

FARMER KEEPS HIS HOME
EVEN IF INCOME DROPS
RESULTS OF RECENT SURVEY

By Frederick J. Haskin in Boston
Traveller.

Washington, D. C. Hard as the lot of the American farmer may be when the price of farm commodities is low and all the legerdemain of the federal farm board and similar federal agencies fail to bring the complete prosperity so generally longed for, yet farmers live in less cramped quarters than industrial workers of cities, and more successfully establish permanent homes. The Department of Agriculture in looking into the standard of living of American farm families, has compared the circumstances of 2886 families in 11 states with 12,096 families of industrial workers in 92 cities. The wide distribution of the subjects studied is regarded as reflecting typical and average conditions.

Usually Keeps His Home

A striking fact which the study brings is that when income goes down the farm family scrimps on many items but rarely is forced to move the home. In sharp contrast it is found that the industrial worker, when faced with lower income, moves into cheaper and less desirable quarters. From the point of view of standard of living, therefore, it is believed that the farmer has all the better of it in housing.

The reason of this is fundamental and is found in the fact that house rent, like many other items in the farmer's cost of living goes with the farm which acts as a sort of life partner of the farmer and his family, coming to the rescue in hard times with certain advantages not dependent on cash outlay. The industrial worker in cities must pay cash for housing and therefore when cash income declines, the amount available for rent lessens and more economical quarters must be found.

Investigators have worked out in cash equivalents the value of house rent on farms, recognizing that a certain proportion of the farmer's income must be figured as house rent. Through lean years and fat ones it is found that this item holds steady, indicating that whatever other retrenchments the farmer is forced to make, he usually is able to keep the same roof over his head. In contrast, the amount available for rent to the industrial worker goes sharply down in periods of unemployment or lowered wages.

Advantage of Environment

If environment be regarded as one of the prime factors in standard of living, as it is the advantage lies with the farmer. This is declared to be truer today than ever before as the factor of isolation of the farm family has been almost completely dismissed by the government investigators. Hard surfaced roads, the general use of the government investigators. Hard surfaced roads, the general use of the automobile and the telephone, rural free delivery, and scores of other improvements which have been brought to the farm often give the farm dweller a horizon as wide or even wider than that of the industrial worker who dwells in a congested city and must find cash for his every requirement, whether of living or of recreation.

The very size of the dwellings of the farm families studies presupposes

a greater degree of comfort than that enjoyed by city-dwelling industrial workers, especially in periods of depression. It is practically impossible to give any definite figures on the size of industrial workers' quarters, as they move frequently. But, in general, investigators observed that small apartments, some being little more than tenements, are the homes of such workers. Also, families average a larger number of children which means that, in the cities, more persons are crowded into a smaller space.

For the average farm family of 4.8 persons it is found that each has a house of 6.8 rooms having 3.3 bedrooms. The scale of city rents makes such quarters almost splendid for the industrial worker of the same income class. In different sections of the country, widely varying conditions are noted. In the New England States the average farm house has 9.6 rooms with 4.5 bedrooms for families averaging 4.7 persons. The contrast presented by these quarters when compared with housing conditions in New England mill towns is striking.

In the southern states farm houses averaging 5.9 rooms three bedroom for families averaging 5.1 persons. In the north central states farm houses average 6.9 rooms with 3.3 bedrooms for families averaging 4.6 persons. It is to be noted that the larger the family, the smaller the living quarters. Partially Modern

Modern conveniences will be found more generally in city dwellings for the industrial worker's family in moderate circumstances although frequently the plumbing and such conveniences of tenement buildings are inferior to those found in the country. For the states studied only 5.7 per cent of farm houses are classed as completely modern although 20.8 per cent are partially modern which means bathing facilities and lighting and heating systems. However, for the states included, 73.5 per cent have no modern conveniences worth mentioning. This high average figure is due to the lack of convenience in the southern states where the farm houses lacking all modern conveniences mount up to 83.6 per cent of the total and there is only 17 per cent completely modern.

This general average figure should, perhaps, be discounted somewhat because of climatic differences. Heating plants of a modern character are not so much a necessity in southern States as in New England or the north central states. We find that 8.8 per cent of New England farm houses completely modern and 5.5 per cent of them partially modern. In the north central states 8.3 per cent of the farm houses are completely modern and 19.1 per cent are partially so.

The reason why we find the combination of larger families and smaller quarters a general rule is that where there are more mouths to feed, modern conveniences are sacrificed to the inexorable demands of food. As the number of persons in a household increases, the percentage of total income, whether on the farm or in the city, rise obviously leaving a lesser proportion to be devoted to expenditures which, beside the food need become extraneous.

On the farm the family having an

income living of \$1000 a year spends 54.4 per cent for food or more than half of the total. When the income gets up around \$2500 the percentage spent for food drops to 36.2 or but a little more than one-third. In one case less than half is left to be devoted to other means of raising the standard of living while in the latter nearly two-thirds may be so applied.

In the city the industrial worker of the \$1000 class spends 44.1 per cent of that income for food while the worker of the \$2500 class spends 34.9 per cent. But the farmer of the \$1000 class spends only 12.5 per cent of his income for rent while the city worker spends 14.5 per cent in that manner. The \$2500 farmer spends 12.3 per cent for rent while the city worker of that class spends 10.6 per cent.

The city worker dresses better apparently. At \$1000 a year he devotes 13.2 per cent of income to clothing against only 11.6 for his rural brother. At \$2500 the clothing expenses is 20.4 per cent in the city and only 15.5 per cent on the farm.

Although in many respects there figures indicate that the farm family enjoys a higher standard of living from the points of view of creature comforts there remains something about the lights of the city and its thousand so iditations which every year sends an increasing number to the centres of population, swelling the size of the great cities.

THE BRITISH
SCHOOLBOY EATS
MORE FRUIT NOW

London, England, June 21—The modern schoolboy no longer eats for the sake of eating, says the London Star, and the fat boy, so popular in school stories, has no counterpart in real life.

The master in charge of Harrow School tuck shop revealed some startling food facts.

"The consumption of buns and cakes is steadily going down, while the consumption of fruit is steadily going up," he said.

"We buy our fruit at Covent Garden every day, and we get through a ton or so of apples each term and case after case of melons. The modern boy, in fact, seems to eat any kind of fruit at any time of day. Twenty years ago he would have been eating cream buns instead.

"Ices have increased in popularity, and the boys eat them all the year round—summer and winter."

Boys are also eating more bread than they used to, and the Harrow School bakery turns out about 250 pound loaves 170 before the World War.

At Christ's Hospital such varied items as three hundred weight of coffee, 24 tins of potato crisps, 15 dozen eggs and two cases of oranges are sold on an average every week to the boys.

"The greatest change in the sales," said the master in charge, "is the fall in consumption of fancy and sweet biscuits.

"Every week over a ton of meat and two tons of bread are consumed in the school, and we are frequently giving the boys fruit for breakfast now. This is proving extremely popular.

"Chocolate caramels are the most popular sweetmeat, and we sell 125 pounds of them a week."

A medical superintendent said that the average schoolboy today eats far more sensibly than he did before the war.

"This is due," he said, "partly to the increased popular interest in health matters, partly to education in hygiene and partly to the great value boys now place on physical fitness."

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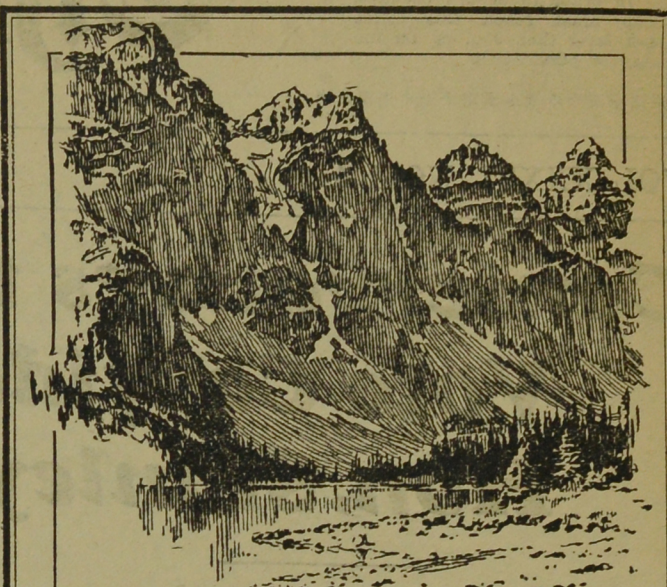
Washington, June 20—A new certainty, holding possibilities of major complications, entered the national political situation yesterday with the overwhelming victory of Dwight W. Morrow in the New Jersey Republican Senatorial primary.

Washington had expected that he might win, but it never dreamed that he would do it by a margin of two and a half to one against the combined strength of former Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, who ran as a moderate, and Rep. Franklin Fort, an intimate of President Hoover, who ran as a dry. That he should sweep every single county in the state in the primary of a party which contains the principal dry vote in New Jersey and that he should do this thing in face of a supreme fight by the organized dries was totally unexpected here.

The New Jersey vote for Morrow, who declared flatly for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment and for Frelinghuysen, who favored modification, as against the dry vote mustered by Fort, tallied to the exact per cent with the results from New Jersey in the Literary Digest poll, a fact which also gave politicians here cause for thought.

This modest little man who, until three years ago, was engrossed in the affairs of J. P. Morgan by day and in books of history and philosophy by night, appeared on the national horizon today the centre of excitement and interest as intense in the political world as that which was precipitated by his famous son-in-law Col. Lindbergh, when he arrived over Paris on a May evening.

Two questions absorbed Washington as Morrow's victory was put under post-mortem discussion around the lobbies here. First, whether he will lead the anti-prohibitionists in a fight to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment if he is elected to the Senate in November; secondly, whether he will be a factor in the Republican presidential fight in 1932.



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