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What Farmers Think of Farming

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What
FARMERS
think
of
FARMING



Rural Sociology Department
Agricultural Experiment Station
of the
South Dakota State College of
Agriculture and Mechanic Arts
Brookings

Digest

Two civil townships identical with two separate school districts in Lake County, South Dakota, were surveyed to obtain the information contained in this bulletin. This area is considered typical of east central South Dakota conditions in population, type of farming, rural social institutions and in economic and social problems.

Pages 2 to 5

About one-fourth of the population is foreign born. Thirty-nine and two-tenths per cent came from other states and 35.4 per cent are native born South Dakotans.

Pages 6 to 9

Eighty-seven per cent of the farmers and their families state that they are well satisfied with the farm as a home and as a mode of living.

Pages 10 to 14

Very little dissatisfaction was registered against any of the community services such as the church, school, library, and local government. Even the local marketing, credit and trading facilities are fairly acceptable to most farmers.

Pages 22 to 29

The chief concern of the farmer seemed to be his apparent economic inequalities as compared to capital and labor. As evidences of this, he pointed to low labor income, increasing ratio of mortgage indebtedness to farm values, mortgage foreclosures and increased taxation.

Pages 14 to 21

For the past few years many farmers have looked to state and federal legislation as a means of obtaining economic relief. They are beginning to feel, however, that farm relief is a group problem and as such must come through group organization and group action.

Page 31

With all, the majority of farmers and their wives stated that they would farm if starting over again and they are encouraging their children to remain on the farm.

Pages 29 to 30

What Farmers Think of Farming

W. F. Kumlien

What do farmers think about farming? Viewing the question broadly, do farmers and their families farm from choice or are they victims of circumstances? Is there a difference in their attitude toward farming as a business and as a mode of living? In the opinion of farmers, what trends or factors in farm life are giving the most concern? Are farm people satisfied to remain on the farm? Will the next generation remain there?

In attempting to find at least a partial answer to these and other related questions, the writer is not propounding his own theories of the situation or even venturing an interpretation. He has simply tried by the survey method to faithfully record the opinions of the 150 farm families living in Orland and Clarno Townships, Lake County, South Dakota.²

The area selected for this study (shown in Figure 1) was necessarily small in size³ but fairly typical of east central South Dakota conditions. In topography, climate, soil, type of farming, land values, farm population and rural social institutions, this part of Lake County is thought to be a fair sample of the east central portion of the state.⁴

Method of Study

In conducting an opinion study⁵ of this kind, care was taken to make its purpose and plan as definite and uniform as possible. A preliminary questionnaire form was prepared and submitted to 100 successful farmers from different parts of the state for their suggestions.

As a result, the survey card shown on page 4 was evolved and used as the basis of all interviews in the area studied. Personal calls were made by the writer at each farm home in the two townships. Whenever possible, the farmer, his wife and older children were all interviewed, especially on questions where each was vitally concerned. All but five families in the two townships were personally interviewed. The main factual data for these five farms were secured from the township assessor's book for 1925, and all farm data for all farms were checked with the Federal Agricultural Census of 1925.

In addition to these sources, supplemental material was obtained from the Lake County Court House records, State Tax Commission reports and other public records from the state and federal government.

(1) This study was made in co-operation with the section of Rural Life Studies, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. D. A.

(2) This survey was conducted during the months of October and November, 1926.

(3) Quite obviously, this present limited study of a limited area could not hope to comprehensively answer all of the questions asked. It is meant to be simply a beginning with the hope that similar studies may be made later in other parts of the state.

(4) Includes the following counties: Lake, Kingsbury, Moody, Brookings, Miner, Hanson, McCook and Minnehaha; southern half of Deuel, Hamlin and Clark; the eastern part of Beadle, Sanborn and Davison.

(5) The merits of such a study lie in the attempt to give a full orbbed picture of how farm people view farming as a life work in contrast to the usual short term view of the present depressed agricultural situation.

The writer is quite aware of the obvious limitations and difficulties involved in trying to accurately measure peoples' ideas, attitudes and beliefs. Very little in the way of adequate technique has been worked out for conducting such a study. Readers will doubtless have different ideas as to the significance of such data after it has been gathered. However, it seems worth while to make a simple beginning with the hope that subsequent studies will both amplify and correct what has been done. No attempt has been made to justify or refute the ideas, attitudes and beliefs as found. The writer has tried rather to faithfully discover and record the replies and impressions given to him, and wherever possible, to supply information and data that would help account for them.

No.----- Name----- Address----- Date-----
 Owner ----- Tenant----- Lease----- Satisfactory?-----
 Owner's Relationship----- Residence----- Occupation-----
 Years on this farm----- Size----- Type of farming-----
 Additional land rented----- Lease----- Farm enterprise found most
 profitable-----
 Is help situation satisfactory?-----
 No. and Amt. help hired yearly-----
 Products marketed, where?----- Ind. or Co-op.-----
 Is service satisfactory?-----
 Years as laborer----- Tenant----- Owner-----
 Starting over again, would you farm?-----
 What led you to be a farmer?-----
 Future outlook for farming?-----
 Have credit facilities been satisfactory?-----
 Did you make money during the war?-----
 Ave. amount made during last 6 years----- Has your capital been made
 farming or in raised land values?-----
 No. in Family: Adults----- Children (Ages)----- No. in school (10-20)-----

Man & Wife	Nationality	Age	Birthplace	Education	Marriage Date
Farmer					
Wife					

Occupation of children away from home?-----
 Do sons want to farm?----- Do you want them to?-----
 Schooling you want them to have----- Girls-----
 Want them to marry farmers?-----
 Special effort made to keep children on farm?
 Chief cause for leaving farms in community-----

How overcome difficulty?-----
 Sickness in family-----Is health satisfactory?-----
 Doctors----- Hospital----- Nurse-----
 Running water----- Separate Washroom----- Electric lights----- Refrigerator-----
 Phonograph----- Bathroom----- Washing Machine----- Automobile----- Piano
 or Organ----- Telephone----- Kitchen Sink----- Indoor Toilet----- Furnace
 Heat----- Sewing Machine----- Radio----- Shade Trees----- Lawn and Yard-----
 Vegetable Garden----- Small Fruit----- Orchard-----
 Books read this past year----- Family-----
 Library Service Satisfactory?-----
 Farm Bulletins----- Papers subscribed to: Weeklies-----
 Womens----- Children----- Farm Journals-----
 Satisfied with farm life?----- Wife----- Children-----
 Years in this community: Husband----- Wife----- Proportion of living brothers
 and sisters on farm: Husband's----- Wife's----- Have you lived in town?-----
 Where----- When----- Has your wife?----- Where----- When-----
 Do you like this community?----- What recreations do you and your wife have-----

Family	Church	Belongs	Children Attends	Neither	Attends S. S.
Farmer					
Wife					

Other organization memberships: Farmer-----
 Wife----- Children-----
 Satisfied with these organizations?-----
 Satisfied with local government?-----
 Trading Center----- Satisfied?-----
 Are local schools satisfactory?-----
 Do families visit together in community?-----

Obverse (upper) and reverse (lower) sides of questionnaire cards used in interviewing farmers for this survey.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA AND PEOPLE

Orland and Clarno Townships were first opened for settlement in the spring of 1878. Two colonies of settlers from two adjacent states came during this same year. One group of five or six families drove over-land from Fillmore County, Minnesota. Children of two of these families still live in one of the townships. A second group, somewhat larger than the first, came from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. This colony consisted mostly of young single men, fifteen in number, who had worked in the pineries of northern Wisconsin. They filed on land in the spring.

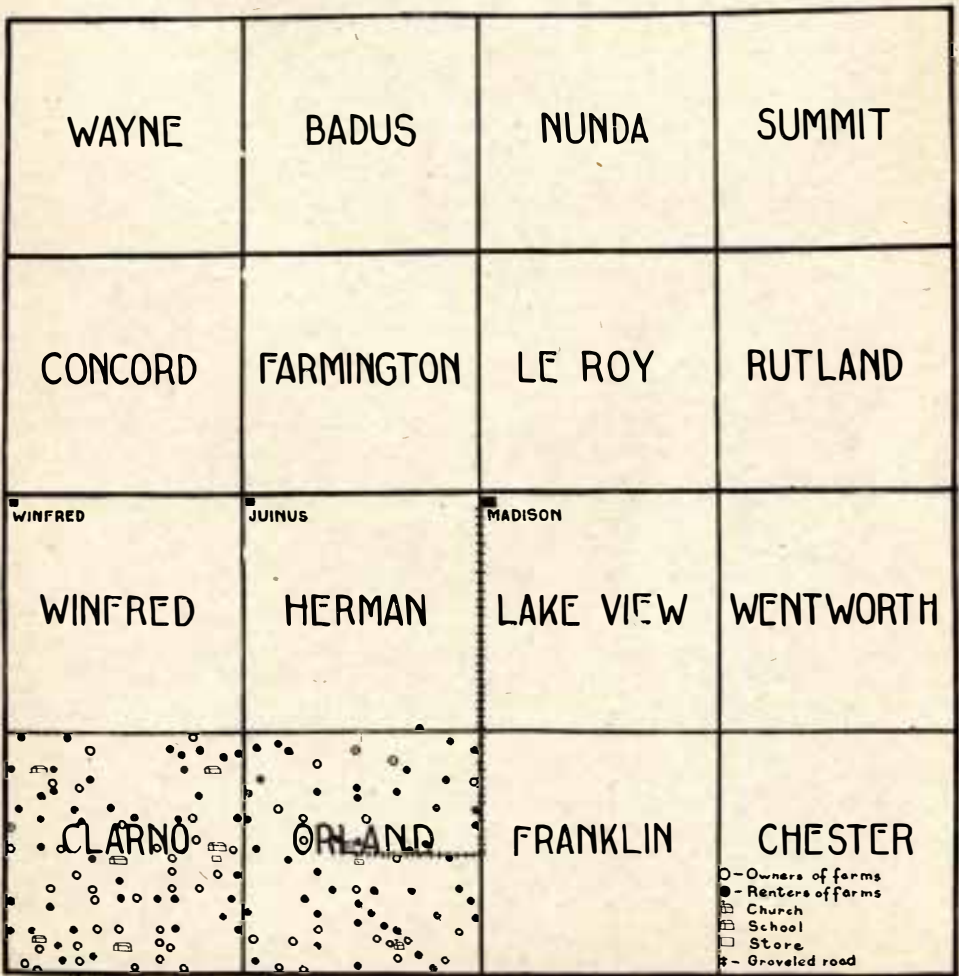


Fig. 1.—AREA SURVEYED—ORLAND AND CLARNO TOWNSHIPS, LAKE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA. These townships were chosen as being fairly typical of eastern South Dakota conditions as regards location, soil, length of growing season, rainfall, land values, roads, density of population and development of rural, social and economic institutions.

made some improvements and returned to Chippewa Falls that autumn. Most of them came back to Lake County the following spring and established permanent homes on their claims.

Several of these original settlers still own the land which they took up from the government as homesteads and tree-claims. They have been among the most stable and enterprising citizens of the two townships throughout practically half a century.

Communications and Transportation

Neither Orland nor Clarno Township is traversed by a railway. The nearest shipping point to either township is on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway line, six miles to the north. The towns of Winfred, Junius and Madison have been the principal shipping and trading points for both Orland and Clarno. A few farmers on the southern edge of these townships trade at Montrose and Salem, while others living on the western edge of Clarno trade at Canova or Unityville.

All families now have a daily mail delivery service. Slightly over 80 per cent of the farmers in Orland and 56.4 per cent in Clarno have telephones.

Several of the township roads are graded but very few are graveled. The main road leading from Madison to the consolidated school in the center of Orland is graveled (Figure 1). Another stretch of three miles on the Meredian highway bounding the west edge of Clarno is also graveled.

There are no villages in the two townships. The territory is entirely open country. Both townships have a center where a store, school and a dwelling are located. Clarno center at one time seemed to have the possibility of becoming a hamlet. A co-operative creamery and warehouse were built and operated for a few years and then abandoned. With the coming of the auto and good roads, there will probably not be any incentive to found a village in either place.

The only other community building in the two townships is a Norwegian Lutheran church located in the southeastern portion of Orland Township (See Figure 1).

Population

The data on population in this study are based on the family unit. In Orland Township there are 72 separate farm homes (Figure 1) and a total of 411 persons living in these homes. There are 85 men and 77 women over 21 years of age and 249 children under 21 years of age.

In Clarno Township there are 78 separate farm homes (Figure 1). A total of 401 persons live in these homes. There are 89 men and 76 women over 21 years of age and 236 children under 21 years of age. Taking the two townships as a whole, there are 830 people in the 72 square miles.⁶ This gives an average density of 11.3 persons per square mile. In the 44 counties of eastern South Dakota, there is an average density of 8.3 persons per square mile.

Country of Birth

Considering just the adult farm operators and their wives, there are a total of 288 men and women in the two townships. Out of this number, 73 or 25.4 percent are foreign born. This foreign born population

⁶This includes the families in the two stores of Orland and Clarno and the school teachers who are not already counted as members of local farm families.

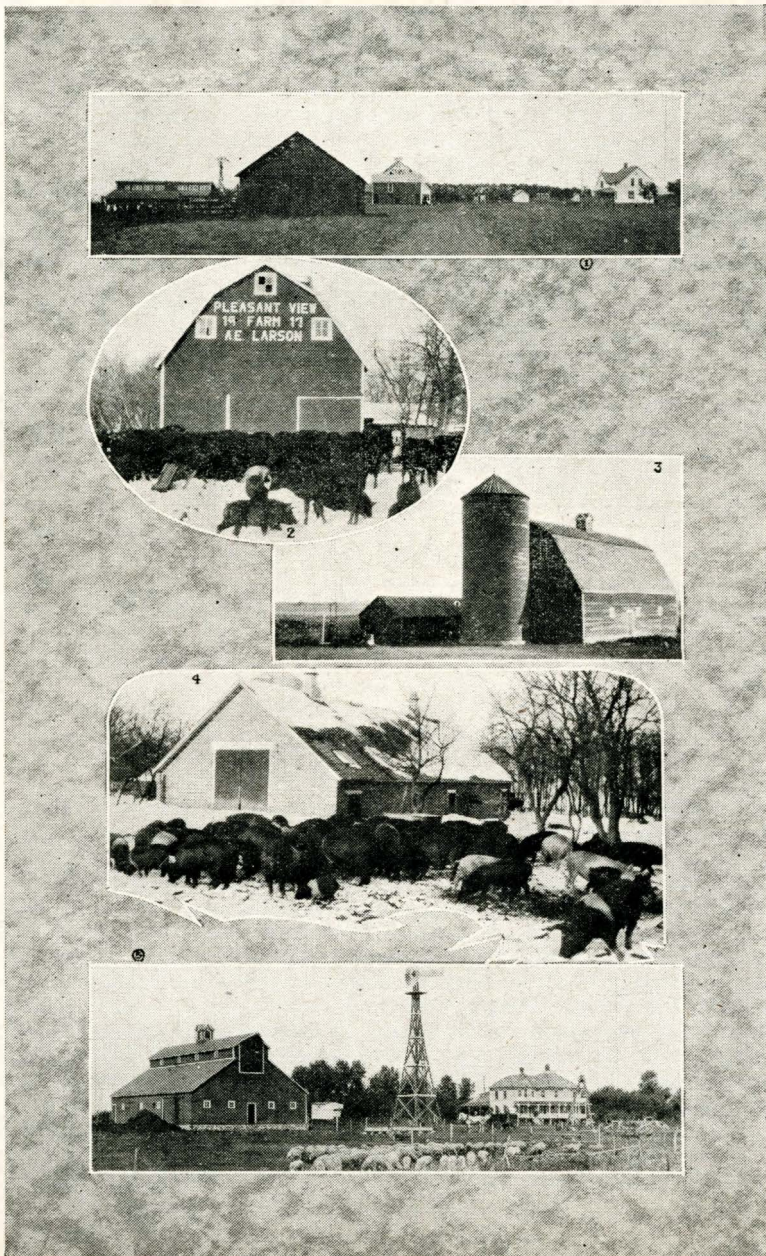


Fig. 2.—FARMSTEADS IN ORLAND AND CLARNO TOWNSHIPS'

represents a total of nine different countries (Table I). Sweden, Germany, Norway and Holland, in the order named, have contributed the largest numbers to the foreign born population.

Among the 197 American born adults, 113 or 39.2 percent have moved into these two townships from other states. A total of fourteen states is represented. Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois have contributed the largest numbers from other states.

Out of the American born population, those born in South Dakota comprise 112 or 36.4 percent of the total adult men and women. Comparing this data pertaining to countries of birth with that of similar data covering the whole state of South Dakota, we find the following:

	Foreign Born—	Native S. Dakotans—	From other States
South Dakota	10.39	48.06	41.55
Orland and Clarno	25.3	35.4	39.3

Out of this same group of American born adults, 91 are first generation Americans having either one or both parents born in a foreign country. In this group, the German, Swedish, Norwegian and Irish nationalities, in the order named, have contributed the largest number.

Table I.—FOREIGN BORN POPULATION

Country of Birth	Orland		Clarno		No.	Percent
	Man	Wife	Man	Wife		
Sweden -----	5	6	10	11	32	11.1
Germany -----	2	1	6	7	16	5.5
Norway -----	5	4	1	2	10	3.5
Holland -----	---	---	---	---	7	2.4
Russia -----	---	1	---	---	2	.7
Belgium -----	---	2	---	---	2	.7
Ireland -----	2	---	---	---	2	.7
Denmark -----	---	---	---	1	1	.4
Austria -----	---	---	---	---	1	.4

Age, Status and Marital Conditions

In the combined area, the average age of owner operators and their wives, is 49.3 and 45.1 respectively, while of tenants and their wives it is 37.4 and 33.6 respectively (Table 2). Both owners and tenants are approximately four years older than their wives. Owners and their wives are approximately twelve years older than tenants and their wives.

This difference in age gives us insight into the agricultural ladder up which the average farm owner has climbed to his status of ownership. An analysis of his history shows that he either stayed at home or worked for others until he was 26.4 years of age. At this time he married and started out for himself by renting a farm. When he reached the age of 32, he became a farm owner. Both he and his wife have lived in the community 24 years while 18 years of that time has been spent in their present farm home.

In the case of the average tenant, we find that he either stayed at home or worked for others up to the age of 27, at which time he married and began renting. He and his wife have lived in the community 16 years but have spent only 4.6 years on the present farm.

In the owner group, the men average some four years longer in the community than their wives. This indicates, perhaps, that more men than women are native to the community.

Of the present men farm operators in Orland, all but eight have been married; while in Clarno all but seven have been married.

Table 2.—COMPARATIVE AGES OF OWNERS AND TENANTS AND PERIODS OF OPERATION.

	Orland		Clarno	
	Man	Wife	Man	Wife
Average Age of Owner Operators.....	50	44.9	48.6	45.4
Average Age of Tenants.....	41	34.9	33.8	32.4
Average Number of Years Owner Operators have been farming.....	21.9		23	
On Present Farm.....	17		18.8	
Average Number of Years Tenants Have Been Farming.....	18		14.4	
On Present Farm.....	12		4.3	
Average Number of Years Owners Have Been Married.....	23.6		23.7	
Average Number of Years Tenants Have Been Married.....	14.1		11.3	
Years Owner Operators Have Been In This Community.....	26.9	22.3	25.3	23.9
Years Tenants Have Been In This Community.....	18.4	13.3	14.9	12.4

Size of Family

Of the 143 married couples represented on the 150 farms in the two townships, 130 have a total of 524 children. The owner operators average 4.3 children per family while the tenant operators average 3.7 children. Taking the population as a whole, there are 5.4 persons per family.

CLARNO Twp. ORLAND Twp.

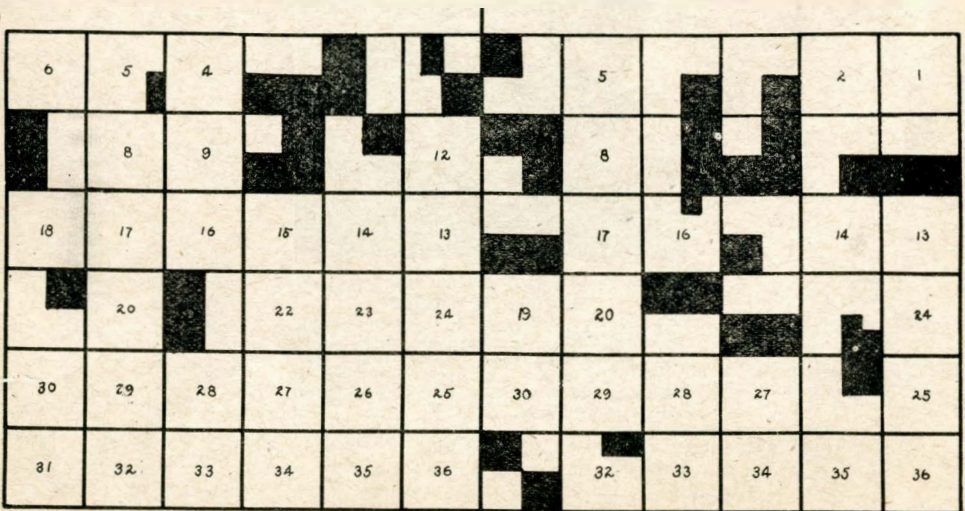


Fig. 3.—ORLAND AND CLARNO LAND THAT HAS CHANGED OWNERS IN ONE YEAR

The portions of land in black denote changes in ownership occurring in the period from July 1, 1925, to July 1, 1926. In Orland 17 per cent changed owners and in Clarno 10 per cent.

The average size family of the South Dakota population, according to the 1925 census, consists of 4.6 persons. It is thus seen that the average size family for Orland and Clarno Townships is .8 per cent of a person larger than for the state as a whole.

FARMING AS A MODE OF LIVING

Quite naturally, one of the first considerations that would help to determine the attitude of the farmer and his family toward farming, would be their opinion of it as a mode of living. Are farm people satisfied with the farm home as a place to live? Do they prefer living on a farm to living in town? Can the farm home be made sufficiently attractive to hold the young people on the farm after they have had a taste of town life? Various approaches to this question were taken up with a total of 143 men, 139 women and 58 boys and girls above fourteen years of age. In reply to the direct question, "Are you satisfied with farm life?" 88 percent of the men, 89 percent of the women, and 87 percent of the boys and girls replied in the affirmative.

As a check on these replies, several different aspects of the farm home were considered separately.

One aspect was to ascertain the permanency of residence of farm families. Do successive generations of farm families continue to live on the farm? In expressing the opinion that they prefer to live in the country rather than in town, do farmers have an adequate basis of comparison, e.g., have many of them ever lived in town?

Another approach to the question was to get a cross section view of the average farm household. What conveniences do farm women have to work with? What surroundings do they look out upon? What read-

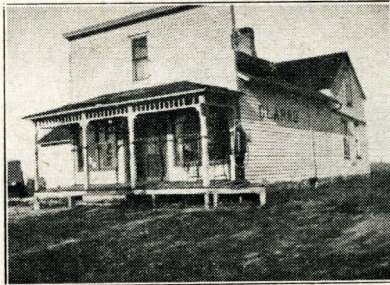


Fig. 4.—COUNTRY STORE LOCATED IN CLARNO TOWNSHIP

Despite the coming of the automobile and graveled roads, this store has successfully met competition from nearby towns for over thirty years. Orland township has a similar store that has been started within the last two years.

ing matter does the family enjoy? What recreation do they get? As each of these questions have an important bearing on the larger question of farming as a mode of living, each will be treated separately. Several other closely related questions bearing on the farm homes are discussed in other parts of the bulletin under the general headings of community relationships and the farm business.

Permanency of Country Residence

Taking into consideration all adults living on farms in the area, it was found that 89.3 percent were born or brought up on a farm (Table 3). Stating it another way, only 10.7 percent of all the adults have been born or brought up in town and then moved to the farm in later life. The majority of those who have followed this latter course are foreign born people. In coming to this country under a new environment, the immigrant has chosen to acquire land and farm, rather than remain at the trade learned and practiced in his native land.

Not only have the bulk of farmers and their wives been born or brought up on the farm, but a careful tabulation shows that 69.1 percent of their living brothers and sisters are now living on farms (Table 3). In this respect, the percentage was somewhat higher in Clarno Township than in Orland.

It should not be concluded, however, that most of the farmers and their wives have always lived on the farm. It was discovered that 52.6 percent have lived in town some time or other, varying from one to twenty years. Out of a total of 79 mature people, 56 per cent had lived in town from one to five years while the balance had lived in town over five years (Table 3). This means that with this experience, they have had a chance to compare town life with city life and have chosen to return to the farm.

Taking the two townships together, about half of the number of adults who have lived in town have had this experience in South Dakota towns, while the other half have lived in towns outside the state. It was also found in the majority of cases of those who lived in town that they had been employed in some form of manual labor while there.

Table 3.—PERCENTAGE OF FARMERS BORN OR BROUGHT UP ON FARMS

	Orland				Clarno				Both Townships			
	Owner		Tenant		Owner		Tenant		Total			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Born or brought up on a farm...	30		38	3	29	6	37	5	134	89.3	14	9.3
% living brothers and sisters living on farms...	57.7	42.3	60.7	39.3	82	18	71.5	28.5	521	69.1	233	30.9
No. that have lived in town...	13	22	18	19	17	15	29	12	79	52.6	66	44

Home Conveniences and Surroundings

Sewing machines, washing machines, telephones and kitchen sinks were the home conveniences most commonly found (Table 4). The poorest showing was in the lack of running water, bath rooms and indoor toilet facilities. During the prosperous period before 1920, several of these improvements were installed but since that time very few farmers have been able to add these comforts. Several said that they were planning on installing more conveniences when better times returned. Eighty-three and two-tenths per cent of all the farmers now own automobiles. The radio has also been installed in 11.5 per cent of the homes. As far as could be ascertained, there is not any appreciable difference between the number of conveniences in the homes of owners and tenants.

The majority of the homes in the area have vegetable gardens, lawns, yards and shade trees. Small fruits and orchards are planted on only about one-third of the farmsteads.

Very few who were interviewed felt that being located on the farm prevented their having conveniences and comforts in the home. This was equally true of having attractive and pleasant home surroundings. In the opinion of the folks who aspired to have these things, the limiting factors were money and sufficient time to install the conveniences and to take care of better home surroundings.

Table 4.—HOME CONVENIENCES.

Conveniences	Orland				Clarno			
	No. of all Homes With	Percent	No. Owners Homes With	No. Tenants Homes With	No. of all Homes With	Percent	No. Owners Homes With	No. Tenants Homes With
Sewing Machine	65	90.2	26	39	61	78.2	27	34
Washing Machine	61	84.7	25	36	53	67.9	24	29
Automobile	61	84.7	24	37	63	83.2	29	34
Telephone	58	80.5	23	35	44	56.4	22	22
Kitchen Sink	45	62.5	17	28	33	42.5	19	14
Piano or Organ	27	37.5	12	25	33	42.3	20	13
Furnace Heat	16	22.2	11	5	10	12.8	6	4
Separate Washroom	18	23.4	9	9	6	7.6	4	2
Phonograph	14	19.4	8	6	9	11.5	5	5
Radio	14	19.4	7	7	9	11.5	3	6
Running Water	8	11.1	5	3	9	15.3	7	7
Bathroom	4	5.5	4	—	6	11.5	5	—
Indoor Toilet	2	2.7	2	—	—	8.3	6	—
Refrigerator	1	1.4	—	—	1	—	—	—

HOME SURROUNDINGS.								
	No. of all Homes With	Percent	No. Owners Homes With	No. Tenants Homes With	No. of all Homes With	Percent	No. Owners Homes With	No. Tenants Homes With
Vegetable Garden	53	73.6	21	32	56	71.8	25	31
Lawn and ard	41	56.9	13	28	56	71.8	24	32
Shade Trees	39	54	15	24	53	67.9	24	39
Small Fruit	30	41.6	15	15	28	35.8	12	16
Orchard	30	41.6	15	15	26	33.3	14	12

Reading Matter in Farm Homes

The daily newspaper and farm journal received the widest circulation of any periodicals in this area (Table 5). Eighty-four per cent of all the families took daily papers, averaging 1.3 per family; eighty-three per cent took farm journals, averaging 3.4 per family. The country weekly and womens' magazines were next in order in popularity. Sixty-five per cent took country weeklies averaging 1.1 per family while 61 per cent took womens' magazines averaging 2.06 per family. Only two families in the entire area took a children's magazine.

The most disappointing factor of the reading part of the survey was in the small number of books read. The adults in only 58 homes read books, according to their own testimony. When questioned concerning this, the comment was made that library service was not available and books were too costly to buy. A few said that when they had tried to secure books at the Madison Public Library, they were always treated



Fig. 5.—MODERN FARM HOMES IN ORLAND AND CLARNO TOWNSHIPS

courteously and received the books they wanted, but that they did not feel quite free to use the library inasmuch as it was supported entirely by the city of Madison.

While complete data was not gathered regarding the names of the actual periodicals subscribed to, the impression was gathered that much of the reading matter, especially in farm journals and womens' magazines, was not standard.

Table 5.—READING MATTER

	No. Homes Reading	Total No. Taken or Read	Ave. Per Family Subscribing	% of Total Homes of Area
Dailies -----	127	172	1.3	84.0
Farm Journals -----	125	433	3.4	83.0
Weeklies -----	98	113	1.15	65.0
Women's Magazines -----	92	190	2.06	61
Children's Magazines -----	2	4	2.0	1.3
Books -----	58	---	---	38.0

Recreation for Farm Families

The majority of farm families in these two townships do not take a vacation for more than a day or so at a time. The idea of a vacation seems to be more prevalent among the younger people than among the older. An increasing number of the latter are finding their recreation in the form of automobile trips to scenic parts of this or other states or else in visiting old friends who live some distance away. The growth of this idea no doubt has come about through the common use of the automobile and the building of better roads. Most of the younger people find their recreation in trips to nearby towns to attend movies or else in participating in certain social events.

The consolidated school in Orland now has its own movie machine and is attempting during the school year to conduct a certain number of social evenings for the people in the district. Many expressed the idea that much more could be accomplished in this respect and that it would be an important factor in making more of the young people satisfied with farm life. The impression was gained by the writer that in Clarno township there is not quite as much community interest in social activities as there is in Orland. This is probably due to the fact that the standard school which is the community center for the township, has only been built recently.

The expression was heard over and over again from parents and young people alike that if rural communities are to hold their own socially they must make social life more attractive.

FARMING AS A BUSINESS

It is this phase of farm life that farmers and their families are most dissatisfied and alarmed about. This was the most definite and wide spread opinion discovered in the whole study. Rightly or wrongly, the farmers of this area seem convinced in their own minds that as a class they do not have economic equality with capital and labor as found in city industry. An impression prevails that these last named groups are in some way either directly or indirectly receiving special political and

economic consideration. While for two generations or more, the belief has prevailed among farmers that they are receiving a low labor income compared to city industries, since 1923 this belief has become a deep seated conviction.

Besides this, the feeling has become intensified of late that farming as a business has become an uncertainty which foresight and industry on their part cannot prevent. Many expressed the opinion that as farmers they are operating at a permanent disadvantage and are having to carry a disproportionately large share of burdens. As evidence of this, the writer was referred to the low labor income of farmers and their increasing taxation and mortgage indebtedness despite the sharp decline of farm property valuations.

Information was then sought regarding the farm business problems and what was being accomplished through improved farm management. From the replies given, data has been compiled concerning the prevailing type of farming, the most profitable farm enterprises, the size and operation of farms, farm tenure, help used in operating farms and the local method of marketing farm products. Each of these items will be discussed in turn as a back ground for the findings regarding farm income, taxation conditions and mortgage indebtedness.

Type of Farming

Eighty-six and three-tenths per cent of all the farmers in Orland and Clarno stated that their type of farming was raising grain and livestock (Table 6). Only 7.2 per cent feed all their crops to livestock and 6.5 per cent do grain farming almost exclusively.

Table 6.—TYPE OF FARMING

	Orland		Clarno		Total No.	Per Cent
	Owner	Tenant	Owner	Tenant		
Combined Livestock and Grain -----	23	23	33	41	120	86.3
Livestock -----	4	6		1	10	7.2
Grain -----	3	5			9	6.5

The average farmer in the area raises 80.3 acres of corn, 75.8 acres of oats, 13.5 acres of barley, 8.8 acres of flax and 9.1 acres of other crops. His hay acreage averages 10.5 acres of sweet clover and alfalfa and 10.4 acres of other kinds of hay. The crop area comprises 76.8 per cent of his farm acreage while 23.2 per cent is given over to permanent pasture, farmstead, waste, etc. In livestock, the average farmer keeps 7.6 horses and mules, 22 head of cattle, 36 hogs, 4 sheep and a flock of 112 chickens. In using these average figures, it is of course obvious that the above is not a true picture of all items on any one farm.

Of the 150 farms, 141 farmers indicated that of all the enterprises in their farm business, the raising of hogs was most profitable (Table 7). Cattle, dairying, corn, poultry and sheep were the enterprises given next in order as being the most profitable.

Table 7.—FARM ENTERPRISE FOUND MOST PROFITABLE

	Orland		Clarno		Total No.	Per Cent
	Owner	Tenant	Owner	Tenant		
Hogs -----	30	36	33	42	141	41.4
Cattle -----	13	15	22	26	76	22.3
Dairying -----	11	14	10	14	49	14.4
Corn -----	9	10	3	12	34	10.0
Poultry -----	8	7	9	7	31	9.1
Sheep -----	2	--	3	2	7	2.1
Flax -----	1	1	--	--	2	.05

Size and Operation of Farms

According to the agricultural census of South Dakota for 1925, the average size farm of the state was 402.6 acres. This shows an increase of 67.3 acres since 1910 (Table 8). During the same period, there was an increase of 1,893 farms in the state. This change has come about largely because more land has been converted into farms, especially in the western part of the state. Sixty-six per cent of South Dakota land is now in farms (1925). This is an increase of 13.1 per cent in fifteen years.

In Lake County, however, the average size farm has decreased on an average of 50 acres during the last fifteen years and is now 244.4 acres. The number of farms has increased from 1,153 to 1,400. A total of 95.1 per cent of Lake County land is now in farms.

In both Orland and Clarno Townships, the average sized farm has increased slightly since 1920 (Table 8).

The number of separate farm units in Orland has decreased from 78 to 72 since 1920.

Local residents accounted for this fact in that certain owner operators had given up farming temporarily and had rented out their land to adjoining or nearby operators.

Table 8.—SIZE AND OPERATION OF FARMS

Area	Date	Av. Size Farm	Total No. Farms	Operated by Owners	%	Operated by Tenants	%
Orland Twp.	1926	298.1	72	31	43.0	43	59.8
	1925	309.0	78	27	34.6	51	65.4
	1920	281.0	75	30	40.0	45	60.0
Clarno Twp.	1926	307.2	78	35	44.8	43	55.2
	1925	298	73	31	42.4	42	57.5
	1920	301.0	74	35	47.3	39	52.7
Lake County	1925	244.4	1,400	628	44.9	772	55.1
	1920	259.0	1,285	670	53.2	601	46.8
	1910	294.4	1,153	715	62.0	431	38.0
South Dakota	1925	402.6	79,537	46,160	58.5	33,046	41.5
	1920	464	74,637	47,815	64.1	26,041	34.9
	1910	335.1	77,644	57,984	74.2	19,231	24.8

Help Used in Operating Farms

Of the total number of 150 farms in Orland and Clarno Townships, 109 range between 160 and 440 acres in size. One might logically conclude that considerable help would be needed by the average operator to operate these farms. A careful tabulation of the kind, number and amount of help used, however, reveals the fact that a relatively small amount of help is employed except for short periods during the harvesting and corn picking season. The farmers in this section are trying to cut down the hiring of help to a minimum. More machinery is being used wherever possible. Nearly all use gang plows and large scale equipment throughout. It is estimated that 30 per cent now own tractors. Many of the farmers have already purchased machine corn pickers while others are talking strongly of purchasing them, owing to the high price paid for corn picking by hand in 1926.⁷

Only 22 farmers in both townships employ hired help by the month for periods of more than six months during the year. Only nine other farmers employ men by the month for periods of from one to six months. The balance of the help employed is by the day for corn picking and harvesting. Sixty-seven farmers declared that they had employed no help whatever during the year except the help given by other members of the family. Several farmers stated that the custom was growing of exchanging help with neighbors.

Tenancy

In the proportion of tenancy to farms operated by owners, Lake County is fairly typical of east central South Dakota. The average for the state is 41.5 per cent. Orland Township has a tenancy rate of 59.8 per cent while the rate in Clarno is 55.2 per cent. Owing to the relatively small number of farms involved in each case, however, the difference in rate is too small to indicate any particular significance.

The type of lease (Table 9) for the two townships is fairly uniform. On 75.4 per cent of all the 86 rented farms, the renter gets two-thirds of the crop and pays \$4.00 to \$5.00 cash per acre for the pasture and hay land. Another 12.3 per cent of the 86 renters vary the plan slightly by getting three-fifths of the crop and the owner two-fifths. The remaining 12.3 per cent of the 86 tenants rent on a fifty-fifty basis or for cash.

Table 9.—TYPE OF LEASE

	Orland				Clarno				Totl.	%
	Owners		Tenants		Owners		Tenants			
	Reg.	Add*	Reg.	Add.*	Reg.	Add.*	Reg.	Add.*		
$\frac{2}{3}$ & $\frac{1}{3}$ & Cash.....	3	10	27	8	9	26	9	92	75.4	
$\frac{3}{5}$ & $\frac{2}{5}$ & Cash.....	—	—	5	—	—	10	—	15	12.3	
$\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$	1	—	4	—	—	2	—	7	5.7	
Cash	—	1	1	—	4	2	—	8	6.6	

(7)The prevailing price paid for corn picking in 1926 was 8c per bushel, although some were forced to pay as high as 10c per bushel.

*The custom prevails quite extensively in these townships of farm operators, both owners and tenants, of renting additional land. The heading "regular" refers to those operating a single unit farm. The heading "additional" refers to those owners or tenants who rent land in addition to a single farm unit.

The prevailing type of lease in these two townships, according to local opinion, seems to indicate that as yet landlords look upon crop production as being more stable in the farm business than livestock production. In other words, the landlord is evidently staking his chances of earning a good return on his land investment through crops marketed direct than in sharing the livestock returns with the tenant as is customary in some of the older states.

Relationship Between Tenants and Landlords

An interesting factor in the tenancy situation of the two townships is the close kin relationship existing between 20 per cent of the tenants and landlords. Out of this number, in all cases but one, the tenants are either sons or sons-in-law of the landlord (Table 10).

It was found that when an owner operator retired, a son or a son-in-law often rented the farm for a few years before assuming ownership or in some cases before the estate had been settled. By this system several renters explained that the young men starting out could command and operate a more economic business unit with much less risk and outlay of capital than by renting from outsiders.

Table 10.—RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TENANTS AND LANDLORDS

	Orland	Clarno
Percentage of all tenants related to owners.....	23.2	20.9
Sons	7	8
Sons-in-law	2	1
Nephew by marriage.....	1	0
Total tenants related to owners.....	10	9
Total number of tenants	43	43

Plan and Method of Marketing Farm Products

The city of Madison is the main marketing point for the farmers in Orland Township (Table 11). Fifty-six of the 72 farmers sell most of their livestock and grain through agencies located at Madison. During the last year or so, however, an increasing number are trucking their livestock direct to the Sioux Falls market. Regular truck marketing service for carrying livestock has now been established at a rate amounting to less than the freight charge.

Table 11.—PLACE OF MARKETING PRODUCTS

Place	Orland		Clarno		Total	Per Cent
	Owner	Tenant	Owner	Tenant		
Madison	26	28	2	—	56	26.3
Winfred	—	—	21	23	44	20.6
Sioux Falls	6	15	11	10	42	19.7
Junius	6	8	4	14	32	15.0
Canova	—	9	2	4	15	7.1
Salem	—	—	6	2	8	3.7
Sioux City	3	—	3	1	7	3.3
Montrose	3	—	2	1	6	2.8
Unityville	—	—	3	—	3	1.4

In Clarno Township, 43 out of 78 farmers sell their products to agencies located in Winfred. About one-half of that number also truck some of their livestock direct to the Sioux Falls market. The balance of farmers sell their products through agencies located at Junius, Salem, Canova, Montrose and a few ship to Sioux City.

The method of marketing is not well established as yet. It is estimated that approximately 25 per cent of all products are marketed through co-operative agencies, although it is difficult to get an exact check on this item.

About 60 per cent of the 150 operators belong to some cooperative association or other. Several farmers belong to two or three different cooperative organizations. The two types of cooperation that seem to have succeeded best in the township are those dealing with fire and tornado insurance and a cooperative telephone organization in Orland Township. Over one-half of the farmers are interested in these two organizations and apparently are supporting them loyally.

A somewhat different attitude, however, prevailed in regard to the cooperative marketing of livestock and grain. About forty farmers hold membership in livestock shipping associations located at Madison, Winfred and other nearby towns. Approximately 35 farmers belong to cooperative elevator associations in these same centers. The patronage given to these associations is somewhat divided. In reply to the question as to whether they prefer to market through their cooperative agency or a private concern, there was divided opinion. In the majority of cases, the statement was made that they preferred not to be tied down to either an independent or cooperative but use their own judgment as to where they could get the best service.

Farm Income

The replies obtained from this area to the questions regarding farm incomes for the past three years, were rather indefinite and unsatisfactory from a statistical standpoint. As far as the writer could learn, none of the farmers had kept complete farm account books for that period so they were not in a position to give accurate figures as to their labor incomes.

However, after explaining what was meant by labor income ⁽⁸⁾, rough estimates were made of the same for each of 140 farms for the years 1923, 1924 and 1925. On this basis, it was found that only 7.8 per cent of the 140 farms had made an average annual labor income of \$500 or more. The balance of 92.2 per cent had either made less than \$500 or had run behind. In a large number of cases the farmer had not only failed to make a labor income over that period, but had not even earned a low rate of interest on his investment. ⁽⁹⁾

(8) The operator's labor income is the wage the farm has paid him for his labor and for his skill as manager. It is what he makes above expenses which includes all cash expenses, the value of food for hired help, the value of family labor at usual rates and interest on the investment in the farm.

(9) Accurate labor income figures are available for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924, taken from 20 farms near Oldham, South Dakota. These records were kept by a trained accountant for the three-year period, who was maintained at Oldham for that purpose in connection with an organized farm management cost route. This route was conducted under the joint auspices of the farm management section of the Department of Farm

While very little weight is attached to these estimates as an accurate statement of labor income, it is certain that over 90 per cent of the farmers of this area have not been able to set aside any savings during the past three years and have experienced considerable difficulty in making enough to maintain an ordinary standard of living for themselves and family. It was evident in many cases that the families were having to reduce their customary standard of living while others were going in debt to take care of current expenses.

Taxation

In comparing the amount of taxes paid by the two townships, we find that the average taxes paid in Orland are considerably higher than those paid in Clarno. This is due not so much to the difference in valuation per acre or to personal property valuation, but to the much higher levy in Orland Township. The total tax levy in Orland Township for 1925 was 21.9 mills while in Clarno Township it was 11.6 mills (Table 12). This difference in levy has been necessitated by the much larger school expense. A comparison of the two school systems as to cost and results is discussed further in another section.

Probably more discussion was precipitated over the cost of operating the consolidated school in Orland Township than any other taxation factor. It was evident from comments made that the matter had been discussed freely for years by friend and foe alike but that the situation had become acute only during the depression of the last three or four years.

The writer gained the impression, however, that there is a growing disposition to view the whole situation in a somewhat different light and from an angle other than that of cost only. While the cost is admitted to be high, many of those formerly opposed are now seeing that they are getting good value for their expenditure and that in the long run it will be a sound investment for the district.

Outside of the cost factor, practically no serious criticisms or dissatisfactions were registered against the school. Many parents expressed their keen satisfaction that they were now able to give their children a high school education which they could not have done had it been necessary to have sent them to school in town with the added expense of board, lodging and other extras. It was predicted by several that this sentiment would grow increasingly as time went on and the results of an agricultural high school education became more evident.

Economics at South Dakota State College and the South Dakota State Department of Agriculture and U. S. Department of Agriculture. The purpose of this route was to study the organization of farms in east central South Dakota. Covering the three-year period, these 20 farms averaged a labor income of \$864 per year. The lowest average annual labor income for the three-year period on any one of the farms, was minus \$42 and the highest average annual income was \$2,560. During the first two years of the period, the average income was only slightly over \$300 per farm. In 1924, however, owing to a decided rise in the price of hogs and grains, the average income for that year was \$1,914.

During the years of 1925 and 1926, a similar route has been maintained in Brown County, South Dakota, covering twelve farms. The average income for 1925 for these twelve farms was \$1,307 but in 1926 the average farm showed a minus income of \$904. This decline of income for 1926 was due to a partial crop failure. These figures are taken from unpublished data from the cost route reports and furnished through the courtesy of the South Dakota State College Farm Economics Department.

Table 12.—COMPARATIVE TAXATION ITEMS IN ORLAND & CLARNO TOWNSHIPS

	Orland	Clarno
Average valuation per acre	\$ 77.9	\$ 72.7
Average valuation per quarter section	12,320.00	11,520.00
Consolidated state and county tax levy (mills)	5.62	5.62
Township tax levy (in mills)	1.36	1.71
School District Tax Levy (in mills)	14.92	4.27
Average tax paid per acre	1.68	.84
Average tax paid per quarter section	269.80	133.63
Average school tax paid per acre	1.13	.31
Average personal property valuation per owner	1,539.00	1,363.00
Average personal property valuation per tenant	1,364.00	1,053.00

Mortgage Indebtedness

The figures for mortgage indebtedness are taken from the Agricultural Census of 1925 and pertain to Lake County as a whole (Table 13). As far as the writer could learn, the mortgage indebtedness of the two townships was fairly typical of the entire county. Attention is called to the fact that in point of number of farms carrying mortgages, it is only slightly more than the number for 1910. The increase in percentage from 56 to 66.6 has come about largely because the proportion of farms operated by owners has decreased since 1910.

Table 13.—MORTGAGE INDEBTEDNESS OF FARMS OPERATED BY OWNERS IN LAKE COUNTY (1925 Federal Agricultural Census).

	1910	1920	1925
Total No. of farms in Lake County	1,153	1,285	1,400
Total No. of farms operated by tenants	438	615	772
Total No. farms operated by owners	715	670	628
No. of such farms with mortgages	407	383	415
Percent of such farms mortgaged	56	57	66.6
Ave. acreage of farms reporting mortgage	290	246	242
Total amount of mortgage indebtedness	770,556	1,863,401	2,221,625
Ratio of mortgage debt to value (per cent)	19.6	19.8	45
Ave. size mortgage per mortgaged farm	\$1,873	\$4,865	\$10,630
Ave. per acre of mortgage debt	6.4	11.30	50.11

Considering the total amount of mortgage indebtedness, however, there has been a decided increase. This is even more pronounced when we consider the ratio of mortgage debt to value. This has increased from 19.6 per cent in 1910 to 45 per cent in 1925.⁽¹⁰⁾

Most of the increase in mortgages accumulated during the period of land inflation. Since that time, however, land values have declined, leaving a much narrower margin between the mortgage debt per acre and the assessed land values for 1925. In Orland Township, the assessed land value per acre in 1925 was \$77.9 while in Clarno it was \$72.7 per acre.

(10) It should be kept in mind throughout that these figures deal with the mortgage indebtedness of farms operated by owners only. The writer did not find it possible to obtain data as to the mortgage indebtedness of rented farms owned by absentee landlords.

Considerable concern was expressed by many over the increased ratio of mortgage indebtedness to land values.⁽¹¹⁾

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

In general, the farmer and his family seem well satisfied with their neighborhood and community relationships (Table 14). Most of these relationships are fairly well standardized and center about social and economic institutions such as the church, school, public library, community groups of various kinds, together with marketing and credit agencies.

The communities surveyed are still less than 50 years old, having been settled since 1878. In addition to the native population, immigrants from nine different foreign nations are living there besides residents that have come in from fourteen different outside states. Despite this wide variation in nativity and early loyalties, a surprising amount of neighborliness exists. Over 96 per cent of the families interviewed indicated that they were well satisfied with community life as a whole. A few indicated that since the advent of automobiles, neighbors were not as friendly as they formerly were. In trying to account for this condition, some felt that folks were now selecting their associates from a much greater range of territory and along lines of personal interest rather than because they belong to the same local neighborhood.

Occasionally complaints were registered over poor individual service having been received from economic and trading agencies in the trade community. However, slightly more than 80 per cent of all families indicated that they were reasonably satisfied with the services rendered by existing institutions.

In order to be more specific in getting at the reaction of people on the different economic and social institutions in the community, each will be treated in turn.

Table 14.—HOW FARMERS VIEW COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RELATIONSHIPS

Farmers Expressing Satisfaction With:	Orland				Clarno				Both Townships			
	Owner		Tenant		Owner		Tenant		Tot'l	% of Tot'l	Tot'l	% of
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No				
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Total	No.	Total
Community Life.....	28	42	2	34	1	41	2	145	96.7	5	3.3	
Friendliness of Neighbors....	22	27	16	28	7	34	9	112	74.7	38	25.3	
Local Govt. (Twp.&County)	28	42	2	33	2	43	-	146	97.3	4	2.7	
Church Service.....	28	41	1	33	42	42	1	144	96.0	2	1.3	
Library Service.....	28	41	1	33	-	42	1	144	96.0	2	1.3	
Trading Facilities.....	26	42	-	35	-	40	-	141	94.0	-	-	
Marketing Service.....	27	40	4	34	1	41	1	142	94.6	7	4.6	
Credit Facilities.....	21	32	10	29	6	37	6	119	80.5	29	19.5	

(11) Very few, however, gave full weight to the fact that most of the increase in mortgages had come about during the land boom period or had fully considered for what purposes the increased borrowings were used. Unquestionably most of the mortgage indebtedness represents the purchase price of additional real estate, real estate improvements or other farmstead improvements. The only mortgage indebtedness which represents a real loss are those upon which foreclosures have been made. It is estimated that since 1920, from 15 to 20 per cent of the farmers in the two townships have lost their equity because of mortgage foreclosures. Doubtless a majority of the foreclosures represents the inability of the farmers to make their payments when due. Many others, however, are voluntary relinquishments due to the fact that the value of the land has decreased to the amount of the mortgage or less.

- Community Social Organizations

Among the community social organizations of the area, the ones affiliated with extension work from the State Agricultural College have by far the largest membership (Table 15). The community club in both townships is called the township farm bureau. There are 32 farm bureau members in Orland and 37 in Clarno. The home extension clubs are local groups of women organized to conduct home demonstrations in the homes of members. The Orland club has 24 members and the Clarno organization 27 members. Poultry clubs seem to have been the most popular with boys and girls in the two townships. There were 11 members in Orland and five in Clarno this past year.

Three fraternal organizations have a scattered membership in the two townships. As far as could be learned, only seven women held membership in fraternal orders.



Fig. 6.—HOMEMAKERS' EXTENSION CLUB IN ORLAND TOWNSHIP

Table 15.—ORGANIZATIONS BELONGED TO OTHER THAN RELIGIOUS

	Orland						Clarno						Total
	Owner			Tenant			Owner			Tenant			
	Man	Wife	Children	Man	Wife	Children	Man	Wife	Children	Man	Wife	Children	
Twp. Farm Bureau	7	—	—	25	—	—	24	—	—	13	—	—	69
Home Ec. Club	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	51
Woodmen	2	—	—	2	—	—	6	—	—	7	—	—	17
Odd Fellows	4	—	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	4	—	—	14
Boys' and Girls' Club Work	—	—	7	—	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	2	16

Education of Farmers and Their Wives

The education of farmers and their wives in the two townships compare favorably with the rest of the state (Table 16.) Eighty-two and seven-tenths per cent have a common school education; 10.6 per cent have had either a partial or complete high school course while 6.8 per cent have taken some collegiate work beyond the high school.

Comparing this with the educational status of South Dakota population about 18 years of age (1925 census), we find that 78.5 per cent have received a common school education. In addition to this, 13.9 per cent have spent some time in high school while 7.1 per cent have had collegiate training.

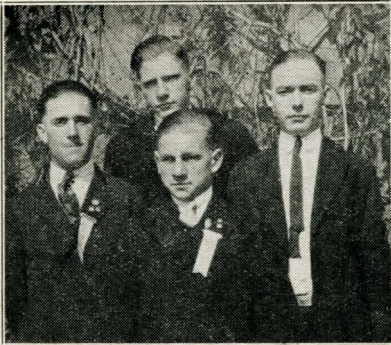


Fig. 7.—ORLAND TOWNSHIP DAIRY CLUB DEMONSTRATION TEAM

Regret was expressed by many of the parents that during their youth, educational facilities for high school education were not available. Others commented on the fact that the value of an education had not been appreciated by their home community and as a consequence, the only type of work they could do now was the one they had learned by the apprentice method.

There is an even more encouraging side to the question when we consider the schooling that parents want their children to have.

At the present time, 75 per cent of the 32 children of high school age (14 to 18) in Orland Township are attending High School. In Clarno Township, 12, or 37 per cent, of the 32 children of high school age are attending high school in adjoining districts. Taking South Dakota as a whole, 13,500 or approximately 50 per cent of all of the farm boys and girls of high school age are attending high school at the present time.

In each of the 130 homes with children, in the combined area, careful tabulation was made as to the education they wanted their children to have. Only 18.7 per cent wanted their children to stop with a grade school education. Approximately 57.9 per cent wanted their children to have at least a high school education while the balance of 23.3 per cent hope to have them go through college. The opinion was expressed over and over again by parents that the future would require a far better education than they had received in their youth.

Table 16.—COMPARATIVE EDUCATION OF ORLAND AND CLARNO FARMERS AND WIVES WITH ALL SOUTH DAKOTANS.

	Orland & Clarno Farmers and Wives		All South Dakotans 18 Years of Age and Over*	
	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total
Dropped out of school in or with the grades.....	235	82.7	292,503	78.5
Dropped out of school in or with High School.....	30	10.5	51,927	13.9
Dropped out of school in or with College.....	19	6.8	26,652	7.1

Educational Systems Compared

Both Orland and Clarno civil townships comprise a separate school district. Each district manages its own affairs, having separate school boards. In both cases, the entire school board is made up of men.

In 1917 Orland Township voted to consolidate her five one-room elementary schools into one large consolidated school including an up-to-date high school department (Figure 8). Consolidation came as a result of a long struggle in the township after the issue had been defeated in two previous elections.

The school was built in the exact center of Orland Township at an approximate cost of \$100,000 for building and grounds. The furniture equipment added considerable more to the cost so that the district is

*South Dakota State Census of 1925—Total population about 18 years of age was 372,544, of which .34 per cent are illiterate.

bonded for \$116,000. Most of the bonds run for twenty years. Provision is made, however, in each annual tax levy to provide for a gradual retirement of these bonds in addition to meeting all current expenses. There has been accumulated in the sinking fund, a total of \$25,149.78 towards the retirement of the bonds. The average interest rate is 6 per cent.

The total moneys raised for school purposes for the school year beginning July 1, 1925, was \$32,057.48 and the total expenditures were \$31,437.08, leaving a cash balance of \$620.40 at the end of the year. The Orland School has a total enrollment of 113 pupils, 89 being enrolled in the grades and 24 in the High School.

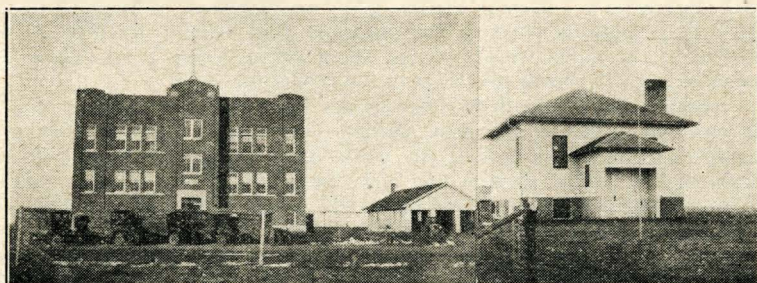


Fig. 8.—SCHOOLS IN THE TWO TOWNSHIPS

The building at the left is the Orland Consolidated school. It houses all the grades and a four-year high school. The one at the right is one of the one-room elementary schools in Clarno Township.

Five different motor busses from within the township are used in transporting pupils to the school. Six teachers, including the principal, are employed in the entire school. Both agriculture and home economics are taught in the high school, the major emphasis being given to these two courses.

The Clarno district operates six elementary one room schools located at convenient points in the township (Figure 1). One of the schools in the center of the township is a standard school which is also used as a community center for township activities. The district does not maintain a high school of its own, but pays the tuition of any of its boys and girls of high school age who desire to attend in some one of the adjoining districts. Twelve young people are now attending High School from the Clarno Township. The district paid a total of \$798.76 in tuition for these pupils the past year. Only two of the pupils attend the Orland school, the balance going to nearby small town high schools. Clarno has a total of 91 pupils enrolled in the elementary schools. Her total school receipts for the past year were \$12,788.95 and her total expenditures were \$10,220.63, leaving a cash balance of \$2,568.33 at the end of the year. The net indebtedness of the district is only \$361.76.

Probably no one local subject in the area surveyed caused as much comment as the so-called excessive cost of operating the Orland consolidated school. Not only did the people within Orland and Clarno townships mention this fact but one heard it often in other portions of

Lake County, especially in Madison, where many of the retired absentee landlords for the two townships live.⁽¹²⁾

The writer gained the impression, however, that even though the cost has been great, an increasing number of people are feeling that consolidation has been decidedly worth while and in the long run the district will gain much more than the extra cost involved. This opinion was expressed by some of the largest property owners living in the district. They feel that the value of the school will become more evident as time goes on. Several of the older adults expressed the thought that the school has a unifying and socializing influence in the township. Many parents expressed appreciation of the agricultural and home economic courses offered in the Orland school. Out of this institution, two boys have already won national honors in being members of the championship college judging team at the National Dairy Show of 1926. Other benefits of the agricultural courses being given in the High School are shown in modified farm practices in the school district.

Another factor noted by a few is the training and experience which has been given to the people of Orland Township in meeting their own educational problems. One of the more far-seeing farmers said, "If the people in the Orland district can only make this high school a medium for improving the economic and social life of the community, it would be worth many times its cost." While others did not express themselves as clearly on this point, the writer was convinced that an increasing number of people are coming to appreciate the value of the school and are getting back of it to make it serve the community better.

Religious Denominations and Church Membership

Nine different denominations are represented in the combined area (Table 17). The Lutherans predominate in membership with the Catholics second and the Methodists third.⁽¹³⁾ This can be accounted for easily by glancing back at the country of birth (Table 1).

Of the nine denominations represented, only four are open country churches (Figure 9). Only one of these is located within the area (Figure 1). From opinions expressed, it was evident that the various churches play an important part in the social and religious life of the two communities with 92 per cent of the 150 families belonging to some one of the nine churches. Of this number, 75 per cent attend services quite regularly and 11 per cent occasionally. A part of the 8 per cent who said they did not belong to any denomination, attend church service occasionally.

(12) In fairness to both sides of the question, one cannot gainsay the fact that Orland is heavily hurried financially and that she has a long struggle ahead of her. It is no doubt true that had the district waited until the present time, the same consolidation project could have been started and maintained at a much less cost to the district. It should be kept in mind, however, that no consolidated school has been built in South Dakota since 1922 and the present attitude in most parts of the state does not seem favorable to starting consolidation projects. It is altogether likely therefore, that had the Orland district waited for more favorable conditions, the project would have been delayed many years and many children would have failed to obtain a H. S. education. Twice as many children attend High School from Orland as do from Clarno, although the number of boys and girls of High School age is approximately the same in both districts.

(13) This same order of denominations based on size as found in Orland and Clarno Townships holds true for the state of South Dakota as a whole. The Lutherans have the largest membership, the Catholics second and Methodists third.

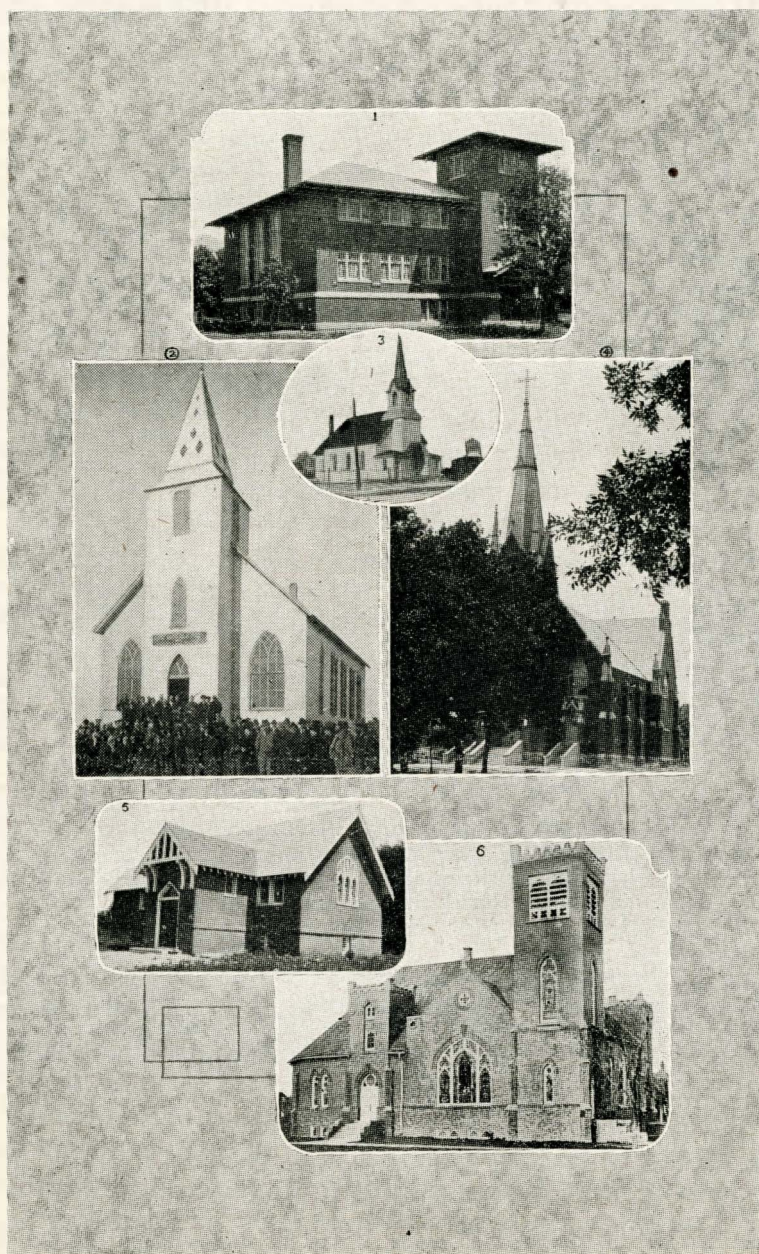


Fig. 9.—SOME OF THE CHURCHES SERVING ORLAND AND CLARNO TOWNSHIPS

Table 17.—CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND DENOMINATIONS OF OWNERS, TENANTS AND WIVES.

	Owners					
	Orland		Clarno		Total No.	Pct.
	Men	Women	Men	Women		
1. Lutheran -----	11	13	16	17	57	52.2
2. Catholic -----	9	8	4	4	25	22.9
3. Presbyterian -----	---	1	4	4	8	7.3
4. Baptist -----	---	1	3	3	7	6.4
5. Methodist -----	---	1	3	2	6	5.5
6. 7th Day Adventist -----	---	---	2	2	4	3.7
7. Congregational -----	---	---	1	7	2	1.8
	Tenants					
	Orland		Clarno		Total No.	Pct.
	Men	Women	Men	Women		
					109	99.8
1. Lutheran -----	13	11	17	17	58	43.2
2. Catholic -----	7	9	5	5	26	19.1
3. Methodist -----	7	11	3	3	24	11.2
4. Baptist -----	6	6	4	4	20	10.0
5. Presbyterian -----	1	1	4	4	10	6.7
6. Congregational -----	---	---	5	5	10	4.5
7. 7th Day Adventist -----	2	2	---	---	4	3.0
8. Dutch Reform -----	---	---	1	1	2	1.0
9. Episcopalian -----	1	1	---	---	2	1.0

Church and Sunday School Attendance

The percentage of children who attend Sunday School was not as high as the percentage of those who attend church. This can be easily understood when one considers that the country people have to drive considerable distance to church and do not feel that they have time to participate in both the Sunday School and church service. From the reports gathered, 54.5 per cent of children attend Sunday School (Table 18). Several of the parents expressed opinions that their children were growing up without-adequate religious instruction. A few felt that some provision should be made in each district for union Sunday School services to be held in school houses, owing to the fact that most of the churches were some distance away.

Table 18.—CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

	Orland			Clarno			Total	% families in both Twp
	Men	Women	Child.	Men	Women	Child.		
No. who belong -----	47	56	—	71	72	—	246	92.5
No. who attend reg'ly--	39	45	—	66	65	—	215	80.8
No. who attend occasionally-----	—	11	—	5	7	—	31	11.6
No. who neither belong nor attend -----	4	4	—	5	5	—	18	6.3
No. of children who attend Sunday School--	—	—	33	—	—	37	70	54.5

Trading Points

As far as Orland and Clarno Townships are concerned, the days of trading through mail order houses seem to be practically gone. In addition to the patronage given to the local stores at Clarno and Orland, over 97 per cent of the purchases are now made in Madison, Winfred, Canova, Junius and Salem (Table 19).

The opinion among farmers and their families in the two townships seemed to be almost unanimous to the effect that one could do as well trading locally as to send away to mail order houses.

Table 19.—TRADING POINTS

	Orland		Clarno		Total	Percent
	Owner	Tenant	Owner	Tenant		
Madison-----	29	40	20	24	113	57.9
Winfred-----	—	—	20	27	47	24.1
Canova-----	—	12	3	4	19	9.7
Junius-----	1	—	3	4	7	3.6
Salem-----	—	—	6	1	7	3.6
Sioux Falls-----	—	1	—	—	1	.05
Montrose-----	—	1	—	—	1	.05

OUTLOOK FOR FARMING

When farmers were asked the question (14) "why children leave the farm and move to the city," very naturally a variety of replies were given. The most important reason advanced by 63.3 per cent of those expressing an opinion was that farming lacked the opportunity for social life; 30 per cent felt that farm incomes were too low to attract people; 25.3 per cent felt that in the city, work was less hard and cleaner, while 7.3 per cent referred to shorter hours as being an advantage of city life over the country. A smaller number laid the fault of children leaving the farm at the door of parents. Some felt that parents were too strict and did not give their children enough freedom to develop a love for farming.

(14) In asking the question, it was made clear that a certain per cent of both boys and girls would naturally not be attracted to or suited for farm life. They were not the children referred to but those who although normally rural minded, left the farm because of unfavorable local conditions.

It is significant that in suggesting ways and means for overcoming the difficulty of children wanting to leave the farm, 18.7 per cent suggested a partnership between parents and children and a similar number suggested a general plan of improving rural social conditions⁽¹⁵⁾; 15.3 per cent suggested making farming more profitable while 5.3 per cent proposed more agricultural education.

What Children Want To Do

Considerable interest was taken by the writer in the replies given to this question as they would seem to provide an indirect clue as to what the parents in that locality thought about farming (Table 20). Very naturally the young people's attitudes and opinions would reflect those of their parents.

Table 20.—WHAT CHILDREN WANT TO DO

	Orland		Clarno	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Total No. of children.....	271	100	253	100
Number in school.....	126	51	115	49
Number farming for themselves.....	32	76.2	43	79.7
Number doing other work.....	10	23.8	11	20.3
Younger sons wanting to farm.....	39	95	33	89.2

Of all the children under 21 years of age, 49 per cent are enrolled in school. Of those above that age, 43 or 79.7 per cent of both sexes are now engaged in farming. Only 20.3 per cent are engaged in other types of work in town. The question was then asked as to whether the younger sons looked forward to farming when they finished school; 89.2 per cent expressed their desire to farm. Parents were also asked as to whether they wanted their girls to marry farmers. With one exception, no objections were raised on the part of parents to girls marrying farmers. The statement most often made was that this was a matter for girls to decide for themselves.

Table 21.—DO FARMERS WANT TO FARM

	Orland				Clarno				Both Townships			
	Own.		Ten.		Own.		Ten.		Tot.	% of	Tot.	% of
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Tot.	No.	Tot.
Starting over again, would you farm.....	20	9	30	6	29	5	38	4	117	78.0	24	76.0
Do you want sons to farm?.....	20	3	30	1	27	—	22	4	99	93.4	8	6.6
Do you object to daughters marrying farmers?.....	—	24	—	33	37	—	16	—	—	—	110*	100
Making special effort to keep children on farm.....	19	5	21	4	24	6	28	7	98	62.0	22	14.7

*None object to daughters marrying farmers. There are only 110 families where there are girls.

(15) It was evident through in the discussion as to why young people leave the farm and in proposing ways of overcoming the difficulty, that most people had not yet realized their individual responsibility to the community problem. Many talked of the community needs and the problems involved without stopping to think that the community was simply a collection of individuals, each having a part to play if the need was to be met.

Summary and Conclusions

From the foregoing discussion, it is evident that the farmer and his family are fairly well satisfied with the farm as a home and as a mode of living. In the main, he is satisfied with his neighborhood and community relationships. It is with farming as a business that he feels temporarily out of economic adjustment with the rest of the country.

Does this deep seated and growing grievance of the farmer make him disgusted with farming? Does he desire to quit, move to town and try something else? Not if the opinions expressed on this point conveys his real conviction in the matter (Table 21).

Seventy-eight per cent of the farmers in this area say that if they were starting over again they would farm. Some 93 per cent say that they want their sons to farm. None objected directly to their daughters marrying farmers if they wanted to. Slightly over 62 per cent are making a special effort to keep their children on the farm by trying to make farming more interesting, attractive and worth while.

More significant yet is the fact that 79.9 per cent of the grown up children over 21 are engaged in farming and 89.2 per cent of the younger boys say that they want to farm.

Whereto then does the farmer look for the solution of his economic problems? For the past few two or three years he has been looking toward state and national legislation as a means of relief. A growing number, however, indicate that they are losing hope of obtaining relief in this way. They are beginning to feel that farm relief is a group problem and as such must come through group organization and group action.