

INDUSTRY AND FARM

Pittsburgh and the valleys radiating from it.

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The valleys of the Allegheny, <sup>Yokaheny</sup> ~~Yokaheny~~, Ohio,

there is no better field in which to study the trend of the

worker toward the soil, the farm, than Pittsburgh and the

vicinity. Bitter criticism frequently comes from those who

visit the industrial sections close to Pittsburgh for the first

time, knowing nothing of its history, Why they plant factories

in these crowded districts. But when the factories were built

the district was not crowded. It is the old story of the town

reaching out and taking in all that lies within its reach.

Homestead, when Mr. . . . . founded it in (?) 1887 was . . .

miles from the center of Pittsburgh. Succeeding factories have

gone up and down the river and always the town has followed

after them. For many years now there have been among the more en-

lightened employers of that district a concerted effort to give

to those who lived in what are called company <sup>houses</sup> grounds, a bit

of ground for a garden. Probably the most interesting

industrial garden development was started years ago in the

desolate coke regions east of Pittsburgh.

*Salute  
Maryam City*

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There were twenty or more of these towns, the company owning them. You could not ask a miner to buy his own home for mines are more or less short lived and when the coal is exhausted the company moves on and the miner follows. The Frick Coal & <sup>Tom Synell</sup> Coak Co. 's head at the time was a warm hearted Irishman. His father had been a miner. He had grown up in the towns and he knew all about their barrenness and their ugliness and he made up his mind to change it and so he picked up the houses of some . . . . towns, some eight hundred in all, and put them in some less denuded spots, gave each something like an eighth of an acre of soil, contributed seeds and instructions and such a response as came from those hard working miners and their wives, <sup>Synell's</sup> Tommy Lincoln and those of his disgruntled ~~those who watched~~ <sup>missed the work</sup> associated, would never take an hour from their leisure to work in a garden. <sup>but</sup>

I saw those garden ten years ago. There were at that time seven or eight thousand, and such gardens, <sup>they</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>the</sup> have never ceased to be.

I have before me their records for 1926 - 6654 vegetable gardens and 4962 flower gardens in a total of 8773 houses. To the figures of the number of gardens is attached eighteen newspaper articles describing the prizes that are annually awarded in the different towns for the best garden. It is one of the greatest excitements of the year in Westmoreland County, like the fall baseball contests. They not only have the satisfaction of the garden, the excitement of the contest, but there are many ways not to be sniffed at by hard working men and women. The total valuation of the vegetable gardens in the H.C. Frick undertaking was recorded at \$181,070, or an average of \$32.50. The results vary. One of the miners wives told the judges that she had disposed of \$148. worth of vegetables from her garden and had . . . . varieties of vegetables still producing. But it is more than gardening that the men who is employed in the stabilized district, with many of the men sufficiently fixed for them to own their own home want. The increasing rents as the town pushes into the community is such that they seek refuge on the farm, sometimes buying, sometimes renting.

*return*

*in 1926*

*many want*

*industry*

*they want to*

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This is true all around Pittsburgh, and the owning of farms by ~~these~~ men is made possible by Henry Ford's little car. Just as he had always hoped it would be, for you will find Mr. Ford talking about his car, that it was to be an adjunct.

*at the steel*  
He says, if it is only as an adjunct to the farm, in the of the farmer who has never gotten away from it. The little car was to draw the plow, take the milk to market, the family to church and to town for marketing, and in the Pittsburgh vicinity it has made the farm possible, for men can afford to own it and go back and forth. As a matter of fact so many of them are using it in their effort to escape from high rents and to satisfy their instinct for the soil that in many of the great plants of the United States Steel Corp. great garages have been built to accommodate the cars while the men are in the factories. And it has not always been easy in the crowded districts to find the space. It is one of our most difficult problems, the head of the bureau handling this information, tells me. This swing to the country on the part of the factory worker does not always have the sympathy *etc*

cooperation of employers, the National Tube Co. around Pittsburgh tells you, ~~is~~ that when planting and harvesting time arrives, the men who own farms are on the absentee list. The result is that they discourage men from the purchase of farms, which the home owning plan of the United States Steel Corporation makes possible. But here they are <sup>not</sup> facing the problem in the way that Mr. Ford foresaw. Here is the point <sup>at</sup> which he would have the factory give cooperation. The men would be away two or three months of the year perhaps. Arrange ahead to supply their places or so route your work that it can be taken care of in nine months. Do this in the interest of your immediate need of the larger social and economic need, not only of the factory but of the community which he believes will be served in giving the men an opportunity to combine the trade and the farm. <sup>Of</sup> course, they will not all do it. Even with opportunity. Possibly a rather small percent. Some will not do it because the way is not pointed to them. Some because they have no instinct for the soil or at least that it is not awakened, but always there will be a percentage to snap at the opportunity, improve

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it, show the way to others and form healthy nucleus in the  
larger backward group. This is the way of progress.