

**WOULD SEND SAMMEES
"BACK TO THE LAND"**

Group of Senators Plan to Have Farms Offered Each Returning Soldier

FOR COMMUNITY SYSTEM

Amusements and Guidance in Tilling Soil to Be Provided Amateur Agriculturists

BY WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—When Sammees come marching home, his governmental uncle will meet him at the dock and offer him a farm.

This offer will be but a single item in a vast scheme now forming and intended to get the land into the ownership of the people who cultivate it. Farms will not be made available to returning soldiers alone, but to men left without jobs because of the closing of all those industries called into being as a result of the war. They will be obtained also by any worthy individual anywhere who believes that a home on the land is preferable to whatever other calling he may be following.

In other words, the serious attempt is to be made to solve the land question of the nation by a group of powerful Senators who are laying plans for driving the necessary legislation through the Congress.

The basis of their plans is farm colonization, backed by the Federal Government.

These statesmen realize that two or three millions of men from the armies will be released upon the labor market without jobs. They will come home at a time when munition factories are going out of business, when the great markets which have supplied the armies of Europe is being scrapped. In the industries of peace, in manufacturing for world trade, the United States will have to produce in competition with the labor of Europe, furnished for an opportunity to work for the means of re-establishing itself. There is a question if manufacturers can compete with these producers in the markets of the world.

But this country, because of natural advantages, will always have the long end of the stick in the production of the raw materials of the soil. Therefore, say these statesmen, let us prepare our people to utilize this natural advantage.

Students of the land question of this and other countries have long realized that tendencies were nearly all in the wrong direction. Senator Smoot told me today, "For decades, for generations even, there has been the tendency of the land to concentrate into the ownership of the few. Throughout this country large tracts are everywhere owned by men of wealth. Many of these are idle. They are being held for speculation. Where they are not idle they are largely farmed by tenants. Tenant farming is a dangerous institution in any country. The farmer loses all the character-building influence of home ownership. Land under his cultivation is sure to deteriorate.

Aside from tenant farming and idle land there is the other dangerous tendency of the people to leave the farms and concentrate in the cities. It has required an emergency to awaken the people to doing something to counteract that tendency. That emergency is now at hand. The war has broken down old lines. There is unrest abroad in the land. That unrest is among people who are entirely detached from any sort of ownership. Men with no home ties, nothing to risk, are ragged, for over-turning established institutions.

The way to overcome the menace they offer is to convert them into home-owners. The home-owner is for law and order. Every individual who is established in home ownership becomes an ally to the security of the part of the Government. It therefore seems advisable that the Government should take thought toward converting its citizens into home-owners."

STUDY ENGLISH

These Senators have studied the plans that are being most actively pushed in England just now, the colonization work of the Germans before the war, and the isolated colonization schemes that have been successful in this country. From all of these they have outlined a plan of action which should result in the conversion of the average worker in the city to a successful farmer.

They admit that this is a difficult thing to accomplish, that experience has shown that 95 per cent of city men placed on farms fail; but they say there is a way to make all this different and that they know the way. Senator Curtis introduced a bill last session which points this way and it is to be amplified and pushed this session.

The plan is built upon the principle that city folk, in becoming farmers, must be handled, not as individuals, but in colonies. The city man cannot know enough about land to buy it intelligently or to attend to the multitude of requirements necessary to his success as a farmer. These men planted by colonies can have all the elements they lack supplied to them from a common source.

A colony should consist of a minimum of fifty families. Its nucleus is a community center. Here is established the school, the church, the community entertainment hall, the motion-picture show, the postoffice. At the community center also resides the community manager. This man is a scientific farmer who knows all the wrinkles about farming under the conditions that exist at the spot. He also knows such things as community marketing.

The community manager farms a typical tract. He is the demonstration farm of the colony. He is the living example to be followed by the settlers. He gives the best crops that will be most profitable in just the way they should be grown. Every farmer may follow his example. He goes to the farm of each and shows it to him. Under this guidance the city man may grow good crops.

The entire colony is grouped about the community center and the demonstration farm. None is more than a mile or two away. Their farms have been cut out of some large tract of idle land such as may be found almost anywhere. It has been subdivided and homes built upon the small tracts. All is in accordance with the best scientific methods. A farmhouse is built in accordance with plans of the Department of Agriculture, which has devoted twenty years to the development of the most economical and practical farmhouse. Tools, a horse, pigs and chickens have been supplied. The settler moves in with all these ready for him. The expense of the whole preparation has been charged up against his farm. The price represents those costs plus a small profit. In a few weeks twenty years in which to pay for his farm.

In this community settlement all the difficulties that have prevented the city man from establishing himself on the farm are removed. In the first place, the home has been developed for him by those who know

his needs best. When his city-bred family moves into it they do not find the isolation that has driven many predecessors back to the tenements for very loneliness. These are small farms close together. The community life that prevents loneliness. The motion-picture show, the social gatherings, the school at the community center furnish an antidote to isolated farm life.

GUIDANCE IN FARMING

Guidance in farming is the second necessity which the man from the town has not heretofore had. Knowing what to grow and how to grow it has been almost beyond the man who goes into the country without guidance. Here he has the whole problem worked out for him.

When the crops are bountiful their marketing becomes another problem that is most difficult for the single farmer. His small farm will not warrant his making a trip to town with his produce every day. It is not sufficient to warrant his making a study of the market conditions of each thing he raises. But fifty of him banded together can buy a community truck. The community manager can study the market of the produce of the fifty farmers. The group of them will have a truckload of produce every day. Their truck can make a special trip as often as is necessary. The quantity of material is sufficient that they can get consideration in the market. The community manager has seen to it that it is properly prepared for market. They sell to advantage. Likewise do they buy to advantage. All their supplies are bought in large quantities and at wholesale rates.

The advantages in farming of this community arrangement are so many that individuals so grouped should have great dividends over the farmer working as an individual, as does the average man on the land. Success under this arrangement is assured.

The statesmen who are this fall to attempt to make this farm colonization plan a reality believe that the Government should provide a fund out of which a number of farm colonies of this sort will be immediately laid down. Eventually that money would come back to the Government in payment for the farms. It would be a loan to these farmers. When the fund comes back it could be used again in the same way. So would the cycle be completed one time after another.

When the Government has completed and proved the effectiveness of these colonies, private capital would be willing to thus employ itself. It should be allowed to do so only under Government supervision, as the settler should be assured of good land at fair prices without exploitation.

**MILITARY ORGANIZATION
TO OPEN HEADQUARTERS**

Order of Foreign Wars Now Takes in All Commissioned Officers in U. S. Service

The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States, an organization for all commissioned officers, will open headquarters in the Bellevue-Stratford hotel on next Thursday, according to announcement made today by Captain Oden D. Wilkinson, secretary of the Pennsylvania Commandery and treasurer of the national body.

A drive will be started to increase the membership. This was formerly in the nature of a club for regular army officers only. It has now been extended to all officers, including the reserve corps. It is planned to open headquarters in all large cities in this country, and also in London and Paris. Special rates will be given members stopping at the Bellevue-Stratford.

Rear Admiral R. H. Hall is the State commander and General L. W. T. Waller, vice commander.

**ACTIVE SERVICE AWAITS
TRAINING CAMP OFFICERS**

All Who Pass Tests Will Get Commissions, Some in Regular Army

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—The War Department today advised commanding officers at the nine officers' training camps of the number of men who will be called into active service immediately upon the completion of their training, on November 27. The camp at Fort Sheridan, Ill., will furnish the greatest number, 1228, while Fort Niagara will furnish the least, only 468 from there being slated for immediate service.

The department made it plain that the commissions will be issued to all who successfully pass the examinations. Those not

called into active service at once, however, will be placed on the reserve list. All students commissioned above the rank of second lieutenant will be assigned to vacancies now existing in National Army divisions. The second lieutenants commissioned for active service will be assigned to fill regular army vacancies.

Influx Into Western Canada

WINNIPEG, Canada, Nov. 8.—An influx into western Canada in the first ten months of the present year has more than doubled the returns for the same period in 1916 and more than tripled the 1915 figures. A statement by the Department of Immigration today shows that 23,134 persons have come from the United States up to October 31 this year. In the first ten months in 1916, 15,960 persons crossed the line, and in 1915 only 9191.

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