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"Urban Browth at Expense of Pural" Faul Affringeller.

There cannot, to a close observer of history, be anything more Significant than vast movements of population whither to or within any Country. A coul glance at any Census Topost in which the percentage of growth of the city is given in Connection with the percentage of morease of rural Sopulation will Convince anyone that in Camparatively a few years a crisis must be reached. That this tendences is dangerous Camob, with any reflection on though, be doubted and that its staffage is one of our national problems is equally certain,

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14%, while the urbon moreased over As silent monuments of this moormal we note all over the country abandoned forms: forms once productive, and Centres of industry, now deserted and left to grow up as tember. A face years serial, the Commissioner of agriculture of New Haugshire reported 1442 Vacant or abandoned forms with tenoutably buildings in that Sate The same is true of are tew England. In michigan then were 7000 fewer James in 1890 than in 1878 the the Johnlahois Lad meanwhile mercased almost sooos, com with the Ligh

limits of 8000 to a city, then were Seven States whose rural forfeitation actually dearrased during the tecalg. These Statistics Suffici to show how general and wide sprad is the movements and lead us to a Consideration of really If we look at the farmers who remain at home we find her burdes metigly. The cost of Resping aup the toods falls Leavier au chem and necessarily the roads suffer and the former finds himsely brung Gradually moved further and further from the City or villings, He Achool and Churches are not kept up, and Those who prize them most highly

have increasing reasons for leaving. Le general tendency to degredation and denoralization Doin cident eville decrusing Jobulation and mercasing isolation can be well seen in the Case of the mountain whites of the South. Juring now to the cities we find the results Equally bad if not worse. The increase in Jobulation intensifies the competition of the city laborer and this, in terru, reach on those coming to the city who find their opportunities austantly frowing less. But there are graver Evils than this in the large city. The american large city is the most

heterogeneous Collection of individuals lu the world, In London 98 out of livery 100 luhabilants unt matrices of Sreat Brillian und Schaud, are forcinger Pourrie logether Constituting only 1.6% of her for ulation! Contrash His with our longe ceties. The tent Census shows that, of the Sopulation of fifty of our privapol cities, thirty fercent are foreign born and 45 of the Jofulation of foreign Jarentagt. Auseler of the great Evils of the american City is the lodgment of the power of the ballot in the Lands of these degraded and unducated horses From the very wature of a city we Stoule expect the governing former to be the Strongest and most centralized while in fact it is just fere that it is the weakest breause controlled by the vary Clement that produces and fosters vice. The beller Clement of the City has almost no fower in its government and, realizing this, most frequently stay away from the folls. In any foldical Campaign it is the maching" the "Inish or Catholic vote" that must be grued at any Expense of good representation or government. To such an Extent is this Corruption Carried that it is deldom Said Mr. Andrew D. White we the Forum " Without the Styllest exageration we may assert that. with very flow exceptions the City government of the United States is the worst in hustendom - the most extension, the most weggeneigh, and the most this tendency we can find nothing but Ente as recessary Consequences. ar an ush the first action to Eusaunter this Evil. Nome Jeh it and it was one of the Chief Causer of der overthrow

It is now almost universally Conceded that the real crisis in Romes later history was met when she not only refused the "agracian Law" of Fracchus but Killed its noble defendert. His ain was to Establish a fourthful youmaury, to flant liberty in land, and to perpetuate the Roman Comononwealth by identifying its Frinciples week the Oveling of the Sail. Lich is the reed of America loday, and how to secure it is the froblew. Could America but realize and act on that famous declum ?) Frachus "While ist agricultura melius, m'hil uberrius, mihil dulains,

nihel Lomine, nihil libero degimes", the Crisis now immenent Could never Come.

Commencement Oration of Paul Appenzellar, Class of 1895
Transcribed by Christine Rosenberry, May 2002
Edited by Don Sailer, September 2009

Senior Oration "Urban Growth at Expense of Rural" Paul Appenzellar

There cannot, to a close observer of history, be anything more significant than vast movements of population whether to or within any country.

A casual glance at any census report in which the percentage of growth of the city is given in connection with the percentage of increase of rural population will convince anyone that in comparatively a few years a crisis must be reached.

That this tendency is dangerous cannot, with any reflection on the subject, be doubted and that its stoppage is one of our national problems is equally certain.

Not only does the question of the future of the country arise with the discussion of this subject, but the question, equally important, of what will the city do with and for its vast and ever increasing numbers.

This trend of population is not confined to and Section or States but is as plainly visible in New England as in our Western States and not only in America but through all Europe. Statistics show that in one century the population in Cities of eight thousand or more has risen from 1/30 to 1/3 of the whole, and during the decade from 1880-1890 the rural population increased only

14%, while the urban increased over 60%.

Its silent monuments of this movement we note all over the country abandoned farms – farms once productive and Centers of industry, now deserted and left to grow up as timber. A few years since, the Commissioner of Agriculture of New Hampshire reported 1442 vacant or abandoned farms with tenantable buildings in that State. The same is true of all New England. In Michigan there were 7500 fewer farmers in 1890 than in 1888 tho' the population had meanwhile increased almost 500 000. Even with the high

limits of 8000 to a city, there were seven states whose rural population actually decreased during the decade. These statistics suffice to show how general and widespread is the movement, and lead us to a Consideration of results. If we look at the farmers who remain at home we find their burdens multiply. The cost of keeping up the roads falls heavier on them and necessarily the roads suffer and the farmer finds himself being gradually moved further and further from the city or villiage. The school and churches are not kept up, and those who prize them most highly

have increasing reasons for leaving. The general tendency to degredation and demoralization coincident with decreasing population and increasing isolation can be well seen in the case of the mountain whites of the South.

Turning now to the cities we find the results equally bad if not worse. The increase in population intensifies the competition of the city laborer and this, in turn, reacts on those coming to the city who find their opportunities constantly growing less. But there are graver evils than this in the large city.

The American large city is the most

heterogeneous collection of individual in the world. In London 98 out of every 100 inhabitants are natives of Great Britain and Ireland, all foreign countries together constituting only 1.6% of her population. Contrast this with our large cities.

The tenth census shows that, of the population of fifty of our principal cities, thirty percent are foreign born and 4/5 of the population of foreign percentage.

Another of the great evils of the American City is the lodgment of the power of the ballot in the Lands of these degraded and uneducated masses.

From the very culture of a city we should expect the governing power to be the strongest and most centralized while in fact it is just here that it is the weakest because controlled by the very element that produces and fosters vice. The better element of the city has almost no power in its government and, realizing this, most frequently stay away from the polls. In any political Campaign it is the "maching" the "Irish or Catholic vote" that must be gained at any expense of good representation or government. To such an extent is this corruption carried that it is seldom

a man of high character accepts office. Said Mr. Andrew D. White in the 'Forum' "Without the slightest exageration we may assert that with very few exceptions the city government of the United States is the worst in Christendom – the most expensive, the most inefficient, and the most corrupt"

Summing up, then, the results of this tendency we can find nothing but evils as necessary Consequences.

We are not the first [illegible] to encounter this Evil. Rome felt it and it was one of the chief cause of her overthrow

It is now almost universally conceeded that the real crisis in Romes later history was met when she not only refused the "Agrarian Law" of Gracchus but Killed its noble defender. His aim was to establish a powerful Yoemanry, to plant liberty in land, and to perpetuate the Roman Commonwealth by identifying its principles with the culture of the sail. Such is the need of America today, and how to secure it is the problem. Could America but realize and act on that famous dictum of Gracchus "Nihil est agricultura melius, nihil uberius, nihil dulcius.

nihil Lomine, nihil lebero digius", the crisis now imminent could never come.