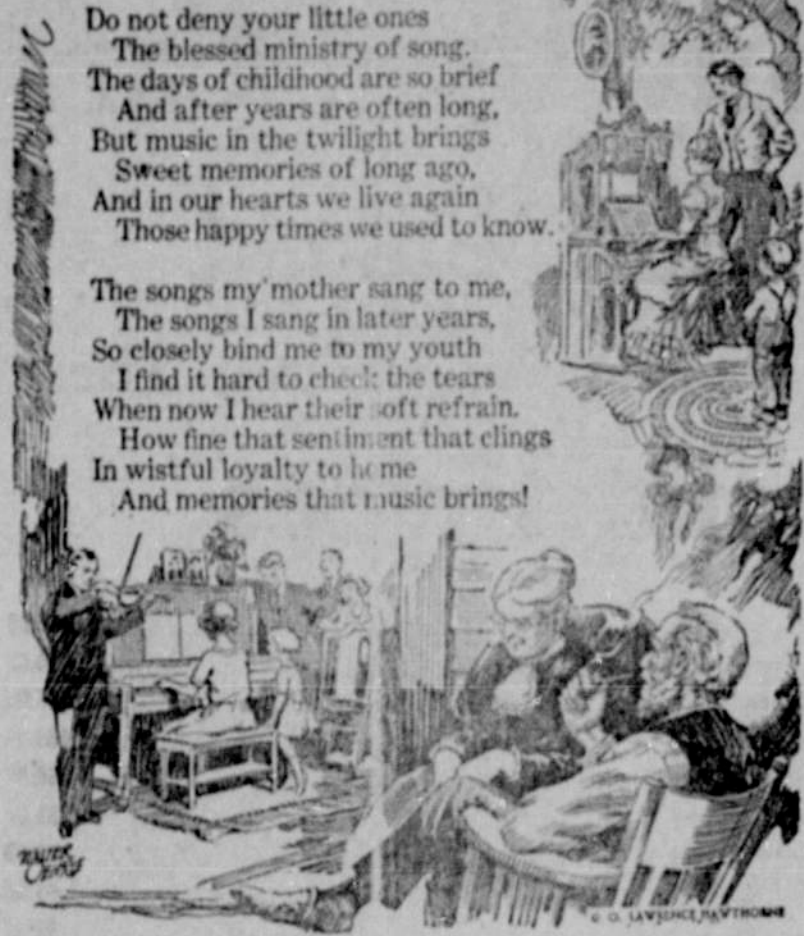


The Ministry of Song

by O. Lawrence Hawthorne

Do not deny your little ones
The blessed ministry of song,
The days of childhood are so brief
And after years are often long,
But music in the twilight brings
Sweet memories of long ago,
And in our hearts we live again
Those happy times we used to know.

The songs my mother sang to me,
The songs I sang in later years,
So closely bind me to my youth
I find it hard to check the tears
When now I hear their soft refrain,
How fine that sentiment that clings
In wistful loyalty to home
And memories that music brings!



FARM POPULATION HAS DECLINED DURING 1925

The farm population of the United States decreased approximately 182,000 during 1924, according to estimates based on a survey of 25,000 representative farms made recently by the

United States Department of Agriculture. This is a drop of .6 per cent during that year, the estimated farm population on January 1, 1925, being 31,134,000 compared with 31,316,000 on January 1, 1924. This estimate includes not only the agricultural workers, but all men, women and chil-

dren living on the farms on that date. The movement from farms to cities, towns and villages in 1924 is estimated at 2,075,000; the movement to farms was 1,396,000, making a net movement from the farm population of 679,000 persons, or 2.2 per cent. Births among the farm population during 1924 are estimated at 763,000 and deaths at 266,000 leaving a natural increase of 497,000 which reduced the loss due to the cityward movement to 182,000 or .6 per cent.

A similar estimate made in 1922 showed a loss in farm population of 460,000 as against 182,000 in 1924. The gross movement from farms to cities in 1922 was 2,000,000 compared to 2,075,000 in 1924, a slight increase. The gross movement back to the farms in 1922 was 880,000 compared to 1,396,000 in 1924, a very decided increase. The net movement from farms to cities in 1922 was 1,120,000 or 3.6 per cent and in 1924, 679,000 or 2.2 per cent.

Two geographic divisions, the New England and South Atlantic States, showed a net increase in farm population for the year 1924, of .9 per cent and 2 per cent respectively. All other divisions showed decreases, the Mountain States leading with a loss of 2.8 per cent.

The decrease in farm population due to the cityward movement, not taking into account births or deaths, was highest in the Mountain States, 4.3 per cent; followed by the Pacific and West South Central States. In all other divisions, except New England, the percentage of decrease due to the cityward movement was equal to or less than the average for the whole United States, 2.2 per cent. New England alone showed a gain of .3 per cent, since more people moved from cities to New England farms than left farms for cities.

The movement from farms to cities

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was found to be at the highest rate in the Mountain States, 13.8 per cent, followed by the Pacific, New England, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central States in order. In the movement to farms from cities, the Mountain States again lead, with 9.5 per cent, followed by the New England, Pacific, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central States.

A LESSON LEARNED

In the midst of plenty and prosperity in a land like the United States, it is necessary for the people to realize the advantages which they enjoy if they are to fully appreciate them. Without this understanding and appreciation, the agitator, who if he could would undermine the ideals of our constitutional form of government with his socialistic doctrines and experiments, has an easy field in which to work.

The American people have paid for some dear lessons in the school of experience, when they have permitted themselves to be led astray from the basic principles laid down by the founders of Our Country.

During the past 30 years, we have witnessed the passage of drastic legislation which severely handicapped the full play of private initiative and enterprise. Such legislation seemed necessary to curb the greed and rapacity of the few who would trample on the rights of the many.

But conditions improved—until today, called "big business" which a few years ago was looked upon by many as a curse to the nation, is now considered essential to its proper development.

Commenting on this reaction in public sentiment, which is based on reason and understanding instead of blind prejudice, Henry Ford, in a recent issue of his Dearborn Independent, asks a question as to whether our business system has learned its lesson from past experience and will profit from the same.

It is safe to say that it has learned and it has also profited. A great industry today is no longer a one-man

institution. Instead it is owned by thousands and hundreds of thousands of everyday American citizens who have a voice in its management.

There is no question but what this change in ownership has been responsible in a large degree for the change in sentiment toward business generally.

National consideration of business problems has been brought about as our people have gained a better understanding of the questions at issue. They see that short-sighted policies of a few industrial leaders, which ignored basic principles of justice and fair play in business, are not sufficient grounds for condemning all "big business." They have found that in order to correct abuses in special cases it is not necessary to apply the remedy to all business alike whether it needs it or not.

With experience has come understanding. Today, the cry "big business" arouses no anxiety. The public cares not how big a business gets, so long as it is conducted honestly and in the public interest.

That our greatest industries are fully aware of their duty and obligation to the public is evidenced by the fact that their brightest executives are in charge of or devote a great share of their time to the public relations work of their companies, in order that the public may know of, and if it so desires, share in the ownership and management of such companies.

Henry Ford's question can be safely answered in the affirmative—American business has learned by its past experience. And further, it can be said, the American people have profited by making themselves acquainted with business problems, and by accepting partnership in our leading industrial companies, thus establishing real public ownership on a sound footing free from politics.

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