The social aspects of rural life and farm tenantry, Cedar County, Iowa

Geo. H. Von Tungeln
Iowa State College

E. L. Kirkpatrick
Iowa State College

C. R. Hoffer
Iowa State College

J. F. Thaden
Iowa State College

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THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF RURAL LIFE
AND FARM TENANCY, CEDAR COUNTY, IOWA

A farm bureau picnic in a farmers' park

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND MECHANIC ARTS

RURAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION
and
U. S. Department of Agriculture (Farm Population and Rural Life Division)
Cooperating

AMES, IOWA

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THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF RURAL LIFE AND FARM TENANTRY IN CEDAR COUNTY, IOWA

BY GEO. H. VON TUNGELN, E. L. KIRKPATRICK, C. R. HOFFER AND J. F. THADEN.*

This survey is a detailed study of 400 farms and farm families located in the northwest corner of Cedar county, Iowa. The area comprises Pioneer, Fremont, Red Oak, Linn, and the northeast part of Cass townships, exclusive of the incorporated towns of Stanwood and Mechanicsville. Only a record of the organizations and institutions in these towns is included in this study. The study is a detailed analysis of the population, economic, educational, religious and social conditions as found on the 400 farms and among the farm people on these farms. The area covers 128 square miles, or a little over one-fifth of the entire county.

The purpose of this survey is to give to both the individuals of the community and the community as a whole a true-to-life picture or knowledge of each other as the practical and scientific basis on which they may construct a long-time program for the progressive increase and improvement of their own and their community’s physical, mental and moral assets and for the gradual decrease and possible ultimate elimination of the physical, mental and moral liabilities. It aims to give to the community an actual inventory of its present conditions and thus enable it to work scientifically at both ends of its problems; that of increasing its stock of desirable goods and conditions, and that of decreasing its stock of undesirable goods and conditions.

METHOD OF STUDY

One of the authors personally interviewed each family in the area studied in the summer of 1920 and secured the data with reference to each family on a separate survey blank. The officers of the various organizations and institutions were also interviewed. From these men and women was secured the information concerning all activities of the community not properly listed under the information collected from the individual families.

*Acknowledgements: The authors wish to express appreciation of the splendid courtesies and cooperation given them by the county agent of Cedar county, Chas. H. Obye; Rev. C. E. Thompson, the president of the County Farm Bureau; and all the people of the surveyed area in the making of this survey. To this cooperation must be accredited, in a very large measure, the success of this study.
The facts listed below, unless otherwise stated, are a compilation of the data thus collected.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CEDAR COUNTY AND THE SURVEYED TOWNSHIPS

Cedar county comprises an area 24 miles square, located in the east central part of Iowa, mainly between the Wapsipinicon and Cedar rivers. The latter, from which the county takes its name, crosses it from the northwest to the southeast, leaving one entire township and a part of four others to the south of this river. The county is made up of 17 political townships, eight of which are each six miles square.

The climate of Cedar county is temperate and favorable for the growing of general farm crops. The average growing season is 168 days. The mean annual precipitation is 34.5 inches.*

Agriculture has been practically the sole industry since the first settlement. Corn, oats and hay are the principal crops. Wheat, barley, rye, potatoes and garden truck are also grown on a small scale. Most of the farm products, with the exception of wheat, are used within the county either as human food or as food for farm animals. The livestock industry is important. The value of land ranges from $150 to $500 an acre. The soils fall into three main divisions: (1) Soils of loessial origin, (2) soils of glacial origin, and (3) alluvial soils. The soils of the Muscatine, Tama and Clinton series are of loessial origin and most extensively developed.* A soil survey was made of the county in 1919.

In December, 1837, when Cedar county was created by an act of the territorial legislature of Wisconsin, there were not more than 150 persons in the county. The first settlers came in the summer of 1836, Col. David W. Walton, the "oldest inhabitant," staked out his claim in the summer of 1835 and commenced actual and permanent settlement May 10, 1836. Others soon followed Colonel Walton from Indiana. Silas Miller was the first to settle in the surveyed area. He came in 1836.

John Brown and his Springdale and West Branch friends before the Civil War aided slaves in escaping bondage by establishing the underground railroad north from Missouri thru Cedar county.

The Indians with whom the early history of Cedar county has most to do were Winnebagos, Sacs and Foxes. The forests and streams of Cedar county were known as "neutral ground" by them and they established temporary villages

*Soil Survey of Cedar county, Iowa State College, Ames.
along the Cedar river. In the winter of 1836-7 some 500 Indians of the Fox tribe encamped on the river.

Rochester and Pioneer Grove were the pioneer settlements. The first post office in the county was established at Rochester, 1837. In 1840 the county seat was changed from Rochester to Tipton, named by Henry W. Higgins, one of the locating commissioners, in honor of General Tipton of Indiana. The first four-horse stage coach arrived at Tipton in 1854. Construction on the first railroad began in 1853 and on the second railroad in 1859.*

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Every farm house in the area has the services of a daily rural free delivery mail route. In addition to the mail service there is a telephone in 363 of the 400 farm houses.

The main line of the Chicago and Northwestern from Omaha to Chicago crosses the two northern townships and passes thru the towns of Mechanicsville and Stanwood. A branch of the Chicago and Northwestern goes southward across the two eastern townships of the surveyed area, linking Stanwood with Tipton, the county seat, which is two miles south of the southeast corner of Red Oak township. Wald, a railroad stop with a lumberyard and a grain elevator, is located on this branch. Considerable trade of this section seems to be drawn towards Cedar Bluffs, on the river, and Buchanan on the Chicago and Rock Island railroad from Elmira to Tipton, both of which are located southwest of the territory surveyed. Clarence, an incorporated town, is five miles east of Stanwood; Lisbon, with a population of 803, is 1½ miles west of the county line, in Linn county, and Olin, 4 miles north of the county line, is north of Stanwood.

The territory surveyed is traversed by three primary roads; Lincoln Highway (east and west) runs thru Stanwood

*The History of Cedar County: Historical Publishing Company, Chicago, 1861.
and Mechanicsville; one primary road runs (north and south) thru Mechanicsville, and another thru Stanwood. All of the other roads are either county or township roads.

**POPULATION**

The 1920 federal census gives the State of Iowa a population density of 43.2 persons per square mile, for the rural state, 27.2 persons per square mile, and for Cedar county, 30.8 persons per square mile. The 1915 census of Iowa, classing as rural those that do not live in incorporated places, gives Cedar county a rural density of 19.3. The 1920 federal census gives the population of the townships in the surveyed area as follows:

- Cass township ......................... 524
- Linn township ......................... 326
- Red Oak township .................. 402
- Pioneer township .................. 1,219 (including part of Mechanicsville town).
- Fremont township .................. 1,246 (including part of Mechanicsville and Stanwood towns).

The population of Mechanicsville, according to the last federal census, is 812, and of Stanwood, 556, the only two incorporated towns in the surveyed area. The density of population of the surveyed area is approximately 19 persons per square mile, exclusive of the two towns.

**COUNTRY OF BIRTH**

As a whole this is a predominantly native American community. Of the 754 out of the 759* parents of whom definite replies were obtained in the surveyed area, 712, or 94.4 percent, were born in the United States; 555, or 73.6 percent, were born in Iowa; 413, or 54.8 percent, were born in the community. Two percent more of the men than of the wives were born in the community, but 9 percent more of the women were born in Iowa than of their husbands.

Of the 400† farmers only 29, or 7 percent, were foreign born, of whom 17 came from Germany, 9 from Great Britain, 2 from Bohemia and 1 from Switzerland, while of the 358 wives only 15, or 4.2 percent, were foreign born, of whom 11 came from Germany, 1 from Great Britain and 3 from Bohemia. Four hundred and fifteen, or 92.2 percent, of the owners and "owners additional"* and their wives were born in the United States; while 274, or 96.8 percent, of all the tenants and their wives are native born, or 4.6 percent more of the tenants and their wives are native born than of the owner operators and owners' additional and their wives.

*Does not include the hired men and their wives.
†Includes 10 women farmers.
*Owner operators who operate rented land in addition to their own land.
TABLE I—FARMERS AND WIVES: NUMBER LIVING, DECEASED AND UNMARRIED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No. farms</th>
<th>No. men living</th>
<th>No. wives living</th>
<th>Men unmarried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owner operators</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners additional¹</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm-owning tenants²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-farm-owning tenants³</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers⁴</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Owners additional: Men who rent land in addition to their own land.
²Farm-owning tenants: Men who own land but do not operate it. They are further classified as related or not related to landlord.
³Non-farm-owning tenants: These are again classified on the basis of kinship to landlord as related or unrelated to landlord.
⁴Managers: Salaried men who manage the farm for the owner.

Eight widows of deceased owner operators, the widow of one owner additional, and the widow of one non-farm owning tenant are now operating the farms.

In all, ten farms are operated by widows. Over 8 percent of the farmers are unmarried.

Four of the owners' wives are deceased and two of the owner additional farmers' wives, one of the unrelated farm owning tenants' wives, and three of the unrelated non-farm owning tenants' wives are deceased. One of the latter is divorced from his wife.

TABLE II—PRESENT AGES OF MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total No. men</th>
<th>Under 25</th>
<th>25-34</th>
<th>35-44</th>
<th>45-54</th>
<th>55-64</th>
<th>65 and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners²</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.9</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related³ tenants and managers</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated³ tenants and managers</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Ten farms are operated by women.
²Includes owners additional.
³See notes table I.

It is at once apparent from table II that the tenants* are much younger than the owners, and that the related tenants are younger than the unrelated tenants. There is a constant

*Including managers.
increase in the number of owners in each age group from under 25 years to 55 years. Less than 1 percent of the owners are under 25 years and over 61½ percent are 65 years or over. Approximately six out of every ten owners are between 35 and 54 years of age, with 13.6 percent of the owners younger than 35 years, and twice this percentage older than 54 years. Over 19 percent of the related tenants and related managers are under 25 years, and over 44 percent are between 25 years and 34 years, or over 63 percent are under 35 years, and over 80 percent are under 45 years. Only 2 of the 52 related tenants and managers are 55 years old.

There is less than half as high a percentage of unrelated tenants as related tenants under 25 years and twice as high a percentage over 55 years. Of the related tenants, 63.9 percent are under 35 years, and of the unrelated, only 43.6 percent. These figures seem to indicate that the related tenants pass on to ownership rapidly, or while they are young.

The ages of wives in each group average considerably younger than their husbands, altho a good many wives are older than their husbands, the range being from 1 to 6 years.

Fewer owners than tenants are single, which might be expected when it is considered that the owners are considerably older. The average age at the time of marriage of the owners was between 27 and 28 years, of the related tenants between 25 and 26 years, and of the unrelated tenants slightly less than 25 years. Nearly twice as many tenants as owners married under 21.

Of the tenants who are married almost 66 percent married before they were 26 years old, while only 44 percent of the owners married before reaching that age.

Nearly twice as many men as women married more than once.

### Table III.—Present Ages of Farmers' Wives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Wives</th>
<th>Under 25</th>
<th>25-34</th>
<th>35-44</th>
<th>45-54</th>
<th>55-64</th>
<th>65 and Over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>70 32.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants and managers</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>12 25.5</td>
<td>12 25.5</td>
<td>12 25.5</td>
<td>12 25.5</td>
<td>12 25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants and managers</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>16 16.7</td>
<td>38 39.6</td>
<td>29 30.2</td>
<td>7 7.3</td>
<td>6 6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>107 29.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1See notes table I.
### TABLE IV—AGE OF FARMER WHEN HE MARRIED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Under 18</th>
<th>18-20</th>
<th>21-25</th>
<th>26-30</th>
<th>31-40</th>
<th>Over 40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>6.11</td>
<td>6.11</td>
<td>26.50</td>
<td>8.15</td>
<td>4.77</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>9.82</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>12.10</td>
<td>32.17</td>
<td>31.28</td>
<td>4.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>11.22</td>
<td>50.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Includes the 10 deceased husbands.
2Includes owners additional. Three owners failed to state age at marriage.
3See notes table I.
4One tenant gave no information regarding his age at marriage.
5Five owners, 1 related tenant and 1 unrelated tenant married more than once.

The average age of the wives of owners at marriage was about four years less than that of their husbands. The difference between the ages at time of marriage of tenants and their wives was about three years. The tenants' wives married about a year and a half younger than the wives of owners; the wives of the unrelated tenants particularly, married at a comparatively early age. Thirty percent of the owners' wives married under 21 years, 36 percent of the related tenants' wives married under 21 years, and 48 percent of the unrelated tenants' wives married under 21 years. Over three-fourths of the women married before they were 26 years.

The tenants, being younger and not married as long as owners, have fewer children. Eight percent of the owners and 24 percent of the tenants have no children.

### TABLE V—AGE OF FARMER’S WIFE AT MARRIAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>14-16</th>
<th>17-20</th>
<th>21-25</th>
<th>26-30</th>
<th>31-40</th>
<th>Over 40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants</td>
<td>2  4.3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants</td>
<td>6  6.3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total*</td>
<td>15  4.2</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>4.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Eleven gave no information on wife's age at marriage. These figures include the six deceased wives.
2See notes table I.
3Five gave no information on wife's age at marriage. These figures include the four deceased wives and one divorced wife.
4Three wives of owners and 1 of unrelated tenants married more than once.
TABLE VI.—NUMBER CHILDREN BORN PER FAMILY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number children</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants and managers</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants and managers</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1See notes table 1.

Sixteen percent of the owners have six or more children, and 13 percent of the unrelated tenants have six or more children. Forty-two percent of the owners and 35 percent of the tenants have four or more children.

Of the 316 families with children the average number of children born per family is 3.38. One family had 12 children and another 11.

DISTRIBUTION AND RANGE IN AGE OF LIVING CHILDREN

The summary below is an analysis of the age-groups of the children in the farm families. The chief significances of these figures is in the range of the children's ages as shown and the help the parents have, or have had, from the older children in helping to care for the younger children and in helping on the farm.

TABLE VII—AGE GROUPS OF CHILDREN IN FARM FAMILIES

Of the 316 farm families in which there are children:

- There are 42 families in which the children are all under 5 years.
- There are 53 other families in which the children are all under 10 years.
- There are 55 other families in which the children are all under 15 years.
- There are 57 other families in which the children are all under 20 years.
- There are 50 other families in which the children are all under 25 years.
- There are 53 other families in which some of the children are over 25 years and none are under 10.

Thirty-one farmers are single and 53 others have no children.

In 21 percent of the families the range in the children's ages, or difference in age between the youngest and oldest child, is 5 years or less.

In 27 percent of the families the range in the children's ages is 10 years.

In 30 percent of the families the range in the children's ages is between 10 and 15 years.

In 19 percent of the families the range in the children's ages is between 15 and 20 years.

In 3 percent of the families the range in the children's ages is over 20 years.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Cedar county ranks high among the counties of Iowa in the production of swine, barley, cattle and corn. There are a number of prominent, large purebred livestock breeders in the area covered by this study.
### TABLE VIII—NUMBER OF FARMS AND SIZE IN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Farms</th>
<th>3 to 9</th>
<th>10 to 20</th>
<th>20 to 50</th>
<th>50 to 100</th>
<th>100 to 175</th>
<th>175 to 260</th>
<th>260 to 499</th>
<th>500 and over</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>170.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>245.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-farm-owning-tenants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>195.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>235.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-farm-owner-tenants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>187.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>176.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>179.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>234.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>186.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1See notes table I.
2Seven farms are operated by widows and one by unmarried sisters.
3One farm operated by widow.
4One farm operated by widow.

A considerable number of farms are mortgaged. This is chiefly due to the fact that these farmers buy more land as soon as they have one farm paid for, or largely paid for, and before they get enough more money ahead to pay all cash for their new purchase.

Seventeen of the 188 owner operators have farms of 320 acres or more. The largest tracts of land operated as one farm comprises 905 acres, 865 acres being owned and 40 acres rented by the operators, who are two brothers and two sisters living together in the same house. The second largest farm is 840 acres, operated by two brothers who own 560 acres and rent 280 acres. The largest farm operated by one man is 615 acres. He owns 400 acres and rents 215 acres. The largest tract operated by a tenant is 560 acres. There are three farms of less than 10 acres in the total of 400.

As shown in table VIII most of the farms are between 100-260 acres. The farms of the owners additional, unrelated-farm-owning tenants and unrelated managers average considerably larger than the farms of owner operators and of related tenants and managers. The farms of the owner operators average the smallest.

Forty-nine, or 32.6 percent, of the 150 tenants are related to their landlords. The homes and farms of many of these related tenants are as modern and as efficiently managed as the homes and farms of owners. In numerous instances the related tenant is a young man, in some cases with college training, with breadth of vision and a believer in mod-
TABLE IX—COMPARATIVE DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In surveyed twps.</th>
<th>In Cedar county</th>
<th>In state of Iowa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                   | 1920 *1910 | 1915 *1920 | 1920 *1910 | 1915 *1920 | 1920 *
| Farms with residences. | 400 | 2228 | 2099 | 2212 | 217,044 | 199,755 | 213,439 |
| Operated by owners: | | | | | | |
| Number              | 237 | 1360 | 1269 | 1259 | 133,033 | 117,748 | 121,888 |
| Percentage           | 59.2 | 61.2 | 60.5 | 56.9 | 61.3 | 59.0 | 57.2 |
| Operated by tenants: | | | | | | |
| Number              | 150 | 831 | 830 | 910 | 82,115 | 82,007 | 89,064 |
| Percentage           | 37.5 | 37.4 | 39.5 | 41.2 | 37.8 | 41.0 | 41.2 |
| Operated by managers: | | | | | | |
| Number              | 13 | 37 | 43 | 1,926 | 2,487 |
| Percentage           | 3.3 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.6 | | | |
| Average acreage per farm: | | | | | | |
| All land             | 186.3 | 157.3 | 156.7 | 156.3 | 164.0 | 156.8 |
| Improved land        | 140.7 | 139.0 | 135.9 | 134.0 | | | |
| Average value per acre: | | | | | | |
| All farm property    | 145.7 | 258.2 | 307.1 | 219.7 | 202.8 | 254.6 |
| Land alone           | 107.5 | 219.1 | 231.0 | 82.5 | 175.3 | 199.5 |
| Land area in farms:  | | | | | | |
| Percentage           | 96.1 | 95.0 | 95.4 | 94.1 | | | |

*Federal census.
1Census of Iowa, 1915. All farms containing less than 10 acres omitted.
2Percentages for 1910 and 1920 computed from Federal Census.
3Percentages for 1915 computed from census of Iowa 1915, p. 641-643.
4Farms operated by managers are not separately classified in census of Iowa, 1915.
5From 1910 census, p. 640.
6From 1915 census of Iowa, p. 643.
7From 1920 census.

er methods. He is usually very public-spirited and is likely to make a larger contribution to the welfare of the community than most unrelated tenants, and even than many owners. He thinks in terms of a future owner.

TABLE X—NUMBER YEARS OCCUPANTS HAVE LIVED ON PRESENT FARMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 yr. and</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10 yrs. and over</th>
<th>Percent 10 yrs. and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner additional</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm-owning-tenant:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-farm-owning-tenant:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1See notes table 1.
Fig. 2. Farmers cooperating

Two hundred thirty-seven, or 59.2 percent, of the farms are operated by owners and owners additional; 150, or 37.5 percent, by tenants, and 13, or 3.3 percent, by managers.

One hundred and forty-six, or over one-third, of the 400 farmers have lived on their present farms ten or more years. Five of the eight related farm owning tenants have lived on their present farm over ten years. Six out of every ten of the 188 owners have lived on their present farms over ten years. Tenants and managers who are unrelated to their landlords have lived on their present farms a relatively short

**TABLE XI—HISTORY OF FARM OPERATION FOR LAST TEN YEARS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>By same owner</th>
<th>By some owner</th>
<th>By same tenant</th>
<th>By some tenant</th>
<th>By owner and tenant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>103 54.7</td>
<td>37 19.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>48 25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner additional(^2)</td>
<td>12 24.5</td>
<td>17 34.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 41.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm-owning-tenant(^2):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related(^2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 62.5</td>
<td>1 12.5</td>
<td>2 25.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 30.0</td>
<td>1 10.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-farm-owning-tenant(^2):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related(^2)</td>
<td>10 24.4</td>
<td>8 19.5</td>
<td>2 56.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td>7 17.7</td>
<td>3 10.5</td>
<td>46 50.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related(^2)</td>
<td>2 50.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 50.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 11.1</td>
<td>888.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>115 28.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>54 13.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>24 6.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>51 12.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>156 39.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^2\)See notes table I.
time, 81 percent of them three years or less, 44.5 percent less than one year. This survey was made in the summer of 1920 when tenancy was in a rather unstable condition and consequently the percentage of short time tenants is perhaps somewhat high at this time.

The owner operated farms gradually decreased in number during the decade from 276 in 1910, to 243 in 1919, and at the same time the tenant operated farms gradually increased in number from 105 in 1910, to 148 in 1919.

The owner operated farms decreased from 72 percent in 1910 to 62 percent in 1919, and the percentage of tenant operated farms increased from 28 percent in 1910 to 38 percent in 1919; in 1920 the respective figures were 59.2 percent and 40.8 percent.

Table XI classifies the farms according to the class of operator during the decade, as well as according to the class of the present operator. Of the owner-additional farms, less than half as large a percentage have been operated by the same owner, tho 14.8 percent more farms were operated by some owner, than in case of the owner operated farms.*

None of the ten farms operated by unrelated farm owning tenants has been operated by the same tenant for the entire ten years. Three farms have been operated by some tenant during the ten years, and seven have been operated by both owners and tenants during the decade.

Of the 237 farms at present operated by owners (including owners additional) 115, or nearly one-half, have had but one occupant (operating farmer) during the past 10 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE XII—TOTAL NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS ON EACH FARM DURING THE TEN-YEAR PERIOD OF 1910-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farms operated by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners1 (237) .................................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants2 (49) .....................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants3 (101) ...............................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers4 (13) ..............................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (400) .................................................................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Includes owners additional.
2Includes both the related farm-owning-tenants and related non-farm owning-tenants.
3Includes both the unrelated farm-owning-tenants and unrelated non-farm owning-tenants.
4Includes both the related and unrelated managers.
5Managers are included here with tenants.
*Some farms were occupied by one owner and one tenant, and other farms by a number of both. In some cases the tenant succeeded himself as owner of the same farm. Table XII shows the number of different farmers occupying each farm during the decade.
Fifteen, or 6.3 percent, of the farms operated by owners have had five or more occupants during the decade. Of the 49 farms operated by related tenants 15 or nearly one-third have had but one occupant. Only one farm had as many as five occupants during the decade. The farms operated by unrelated tenants have had the most occupants. Of the 101 farms operated by unrelated tenants only 7 have had but one occupant, and 15 farms or 15 percent have had 5 or more occupants during the decade. Five farms had 6 occupants, and one farm as many as 7 occupants. But 2 of the 13 farms operated by managers had only one occupant during the past ten years, and one farm had as many as nine different farmers occupying it.

Of the total of 400 farms over a third (34.7 percent) had but one occupant, another third of the farms had but two occupants during the decade, showing that in general this is a fairly stable community. It will be noted then that the frequent changes of operators took place on but one-third of the farms. This leaves two-thirds of the farms with stable operators and gives fair stability to the community as a whole but leaves a serious situation on the one-third of the farms which must bear practically all of the instability for the entire community. The pictures below show the effects of this stability and instability in striking contrasts.

Table XIII shows the stages passed by 252 farm owners,* and farm owning tenants. The group comprises 188 own-

*Owners additional are included with owner operators.
Fig. 4. The worst of farm tenancy

ers, 49 owners additional, 6 related farm owning tenants and 9 unrelated farm owning tenants. Twenty-nine and two-tenths percent of the farmers who were farm born and reared, climbed the entire agricultural ladder (as the successive stages from being reared on a farm to actual farm owner is commonly called) omitting none of the steps. Five and six-tenths percent skipped the tenant stage, 33.3 percent the hired man stage, and 16.3 percent passed directly to ownership from their father’s farms, omitting both the stages of hired man and tenant.

TABLE XIII—STAGES PASSED BY 252 FARM OWNERS AND FARM-OWNING TENANTS IN ACQUIRING OWNERSHIP
(Both farm and city born owners)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm born and reared-hired man-tenant-owner</td>
<td>74(^1)</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm born and reared-hired man-owner</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm born and reared-tenant-owner</td>
<td>84(^2)</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm born and reared-owner</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born-farm reared-hired man-tenant-owner</td>
<td>10(^3)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born-farm reared-tenant-owner</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born-farm reared-hired man-owner</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born and reared hired man-tenant-owner</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born and reared tenant-owner</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born and reared hired man-owner</td>
<td>10(^4)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born and reared owner</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Includes 5 tenants who own farms.
\(^2\)Includes 5 tenants who own farms.
\(^3\)Includes 2 tenants who own farms.
\(^4\)Includes 3 tenants who own farms.
TABLE XIV—STAGES PASSED BY 135 TENANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm born and reared-hired man-owner-tenant</td>
<td>3 a</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm born and reared-owner tenant</td>
<td>3 b</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm born and reared-hired man-tenant</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm born and reared-tenant</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born-farm reared-hired man-tenant</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born-farm reared-tenant</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born and reared hired man-tenant</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town born and reared tenant</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Includes three tenants who own farms but do not farm them and the tenants who once owned farms but have sold them and are tenants again.
2One of the three still owns a farm elsewhere.
3Two of the three still own farms elsewhere.

Fifteen and one-half percent of these 252 farmers were town or city born, and 9.2 percent were both town or city born and reared. All but 8 farmers of this 15.5 percent skipped one or more of the steps in the agricultural ladder, while 7 farmers passed directly to ownership from their non-agricultural occupation, omitting both the stages of hired man and tenant. Tables XIII and XIV show that there is a movement from the village and town to the country. Several of those who thus migrated married farm girls and began as tenants on their fathers-in-law farms or as owners of such farms.

Table XIV shows the stages passed by 135 tenants. This group comprises 43 tenants who are related to their landlords and 92 tenants who claim no kinship to their landlords. Over two-thirds of these men were born and reared on farms, the others were town or city born. Of the 32 tenants born in town or city, 14 were farm reared, leaving 18, or about three-fifths, of the town or city born also town or city reared. Forty-two percent of all the tenants passed thru the hired man stage. A larger percent of the tenants of non-farm origin skipped this stage than of those reared on farms. Seventy-four percent of the former skipped this stage and only 55 percent of the latter. Four and four-tenths percent of the tenants have owned or own farms elsewhere.

Table XV—AGE AT FIRST HIRED MAN STAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Under 15</th>
<th>15-20</th>
<th>21-24</th>
<th>26-30</th>
<th>Over 30</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners and owners additional</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants and managers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent | 7.1 | 31.6 | 52.6 | 6.3 | 2.1 | 100 |

1Includes one manager (related to landlord), whose age was between 15-20 when he started as a hired man.
Table XV shows at what ages 190 farmers who passed thru the hired man stage, started as hired man. Less than one farmer in ten was over 25 years when he started as a hired man. Half of these men started as hired men between the ages of 21 and 25, and 40 percent started before they were 21 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE XVI—AGE AT FIRST TENANCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners and owners additional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table XVI shows at what ages 305 farmers who passed thru or are in the tenant stage began as tenants. Practically half of them started as tenants when 25 years of age or younger and two out of every ten started after they were 30 years of age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE XVII—AGE AT FIRST OWNERSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners and owners additional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table XVII shows at what ages 252 farmers first owned land. Less than one percent had owned land under 21 years of age, but practically 18 percent had owned land before

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE XVIII—AGE AT FIRST OPERATING OWNERSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners and owners additional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1These tenants now own or once owned farms, but have sold or rented them and are again renting farms. In some cases these farmers inherited small tracts of land or bought small farms and then could secure no more land adjoining or near their holdings so they sold and are now renting larger farms and are renting their own land in case they still own land.
they became 26 years of age, and 48.2 percent had owned their first land before they were 31 years of age. Less than one in ten did not acquire land until after they were 40 years of age or older.

Table XVIII shows at what ages 221 farmers became operating owners of land. Comparison of table XVIII with table XVII shows that most farmers became operators of their own land soon after becoming owners.

Table XIX shows what other occupations besides operating their own farms is followed by the farmers. A larger percentage of tenants than of owners seem to follow some other business besides farming. Forty or 17 percent of the 237 owners follow other occupations besides farming, while 49 or 31 percent of the 151 tenants have other occupations.

**TABLE XIX—OTHER OCCUPATIONS FOLLOWED BY FARM OPERATORS IN ADDITION TO FARMING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>Trade</th>
<th>Govt.</th>
<th>Merchant</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Clerical</th>
<th>Misc.</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners and owners additional</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related tenants</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated tenants</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Mostly working for other farmers or on road, such as hauling dirt, gravel, dragging road, etc.
2. Including county officials.
3. Includes one unrelated manager.
4. Same as "."
Practically four out of every ten of the 89 farmers who do other work than farming, work as laborers on other jobs, nearly two out of every ten of these 89 farmers follow other trades, one in seven does some government work, one in ten is a merchant, 7.9 percent have professions, 6.7 percent do some clerical work and 2.2 percent of the 89 farmers do miscellaneous work.

**SOURCES OF WEALTH**

Of the owners\(^1\) passing thru the hired man stage, 87 reported. Their average savings as hired men was $918. Seventy-five tenants\(^2\) passing thru the hired man stage saved on an average $803 while working as hired men, or somewhat over a hundred dollars less than the owners saved in this stage.

One hundred and forty-four owners who passed thru the tenant stage saved on an average $5,034 in this stage, while one hundred and twenty-six tenants made an average saving of $6,294 as tenants, or $1,200 more than the owners did in the tenant stage. More money is needed at present when purchasing a farm than the majority of the present farm owners needed at the time most of them bought their farms.

One hundred and eighty-seven owners reported their average savings as owners as $17,903. Five farm owning tenants averaged $10,703 in savings as owners.

Forty-four owners and tenants acquired some wealth from other employments which averaged $3,505.

A considerable number of owners and farm owning tenants owe much of their present wealth to increased land values. Seventy-two owners consider that their wealth due to increased land values averages $13,452. Seven farm owning tenants consider that their wealth due to the same source averages $12,091. Quite a large number of farmers, particularly, farm owners, inherited part of their wealth. The amount inherited by 78 owners averaged $7,327, and the amount inherited by five tenants averaged $5,000.

Marriage and gift is another source from which many farmers, and particularly farm owners, received a considerable part of their wealth. The wealth of 46 owners from this source averaged $4,244, and the wealth of 18 tenants from this source averaged $827.

A number of farmers owe part of their wealth to other or to several of the different sources already mentioned. The money from these other sources averaged $8,743 for 20 farm owners, and $403 for eight tenants.

---

\(^1\)Owners additional are included. Some owners and tenants gave no information on sources of wealth.

\(^2\)All tenants taken collectively.
PRESENT CASH EQUITY IN FARMS

Thirty-five owners and 132 tenants gave information regarding the amount of cash equity they have in farms, farm equipment and live stock. Practically the same percentage of tenants as owners have small average and large amounts of cash equity in farm land and farm property.*

Forty-six percent of these owners and 51 percent of the tenants have cash equities between $1,000 and $5,000. Six percent of the farmers (both owners and tenants) have less than $1,000 cash equity. Over a third of both classes of farmers have cash equities between $5,000 and $10,000. Nearly ten percent of the farmers have cash equities of more than $10,000 in farms. The cash equities of six farmers is more than $25,000. The largest cash equity in his farm admitted by any one man is $46,000. Comparing these figures with those under "debts at first ownership," stated below, it is evident that a large number of those who did not state their cash equity in farms nevertheless have large equities in their farms, most of which were probably secured thru inheritance, marriage, gift or from other sources than by proceeds from operation.

ASSETS AT FIRST TENANCY

Of the 175 farmers¹ who passed thru the tenant stage to ownership, 49 or 28 percent had no assets at first tenancy. Fourteen tenants, or 10.4 percent, also claim to have had no assets when they began as tenants.

Of the 126 owners who had assets at first tenancy:

There were 83 or 47.4 percent of the 175 whose assets were under $1,000 (Av. $379).

There were 37 or 21.1 percent whose assets were between $1,000 and $3,000.

There were 6 or 3.4 percent whose assets were over $3,000, one of whom had assets over $6,000.

Of 121 tenants who had assets at first tenancy:

There were 67 or 49.6 percent² whose assets were under $1,000 (Av. $420).

There were 43 or 31.9 percent whose assets were between $1,000 and $3,000.

There were 11 or 8.1 percent whose assets were over $3,000, six of which had assets averaging $8,053.

*In case of owners the figures are for equities in land only, for tenants they represent equities in equipment and live stock principally.

¹This figure includes 15 tenants who own land tho they are tenants in this community.

²These percentages are based on 135 tenants including the 14 tenants of no assets.
DEBTS AT FIRST TENANCY

Fewer tenants than owners were free from debt when they started farming as tenants; and their debts were larger than the debts of the present owners when they started as tenants.

Of 175 owners and farm owning tenants who gave their debts at first tenancy there were 95 or 54.3 percent who had no debts.

There were 31 or 17.7 percent whose debts were under $500.
There were 23 or 13.1 percent whose debts were between $500 and $1,000.
There were 25 or 14.3 percent whose debts were between $1,000 and $5,000.
There was 1 or .6 percent whose debt was over $5,000.

Of the 135 tenants who gave their debts at first tenancy there were 46 or 34 percent who had no debts.

There were 18 or 13.4 percent whose debts were under $500.
There were 16 or 11.9 percent whose debts were between $500 and $1,000.
There were 44 or 32.6 percent whose debts were between $1,000 and $5,000.
There were 11 or 8.1 percent whose debts were over $5,000.

ASSETS AT FIRST OWNERSHIP

Of 224 owners who gave their assets at first ownership:

There were 21 or 9 percent who said that they had no assets.
There were 27 or 12 percent whose assets were under $1,000.
There were 56 or 25 percent whose assets were between $1,000 and $3,000.
There were 51 or 23 percent whose assets were between $3,000 and $5,000.
There were 69 or 31 percent whose assets were $6,000 or over.

Of the 15 farm owning tenants:

There were 5 who had no assets.
There were 2 whose assets averaged $1,800.
There were 2 whose assets averaged $4,200.
There were 6 whose assets averaged $9,366.

DEBTS AT FIRST OWNERSHIP

Of 211 owners who gave their debts at first ownership:

There were 100 or 47.3 percent who claimed to have had no debts.*
There were 7 or 3.3 percent whose debts were under $500 (Av. $300).
There were 14 or 6.7 percent whose debts were between $500 and $1,000.
There were 40 or 19 percent whose debts were between $1,000 and $5,000.
There were 50 or 23.7 percent whose debts were over $5,000.

*This figure does not include the 15 land owning tenants.
*Means they had no debts other than those connected with acquiring ownership.
MISFORTUNE OF FARMERS

One hundred and sixty-nine or 42 percent of the 400 farmers claimed to have had no misfortunes. Two hundred and five stated they had had one or more misfortunes of which live stock losses seemed the principal one.

Their misfortunes ranged as follows:

\begin{align*}
\text{Hog cholera} & : 109 \\
\text{Crop failure} & : 149 \\
\text{Loss of stock} & : 40 \\
\text{Drought} & : 3 \\
\text{Fire} & : 15 \\
\text{Storm} & : 77 \\
\text{Illness} & : 36 \\
\text{Flood} & : 3 \\
\text{Failed in other business} & : 7 \\
\text{In army} & : 5 \\
\text{Death} & : 8 \\
\text{Low prices} & : 3 \\
\text{Bad luck} & : 2 \\
\text{Lack of education} & : 2 \\
\text{Law suit} & : 1 \\
\text{Failure to marry} & : 1 \\
\text{No credit} & : 1 \\
\text{Debt} & : 1 \\
\text{Raised land values} & : 1 \\
\text{Feeding cattle at a loss} & : 1 \\
\text{Government men interfering} & : 1 \\
\end{align*}

“Bad luck” and lack of education each two, and one of each of the following was given one as a misfortune: Law suit, failure to marry, no credit, debt, raised land values, feeding cattle at a loss, and government men interfering.

WHY FARMERS ARE ON PRESENT FARMS

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
& Owners & Related tenants & Unrelated tenants & Total \\
\hline
Father’s or father’s-in-law farm & 71 & 47 & 2 & 120 \\
No choice & 3 & 27 & 2 & 30 \\
Price-bargain-fair-reasonable & 21 & 4 & 28 & 17 \\
Likes community and farm & 15 & 15 & 8 & 48 \\
Good land & 18 & 6 & 16 & 40 \\
Near home farm & 12 & 4 & 14 & 30 \\
Liked landlord & 10 & 6 & 10 & 26 \\
Farm of other relatives & 3 & 5 & 8 & 16 \\
Previously rented & 6 & 6 & 6 & 18 \\
Size and pasture & 6 & 6 & 6 & 18 \\
One man farm prefers no help & 4 & 2 & 4 & 10 \\
Small—could pay for it & 2 & 1 & 3 & 6 \\
Recommended to landlord & 1 & 2 & 3 & 6 \\
Wanted a home & 2 & 2 & 2 & 6 \\
Cash rent & 2 & 2 & 2 & 6 \\
Length of lease & 2 & 2 & 2 & 6 \\
Close to town & 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
Near school & 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
Health & 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
Reared by owner of farm & 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
Wanted change & 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
Making money & 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
Previously owned & 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
\hline
Total & 148 & 52 & 79 & 279 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\footnotesize{\begin{itemize}
\item Includes owners additional.
\end{itemize}}

A glance at the above shows that 74 of the owners, or 50 percent, are on present farms because the farm previously belonged to some relative, all but three of them having belonged to their fathers or fathers-in-law. Price ranked second, and nearness to home farm and pleasantness of community ranked third and fourth in their selection of farms. Of the related tenants and managers 47 or 90.3 percent are
renting from their fathers and fathers-in-law. Of the unrelated tenants and managers 47.5 percent claim that they had no choice in the selection of rented farms. The "gentlemanliness" of the landlord seems very outstanding in the choice of farms for those tenants who could exercise some choice. Pleasant community, productive land, the size of farm and pasture, and amount of rent, seemed the deciding factors with the majority of the other farmers.

**LENGTH OF CONTRACT**

Of 153 farmers who rent land:
There were 2 whose contract or lease was for less than 1 year.
There were 94 whose contract was 1 year.
There were 8 whose contract was 2 years.
There were 13 whose contract was 3 years.
There were 13 whose contract was 5 years.
There were 23 whose contract ran indefinitely. (Two-thirds of these tenants were related to the landlord.)

In other words, 63 percent of the contracts run for one year or less. Many have no written contract, only a verbal contract. This is more generally true among the tenants who are related to their landlords.

**FORMS OF TENANCY**

Cash tenancy generally prevails. Of 145 tenants:
There are 106 cash tenants.
There are 36 share tenants.
There are 3 share-cash tenants.

The 1920 census gives the following for Cedar county as a whole:
There are 668 cash tenants.
There are 171 share tenants.
There are 39 share-cash tenants.
There are 32 unspecified.

A number of tenants expressed a strong desire for different leases. Eleven tenants desired better buildings and

**REASONS WHY TENANTS ARE TENANTS**

(Reasons given by tenants themselves)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related</th>
<th>Unrelated</th>
<th>Reasons given</th>
<th>Related</th>
<th>Unrelated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Intend to become operating owner</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>On farm of relative</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Can't buy</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Land too high here</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No money in it</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Likes this farm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>More money needed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prefers to rent (cheaper)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some gave two or more reasons.

*Includes owners additional.
more general improvements on the farm, five desired lower rents, two strongly desired longer lease and several wished a change from cash rent to share rent.

Of the tenants who gave specific reasons why they are tenants, 56 or one-third intend to become operating owners. Inability to buy land because of high land values and lack of money seem to be the principal reasons why so many are tenants. This was given as a reason 67 times. Nearly as large a percentage of related tenants give this reason as of the unrelated tenants.

THE LANDLORD

There are 189 landlords who own land within the area studied. Three-fourths of the landlords live within the surveyed area.

Of 136 landlords:
- There are 38 who are farmers.
- There are 52 who are retired farmers.
- There are 10 who follow a profession.
- There are 5 who are merchants.
- There are 4 who are bankers.
- There are 11 who are widows and maids.
- There are 16 who follow miscellaneous occupations, of whom 2 are real estate men, 2 are auctioneers, 2 are postmasters, 5 are garage men, and the others are a furniture dealer, a traveling salesman, a monument dealer, a trader and a stock buyer.

Besides the eight related farm owning tenants, and the 41 related non-farm owning tenants, 10 of the 49 owners additional are related to the owners of the land they rent.

Of these 59 farmers who are related to their landlords:
- There are 36 who are renting from their fathers or fathers-in-law.
- There are 15 who are renting from their mothers or mothers-in-law.
- There is 1 who is renting from an uncle.
- There is 1 who is renting from a cousin.

The majority of the landlords live from one to eight miles from their farms.

Of 166 landlords:
- There are 11 who live on the farm.
- There are 17 who live less than a mile from the farm.
- There are 6 who are renting from their mothers or mothers-in-law.
- There are 100 who live from 1 to 7.9 miles from the farm.
- There are 12 who live from 8 to 15.9 miles from the farm.
- There are 13 who live from 16 to 49.9 miles from the farm.
- There are 13 who live 50 or more miles from the farm.

The majority of the landlords, other than those who live on their farms and so can visit their farms daily, limit their visits to their farms from one to four a year.

Of 125 landlords:
- There are 17 who visit their farms daily (11 live on farms).
- There are 14 who visit their farms weekly.
- There are 4 who visit their farms twice a month.
There are 3 who visit their farms once a month.
There are 18 who visit their farms once every 3 months.
There are 31 who visit their farms once or twice a year.
There are 26 who visit their farms frequently.
There are 7 who visit their farms occasionally.
There are 5 who visit their farms rarely.

Seven of the landlords have an agent to look after their interests. Four of the agents have the power of an attorney for landlord.

Less than a third of the landlords have a personal interest in their tenants to the extent that they visit them in sickness, take an interest in the education of the tenant’s children, or help the tenant to secure credit.

The majority of the landlords own between 100 and 320 acres.

Of 152 landlords:
There are 17 who own less than 100 acres.
There are 90 who own between 100 and 320 acres.
There are 31 who own between 321 and 640 acres.
There are 13 who own between 641 and 1,280 acres.
There is 1 who owns over 1,280 acres.

One-sixth of the landlords bought their farms within the past three years and over a fourth of the landlords have their farms for sale.

But a very small number of the landlords are members of organizations for rural betterment.

Of the 189 landlords:
There are 8 who are members of organizations for better roads.
There are 15 who are members of organizations for better health.
There are 13 who are members of organizations for better schools.
There are 37 who are members of organizations for better farming.

Of 101 landlords:
There are 15 who hold offices, mostly county offices.
There are 91 who support churches.
There are 48 who send their children to the same school as do their tenants.

**OCCUPATION OF OPERATOR’S FATHER, AND OF OPERATOR’S WIFE’S FATHER**

The large majority of the fathers of both the husbands and of the wives are active farmers, retired farmers or other men who own farms.

Of the 398 fathers of the farm operators:
There are 341 or 85.7 percent who are or were owners of farms.
There are 21 or 5.3 percent who are or were tenants.
There are 35 or 8.8 percent who are tradesmen or are laborers.
There is 1 or 0.2 percent who is a professional man.

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*a* No information was secured of two of the 400 farmers, leaving 398 farmers, including the 10 who are deceased.

*b* No information was secured on five of the 368 farmers' wives leaving 363 farmers' wives, including the 10 who are deceased and the one who is divorced.
Of the 363 fathers of the farm operators' wives:
There are 275 or 75.7 percent who are or were owners of farms.
There are 34 or 9.4 percent who are or were tenants.
There is 1 or 0.3 percent who is a farm hand.
There are 46 or 12.7 percent who are tradesmen or are laborers.
There are 7 or 1.9 percent who are professional men.

Six percent less of the wives' fathers than of husbands' fathers are farmers or farm owners. More of them are tenants. There are also more professional men among the wives' fathers than among the husbands' fathers. This shows that women who are total strangers to the farm are more likely to go to the farm than men of the same class. Doubtless a number of the more than one-fifth of all the tenants who were not born on the farm as shown in table XIII are sons of men who themselves are not farmers but own farms.

**PERSONAL REMARKS ABOUT ECONOMIC-SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

**OWNERS**

"They told us last year to raise more hogs, then they combined to cut the price."

"Can't get help any more at a decent price. I'd like to see farmers strike for just two months."

"Too many farmers can't pay out on this land because they are poor managers. If some farmers would let their women wear the pants, things might go better around their farms. Too many farmers are riding in borrowed autos and buying 7 percent gas."

(Mrs.) "I can't raise any flowers. The hogs always destroy them."

"Farmers must learn to be less independent. He must consider the other fellow and he must study the problems in cooperation with his neighbors. Farmers need to be taught that more land and more money isn't all there is to living."

"The fellows who are scratching hardest to get more land and more money are the ones who are kicking hardest."

"Young man can pay out better today than when we started 38 years ago with eggs at 7 cents and corn at 15 to 20 cents."

"We've found it pretty hard to make a living and pay for our place, but it isn't much harder than renting and it'll be ours when it's paid for."

"I would rather have 40 acres and live than to have 12 forties and have to work so hard. A person wants to enjoy life."

(Mrs.) "I've had to work for what we've got. I've done the managing since my husband's death, as well as a good share of the work."

"I get 85 cents per hour running tractor on road grader."

"I have kept books (double entry) every year since I've been farming. (20 yrs.) It pays."

"Young men buying land can pay out at present prices more easily than they can rent."

"Misfortune which hindered financial progress, failure to marry; no one to do housework."

1 All remarks are direct quotations or quotations abbreviated, unless otherwise stated.
"We thought we would rather fix up our buildings and enjoy life than buy more land. Some people work so hard they don't get any benefit from their money."
"Bought to have a place of my own. Could have rented cheaper financially."
"We could move to town and live off of interest of money invested in this farm and live without so much hard work."
"I tell you, the farmers will quit farming if things don't change. There's nothing to it but slavery and we might as well have the old kind of slavery."
"Farming is good place to make money and be independent."
"It's nobody's business how much money I made and nobody's going to find out, if I can help it."
"Wife's folks started me in farming."
"We thought we might as well build our house and enjoy all its modern conveniences while we were paying for the farm."

(Landlord.) "Autos are the cause the tenants are not making money. They don't take any care of their machinery, either."
"Farmers must learn to cooperate in order to better conditions."
"Greatest drawback is labor problem."
"Labor greatest problem. Scarce and poor. Wish I had worked a year or two to start to get viewpoint of laborer."
"The hired man's worst fault is smoking."

(Mrs.) "I couldn't make anything teaching school. Taught ten years before marrying."
"Greatest drawback is getting help in house."
"Have got to keep a farm record book. I wouldn't have any idea how I am coming out if I didn't."
"I have no trouble with hired men. I take lots of farm papers because the hired men get interested and read them."
"Have typewriter, office desk, letter files, card index, large library."
"I lost out when I left the farm and followed other kinds of work for a couple of years."
"This place was sold three times last year, $215, $260, and $275."
"Farmers must apply business methods to farming. I must farm a little heavier and a little faster to pay out."

Man who married into five farms and is burdened with renting them out. "We have our own system of rotation and we dictate what shall be planted."

TENANTS

(Mrs.) "Farm is the best place to live to make money."
"I'm a good renter and as a result I can rent any farm for a dollar or two less than can the average renter."
"Landlord never comes out here for fear he'll see something to fix up."
"Landlord won't even buy a dime's worth of staples for me to fix fence."
"Landlord won't keep up place."
"I don't know much about the lease. I never read it."
"I'll farm only long enough to get money enough to start in something else, tho I like farm life."
"I got my education by practical experience." (4th grade extent of education.)
EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

EDUCATION OF THE FARMERS

Of 391 farmers:
- There are 285 or 73 percent who quit school in the grades.
- There were 89 or 23 percent who quit school in high school.
- There were 17 or 4 percent who quit school in college.
- One farmer in eight quit school even before getting as far as the sixth grade. But two farmers reached the fourth year in college.

EDUCATION OF THE FARMER'S WIFE

Of 354 farmers' wives:
- There were 219 or 62 percent who quit school in the grades.
- There were 117 or 33 percent who quit school in high school.
- There were 18 or 5 percent who quit school in college.

One farmer's wife in 19 quit school before getting as far as the sixth grade. Eleven percent more of the wives than of the husbands went beyond the eighth grade, tho none of the wives attended college more than three years.

EDUCATION OF FARMER'S CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT IN SCHOOL AND WHO ARE BEYOND SCHOOL AGE

Of 325 such children
- There are 166 or 51 percent who quit school in the grades.
- There are 134 or 41 percent who quit school in high school.
- There are 25 or 8 percent who quit school in college.

Eight of the children dropped out of school before reaching the seventh grade, and two even dropped out before reaching the sixth grade. Eleven percent more of the children went beyond the eighth grade than of their mothers and 22 percent more than of their fathers. A slightly larger number of children attended college than did their parents. Four reached their senior year in college.¹

EXTENT OF THE EDUCATION OF FARMERS, THEIR WIVES AND OF THEIR CHILDREN

(Number who have quit school and are beyond school age)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade*</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners (229)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Owner's wives (213)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Their children (265)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Their children (8)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Their children (2)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (1.251)¹</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹The education of all ages in the state as shown by the 1915 State Census is: some common school 76.2%, some high school 13.6% and some college education 6.6%.

One owner had no schooling; 1 owner and 1 owner's wife had schooling only thru second grade.

There is some duplication because children may be relisted as tenants, tenant wives, etc.
The figures show that 31 percent of the 1,251 adults beyond school age reached high school before dropping out of school and over five percent reached college before discontinuing their education. These figures also show that one farmer never attended school.

EDUCATION OF FARMER'S CHILDREN WHO ARE STILL IN SCHOOL OR ARE OF SCHOOL AGE

Of 430 children:
There are 361 or 83 percent who are in the grades.
There are 68 or 16 percent who are in high school.
There is 1 who is in college.
There are 213 children or 20 percent of the children who are too young to go to school.

SCHOOLS

The Stanwood consolidated school in September, 1920, had eight teachers in the high school (including junior high) and six in the grades. The average monthly salary of the high school teachers in 1919-1920 was $138 and of the grade teachers, $100. The monthly salaries of the two men on the high school faculty averaged $227. The salaries of the 11 drivers of the consolidated school wagons averaged $90 per month. Prices in general were at the peak at this time. Consolidation of school districts about Stanwood started in 1915 with 26 sections and was enlarged to 39 sections in 1919.
The Parent-Teacher association organized in 1917 is quite wide awake. Eleven of its 93 members are farmers.

The consolidated school at Mechanicsville, covering 28 sections, in 1920 had four grade teachers and five high school teachers (including junior high school). The superintendent’s salary in 1920 was $2,700 for the 12 months. The average yearly salary of the high school teachers was $1,300 and of the grade teachers, $945. The salaries of the drivers of the seven school wagons was $90 per month.

Manual training and domestic science are included in the school curriculum in both of these consolidated schools. Normal training is also taught at Mechanicsville. The total enrollment in the Mechanicsville school in 1919-1920 was 238, of which 107 came from farm homes. Of these 107 farm children, 26 are in high school, and of these two are children of tenants and 24 children of owner operators. Of the 81 farm children in the grades, 31 are children of tenants and 50 are children of owner operators. There are 4 grade and 11 high school tuition children enrolled, all children of owner operators. The total high school enrollment is 60. There is no Parent-Teacher association at Mechanicsville. The length of the school term in all schools included in this study is nine months.

There are ten one-room rural schools in the area, ranging in enrollment from 6 to 17, and averaging 12 pupils. The average salary of the ten teachers was $85 per month. An occasional basket supper is the only social activity found in all but one of these schools. This school gave some special programs in observance of some of the national holidays. The Centralized Oak Grove School is a union of four rural schools. The children in this district are transported in two wagons.1

The Tipton consolidated school is attended by all the pupils from Red Oak township whose homes are not included in the Stanwood district. This school, comprised of 72 sections and the largest consolidated school district in the state in 1920, had a total enrollment of 684. There are 14 teachers in the high school (including the junior high school) and 16 teachers in the grades.

The sentiment expressed by a number of the farsighted wives was consistent with the statement of one of the farmer’s wives who said,

“I have always said that if we are going to help our children get started on the farm, we would help them when they needed it and not let them ‘nigger’ along by themselves

1By the fall of 1922 all of these one room schools had been included in consolidated districts.
until they get a start and then give them some help in the way of money or stock when they didn’t need it. Many times parents keep their children out of school in the fall to save 50 or 60 dollars so that they could make a larger payment on the farm. Ten years hence the children would give a hundred times more for their education than for the paltry 50 to 60 dollars more they will inherit when the parents die.”

Malnutrition was found in many country children, even in those families where numerous milk cows were kept, due to rations not being properly balanced. Milk, fresh and canned vegetables are still not as widely and generally used as they should be on the farm for human food.

NUMBER OF FARMERS TAKING NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

Of 396 farmers:

There are 343 or 87 percent who take farm papers or farm magazines.

There are 321 or 81 percent who take daily papers.

There are 211 or 53 percent who take magazines other than farm magazines.

There are 175 or 44 percent who take daily newspapers, farm journals, and other magazines.

There are 7\(^1\) farmers who take no paper or journal or magazine of any kind. There are 44\(^2\) or 11 percent who take over nine papers, journals and magazines. The average number of papers and magazines taken by these 396 families is 5.8 papers per family. A great many farmers take three

\(^1\)Four are bachelors.
\(^2\)One takes 24 papers and magazines, another 16.
and many four local weekly newspapers. The farmers who hold county offices, and those who are officers of organizations generally have the most papers and magazines.

But 11 of the 400 farmers had used books from the public library during the past year.

PERSONAL REMARKS ABOUT EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

OWNERS

"Education doesn't amount to anything unless you have experiment."  
(Mrs.) "Boy (14 yrs.) didn't care to go to school so we put him to work."  
"I wish I had more education. It would come handy in farming."  
"Regret my lack of knowledge regarding orchard work—spraying."  
"Want to sell farm in order to continue in college (age 24)."  
"I learned more after quitting school than I ever did before."  
(Highest schooling, fourth grade.)  
"Could have made a living easier if we'd had more schooling."  
"I ask my boys and girls to bring home library books but they don't read 'em if they bring 'em."  
(Not one of the seven children graduated from eighth grade.)  
"Have private library of over 800 volumes."  
(Six kinds of pure-bred livestock on farm.)  
(Mrs.) "We send children to town school. Country school not fit to send children to."  
"Farmers should give more attention to breeding up the family. Just as important as live stock. Proud of my son—a college graduate and a partner with me on the farm."  
"The business end of farming has had to be left largely to my wife. I had very little schooling."  
"We would sell our place and put money on interest, but there is nothing for a man without education to make a living at."  
"It will be good for the boy to go to college. One gets a broader view. Wish I had been more interested in education when I was young."

TENANTS

(Boy.) "I'd like to go to high school, but I won't try it."  
"My greatest misfortune was my refusal to attend school when young."  
"Don't have time to read."  
"I am going to give my children a good education even if I don't give them any property. I wish I had more schooling."  
"I haven't made as much money as some, but I've given my boys a taste of college life. That's just as good as more money."

RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS

Of 388 farmers and 357 farmers' wives:

There are 212 men or 55 percent who attend church.  
There are 257 women or 72 percent who attend church.  
There are 193 men or 50 percent who are members of a church.  
There are 266 women or 74 percent who are members of a church.  
There are 156 men or 40 percent who neither attend church nor are church members.  
There are 91 women or 25 percent who neither attend church nor are church members.
There are three churches in Stanwood, the United Presbyterian, the Evangelical Lutheran and the Methodist, each with a resident pastor. These pastors' salaries in 1920 averaged $1,400.

The United Presbyterian church body was organized in 1870. The Active Ladies Aid (Ways and Means) of 40 members was organized in 1905. The Woman's Mission society organized in 1884 now has 30 members. The Young People's society which started in 1882 has 35 members. There are no junior organizations. Fifty of the 131 members are farmers, 11 of whom are tenants and 39 are owner operators. Three of the five church officers are farmers.

The Lutheran church body was organized at Mechanicsville in 1880 and moved to Stanwood in 1893. A new church building under construction will have a seating capacity of 400. It will have a basement for Sunday school and social purposes. Thirty-two of the 59 Lutheran church members are farmers. Only three of them are tenants. Three of the eight church offices are filled by farmers.

The present Methodist church was erected in 1915. The first M. E. church was built in 1869. It has at present an active Ladies Aid and a live Women's Foreign Missionary Society, each of 60 members, that meet once a month. The Epworth League has 45 members, the Junior League 60 members, the Sunday school 90 members, and the Boys' class 20 members. Thirty girls compose the Standard Bearers and 30 boys the King's Heralds. Both meet once a month. The present minister has been there four years.

Of the 187 church members, 68 are farmers, 29 are tenants and 39 are owner operators. Two-thirds of the church officers are farmers.

There are five churches in Lisbon, Linn county, which some of Cedar county farmers attend. Three of these churches have resident ministers.

There are three churches in Mechanicsville, Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic. The two ministers and the priest reside in Mechanicsville. These ministers' salaries averaged $1,230 in 1920.

The Presbyterian church was organized in 1858. The present building was erected in 1906. It has a seating capacity of 400. Social rooms and a kitchen are in the basement. There is no Ladies Aid Society at present, no Young People's Society or Brotherhood Club. The Mission society of 42 members meets once a month and the Westminster Guild (young women) of 30 members, occasionally. Of the 134 members, 5 are tenants and 25 are owner operators. Four of the latter hold offices in the church.
The Methodist church has a seating capacity of 300. The basement is equipped with a kitchen and a Sunday school room. The Ladies' Aid and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society each meet once a month. The latter has a membership of 30. There is no Epworth League or any organized Young People's Class. Of the 166 church members 20 are tenants and 26 are owner operators of whom four of the latter and one of the former hold official positions in the church.

The Catholic church has on its membership roll 69 persons of whom 14 are tenants and 29 are owner operators, two of whom hold official positions in the church.

OPEN COUNTRY CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

One of the movements of which the surveyed part of Cedar county can well be proud is the community church work being done in the rural communities under the leadership of Rev. C. E. Thompson of Red Oak Grove. Starting in 1915 with one little Presbyterian church, sheltered in a rickety wooden building, this work has been expanded and has grown until at present the field includes four churches, which also serve as social centers. The original frame building at Red Oak Grove has been replaced with a fine new $22,000 church. (See figure.) The other three churches are frame buildings, each of which had previously been used.
by one or more other Protestant groups, but all of which had been abandoned prior to their recent revival.

Red Oak Grove Presbyterian church was the first of the four to be organized and now boasts of a membership of nearly 100 and its fine new church home. The building of this edifice was not considered as a problem for church members alone, but treated and met as a community problem. In the two years of its existence it has well repaid the community for its erection. In addition to providing for a place for the religious life of the community it is used as a social center for all rural meetings.

The local farm bureau meetings are held in the church auditorium. Frequently while the men discuss some agricultural problem in the auditorium the women meet downstairs and learn the newest ideas and practices in household management and community activities.

The church basement is also used as a polling place in time of elections and for political gatherings, to say nothing of the numerous suppers and socials held there during the course of a year. If more polling places were in churches the electorate might develop a more respectful and responsible attitude toward government and the duties of citizenship.

Shortly after Mr. Thompson's arrival at Red Oak, where he is resident pastor, he began holding Sunday services at New Olivet, which is the second church in this group. This
building had at one time been used as a union church and later services were held by the United Brethren, but it had been unused for some time before the present work was begun. With the renewal of services, interest grew and at the request of the community it was re-organized as a Presbyterian church, and is now used also as a community center, drawing its support partly from Linn and partly from Cass township. The church has grown to a membership of over 50 with a Sunday school of nearly 125. At present a small athletic field with accommodations for tennis, volley ball and basketball is being constructed on the church grounds.

The third community to feel the influence of Mr. Thompson's work was the village of Buchanan where a union church building had been standing idle for some time. This union church was taken over for this work. Altho the church in this needy community is still unorganized, regular services are being held and interest is steadily growing.

Recently a young man, Mr. Laurie, was added as assistant to the pastor's staff, to work especially with the young people. With this increase of staff a fourth church has been added to the field, known as the Coon Creek church, located in the extreme western part of Linn township. The Coon Creek church had previously been abandoned by another denomination. The Sunday school and church in this community are growing rapidly. This church is also being used as a local center by all the people of the community.

With two men on the field, rapid and constructive progress is being made in the life of these four communities, both socially and religiously. Young people's societies have been organized and more social life provided for the young people and children. A religious survey was taken recently which reveals new opportunities and new needs for service.

Three distinct community gatherings have been put on including the people of all four communities. In June one Sunday was used for the annual People's Day Gathering. At this time families from all the surrounding country gathered for a picnic dinner, followed by talks from a group of able speakers, and music. A Fourth of July picnic was held at Red Oak Park, the chief athletic attractions being ball games between teams from the four communities, races and a horseshoe contest. In August two weeks of union revival meetings were held in a tent near the New Olivet church, giving the work of all four of the churches a tremendous impetus. All these activities are regarded as community responsibilities and the burden borne and benefits reaped by the entire field.
The Buchanan church is located in the very small village of the same name, outside one corner of the surveyed area. The church draws its members and attendants largely from without the area. The other three churches are within the surveyed area and in the open country. Each is three or more miles from any village. There are eight rural churches within the surveyed area and the area served by these four churches, but the other four are either abandoned or closed.

These four churches, all under the direction of Mr. Thompson and his staff, form an experiment and demonstration field fostered jointly by the local communities and the Presbyterian Church Board as a means of determining what can be done thru the rural church in farming communities under the direction of a well-trained, understanding, and sympathetic leadership. The work is still in the experimental stage, but the fact that there are no other competing rural churches in the area and that one-half of the people in the area served by these churches are as yet not actively connected or affiliated with any of the religious activities of these churches, indicates the opportunities which are still ahead of this leadership.

PERSONAL REMARKS ABOUT RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS
OWNERS

"Went to church twice a day 14 years ago."
"We don't go to church much in winter because the roads are so bad."
"The lodge—that's my church."

(Mrs.) "I try to be a church member, but my husband isn't interested so I don't get a chance to go much."
"I am sorry to say we don't attend church. If the boys don't get started when they are young it is hard to get them to go later."
"We ought to be church members."
"We ought to go to church." (Lived here over 20 years.)
"I ain't been there to church since the spring of '77; of course I go to funerals and I will go over there some Sunday to see what they have on anyway."
Fig. 11. Three adult Sunday school classes of the same rural Sunday school
"Would like to rent farm—but will not rent to a man who is not a church goer. Renter must be a man who knows Sunday from a week day."

"We intend going to church, but haven't done it yet."

(Mrs.) "I don't go to church because the way people act in church disgusts me. They don't show any reverence at all."

"Going to church and Sunday school interferes with work."

"Secret of success in this country has been the getting of a live wire preacher."

"I don't attend church because the people have always scrapped as to which is best—Baptist, Lutheran, Reformed and Methodist. I quit 'em and I ain't supportin' no church."

"We ought to have a community house connected with every country church. Young people are bound to have fun. Churches used to be full Sunday nights but they now go to the picture shows in town. We should not allow picture shows on Sundays."

"Always went to church till I grew up, but I grew tired of it."

"Went to church before we were married. She ain't Catholic and we are."

"We haven't attended church since we moved here last spring."

"Hired man doesn't attend church because he can't sit still."

"Farm work interferes, need rest on Sunday."

"We went to church before we came out on the farm."

"Church doesn't amount to much. One or two women try to run the whole thing. Moreover, the preachers don't amount to much. They rave about what we ought not do and then come around and ask us to help support the church."

"Farmer doesn't have time to go to church."

"Haven't had time to go to church since I've been married."

"We never have clothes fit to go to church."

"Don't believe in such things. Would be a Catholic if I wanted to be anything."

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

**DISTANCE FROM FARM HOMES TO TRADING CENTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homes</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 or 2.8 percent less than a mile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115 or 29.3 percent from 1 to 2.9 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168 or 42.7 percent from 3 to 5 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99 or 25.2 percent over 5 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearly a third of the farmers live less than three miles from their trading center, and 75 percent live five miles or less. Mechanicsville and Stanwood are the only two trading centers in the area of practically 128 square miles covered in this study. Tipton, Lisbon, Cedar Bluffs and Buchanan, all within two miles of some part of the territory covered by this survey, are other trading centers of some of these farmers.

**DISTANCE TO COMMON SCHOOL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homes</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69 or 17.7 percent less than a mile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169 or 43.5 percent from 1 to 2 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151 or 38.8 percent over 2 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1These were the distances to common school when the area was surveyed in 1920. All the schools are now, 1922, consolidated. The distances to common school and high school, as shown on the next page, are now the same.
The distance to common school may seem rather far. This is because the larger portions of these townships lie within three consolidated school districts. These consolidated schools are at Mechanicsville, Stanwood and Tipton, and there is also a centralized school at Oak Grove. The pupils from four rural schools attend this school. Consolidated school wagons haul the country children from the major portion of three townships to the consolidated schools.

**DISTANCE TO HIGH SCHOOL**

_Homes_

- 60 or 15.6 percent less than 2 miles
- 212 or 55.4 percent from 2 to 5 miles
- 111 or 29 percent over 5 miles

The consolidation of the school districts about Stanwood started in 1915 with 26 sections. The consolidated school district was enlarged in 1918 and 1919 to the present size of 39 sections, a considerable number of sections were also added to the Tipton consolidated school district in 1920. The school districts about Mechanicsville were consolidated in 1918. Each of these three consolidated schools maintains a high school. Thus 71 percent of the farm homes in the area are five miles or less from a high school and only 29 percent of the farm homes are over 5 miles from high schools.

**DISTANCE TO CHURCH**

_Homes_

- 124 or 32.8 percent less than 2 miles
- 242 or 64 percent from 2 to 5 miles
- 12 or 3.2 percent over 5 miles

There are three churches at Mechanicsville, three at Stanwood, and five in the open country area, three of which are abandoned. The different churches at Tipton and the churches at four other towns outside of these townships are also attended. Practically a third of the farmers are within two miles of a church, and 96.8 percent are five miles or less from church.

**DISTANCE TO MAIL BOX**

_Homes_

- 185 or 47 percent less than 40 rods
- 195 or 48 percent from 40 to 320 rods
- 20 or 5 percent over 1 mile

Three rural free delivery mail routes from Mechanicsville, two each from Tipton and Lisbon, and one each from Stanwood and Olin traverse the territory covered by this survey, bringing the mail daily to each of the 400 farm homes. Forty-six percent of the farmers have less than a fourth of a mile to go for their daily mail, and only 20 of the farmers,

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1See also Educational Conditions.
2See also Religious Conditions.
or 5 percent, are more than one mile from their mail boxes.

MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS

Of 390 farmers, 119 or 30.5 percent are members of lodges and 260 or 66.33 percent are members of farm organizations.¹

MECHANICSVILLE HAS SEVEN LODGES

The Masonic lodge was organized in 1858. Its membership at present is 109, of whom 31 are farmers. Two of the six offices in the lodge are held by farmers. The social room is open to its members at all times and the lodge is progressing.

The Eastern Star was organized in 1905 with 25 charter members. It now has 123 members, of whom six are farm women. They hold monthly meetings and have eight additional social meetings a year. They maintain no social parlors nor reading room for young ladies.

The Modern Woodmen was organized with 40 charter members and now has 91 members. Twenty-nine are farmers. Five of the official positions are held by the farmers.

The Odd Fellows lodge was organized in 1868. Its membership totals 73 of whom 21 are farmers. Two of the ten positions of the lodge are held by farmers. Of the farmers 14 are tenants.

The Rebecca lodge was organized in 1904 and ordinarily meets twice a month. Twenty-three of the 97 members are

¹Farm Bureau mostly.
farmers or farm women. One of them holds an office in the lodge. The attendance is good both winter and summer, tho they have no social room.

The Brotherhood of American Yeomen has a membership of 16 persons; eight are farmers. They have no meetings and have no officers at present.

The Royal Neighbors organized in 1907 with 30 charter members. Both men and women are members. The lodge now has 50 members, of whom five are tenants or tenants' wives and nine are owners or owners' wives. The lodge is not very active at present, especially in summer.

One hundred thirty-four of all the members of these seven lodges do not live in the community at the present time.

The American Legion was organized in 1920 and meets once a month and aims to have two dances per month besides. Thirty-two of the 84 members are farmers. The Legion has a building, including social rooms, for meetings and gatherings. The leaders say the farm boys do not take the interest they should in the social affairs that the organization puts on. The Legion allows no gambling in its rooms.

The Mechanicsville band has 16 members of whom three are farmers. One member holds an official position in the American Legion.

A Boys' Scout Troup numbering 20 members was organized by the superintendent of public schools in 1918. It aims to meet once a week during the school year. Some of the farmers have not been willing for their sons to join the Scouts, doubtless due to a lack of understanding of the purposes of the Boy Scout movement.

The moving picture theater gives shows twice a week. The building seats 180. The manager complains of the poor support of the town people, thereby necessitating poorer pictures being shown.

From this record of going organizations it is evident that this town provides little in the way of well-organized activities for the boys and girls and the young people.

STANWOOD HAS FIVE LODGES

The Masonic lodge, organized in 1912, has about 51 members. Twelve are tenants and seven are owner operators. One-third of the officers are farmers.

The Eastern Star lodge was organized in 1919. Many were former members at Mechanicsville and Clarence. Of the 62 members 16 are tenants1 and 13 are owner operators. One-third of the officers are farmers.

The Modern Woodmen has been organized 32 years. It has 66 members. Meetings for election of officers are prac-

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1Largely their wives.
tically the only meetings held at present. Sixteen of the members are farmers. Three of the ten offices of the lodge are filled by farmers.

The Royal Neighbors, organized 20 years ago, meets twice a month for business sessions. Of its 35 present members one is a farmer.

The Modern Brotherhood was organized 24 years ago with 21 charter members. No meetings have been held for six or seven years. The society has fifteen members at present and of these three are farmers.

The Women's Relief Corps was organized in 1919 in response to efforts of state and district representatives. The charter membership of 25 has grown to 45 in two years. Thirteen of its members are farmers’ wives; one is the wife of a tenant.

The American Legion aims to meet once a month. It has no social programs other than dances. Fifteen of the 25 members are farmers, of these three are tenants and 12 are owner operators or operators’ sons.

The Parent-Teacher association has a membership of 93. Of these one is a tenant, ten are owners or owners’ wives, and 72 members are from the village. This last number includes all the teachers. “The object of the association is to put education of children above other things.” It was organized in 1917 and has a number of strong committees working on different problems.

A troop of Boy Scouts of 20 members is now active. The Scouts were organized by the superintendent of schools in 1918. The present scout master is a local dentist. The Scouts aim to meet once per week during the school year and not so often during the summer vacation. The troop has taken a number of hikes. Here too a number of farmers who have boys of Scout age refuse to permit their sons to join. Of the 20 scouts one is the son of a tenant, eight are sons of owner operators and one is the son of a landlord.

A group of 14 girls was organized as Campfire Girls by one of the high school teachers. Of this group two are daughters of tenants, four of owner operators and two of landlords.

The operator of the Stanwood pool room says that farmers occasionally or seldom patronize his place.

HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE FARMERS

People must enjoy good health to be socially as well as economically efficient. Among these 400 families there were 93\(^1\) persons who within the past year suffered from some ailments.

\(^1\)Eleven stated no specific ailments.
ailment of which the more serious are: stomach trouble, 16; kidney trouble, 12; rheumatism troubles, 12; tuberculosis, 8; accident, 5; heart trouble, 5. Three each suffered from liver trouble, asthma, appendicitis and "disturbances in the head." Two each suffered from "flu," blood poisoning, goitre and sunstroke.

NUMBER OF DEATHS, CAUSES AND AGE AT DEATH

Of the 154 deaths in the history of the 400 families in the surveyed area, 74 or 48 percent were infants
41 or 27 percent were children
39 or 25 percent were adults.

Some information was secured as to the cause of the 154 deaths—
39 died from infant diseases
30 were stillborn
11 died from pneumonia
9 died from bowel trouble diseases
7 died from influenza
5 died from accident
4 each died from tuberculosis, brain and spinal disease and heart disease
2 each died from appendicitis, cancer, old age, army service in France
2 each died from typhoid, kidney disease, ptomaine poisoning, childbirth and "defectiveness."
1 each died from mastoiditis, suicide.
HOME AND FARMSTEAD

The size of the average household in this surveyed area is 4.22 persons; the households of the owners averages 4.33 persons and of the tenants 4 persons. In seven households there are 9 persons, in four households 10 persons, in three households 11 persons, and in one household 12 persons.

There are enough automobiles in the surveyed area to carry the entire population at one load. Less than ten percent of the families have no car and a number have two cars.

The following figures indicate what equipment the farm women have to work with, something of the environment of the house and what work the women do outside of the house.

Of 400 farm homes and farmsteads:¹
86 percent of owners and 72 percent of tenants, or 80 percent of all homes have screens.
94 percent of owners and 93 percent of tenants, or 94 percent of all homes have cellars or basements.
40 percent of owners and 20 percent of tenants, or 31 percent of all homes have modern heating systems.
24 percent of owners and 13 percent of tenants, or 20 percent of all homes have running water.
21 percent of owners and 11 percent of tenants, or 18 percent of all homes have bathtubs and indoor toilet.
26 percent of owners and 11 percent of tenants, or 20 percent of all farm homes have electricity or gas.
88 percent of owners and 94 percent of tenants, or 91 percent of all homes have telephone.

¹Managers' homes are included with tenants and owners additional homes are included with owners.
88 percent of owners and 79 percent of tenants, or 84 percent of all homes have grass plots or lawns.
38 percent of owners and 30 percent of tenants, or 35 percent of all homes have walks to buildings.
90 percent of owners and 92 percent of tenants, or 91 percent of all homes have trees or shrubs.
59 percent of owners and 39 percent of tenants, or 51 percent of all homes have flower beds.
84 percent of owners and 83 percent of tenants, or 84 percent of all homes have a fence around yard.

**Dates When Farm Homes Were Built Or Last Remodeled**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of homes</th>
<th>1840-50</th>
<th>1850-60</th>
<th>1860-70</th>
<th>1870-80</th>
<th>1880-90</th>
<th>1890-100</th>
<th>1900-10</th>
<th>1910-20</th>
<th>1915-20</th>
<th>1920</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners (230)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenants (141)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1In some cases the present resident did not know the date on which the house was built, so the houses are not included in the above figures.
2Managers are included with tenants here.

Fifteen of the owners' homes are one-story buildings, 64 are one and one-half stories high, 151 are two stories high and two are two and one-half stories high. Of the tenant houses 12 are one story high, 54 are one and one-half stories high, 85 are two stories high and two are two and one-half stories high.

The average number of rooms in all the homes is 7.8. The average number of rooms in all owner houses is 7.9, and the average number of bedroom rooms is 3.9. The corresponding figures for the tenants' homes are 7.7 and 3.7.

A slightly larger number of tenants than of owners have telephones, but in practically all other respects the homes and farmsteads of owners are better equipped than the tenant homes. But two homes in ten have running water and either electricity or gas, somewhat fewer have bath tubs and indoor toilets. Nearly half of the homes are marked by the absence of beds of flowers, grass, paint and general equipment. With a little work and very little expense many of these places could be made attractive, homelike and a good place to live.

The size of the garden of 37 percent of the farmers was under 1/4 of an acre and of 96 percent of the farmers it was 1 acre or less.

Four percent of the farmers had no gardens.

Half of the farmers had their gardens 50 feet or less from the farm house, and 93 per cent had their gardens 100 feet or less from the house.

149 percent.
SIZE OF FARM HOMES IN ROOMS AND NUMBER OF BED-ROOMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of homes</th>
<th>1 to 4 rooms</th>
<th>5 to 8 rooms</th>
<th>9 to 12 rooms</th>
<th>13 to 16 rooms</th>
<th>17 to 20 rooms</th>
<th>21 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owners* (235)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenants² (183)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Two farms have no houses on them, farmers live in town.
†Managers are included with tenants here.
²Four of these houses contain only one bedroom each. One of these four houses contains but one room, a bachelor lives in this during spring and summer only, one contains two rooms, and two, three rooms each. One of the four-room houses contains three rooms that are used as bedrooms, and one of the three-room houses contains two bedrooms, one of the two three-room houses is on a 220-acre farm.
³Four six-room houses had four bedrooms each, and four five-room houses have three bedrooms each.
⁴There is one seven-room house with but two bedrooms and one contains five bedrooms. Ten eight-room houses have five bedrooms each.
⁵Four nine-room houses have but three bedrooms each. One ten-room house has seven bedrooms.
⁶Of these sixteen houses twelve are eleven-room houses, three twelve-room houses and one is a fifteen-room house. Five of the eleven-room houses contain four bedrooms each. The fifteen-room house is not modern, was built in 1870, is on 160-acre farm and is occupied by four persons.
⁷One of these houses contains two rooms, two others contain three each, the other four, four rooms each. Each of the three-room houses and the two-room houses contain one bedroom each. The two-room house and one of the three-room houses are occupied by bachelors and the other by a man, his wife and one child eleven years old. The two-room house was built in 1920.
⁸Of the six-room houses have four bedrooms each, and the other has only one bedroom.
⁹Two of the seven-room houses and seven of the eight-room houses contain five bedrooms each.
¹⁰Three of the nine-room houses contain three beds each.
¹¹Two of the eleven-room houses have only four bedrooms. Of these thirteen houses two are twelve-room size and two contain fourteen rooms each. One of the fourteen-room houses is located on a 240-acre farm and is occupied by a family of nine, the other is located on a 280-acre farm and is occupied by a young man and his wife. Both are old houses.

One farmer in six has no fruit trees on his farm. Of those who have fruit trees, one-fifth have less than ten trees, almost one-third have between ten and 30 fruit trees, one-fifth have 30 to 50 fruit trees and almost one-third have over 50 fruit trees.

One farmer, in order to get to his house, must go thru the barnyard.

Most of the farmers are progressive and practical. One farmer had a hog worth $5,000. One farmer spent over $1,000 in advertising his fall hog sale.

There were very few lazy farmers. For the most part the farmers worked a reasonable number of hours per day and quit. Some men and women seemed to consider it an honor if they could say, “I am so busy I don’t have time to read, or study,” instead of considering it an indication of bad management or a disinclination to advance.
THE WORK FARM WOMEN DO OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE

Of the 215 owners' wives living, 178 or 83 percent do some work outside the house.
160 or 74 percent of all wives take care of chickens, of whom 1 percent only help with chickens.
153 or 71 percent of all wives take care of garden, of whom 3 percent only help with garden.
22 or 10 percent of all wives milk cows, of whom 4 percent only help with milking. Over one-fourth of those who milk or help with milking do not care for garden or chickens.
27 or 13 percent of all wives work in field1 and 3 percent more do chores or help with chores. One-half of those doing field work do not take care of either garden or chickens.

10 or 5 percent of all these farmers keep their children out of school to do field work some part of the school year.

Of the 143 tenants' wives living, 109 or 76 percent do some work outside the house.
100 or 70 percent take care of chickens, of whom 1 percent only helps with chickens.
93 or 65 percent take care of garden, of whom 4 percent only help with garden.
16 or 11 percent milk cows, of whom 3 percent only help with milking.
15 or 10 percent do some field work.2 One-third of those who work in field do not take care of garden or chickens.

1The field work varied from one and one-half day's shocking oats to eight months with field work. One woman whose husband wasn't well and who has seven children, one, an adult daughter, did the eight months' field work. The next highest was 30 days of field work. The field work was of every kind of work on the farm.
2The field work varied from five days ploughing corn to two months of all kinds of farm work. This too was a case where the husband wasn't well. The next highest record of field work was four weeks.
4 or 3 percent of the farmers kept children out of school for field work a part of the school year.

In some instances families with more than sufficient wealth for all economic needs as long as they lived were still working themselves to death to get more wealth without enlarging their capacity for a larger and richer enjoyment of life as they went along. Such families prove very conclusively that simply to enhance a family's economic status without at the same time developing in its members larger and richer wants and desires for better living adds nothing to the meaning of life for them.

PERSONAL REMARKS ABOUT SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OWNERS

"We are too far from town to belong to a lodge or anything like that."
(Mrs.) "I wish we had some way to get acquainted. We need some spirit in this community."
(Mrs.) "Farm women, and men too, are so afraid to take hold of anything helpful. Average farm women can't be made or coaxed to give a talk or read a paper on any topic of general interest. Farm life can be made as desirable or as satisfying as town life, but it should have recreation and entertainment of different sort. Why can't this county have a home demonstration agent?"
"We take things easier than some. Some of us neighbors get together about five times per summer and have our picnics."
"Neighborhood spirit now prevalent due to preacher—he is a live wire."
"Farmers are not as sociable and as sympathetic of each other's needs as they should be."
"Wife doesn't visit with neighbors because she has difficulty with language."
(Mrs.) "The social problem is our greatest problem—something must be done in our community. I hope your survey will do this community some good."
Attributes Red Oak community spirit to the present county agent and the vice-president of township Farm Bureau, a preacher. "Present spirit of helpfulness was not evident three years ago."
"When I can't get along with everyone in neighborhood, I'm ready to move out."
(Mrs.) "Having to work with Ladies' Aid on days of Farm Bureau picnics and other days when ladies should have privilege of enjoying (listening to) Farm Bureau program."
"The better community spirit and the more regard for neighbors than formerly is due to present preacher."
(Mrs.) "People in country need some sort of social gatherings. Our club has helped out wonderfully."
"We've never been any place but here, except as we change work with the neighbors."
"Have no social life here. Have no time to get into anything. Haven't any neighbors even." (Lived here a year and a half.)

NOTE: In most cases where children were kept out of school to work the child was either in the eighth grade or had completed the eighth grade. In some cases the reason for this action was given that the child didn't want to go to school. The time children were kept out of school varied from a few days to an entire year.
"It wouldn't be so bad here if we only had some way to get acquainted with folks." (Moved here in March.)

"Farmers won't be neighborly like they used to be. Soon as one makes a dollar more than the other fellow he gets sore."

"I crave social times, yet husband is not congenial. Husband is not much company, but I'm lonesome when he's gone."

"People, owners or renters, have to make their own enjoyment. Improved homes won't make it. Modern things isn't all there is to farm life."

(Mrs.) "We don't neighbor much any more since we have the telephone."

"Farmers are the hardest people to get together. There's usually two sides to each attempt. Here there's usually as many sides as there are farmers."

"We are starving for a chance to mix with neighbors."

"The country club lightens the life for the young folks."

"I'm too busy inside to pay much attention to outside affairs. I don't even know how many acres there are in this farm."

"Farm life is just what you make it. You can make it enjoyable or miserable."

"We do not belong to any organization of any kind. We are independent."

"Farmer must learn to cooperate. He now brings on many conditions which confront him thru failing to be neighborly."

"I am willing to do anything that is for the good of the community."

"I guess country people are just as good as town people. What country people need now is a leader."

(Mrs.) "I like to dance as well as anyone, but I think it is awful for people to go to dances here for they are so perfectly terrible."

The above comments have a great local value in that they indicate to local leaders the range in attitude of the local people. They also make or imply many valuable suggestions.
and indicate possibilities. To the student of rural life they are a measure or barograph of both rural attitudes and possibilities. Some of them, a minority however, are as truly meat for the pessimist as the others are meat for the optimist.

**HIRED LABOR**

**NUMBER OF HIRED MEN EMPLOYED**

One hundred thirty-one or 32 percent of the 400 farmers employ hired men; 69 of the owners and owners additional have one hired man each, five have two hired men each, and one has three hired men. Twenty-seven percent of the 188 owners have hired men, and 49 percent of the 49 owners-additional have hired men. These figures show that owners additional have hired men in a larger percentage of cases than do owners; they also operate larger farms. Fifty tenants (including one manager) have one hired man each, five have two hired men each and one tenant has three hired men.

But one of the managers has a hired man. Other managers occasionally hire men for a few days. The owners of three of the farms operated by managers help with the farm work during the busy seasons.

**CLASSIFICATION BY NATIVITY**

Of the 145 hired men working on these farms 138 or 95.3 percent are native born. Of these native born hired men 57 were born in the community, 24 in Iowa, and 55 in the United States. Two did not state their place of birth.

Thirty-five of the hired men are married. All of their wives except two are native born. Nine of the wives were born in the community, nine in Iowa and 16 in the United States.

**AGE AND CONJUGAL CONDITIONS**

35 or 24.1 percent of all the hired men are married. 67 or 46.2 percent of all the hired men are under 25 years. 39 or 26.9 percent of all the hired men are between 25 and 35. 21 or 14.5 percent of all the hired men are between 35 and 45. 10 or 6.9 percent of all the hired men are between 45 and 54. 7 or 4.8 percent of all the hired men are between 55 and 65. 1 or .7 percent of all the hired men is over 65 years.

Their wives are also quite young. 16 or 45.7 percent of wives of hired men are under 25 years. 28 or 80. percent of wives of hired men are under 35 years. 7 or 20. percent of wives of hired men are under 35 years or more of age (of whom 2 are over 45 years).

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*aOne hired man was divorced and the wives of three are deceased.*
AGE AT MARRIAGE

Four of the men married under 18 years, eight between 18 and 20 years, 15 between 21-25 years, seven between 26-30 years, and one over 30 years. Sixteen of their wives were under 20 years when they married, of whom one was under 16 years. Thirty or 81 percent were 25 years or younger when they married. Fourteen or 26 percent of the married men have no children. A number of these hired men have been married but a short time. Eight families have one child each, seven families have two children each, ten have three or more each, of whom one has six children and one nine children.

DISTRIBUTION OR RANGE IN THE AGE OF LIVING CHILDREN

Number of families where all children are:
Under 5 years of age—8.
Under 10 years of age—15.
Under 15 years of age—21.
Over 15 years of age—3.

It will be noted that in over half the families the children fall into the two age groups, under five and under ten.
But three families have children who are old enough to take their parent's places in general farm work.

EDUCATION

Ninety-eight or 68.5 percent of these hired men quit school in the grades, 40 or 28 percent quit school while in high school, and five or 3.5 percent went beyond high school. Two did not state the extent of their education. Eight discontinued their school education as early as in the fifth grade, five survived part way thru the sixth, and eight discontinued their education in the seventh grade. Two have had four years of college education. Twenty-eight, or 73.7 percent, of 38 living and deceased wives went to high school, but none of them went beyond the high school. Yet, but two or 5.3 percent of the women quit school before reaching the eighth grade, while 21 or 14.7 percent of the men stopped before reaching the eighth grade.

These parents have 61 children of whom 26 or 42.6 percent are too young for school. Those of school age are scattered in all the elementary grades except four who are either not in school or beyond school age. Six are in the eighth grade, two each in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades and nineteen in the first four grades.

1Includes the 1 child of divorced parents.
SIZE OF THE FARMS ON WHICH THE HIRED MEN WORK

- 3 work on farms smaller than 100 acres.
- 37 work on farms from 100 to 174 acres.
- 50 work on farms from 175 to 259 acres.
- 48 work on farms from 260 to 499 acres.
- 7 work on farms from 500 acres upward.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON THIS FARM

Of the number of hired men who were interviewed on how long they had been on the present farm as hired men, five stated ten years or more, one said nine years, one, eight years, one, seven years, three, three years, seven, two years, 12, one year and 62 less than one year. These figures would seem to indicate that the tenure of the average hired man is rather short. In some cases this is of course due to the fact that some of the farmers do not keep hired men but a few months of the year.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE FATHERS OF HIRED MEN AND THEIR WIVES

One hundred nineteen of the hired men gave the occupations of their fathers. Seventy-three or 61.3 percent of the hired men’s fathers were owners of farms, 22 or 18.5 percent were tenants, and five or 4.2 percent are hired men, making a total of 84 percent engaged in agricultural pursuits. Eighteen, or 15.1 percent, of the hired men’s fathers had trades or were common laborers. The father of but one hired man was a professional man.

Of the 31 hired men’s wives whose fathers’ occupations were obtained, 17, or 54.8 percent, are farm owners, and nine, or 29 percent, are tenants, making a total of 83.8 percent engaged in farming. The same percentage of the fathers of both the hired men and their wives are farmers, but 6.5 percent more hired men’s fathers are farm owners than are the fathers of the hired men’s wives. Five fathers of hired men’s wives are common laborers or follow a trade.

ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH THE HIRED MEN BELONG.

- 55 attend church.
- 46 are church members.
- 59 or 40.7 percent neither attend church nor are church members.
- 24 belong to lodges.
- 2 belong to farm organizations.
- 2 hired men’s wives belong to women’s clubs.
- 15 take farm journals.
- 21 take other magazines and newspapers.

OTHER OR PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF HIRED MEN.

Of 117 hired men:
- 18 are students. 1 is mechanic.
- 12 are farmers. 1 is carpenter.
- 10 were in service (during war). 73 are laborers.
- 1 is teacher. 1 is chiropractic doctor.
RELATION OF HIRED MEN OR THEIR WIVES TO THEIR OPERATOR.

35 or 24 percent are related to their farm operators.
110 or 76 percent are not related to their farm operators.

HOUSING PROVISIONS.

Of the 82 hired men working for owners (and owners additional) 21 or 27 percent live in separate houses. The other 60, or 73 percent, live with the operator or other hired man.

Of the 63 hired men working for tenants (including one manager) 14 or 22 percent live in separate houses and the other 49, or 78 percent, live with the operator or other hired man.

WAGES OF HIRED MEN.

Cash Wages:
1 receives $1,000 per year.
1 received $110 per month.
3 receive $85 per month.
7 receive $80 per month.
13 receive $75 per month.
14 receive $70 per month.
21 receive $65 per month.
40 receive $60 per month.
11 receive $55 per month.
11 receive $50 per month.
5 receive $45 per month.
1 receives $40 per month.
1 receives $30 per month.
1 receives $3.50 per day.
1 receives $3.00 per day.

Practically all hired men in these townships work by the month. Seventy percent of the hired men receive cash wages of $60 or more per month.

Besides the cash wages the following considerations are given the hired men:

In addition to the cash wages, board and lodging is furnished to 107 hired men, of whom 9 hired men are also provided with horse, 2 with horse feed, 2 with use of auto, 4 with fuel and 1 with a garage. Most of the married men are provided with a house and garden and with the additional provisions such as cow and chicken feed, meat, milk, wood, garden, and pasture.

HIRED WOMEN.

Ten farmers had one hired woman each (five owners, including owners additional, four tenants, and one manager). Their farms averaged 205 acres. The smallest was 100 acres and the largest 435 acres. These farmers were comparatively young. In but two instances were both the husband and wife over 30 years. All had families; five had two small children, two had one small child (or baby) each, and the others had more than two children each.

The hired women are all quite young. The youngest was 16 years and the oldest 28 years. Six of the hired girls had
attended high schools. The other four had quit school while in the grades. All were born in Cedar county or in adjoining counties. One girl had worked two years on present farm. Their wages ranged from $5 to $9 per week, plus board and lodging. Two received $8 per week, two $7 per week, and the others received less except one who received a salary of $400 per year.

HIRED HELP’S OPINIONS AND REMARKS.

(Mrs.) “Time some one was studying rural conditions. Glad to give you all the information I can. Some owners seem to think they own everything. I like to get some enjoyment out of life.”

“Farmers must get organized to get control of prices of farm products.”

“I didn’t join the Farm Bureau this year as I couldn’t see that it did any good.”

“I could save up a little on present wages ($55.00) if I had my car paid for. But a farm hand must have a way to travel. He has to get to town.”

(Mrs.) “The farm is the only place for a family to live, whether owner, renter or hired man.”

“Farmers need above all things to learn to cooperate. Can have no result in shortening span between producer and consumer until they do.”
INTERRELATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE TRADE CENTERS AND OPEN COUNTRY SURROUNDING THEM

There are two trade centers within the area surveyed. Mechanicsville, with a population of 811, and Stanwood, 566. Both are located on the main line of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad. Each has a good trade territory to draw from.

Each town has the usual line of stores, shops, elevators and post office found in the average Iowa town of similar size. In addition each has three churches, each with a resident pastor. Mechanicsville has seven lodges and Stanwood has five. Each also has a good consolidated school. Each town also has a newspaper, the Mechanicsville Pioneer Press with a circulation of 900, and the Stanwood Herald, with a circulation of 600. Mechanicsville has two pool halls and Stanwood one. One of the pool halls in Mechanicsville claims to do a weekly business of $150 and the other a weekly business of $75. This town also has one moving picture theater with a seating capacity of 180.

The physicians and veterinarians live in these or other villages which serve the rural people of this area as trade centers. All the churches of the area except three1 open country churches are in these villages. More than one-half of all the rural children attend consolidated schools located in these villages and the lodges and American Legion posts are made up of both open country and village members. The annual county school play and picnic day, the annual homecoming day and the annual county fair, all held at the county seat, Tipton, are well attended and patronized by both the open country and village people.

Yet while there are these numerous evidences of common interests, mutual interdependence and reliance of each group upon the other, there is little evidence that there is really a conscious recognition of the fact by the majority of either of these groups. For this reason there has been little thinking and planning by any considerable number in either group for the constructive building and development of a community life and efficiency which would mean dividends to both groups in the form of greater prosperity and larger living. The evidence and effects of this condition are more obvious with reference to one of the villages of this territory and the people round about than in the case of the other, but both suffer from this unnecessary under-development.

1One of the four open country churches shown under religious conditions is located just outside of the surveyed area.
So far the groupings or activities which have involved both country and village people have been mainly accidental, "cliquish," that is, including some and excluding others, or selfish. All of these come down to the belief that the advantage to some must come out of others, or that the prosperity of one group must come out of the prosperity or well-being of the other. This is still the old militaristic idea of one gaining by the other’s loss. The greater truth that by productive and constructive thinking, planning and serving both groups can go up together to a higher prosperity and well-being, just as certainly as both will go down together if either group suffers a calamity, has not yet been received and accepted in many communities as a present day common interest substitute for the old non-specialized individualism of a past age. Yet if life in Iowa is to be its best there must be prosperity and well-being on both the farm and in the village or town, and if therefore both have the same goal or aim in view the best and surest way for both to reach that common goal is to work together to that end. For surely if both want the same thing both cannot have it by each taking it away from or out of the other, when those two comprise the whole of a thing, as do our town and country populations. They can, however, have it together, by working together and recognizing their mutual or common interests which are today larger and more numerous than their individual interests.

PERSONAL REMARKS WHICH INDICATE CONTENTMENT OR DISCONTENTMENT ON THE FARM, AND SATISFACTION OR DISSATISFACTION WITH EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS.

OWNERS:

“Foot and mouth disease was a fraud. If we’d shot the veterinarians instead of dogs we’d been better off.”

(Son) “Made $900 gambling in the army and spent it all just as fast as I could when I came home.”

“Your study (survey) is a good thing as it sets us fellows thinking. Some men are not broadminded enough to see any good in it and I can point them out for you. Farmer has to get along with his neighbor in order that both can get what is coming to them.”

“Farm Bureau is all right if we will go after it and get what it has to give us.”

“Farm roads in winter are biggest drawback to farm business. Interurbans within walking distance would possibly solve situation. Don’t look for paved roads soon.”

“Labor is getting too high strung. Hired man, as soon as he gets a job, he must have his car to ride around.”

“We ought to have more studies (farm life studies) of this sort, even if the farmers of the county have to pay for them.”

“People don’t know how much hard work there is on the farm, let ’em get out here and try it. But I can’t see as you’re going to do us any good with your social survey.”
Fig. 18. Map of Iowa, showing area where other rural social surveys have been or are being made by the rural sociology section

1. Orange Township, Blackhawk county. Bulletin No. 184
2. Lone Tree Township, Clay county. Bulletin No. 193
3. Four and One-Fourth Townships, Cedar county.
4. Jackson Township, Warren county
5. Sheldahl community, Polk, Story and Boone counties
6. Hudson consolidated school district, Blackhawk county.
7. Jessup consolidated school district, Blackhawk county
8. Jordan consolidated school district, Boone county
9. Gilbert consolidated school district, Story county

“Farmers need organization to make things worth while in country neighborhoods.”
“We are worried to death with assessors, income tax men and everything.”
“Best way to see what farmers are doing is by system of averages.”
“Farmers should take more interest in studies of this sort.”
“The only way to analyze rural life conditions is this study (survey) we must solve our own problems.”
“I would sell farm if it wasn’t for the boys.”
“I believe the country is the best place to bring up children.”

TENANTS:
“The worst part of farming is to get steady help.”
“I don’t talk much to the hired man, so we get along all right in that way.
“I’m not a Farm Bureau member, but I ought to be. The farmer must get on his own feet as a business man.”
(Mrs.) “Husband has too many public offices. Is away too much when he ought to rest.”
“Farmers should have a trained man available to look after orchards of the community.”
“Labor problem is biggest drawback to farming business. Laborers refuse to work on Sunday and fail to get up for breakfast. There is 25 percent more work on farm now than in 1917, that is, the operator must put in 25 percent longer day.”
“Biggest drawback to hired man job is a house for him to live in. Land is not too high if a man wants it for a home.”

“Don’t know whether to remain on farm or move to town. Too much work for people as old (56) as we are, but we’ll miss things off the farm in town.”

“Main drawback to farm life is getting help on farm. Men won’t work for what they are worth, and besides one can’t get ‘em.”

“The Farmer’s Union does not succeed because they are not financed properly. They can’t compete with Sears-Roebuck and other big concerns.”

(Mrs.) “That poultry culling demonstration the Agricultural Extension man gave here lately was the greatest thing I ever saw. I never dreamed that one could learn so much in such a short time. I have read and read, but reading isn’t like seeing and hearing.”

“Scarcity of labor is one of the worst things with which farmers must contend.”

“When I have to monkey with a hired man I’ll quit farming.”

“Labor isn’t scarce. Labor is all right if used right. But it must be fed and housed as one of family. Man who thinks he’s better than the man who works for him is a fool.”

“Great trouble with farming is that farmers won’t get together. Farmers would show folks where to get off at if they’d all strike for one week.”
Von Tungeln et al.: The social aspects of life and farm tenantry, Cedar County,
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