



THE BIG FARM AND LITTLE FARM CONTROVERSY

Written Specially for The Bulletin. Those who still read the old books and find them worth reading may recall the tremendous controversy which raged in Lilliput during Gulliver's memorable visit between the Big-Endians and the Little-Endians.

From the beginning of farming there has been a controversy between the Big Farm and the Little Farm. Considering the instinctive land-hunger of man and considering also the almost universal admiration for bigness just because it is big, there need be no wonder that the advocates of the Little Farm usually find themselves in a minority and with few sympathizers.

Furthermore, having regard to the average character of soils and the average "slackness" of human nature and the manipulations of markets by wholly hostile thimble-riggers, it seems to be a demonstrable fact that the Big Farm is apt to pay better in aggregate money returns than the Little Farm.

Bear in mind, I'm admitting this as a fact solely under and on account of present existing conditions.

And one of the widely existing present conditions is that a great deal of farming is darn poor farming!

Now, if that condition, along with others, is going to exist forever isn't it subject to amendment not open to improvement—then we Little Farmers would logically find ourselves compelled to take a back seat and preserve a decorous silence.

But some of us have lived long enough to see quite a few changes even in so conservative an occupation as farming. We've lived to see the mowing machine supplant the scythe; to see the silo fast taking the place of the stover-stack; to see the gasoline engine doing much of the drudgery which formerly was done wholly by hand; to see the telephone in half acre farmhouses and a free mail delivery to half the farmers' doors; to see a vast change in our knowledge of fertilizing problems and a great advance in our opportunities to solve them, etc., etc.

It is not probable—at any rate, it hasn't been proved—that we have already reached the limit of progress. One of the wisest men the world has ever known once declared, near the close of his long and busy life, that he had been only an infant picking up chance pebbles along the shore of a limitless ocean of knowledge. The longer he lived and the more he came to know, by just so much the more swelled his vision of the boundless beyond which he was powerless to enter. But he laid down his work when the time came, and with firm assurance that others his successors would carry it still further and ever newer and ever newer fields so that, in time, even the advanced frontiers of his latest knowledge should be only a background for the wider and fuller wisdom of the future.

I feel just that way about farming. We poor hayseeds have done quite a few things and made quite a little progress since the days when we were tow-headed youngsters with our cows to pasture of a mazy morning. But I don't think we have done it absolutely all. I rather suspect that there are tow-headed youngsters today, driving their kine afield in eastern Connecticut, who, before they acquire our appointment of gray hairs, will look back to the way we did on the farm as we have for the granddads who used to mow our meadows with scythes and reap our grain fields with tickles and harrow with "A" drags and cultivate by "plowing out" with some old plow too worn to be fit for other use.

Well, if the farming world is going

to keep on moving forward with the rest of the universe, it is sure that there will be in the future many changes in our methods. Some will be due to new discoveries of which we ancients have at present not even an inkling nor a suspicion. Some will be due to gradual improvements such as those which in our own time have transformed the first slow, cumbersome, heavy, inefficient and costly mowing machines into models of fitness and convenience.

We shall do better farming in the persons of our grandchildren than we did in the persons of our granddads or than we can do in our own and at present.

If so much be accepted as probable, then the arguments which favor the big farm, under present conditions, may not favor it under better conditions and with wiser farming. Certainly, most of the advances we have made in the last generation point with increasing force to the wisdom of better rather than larger farming.

I've often thought of the case of Clark Giggam, whose grand father could not make a living on 350 acres but who, by wiser management and from fuller knowledge, made a big profit year after year from only 1 acre of that 350, and those 16 about the poorest of the lot!

Remember one thing: It isn't the amount of dirt you work that brings success, but the amount of crops you raise and sell, and the ratio of gain you get for yourself.

What shall I profit a man to own a whole county for a farm, if he can neither fertilize it adequately nor cultivate it properly, nor harvest it economically and get his money back from the crop?

How many times have we heard, and ourselves used, the expression that so-and-so was "land-poor"?

There are about as few David Rankins in the history of farming as there are Napoleons in the annals of war. You and I don't belong in the class with either!

It was no less a man than Liebig who said, years ago: "It is not the land itself that constitutes the farmer's wealth, but it is in the constituents of the soil which serve for the nutrition of plants that this wealth truly consists."

That is to say, a farmer's wealth doesn't lie in the number of acres he owns, but in what is in those acres and what he can get out of them.

There's one thing reasonably clear: the poorer farming one does the more acres he must farm to get a big crop. Poor farming on an acre will only scantily cultivated land may return a crop of 25 bushels of corn to the acre. Good farming on highly fertilized and cultivated land may produce a hundred bushels to the acre. Naturally, if one is going to need a hundred bushels and is planning to grow it the first way, he'll need four acres to get his crops.

But that doesn't prove that poor work on four acres is better farming than good work on one acre. It simply proves that the poorer farmer a man is the more land he needs to slosh 'round on.

Of course, that isn't all there is to it. There are other things to be thought of, other factors to be reckoned with.

Some land is so poor, naturally that it takes four acres of it to do a single decent acre's work. And it may be, in some cases, that the cost of putting such land in good heart would

be more than it could be made to return in a year. Some men are such slap-dash critters, naturally, that they simply can't "putter." Yet good, first-class cultivation favors very strongly of "puttering." It is at any rate, a matter of small details. I have one neighbor who farms two hundred acres and has to do job work besides to keep himself busy and occupy his spare time. His expressed conviction is that one day's labor is enough for any acre in any crop. When he sees me putting the labor of two men six days a week for thirty weeks on less than ten acres, he simply can't understand it. Nor could he himself endure the idea.

He laughs at me. And I laugh at him. You see, we're two quite different creatures. With his make-up and his habits and his general state of mind, he couldn't any more work my way than I could his. That's a Big-Endian and I'm a Little-Endian, and it has to go at that. If he's going to farm he must have what passes in the trade for a big farm to spread himself over. Nothing else will serve. Which being the case, I'm glad he's got the big one.

But I don't want it, allee samee. There's just one thing about the dispute which I hold to as a conviction general and unassailable. That is, that big farming tends inevitably towards poorer workmanship and small farming as inevitably towards better workmanship. But we must maintain at all times and against all comers.

Assuming it, therefore, to be true, it seems to me that the real hope of the future for the progress of small farming methods lies in the work of the small farmer. Anybody can make two blades of grass grow, you give him dirt, dirt enough and space enough. But to make two blades grow where only one grew before or would grow naturally—that is an achievement and has long been held an honorable work.

There is plenty of room, at present, for both big farmer and little farmer to work side by side. As population increases, the size of farms must decrease. The globe won't swell to make more acres as the number of its inhabitants grows. Sooner or later, we've got to face the problem of making one acre produce what we've heretofore worked two to.

We little farmers may take such pride as we choose in reflecting that we're the pioneers attacking that problem and endeavoring to solve it. The future will have to come to our lines eventually, whether they want to or not!

THE FARMER.

NEXT WEEK ANOTHER GALA BILL

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday BIG KEITH HEADLINE ACT The Darktown Revue 10 PEOPLE—SPECIAL SCENERY A Big Lively Hodge Podge of Singing, Dancing and Comedy A GREAT ACT FEATURE PHOTO-PLAY Monday and Tuesday 5 PART BLUE RIBBON FEATURE THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE A Great Melodrama With an All-Star Cast of Vitaphone Favorites Don't Miss This MUTUAL WAR WEEKLY FUNNY COMEDIES CONCERT ORCHESTRA

THE QUASIMODO THEATRE BROADWAY

Today at 2.30, 7 and 8.45 KEITH SUPREME VAUDEVILLE ARCO BROTHERS Modern Samsons in the Greatest Athletic Act Ever Seen Here FEATURE PHOTO-PLAY Wm. Fox Presents THEDA BARA The Famous Vampire Woman in the Most Wonderful Picture Ever Shown on a Screen "SIN" FEATURE STARTLING BUT TRUE SEEING AMERICA FIRST Scenic Travel Pictures KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESSES Funny Cartoon Comio Films THE HOUSE PARTY.....Comedy Matinee, 10c. Evening, 10c, 15c, 20c

aturday, Dec. 11th MATINEE! ONLY

THE WORLD'S GREATEST ENTERTAINER HARRY LAUDER EIGHTH ANNUAL TOUR With a Remarkable Company of INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS PRICES: LOWER FLOOR, \$2.00 and \$1.50 BALCONY, \$2.00, \$1.50 and \$1.00 GALLERY, 50c Seat Sale Opens Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 10 A. M.

CANTERBURY

Elmer Handy, a former resident of this town, now of Plainfield, was a guest one day last week of W. L. and C. W. Bennett at Crystal Spring farm. John Moffitt and family of Scotland were recent guests of Mr. Moffitt's sister, Mrs. Elsie Bliven. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Pellett of Central Village and Mr. and Mrs. Osea Hopkins and daughter, Dorothy of Brooklyn were guests Thanksgiving day of A. H. Pellett and family. Mrs. Elsie Bliven and daughter, Edna M. Bliven, the guests on the holiday of relatives at the Green. Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Bennett spent the holiday with their son, A. C. Bennett and wife. Dr. Bennett is soon to move to Plainfield, where he has bought a nice home, and will build a barn and garage.

Tolland County ANDOVER

Loomis Brothers and Their Wives Celebrate Forty-Ninth Anniversary of Their Marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Loomis of Bolton celebrated Sunday, the forty-ninth anniversary of their marriage at the residence of their daughter, Mrs. William Stetson. His brother, William Loomis and wife, also of Bolton, observed the forty-ninth anniversary of their wedding Monday. Charles N. was married on Thanksgiving eve and William H. on Thanksgiving Sunday the pastor will call attention to the approaching centennial anniversary of the American Bible society in the morning service, which will be followed by a social. C. E. meeting in the evening as usual. Over 50 attended the union service of the Green, Plains and Westminster churches last week on Thanksgiving night.

Plotted by a generous church member, the pastor and Mrs. Davies rode through the country part of Westminster last Wednesday, calling on parishioners. Frank Koch has returned to New Rochelle after spending Thanksgiving with his parents at Broadview. Mrs. D. Bennett has returned from New York, having spent Thanksgiving with relatives.

Spring Pig Weighs 304 Pounds. William Ladd butchered a spring pig which weighed 304 pounds, the largest and best pig killed at Gay Street. Israel Rosenweig of Rosedale has gone to New York, where he will work this winter. Miss Emma Bondi of New York spent Thanksgiving with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roth. Miss Odella Blain will return from the hospital in Willimantic, where she was a patient for several weeks. Fred C. Green has returned to North Scituate, R. I. to resume his work for Charles H. Phillips of Plainfield.

Addressed Men's Club. Rev. John J. Lockett addressed the Men's club of the Willimantic Methodist church Wednesday evening. Officers of C. E. Society. The Christian Endeavor society of Bolton celebrated officers for 1916. President, George Ladd; vice president, Miss Esther Jewett; secretary and treasurer, Miss Marion Stanley; chairman of program committee, H. A. Thompson; chairman of music committee, Mrs. R. L. Jones; chairman of lookout committee, Mrs. A. E. Frink; chairman of social committee, Mrs. W. T. Thoburn; chairman of both committees, Miss Katherine Stetson; ushers, Howard Stanley, and Clarence Stetson. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Thompson are entertaining Mrs. C. Thompson and son, of Stamford. Mr. and Mrs. R. Hadaway of Hartford were here last week end visiting friends.

BOLTON Dance Follows Moving Picture Show For Hall Benefit. A moving picture show was given at the Bolton hall last week Friday evening with the rhapsodic films and used with the dry batteries. The show was greatly enjoyed by a full house. In addition to the pictures, instrumental and vocal music was provided by Harry Hill, the blind banjoist, and Mrs. Pezzo, pianist, of Hartford. They played for dancing after the entertainment. Frederick S. Doane was promoter. Ice cream was sold during the evening. Samuel M. Alford had charge of the evening's programme. The proceeds were for the benefit of the Bolton hall. The Ladies' Aid society met in the dining room of the Bolton hall on Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Myron Lee have moved from the Center into the Clark house. Miss Minnie Engle of Hartford has been visiting Miss Anna Post at the summer house. Miss Gertrude Turner is at Mrs. Josephine M. Sumner's. Mrs. Eleanor Hutchinson of South Manchester spent Thanksgiving vacation at her father's, Calvin Hutchinson's. Sidney Whipples of Baltic visited William B. Trolbridge recently. Mrs. Eva H. Warfield and Miss Doris Warfield visited East Hartford relatives last week.

STAFFORDVILLE Herbert R. Bosworth is ill with diphtheria and the home is quarantined. Mrs. Margaret Bowden and two children, Pearl and Earl, and Mr. and Mrs. John Bowden were Thanksgiving guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Bowden, in Monson, Mass. Mrs. LeClair of Worcester, Mass. was a Thanksgiving guest of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bowden. Burton and Clifford Belcher spent a few days last week with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Taylor of South Coventry. Miss Catherine Silk of Boston and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Erickson of Monson, Mass. were guests of Mrs. Helen Larges over Sunday. Rev. E. H. Tunncliffe, who has been visiting his sister in Philadelphia, is expected to return to the parsonage this week and preach tomorrow (Sunday) in the M. E. church. Mr. and Mrs. Allison Lyon were guests over Sunday of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Corbin, in Wales, Mass. Miss Reta Roberts of Orcuttville was with Mr. and Mrs. John Rishton over Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kober spent a few days last week with Hartford relatives.

COVENTRY Deer Shot—Death of John Hughes Unexpected—Stereopticon Lecture. George Bovey of Vermont has bought the house and lot on the Tolland road of W. S. Green. Herbert Pender has moved his household goods to Manchester. Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Austin held their annual family reunion Thanksgiving day. Mrs. James Wood of Vernon, spent Thanksgiving day with Mrs. Wood's father. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Newell spent Thanksgiving with their brother in Rockville. Gilbert H. Storrs and family spent Thanksgiving with their father, E. F. Storrs on Springfield Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wood of Hartford were at home over Thanksgiving. Shot a Deer. W. S. Green shot a large deer on Thursday morning. Candidate Preaches. Rev. C. W. Hanna of East Granby

occupied the pulpit Sunday morning as a candidate. Miss Clara Darby has returned to her home in Sterling after spending three months with her grandmother. Death of John Hughes. John Hughes, 85, died early Sunday morning after only four days' illness. Being unconscious most of the time, Mr. Hughes came to this town about forty years ago, and until recently has been engaged in farming. He survived by his wife and four children. Illustrated Lecture. The Ready Helpers gave a stereopticon lecture in the hall Wednesday evening. E. C. Spaulding who has been in poor health for a long time, is much worse. The Grange held its regular meeting Thursday evening. Several applications for membership have been received. The Ladies' society met Friday afternoon in their parlors. Tea was served at 5 o'clock.

AMATEUR VAUDEVILLE Next Monday and Tuesday Evenings, December 6th and 7th NEW AMUSEMENT HALL Norwich State Hospital Palm Room open at 7. Entertainment at 8. Tickets 50 cents. Include trolley from Franklin Square to Hospital and return. Christmas Novelties, Home-made Candy, Etc., for sale. Under the auspices of the Woman's Auxiliary of Y. M. C. A. Tickets on sale at Genl. A. Davis' house. The pastor will be assisted by friends from the Holtw. Miss Margaret Glover returned Sunday to her duties in Boston after spending several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Glover.

STAFFORD Walcott Lodge Meeting—Service to Be Held at Schoolhouse. Miss Harriet McLean has returned to Johnson hospital for treatment. There will be a rehearsal at the Universalist church next Sunday afternoon for a cantata. The meeting of Walcott lodge was held Thursday evening. Mrs. Ethel Robinson of Salem has been spending ten days' vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robinson. Miss Nettie E. Brown, who is attending Dean academy, Franklin, Mass. spent the Thanksgiving recess with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Brown. The topic for the Y. F. C. U. next Sunday evening is The Christian Union and the Prayer Life. Leader, Miss Helen Anderson. Mrs. Sarah Watts returned Monday to her home in Norwich, N. Y., after spending the summer with Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Sibley. Service at Schoolhouse. Next Sunday at 3 p. m. a service will be held at the village schoolhouse.

SPRING HILL Eight-Year Old Glen Stalker Falls, Fracturing Elbow. Last Sunday while G. A. Stalker and his family were at his father's in Windham, young Glen, eight years old fell and received a bad fracture of his right elbow. He was taken to the private hospital in Willimantic, but as he had recently eaten it was nearly 9 o'clock when the anesthetic was administered so that the fracture could be properly attended to. The youngster was game, however, and came out of the operation in good shape. He came home from the hospital Wednesday. Miss Ida Reynolds has been visiting in South Coventry this week. Mrs. Fishery returned Monday evening from a short visit with her daughter in Middletown. In Australia the birds have no song and flowers have no scent though the leaves of every tree are full of odor.

Next Mon. and Tues. AUDITORIUM

SHOWS, 2.30, 7, 8.45 Mat. 10c; E. ve. 10c and 20c PARAMOUNT PICTURES Jesse L. Lasky Presents the Illustrious Broadway Star EDGAR SELWIN in THE ARAB Produced by Cecil B. DeMille in a Spectacular Picturization of His Own Romantic Drama in 5 Acts LOUISE and FERERA Musical Artists BERNARD ROBINSON Comedy Acrobat CHAS. MOORE & CO. Combination Novelty Act TODAY—3 Acts Vaudeville AND THE PARAMOUNT FEATURE Brother Officers

Colonial Theatre

The Famous Comus Players PRESENT THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT A Sketch Every Man, Woman and Child Should See NEW NOVELTIES AND VAUDEVILLE FEATURE PICTURE PROGRAMME Colonial Augmented Orchestra Matinee 2:30 Evening 7, 8:30

BOLTON NOTCH

John Hughes' Death—Holiday Week Visitors. Henry Clark of Southold, Long Island, was a visitor in town last week. Sadie Howard of New York spent Thanksgiving with her mother, Mrs. M. E. Howard. Death of John Hughes. John Hughes died at his home Sunday after a short illness. His funeral was held Tuesday at the Quarryville M. E. church, of which he was a member. Miss Ruth Warner of South Manchester, spent Friday and Saturday with her grandmother, Mrs. M. E. Howard. Mr. and Mrs. Loren Maine and Mrs. Minnie spent Thanksgiving with Mrs. Emma McGin of Hartford. Mr. W. Howard, Mrs. Smith and daughter, Burnice, spent Thanksgiving at Charlie Howard's, at Manchester Green. Mrs. Sarah Hale, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hale and daughter, of Springfield, spent Thanksgiving at Dr. M. M. Maines'. Attended Funeral. Mr. and Mrs. James Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. George Hughes and daughter of Springfield, Mr. and Mrs. Olin Hunt and three children of Hartford, Mr. and Mrs. John Whitman and three children of Willimantic were in town to attend the funeral of John Hughes. Mr. and Mrs. John Morris of Westport spent Thanksgiving at Dr. M. M. Maines'. Miss Laura Brownell has been visiting her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Brownell. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Skinner attended the funeral of Benjamin Thomas at Mansfield, Wednesday. Station Agent De Wolfe moved into his new house Tuesday.

SLATER HALL MUSICAL COURSE Season, 1915-16 MME. POVLA FRISCH Dramatic Soprano Friday, Dec. 10th, 1915 THE MARGULIES TRIO Tuesday, Jan. 1st, 1916 ALBERT SPAULDING Violinist Friday, Feb. 4, 1916 COURSE TICKETS, \$2.50 All Seats Reserved Tickets on Sale Wednesday, Dec. 8

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MUSICALE JOHN BARNES WELLS, Tenor At Union Lodge Building, New London, Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 8.15 p. m. Tickets 75c Reserved Seats \$1.00 On Sale at store of Geo. E. Davis MRS. FRANCIS SLATE PALMER Concert Pianist; GEORGE J. D. CURRIE Dramatic Reader; MISS MARY C. BROWNNE Accompanist

FLORIDA TRIPS \$3480 Wednesdays Saturdays Intermediate tickets only \$4330 Tuesdays Fridays First class Tickets only including all expenses of meals and sleeping accommodations both ways

Staterooms with twin beds and private bath; staterooms without bath but with private toilet, or more modest quarters where the service is just as perfect but the cost a little less. New York to Jacksonville without change Tickets good going during December, January and February; return limit, six months. Corresponding low fares to all Florida points. Write for information and beautiful descriptive literature. Address CLYDE STEAMSHIP COMPANY! ARTHUR W. PEE, Passenger Traffic Manager, Pier 36, North River, New York City Ticket Office: 290 Broadway, cor. Reade St., 958 Broadway, cor. 23d St.

Coal in the cellar Hay in the barn Money in the bank —that's the good-all-over, fur-coat feeling that just naturally takes hold of the owner of a Diamond Car, now at the beginning of the cold and stormy weather. 99% perfect, only one tire out of a hundred returned for adjustment, was the remarkable vote of confidence cast by your own friends, on your own roads last year, as well as by the many thousands who rolled along the highways and byway of every one of these forty-eight United States on Diamond Tires. There's a record for you to tie up to, for no matter where you are, remember it was made on the same identical roads you motor on every day. Ask your Diamond dealer to tell you more of this, and to put on Diamonds now. Then we know you will be an all-year Diamond enthusiast. DIAMOND "FAIR-LISTED" PRICES: Size Diamond Squeegee 30x3 \$9.45 30x3 1/2 12.20 32x3 1/2 14.00 33x4 20.00 Size Diamond Squeegee 34x4 \$20.35 36x4 1/2 28.70 37x5 33.90 38x5 1/2 46.00 A paradise of beautiful flowers—charming in its social life and out-of-door sports. Low rates of passage including meals and stateroom accommodations. Illustrated folders and detailed information will be supplied upon request. WARD LINE General Office, Pier 14, E. R., New York or any authorized ticket agency or tour bureau. WHEN YOU WANT to put your business before your friends, there is no medium better than through the advertising columns of The Bulletin.

Winter Trips and Cruises Separate and combined tours 10 to 23 days from New York to the American Mediterranean. HAVANA AND POINTS IN CUBA Interesting and restful, because of the fascinating charms of tropical life and climate. Excellent modern hotels. NASSAU (BAHAMAS) A paradise of beautiful flowers—charming in its social life and out-of-door sports. Low rates of passage including meals and stateroom accommodations. Illustrated folders and detailed information will be supplied upon request. WARD LINE General Office, Pier 14, E. R., New York or any authorized ticket agency or tour bureau.

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