Ben Nevis a few years ago.

Ball electricity is a very terrible and uncommon thing. During a thunderstorm a luminous ball from a few inches to a yard in diameter is seen moving near the surface of the ground. It may rise and fall and even enter an open door. Usually when it touches any obstacle it detonates and causes enormous destruction, like a dynamite bomb.

The aurora borealis or northern lights, better called aurora polaris, is a form of electric discharge in our atmosphere which occurs only near the arctic and antarctic region. Its occurrence is not accounted for. It consists of curtainlike scintillations of colored light and is accompanied by a hissing or rustling sound and may be related in nature to the brushlike discharge of St. Elmo's fire. The spectrum of the aurora has been examined and shows that it contains the gases of our atmosphere (including the rare new gas krypton) in an incandescent condition.—New York American.

Mascots of Olden Days.
Mascots have had their place in the world for many generations. Cats, as with the ancient Egyptians; grasshoppers, as in Italy, and various other specimens of animal life have in their time been counted as sacred or lucky by different peoples. So it is only a continuance of old customs that has caused baseball teams to take along an animal or a small boy when they go upon the diamond to try their skill with other players. The custom has spread to such an extent that today there is not a vessel in the navy of the United States that has not some kind of mascot. This assertion will apply with almost equal force to the other navies of the world.—Chicago News.

Deceiving Appearance.
It always annoyed Tom Spencer to have a waiter attentive to the point of almost forcing him to tip. On one occasion Mr. Spencer entered a cafe and hurriedly ordered his lunch. In a few moments the waiter returned, and after serving the required order hung about making unnecessary arrangements about the table.

"Feel like a cup of tea, sir?" said he, bending over the patron solicitously.
"Do I look like a cup of tea?" snarled Mr. Spencer.—National Monthly.

Eugenics.
"Father, did you ever lie when you were a boy?"
"No, my son," said the father, who evidently did not recall the past with any distinctness.
"Nor mother, either?" persisted the young lawyer.
"Oh, Why?"
"Oh, because I don't see how two people who never told a lie could have a boy who told as many as I did. Where could I have got it from?"—Ladies' Home Journal.

Disappeared.
"Now," said the great magician, rolling up his sleeves to show that he had no concealed mechanism to deceive the eye, "I shall attempt my never failing experiment."
Taking from his pocket a golden sovereign, he said:
"I shall cause this coin to disappear utterly."
So saying, he lent the sovereign to a friend.—London Graphic.

Stating a Fact.
"Marjory, isn't it getting late?" asked Mrs. Munn as she peeped into the parlor at 11:30 and interrupted a conversation between her daughter and her young man.

"Yes, mamma," replied Miss Munn sweetly: "it usually does at this time of night."

Demanding Consideration.

A prominent clergyman tells with great delight of a brother minister who was called to a certain church. A committee visited the minister and asked that he accept the call.

"I have been considering the matter," replied the reverend gentleman, "but my wife fears she may not like the church."

"But your wife doesn't preach," protested the committeeman.

"True enough," replied the clergyman thoughtfully, "but she frequently lectures."

Disadvantages of Poverty.

"We're goin' to move again in a month or two," said the little girl on the back porch. "We move into a new house every year."

"We don't," said the little girl in the adjoining yard. "My papa owns this house."

"And you don't never move into any other one?"

"No."

"My, my! It must be awful to be as poor as that!"—Chicago Tribune.

A Big Mistake.

"What's the matter?" we asked of the new husband.

"I'm in bad. My wife says her faith in me is hopelessly shattered."

"What terrible thing have you done?"

"It didn't seem so terrible at the start. I broke a dish and tried to blame it on my wife's cat."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Exactly.

"Uncle George, we are studying synonyms in school, and I want to know the difference between 'cute' and 'sneaky'."

"According to your mother, it is the difference between what you do and what Mrs. Jones' little boy does."—Puck.

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All we ask is a trial. Use it on your cook stove, your radiator or your car range. If you don't find it the best stove polish you ever used, your dealer is authorized to refund your money. Insist on Black Silk Stove Polish. Made in liquid or paste—one quality.
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—Paid Adv.

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