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“BACK TO THE FARM.”

THERE are two sides to practically all questions of this life; but the average man sees only one. The farmers, and especially the farmer boys and girls, see only the lack of company and amusement and the hard work of the farm; while of the city they see only the bright side of greater society pleasures. They fail to see the dark side, but this shadowy side exists, just the same. On the other hand, the city man with a family sees only the high cost of living and the greater temptations for his growing family in his city life and restricts his vision of the farm to the wholesome moral and hygienic surroundings, and just at this time, also to the high prices for which farm products are selling. He naturally sees better times on the farm than he has enjoyed in the city, since wages has failed to advance with the cost of living.

From these conditions, while many boys are going to the cities and towns, the older men and women of the cities, especially those reared in the country who have not found all they expected in city life, are harkening to the loud cry of the politicians and real estate man, “Back to the farm”.

Many of those who answer the “call of the farm” are doomed to disappointment. Conditions there have also changed and while the prices of farm products have advanced, the cost of production has also increased. Moreover, it requires more capital to run the farm profitably than in the years gone by. High-priced implements and horses and mules are needed to take the place of the cheap labor of the olden days, and the city man who goes to the country without capital is about as likely to experience a rude awakening to the fact that there are two sides to the farming business as is the youth who goes to the city expecting to find easy work and peaceful plenty.

We, therefore, wish to offer a word of warning, or rather to caution those who are looking back toward the farm, to con-

sider well what the change means. The man who has a home and a fair salary in the city, but insufficient capital to equip a farm, had better think twice before making the change. On the other hand, the man who is not so comfortably fixed in the city, or the one who has capital with which to equip a farm, may go back to the farm with every assurance that industry and intelligence will there meet rewards equal to those offered by the city.

We fear that this “back to the farm” business is being overworked by the politicians, because it seems popular, and by the real estate men, because of what there is in it in the way of commissions.

Thousands who are barely able to exist in the city and are rearing families in squalor and ignorance should by all means respond to the call of the farm, but in doing so should realize that hard work and many privations await them, before success is likely to be wrung from our none-too-fertile soils.

It requires brains and industry to enable one to realize the bright side of farm life; but today no occupation offers brighter prospects of a liberal reward for intelligent industry than does farming in the South.

We would not discourage the movement back to the land, for our Southern soils are calling out today for earnest, intelligent men to take possession of them and develop their latent resources; but, on the other hand, we would not advise any man who has no training in agricultural science and no practical knowledge of farm work to leave another business and go to farming without first training himself for the work. The notion that anybody can farm accounts for so many poor farmers now, and the man who rushes back to the farm without pre-

paring himself to do intelligent farming is likely to swell the number. But for the man who will prepare himself for the work, the opportunities are great.



IN FROM THE FIELDS.

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