

ROMANCE OF A FAMOUS COMMUNIST COLONY.

Who Will Get the Immense Fortune of the Harmony Society?

Seven aged and infirm people, clinging to life by an almost worn-out thread, are all that stand between one young man and a fortune estimated at four millions. John Duss is the fortunate mortal, and he bids fair soon to be the sole survivor and heir of a quaint communistic society which has nestled in peace on the banks of the Ohio for nearly a century.

Away back at the birth of the nineteenth century George Rapp, a youth of some education and originality of thought, became so obnoxious to the Prussian government through his advocacy of communistic doctrines that he was forced to leave his native country. Determined to seek a land where he would be free to carry his ideas into practice, he chose to emigrate to America, where political and personal liberty seemed to have secured a firm foothold. He landed at New Orleans in 1802, and for several years seems to have explored the almost unbroken wilderness of the Mississippi Valley for a suitable site for a settlement. He reached St. Louis, and from there turned his steps eastward. By this time he was followed by a band of intrepid spirits, attracted by his enthusiasm.

Finally Rapp located in Posey County, Indiana, and established a settlement along the lines of his communistic ideas. The settlement was named Harmony. Posey County proved unhealthy, and a few years later Rapp led his followers into Pennsylvania. They first settled in Butler County, where a second "Harmony" was founded. Then Rapp heard of the fertile tracts and the beautiful site for a town overlooking the Ohio in Beaver County, and the society moved to the present town of Economy, Penn., in 1836. Here the society thrived. In the course of years hundreds of habitations rose, and to-day busy mills, overflowing granaries and fertile fields are numbered among the possessions of the society.

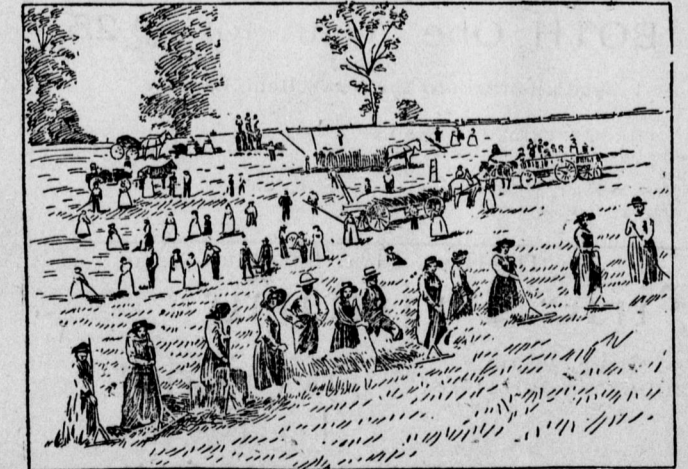
"One for all, and all for one," was the motto of this little band of communists. On being admitted to the Harmony Society a new member was obliged to cede all his money and worldly possessions to the commun-



JOHN S. DUSS.
(President of the Harmony Society at Economy, Penn.)

ity. Members received no compensation for their labors. Some peculiar laws there were. No member was permitted to marry. "Father" Rapp's theory being that every member should be able to add his share to the general endeavor. Thus there were no members born into the society, but all recruits came by election. The members looked not to the future, but thought only to secure contentment and plenty in this world and everlasting happiness in the next. A tenet of the commune was that when "Father" Rapp died Christ was to make His second appearance on earth and take all members to His bosom.

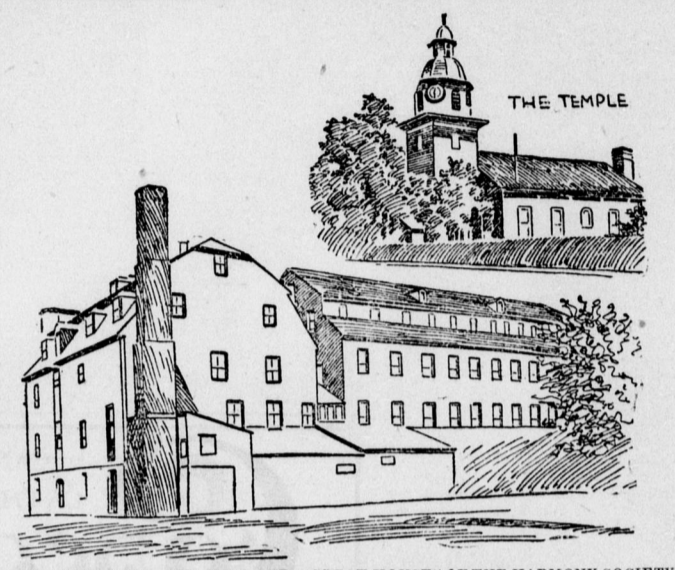
During "Father" Rapp's lifetime, and under his administration, the society prospered wonderfully. Notwithstanding that a sufficiency was all that was aimed at the industry of



HAY MAKING IN THE OLD DAYS.

the members brought annually a large surplus, and wealth accumulated. "Father" Rapp made profitable investments of the society's funds. In the later days of Rapp's reign the society reached the height of its prosperity. After his death, however,

disintegration began. By this time all the original members had far passed the prime of life, and were well content to abate a little of their efforts and enjoy more at ease the fruits of their earlier labors and the income from their wealth. In order that there might be enough to go round, admission of new members became rarer and rarer, and finally ceased altogether. The lands of the community were leased to tenants, while the aging brothers and sisters came to pass their declining years in peace and free from toil.



THE TEMPLE, OLD MILL AND "GREAT HOUSE" OF THE HARMONY SOCIETY

Now but seven remain, six aged women and one bent man, and they have little concern for the disension and dissolution which threatens the community. They think and talk chiefly of when they will be laid to rest in the "orchard," as they call the society burying ground, and of a joy they expected to realize long ago—that of meeting their Lord. For days, weeks, years, they have eagerly watched for the second coming of Christ. "He has delayed His coming to us, but we shall soon go to Him," the serene faced sisters whisper to one another as they walk out together on pleasant days. The wrinkled man rarely speaks to them more than to say, "Good day, sisters, God bless you," for men and women in this ancient community have always dwelt apart.

Now comes John Duss, the present "patriarch" and prospective heir. Duss is virtually a child—the only child—of the society. His mother took him to Economy with her in 1862, when he was two years old. His father, who was then in the Federal army, died of a wound received in the battle of Gettysburg. The mother went to Economy to accept employment as a nurse. She remained in the service of the society until early in 1876.

John was sent to the Soldiers' Orphans' School, at Phillipsburg, in 1873, and remained there until 1876, when he returned to his mother and entered the service of the Harmony Society. The mother took him to Germany for a few months' visit. They returned to Economy, and in 1878 young Duss was given a position as a teacher of German in the Economy school. He remained there about a year, and then entered Mount Union College, but did not remain long. He received an offer to teach in the Kansas State Reform School, in Topeka, and as his limited means would not have permitted him to complete his college course, he accepted.

John Duss was always enlarging his interests, however, and when he saw a chance to buy a fine farm of 160 acres in Webster County, Neb., for \$1280, he took it, and devoted considerable time to agriculture.

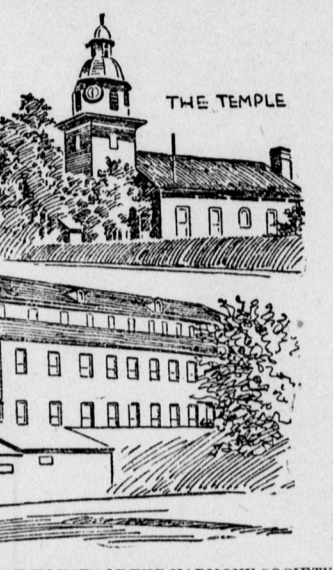
In 1888 Duss, who in the meantime had married, returned to Economy. He claims this was at the earnest

election to the Board of Trustees, and his wife was also admitted to the Society. At the instance of "Father" Henrici the Dusses took up their abode in the "Great House." Although under the same roof, they lived apart, in accordance with the doctrine of the community.

The election of Duss and his wife and the elevation of the former to power created dissension to the society. Several of the members withdrew, claiming that Duss exercised undue influence over "Father" Henrici. Thus dissension, so long excluded, got a foothold, and now threatens to totally disrupt a community which would have soon been dissolved by death.

On the death of "Father" Henrici, Duss was elected "patriarch," and thus the youngest member of the society became its head.

There has been practically no change in the town in the last sixty years so far as its buildings are concerned. The "Temple," which is thronged each Sunday by tenants of the society,



THE TEMPLE

is as simple and quaint as ever. The clock in its steeple, which is run by a huge stone weight suspended from the belfry, has never ceased to tell the time of day. The sawmills still clatter, although the water power of the early days has given way to steam. The factories where the silk looms used to rattle from morning to night are silent. These buildings are now filled with grain.

Economy silks were famous a half century ago. Acres of mulberry trees had been planted, silk worms were imported, and this branch of the industry flourished for years. Then the worms began to die, and it was de-



MRS. DUSS.

ceived the climate was not favorable for them.

The products of the society's lands and mills were much more than the community needed for its own use, and much was sold in Pittsburg and neighboring towns. The receipts all went into the common fund, which in time grew to a great amount.

When Christ did not come at the death of "Father" Rapp, disappointment was keen. Jacob Henrici, who was elected senior trustee and patriarch of the society, predicted that they would not have to wait much longer. He encouraged the members to more ascetic religious life and to more diligent toil.

At the entrance to the "Great Garden" stands the "Great House," Father Henrici spent his last days in the house. The "Great House" has been a subject of controversy in the case before the courts. It is alleged that Dr. Cyrus Teed was introduced to the society and preached his doctrines in Economy, with a view to transferring his colony there and making it a part of the Harmony Society. Duss, the petitioners allege, "built a fine house before Father Henrici's death for the accommodation of Teed and some of his principal followers." This raised a rebellion among the Harmonites and resulted in the withdrawal of some of the members, "who received certain sums of money at their departure." This dissatisfaction, it is said, caused the abandonment of the Teed scheme.

So the Harmony Society, born in peace and good will, seems doomed to go to pieces in the courts, unless legal delays can postpone adjudication some years, when there is apt to be left of those interested only—John Duss.

A perfectly proportioned man is said to weigh twenty-eight pounds for every foot of his height.

The Santiago "Surrender Tree."
The insatiable American relic hunter is already getting in his fell work in Cuba, and a living monument of the campaign around Santiago is in immi-



THE SURRENDER TREE.

(Last photograph of the famous tree under which General Toral surrendered twenty-two thousand Spanish troops and the province of Santiago to General Shafter, showing the base of the trunk partly whittled away by ruthless relic seekers.)

nent danger of dying at the hands of its friends. This is the famous tree at the foot of San Juan hill under which General Toral surrendered the Spanish army to General Shafter. It has been named the "Surrender Tree," and is the shrine toward which all Americans first direct their steps.

Every visitor seems to become a vandal when in its presence and the trunk is rapidly being whittled away by souvenir seekers.

It is urged that some action should be taken at once by the authorities if the historic tree is to be preserved.

It is certain that in another season it will be destroyed piece-meal if the present vandalism is not stopped.

A Machine That Digests Food.

In the modern manufacture of paper whole trees are "digested" and made into wood pulp. The machines, or wood chaldrons, used for this purpose are important factors in paper making. A New York State paper company has just ordered the largest digester ever made. It will be forty feet high and long, with a diameter of fifteen feet, and will be made of 1 1/2-inch steel plate. The digester is to be used in developing a process for weaving cloth from wood pulp. Large chunks of wood, about thirty inches long and six inches in diameter, are thrown into the digester and there boiled and treated with an acid. This process lasts for twelve hours and the wood is reduced to a fluid pulp, in which state it easily felts, or mats together, in any desired thickness. This matter pulp is then dried and passed through rollers that crush the fibers together and make the paper.—Chicago Record.

Joy and Life.

And to what does the old, old man, the incredibly old man in Vienna, attribute his present happiness? "I never worried and I never grieved. I worked until I was tired and then slept in unbroken rest until it was time to work again. It is those who sit brooding over their misfortunes who grow old before their time, and a whole night's sorrowing has never put a copper in any man's pocket or made a misfortune lighter to bear." This man in humble circumstances is a true philosopher. Ponder his words, if you are anxious to pass a happy old age and if you really believe that life is of itself the chief blessing. But also remember that the art of life is to be reasonably thankful each day; and not to wonder why you should be wildly thankful at any set and appointed time.—Boston Journal.

Duchess Befriends Women Convicts.

Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, knows more about women convicts in England than any other woman. Her Grace holds special permission from the Home Secretary to visit the convict prisons in which women are incarcerated for longer periods than two years, and very excellent use she has made of the great trust repose in her.



DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.

With her colleague, Lady Battersea, she does everything in her power to give the prisoners, upon their discharge, a fresh start under improved conditions. The Duchess is a handsome woman in the prime of life, and when speaking from the platform her charming voice is curiously like that of her sister, Lady Henry Somerset.

Victoria's Marriage Rings.

Not many years ago it was the custom to distribute a large quantity of rings at the occurrence of some important event. When Queen Victoria married several dozens of rings were presented to important personages. Each ring bore her portrait, but it was so small that a magnifying glass had to be used to recognize it.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Warmth in the Henhouse.

A small, cool stove set on the earthen or cement floor of a henhouse will do much to keep up the warmth that is quite as necessary as feed in producing a large number of eggs. Even if the floor be of wood there is little danger that the building will burn. The amount of coal burned will be much more than repaid by the eggs produced at the time of year when fresh eggs always sell highest. When the weather is fine the hens should be left to run out of doors in the daytime. But cooping them up with enough fire to keep frost out of the room is always advisable at night. This precaution is especially needed for the breeds with large combs, which are sure to be frost bitten when freezing weather comes. A hen with a sore head from frost bitten comb has enough to do to repair damages to itself without trying to lay eggs.

Sowing Clover in the Hull.

Farmers who grow clover seed only for their own use often thresh it out by hand, and sow the seed, chaff and all. It is rather unsafe to do this, as it is difficult to tell while throwing out the chaff how much clover seed is going with it. The better way is to clean up the seed carefully, sow that with a good broadcast seeder, which will distribute it much more evenly than can be done by hand, and then sow the clover chaff afterwards with what seed may be in it, and make that cover the whole surface if possible, though as this has to be done by hand, the hand sowing cannot probably be made to cover half the piece. But there is generally more or less clover seed lying in the soil on land that has once grown clover seed, and this may insure a fair catch even if no clover seed is sown. It is such land of which farmers say, "It is natural to clover." It is always good land, but the clover does not grow on it spontaneously; on the contrary, every clover plant comes from a clover seed left some time in the soil, possibly many years ago.

The Profitable Dairy.

To get profit from the dairy in competition with the product of the creamery it is necessary that the work be done on the intensive plan. That is a thorough knowledge of what each cow is doing, what food is given to a pound, what it is costing, what it costs to make the butter, etc. The herd should be built up by stock raised on the farm from the cows with the best record, using a thoroughbred sire. Do not breed indiscriminately from the cows in the herd and add the progeny to the dairy herd.

Profit in the dairy can only be made when butter is at the highest price, and to obtain butter at the minimum of cost the cows must be handled so that their surroundings and feed are as nearly as possible as they would be in June. The use of ensilage will do much in this direction providing the green succulent food contains the quantity of water needed. The dairy cow should have grain every day in the year, varying the amount according to season and the stage of lactation. Even in summer with an abundant pasture grain should be fed, although if the pasture is short the supplementary food, besides grain, should be largely of soiling crops. In feeding corn stalks the ration should be balanced by also feeding oats, peas, bran and cottonseed meal. On this plan or any similar one a dairy herd may be built up that will pay a profit even in the face of the really excellent product of the creamery at a low price.

Warm Food for Swine.

An object lesson in the value of warm food, warm quarters and good care for hogs during the winter was recently seen on a small farm where but two pigs were kept. These animals were late spring born and were being raised for breeders. The owner, a widow, made it a daily practice in cold weather to mix vegetable parings, chopped roots, scraps from the table and bran in skim milk and cook the mixture, feeding it to the hogs warm. The pens were dry, warm and clean, with an abundance of clean bedding. Once or twice a week the owner, armed with a stiff horse brush, gave the pigs a thorough brushing. The animals were delighted and came readily to call as soon as the brush appeared, the work being easily done from the outside of the pen. A small yard, in sod, was provided on the sunny side of the barn in which the pigs were allowed to run on bright days, being kept busy with a few roots or ears of corn. The result was a pair of pigs that would delight the eye of a breeder of fancy stock. Their skin was soft and clean and the animals strong and plump, ready, when bred, to raise a family of youngsters which would be worth money. Aside from the cleaning, possibly, the same practice could be followed out on a larger scale with precisely as good results. Warm food in winter has come to be recognized as an important element in profitable stock raising.

To Get the Most Out of Sheep.

Just at present breeding for mutton pays better than breeding for wool, but as there is always the possibility of the price of wool soaring up to higher figures, it is necessary to keep this product of the sheep well in sight. It was not many years ago that wool was the first consideration and mutton only a side issue. Naturally with this change, the character of the breed of sheep has also changed. The large breeds, take the country right through, are not as much in general favor as the medium size, and this is due to

the fact that they give the most in return for a certain amount of food. They have less fat than the large breeds, and their meat is better marbled. In selling sheep for mutton the fat rarely brings the farmer in much return. The butcher knows that consumers want good lean meat only moderately mixed up with layers of fat, and when he sees an excessively fat sheep he is apt to discount the mutton.

The medium-size breeds will, as a rule, grow as fast as any breed on a system of food, and along with their tendency to make good, marbled mutton they are apt to produce a better grade of wool.

This wool is also found on their bodies in a very compact form, which in the end gives to the medium sheep as large a crop as that obtained from the heavier and overgrown breeds.

A medium-size breed that is both a fair wool producer and a good maker of fine mutton is always a good investment. There may be seasons when they will not add a very large profit to the farmer's work, but in the aggregate they will yield satisfactory results. Pounded for profit, the best breeds of sheep will make more money than pigs, although the swine have always been considered the best investment of all farm animals for the poor man. A good breed of sheep will make a pound of mutton at less cost for food than the best breed of pigs. It will take the sheep a longer time to do this, but in the end, the cost will be in favor of the sheep. On the whole, mutton brings as much per pound in most markets as pork. If the price and cost of raising the meat of two animals were evenly balanced, the favor would still be for the sheep. The wool is an item that would unbalance the scales, and tip them decidedly in favor of the sheep. Finally, the sheep of fine breeds are always prolific, and never fail to raise a crop of good, salable lambs if properly treated. To get the most out of them we must consider the mutton, wool and lamb items, all three of which are very profitable and important.—E. P. Smith in American Cultivator.

Pruning Apple Trees.

The best apples are grown on trees well cultivated, well sprayed and especially well pruned. If the tree is a tangle of branches and a mat of leaves, the spray will reach only a small part of the fruit, and where the spray cannot be sent but few direct rays of sunlight will enter, and badly colored and poorly flavored fruit will be found.

A great number of trees bear only on alternate years; all such should be pruned the winter or spring preceding the bearing season. Pruning will then be equivalent to a partial thinning of the fruit. Other trees should be pruned annually. Only a few branches should be removed at each pruning. Branches crossing each other require attention, as they injure each other, and during a high wind brush the apples off each other. Many trees are ruined by cutting away too much wood at one pruning. The balance necessary to healthy root action and strong leaf development will be destroyed, and skelly yellow leaves and a small growth of new wood will frequently be the result. Sometimes very severely pruned trees blight, and in a few years die.

It requires more judgment to properly prune apple trees than some men who handle a saw possess. Apple trees should be pruned every year or every alternate year, with a sharp, wide-set saw. Young trees can be pruned with a knife. The branches should be severed close to the trunk or large branches. Never allow one, two, or, as it sometimes happens, six or more inches of a stump to remain. Such trimming is unsightly, and the wounds, if large, never heal and are a constant source of disease and decay. If even small branches are cut, leaving long stubs, they will be the starting-point for suckers or "water sprouts." If a man does not cut close have him go over his work or have him quit.

A man on the ground can better notice which branches should be removed than when he is on the tree with the saw. A good plan, therefore, is to take a bucket of whitewash, a brush and a pole of sufficient length, and pass from tree to tree, and mark all the branches to be removed. This can be done on fine days. Any careful man can follow with a saw and remove the marked branches. The pruning should be finished before the bark slips in the spring, or unsightly injuries to the trees may follow even at the hands of the most careful workman. The sprouts remaining in winter or early spring must be removed close to the saw, but there should not be any there for the saw. An active, barefooted boy, at five cents an hour, will remove more sprouts in August, simply with his hands, than three men with saws will remove in an hour in the spring, and do better work. A quick, downward pull will remove the sprout, and with it the adventitious buds at its base, ready to produce a crop of sprouts the next season. The injuries, though sometimes large, will nearly all be healed before winter.—New York Tribune.

Helping the Doctor.

In these energetic go-ahead days, we are continually hearing of some new and curious way of making money, but the following method is perhaps as ingenious as any previously devised: A little boy entered a surgery the other day when the village doctor was in attendance, and marching up to him whispered, cautiously: "Please, sir, mother sent me to say as how Lizzie's got scarlatina awful bad; and, please mother wants to know how much you'll give her to spread it all over the village!"—Tit Bit.