

NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS.

PATRIOTISM IN TIME OF PEACE NEEDED TO SOLVE OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS.

We Must Plant Forests, Organize Better Schools, Make Homes for Workers and Rear the Children Close to Nature—Menace of Great Cities.

At the commencement exercises of the Michigan Agricultural College on June 20th, 1906, an address was delivered by George H. Maxwell, Dean of the Homecrofters Gild of the Tallman and Executive Chairman of the National Irrigation Association.

The key-note of the address of Mr. Maxwell was the idea that we should bring to the constructive work of our social and commercial life in time of peace, the same fervent patriotism and devotion to the public service that would inspire the whole nation if we were in the throes of a bloody conflict with the people of some other country.

In illustration of this he referred to our forest resources. The wasteful improvidence with which we have swept the forests out of existence was contrasted with the elaborate care with which we have built fortifications and navies and equipped our armies.

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control the legislature would use to get control of and destroy every acre of unreserved timber land in those territories. The country owes a debt of gratitude to Senator Burroughs of your State for his aid in preventing that bill from passing the Senate.

It seems incredible that these things should be done by Congress, but there are reasons for it. In the first place the people at large take no interest in the preservation of their own property.

And worse than this, we are crowding our working people, both native and foreign born, into an environment where congestion of population is degenerating our workers and rotting their physical and moral fibre. Where will you find any citizenship in the slum and tenement districts of our cities to whom you can effectively appeal for help to stop the waste of our forests?

We are suffering just now from a spasm of national hysteria because what everybody who ever took the trouble to go and look knew long ago—the revolting conditions under which the great packers of Chicago have been operating their plants, and because diseased meat has been sold for food.

But you may draw the worst picture that your imagination can paint of the horrors of the slaughtering and packing of meat in those establishments, and nothing you can imagine equals the horror of blighting the lives of thousands of children who are condemned to live and grow up in the foul physical, social and moral miasma that permeates the whole slum district of Packingtown. It is a national disgrace and is bound to prove a national curse.

There is only one remedy for those

the great tide of population that has been drifting from the country to the cities. We must decentralize industry and trade as well as population. The patriotism that is latent in every heart must find an outlet in every country town and village in the work of village improvement, of creating an environment for human life where the highest utility and beauty will surround the entire community, and where a local civic loyalty will prevail that will anchor the people to their own hearthstone and where they will live content under their own vine and fig tree.

This local pride and love of home and the home town is one of the strongest of human feelings when once it is deeply planted. It should be cultivated in every possible way. Nothing should be left undone to stimulate or cement it. Every member of such a community should cultivate a spirit of comradeship and co-operate to advance the general welfare of all. The merchant, the small tradesman, the country editor, the Church, should all work together to that end.

The home paper should be liberally patronized. There is no one thing capable of more far reaching and enduring influence for good than the country press. One of the most unfortunate of modern influences has been the trend of commercial evolution that has borne so heavily on the country editor by the development of the metropolitan family monthly and mail order papers, filled with temptation for the rural people to stimulate the centralization of wealth and trade in the cities by supplying their ordinary needs from far distant and practically unknown sources.

The great central and controlling thought that must rise above all others as a national ideal is the conviction that the real bulwarks of the nation are the Homes of its Citizens and that the first thought and highest ambition of every young man should be to establish a HOME, a self-sustaining Home on the Land, where he can be independent and enjoy the real happiness of a well spent life and not make the mistake that brings disappointment and misery to so many, of setting up the accumulation of a fortune as the goal of his life's ambition!

It is a lure which of necessity must wreck thousands in order that a few may succeed. The man who earns enough to live comfortably without luxury as every intelligent and industrious man can who has sufficient practical education, and who does his duty to himself, his family, his friends, his country and to humanity, is the man who really succeeds in life and who gets the greatest happiness and satisfaction out of it.

To create a human character of the highest type with everything that implies, is the most admirable of all human achievements and that every man and woman must and can do for themselves.

"A time like this demands strong men, Great hearts, true faith and ready hands; Men whom the lust of office does not kill, Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy, Men who possess opinion and a will, Men who have honor, men who will not lie, Men who can stand before a demagogue, And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking; Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog, In public duty and in private thinking."

FOR THE TOWN BEAUTIFUL.

Missouri Women Begin Campaign for Cleaner Cities and Villages

(Columbia Herald.) The club women of Missouri have taken up in earnest the campaign for cleaner cities and towns. In St. Joseph and other large towns organizations of women have done much to promote a general sentiment for cleanliness and are planning more. In Macon a women's organization virtually manages the street cleaning department, collects the money from merchants, superintends the work and disburses the funds.

The club at Trenton, a women's club, have started a campaign that is being watched with interest and imitated in other towns. At the annual meeting at the home of their president, Mrs. T. N. Witten, the club discussed plans for the promotion of a sentiment for better care of lawns and gardens, cleaner streets and alleys and general improvements. The subject of the opening paper of the meeting, read by Mrs. J. A. Asher, was this appropriate one: "The Town's Opportunity—How Can It Do More Than the City for a Beautiful 'American Life'?"

What the women are doing in some Missouri towns the school children have been urged to undertake in others. At various ward schools of Joplin the pupils assisted in the cleaning up of the grounds in readiness for the planting of shrubs and flowers. At Perry, in Ralls County, where Professor J. F. Osborne has the prettiest public school campus in the state, the school children helped in the good work. At Joplin Principal S. A. Baker has been a leader in the observance of Arbor day and the inculcation of the sentiment for the civic beauty.

A town must first be built in wilderness and then made beautiful. The Missouri wilderness has gone, the towns are here and are now being made beautiful.

BE A HOMECROFTER

Learn by Doing. Work Together. Give every Man a Chance.

THE SLOGAN OF THE HOMECROFTERS IS "Every Child in a Garden—Every Mother in a Homecroft, and Individual, Industrial Independence for Every Worker in a Home of his Own on the Land."

"A little croft we owned—a plot of corn, A garden stored with peas and mint and thyme, And flowers for posies, on a Sunday morn, Plucked while the church bells rang their earliest chimes." —Wardsworth.

"The Citizen standing in the doorway of his home—contented on his threshold, his family gathered about his hearthstone, with the events of a well spent day close in scenes and sounds that are dearest—his shall save the Republic when the drum-tap is futile and the barracks are exhausted." —Henry W. Grady.

"The slums and tenements of the great cities are social dynamite, certain to explode sooner or later. The only safeguard against such dangers is to plant the multiplying millions of our fast increasing population in individual homes on the land—homecrofts, however small, owned by the occupant, where every worker and his family can enjoy individual industrial independence." —George H. Maxwell.

THE FIRST BOOK OF THE HOMECROFTERS

HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED AND AMONG ITS CONTENTS ARE THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES OF ABSORBING INTEREST BY

- The Brotherhood of Man
Charity that is Everlasting
The Secret of Nippon's Power
Lesson of a Great Calamity
The Sign of a Thought

This book is the first of a Series that will Chronicle the Progress of the HOMECROFT MOVEMENT and inform all who wish to co-operate with it how they may do so through the formation of local Homecrofters' Circles, Clubs or Gilds to promote Town and Village Betterment, stimulate home civic pride and loyalty to home institutions, industries and trade, improve methods and facilities of education in the local public schools, and create new opportunities. "At Home" that will go far to check the drift of trade and population to the cities.

The first Gild of the Homecrofters has been established at Watertown, Massachusetts. The Gildhall, Shops and Gardens are located at 143 Main Street, where the Garden School is now fully organized and over one hundred children are at work in the Gardens. The departments for training in Homecraft and Village Industries are being installed. The Weavers are already at work at the looms.

It is not designed to build here an isolated institution, but to make a model which can be duplicated in any town or village in the country.

Copies of "THE FIRST BOOK OF THE HOMECROFTERS" can be obtained by sending twelve two-cent stamps with your name and address (carefully and plainly written) to The Homecrofters' Gild of the Tallman 143, Main St., Watertown, Massachusetts.

There is New Hope and Inspiration for every Worker who wants a Home of his own on the Land in the CREED AND PLATFORM OF THE HOMECROFTERS' which is as follows: "Peace has her victories no less renowned than war."

EDUCATION GO-OPERATION OPPORTUNITY HOMECROFTS

We believe that the Patriotic Slogan of the Whole People of this Nation should be "Every Child in a Garden—Every Mother in a Homecroft— and Individual Industrial Independence for Every Worker in a Home of his Own on the Land," and that until he owns such a Home, the concentrated purpose and chief inspiration to labor in the life of every wage worker should be his determination to "Get an Acre and Live on it."

We believe that the Slums and Tenements and Congested Centers of population in the Cities are a savagely deteriorating social, moral and political influence, and that a great public movement should be organized, and the whole power of the nation and the states exerted for the betterment of all the conditions of Rural Life, and to create and uphold Centers of Social and Civic Life in Country and Suburban Towns and Villages, where Trade and Industry can be so firmly anchored that they cannot be drawn into the Commercial Maelstrom that is now steadily sucking Industry and Humanity into the Vortex of the Great Cities.

We believe that every Citizen in this Country has an inherent and Fundamental Right to an Education which will train him to Earn a Living, and, if need be, to get his living straight from Mother Earth; and that he has the same right to the Opportunity to have the Work to Do which will afford him that living, and to earn not only a comfortable livelihood, but enough more to enable him to be a Homecrofter and to have a Home of his Own, with ground around it sufficient to yield him and his family a Living from the Land as the reward for his own labor.

We believe that the Public Domain is the most precious heritage of the people, and the surest safeguard the nation has against Social Unrest, Disturbance or Upheaval, and that the Cause of Humanity and the Preservation of Social Stability and of our Free Institutions demand that the absorption of the public lands into speculative private ownership, without settlement, be forthwith stopped; and that the nation should create opportunities for Homecrofters by building irrigation and drainage works to reclaim land as fast as it is needed to give every man who wants a Home on the Land a chance to get it.

We believe that, as a Nation, we should be less absorbed with Making

lands reclaimed, as required by the National Irrigation Act. SAVE THE PUBLIC LANDS FOR HOME MAKERS.

6. That not another acre of the public lands shall ever hereafter be granted to any state or territory for any purpose whatsoever, or to any one other than an actual settler who has built his home on the land and lived on it for five years, and that no more land scrip of any kind shall ever be issued, and that the Desert Land Law and the Commutation Clause of the Homestead Law shall be made to conform to the recommendations of the Public Lands Commission appointed by President Roosevelt and of the Message of the President to Congress.

PLANT FORESTS AND CREATE FOREST PLANTATIONS.

7. That the Timber and Stone Law shall be repealed, and that all public timber lands shall be included in permanent Forest Reserves, the title to the land to be forever retained by the National Government, stumpage only of matured timber to be sold, and young timber to be preserved for future cutting, so that the forests will be perpetuated by right use; and that the National Government shall, by the reservation or purchase of existing forest lands, and the planting of new forests, create in every state National Forest Plantations from which, through all the years to come, a sufficient supply of wood and timber can be annually harvested to supply the needs of the people of each state from the Forest Plantations in that state.

CONTROL AND USE OF THE GRAZING LANDS.

8. That all unlocated public lands not otherwise reserved shall be reserved from location or entry under any law except the Homestead Law, and shall be embraced in Grazing Reserves under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture, who shall be empowered to issue annual Licenses to graze stock in said Grazing Reserves, but such licenses shall never be issued for a longer period than one year on agricultural lands or five years on grazing lands, and all lands classified as grazing lands shall be subject to reclassification at the end of every five years; that no leases of the public grazing lands shall ever be made by the National Government, and that the area of the homestead entry shall never under any circumstances be enlarged to exceed 160 acres.

RESERVE STATE LANDS FOR HOMESTEAD SETTLERS.

9. That the public land states shall administer the state lands under a system similar to and in harmony with the national public land system above outlined, and that each state shall enact a State Homestead Law for the settlement of lands owned by the state, and that state lands shall be disposed of only to actual settlers under such law, and that all state lands shall at all times remain open to Homestead Entry.

UNITED OWNERSHIP OF LAND AND WATER.

10. That it shall be the law of every state and of the United States, that beneficial use is the basis of the measure, and the limit of all rights to water, including riparian rights, and that the right to the use of water for irrigation shall inhere in and be appurtenant to the land irrigated, so that the ownership of the land and the water shall be united, and no right to water as a speculative commodity ever be acquired, held or owned.

RIGHT OF APPROPRIATION FOR BENEFICIAL USE.

11. That it shall be the law of every state and of the United States, that all unused and unappropriated waters are public property, subject to appropriation for a beneficial use, first in time being first in right, and that on all interstate streams, priority of use shall give priority of right, throughout the entire course of the stream, without regard to state lines, and that in each drainage basin the irrigators therein shall control the distribution of the water.

A Homecroft Garden.

The Homecroft Movement is growing in strength and many leading newspapers are editorially advocating the idea that every family, though living in the city, ought to have a garden. A reader of MAXWELL'S HOMECROFTER MAGAZINE, in Westbranch, Iowa, sends us the following editorial clipped from the Des Moines Daily News, which is so fully in harmony with what this magazine stands for that we take pleasure in reproducing the same. The editor of the News says:

A little garden, if properly cared for, will save the city dweller many a dollar. But that is by no means the chiefest good. Even if he has more money than he knows what to do with he will still find rich profit in yielding the spade and hoe for exercise. And the rarest pleasure comes from following the primal instincts of nature.

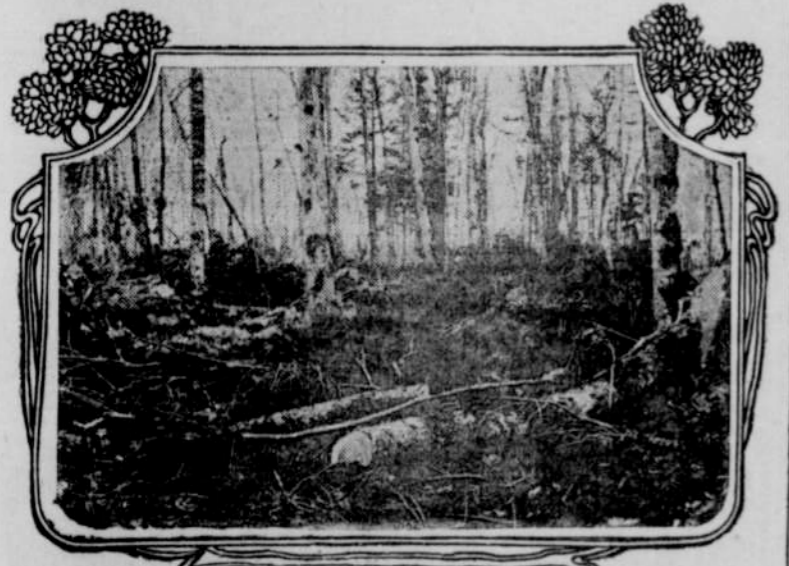
It is not alone the plants and flowers we long for. An inner something impels us to put our hands at work in the sun, earth, to bathe our bodies in the sunshine and to open our souls in devotion to things that are not gross, but sweet and pure.

To be pitted is a man who does not drink in with delight the fragrance of the flowers after having breathed all day the stench of a city, and who does not learn a lesson from the noiseless, orderly, beneficent processes of nature that are constantly going on around him.

Every city dweller who has a bit of ground ought to have a garden. It may be only five feet square, but he can plant it in a dozen peas, succulent onions, radishes or lettuce, and still find room for a flower or two to throw a little color and a little fragrance into his life.

There are many reasons, economical, physical, esthetic and moral, why every man should be his own gardener, if he can. Thousands of dwellers in hotels, flats and tenements can't be. Their existence is as dull and cheerless in the season when all nature is gay as is that of a bird that is caged.

They may laugh—and so does the caged bird sing. But it is not true living, for all that.



"DESTROY THE FORESTS AND FLOOD AND DROUGHT WILL DESTROY THE FARMS."

bare of soil, and reforestation becomes impossible.

We are told by experts, and no one contradicts the statement, that at the present rate of consumption, our entire forest resources will be exhausted in less than forty years. I have recently seen it stated at thirty-five years.

If we are to guard against this national danger the Timber and Stone Law must be repealed, and all public timber lands included in permanent Forest Reserves, the title to the land forever retained by the National Government, stumpage only of matured timber sold, and young timber preserved for future cutting, so that the forests will be perpetuated by right use; and the National Government must, by the reservation or purchase of existing forest lands, and the planting of new forests, create in every state National Forest Plantations from which, through all the years to come, a sufficient supply of wood and timber can be annually harvested to supply the needs of the people of each state from the Forest Plantations in that state.

Unless we take time by the forelock the next generation will see the United States practically a treeless nation, without wood or timber for the uses of our people, and devastated year after year by ruinous floods. Already the scarcity of timber is being felt and every man who builds a home must pay the increased cost. In Michigan I understand that some of your most important industries are crippled by the shortage of timber.

And yet, in the face of this condition which is nothing more than a crisis threatening the complete destruction of one of our greatest business resources as a nation, Congress busies itself with a multitude of matters of infinitely less importance and refuses to repeal the Timber and Stone Act, under which the last remnants of our unreserved national forest lands are being fed into the insatiable maw of the timber speculators for less than one-tenth of their actual value.

We are told by the men in Congress who make Committees and shape legislation that the money cannot be spared to acquire and save from destruction the Calaveras Big Trees in California, or to create the White Mountain and Appalachian Forest Reserves, and preserve their forest resources and save the water power used in the manufacturing industries of New England and the South; and the same men in the same moment refuse to stop the most shameless waste of a nation's resources that ever disgraced a national lawmaking body by refusing to repeal the Timber and Stone Act.

Not only this, but in Arizona and New Mexico where the forests are the very life of the country, the Joint Statehood Bill proposed to give a floating grant of several million acres which the land speculators who would

horrible conditions of life for the children, and that is to get the working people and their children out of the slums, and into the suburbs where they can have sunshine and fresh air and pure and nourishing food from a home garden.

Let us realize once for all that this problem of the children of our working people is our greatest national problem and go at its solution with the same patriotic and self-sacrificing national heroism that led the Homecrofters of Japan to go into battle with their lives in their hands, like hand grenades, to throw at the enemy that sought to crush out their national life.

Let us catch the inspiration of the slogan of the Homecrofters' Movement in this Country, and never cease our work until we have "Every child in a garden—Every Mother in a Homecroft—and Individual Industrial Independence for Every Worker in a Home of his own on the Land."

The Creed and Platform of the Homecrofter tells how it may be done and anyone who wants a copy of it can get it without charge by sending a postal card addressed to me, at the Fisher Building in Chicago.

The Great Cities are our most serious menace in this Country. Our greatest national danger lies in the Centralization of wealth and population and trade and industry. The hope of the nation is in the farm and suburban home and in the country and suburban town and village.

Let us go seriously to work to create and uphold them. Let every student who goes out with the spirit of a soldier to fight the great battles of peace for higher national ideals, find a purer public service, for the preservation of our national resources, for a better educational system, and above and beyond all for the multiplication of Homes on the Land where the children can grow to manhood and womanhood in the uplifting environment of a rural community where the evil influences of the cities can be forever kept at bay. In such an environment children can be reared to citizenship next to Nature from whence they can draw health and vigor both moral and physical for the discharge of all the duties of life.

It is not in the cities that this country needs the service of the flower of its patriotic manhood. It is in the country where the great national problem of the improvement of the rural life is to be solved, where more beautiful towns and villages and better roads are to be built, better schools to be established, telephones and trolley lines constructed, and all the influences put to work that will socialize the country, and drive away the isolation and hardships that were formerly its drawbacks. We must not only stop, and reverse