

T. R. SEES DANGER OF FARMERS BEING CLASS OF TENANTS

(Continued from First Page.)
 commensurately improving the condition of the men who produce the things on which we live. Even in this country the situation has become grave.
 Our commercial, banking, manufacturing and transportation systems have been built up with a rapidity never before approached. We have accumulated wealth at an unheard-of rate. There has been grave injustice in the distribution of the wealth, our law-givers having erred both by unwisdom in leaving the matter alone and at times by even greater unwisdom when they interfered with it. But on the whole the growth and prosperity have been enormous, and yet we have allowed the basic industry of farming, the industry which underlies all economic life, to drift along haphazard, we have allowed the life of the dwellers in the open country to become more and more meager, and their methods of production and of marketing to remain so primitive that their soil was impoverished and their profits largely usurped by others.

Number of Tenant Farmers Grows.
 In 1885 one farmer in four was a tenant, and at that time the tenant was still generally a young man to whom the position of tenant was merely an intermediate step between that of farm laborer and that of a farm owner. In 1910 over one farmer in three had become a tenant, and nowadays it becomes steadily more difficult to pass from the tenant to the owner stage.

If the process continues unchecked, half a century hence we shall have deliberately permitted ourselves to plunge into the situation which brought chaos in Ireland, and which in England resulted in the complete elimination of the old yeomanry, so that nearly nine-tenths of the English farmers today are tenants, and the consequent class division is most ominous for the future. France and Germany are today distinctly better off than we are in this respect, and in New Zealand, where there is an excellent system of land distribution, only one-seventh of the farmers are tenants.

If the tendencies that have produced such a condition continue to work unchecked, no prophetic power is needed to forecast disaster to the nation. Therefore, the one hopeless attitude, in this as in recent international matters, is "watchful waiting," sitting still and doing nothing to prepare for or to avert disaster. It is far better to try experiments, even when we are not certain how these experiments will turn out, or when we are certain that the proposed plan contains elements of folly as well as elements of wisdom. Better "trial and error" than no trial at all. And the service test, the test of actual experiment, is the only conclusive test. It is only the attempt in actual practice to realize the realistic ideal that contains hope. More writing and oratory and enunciation of theory, with no attempt to secure the service test, amount to nothing.

North Dakota Experiment Valuable.
 This applies to the tenancy problem. It also applies to every other farming problem. As regards each, let us test the plans for reform, so far as may be, by actual practice.
 For many of these plans the several States offer themselves as natural laboratories, where experiments can be tried when conditions and public opinion are right; and this, although the permanent remedies must ultimately, at least in major part, be national.

In North Dakota, in addition to matters like hail insurance, it is proposed that the State shall purchase and operate grain elevators, mills, and terminals, and other business instrumentalities of vital concern to farmers. I most heartily commend

Band Concert

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 ON THE ELLIPSE, AT 4 P. M.
 March, "The Rockies"; "Drum Overture"; "Festival"; "Recessional"; "Duet for Cornet and Trombone"; "A Night in Venice"; "Recessional"; "Musicians"; Arthur S. Witcomb, cornet; and Robert E. Clark, trombone.
 Two "Songs of Liberty"; "Townsend Hungarian Rhapsody"; "Last of the Star-Spangled Banner."

URGENT NECESSITY MAY RELEASE DRAFTED MAN

Whenever a person who clearly ought to have been exempted or discharged has been drafted into the national army, emergency machinery will restore him to civil life, even though he has already reported at the mobilization camp.
 Provost Marshal General Crowder has ruled that a drafted person may have his case re-opened at the request of the adjutant general in cases of "urgent necessity."

BOSTON MAN REVEALS BIG STORY OF 1893

Washington friends of Robert L. O'Brien, of Boston, former confidential clerk to ex-President Cleveland and later Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript, today are congratulating the writer on his series of revelations concerning a secret operation performed on the ex-President in the summer of 1893, when the news of a serious illness on the part of the Executive would have created further panic in an already unsteady money market.
 O'Brien is now editor of the Boston Herald, and he gave to the world, a short time ago, the intimate details of that operation, which saved President Cleveland from death. O'Brien has scores of friends at the Capital, formed during his association with the Cleveland Administration and later during his newspaper experience.

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATES HONOR M. JOSEPH RYAN

M. Joseph Ryan, of the rate force in the office of Southern Railway's auditor of passenger accounts, was honored yesterday by his superior officers and 140 fellow-employees as he resigned to accept a position with the Government. He had been associated with the Southern for eight years. Just as the day's work closed Mr.

Ryan was summoned by the chief clerk of the department, W. F. Rose, who, in the presence of the office force, lauded the retiring clerk's record and on behalf of the department presented him with a complete traveling outfit of rich leather.
 G. Cooper Cox, assistant chief clerk, also highly commended Mr. Ryan's efficient service with Southern Railway Company, and the men and women of the department, who took part in the presentation ceremony, expressed wishes for his success in the field he is entering.

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the earnest effort the leaders in the movement have made actually to better conditions; and I say this although from the facts at my command I judge that most of the work which is thus proposed to have done by the State could be done better by co-operative societies among the farmers themselves. Present conditions should certainly be changed. To keep them unchanged is to act in a spirit of mere Toryism.

From the North Dakota experiment, when put in actual practice, we can learn some things to follow and some things to avoid; and perhaps we can also learn to be wise in time, and by some determination to put in practice reforms that we are reasonably sure will have no bad effects, avoid the sad necessity of paying with our own skins our experiments which probably will have bad effects.

Co-operative Associations.
 I greatly prefer to see the Government leave untouched whatever the corporations under Government supervision can do, and just as far as possible I want to see all the corporations made into co-operative associations. But there are things so important that the Government must do them, if it is only through such exercise of collective power that they can be done.

Our object must be (1) to make the tenant farmer a landowner; (2) to eliminate as far as possible the conditions which produce the shifting, seasonal, tramp type of labor, and to give the farmer laborer a permanent status, a career as a farmer, for which his school education shall fit him, and which shall open to him the chance of in the end earning the ownership in fee of his own farm; (3) to secure co-operation among the small landowners, so that their energies shall produce the best possible results; (4) by progressive taxation or in other fashion to break up and prevent the formation of great landed estates, especially in so far as they consist of unproductive land; (5) to make capital available for the farmers, and thereby put them more on an equality with other men engaged in business; (6) to care for the woman on the farm as much as for the man, and to eliminate the conditions which now so often tend to make her life one of gray and sterile drudgery; (7) to do this primarily through the farmer himself, but also, when necessary, by the use of the entire collective power of the people of the country; for the welfare of the farmer is the concern of all of us.

The most important thing to do is to make the tenant farmer a farm owner. He must be financed so that he can acquire title to the land. In New Zealand the government has done this, and sold it to small holders at the price paid to small holders at interest. Perhaps our Government could try this plan, or else could outright advance the money, charging 3 1/2 per cent. interest.

Default in Payments.
 Default in payments—which should of course be on easy terms—would mean that the land reverted to the Government. The experience of the firms which have loaned to the largest number of people to acquire homes in small installment payments has been that foreclosure occurs in a very small percentage of cases, but it would have to be absolutely understood that no failure to pay would be tolerated, for such toleration would in the end discredit the whole system and work ruin to the honest and hard-working men who would pay.

We could follow the precedents established in connection with the reclamation act in the arid and semi-arid regions of the West. It would be desirable and entirely feasible to try the experiment first on a small scale, in experimental fashion, and then to apply it on a large and larger scale with the modifications shown to be necessary in actual practice.

To break up the big estates it might be best to try the graduated land tax, or else to equalize taxes as between used and unused agricultural land, which would prevent farm land being held for speculative purposes. There can without question be criticism of either proposal. If any better proposal can be made and tried we can cheerfully support it and be guided in our theories by the way it turns out. But we ought to insist on something being done—not merely talked about.
 Every one is agreed that we ought to get more people "back to the land," but the talk on the subject is utterly useless unless we put it in concrete shape and secure a "service test," even although it costs some money to furnish the means for doing what we say must be done.

200 MASONS HEAR SPEECHES.
 Addresses were made by Duncan McLaren, Edward Burgholder, and James A. Bennett, at the annual dinner of the Masonic Lodge, National No. 12, last night at the Tea Cup Inn, 611 Twelfth street northwest. The meeting, which was attended by about 200 members of the lodge, was presided over by J. L. McGraw.



1917 OCTOBER 1917						
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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