

The Davie Record.

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VOLUMIN XIV.

MOCKSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1912.

NUMBER 2

The Farmer Boy.

Monroe Journal.

Elsewhere in this paper is copied a few remarks by Charity and Children on the subject of the farmer boy. They are timely and wise as far as they go, but there is another and larger phase of the subject that must sooner or later loom large in the mind of all thinking people. The question is not of the boy who leaves the farm, but the one who stays there. Are his chances for success becoming better or worse, especially the boy who must make his own way and has not land and equipment already furnished him by a successful father?

A few days ago a practical farmer said to this writer that conditions had now become so that a boy could not start out and make enough on the farm to buy his land and equip it. A few years ago when land was cheap any farmer boy who had energy and fair judgment could start out, buy land on a credit, support himself and eventually equip and pay for his farm. It is becoming rarer and rarer the case that he can do this now, and our farmer said that this was really the reason why boys were leaving the farm, meaning that they saw there a continued narrowing of opportunities.

The rapid increase in land values in the South, which has been heralded as an improvement, and a so-called development, bids fair to prove a stupendous evil. Unless it is checked it means the gradual divorce of the people from the land, for the simple reason that the men who work it will not be able to pay the enormous and inflated prices that speculation and kindred forces are carrying it to. The minute that land becomes so high that only the rich can own it and it is becoming so all the time, that minute poverty and hardship begin to increase. We are overdoing land booming, because all the so-called increase in land values is wholly a fictitious increase, and not any real increase in wealth.

The inflation of land values is very much like the watering of stock in industrial and public service corporations, a simple increase in the amount of so-called capital upon which labor must continue to pay a large and larger proportion of its produce to satisfy. They are now claiming that the farmer gets only 35 cents for what the consumer pays a dollar for. Fictitious capital, always increasing the cost of living, is responsible for much of that. Extravagance in government, multiplied bond issues and hundreds of other things add to it, and it is already bad enough. But the time is coming when a larger and larger part of the 35 cents that is left to him will be taken up to pay interest on inflated land values. Then he will be getting less and less all the time. It makes no difference that some of the farmers will continue for a long time to own their own lands, it is but a question of time till fewer and fewer of them will, and eventually none, unless present tendencies are checked. Then we shall have absentee landlordism, a thing that has ruined every country on God's earth upon which it has set its foot.

The so-called increase of wealth in the South today is to a great degree fictitious. Take a man who bought a large quantity of land years ago, say at a dollar per acre. He sells it to his neighbor and pockets a profit of a hundred and fifty thousand dollars. For the rest of his life he and his family live in idleness. Who supports them? The laborers who work that land, taking enough out of their yearly produce to pay the interest on the fictitious price at which the man was able to unload. They are the ones and no other. Now as

land speculation goes on, we are more and more separating folks into two classes. Those who work and those who don't work. Those who don't work are able to appropriate the proceeds of those who do by the simple process described above. That is the way that absentee landlordism has its rise, and because it creates a horde of non-workers, it breaks the backs of those who do work. That is the situation in its narrow nakedness, and a view of it that will make many hold up their hands in horror, but it is the truth.

The revival in better methods of farming is a great thing and is at present a blessing to the South, but if we would reap the full benefits from it we must open our eyes to the tendency of things. We must devise methods for keeping the land in the hand of the man who works it; we must devise means of preventing the overcapitalization of lands, of business, of manufacture, of all public enterprises, so that the product of labor, which is the only real wealth of the country, shall not be taken out of the hands of labor in an ever increasing proportion. Of all the ways of doing the job of depriving the laborer of his hire, land speculation and the inflation of land values is the oldest, most certain, and the last one that people will see.

Boys will continue to go to town as long as we coddle the manufacturing element and commercial element and thereby create temporarily a better opportunity there. When the overstocking of the city and town is complete, the population will begin to suffer there just as it does now in overcrowded sections. Then it will seek to fall back on the country, to find a closed door there. Heretofore it could always find an open door in the country, because land was cheap and plentiful. It will never be cheap again, till we change some of our laws. Now of course there are individual cases that are exceptions to the general rules we have been discussing here. We are talking of general principles and tendencies.

And in the light of what we have said, is the chance of the farm boy expanding or narrowing in the South? What do you think?

North Carolina's Crops Attract Attention.

The Wall Street Journal has discovered that last year North Carolina produced nearly twice as much cotton to the acre as boastful Texas did. The Old North State got 315 pounds of cotton from an acre, compared with 186 pounds as the average for Texas. The yield was 50 per cent above the average. The Journal says: "Should any given state, no matter how backward, add 20 per cent to its yield per acre each year it would only take five years to double its cotton crop. A general movement in this direction would enable the cotton states to diversify their crops without reducing the cotton yield a single pound." The Wilmington Star adds: "North Carolina now leads as a peanut producing state, and the Wilmington section embraces the greatest small fruit and trucking area of the Nation's Garden Spot. There are scores of money crops to which North Carolina is peculiarly adapted because of the climate, equable rainfall and generous soil. It is gratifying that North Carolina has made so much progress in agriculture as to attract the notice of such a publication as the Wall Street Journal. The production of greater crops on fewer acres is evidence of improved cultivation methods, and it is one thing which the Star for years has constantly emphasized. Greater production per acre and larger crops per laborer solves the economic problem of farming, and North Carolina has so clearly demonstrated that she is doing profitable farming on fewer acres that the world is sitting up and taking notice."

Wisdom? Folly?

She was young. She was beautiful. Her imagination played about life's happiness and mystery. She saw youth marred by labor and its joys enhanced by riches. She had met youth in man and responded innocently to nature's appeal. And she had dreamed dreams. But she was poor. Wealth is wealth and beauty beauty.

He was old. His face was like parchment, and as he moved the tokens of age were more apparent. Yet he could laugh, and he was optimistic as it is permitted a man in the serene to be. He was rich, and in some respects his age was discounted by the means he could take to ease it. Knowledge of life was in his small, twinkling eyes. And experience—ah, yes! Vast experience!

He wished and wished. She wondered and wondered.

"If you marry me," said he, "there is nothing that you may not command."

"Nothing?"

"Well, of course, I can't bring down the moon for you to play with or give you a necklace of stars. But anything not in the sky is possible. You shall have a mansion on Fifth Avenue as great as the greatest. You may select the most attractive spot on the continent—and by spot I mean miles square. If you wish—for a country retreat. Europe shall be yours as often as you care for it. You shall have no impulse unsatisfied that money will gratify. No queen can compare with you as to luxury and ease, for queens have little worries of their own. And if you doubt my generosity, make some request as a test. If you marry me, the request shall be granted."

"What about love?"

"Love? Why I love you! Otherwise, why should I offer you all this?"

"You really love me?"

"Really." And he smiled as amiably as a gargoye.

"Very well. It is a bargain."

And they were married.—J. A. W.

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The Candidate The Platform.

Hickory Times-Mercury.

Mr. Bryan says, "the candidate is the platform." Lots of men here jump at the saying and say, "that's true." This is going to be a history repeating campaign. We have more hero worshippers than principle lovers. Hence to make it readable, as well as interesting, the Mercury will quote from Thos. E. Watson as follows:

WOODROW WILSON A FALSIFIER.

"The Governor of New Jersey stood convicted, in the Harvey Watterson episode of being a wilful and deliberate falsifier. He also told a deliberate untruth, in regard to the application for the Carnegie pension; and he was caught in it, as he was in the Harvey Watterson incident. A ny American Governor who was willing to sign a bill which abolished civil marriage, in an American State, is so unspeakably false to American ideals and institutions, that one might well say that he reeks with perfidy, treachery and mendacity. Your Woodrow Wilson did that; and New Jersey no longer tolerates the civil marriage."

Then Tom, in talking about Bryan and Wilson, says:

ARE CATHOLICS SYMPATHIZERS

"As to Wilson, I have merely said that he employs as Private Secretary a Jesuit, who took the frightful oath of treason and murder."

"Also, that he signed a bill which deprives the State of New Jersey of the right to perform the marriage ceremony. Thus the State is subordinated to the church."

"That is Roman Catholicism, not Constitutional Americanism."

"I cannot but scorn a Governor who betrays his State in that way."

"My criticism of Bryan, in that connection, is that he supports a candidate who will do those things to wit, employ a Jesuit for his most confidential work, and betray to the Romanists the State of New Jersey."

"Have we no ground to fear that if such a man as Wilson is elected President, he will betray the whole country to Rome, just as he betrayed New Jersey?"

He Wasn't There.

Those ardent admirers of the Colonel, who alluded to his military exploits in Cuba as rivaling in brilliance the civil combats he has won, need to be reminded now and then that his daring charge at the head of the valorous Rough Riders up San Juan's hill was a matter of press invention by some correspondent who never got nearer that famous field of battle than did Roosevelt himself, to-wit six or seven miles. It is true that in a celebrated painting Frederick Remington has exercised the artist's license and shown his subject astride of a prancing steed, dashing with brandished sword up the fire-crowned eminence against the Spanish breast works; but all this never happened save in the mind of the painter. The picture presents a faithful portrait of the man and horse, and reproduces with photographic fidelity the glowing sabre, but the environments in which these objects are placed are purely fictitious. The artist has only shown the Colonel as he doubtless would have looked had he been at San Juan; but he wasn't there.—Virginia Pilot.

And Then!

Consider the ways of the little green cucumber, which never does its best fighting until it's down.—Ex.

The Choice of a Husband

is too important a matter for a woman to be handicapped by weakness, bad blood or foul breath. Avoid these kill-hopes by taking Dr. King's Life Pills. New strength fine complexion, pure breath, cheerful spirits—things that win men—follow their use. Easy, safe, sure. 25c. at all druggists.

THE BEST IN THE COUNTY.

I have been in the undertaking business for 42 years, and have the best line of caskets, robes and supplies in the county. My caskets are all hand-made, and the prices range from \$5 to \$75. All sizes are kept in stock at all times. Calls answered day or night. Phone or call on me and you will receive prompt service. I furnish all supplies at reasonable prices. My goods go into all surrounding counties. When in need of anything in my line remember that I am prepared to serve you.

J. J. STARRETTE,
KAPPA, N. C.

Some BIG Bargains.

\$4 Stetson hats, \$2.98., 15c. Fruit Powders 3 for 25c., 6 dozen Fruit Jar Rings, 20c.; \$1 Alarm Clocks 55c.; \$1 Blue Ridge Overalls 84c.; Cultivators to close at \$2.45.

JUST RECEIVED

A good lot rubber coats, Blue Serge Suits \$15; Boys' Suits \$1.25 and up; Rubber Roofing, Painted and Galvanized Roofing at a bargain; 8 day clocks \$1.95. A full line of Bicycles and Horns, Bells, Lamps, Cement Tires and Tubes, Pumps, Spokes, Brakes, Rims, Etc. Ice Cream Freezers.

WALKER'S BARGAIN HOUSE,
MOCKSVILLE AND BIXBY.

WHEN IN NEED OF Monuments, Tombstones &c.

DON'T FAIL TO SEE OR WRITE US.

First Class Work, Best Material and Reasonable Prices.
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& GRANITE CO.
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GOOD
JOB
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Shipping Tags
Statements
Programs
Circulars

The Davie Record

AN AWFUL SACRIFICE.

I am making arrangements to close out my interests in Mocksville, and am offering my complete stock of dry goods, notions, hats, shoes and clothing at a big sacrifice. My store is one of the largest in the town, and in many lines I have no competition. Stock is complete, and all goods practically new. Any one wishing a bargain can get it by consulting with me. The stock must be sold at once. I have one of the best locations in town. This is a bargain for any one wishing to go into the mercantile business.

J. T. BAITY,
Mocksville, N. C.