10-23-1933

Letter from W. A. Dyer to R.B. LeCocq, October 23, 1933

Walter A. Dyer

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Walter A. Dyer  
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Amherst, Mass.  

October 23, 1933.  

Ralph B. LeCocq, Esq.,  
Lynden, Wash.  

Dear Mr. LeCocq:-  

I am much interested in your letter of the 19th and in your yearning to live once more on a farm. It is true that David Grayson (Ray Stannard Baker) lives on a village street in Amherst and that his farm experiences are to some extent fiction. I myself live on a real farm of eighty acres, four miles out of town, but I do not intend to be very much of a farmer. When we first came here, nearly twenty years ago, we planted a fairly extensive apple orchard and my hope was to make that my main occupation. Conditions have so changed, however, that it has been impossible for me to make it pay, and I have more and more become a writer living on a farm and depending for my livelihood on my writing and similar pursuits. Fortunately my work is such that I can do it about as well here as in a city.  

As far as living on a farm is concerned, however, there has been no disillusionment. I keep a cow and chickens, cut the hay, manage the orchards after a fashion, and my wife and I enjoy vegetable gardening. There is certainly contentment to be found in this life, provided some arrangement can be made so that it does not involve worry and too great a financial sacrifice. That is a side of the question that each man must answer for himself.  

If I can answer any questions I shall be glad to do so. Meanwhile, I rather think you would enjoy reading a book of mine which gives a pretty accurate picture of our life here. It is called "Chronicles of a Countryman," and is published by Ives Washburn, Inc., New York. I imagine you can order it through any bookseller if you are interested.  

Sincerely yours,  

[Signature]