

PINE GROVE MILLS.

Friday morning registered 16 degrees below zero in town; 28 below at Tadpole.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Close, of Fairbrook spent Sunday evening at the J. H. Williams home.

Will Glenn and wife, Mr. Shirk and wife and son William enjoyed the sledding from Boalsburg and spent the Sabbath at the W. H. Glenn home.

Rev. J. M. Ross, of Belleville, will fill the pulpit in St. Paul's Lutheran church here next Sunday at 7:30 p. m., as supply.

Miss Emma Johnson, one of the hello girls in the Bell exchange at Bellefonte, visited her parents in town.

Teacher Hugh Ralston, who has been wielding the birch at Fairbrook school the past month, handed over the key to the regular teacher, Miss Ishler, who is at her desk again.

The venerable Jacob Kellar suffered a paralytic stroke on Thursday, affecting his entire left side. As this is the third attack it is causing his friends and his family much alarm.

Wm. K. Goss came over from Tyrone to spend Sunday with his father, W. H. Goss, who is on the sick list.

The personal effects of the late Franklin Bowersox will be offered at public sale on February 18, at his late residence, at which time the residence will also be offered.

George W. O'Bryan, merchant at Axemann, spent Saturday with his mother, who is ill at her home here, but is some better.

Our band master W. K. Cori is now on a fair way to recovery at the Glenn sanitarium at State College.

Rev. S. E. Curry, of Mt. Union, is holding nightly meetings in the Graysville Presbyterian church.

GEORGES VALLEY.

Mrs. H. E. Musser spent a few days at the home of her sister, Mrs. Ellis Hennigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sharer visited friends at Smulton on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Barger spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Foust.

Mrs. I. A. Valentine is visiting friends in Union county this week.

Rev. Winter, superintendent of the Evangelical home at Lewisburg, preached a very interesting sermon at the Locust Grove church last Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hillan spent Sunday at the J. B. Ripka home.

29 Killed, 132 Wounded in Hunting Accidents.

Although twenty-nine persons were killed and 132 wounded in hunting accidents in Pennsylvania in the 1921 season, only one victim was killed in mistake for large game and almost two-thirds of the persons who met death were killed through their own carelessness. So the state board of game commissioners declares in its annual report to the governor.

The number of persons killed shows a decrease from previous years, 43 having been killed in 1920 and 35 in 1919. The decrease is attributed to the greater precautions made necessary by the law prohibiting the killing of deer without horns four inches long.

Prosecution has been started by county authorities, the commission says, in all cases where sportsmen were mistaken for animals and shot.

Love Confessions of a French "Bluebeard."

The whole civilized world read with considerable interest the brief cabled reports of the recent trial in Paris of Henri Landru, the modern Bluebeard.

Although Landru was indicted, tried and promptly convicted of the murder of only about a dozen of his wives, the French police, who spent five years collecting the evidence, feel certain that Landru would, won, robbed and murdered most, if not all, of the two hundred and eighty-three women whose names they found in his private papers, and who vanished from the face of the earth after Landru made their acquaintance.

The figure of old Bluebeard and his castle has typified for centuries the wholesale wife murderer, but the modern Bluebeard Landru has eclipsed all records, the police believe, as a destroyer of women.

Landru is closely guarded in jail under sentence of death, and is hoping for an appeal and a new trial to save his neck from the guillotine.

But what every woman—and every man too—wants to know is just how Landru won those 238 wives, this whether he is ultimately convicted of murdering them or not. There is no doubt, though, that he did make scores of marriages and that many women loved him. After considerable hesitation the great French multiple husband has consented to reveal his methods of love making, and in next Sunday's New York American he tells how he won these hosts of women's hearts and reveals, besides, some of the hitherto unknown secrets of his extraordinary career.

Centre Reporter, \$1.50 a year.

Some Aspects of the Farmers' Problems

By BERNARD M. BARUCH

(Reprinted from Atlantic Monthly)

The whole rural world is in a ferment of unrest, and there is an unparalleled volume and intensity of determined, if not angry, protest, and an ominous swarming of occupational conferences, interest groupings, political movements and propaganda. Such a turmoil cannot but arrest our attention. Indeed, it demands our careful study and examination. It is not likely that six million aloof and ruggedly independent men have come together and banded themselves into active unions, societies, farm bureaus, and so forth, for no sufficient cause.

Investigation of the subject conclusively proves that, while there is much overstatement of grievances and misconception of remedies, the farmers are right in complaining of wrongs long endured, and right in holding that it is feasible to relieve their ills with benefit to the rest of the community. This being the case of an industry that contributes, in the raw material form alone, about one-third of the national annual wealth production and is the means of livelihood of about 40 per cent of the population, it is obvious that the subject is one of grave concern. Not only do the farmers make up one-half of the nation, but the well-being of the other half depends upon them.

So long as we have nations, a wise political economy will aim at a large degree of national self-sufficiency and self-containment. Rome fell when the food supply was too far removed from the belly. Like her, we shall destroy our own agriculture and extend our sources of food distantly and precariously, if we do not see to it that our farmers are well and fairly paid for their services. The farm gives the nation men as well as food. Cities derive their vitality and are forever renewed from the country, but an impoverished countryside exports intelligence and retains unintelligence. Only the lower grades of mentality and character will remain on, or seek, the farm, unless agriculture is capable of being pursued with contentment and adequate compensation. Hence, to embitter and impoverish the farmer is to dry up and contaminate the vital sources of the nation.

The war showed convincingly how dependent the nation is on the full productivity of the farms. Despite herculean efforts, agricultural production kept only a few weeks or months ahead of consumption, and that only by increasing the acreage of certain staple crops at the cost of reducing that of others. We ought not to forget that lesson when we ponder on the farmer's problems. They are truly common problems, and there should be no attempt to deal with them as if they were purely selfish demands of a clear-cut group, antagonistic to the rest of the community. Rather should we consider agriculture in the light of broad national policy, just as we consider oil, coal, steel, dyestuffs, and so forth, as sinews of national strength. Our growing population and a higher standard of living demand increasing food supplies, and more wool, cotton, hides, and the rest. With the disappearance of free or cheap fertile land, additional acreage and increased yields can come only from costly effort. This we need not expect from an impoverished or unhappy rural population.

It will not do to take a narrow view of the rural discontent, or to appraise it from the standpoint of yesterday. This is peculiarly an age of flux and change and new deals. Because a thing always has been so no longer means that it is righteous, or that ever shall be so. More, perhaps, than ever before, there is a widespread feeling that all human relations can be improved by taking thought, and that it is not becoming for the reasoning animal to leave his destiny largely to chance and natural incidence.

Prudent and orderly adjustment of production and distribution in accordance with consumption is recognized as wise management in every business but that of farming. Yet, I venture to say, there is no other industry in which it is so important to the public—the city-dweller—that production should be sure, steady, and increasing, and that distribution should be in proportion to the need. The unorganized farmers naturally act blindly and impulsively and, in consequence, surfeit and dearth, accompanied by disconcerting price-variations, harass the consumer. One year potatoes rot in the fields because of excess production, and there is a scarcity of the things that have been displaced to make way for the expansion of the potato acreage; next year the published farmers mass their fields on some other crop, and potatoes enter the class of luxuries; and so on.

Agriculture is the greatest and fundamentally the most important of our American industries. The cities are but the branches of the tree of national life, the roots of which go deeply into the land. We all flourish or decline with the farmer. So, when we of the cities read of the present universal distress of the farmers, of a slump of six billion dollars in the farm value of their crops in a single year,

of their inability to meet mortgages or to pay current bills, and how, seeking relief from their ills, they are planning to form pools, inaugurate farmers' strikes, and demand legislation abolishing grain exchanges, private cattle markets, and the like, we ought not hastily to brand them as economic heretics and highwaymen, and hurl at them the charge of being seekers of special privilege. Rather, we should ask if their trouble is not ours, and see what can be done to improve the situation. Purely from self-interest, if for no higher motive, we should help them. All of us want to get back permanently to "normalcy;" but is it reasonable to hope for that condition unless our greatest and most basic industry can be put on a sound and solid permanent foundation? The farmers are not entitled to special privileges; but are they not right in demanding that they be placed on an equal footing with the buyers of their products and with other industries?

Let us, then, consider some of the farmer's grievances, and see how far they are real. In doing so, we should remember that, while there have been, and still are, instances of purposeful abuse, the subject should not be approached with any general imputation to existing distributive agencies of deliberately intentional oppression, but rather with the conception that the marketing of farm products has not been modernized.

An ancient evil, and a persistent one, is the undergrading of farm products, with the result that what the farmers sell as of one quality is resold as of a higher. That this sort of chicanery should persist on any important scale in these days of business integrity would seem almost incredible, but there is much evidence that it does so persist. Even as I write, the newspapers announce the suspension of several firms from the New York Produce Exchange for exporting to Germany as No. 2 wheat a whole shipload of grossly inferior wheat mixed with oats, chaff and the like.

Another evil is that of inaccurate weighing of farm products, which, it is charged, is sometimes a matter of dishonest intention and sometimes of protective policy on the part of the local buyer, who fears that he may "weigh out" more than he "weighs in."

A greater grievance is that at present the field farmer has little or no control over the time and conditions of marketing his products, with the result that he is often underpaid for his products and usually overcharged for marketing service. The difference between what the farmer receives and what the consumer pays often exceeds all possibility of justification. To cite a single illustration. Last year, according to figures attested by the railways and the growers, Georgia watermelon-raisers received on the average 7.5 cents for a melon, the railroads got 127 cents for carrying it to Baltimore and the consumer paid one dollar, leaving 79 cents for the service of marketing and its risks, as against 20.2 cents for growing and transporting. The hard annals of farm-life are replete with such commentaries on the crudeness of present practices.

Nature prescribes that the farmer's "goods" must be finished within two or three months of the year, while financial and storage limitations generally compel him to sell them at the same time. As a rule, other industries are in a continuous process of finishing goods for the markets; they distribute as they produce, and they can curtail production without too great injury to themselves or the community; but if the farmer restricts his output, it is with disastrous consequences, both to himself and to the community.

The average farmer is busy with production for the major part of the year, and has nothing to sell. The bulk of his output comes on the market at once. Because of lack of storage facilities and of financial support he farmer cannot carry his goods through the year and dispose of them as they are currently needed. In the great majority of cases, farmers have no entrust storage—in warehouses and elevators—and the financial carrying of their products to others.

Farm products are generally marketed at a time when there is a congestion of both transportation and finance—when cars and money are scarce. The outcome, in many instances, is that the farmers not only sell under pressure, and therefore at a disadvantage, but are compelled to take further reductions in net returns, in order to meet the charges for the service of storing, transporting, financing, and ultimate marketing—which charges they claim, are often excessive, bear heavily on both consumer and producer, and are under the control of those performing the services. It is true that they are relieved of the risks of a changing market by selling at once; but they are quite will-

(Continued next week.)

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72 Pair Women's Walk Over and Queen Quality Shoes, choice..... 1.49	20 Dozen Men's Chambray Working Shirts, formerly \$1.25, now..... .79	Ladies' Bungalow Aprons, formerly \$1.00, now..... .60
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23 Pairs Men's Heavy Wool Pants, formerly \$4.75, now..... 2.29	Flannelette Night Gowns, formerly \$1.50, now..... .89	1 Special Lot Misses and Women's Coats, formerly \$20.00, now..... 7.50
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JAMES W. SWABB JUSTICE OF THE PEACE LINDEN HALL, CENTRE CO., PA. Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, etc. written and executed with care. All legal business promptly attended to. Special attention given to wills of Estates. Marriage Licenses, etc. available. Licenses, and all other Appraisals. Blanks kept on hand. Nov 28-1922

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