

# Ariel

"He serves all who dares be true" [Emerson]



## Together

THE PLAN THAT SUCCEEDS

FIFTY of us working men and women join the Fellowship Farm Association, an industrial order, paying \$12 down and 10c monthly for the first year, then dues of \$1 yearly thereafter to the Fellowship Farm Founders, thus associating thousands of people in our movement who may, or may not at first, go further into the farm and business features. This brings us together for large future cooperation, and furnishes each member with Ariel, our monthly magazine.

Then we each agree to pool \$3 to \$8 monthly (according to cost of land) for three years, to make first payments on farm, and capitalize our enterprises. As many of us as can will put up 8 to 12 months payments in advance to help start the Group's operations quicker, quitting our payments six to eight months sooner.

When \$1200 are in our treasury, a committee will be chosen to act with the Founders as trustees, to select a good farm of from 75 to 100 acres near a great city, on easy terms, so that members who wish may go on their land to work next spring.

Each member will be allotted one acre (none holding more than two at \$6 to \$16 monthly three years therefor) and from four to six acres will be staked for roads, easements, etc. -

The remaining twenty to forty acres will be common property held jointly together—with such buildings, business, and other collective interests as may pertain—by members who shall have issued to them two shares of stock for each holding, par value \$100.

Some 8 to 12 acres of this collective land shall be immediately put under expert management, to yield, by the end of the second season, sufficient income to improve the farm and pay off the balance of the mortgage on the farm, and ever after pay good dividends, pro rata, to each acre holding.

Some \$1500 of working capital shall be used to purchase live stock and tools, and pay part of salary to expert manager. Wages at the rate of 20 cents per hour will be paid to working members in the cooperative gardens.

Members following the methods and advice of the expert manager, may be sure of success on their own acres—smaller models of the larger garden.

Thus it will be possible for each one to make a better living under freer, happier, healthier conditions than ever before—a sure job on one's own land, living in one's own home.

A cooperative store will be one of the first things established by the Association, and that member chosen to manage it, on regular salary, who proves the best man for selling the produce of both the members and the farm. In this way we buy from the outside cheaper, and market our goods to the best advantage.

Other cooperative industries will be added in due time.

#### TO SUM UP

In the course of eight years, each one of us will own an acre or more of valuable land, warranty deed, and a pro rata share in all of the collective wealth, business, and other benefits of the Association, which have come to us by sound, secure methods, thru cooperation, at a cash cost of only \$150 to \$400 each paid in easy instalments.

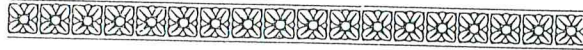
And moreover, we shall enjoy the social and intellectual advantages described by William Morris :

“Forsooth, brothers, fellowship is Heaven, and the lack of fellowship is hell; fellowship is life, and the lack of fellowship is death: and the deeds that you do upon the earth, it is for fellowship’s sake that you do them. . . . , Therefore, I bid you not to dwell in hell, but in Heaven . . . . upon earth, which is a part of Heaven.”

**The Fellowship Farm Founders**

# THE FELLOWSHIP FARMS

The Fellowship Farms Founders' Assoc'n



## The Fellowship Farm Plan

**T**HE great landward movement of the masses of the people, is probably, the sanest, healthiest, securest pledge of the immediate future welfare and independence of America since the opening of the century. "Back to the land" and "The land back to the people" is second only in importance to the world-wide movement of Socialism.

Many, many times in the past schemes and efforts to get the land and the people together in colonies have been tried with disastrous results. The careful study of the causes of failure reveal five principle rocks of disaster: (1) isolation; (2) fanaticism; (3) pure communism; (4) uncompromising anarchism; and (5) unpropitious time.

The Fellowship Farm Plan with its (1) settlement near large cities; (2) its up-to-date business methods; (3, 4) its combined individualist and collectivist aspect, fitting human nature; and (5) coming at the psychological and economic moment, takes advantage of the initiatory impetus landward and adapts it, and organizes those among the workers whose passion for freedom,

fellowship, independence and security is so intense that, with an innate love of the land and country life, the proposition of

A little land; a job at hand;

A little home of your own;

A sweetheart true to share with you,

As king and queen on a throne

is irresistible.

The Plan "gets together" a group of from 20 to 50 such comrades, and, thru co-operative purchase and experienced superintendence places a comparatively high-class and high-priced farm, near some large city, within the reach of men and women whose wages or salaries and economic conditions are so meager as to prohibit their ownership of anything, surely not valuable real estate, alone and unorganized. It surveys, allots holdings, starts home-building, and gives a general picturesque and right direction of development to the colony the first year.

The new colonies promise in their personnel, as educated, progressive, refined and congenial a group of people as ever came together; somehow the people we would not want are not attracted to us; and one of the most charming surprises of this whole movement is the unusual variety of choice souls who come to add their splendid enthusiasms, or contribute their ideal uplifts to ours. The mere onlooker little imagines the spiritual quality that gathers to a place like this and min-

gles with the soil and its labor. No doubt it is the central idea of "Back to the land to liberate the soul," together with the passion for freedom and economic security that possesses us, which attracts so many splendid people to us. If this is so at the beginning, what a glorious fellowship shall be ours as we get fuller command of our resources and become moulded to our common ideals! No wonder, as we stand on our acres and contemplate our work and hope, that one exclaims, "All this,—and heaven too!"

The Plan also places on the ground an expert instructor in gardening and poultry the first season to assure the Fellowship Farmers of that Farm success from the start. Each colony will be urged to place the expert instructor, as manager, over 8 to 10 acres of the group's common holding, to operate a collective garden and poultry plant, (with cows and hogs also, if deemed best,) the profits of said plant to pay, as much as possible, for the whole farm and thus, ultimately give the individual holdings free to the members. Good business and wide-awake directors should accomplish this, and, after the mortgage on the land is cleared, continue to pay dividends to each member *pro rata*. This will provide horse-tool service on call for individual members, and give the women a chance to have heavy labor exchanged for their lighter work, or their share of dividend or truck from the co-operative garden.

The triple purpose of the Fellowship Farm Plan is to establish workers in their own homes, on their own land, at their own jobs (eliminating the real-estate speculator); to provide for leisure and fellowship to realize one's ideals; and at the same time to start the group or colony toward such voluntary collective co-operative works as each group may find most productive of wealth and progress.

The two primary principles of the Plan are that none need ever lose a dollar, for tho a member pays an initiation fee for organizing and instruction, and \$15 forfeit for "backing out," nevertheless, if a member must quit, this \$15 can be saved if a retiring member secures his successor (the colony always reserving first option to purchase to avoid objectionable members); and that there shall be no individual failures in making a livelihood from the start, provided the members follow the teaching and guidance of the expert instructor (who has had his final training along the successful lines of Fellowship Farm No. 1, at Westwood, Mass.)

The organization, financial, purchasing and instructive powers for the first year of a colony's life are in trust for the colony in the hands of the Fellowship Farm Founders' Association with its two branches: (1) Educative-Executive—securing members by lectures, correspondence, advertising, etc., and general superintendence in co-operation

with the colony's officials; and (2) Exemplar—a group of practical experts in intensive farming and poultry, horticulture, dairy, bees, etc.

Thru Ariel, lectures and letters, the F. F. F. A. puts prospective members in touch with each other, sifts out the unfit by temperament or other propensities, such as the troublesome or grafters, and collects and banks, thru its treasurer (the first year) the fees, dues and loans, and pays the first sum and the next three quarterly payments of principal and interest, taxes, etc., on the respective Farms in process of organization, besides carefully investigating deeds, legal documents, etc.

Ever on the lookout for farms worth from \$5,000 to \$15,000 within trolley ride of a large city, the Educative-Executive branch, after receiving applications for membership from 20 or more charter members for a group will call for a committee of three of this group to sift out from a dozen possible farms the best two or three for the colony. Then the whole membership to date of that group will be invited to visit these best farms and vote, with the F. F. F. A., on the purchase of one; this should happen as near the beginning of spring as possible.

Members of a group in most colonies join the F. F. A. and pay \$3 to \$8 monthly to accumulate in 6 mos. the first payment on the farm, and keep up \$3 to \$8 regular dues monthly, besides creating a loan fund, the first year, for aiding



homebuilders who shall pay back the loans by instalments of \$5 to \$10 monthly so as to enable others wishing to build to have use of the money. After 3 years the cooperative garden should pay dividends equal to the dues and pay up each member's holding. When the total of \$300 to \$800 (according to cost of farm) over the initiatory fee is paid each member is entitled to a warranty deed for his or her acre holding, absolutely personal and unconditional, and a pro rata partnership interest in all the collective holding, property, business and other valuable considerations pertaining to the colony. This aspect of Fellowship Farm works and life will, as it develops, become most important and profitable.

After the purchase of the land many details of allotment, building, fowls for breeding, coop construction, incubators, brooders, yards, etc., garden plans, tools, trees, plants, seed, ploughing, harrowing, etc., will be attended to, chiefly by the expert instructor-gardener; much of the buying of materials and household supplies being done co-operatively and with great saving.

As many as possible of the members of a new group will be urged to go on to their holdings the first spring; but some of the members will not immediately occupy and work their acres. A few may join merely to help the colony and have a camping spot amidst congenial associates with a thought that in case of misfortune and need they too can come to their acre as a haven of life and

security. The natural product of absentee acres goes to the collective benefit.

Whatever motive actuates a member in joining, the Plan assures each comrade and partner the full value of what he puts into it in labor and money, and more—OPPORTUNITY. And it also assures practically no loss.

Fellowship Farm No. 1, in Westwood, Mass., during the five years of its life, and Fellowship Farm No. 2, Norwood, Mass., in its first year, have proved the success of the Plan thus outlined, tho this outline has some new points which experience has shown to be advisable.

Five sources of work and income are open to Fellowship Farmers: Our gardens and poultry; the dividends from collective co-operative gardening; home industries; summer guests; and, off and on, jobs in town or city. Five or six members can, if they wish, always have employment at day's pay working for other members.

When a sufficient number of Fellowship Farms are organized, they will be offered co-operative union in the Federated Farms Association, and, with their varied arts and crafts industries beside farm products, and local stores and a Central Co-operative Exchange, be able to almost wholly supply each other's necessities on a time and labor basis.

For the first few years the question of market solves itself—vacation friends camping on the grounds just when harvest begins in summer, the

folk passing by in carriages and automobiles as well as nearness to the city, makes ready sales at first prices at our very doors. When a colony begins to produce more than this outlet provides for, the colony's store, first on the farm, then in the city, will come as a matter of course, the commission or profits being returned to members ad valorem thru the group treasury.

So much for the basis of economic independence.\* We need not dwell upon the most valuable features of the Plan—social, moral, ideal. These features are emphasized in detail elsewhere. Sufficient to say that it is a proven fact here at Ariel Lodge that intensive farming and poultry on one acre will comfortably support a family with less than four hours of daily labor thru the year, leaving more than half-time for human souls to develop whatever high longings and purposes are urging for expression and achievement—this is the ideal and most valuable aspect of the Fellowship Farm life—the phase of it that its founders and promoters most care and labor for.

Charter members are now enrolling for Colonies Nos. 6, 7 and 8, to be located east, west and south.

Isn't this your opportunity?

\*That is, as much as possible under capitalism. As Socialists, we disclaim to any world-wide and final solution of social injustice; but our Plan is a great step on and up.

Comrade, we invite you to a vacation outing at one of the Farms this summer.

And to become a charter member of Fellowship Farms now being organized.

Sincerely yours,

THE FELLOWSHIP FARM FOUNDERS'  
ASSOCIATION.

GEORGE ELMER LITTLEFIELD, *President*  
CHRISTIAN BALZAC HOFFMAN, *Treasurer*  
NORMAN HOYT CHAMBERLAIN, *Secretary*

FRUIT CREST, FELLOWSHIP FARM  
INDEPENDENCE, MO.  
ARIEL LODGE, WESTWOOD, MASS,



### The Books to Read

There is nothing to take the place of the Book of Nature—actual contact and loving cooperation with the soil. One learns more—*knows* more—after one season's labor on the land than libraries can reveal; but, all the same, Ariel prints its message, and would have made more technical books on the subject, if Bolton Hall had not done this so well. Hence we recommend "Three Acres and Liberty", his first book, and "A Little Land and a Living," his next, and in a sense similar book, helpful in considering what to do about changing your occupation to the land, the selection of farm, testimony of others, wise and necessary facts etc.; and "The Garden Yard," his latest book of advice on plants and month to month culture of them. \$1 each. Ariel Press.

