

THE BOY FARMER

Or a Member of the Corn Club

By ASA PATRICK

Copyright, 1915, by American Press Association

SYNOPSIS.

Sam Powell, inspired by a government agent, plans to make a scientific farmer of himself and to compete for prizes awarded to the Boys' Corn Club.

Sam works hard cleaning up and fertilizing the worn-out farm. Miss Fagan ridicules scientific farming, but lets his boy join the corn club.

While blowing out stumps Sam saves Joe Watson's life. Sam plans his contest acre of corn and other crops and the stocking of his farm with cattle.

"I want to try to raise everything we'll need a lot to sell besides the corn and cobs are for the stock and the Kaffir corn for the chickens. If we don't raise such stuff we'll have to buy, and that's expensive. Besides, most of these crops I speak of will be gathered pretty early, and I can get a crop or two more on the land. When I cut the cane I'm going to plant sweet potatoes on that patch.

"I know where you can get some seed Irish potatoes," suggested his mother.

Sam smiled. "Did you ever stop to think, mother, he asked, 'that what you call seed potatoes are just the little dwarfed cubs and not really fit for anything?'"

"Why, no," said Mrs. Powell. "I never had thought about it, but it seems like there is something in it."

"Of course there is," said Sam. "A bulletin the department sent me says they've tried all the different ways, and the best way is to use good sized potatoes and cut them in halves to plant."

"The agricultural department must be a pretty good thing," observed Mrs. Powell.

"It is a good thing," said Sam. "It works all the time to help the farmer, but lots of farmers won't let it help them. As for me, I'm not going against anything when I know it wants to help me and can help me if I let it. The department of agriculture keeps men traveling all the time all over the world collecting new plants and flowers and fruits and grains suited to our different climates and soils. It experiments and finds out which varieties are best suited to certain soils and the best way to cultivate and how to fight insect pests. It does all this and lots more that it would take me hours to tell you about. I wouldn't want to farm if there wasn't any agricultural department to help me. It would be too slow finding out things by myself. I've got a whole lot of bulletins on farming, and I'm going to use the money I get for hauling manure to buy some books that I want to read and to subscribe for a good farm paper. A good farm paper is the next best thing to the agricultural department."

"Have you selected the corn and cotton seed that you're going to plant?" asked Mrs. Powell when Sam had finished his glowing account of the department.

"No, I haven't yet," he replied. "But that's one thing I must look after next week. I'll see the agent and ask him



"You'll make a farmer if you keep up that lick."

corn. Don't depend on sending off for seed. If you do you'll surely be badly disappointed sometimes. Get good varieties to start with and you can build them up by selecting seed from the finest and most productive plants.

"Speaking about cottonseed," the agent continued, "as good a plan as any is to get seed from somebody in your neighborhood. You always find at least one kind of cotton in every community that is far ahead of all other kinds. Everything seems to suit it exactly. If you can get seed from a variety like that out your way and then select your own seed afterward you'll soon have the most productive cotton that can possibly be grown in your locality."

"I am much obliged to you," said Sam. "for getting the corn, and I think I know where I can get some good cotton seed close at home. A fellow got a kind down there; I don't know the name of it, but it is about two weeks earlier than most cotton, and it's got five long locks to each boll."

"That's the cotton for you, Sam," said the agent. "the kind that matures early, before the boll weevils get a lick at it. Being a big hulled kind makes it so much the better. How about your yard? Are you getting it in good condition?"

"Well, I think the acre for the contest is all right," Sam replied. "I put one ton of ashes and two tons of manure on it, then had it broke deep cross broke and narrowed. Three tons is a big lot of fertilizer to put on one acre, but I don't think I can get too much on that land."

The agent's eyes brightened. "Good," he encouraged. "You'll make a farmer if you keep up that lick. That land is fine shape, and it'll soak up all the moisture from the rains and snows that fall from now until spring. The idea is to store up all the moisture you can for use by the growing crops in summer when rain is scarce. The only way to do that is to get the land plowed deep and thoroughly pulverized. Whenever you see a patch of ground that's been plowed five or six times to kill out Bermuda or Johnson grass you always see a fine crop growing on it when everything around it is a failure. It seems as if farmers ought to learn from such examples."

"When is the best time to break land?" asked Sam.

"Oh, it ought to be done in the fall," Mr. Burns replied. "Get the land in good condition and sow a cover crop for winter of rye or oats. By plowing the land in the fall you break up the homes of insects and turn them out to freeze. A big majority of the insects that work on crops spend the winter in the fields and around the fence rows. So if you don't want to be bothered with insects break the land and clean out the fence rows in the fall."

"I've made a little extra money hauling manure from a stable," Sam explained, "and I'm going to spend it for some good books along the line I'm studying. Could you suggest one or two good ones, Mr. Burns?"

"There are any number of good books on farming and kindred subjects," said the agent. "You should get a copy of 'The ABC of Bee Culture' by a real farmer, and he knows what he's writing about. The first, of course, is about raising bees. The second tells all about alfalfa from the earliest times to the present. It is real interesting, too, much better reading than some of the novels that they call best sellers. 'The ABC of Bee Culture' is a fine work on beekeeping. 'How Crops Grow' will tell you a lot about agricultural plants that you don't know, and 'Life on the Farm' is a little book that is very interesting and full of helpful suggestions."

"Don't tell me any more," Sam exclaimed. "I want to read them all, and my money won't hold out. But I'm going to buy those five and study them, especially the ones on bees and alfalfa."

"Well, bees are worth studying, too," said Mr. Burns.

"I don't know much about them," replied Sam. "but I shouldn't like getting stung."

"No need of it," said the agent. "Once you understand them they give no trouble, and the honey they make is almost clear profit."

"If that's the case I think I'll get a few hives."

"One or two will be sufficient to start with. If you take care of the swarms you'll soon have as many hives as you need."

"What I want to get more than anything else," continued Sam, "is some registered dogs. Do you know where I could get a sow or some pigs?"

"No; don't believe I do," said the agent. "Want registered stock, do you?"

"Yes, sir; it doesn't take any more to raise them than it does scrubs, and they are better and sell for more."

"That's a good idea," remarked Mr. Burns. "You're on the right track. I see you've got some plans, Sam. What are you figuring on doing?"

"Well," replied the young farmer, "for the first thing I'm going to peg along on the little farm of mother's and do the very best I can with what I've got and with what I know."

"And then what?" asked the agent.

"Next fall and winter sister and I are going to complete the high school course. Then I'm going to make another crop; and if things go well I'll take a course at the State Agricultural college and let sister also take a course there in domestic science."

"And after that what?" queried Mr. Burns.

"Well, after that I'll take up the work that I have already started and carry it out to a finish. I want to make mother as comfortable and independent as possible. I want to make

the land productive and put up good fences and buildings. I want to have everything convenient. I want to stock the place with the very best there is in every line—Jersey cows, Berkshire hogs, Angora goats, Plymouth Rock chickens, Peking ducks, Bronze turkeys and even a collie dog. Of course I don't mean to say that these breeds are better than others, but I like them and know they are good."

Mr. Burns did not laugh at Sam's desire for a shepherd dog.

"There is need and room for all you mention," he said, "even to the dog."

"But that's not all," Sam continued. "I want things around the house to be pretty and pleasant. I want books and magazines and pictures and a big yard full of flowers. Don't you think a person can have such things on a farm?"

"I don't think anything about it," replied the agent. "I know it. You can have them and should have them. The farm is first of all, a place to live, and it should be made as pleasant a place as possible."

"You haven't named a thing that is out of reach, Sam. And it is very thoughtful of you to keep your mother and sister in mind in all of your plans. They certainly are proud of you and have reason to be."

"When I get all that work done," said Sam. "I'm going to buy a farm for myself and do with it just as I intend to do with mother's. After that I don't know what I'll do. I haven't planned any further, but I guess there'll be new dreams by that time."

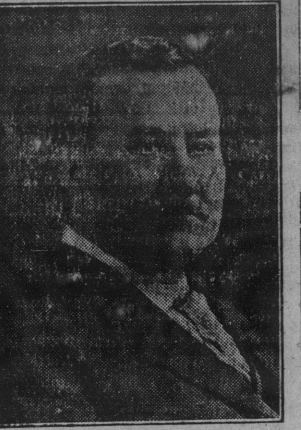
"Yes, there will, Sam," said Mr. Burns. "There will always be something new calling you to further endeavor. But you'll take a delight in just as you have delighted in this other. It's a man's work you have set your self, and it's worth doing."

Sam Powell went home with the agent's last words ringing through his mind. He couldn't forget them, nor did he for many and many a day.

To Be Continued.

HOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HEAD AMASSED HIS FORTUNE

Pittsburgh boasts of many prominent men, but none occupies a more exalted position than David P. Black, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, a man who has done much to promote that city's interests. He early saw the city's possibilities; that the town afforded wonderful opportunities, so he engaged in the real estate business and made his fortune. He was



DAVID P. BLACK.

Mentioned in a partnership way with several concerns and eventually formed the Real Estate Trust company, one of the city's largest banks and trust companies, of which he is now the head. He has always been its president. He was the first president of the Pittsburgh Real Estate Board and is a member of the executive committee of the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges. He is also vice president of the Western Insurance company, a director of the Monongahela National bank and was one of Pittsburgh's nine councilmen originally appointed by Governor John K. Tener under the new city charter several years ago. He is a prominent clubman, being a member of the Duquesne club, the Pittsburgh Athletic association and the Pittsburgh Country club and expects to be a member of the trade tourist party of the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh coming here during the week of May 18 to 21.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEYERSDALE FOLKS.

We wish to announce we are exclusive Meyersdale agents for the simple mixture of buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc. Adierika. This remedy used successfully for appendicitis, is the most thorough bowel cleanser we ever sold. It is so powerful that one SPOONFUL relieves almost any case of constipation, sour or gassy stomach. Adierika never grieves, is safe to use and the instant action is surprising. L. R. COLLINS, Druggist.

Albert E. Kuehne, of Johnstown, and Miss Dillie Cober, daughter of Mrs. Lucinda Cober, of Berlin, were married in Johnstown, March 31 and have gone to the Panama exposition on their honeymoon. They will reside in Johnstown where the groom is the secretary-treasurer of the F. M. Shaft Ice Co.

HEADACHE

Dr. Dixon's Weekly Talk on Health and Hygiene.

Headache is one of the most common ailments. Almost everyone, even people in comparatively good health are subject from time to time to this malady. Because it manifests itself in more or less in the same and general locality, the majority of people are wont to believe that the source of the difficulty is located in the cranium itself. This is rarely the case. The causes of headache are numerous and cannot be removed by the use of smelling salts, ice bags, cold towels and headache powders. Headache may come from a defective tooth or from the eyes; from acute digestive disturbance, from a sluggish action of the liver and intestinal canal, long continued irritation of the nasal cavities, high blood pressure or other causes as widely varied as those mentioned. Constantly recurring headaches may also be manifestations of profound systemic disturbances of some other part of the body which demands medical attention. The cause, more serious than the headache itself, should be found and cured. Often the immediate cause of headache is the over stimulation of the heart.

Undue heart stimulation accompanies a number of organic disturbances and results in abnormally high blood pressure in the brain; the majority of the headache remedies which are offered for sale contain some powerful heart depressant which brings temporary relief.

There is always, however, danger in the use by a layman of any drug which is sufficiently strong to have this result when the heart is weak. These headache cures which are indiscriminately offered do not correct the real cause of the disturbance. Serious or even fatal results may come from constant use and they cannot effect a cure. Anyone subject to recurring headaches should consult a physician that the cause may be determined before any treatment is given.

GROUP AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Mrs. T. Neureuer, Eau Claire, Wis., says, "Foley's Honey and Tar Compound cured my boy of a very severe attack of croup after other remedies had failed. Our milkman cured his children of whooping cough." Foley's has a forty years record of similar cases. Contains no opiates. Always insist on Foley's. Sold everywhere.

Hundreds of health articles appear in newspapers and magazines, and in practically every one of them the importance of keeping the bowels regular is emphasized. A constipated condition invites disease. A dependable physic that acts without inconvenience or griping in Foley Cathartic Tablets. Sold everywhere.

IT'S A MISTAKE Made by Many Residents of Meyersdale

Many people in a misguided effort to get rid of kidney backache, rely on plasters, liniments and other makeshifts. The right treatment is kidney treatment and a remarkably recommended kidney medicine is Doan's Kidney Pills. Meyersdale is no exception.

The proof is at your door. The following is an experience typical of the work of Doan's Kidney Pills in Meyersdale.

S. W. Bowman, of Meyersdale, Pa., says: "About a year ago I was attacked with terrible pains in my back. I couldn't sleep well. The passages of the kidney secretions were irregular and painful. I couldn't stoop over or lift anything. A friend recommended Doan's Kidney Pills to me and I used them. One box gave me relief and I used a couple of boxes. They made me feel all right. I always recommend Doan's Kidney Pills to my friends and keep them on hand."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Bowman had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

Mothers Know That Genuine Castoria

Always Bears the Signature of

Dr. J. C. Hutchins

In Use For Over Thirty Years

CASTORIA

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Are you well stocked on flour?

We are selling flour for less than we can buy it.

Now is the time to use Dr. Hess! Stock Tonic, Poultry Pan-a-cé-a, Louse killer, etc. and you will get results.

Our Lake Herring are very nice, price right.

Please let us have your Grocery orders.

Holzshu & Weimer

SCHWAB'S CAR AND TRAINMEN

To Comply With Law Reading Had to Put Extra Man on Train.

South Bethlehem, Pa., March 24.

Specific instances of the arbitrary working of the Full Crew—"Excess Man Crew"—Laws have just been afforded here. They show how these laws work to the burden of the railroads and how they are sometimes availed of by trainmen to prevent efficient service.

A four-car passenger train was made up on the Reading Railway about to leave for Philadelphia. Under a hurry order the "Loretta" private car of Charles M. Schwab, was attached to this train at the last minute. This made it necessary, in order to comply with the Full Crew Law, to increase the train crew from five to six men, although the private car had its own crew and made nothing for the train crew to look after.

It so happened that a trainman was in one of the coaches, returning to Philadelphia. He was instructed to take the position of extra man. Thus instead of riding to Philadelphia as a "dead head," he became a member of the crew and received pay for the trip.

On the Lehigh Valley Railroad a train of empty cars had been made up by a yard crew. When the road crew of five took charge a trainman was seen to cut out the last car, which happened to be a foreign line box car. When asked why, he replied that they weren't going to take a train longer than required. The effect was to leave a box car in the yard, entailing a per diem charge upon the company.

FIVE CENTS PROVES IT.

A generous offer. Cut this ad out, enclose with it 5 cents to Foley & Co., Chicago, Ill., and receive a free trial package containing Foley's Honey and Tar Compound for coughs, colds, croup, bronchial and lagrippe coughs; Foley Kidney Pills and Foley Cathartic Tablets. Sold everywhere.

To feel strong, have good appetite and digestion, sleep soundly and enjoy life, use Burdock Blood Bitters, the family system tonic. Price \$1.00

LIFE INSURANCE REFUSED.

Ever notice how closely life insurance examiners look for symptoms of kidney diseases? They do so because weakened kidneys lead to many forms of dreadful life-shortening afflictions. If you have any symptoms like pain in your back, frequent scanty or painful action, tired feeling, aches and pains, get Foley's Kidney Pills to-day. Sold everywhere.

Itch! Itch! Itch!—Scratée Scratée! Scratée! The more you scratch, the worse the itch. Try Doan's Ointment. For eczema, any skin itching 50c a box. ad

How to Cure a La Grippe Cough.

Lagrippe coughs demand instant treatment. They show a serious condition of the system and are weakening. Postmaster Collins, Barnegat, N. J., says: "I took Foley's Honey and Tar Compound for a violent lagrippe cough that completely exhausted me and less than a half bottle stopped the cough." Try it. Sold everywhere.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo } Lucas County, } ss Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system.

Send for testimonials.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O Sold by all Druggists, 75 cents per bottle.

Take Hall's Family Pills for Constipation. ad

Demand for the Efficient.

Alert, keen, clear-headed healthy men and women are in demand. Modern business cannot use in office, factory or on the road, persons who are dull, lifeless, inert, half sick or tired. Keep in trim. Be in a condition that wards off disease. Foley Cathartic Tablets clean the system, keep the stomach sweet, liver active and bowels regular. Sold everywhere.

Come in and ask us how many votes in the Hartley-Clutton Piano contest you can now get for one year to The Commercial.