

In hoarse whispers, Mrs. Milholland chided her husband for an exclamation he had uttered. "John! On Sunday! You ought to be ashamed."

"I couldn't help it," he exclaimed. "Who on earth is his clinging vine? Why, she's got lavender tops on her shoes and—"

"Don't look round!" she warned him sharply. "Don't—"

"Well, what's he doing at a Baptist church? What's he fidgeting at his handkerchief about? Why can't he walk like people? Does he think it's obligatory to walk home from church anchored arm-in-arm like Swedes on a Sunday Out? Who is this cow-eyed fat girl that's got him, anyhow?"

"Hush! Don't look round again, John."

"Never fear!" said her husband, having disobeyed. "They've turned off; they're crossing over to Bullard street. Who is it?"

"I think her name's Rust," Mrs. Milholland informed him. "I don't know what her father does. She's one of the girls in his class at school. It would be pleasant if he'd taken a fancy to someone whose family belongs to our own circle."

"Taken a fancy!" he echoed, hooting. "Why, he's terrible! He looked like a red-gilled goldfish that's flopped itself out of the bowl. Why, he—"

"I say I wish if he felt that he had to take girls anywhere," said Mrs. Milholland, with the primness of air speaking to the point—"if this sort of thing must begin, I wish he might have selected some nice girl among the daughters of our own friends, like Dora Yocum, for instance."

Upon the spot she began to undergo the mortifications of a mother who has expected her son, just out of infancy, to look about him with the eye of a critical matron of forty-five. Moreover, she was indiscreet enough to express her views to Ramsey, a week later, producing thus a scene of useless great fury and no little sound.

"I do think it's in very poor taste to see so much of any one girl, Ramsey," she said, and, not heeding his protest that he only walked home from school with Milla, "about every other day," and that it didn't seem any crime to him just to go to church with her a couple of times, Mrs. Milholland went on: "But if you think you really must be dangling around somebody quite this much—though what in the world you find to talk about with this funny little Milla Rust your poor father says he really cannot see—and of course it seems very queer to us now when your mind ought to be entirely on your studies, and especially with such an absurd looking little thing—"

"No, you must listen, Ramsey, and let me speak now. What I meant was that we shouldn't be quite so much distressed by your being seen with a girl who dressed in better taste and seemed to have some notion of refinement, though of course it's only natural she wouldn't, with a father who is just a sort of ward politician, I understand, and a mother we don't know, and of course shouldn't care to. But, oh, Ramsey! If you had to make yourself so conspicuous why couldn't you be a little bit more fastidious? Your father wouldn't have minded nearly so much if it had been a self-respecting, intellectual girl. We both say that if you must be so ridiculous at your age as to persist in seeing more of one girl than another, why, oh, why, don't you go and see some really nice girl like Dora Yocum?"

Ramsey was already dangerously distended, as an effect of the earlier part of her discourse, and the word "fastidious" almost exploded him; but upon this climax, "Dora Yocum," he blew up with a shattering report and leaving fragments of incoherence ricocheting behind him, fled shuddering from the house.

For the rest of the school term he walked home with Milla every afternoon and on Sundays appeared to have become a resolute Baptist. It was supposed (by the interested members of the high-school class) that Ramsey and Milla were "engaged." Ramsey sometimes rather supposed they were himself, and the dim idea gave him a sensation partly pleasant, but mostly apprehensive; he was afraid.

He was afraid that the day was coming when he ought to kiss her.

(To be continued)

**Men Students to Raise Child.**  
Orono, Me.—The home economics department of the University of Maine has temporarily adopted Frances Pauline, four months old. The 16 young men students of North hall in caring for the infant will use the latest scientific methods. Little Frances is in perfect health and sleeps and takes nourishment on a well-defined schedule.

**Crow Poison Rejuvenates Old Dog; Puppy Again**  
Paris.—A farmer in Noyon who wished to destroy his old dog gave it some crow poison. The farmer waited sadly for the death of his old companion, but to his surprise the dog jumped about and barked furiously. The poison, for some extraordinary reason, had completely rejuvenated the animal, and it is now full of fun and vigor.

## Some Aspects of the Farmers' Problems

By BERNARD M. BARUCH

(Reprinted from Atlantic Monthly)

To take a tolerant and sympathetic view of the farmers' strivings for better things is not to give a blanket endorsement to any specific plan, and still less to applaud the vagaries of some of their leaders and groups. Neither should we, on the other hand, allow the froth of bitter agitation, false economics, and mistaken radicalism to conceal the facts of the farmers' disadvantages, and the practicability of eliminating them by well-considered measures. It may be that the farmers will not show the business sagacity and develop the wise leadership to carry through sound plans; but that possibility does not justify the obstruction of their upward efforts. We, as city people, see in high and speculatively manipulated prices, spoilage, waste, scarcity, the results of defective distribution of farm products. Should it not occur to us that we have a common interest with the farmer in his attempts to attain a degree of efficiency in distribution corresponding to his efficiency in production? Do not the recent fluctuations in the May wheat option, apparently unrelated to normal interaction of supply and demand, offer a timely proof of the need of some stabilizing agency as the grain growers have in contemplation?

It is contended that, if their proposed organizations be perfected and operated, the farmers will have in their hands an instrument that will be capable of dangerous abuse. We are told that it will be possible to pervert it to arbitrary and oppressive price-fixing from its legitimate use of ordering and stabilizing the flow of farm products to the market, to the mutual benefit of producer and consumer. I have no apprehensions on this point.

In the first place, a loose organization, such as any union of farmers must be at best, cannot be so arbitrarily and promptly controlled as a great corporation. The one is a lumbering democracy and the other an agile autocracy. In the second place, with all possible power of organization, the farmers cannot succeed to any great extent, or for any considerable length of time, in fixing prices. The great law of supply and demand works in various and surprising ways, to the undoing of the best laid plans that attempt to foil it. In the third place, their power will avail the farmers nothing if it be abused. In our time and country power is of value to its possessor only so long as it is not abused. It is fair to say that I have seen no signs in responsible quarters of a disposition to dictate prices. There seems, on the contrary, to be a commonly beneficial purpose to realize a stability that will give an orderly and abundant flow of farm products to the consumer and ensure reasonable and dependable returns to the producer.

In view of the supreme importance to the national well-being of a prosperous and contented agricultural population, we should be prepared to go a long way in assisting the farmers to get an equitable share of the wealth they produce, through the inauguration of reforms that will procure a continuous and increasing stream of farm products. They are far from getting a fair share now. Considering his capital and the long hours of labor put in by the average farmer and his family, he is remunerated less than any other occupational class, with the possible exception of teachers, religious and lay. Though we know that the present general distress of the farmers is exceptional and is linked with the inevitable economic readjustment following the war, it must be remembered that, although representing one-third of the industrial product and half the total population of the nation, the rural communities ordinarily enjoy but a fifth to a quarter of the net annual national gain. Notwithstanding the taste of prosperity that the farmers had during the war, there is today a lower standard of living among the cotton farmers of the South than in any other pursuit in the country.

In conclusion, it seems to me that the farmers are chiefly striving for a generally beneficial integration of their business, of the same kind and character that other business enjoys. If it should be found on examination that the attainment of this end requires methods different from those which other activities have followed for the same purpose should we not sympathetically consider the plea for the right to co-operate, if only from our own enlightened self interest, in obtaining an abundant and steady flow of farm products?

In examining the agricultural situation with a view to its improvement, we shall be most helpful if we maintain a detached and judicial viewpoint, remembering that existing wrongs may be chiefly an accident of unsymmetrical economic growth instead of a creation of malevolent design and conspiracy.

We Americans are prone, as Professor David Friday well says in his admirable book, "Profits, Wages and Prices," to seek a "criminal intent behind every difficult and undesirable economic situation." I can positively assert from my contact with men of large affairs, including bankers, that, as a whole, they are endeavoring to fulfill as they see them the obligations that go with their power. Preoccupied with the grave problems and heavy tasks of their own immediate affairs, they have not turned their thoughtful personal attention or their constructive abilities to the deficiencies of agricultural business organization. Agriculture, it may be said, suffers from their preoccupation and neglect rather than from any purposeful exploitation by them. They ought now to begin to respond to the farmers' difficulties which they must realize are their own.

On the other hand, my contacts with the farmers have filled me with respect for them—for their sanity, their patience, their balance. Within the last year, and particularly at a meeting called by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and at another called by the Committee of Seventeen, I have met many of the leaders of the new farm movement, and I testify in all sincerity that they are endeavoring to deal with their problems, not as promoters of a narrow class interest, not as exploiters of the hapless consumer, not as merciless monopolists, but as honest men bent on the improvement of the common weal.

We can and must meet such men and such a cause half way. Their business is our business—the nation's business.

### PROMPTNESS ADVISED IN SHIPPING HIDES

Advice is Particularly Applicable to Sheepskins.

Sell Direct to Tanners, Thus Eliminating Middleman or Agents—Repeated Handling Tends to Reduce Quality.

After country hides and skins have been properly and securely bundled and tagged ship them to market without delay, advises the United States Department of Agriculture. Do not let the bundle remain in the sun, drafts or water, or against rusty or corroding metals. Promptness in shipping and delivery is always advisable, but applies particularly to sheepskins. They heat rapidly after being bundled, and in hot weather especially must reach their destination quickly.

Hides and skins should be shipped as directly as is practicable and economical to reliable dealers who sell direct to tanners, thus eliminating unnecessary middlemen or agents. Repeated handling tends to reduce the quality of hides and skins. For most farmers, ranchers and small butchers it would be desirable if they could dispose of their hides and skins immediately after removal, without salting and curing them, but this is generally impracticable, since only a few are near enough to tanneries or dealers equipped to handle their products.

Whenever thus favorably situated, producers find it both profitable and practicable to sell the hides and skins in the green, unsalted condition. In no case, however, should this method be considered unless the producer is certain that the green hides and skins will be delivered promptly. As a rule, 24 hours after skinning is the maximum time advisable.

### URGE ACTION TO PROTECT TIMBER

Policy Favored Which Will Insure Adequate Supply of Various Forest Products.

### LUMBER SHORTAGE IS ACUTE

Nation-Wide Protection From Fire Is First and Most Essential Step, According to Chief Forester W. B. Greeley.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)  
A demand is growing on the part of wood-using industries and the public at large for a national policy of forestry which will insure adequate future supplies of timber and other forest products, according to Chief Forester W. B. Greeley. Figures gathered

by the forest service this year, his annual report states, showed the extent of the depletion of the nation's forests, and have served to focus attention on the fact that the country is short of growing forests and that something must be done at once. The acute shortage and skyrocketing



A Good Stand of Young Short-Leaf Pine Which Ranges From New Jersey to Texas.

prices of lumber and newsprint early in the year also contributed to the growth of the movement.

The forest service is advocating a program based on the conviction that the problem is national and not local, and must be handled as such. Nationwide protection from forest fire for all classes of forest land, Colonel Greeley states, is the first and most essential step. It is his belief that the police powers of the states offer the best means of enforcing reasonable requirements against forest destruction.

### Legislation Needed.

The expense of fire protection, the forester says, should be borne jointly by the landowner and the public. He holds that federal legislation is needed to provide for a comprehensive plan of co-operation with the states in fire prevention and the development of forestry practice, and the extension of the national forests through purchases, through the inclusion of other timber lands now in federal ownership and through exchange.

There are still large quantities of timber in the United States, the report states, but they are not in the right place. More than 60 per cent of what is left lies west of the Great Plains, far from the bulk of the country's population, agriculture and manufacture. The country is taking about 26,000,000,000 feet of wood from forests each year and is growing only 6,000,000,000.

### Idle Forest Land.

"We have used up our forests without growing new ones," says the report. "At the bottom of the whole problem is idle forest land. The United States contains 326,000,000 acres of cut-over or denuded forest containing no new timber; 81,000,000 acres of this amount have been completely devastated by forest fires and methods of cutting which destroy or prevent new timber growth."  
"The area of idle or largely idle land is being increased by from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 acres annually as the cutting and burning of forests continues." These facts, together with the steadily increasing distance between the average sawmill and the home builder, "have had a vital bearing on the high cost of lumber, which during the year reached a prohibitive figure for many uses and checked the building of homes which is so urgently needed."

### NATIONALIZE MISTRAL'S HOME

Suggestion That Poet Be Honored as Was Fabre, the Great Entomologist.

Paris.—It would seem that all the ruin and devastation of the great war had filled the soul of France with an insatiable desire to conserve the habitations and relics of her sons, be their claim to immortality ever so humble. The chamber decided that the harnas, or cottage, at Serignan in Provence, where the great entomologist Henri Fabre lived and died should become national property.

But the Provencaux was not yet content. They now demand a like honor for their great Mistral, whose ma is at Maillane. Mistral's widow still resides there, as does the poet's pet spaniel, which wears a collar with the proud inscription, "I am Jougeor, the dog of the poet Mistral."

### DAILY REQUIREMENTS OF COW

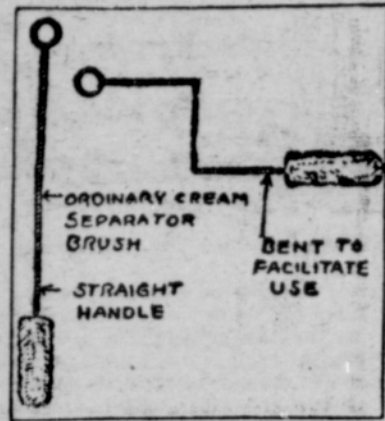
Food Used for Milk Production Must Be in Addition to That Necessary for Body.

A cow weighing 1,000 pounds needs every day, for the maintenance of her body, an amount of food equivalent to that supplied in eight pounds of clover hay and twenty pounds of good corn silage. She must have this food regardless of whether she produces any milk. Food used for milk production must be in addition to that required to maintain the cow's body.

### BENDS IN SEPARATOR BRUSH

Straight Handle is Inconvenient and Requires Much Twisting of the Wrist.

The wire bristle brush which is used to clean certain parts of the average cream separator is straight and to do a thorough job requires lots of bending of the wrist. By making two



Bends in Brush Make It Quite Easy to Clean Parts of Cream Separator.

right-angled bends near one end, thus forming a sort of crank, it will be found that the brush can be used to greater advantage than before. Cut off the loop in the end and operate the brush by turning the handle as a crank. —Farm and Home.

### Library of the Lords.

The library of the house of lords contains about 60,000 volumes, and they are set out in a luxurious suite of rooms. The library is particularly rich in historical works and memoirs, and includes one of the finest collections of law books in London.



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