

Home and Farm Magazine Section Editorial Page

Suggestions From Our Associate Editors, Allowing for an Interchange of Views, Written by Men of Experience on Topics With Which They Are Fully Acquainted—Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

WE NEED EXPERTS.

SLOWLY, perhaps, we are coming to the realization that we need experts to manage our cities.

There seems no argument.

If it pays the big and little corporations, why not the big and little cities, which are nothing but corporations—only on a larger scale?

In a recent booklet by the University of Oregon called "Choosing a Calling," the management of cities is outlined as a new profession and one that awaits the college-educated student along special lines.

Many of our cities have come to the commission plan, but it seems likely that the commission will become eventually a governing body and that a trained expert of executive powers will be engaged to do the actual management and supervision.

In the smaller cities this plan seems ideal. The only question is whether in the larger cities such an executive would have the power to "hire and fire" that the corporation executive possesses. Of course, until we decide to banish politics from our city administrations that would be impossible.

Smaller cities have come to the front already with evidence of the value of a city manager.

At the last Convention of Northwest Municipalities experts spoke glowingly of the work of the manager of the little country town of Milton, Oregon. This man appears to be a practical engineer. Undoubtedly such training is valuable.

La Grande, Oregon, is another town that seems to be finding success with the City Manager.

Up in Alberta there is the town of Red Deer. The City Manager there is called the Commissioner. He is appointed by the Mayor and Council.

Here we have another type. Commissioner Stevenson of Red Deer is a trained executive. He is more or less ignorant of practical work. But he has employed those who know. Subject only to the Council, he has full charge of affairs.

The result is remarkable. While other towns in Western Canada are suffering from extortionate taxes and general mal-administration, Red Deer's levy is but 15 mills. It has parked streets, city parks, good sewerage and water systems.

All over Canada the work of Commissioner Stevenson has been lauded. Now his daily duties are impeded regularly by delegations from other cities who "want shoo wheels go round"; who wish to know if they can't go and do likewise.

The city manager idea originated in Germany. There it has been a marked success. Germans judge by results and pay by results. The man who makes a success in a small city is certain to receive a call to a larger municipality. If he has the right qualities he will be promoted from city to city, adding as he goes, increased remuneration and increased honor.

Discussing the city manager, Professor Sowers, the University of Oregon municipal experts, says:

"He cannot succeed if he expects political heelers to do high-class work. A glance into the future reveals a calling here which the young man of the present day has still a chance to enter on the ground floor and which will lead to positions of dignity and honor.

"Courses of training suggested for city managerships are economics, political science, sociology, history, commerce, English and journalism."

But it is a matter for doubt if the young man who prepares himself for the calling of city manager will find his reward for many years in America.

True, the spirit of change seems to be in the air.

Yet looked at commercially it is

questionable whether the young man who is trained as a city manager will have many cities clamoring for his services.

But, in another sense, men trained to be city managers will be our most valuable citizens. They will be the men to check up on dishonest or ignorant municipal governments.

For it is well to say that in these days of much cries of "graft," "graft" is merely often ignorance.

And the man trained as a city executive has the training to teach our cities a better way.

TIME CLOCKS FOR HORSES.

IT IS interesting to compare the treatment of city horses with those in the country.

The country horse is treated just as any other worker, with care and consideration.

The city horse is a piece of abused machinery.

The country horse, the farm horse, is rarely, if ever, overworked.

The city horse is ever overworked.

In spite of the passing of minimum wage laws and maximum hour laws, the city horse at times still has its 36-hour shift.

The tired cab horse dozes sleepily on its stand.

The delivery horse drops from the heat and exhaustion.

So the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago is taking action.

Of course, it won't actually install time clocks for horses.

Yet, metaphorically, that is what is being done.

A campaign is on to give the horse a square deal, a fair share of sleep, a fair share of rest.

Those who overwork their horses will be prosecuted for cruelty to animals.

Here's to that Anti-Cruelty Society. May it win out!

TOWN, COUNTRY AND HEALTH.

RECENTLY Collier's Weekly asked this question:

"Is it much easier to be good in the country than in the city?"

In a later issue a letter was published from Mr. MacLevy, a teacher of physical culture, who thus answers in a decided affirmative:

"For years I have conducted a gymnasium in the heart of New York and a health-building physical-culture plant in a Long Island rural community, and I have had abundant opportunity to compare the effects of city and country life on the health and morals of men.

Health and morals—they come to pretty near being the same. The invalid may be a near-angel, and the strong, virile specimen of humanity a near-fiend, but they are the exceptions that prove the rule.

"Most bad people are sick people, and most sick people are sick because they have neglected and disregarded the laws of right living, such as exercise, fresh air, deep breathing, plain and nutritious nourishment, regular hours, and more exercise. The city man can, if he wills, observe all these laws, and live a long, happy, useful and moral life, but he is not so likely to do so as the man who spends at least a part of the time in the country. On the other hand, an exclusively bucolic existence occasionally tends to ignorance, bigotry, and narrowness of vision, and so may lead to ill-health and viciousness."

Of course, Mr. MacLevy is quite right.

But we wonder where he got that idea about the "exclusively bucolic existence"?

There "ain't no sich thing" in the Northwest.

Farmers out here, Mr. MacLevy, are never exclusively bucolic.

Many of them have automobiles. They visit their friends. They see plays and motion pictures in the city. They are regular visitors to

Portland, Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane for the annual city festivals.

They are omnivorous readers. They go to school at our agricultural colleges.

Why should men of that type lead an "exclusively bucolic existence"?

They don't.

So we can't admit Mr. MacLevy's exception.

Not only is it easier to be good in the country but men and women are better in the country.

And why shouldn't they be?

Their interests are wider. They have most of the advantages of the city and mighty few of its disadvantages.

It's a realization of that which started the "back to the farm" movement.

But we thank Mr. MacLevy for his remarks, anyway.

A STRONG CONTRAST.

FIFTEEN THOUSAND berry pickers are required this year to harvest the million-dollar crop of the Puyallup and Sumner Fruit Growers' Associations.

That is the organization Senator Paulhamus built.

And built well.

Last year the Puyallup Valley sold \$1,000,000 worth of berries.

This year the crop will be \$1,125,000 in all probability.

Last year the hop fields of California were tied up with riots. The pickers rioted because of grossly unsanitary conditions, inadequate water supply and bad living arrangements.

Why, the son of one of the hop growers had the water privilege and water was sold at five cents a glass.

Do you blame those pickers for rioting?

It's a different story at Puyallup.

Arriving in Sumner or Puyallup, the pickers find wagons waiting to haul them and their camping outfit—bedding and cooking utensils—to the fields.

Arrived at the fields, the pickers find cabins fitted with cooking stoves and bunks. Water is convenient at hand and plentiful.

Representatives of the grocers and meat dealers of the nearest town call for their orders and make deliveries the same day.

For their work of picking, 40 cents a crate is paid.

This season will see hundreds of the same pickers alighting from trains in Puyallup and Sumner that alighted last year and the year before. They expect to spend a profitable season; to many of them it is a holiday.

There will be the same story to tell in the Northwest next hop-picking season.

We are not fond of the California way.

Incidentally, we wonder if the way of the Northwest doesn't pay better than the California plan.

MORE FIGURES.

THE CROP reports of the Bureau of Statistics (Crop Estimates) of the U. S. Department of agriculture show the average prices paid to the farmers in various states for butter, eggs and chickens, on May 1, 1914, and as compared with the similar estimates on May 1, 1913. Apparently farmers are obtaining on an average less for their butter and slightly more for their eggs and chickens.

The average price paid to the farmer for butter on May 1, 1914, was 23.8 cents, or 3.2 cents less a pound than the average price paid on May 1, 1913. In the New England States farmers of New Hampshire seem to have received on an average 33 cents or 1 cent more a pound, while in Connecticut they were paid 30 cents or 8 cents less a pound; in Vermont 29 cents and Rhode Island 32 cents or 6 cents less a pound, and in Massachusetts 32 cents or 3 cents less a pound,

and in Maine 30 cents or 1 cent less.

In New York and Pennsylvania and adjoining states the average price was 28 1/2 cents or from 7 to 4 cents less. On the coast from Maryland to South Carolina the prices were either the same or 1 cent higher, ranging from 25 to 28 cents. Georgia farmers receiving 26 cents seem to have gained 1 cent, while the Florida farmers received 2 cents a pound less or 33 cents. In the balance of the states, with a few exceptions where the price was stable, farmers apparently were receiving from 1 cent to 5 cents less a pound, except that in Montana the price was 1 cent more, in Arizona 6 cents less and in Oregon 7 cents less.

The farm prices for eggs on May 1 were 16.8 cents a dozen, or about .7 of a cent higher on an average for the country than on May 1, 1913, or an increase of about 4.3 per cent. In most of the states the price was the same, or varied only by 1 cent one way or the other. In Montana, however, eggs on May 1, 1914, were 18 cents or 4 cents cheaper than the preceding year, while in New Mexico they were 23 cents or 4 cents higher on an average.

The price paid to farmers for chickens on May 1 was 12.5 cents or about .7 of a cent a pound higher in 1914 than in 1913, or an increase of about 5.9 per cent. The variation in the price of chickens was commonly less than 1 cent per pound. The principal variations from this were Delaware, where there was a decrease of 1 1/2 cents a pound to 14.5 cents, West Virginia where there was an increase of 1.2 cents a pound to 13.4 cents, North Carolina an increase of 1.5 cents to 12.5 cents and South Carolina an increase of 2.3 cents to 15 cents.

COUNTRY BOYS' CREED.

IN EVERY schoolhouse in Prince Edward County, Va., a placard containing a creed for the American country boy and dedicated to the Boys' Corn Club of Virginia has been posted. It reads:

"I believe that the country which God made is more beautiful than the city which man made; that life out of doors and in touch with the earth is the natural life of man. I believe that work with nature is more inspiring than work with the most intricate machinery. I believe that the dignity of labor depends not on what you do, but how you do it; that opportunity comes to a boy on the farm as often as to a boy in the city; that life is larger and freer and happier on the farm than in the town; that my success depends not upon my location, but upon myself; not upon my dreams, but upon what I actually do; not upon luck, but upon pluck. I believe in working when you work and in playing when you play, and in giving and demanding a square deal in every act of life."

WHAT NEXT?

ACCORDING to the London Times, an English chemist has discovered a process of manufacturing synthetically a pure and wholesome milk of high nutritive value from the soja or soy bean.

It is reported that excellent cheese and butter have been manufactured from this artificial milk.

These contentions may be true, but it is questionable if the method the good Lord devised, a dairy cow, can't manufacture milk more economically, provided she is given the right kind of raw materials.

A CHINA PERIL.

LONDON game buyers have been warned that many of the partridges and pheasants shipped there from China are killed in wood and field by poisoned bait.

American egg buyers are hereby warned that thousands of Chinese eggs are being shipped to this country and these antique, germ laden, yellow perils are likely to be sold as the real American article.