NOW AND THEN

LOVELIEST OF TREES

By A. E. Houseman

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now of my three score and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodland I will go
To see the Cherry hung with snow.

Loveliest of trees. It is lovely now as it stands in fields and orchard all clothed in white. House man has written many poems, among them "A Stropshire Lad," a book that has left a deep impression on all, as it tells of the thoughts and feelings of a young man's life. Housman passed away last year, and his brother, also a literary man, has been busy collecting his poems in one large volume.

LILIES OF THE VALLEY

It seems so natural to write about flowers in the springtime for they are all around one. This morning in gathering Lilies of the Valley peeping out on their long stems from the glassy green leaves, one thought of the lilies of the field how they grow they toil not neither do they spin, but in their loveliness appear. And one thought too of their sister flower, the tulip, whose home in fair Netherlands is being devastated, and its buld which have been so long of commercial value is being destroyed by bombing planes.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

This majestic building is a delight to all the sight seer in Washington.

One of the very impressive sights is to go up to the gallery surrounding the reading room and gaze down on the readers below. But what make it more impressive is to see the great bronze statues of those whose books the readers are studying gazing also. They seem to be looking down on the many volume and thinking: "That was my life work, and now they are telling others."

A THOUGHT

Here is a thought for your gloom,
You who are always glooming:
In a garden the flowers bloom
Just for the joy of blooming.

—Elizabeth G. Trask.

SCOTCH LOVE STORY

Donald McCautious sat with his arm around Mary McThrifty. It was a night for love.

His heart was stirred by sentiment. He longed to do something wild and bold; to say something romantic and passionate and startling. Suddenly he was swept from all reasoning by a wave of overwhelming inspiration.

"Mary," he gasped, before he could resist the frenzied impulse of the idea. "Mary, a penny for your thoughts."

The girl's heart fluttered. So he loved her as much as that? She, too, would do something noble and heroic; he would know his love was requited.

"Na, na, Donald," she whispered, keep your penny."

Such is true love.

NOT FOUND IN THE DICTIONARY

Archives—Where Noah kept his bees.

Bore—A man who talks about himself.

Buttress—A female goat.

Cannibal—One who loves his fellowman.

Consult—To seek another's approval of a course already decided upon.

Egotist—A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me.

Friends—Those who dislike the same people.

Flirt—A hit-and-run lover.

Mark Twain was attending a banquet given in his honor in New York. Among the speakers were to be William Dean Howells, John Brisben Walker, Charles Dudley Warner, Charles A. Dana and a host of others, equally famous. Frank Lawrence, as toastmaster, gave a great eulogy, then introduced Twain, as the principal speaker.

Twain said:

"I don't want to speak now. I want to wait and see what these other fellows have to say about me. And then, if they make any nasty ac-cu-sa-tions, I can ex-plain 'em. And if I can't explain 'em, I'll deny, 'em."

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KENT COUNTY FARM PROGRAM OUTLINED

The 1940 Attack Cited

Following the story of County Planning, its definition and how it functions through a single program for the County in which the energies of many agencies are integrated and coordinated—with the Extension Service acting as coordinating agency the County Committee, in this issue, lists problems, discusses them briefly and records the nature and extent of the attack to be made on certain problems during 1940. Later the work of each agency in the concerted attack will be described.

Statement and Brief Discusion of Problems

1. The lack of adequate farm income is an "over-all" problem related to and affecting all others. Income has been and is insufficient to maintain soil, fences, and buildings, and provide adequate educational, recreational and farm and home facilities. Wisest use of income rates careful attention.

2 and 3. Soil Erosion and Drainage—

In an agricultural county the retention of the soil and the maintenance of its fertility or productivity is fundamental and therefore the outstanding material problem of the county. Very intensive and extensive attack is well under way on these problems.

4. Insects and disease levy toll on the income of the farm. Therefore plans for attacking, retarding, destroying, and controlling them are implied and are under way.

5. Poor Forest Management—Forest management has been largely neglected—Wood lots are often included as a part of the pasture which means there is no future for such woodland unless the destructive practice is largely eliminated. Little attention is given to selective cutting, the removal of ripe timber, weed trees, thining stands or the interplanting with seedlings to thicken stands now too thin. The most intensive attack ever made in Kent is now under way—and will be continued.

6. Farm tenancy — antiquated leases, entailed farms. The committee in considering the present as well as the future well being of the county feels that the county as a whole should give unlimited thought to ways and means of reducing the percentage of tenancy by helping tenants to become owner-operators of many farms—to bring the leasing system "down to date" and to reveal the dangers and weaknesses that accompany the well-intentioned custom of entailing farmers as a means of "keeping them in the family."

7. Marketing and distribution—These are larger problems, the solution of which is beyond the present effort of a small county-meanwhile much study and effort is being made to improve the situation. No wonder farmers or agricultural counties do not prosper when 1-4 to 1-3 of the total population of the country gets for its efforts only 10-11% of the national income.

8. Unwise use of credit. Educational effort directed toward a better use of credit facilities and toward considering "credit as a commodity" are a part of the Co. Plan which is under way.

9. Poor roads and farm lanes. It is apparent to all that lack of farm to market roads are a distinct handicap to proper marketing and distribution. Careful planing to improve the road system will be needed effort and sound economy.

10. Excessive general property taxation. The general feeling that real property, because it is tangible and the levy therefore collectible, bears an excessive share of the tax burden-seems well justified and warrants effort to have the tax-load more equitably adjusted.

11. Lack of "Live at Home" farming as the name implies suggests greater effort to produce on the farm most of the foods for a adequate living.

12. Need for more efficient crop and livestock production and farm and home management. Guided effort in proper land use, in economy of production, wire marketing—efficieny in all lines is timely and needed in this period of change an unrest.

13. Educational facilities are inadequate. This very apparent condition can and should be corrected through intelligent study to reveal all the facts, followed by determined effort to disseminate the facts widely.

14. Lack of adequate opportunities for young people—This problem has many angles and implications and ties in closely with the educational situation. Youth are being "dammed-up" on the farms due to the lack of work opporunity in the cities for the one-third of rural youth (male and female) normally migrating to the city to work and to maintain the cities.

15. Farm Labor Situation—This situation is not improving. The farmers cannot pay labor adequately because his income is so small due to low prices received for his products, nearly all of which are sold at wholesale—while much of what he buys is purchased at retail. Mechanized is releasing laborers thus adding to unemployment problem. The attitude of some labor (irregularity-indifference and irersponsibility) forces some farmers to use mechanical aids such as milking machines.

16. Need for Home Beautification and Improved Home Facilities. This apparent condition relates to lack of income, to tenancy and in some cases to lack of interest. Much can be done to correct this condition if all parties cooperate.

The above problems may be grouped as follows: Income and Conservation Problems 1-5; Economic Problems (6-12) and Social Problems 13-16.

Main Effort During 1940

Realizing that not all problems can be attacked successfully, the County Committee during 1940 will center action on the following points:

1. Extending electric line service to the unserved portion of the county.
2. Alleviate the farm tenancy situation.
3. Improving educational and reactional facilities.
4. Increasing the efficiency and economy of various programs.
5. Conserving soil and human resources.
6. Reducing insect infestation.
7. Improving farm - to-market roads.

Latvia for Fish Cuisine

Riga, capital of Latvia, is famous for its international cuisine, especially Russian, Polish and Swedish. Its fish were once so popular that a law was passed prohibiting the eating of salmon more than six times a week.

Rhine Supper Boats

One never knows the full charm of the Rhine until one has had a "Supper-boat" trip. These boats are small but specialize in serving Rhine wines, Rhine salmon and Rhine peas on deck with soft music. They go out into the sunset when the river is gold, and return by moonlight through a silvern stream.

Wagon Train Ruts

Aerial photographers, taking pictures of Haskell county, Kansas, farm lands for mapping purposes, saw lines across dozens of negatives and thought they were scratches. Closer examination disclosed they were ruts that had been made by wagon trains 70 years before.

Finnish Language

The Finnish language is the one disparity in an otherwise modern land. No other country understands it and no one has been able to trace its origin. Its great difficulty is in the absence of definite articles and the 15 different cases as compared with the six in Latin.

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