



What's the Matter With the Farmer?

(Philadelphia Record Editorial.)

What's the matter with the farmer? Meaning, of course, the Eastern farmer, who cultivates a relatively small acreage, diversifies his crops, and markets his products without a long haul; and whose economic problems widely differ from those of the Western agriculturist tilling a broad domain and specializing in wheat or corn or cattle.

The farmer, the modern farmer here in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, is not the hayseed portrayed by the comic papers. He is an intelligent and generally an educated business man. He sends his sons and daughters to school and to college. He reads books, magazines and newspapers. He understands the theory as well as the practice of every branch of his calling. He studies markets, forecasts the probable trend of prices, adopts promptly every improvement in methods of production, and keeps in close touch with every forward step in the science of agriculture. And yet—

The farmer, alert, industrious, courageous, persistent, is the poorest paid workman or business man in the country today. He receives a smaller reward per hour of labor devoted to the prosecution of his enterprise than the average unskilled laborer. By diligence, strict economy, hard work and shrewd guessing he may make an independent living. For 14 hours of labor a day he gets food, clothing, a roof to shelter him, interest on his investment, and possibly a little left over—if he is very lucky. Some farmers grow wealthy, but their cases are very exceptional. We are talking about the average farmer. What's the matter with him?

It is true that agriculture is the most hazardous business, financially speaking, that has a genuine claim to legitimacy. It is dependent always upon a favorable combination of circumstances, some of which are uncontrollable. Excess or deficiency of moisture or temperature, insect enemies, plant, poultry or livestock diseases—any of these may spell ruin. Labor trouble the farmer has always with him. If he overrules all these difficulties, and comes through smiling, there are overproduction and glutted markets to rob him of the fruit of his toil.

So many people wiser than we have discussed the farmer's troubles and sought a remedy—that we are somewhat reluctant to come forward with a theory. But we state it for what it is worth—in the form of a question: Is not farming inadequately remunerative because it has not fallen, here in the East, within the scope of that widespread economic trend that has revolutionized other businesses—the trend toward organization and consolidation?

Let us suppose that some genius were to arise and do for food production what has been done for steel production, for instance. Let us imagine a grouping of a thousand adjacent farms of a hundred acres each, under one management—ten thousand acres of fertile soil, suited to various uses, in a single control. How much of a saving would there be in plant and equipment? How much in oversight? How much in planting and cultivating and harvesting. In storage and housing facilities, in packing and shipping, in transportation and distribution? In other words, what would happen to overhead in a pooling of individual properties and interests for the continuous employment of machinery that is of necessity idle a large part of the time under present conditions?

The obvious answer would seem to be that if there were money in corporate agriculture, agriculture would have been subjected to the processes of incorporation, and consolidation long ago. But if we look far enough westward, we see the thing being done, or in the way of being done, by association of growers. The West is always a little in advance of the East. Is the movement coming?

This much is certain—that the small farmer cannot make an adequate living at the prices he now receives for his products and at present costs of production, and the consumer cannot pay much more than he is paying. Abandoned farms tell their own story. Tariff reduction would help the farmer, but it would not wholly solve his problems. The economy that comes of co-operation in some form, whether corporate or otherwise, might be the solution. And yet no one wants to see the farmer now the most independent of all American citizens, robbed of his birthright by the ruthless march of progress.

Lewisburg is to have a public tourist camp. It is a portion of ground known as the point where Buffalo creek enters the Susquehanna river, and owned by the Evangelical home. The camp will be equipped by the business men's association.

FARM BARN BURNED.

Nothing Saved Except Horses, Cows and Hogs—Second Barn to Burn from Same Foundation.

The large barn on the William F. Rocky farm, near Tusseyville, was totally destroyed by fire with all its contents, except the horses, cows and hogs which were removed with much difficulty. The fire was first seen by Rufus Ripka, a helper on the farm, who with a member of the Rocky family had completed milking and had returned to the barn to take the cows to pasture. Fire was then observed on the barn floor and the mows. He had scarcely given the alarm until the whole upper part of the barn was a mass of flames. Attention was given immediately to releasing the horses, cattle and hogs, and when this was completed the whole structure was enveloped in flames.

Mr. Rocky's dwelling house stood within 55 feet of the barn on the east, and to the north about 70 feet distant was the William Bitner residence. These homes were saved by a steady fall of rain and the formation of a bucket brigade. Later the State College pumper arrived and having an abundance of water from Sinking Creek also did good service in protecting the surrounding buildings.

The loss to Mr. Rocky is heavy. In the barn there were some twenty loads of hay, the grain from seven acres of wheat, our loads of rye, and some oats, also about thirty bushels of threshed oats and about that much wheat; all the farming implements, harness, wagons, tools, etc., and meat.

Besides the barn, there were burned several sheds, a large summer kitchen and a storage house.

There was insurance in the Centre Hall and Lykens Valley companies to the amount of about \$2500, which will not more than cover the personal property burned.

This is the second barn to burn from the same foundation. The first barn was burned Tuesday, June 5th, 1900, early in the morning. It was almost new and was erected by Mr. Rocky at the time he built the house in which he now lives. The barn burned on Sunday was erected as soon as possible after the first fire. The origin of both fires is unknown, although the last fire may have been caused by spontaneous combustion.

Mr. Rocky and family feel very grateful to their neighbors for the assistance given them both during and after the fire, and have asked that this mention be made.

County Commissioners Spearly, Swabb and Austin, and Clerk, S. Claude Herr, met at Spring Mills with County Surveyor Shattuck and Superintendent of State Highways Roberts to look over the bridge proposition at the spring on the State highway. This is now a wooden structure and has been in a dilapidated condition for a number of years. From what can be gathered large tiles will take the place of the old bridge, provided that Mr. Shattuck passes favorably on the movement.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Stumpff Celebrate Event at Old Home Above Old Fort.

The fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. Alvin Stumpff and Miss Mary Wingart was celebrated at the home of the Stumpffs, west of Old Fort on Sunday. To be correct, the proper time for the event would have been last Wednesday, for it was fifty years ago on that day that Rev. J. K. Miller united them as man and wife, at Colyer, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wingart. The couple began housekeeping on the William Rishel farm, near Tusseyville, and spent their entire active life in the vocation of farming. On retiring from the Rhone farm, they located on the home where the anniversary was held.

Mr. and Mrs. Stumpff were presented with \$70.00 in cash, \$67.00 of which was in gold, besides other presents.

Among others who were present were these: Bruce Stumpff, Mrs. Mary Barger, Donald Barger, Robert Hermon, Fred and Mary Hermon, John Wilson, Phillipsburg; Elmer Stumpff, Alvin, Mary and Jean Stumpff, Mt. Union; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cummings and family, Arber J. Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wells, Ruth Colyer, Hazel Colyer, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Colyer, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ross and family, Dora Wingart, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Miller, Kryder Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bowe, John Ishler, Centre Hall; Mrs. Isabel Stumpff, Millheim; Edward Stumpff, Belleville; Mr. and Mrs. Milton R. Stumpff, Wagner; Joseph Kline, Mr. and Mrs. John Kline, Edward Kline, Grace Kline, Ethel Kline, Oscar Stumpff, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Kline, Helen and Reed Kline; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kline and family, Chair Wagner, McClure; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kline, James Knepp, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Goss, Irvin, Dorothy, John and Carrie Goss, Mrs. Mary Goss, of Lewisburg.

The event, of course, was not complete without the hearty congratulations and well wishing for Mr. and Mrs. Stumpff, and a sumptuous dinner.

51st ENCAMPMENT AND FAIR IS DRAWING NEAR

Erection of Several Hundred Tents Is the Big Task Now in Progress in Preparation of the Big Annual Gathering at Centre Hall.

Two weeks more of earnest work to make of the 51st annual Grange Encampment and Fair the biggest and best in its history.

Each member of the committee is striving to make of the department under his management, a better exhibition each year, and by the activity observed on Grange Park, preparation is being rapidly carried forward, so that when opening day, August 30, arrives, everything will be in readiness for the big event.

The tent list is about completed and tents will soon be erected, but it is the desire of the committee to not admit campers until Thursday, Aug. 28.

Tent rents remain \$6.00 and \$7.00, according to size. Campers are urged to bring oil stoves. Oil can be purchased on ground; also straw for those desiring it. At camper's request, electric light placed in tents.

The concession department promises to fill more space than ever with clean amusements and wholesome supplies of all kinds of food. All shows of questionable character, and gambling devices refused entrance to Grange Park, in accordance with recent rules governing agricultural fairs.

The machinery and automobile exhibit will be of wider scope and more diversified type than usual. Many kinds of farm machinery and makes of automobiles and tractors will be on exhibition. Heating and lighting plants for farm homes will be shown. Water systems and many improvements and conveniences to homes and farms will be found on the Park.

The breeders of pure-bred stock are planning to fill the stables with the biggest and finest exhibit of stock ever shown in Centre county. And a county so well suited to cattle raising and dairying has the best to show, and here it will be at the fair.

A poultry show, which will be a credit to the center of the poultry business in Pennsylvania, is being arranged for by those interested in and familiar with the various features of this industry.

Two wings of the exhibit building will be filled with products of farm, garden and orchard and, while the payment of 10 cents for each meritorious article has, been discontinued, premiums have been increased in number and amounts paid. In many classes 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes being given. If for no other but financial standpoint, it is well worth the effort in developing and collecting a good showing in this department.

The west wing reserved for home economics and modern needlework. The antique exhibit discontinued for this year. Ten cents paid for each article of modern needlework not before exhibited, as in past years.

The east wing reserved for Vocational Schools and Extension department. Penn State College will again have exhibit of plants and flowers.

Speakers of State and National prominence will be heard on Wednesday and Thursday, Wednesday, as the day the Centre County Veterans' Club hold their reunion, and an educational program, beginning at 3:30 in the afternoon, Thursday, as Grange Day, will bring many noted Grange leaders here.

The "Phillipo Five," a musical company delighting all who have heard them, will be here the entire week and giving a concert Saturday evening, will render three concerts daily each day following, free. This alone is worth the price of admission. The plays to be given in the auditorium each evening will be well worth the 10 and 20 cents admission charged, as they will be far above the average of home-talent plays. No effort has been spared in training, staging and scenery to make them the best, and coming from home communities, deserve support.

Bands will be present Wednesday and Thursday and furnish plenty of music.

All trains stop at Grange Park entire week. Special trains on Thursday, Sept. 4th.

50 cents admission, good for week. Under 14 years, admission free.

50 cents for auto parking, good for the week.

Any further information can be secured from the secretary.

The Centre County Co-operative Association will hold their annual picnic and festival on Saturday, August 30th, at Holmes Grove, Pine Hall.

The Grange Encampment and Fair premium book is now out and will be mailed as rapidly as possible. Copies can be secured from the secretary, Miss Edith Sankey.

FEEDING HOGS FOR SHOW.

Car Load of Berkshire Barrows Being Fed at Penn State for International Show—Forty-nine Breeders Furnish Pigs.

Pennsylvania Berkshire breeders are out to capture the "bacon" again at the International Livestock Show at Chicago this fall and have sent a carload of Berkshire barrows to the Pennsylvania State College to be fed for the carload classes.

The carload collected last year from sixty farms in all sections of the state and fitted by the swine department at the college, captured second place in a large class of choice barrows at the 1923 International. The barrows sold from \$10.25 per hundred following the judging. This was the third highest price brought by the carload lots at the fat stock show and was within one dollar of the price paid for the grand champion carload.

Seventy-three carefully selected pigs have been sent in to the college this year from forty-nine different breeders in fifteen counties. The college swine men state that the pigs this year are more uniform in type than those fed last year. This project is fostered by the Pennsylvania State Berkshire Association as a part of a swine improvement program in this state.

Jefferson county leads the list of counties sending barrows with twenty-two breeders represented. Six men from Berks county sent pigs; four from Lancaster and Adams; three from Bucks, and one each from Mifflin, Cumberland, Chester, Montgomery, Clarion, York, Columbia, Centre Elk and Lebanon.

Heckman—Herman.

Randall W. Heckman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Heckman, of Spring Mills, and Miss Mary Kathryn Herman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Foster F. Herman, of South Renovo, were married at Hagerstown, Md., by Rev. Joseph Y. Irwin, pastor of the First Baptist church, at that place.

Largest Swamp Oak.

A swamp white oak tree measuring 19 feet and 10 inches in circumference, one foot above the ground, and believed to be the largest of its kind in Pennsylvania, has been discovered near Waterfall, Clay township, Huntingdon county, by District Forester Walter Leach of Mt. Vernon. The height of the tree is estimated at 75 feet with a branch spread of 72 feet.

Hope to Share Millions.

A conference to investigate the rights of the Hummel family in Central Pennsylvania to the huge estate of Lady Cook, an English heiress, will be held in Lewisburg on Saturday. She was a member of the family, born and raised in Snyder county, and millions will come back to America, as she died without heirs, they believe.

Potatoes Promise Better.

The August forecast shows an increase of 2,000,000 bushels over the July outlook in the 1924 yield of Pennsylvania grown potatoes, officials of the Department of Agriculture announced the latter part of last week. The yield based on the forecast was placed at 24,595,000 bushels.

LET MRS. ALLEN HELP YOU START A BUSINESS

"What can I do to earn some money?"

If you've ever asked yourself this question you will be glad to know that the answer is near at hand—not one answer, but 48 of them. And they're going to appear two each week in this paper, beginning with the present issue.

"Making Good in a Small Town" is the title of a series of 24 of the most practical business articles ever written, and The Reporter believes it has scored a scoop in securing them for its readers. This series is not of the inspirational or Pollyanna type, but, on the contrary, consists of a collection of facts and data for starting many different kinds of profitable personal enterprises.

For instance, in one instalment Mrs. Harland H. Allen, the author of the series, gives a host of suggestions for the girl who must stay at home. In others she discloses some unique ideas for making money from a musical education; a plan for the girl who is a good mixer and also, for the girl who is more retiring.

Mrs. Allen was raised in a small community, and upon deciding that she had to have some extra money, began to write for the local newspaper. This she says was merely cashing in on her ability, and now she is pointing out to other girls how to cash in on their special abilities.

The real live girl with an ambition to get ahead is going to find these articles mighty helpful stepping stones toward a definite goal. Begin reading them this week.

BASEBALL.

Two More Defeats Make Last Place More Certain.

In a hatless game Saturday afternoon, on Grange Park, Millheim greeted the toboggan on which the local ball club has taken a front seat, and sent the home team deeper into last place. Millheim's 10 runs were largely due to careless and indifferent playing, coupled with heavy hitting on part of the visitors. The locals were not far behind Millheim in the hitting department, amassing a total of twelve hits, while Millheim gathered only one more. Rain halted the game in the fifth, but play was resumed after fifteen minutes. The final score was 10 to 4. The box score:

| MILLHEIM | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| | R | H | O | A |
| Brown, lf | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Haines, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Musser, 2b | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Rutherford, c | 3 | 3 | 14 | 2 |
| Cable, cf | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Bierly, 3b | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Braucht, lb | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miller, ss | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Winklesch, rf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 10 | 13 | 27 | 10 |

CENTRE HALL

| | R | H | O | A | E |
|-----------------|---|----|----|----|---|
| Frank, lb | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| Fetterolf, lf | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Gross, ss | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Knarr, cf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spyker, rf | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Durst, 3b | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| A Emery, 2b | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| R McClinton, cf | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| A Crawford, c | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Foust, c | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| M McClinton, p | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Totals | 4 | 12 | 27 | 15 | 5 |

Centre Hall is occupying last place in the county baseball pennant race owing to inability to hit with any degree of effectiveness. It was evident to the large crowd present at the game with Bellefonte, at Hecla Park, last Thursday, that this lack of stick-work was responsible for the 9-1 score, with Bellefonte on the long end. Harshbarger had the locals eating out of his hand, and with gilt-edge support almost scored a shut-out. Centre Hall scored a lone tally in the last inning on two successive hits. Gross started for Centre Hall, but was batted from the box in the fourth, when Crawford went to the mound and was found for six hits, netting the league leaders five runs. The box score:

| CENTRE HALL | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|----|---|---|
| | R | H | O | A | E |
| Frank, lb | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Durst, 3b | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Foust, c | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| N Crawford, ss | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Gross, p | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| L Ross, 2b | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| A Emery, cf | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| M McClinton, cf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| S Ross, rf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fetterolf, rf | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Keller, lf | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 1 | 5 | 24 | 9 | 3 |

BELLEFONTE

| | R | H | O | A | E |
|----------------|---|----|----|----|---|
| Malone, ss | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Johnston, 3b | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Smith, c | 0 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Loe, lf | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kline, rf | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Deitrich, lb | 1 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Martin, 2b | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Gingrich, rf | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Harshbarger, p | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Totals | 9 | 10 | 27 | 12 | 3 |

Jury Commissioners Meet.

The jury commissioners—John D. Decker, of Potter township, and Joseph A. Emerick, of Nittany, last week completed selecting voters to act in the capacity of jurors for the sessions of the several courts during the year. The President Judge Quigley presides at the sessions held by the jury commissioners.

O, Wonderful Horse!

"O, Horse, you are a wonderful thing; no buttons to push, no horn to honk; you start yourself, no clutch to slip; no spark to miss, no gears to strip; no license-buying every year, with plates to screw on front and rear; no gas bills climbing up each day, stealing the joy of life away; no speed cops chugging in your rear, yelling summons in your ear. Your inner tubes are all O. K. and, thank the Lord, they stay that way; your spark plugs never miss and fuse; your motor never makes us cuss. Your frame is good for many a mile; your body never changes style. Your wants are few and easy met; you've something on the auto yet."—Ranger H. T. Elliott, of the Matheur, in American Forestry (Washington).

The Williams reunion will be held at Martha Furnace on Saturday.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

B. F. Houtz, of Cawker City, Kansas was recently a guest of his sister, Mrs. George Corman, in Rebersburg.

Mrs. J. C. Shaffer, of Altoona, was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lanson Burris in Centre Hall, for a few days last week.

A. E. Bartoges, of Millheim, was in town last week, and in company with D. L. Bartoges, of Centre Hall, called at this office.

The local Y. P. B. are preparing a playlet to be given at the county W. C. T. U. convention scheduled to be held at Howard, September 17 and 18.

James Spangler, who for a week or more had been among his life-time friends in Potter township, returned to his home in Altoona, on Saturday.

One hundred thousand dollars of Red Cross funds were cabled to China for the relief of victims of the flood. This is to give relief to ten million people.

George J. College, a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Knarr, of Millheim, who at present is living in Milton, has been elected principal of the schools at Dewart.

Pressing work on the farm and the closeness of the Grange Encampment and Fair opening were two factors that to some extent curtailed the attendance of the business men's picnic by Penns Valley people.

Mrs. S. M. Campbell and Mrs. Shres, of Millheim, and the former's sister, Mrs. Rebecca Murray, of McKees Rocks, on a trip to Bellefonte, one day last week, stopped at the Reporter office long enough to transact a bit of business and wish the Reporter well.

For several days last week Harold Keller enjoyed camp life at Camp Comfort, in the Seven Mountains, west of the State road. A number of young people from Millroy and vicinity occupied the camp at the time he was a guest.

The farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sharer, east of Centre Hall, is being repaired by John Noll and assistants, of Pleasant Gap. The Sharer place is one of the best appointed farm homes in this section, and, of course, is kept in good repair.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Smith and daughter, Miss Ruth Smith, motored to Johnstown, last Wednesday evening, remaining among friends until Saturday. During Mr. Smith's absence, his garage business was taken care of by Harold Keller and Louis Garbrick.

William Smiley, of Harrisburg, employed in the State Capitol, Misses Maybelle Sharer and Stella Hosterman, of Centre Hall; Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. McClellan and family, of Linden Hall, made up two auto car parties who attended the Blair county fair.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harter and son Donald, of Renovo, were guests of the former's half-brother, Jacob Sharer, near Centre Hall. On their return home, Mr. Sharer and son, Franklin, accompanied them to Renovo to get a glimpse of real mountain auto roads.

Mrs. J. W. Cann and family, of Johnstown, are camping at their cottage at Pardee, along Penns Creek. Mrs. Cann is a sister of Mrs. W. V. Godshall, of Centre Hall, and is one of a party who own the cottage. At present there are also several families from Altoona at this camp.

A position as instructor in Pennsylvania Village, Laurelton, has been accepted by Miss Sarah Snyder. She is a graduate of the Centre Hall High school and is now taking the summer course at the Central State Normal at Lock Haven, having intended to teach a public school the coming session.

D. K. Geiss, of Philadelphia, came to town the latter part of last week, looking as chipper as ever, although in his eighty-fifth year. Mr. Geiss was a long resident of Centre Hall prior to going to Philadelphia. He was accompanied to Bellefonte by his grandson, George Geiss, who is employed in Philadelphia.

Mrs. John H. Puff and Miss Rebecca Derstine, sisters, on Thursday morning went to Tyrone where they will be guests of the former's step-son and family for a week, and will also visit a number of acquaintances in Tyrone and Altoona, among whom is Mrs. Mary Shoop, quartered at the Methodist Home, Tyrone.

On entering a coal mine, after a charge of dynamite had been exploded to loosen coal, Roy Chambers, son of David Chambers, and his uncle, Thomas Chambers, both of Clarence, were struck by falling rocks. The younger Chambers suffered a compound fracture of the left leg, and the elder gentleman cuts and bruises.