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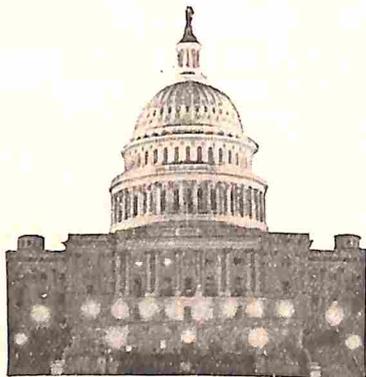
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Keep Tab on National Affairs

WITH the month of March comes the inauguration of a new president in Washington. You will read the news stories about the usual ceremonies at the beautiful old capitol building with greater interest than ever before because so many more of you than ever before had a hand in the selection of the Nation's new chief magistrate.

We hope that your interest will not stop with that, however. As good citizens you will want to keep tab on the great movements and problems with which the new administration must deal and which concern your homes so intimately.

To the end that you may increase your understanding of public affairs, THE FARMER'S WIFE expects to continue the presentation of highly instructive articles by Miss Marjorie Shuler. Few women have such opportunities as Miss Shuler to learn what is what in national affairs and few write as well about them. Her article in the April issue on the world peace movement you will find of special interest.

THE coming few months will be sewing months in farm homes. THE FARMER'S WIFE in this and succeeding issues, will carry many helpful suggestions on clothing. Miss Dunnigan will not only tell you about the newest things in dress and dressmaking, but she will gladly help you with your personal sewing problems if you will write to her about them and send a stamped envelope for a reply.

IN THIS issue, Miss Sutter begins the presentation of a question and answer department on poultry. The farm flock makes it possible for many thousands of farm women to get some extra income for themselves and we want to help them in every possible way, because so often the getting of more conveniences in the home and better furnishings depends on this income. Make free use of this department.

Our Page with You

Soon Comes Easter

WITH Easter, which lies just ahead, comes Spring, and with Spring comes the season of resurrection and the beginnings of new life. A wonderful time of the year for anybody, but it brings to the farmer and his family the very largest measure of promise and hope. Before their eyes everywhere the seemingly dead things awaken into beautiful life, and for every seed buried in the soil they know that a hundred more will arise. As their toil helps to transform a cold, dreary countryside into growing loveliness they get a sense of partnership with God that is not granted to many others. That's one of the fruits of farming that isn't measured by money, and yet above all others it makes farming and farm life the joyous life it is to those who know how to love it.

Make a Way for Better Living

A FAMILY may work out its better living program for the year in either one of two ways:

It may say, "We will pay taxes, interest and maybe something on our debts, buy only the absolute necessities of life, perhaps put a new roof on the barn or buy another piece of farm machinery, and then, if there's anything left, invest it in something that will make living for father, mother and the boys and girls a little more comfortable and satisfying."

Or the family may say, "We'll lay out money for these necessary, unavoidable items, but we will also invest a definite amount for making our living conditions better and happier, and somehow we'll make the income provide us with the latter items as well as the former."

The one method is negative, as far as progress toward better living is concerned. The other is positive, recognizing the need and importance of radios, electric lights, water supply in the home, new rugs and wall paper, recreation, music, and such things, and making a place for them in the budget. By the first method a family may live better one year than the one before, but it will be more by accident than by intent and plan. By the second method a family puts emphasis on living better this year than last and schemes and works to that end, and is not unlikely to succeed.

Of course, it may be said that merely giving a place in the budget to better living items will not guarantee our getting them, and that wanting to live better will not bring the income to live better. But on the other hand, we are not likely to make progress toward a higher standard of living unless we plan for it and then make the effort to get the

additional income necessary, or to distribute more fairly the income we do have.

Getting a reasonable measure of the comforts and satisfactions of life ought not be left to mere chance; it should be the definite aim of every family.

Farming will not yield the finest human values to farm families unless they positively and definitely set their standards of living high enough.

Equality in the Public School Costs

IF YOUR farm women's club is looking for a live subject for discussion in one of its spring meetings, it might well set two or three of its members at work digging up the facts about public school costs in your county and state. They are likely to bring before you figures that will amaze you because of their gross inequalities, unless you happen to live in a state where some effort has been made to spread the burden of school taxes evenly and justly among its property owners.

For example, a study of school costs in Kansas brought to light the fact that in some districts the cost per pupil enrolled was less than a dollar a month, while in other districts it reached the startling figure of \$50 per pupil per month. The low cost was in a city district, the high cost in a rural district. An investigation in Nebraska showed that in one county the costs of schooling one pupil ranged from \$25 per year to \$692 per year. Again the high cost was in a rural district and the low cost in a city district. It was also found in Nebraska that some districts had 115 times as much taxable property per school child as others, and that in consequence the latter districts had an almost unbearable school tax.

The most unfortunate part of this situation is that the highest cost per pupil is almost invariably in the smallest and poorest schools. If high cost guaranteed high grade schooling, the condition would not be so bad, but farm folks who are paying most for the schooling of their boys and girls are getting the least for them.

What can be done about it?

First of all, you can study the situation in your own county and state schools and learn the facts. That will help you to act intelligently. Then you can learn how some states have equalized school taxation, and how others have gone a long ways in providing equal school advantages for rural children by reorganizing their schools, sometimes consolidating them and sometimes doing something else.

At any rate, something needs to be done, and as rural folks are suffering most under the present conditions, it is their job to do something. Equal school opportunity at somewhat equal costs should be their slogan.

THE FARMER'S WIFE

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