

# EDITORIAL

## Farmers in Town.

One of the most pitiful sights to be seen in the average country town is the dissatisfied farmer who has moved into town. They have become tired of the drudgery of the farm and think they prefer to work in some factory, rather than till the soil. Wages are apparently higher and money comes more frequently. They find, however, that living is also much higher and money in the pocket is easily spent. They perhaps sacrifice the making of a good farm by not having the sticktoitiveness to remain and develop it. They overlook the fact that a farm properly cultivated grows in value every year and at the end of twenty years they would probably be worth considerable money. While in the city they have apparently larger returns for their labor, but all is spent for living and at the end of twenty years, they find themselves not only older and incapable of holding a good job, but their money is all spent.

With the retired farmers who have accumulated a dependency the case is somewhat different. They have probably sold their farms and have nearly enough money to live in comfort. If they do have enough they have probably moved to town to get more of the pleasures of life. But even these find many disadvantages. Being used to hard work in the open air all their lives, and then coming into town, with little or nothing to do, they soon break down.

It is surprising how short lived are many of the farmers who have made a competency and moved into town to end the latter days of their lives. They desired comforts, probably more than they were used to on the farm, but if they had put one half of the money toward making their home comfortable on the farm, that they do in buying city property, they would

have lived longer and been happier.

Far be it from us to agitate anything that would deprive the farmers of more comforts, but we cannot overlook an opportunity to impress on their minds that comforts can be obtained at home at a less cost than they can be had in the city.

One of the greatest reasons for elderly people moving to town from the farm is the fact that their children would not stay on the farm. They have gone to the city, leaving the old people more than they can do. This is unfortunate for the children, as well as the country at large, and the old people are not to be censured for trying to make life easier in their old age. Why not lease the farm or sell a large part of it, fix up a comfortable home and die among the surroundings to which they are accustomed?

There is much food for thought here for the old people, and we hope they will consider well before they sell the old homestead and move into the city.

Mr. Fred W. Lewis, secretary of the state Grange, has another piece of good news for members of the order in this issue. He says that during the past quarter, twenty four Granges were organized in this state, with about five hundred members. In the organization of Granges, Washington leads all the states. Her nearest competitor is Michigan, with twelve. Oregon, Pennsylvania and New York had seven each; South Dakota, five. There were 96 Granges organized during the quarter and 19 re-organized.

According to advices received, G. W. McCabe, legal advisor to the department of agriculture, has prepared a bill to be introduced in Congress in connection with the Lafean bill. This matter should be watched closely by our fruit growers, as such a measure will work hardships to the

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growers of the Pacific coast. Not only to the Pacific coast, but the growers of Colorado, Idaho and B. C. They all use the standard apple box, for packing.

The new Oleo bill in Congress, introduced by Congressman Burelson, has for its object the repeal of the tax on oleomargarine. In lieu of the tax Mr. Burelson proposes that manufacturers and dealers pay a lump sum. This sum is \$600 per annum by manufacturers, \$480 by wholesalers and \$48 by retailers. It is apparently a very fair bill and for this reason should be closely watched by dairymen everywhere. The very fact that this tax is imposed, brands it as a semi-illegitimate business. Why should there be any tax if it is legitimate? It is colored to resemble butter and the object is to sell it for butter, and not for what it really is.

The agriculture appropriation bill passed the house Feb. 3., and is now in the hands of the committee of the Senate. The bill carried an appropriation for \$13,500,000 an increase of \$400,000 over last year. This increase however, is to be used in taking care of the increased area of Government forest reserves.

The Spokane Interstate Fair people are wide awake to the value of being early in the field. They announce the date of the Interstate Fair as October 3 to 8 and at the same time the fifth Interstate Dry Farming Exposition will meet in Spokane.

By some concession ceded by both countries, the trade war between United States and Germany, which threatened serious results to our export trade, has been settled. Germany is one of the heaviest purchasers of our American goods, and if this matter had not been settled, it would

have affected our markets very considerable. The last trade treaty with Germany was made under Pres. Roosevelt two years ago, and such concessions were made to place United States as one of the favored nations in trade with the German empire. Germany buys some \$150,000,000 annually from the United States.



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The jaws are strongly reinforced. The frame is nickel plated. The handle is a handful—swelled to fit the grip; it cannot cramp the hand.

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