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Carl M. Sharpe

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THE LOOKOUT



Connecticut Agricultural College

Storrs, Connecticut

March

1911

THE LOOKOUT

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY DURING THE COLLEGE YEAR

BY THE STUDENTS OF

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Manager, C. T. Senay.

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Captain, T. F. Keating.
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1913, Junior—D. A. Beebe.
1914, Sophomore—R. H. Barnard.
1915, Freshman—E. W. West.

The Lookout

VOL. XVI.

MARCH, 1911.

No. 6.



EDITORIALS

The concert given on the evening of the 24th instant by the Glee Club was successful. Although the club has appeared in other places, this is the first occasion on which it has been heard by the College.

All the numbers were well received. The programme was varied and interesting. It is very gratifying to feel that the generous reception met with by the club was well deserved. Miss Berry has reason to be satisfied with the results of her work, and to feel encouraged for the future.

x x x

The Establishment of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations in the United States

[CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY NUMBER.]

"I return with my objections to the House of Representatives in which it originated, the bill entitled, 'An act donating public lands to the several states and territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts,' presented to me on the 18th inst.

"This bill makes a donation to the several States of twenty thousand acres of public lands to each senator and representative in the present congress, and also an additional donation of twenty thousand acres for each additional representative, to which each State may be entitled under the census of 1860. According to the reports from the Interior Department based upon the present number of senators and representatives, the land given to the States amount to 6,060,000 acres, and their value at the minimum government price of \$1.25 per acre, to \$7,575,000. The object of this gift as stated by this bill is the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college in each State where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific or classical

studies, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts as the legislature of the State may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life.

"As there does not appear from the bill to be any beneficiaries in existence to which this endowment can be applied, each State is required to provide within five years at least, not less than one college or the grant to the said State shall cease. In that event the said State shall be bound to pay the United States the amount received of any lands previously sold, and that the title to purchases under the State shall be valid. The grant in land itself is confined to such States as have public lands, while their value remains worth \$1.25 per acre in the opinion of the governor. For the remaining States the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue land scrip to the amount of their distributive shares in acres, under the provision of this act; said scrip to be sold by said States and the proceeds thereof applied to the purpose prescribed in this act, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever.

"The lands are granted and the scrip is to be issued in sections or subdivisions of sections, of not less than one-quarter of a section. According to an estimate from the Interior Department, the number of acres which will probably be accepted by States having public lands within their own limits, will not exceed 580,000 acres, to be provided for by scrip. These grants of land and land scrip to each of the 33 States are made upon certain conditions, the principle of which is that the fund shall not be lost or diminished on account of unfortunate investment, or otherwise the deficiency shall be replaced and made good by the respective states.

"I shall now proceed to state my objections to this bill.

"1. This bill has been passed at a period when we can with great difficulty raise sufficient reserve to sustain the expenses of the government. Should it become a law, the treasury will be deprived of the whole, or nearly the whole of our income from the sale of public lands which for the next fiscal year has been estimated at \$5,000,000. Surely the present is the most unpropitious time which could have been selected for the passage of this bill.

"2. Waiving for the present the question of Constitutional power, what effect will this bill have on the relations established between the Federal and State Governments? The Constitution is a grant to Congress of a few enumerated but most important powers relating chiefly to war, peace, foreign and domestic commerce, negotiations, and other subjects which can be best done or alone exercised beneficially by the common government. For the efficient and harmonious

working of both, it is necessary that their several spheres of action should be kept distinct from each other. This alone can prevent conflict and mutual injury. Should the time ever arise when the State Governments shall look to the Federal Treasury for the means of supporting themselves and maintaining their systems of education and internal policy, the character of both governments will be greatly deteriorated. The representatives of the States and of the people will naturally incline to obtain means from the Government for State purposes.

"It will remove the most wholesome of all restraints on legislative bodies, that of being obliged to raise money by taxation from their constituents and would lead to extravagance if not to corruption. What is obtained easily and without responsibility will be lavishly expended.

"3. This bill should it become a law will operate greatly to the injury of the new States. The progress of settlement and the increase of an industrious population, owing to interest in the soil they cultivate, are the causes which will build them up into great and flourishing commonwealths. Nothing could be more prejudicial to their interests than the wealthy individuals to acquire large tracts of the public lands and hold them for speculative purposes.

"4. It is extremely difficult to say the least whether this bill would contribute to the advantage of agriculture and the mechanic arts, objects the dignity and value of which cannot be too highly appreciated. The Federal Government which makes the donations has confessedly no constitutional power to follow it into the States and enforce the application of the funds to the intended objects. As donors we shall possess no control over our gift after it shall have passed from our hands.

"5. This bill will injuriously interfere with existing colleges in the different States, in many of which agriculture is taught as a science and in all of which it ought to be so taught. These institutions of learning have grown up with the growth of the country, under the fostering care of the States and the munificence of individuals to meet the advancing demands for education. They have proved great blessings to the people. Many, indeed, most of them are poor and sustain themselves with difficulty.

"What the effect will be on these institutions of creating an indefinite number of rival colleges sustained by the endowment is not difficult to determine. Under this it is provided that scientific and classical studies shall not be excluded from them. Indeed it would be almost impossible to sustain them without such a provision for no father would incur the expense of sending a son to one of these in-

stitutions for the sole purpose of making him a scientific farmer or mechanic. The bill itself negatives this idea and declares that their object is to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life. This certainly ought to be the case. In this view of the subject, it would be far better if such an appropriation of land must be made, to institutions of learning in the several States, to apply it directly to professorships of agriculture and the mechanic arts in existing colleges without the intervention of the State Legislatures. It would be difficult to foresee how these legislatures will manage this fund. Each representative in Congress for whose district the proportion of 20,000 acres has been granted will probably insist that the proceeds shall be expended within its limits. There will undoubtedly be a struggle between different localities in each state concerning the division of the gift which may end in disparaging the hopes of the true friends of agriculture. To this state of things we are without remedy. Not so in regard to State colleges. We might grant land to those corporations to establish agricultural and mechanical professorships and should they fail to comply in the conditions in which they accepted the grant, we might enforce specific performance of these before the ordinary courts of justice.

"6. But does Congress possess the power under the constitution to make a donation of public lands to the different states of the Union to provide colleges for the purpose of educating their people?

"It would require clear and strong evidence to induce the belief that the framers of the Constitution, after having limited the powers of Congress to certain precise and specific objects, intend by employing the words (dispose of), to give that body unlimited power over the vast public domain. It would be a strange anomaly indeed to have created two funds, the one by taxation confined to the execution of the enumerated powers delegated to Congress, and the other from the public lands applicable to all subjects foreign and domestic which Congress might designate, that this fund should be disposed of not to pay the debts of the U. S., not to raise and support armies, not to provide and maintain a navy nor to accomplish any one of the other great objects enumerated in the Constitution, but be directed from them to pay the debts of the States, to educate their people and to carry into effect any other measure of their domestic policy."

The above veto message gives the substance of the act and its purpose. The bill thus lost lay idle for about a year when it was again revived. It was December 16th, 1861, that Mr. Morrill introduced the bill in the House. It was referred to the Committee on Public Lands, the report of which recommended its rejection. The

bill was then carefully read three times before the House, and owing to the efforts of Mr. Morrill, and after being juggled about, finally passed the House.

It was next introduced in the Senate by Senator Wade, of Ohio, one of its staunch supporters. Here it was referred to the Committee on Public Lands and reported back to the Senate with an amendment. This was May 5, 1862. It was again taken up May 19th, owing this time also to Mr. Wade, but was voted to lay over by the efforts of Senator Lane, of Kansas, who greatly opposed its adoption. May 21st the discussion was again renewed between Senators Wade and Lane, and on the next day it continued with a reply from Mr. Lane that he would use every possible means to defeat it. And it was again left over. May 21st sees Wade taking up the bill once more, its advantages and disadvantages were fully discussed and various amendments offered and printed. May 27th, it was taken up and voted to be left over. On May 28th there were some lengthy speeches for and against the bill by prominent Senators whose sentiments in general, however, disapproved its passage. May 30th, Wade again brings it to the front but it is again laid over for consideration. It is again taken up by Wade for the tenth time, stating that he would not give it up for anything, and right here took place one of the longest discussions since its renewal. The bill finally passed the Senate, June 10, 1862, by a vote of 37 to 7. President Lincoln signed the bill and it so became a law, July 2, 1862.

From the foregoing paragraph one can easily perceive the gruelling and sensational contest which ensued before its passage. To make it more amazing it was passed during the terrors of the Civil War and nobody without much foresight would have put heart and soul into it. The act was practically the same as when it was first introduced in 1857, with the exception of a few amendments, one of which was the changing of 20,000 acres of land for each representative to 30,000 acres. The total land area donated was practically 13,000,000 acres of which Connecticut received an apportionment of 180,000 acres valued at 75 cents per acre which netted it \$135,000. One of the important provisions of the act was that the colleges should provide military tactics which is an indirect way is of great service to the government. This compensates in a partial way for the federal aid which they receive.

Too much credit cannot be given Senator Morrill, but we must not overlook Amos Brown, a private citizen of New York, who did more for it than any man outside of Congress. The portrait of Justin Smith Morrill hangs along side that of Ezra Cornell at

Cornell University. No doubt everyone has seen the bust of this man in our library. But this is not the end of his good work for agricultural education. We hear from him again in what is known as the second Morrill Act which further endowed the agricultural colleges.

The land scrip lands as being a part of the first Morrill Bill have been converted into money, and the fund in each State has become definite and fixed. The sale and disposal of these lands have been carefully and wisely made and the fund honestly administered. Arising from land-grant acts we have some sixty-five colleges established, of which the Connecticut Agricultural College is one.

The next act inaugurated in connection with agricultural colleges was that of 1866; to amend the fifth section of the act of 1862. It was introduced in 1865 and passed July 19th, 1866, and approved July 23, 1866. It extended the time that the acceptance of the benefits of the said act may be expressed within three years of the passage of it, and the colleges required by said act, may be provided within five years from the date of the filing of such acceptance with the commissioner of the General Land Office: provided that when any territory shall become a State and admitted into the Union, such State shall be entitled to the benefits of said bill of July, 1866, by expressing the acceptance therein required within three years from the date of its admission into the Union, and providing the college or colleges within five years after such acceptance.

The next was the Act of March 3, 1883, which amended Section 4 of the Act of 1862. It stated that all moneys derived from the sale of lands by the States to which lands are apportioned shall be invested in stocks of the United States or of the States or some other safe stocks, and that the fund shall yield not less than 5% upon the amount so invested and that the principal shall forever remain unimpaired.

G. A. R., '10.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

x x x

Seven o'clock, A. M.—Boy has terrible toothache; can't go to school.

Half-past nine, A. M.—A solitary figure may be seen skulking through the streets leading to the creek; sunnies and pickerel bite.

Half-past six, P. M.—Scene, woodshed; dramatis personæ, the old man, one trunk strap, one boy.

Let's draw the curtain!



Alumni Notes

'93. Edward B. Fitts has many calls to speak at Farmers' Institute meetings. He has recently spoken at East Hampton, Andover and Patchogue.

'97. During the latter part of February, John N. Fitts visited the mechanical departments of the New London Manual Training School, Rhode Island and New Hampshire State Colleges.

'99. Born on February 4th, a daughter, Lou Elizabeth, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Manchester.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis M. Nettleton are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter the latter part of February.

Elmer C. Welden visited the College, February 26th. For the past few weeks Mr. Welden has been working in the office of the Highway Commissioner at Hartford.

'05. "Dub" Welton is now superintendent of transportation on the Shore Line Electric Railroad. His headquarters are at Saybrook.

Ex. '05. Frank Koons spent a few days at the College the latter part of February.

'06. Dwight J. Minor visited friends at the College, February 17th to the 20th.

Theodore C. Waters has concluded his course at the Massachusetts Agricultural College and has taken charge of a farm near his home at Rocky Hill.

'07. Wallace Lynch, who returned to college last fall for special work, has left to accept a position with W. F. Stocking, '03, at Milford, Conn.

Ex. '08. Herbert Gillette was on the hill, Sunday, February 19th.

'09. Everyone was glad to see the jolly face of Frank A. Loveland, who was at the College, Sunday, February 26th.

Wayne L. Storrs is one of the charter members of the Echo Grange, recently organized at Mansfield Center.

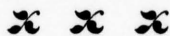
Philemon B. Whitehead was at the College, March 1st, con-

sulting with some of the professors in regard to a new position. We wish him success in his new work.

'10. Harold DeW. Hatfield is one of the instructors in the Department of Mathematics at the College.

Ex. '10. Rollin L. Birdsall, who has been herdsman at the Pratt estate, Glen Cove, L. I., for the past year, has resigned and is now assistant in the Farm Department at the College.

The military ball held in the College Hall, February 17th, was attended by the following alumni: J. N. Fitts, '97; H. L. Garrigus, '98; Mrs. H. L. Garrigus, '99; H. D. Edmond, '00; Frank Koons, ex. '05; D. J. Minor, '06; Wallace Lynch, '07; Cora Grant, ex. '07; W. O. Hollister, C. E. Hood, F. L. McDonough, '09; H. D. Hatfield, Edna Jackson, and G. A. Root, '10.



LEE '10

ATHLETIC NOTES



C. A. C., 18. CYCLERS, 15.

The basketball team went to Willimantic, on the 25th of February, where they played the Cyclers a second game, on the floor of Armory Hall. The game was fast and exciting; the Cyclers taking the lead in the first half, the score being 8 to 4 in their favor. In the second half, our boys woke up and by some fast passing, managed to keep the ball under their basket, where shots enough were obtained to cage a number sufficient to win the game, by a score of 18 to 15.

Lineups and summary: Cyclers—Woodard, rb; Morse, lb; Lewis, c; Millar, lf; Card, rf. C. A. C.—Howard, lg; Healey, rg; Selden, c; Zellar, lf; White, rf.

Score—C. A. C., 18; Cyclers, 15. Baskets from floor—Woodard 3, Lewis, Millar, Card 2, White, Selden 3, Healey 5. Fouls by C. A. C., 7; by Cyclers, 4. Free tries by Morse, 1; free tries missed

by Lewis 3, Morse 2, Woodward, White 4. Time—Twenty-minute halves. Referee—Kelley. Time-keeper—Keating. Score-keeper, Vibert.



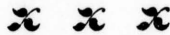
To look out on the campus at the south end of Storrs Hall, on any of these sunny afternoons, one would think of Spring. The candidates for the baseball team are already at work, getting in trim for the coming season.

There are quite a number of new men out. Some of them seem to be showing up very good form in fielding, but, of course, their real value will not be seen until the time comes for swinging the stick, when the diamond is in shape.

The men out for the team are Peck, Millar, Early, Vibert, Dean, Lautenberger, Reed, White, Healey, Smith, Anderson, and some others.

We hope to be able to have a fast team this year, and turn the tide of athletics from a losing game to a winning one. It is expected that we will secure Nichols of Willimantic for a coach.

We are very sorry to see that the game with Amherst has been cancelled, as it would have been a good chance to open up athletic relations between Amherst and this College.



Captain Piper must have been trying to work miracles recently when he shouted, "Wake up, Lazarus."



In botany laboratory, Professor Blakeslee stated that a stoma has bellows quite similar to those of a harmonica. The only similarity that we have as yet been able to find is that neither can be seen with the naked eye.

John Pease received the highest mark in the recent drill regulation examination with a record of ninety-three per cent.



Freshie—"Did you hear about the new lights in the College?"

Fresher—"No, what lights?"

Freshie—"Israelites."



Professor Garrigus (in animal husbandry)—"This breed of cattle is sometimes called Doddies."

Voice from the rear—"That's the class that Bill Ford belongs to."



Goldstein (in physiology)—"Why is it that when a man's healthy he is very seldom sick!"



In looking over the College directory, we observe that Judd is the only "J" on the hill.



Captain Keating called the men out for the first tryout for baseball on March second. Much good material turned out and the prospects for a successful season are, indeed, bright.



Miss Laura V. Clarke, fearing that she was to have an attack of that now prevalent disease, mumps, went last Tuesday to her home in Willimantic. However, we are glad to hear that she only has a slight attack of tonsilitis.



Two informal dances were held in the chapel during the past month, on the evenings of February thirteenth and twenty-first.



On Washington's birthday, the Glee Club gave a concert at South Willington. The hall was crowded and everybody was pleased with the programme.



The Military Ball was held in the chapel on the evening of February seventeenth. Lieutenant Churchill and Mrs. Thom led the grand march and the dancing continued until the wee small hours of the morning. One of the features of the evening was a competitive drill, the contestants being picked men from each company. Lieutenant Churchill judged the drill, declaring Sergeant Clarke and Private Harris of Company B the winners. The chapel was appropriately decorated with American flags and red, white and blue bunting; while on the walls were fastened many rifles. The effect

was very pleasing. The committee of arrangements was composed of R. I. Scoville, chairman; H. C. Vibert, H. G. Steele, H. L. Truman, and H. E. Stephenson. P. A. Downs had charge of the decorations.



Professor Esten, while discussing Fletcherism in bacteriology class, gave some very startling figures, showing how much money one could save in a life time by practising this. "Figures never lie," continued Professor Esten, "but liars often figure. Now I have been figuring on this method for some time." (Here the peace and order of the class-room was broken by a sudden burst of laughter from the students.)



Heard in Freshman algebra—"If the cost of butter is plus or minus the square root of minus 70, divided by 4, when lemons cost 50 cents apiece, how old is the bird on Nellie's hat?"



Dr. Sanborn gave an interesting lecture on poultry in the chapel, Monday evening, February 20th.



Wanted—A competent governess to take charge of Freshman nursery. Must be homely and over thirty. Apply sophomore class. No references required.

N. B.—Those addicted to flirting need not apply.



Three informal receptions were given by the faculty at Grove Cottage during the last month; one to the Senior class on the afternoon of February 24th, one to the Junior class on the afternoon of March 3rd, and one to the Sophomore and Freshman classes on the afternoon of March 10th. These occasions afforded opportunities for the faculty and student body to become acquainted and to enjoy an informal hour.

The general opinion of the College was expressed by one of the students who was overheard to say, that the reception reminded him of a piece of home-made cake, in that it leaves a taste for more.



Professor Clinton—"Now, if you were in a city and had but ten cents and wanted to get something to eat, and wanted to get all the nutriment you could with that ten cents, what would you buy?"

Jimmie Geehan—"I'd drop in, buy a couple 'scuttles of suds' and get a 'hand out.'"

Professor Clinton—"Don't give yourself away, Geehan."



POULTRY DEPARTMENT.

The poultry short course this year has brought to the College an excellent body of students. To some of these college life has been so pleasant that they are planning to remain next spring term as special or regular students according to circumstances. The short course is progressing successfully, a number of lectures by eminent poultry men have been delivered. Chicks have been brooded, incubators experimented with, and many minor but still important details of poultry husbandry carefully explained. The first hatch of chicks was very satisfactory, the greatest harm to them resulting from the tampering with the incubators by intruders.

Four pairs of dragoons have been added to the flock of pigeons. These include two pairs of blues and two of grizzles. The birds are already beginning to lay and in a few weeks there should be several pairs of squabs in the loft.

Professor Stoneburn delivered lectures at Massachusetts Agricultural College, Rhode Island State College, the University of Maine, and Providence, R. I., during the past month.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

For several weeks there has been competitive target practice between picked men from each company. Company B won the first of these with ease, but Company A has come back strongly, and by taking the next two, honors are about even. The scores are fair, but are not as high as they should be.

The Wednesday lectures have ceased and several outdoor drills have been given. On March first, Company B took a three-mile tramp and were instructed in advance guard work. In all probability there will be a sham battle between the two companies in a short time.

A competitive drill between selected men from the two companies was given during intermission at the Military Ball on February 17th. The result was a victory for Company B, Sergeant Clarke and Private Harris being picked as winners.

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. George Fraser has been appointed as greenhouse instructor.

Professor Gulley has spoken recently before the State Board of Agriculture at Providence, R. I., and also at Colebrook and Harwinton, Conn.

The coming spring brings to the Horticultural Department an unusually large amount of work. Plans are afoot for an extensive acreage of planting. Besides vegetables and other necessary eatables, a new peach orchard of 250 trees and a new vineyard will be set out. The cavity on which once rested the horse barn must also be filled and a great deal of grading done around the campus, especially around the new buildings.

A familiar sight to the older students are the two bunches of bananas now ripening at the greenhouse.

EXPERIMENT STATION.

An important addition, not only to the experiment station, but also to the instruction material of the Dairy Department, is the new outfit for the manufacture and storage of ice cream. This consists of an ice crusher, a forty-quart freezer and cabinets for storage purposes. As the crusher and freezer will be driven by power, they should prove both convenient and practicable.

Bulletins Nos. 64 and 65 of the Experiment Station have just been mailed. No. 64 is a review of the weather conditions of Storrs during the past twenty years. Bulletin No. 65 is entitled, "Butter Making on the Farm." This pamphlet should prove of special interest and importance to the farmers and dairymen among whom it will be distributed, as there is apparently to be a revival of home butter-making. The bulletin tells clearly and thoroughly how the work should be done and will be sent free to all who request it.

The work of testing dairy herds throughout the State has increased to such an extent that from one to two men are kept busy testing all the time. Mr. Clarence Savage has been engaged in this work during the past year, but now necessity compels him to withdraw from it in order to give more careful attention to his own herd. Mr. Earl Bemis, a graduate of the class of '03, and a competent dairyman, will be his successor.

A bushel of selected ears of Gold Medal Yellow Flint corn grown by Mr. Theodore C. Bates, of North Brookfield, Mass., has been presented to the Experiment Station and will be used as part of the equipment for giving instruction in corn judging. As a provision

for the future, some of the corn will be planted in experimental plots this coming spring.

MODERN AGRICULTURE.

Considerable interest has been generally awakened throughout this country by the marvellous leaps and bounds with which the agricultural industry is progressing. The agricultural courses in many of our universities and in all the state colleges are becoming exceedingly popular. Many of the foremost magazines devote a goodly portion of their space to articles and illustrations on many phases of the subject. Furthermore, this movement cannot be classified as a mere fad nor do these energetic young men pursue the study of scientific agriculture because they cannot be successful in any other modern profession. It is due, rather, to the prosperity, and in many cases the opulence enjoyed by the modern tiller of the soil.

Agriculture is the most ancient of industries, having been carried on when man was still in the stage of barbarism. The savage tilled the soil with a sharpened stick or a crude stone hoe and until the last few decades the entire system has been woefully crude. The hardest drudgery yielded at the best but meagre and uncertain returns. Like the notorious, bleeding physician of our ancestors, the farmer worked blindly, ignorant of the forces and materials, with which he had carried on an age long struggle for sustenance.

That agriculture is the world's greatest industry is indisputable. Is it not the basis, directly or indirectly, of all other industries? A large portion of human food and raw materials for manufacturing are furnished by the farmer. A nation that is seriously deficient in food products is greatly handicapped in time of war, for they must keep the route of supply open. Statistics show that Great Britain is such a nation and it is claimed by many eminent authorities, that if the importations of food were to cease for one month, half the population would be on the verge of starvation. The Romans abandoned their farms and congested in the gay city, but they soon became impoverished by the large bonus paid for imported grain.

One of the greatest triumphs of modern times is the awakening of the husbandman. The long search of the farmer for understanding has ceased, and we now find him dominating the forces which confined his ancestors to incessant drudgery. For ages he has ploddingly plowed his ground, sown the same old crops and implicitly trusted the rest to luck. But luck is ever a fickle quantity as the poor toiler often learned to his sorrow.

Coincident with the recent agricultural renaissance has become

the desire of many farmers to acquire a scientific agricultural education. And they have exceptional opportunities for gratifying this desire, for all of our States have established colleges and experimental farms for this purpose. In addition, a few of the large universities have embraced a four-year agricultural course from which the student matriculates with a degree. If the farmer cannot avail himself of the regular courses he can learn at least much to his advantage by attending the short winter courses now offered. In addition to the actual farm work, applied physics, soil chemistry and economics form an important part of the study. In the old order of things, the literature of a farm embraced a horse-doctor book and an almanac, but now it requires a small sized library.

Conservation of the soil is one of the most essential of modern farm practices. Soil is the farmer's working capital and anything causing it to depreciate in value is a direct loss to the owner. With this knowledge in mind, the modern farmer can no longer regard his land as a mine from which successive crops can be taken. It is common for tenants to pursue this method of soil exhaustion, but for a man working his own land, it is nothing less than foolhardy. He should realize that from the profits of a crop he should deduct the value of the soil deterioration. By rotation and diversity of planting the soil is frequently rejuvenated. It is a common axiom that three years of corn and two of a nitrogen storing crop, as alfalfa or clover, will produce as much corn as five years of successive planting of that crop.

The most important branch of the Government to the present day farmer is the Department of Agriculture. Its bulletins and reports are eagerly read and discussed by them. The experimental stations in his own State confront the same climatic and soil conditions as the farmer and their advice is generally profitable to the energetic agriculturist who avails himself of it. Time was when the scientific farmer was held in derision by his neighbors, but nowadays he is often the leading producer of his district.

Modern agriculture is a scientific profession and cannot be carried on in a haphazard manner with profit; but must be treated with the same amount of application that the merchant or manufacturer applies to his vocation. A few of the best managed farms have systems of accounting rivaling those of many commercial houses in accuracy and completeness. By means of this the expense and income per acre is always at hand and the proprietor can easily locate any crevices in his system. The modern dairyman tabulates the pound of milk per cow and those which do not yield a reasonable

profit are promptly weeded out. In this manner 30% or more has been gained over former methods.

The recent movement of co-operation among American farmers is one of the most radical and beneficial of modern agricultural innovations. There is strength in combination and by this means the farmer insures himself against loss by unreliable commission houses or by the overflowing of the markets. They have representatives at all the important markets who carefully guard their employers' interests. The strongest co-operative association is among the citrus fruit growers of California, which, alone, shipped forty thousand carloads of fruit in 1908, aggregating a value of over \$20,000,000. Whereas, the farmer formerly realized but 3% on his investment, he is now able to make 12%. The grain growers also have an association but it is lacking in many respects for it controls the commodity no further than the local elevator. This idea is the result of applying modern business methods to agriculture. Co-operative stores enable the farmers of some regions to purchase coal and lumber at cost price, but this movement is as yet not general.

Although this industry requires mental and physical application in the same proportion as other industries the remuneration is often more tempting. A journey through a modern agricultural region is astounding to many urban people. The twentieth century farmer is frequently a college educated and shrewd business man. In Kansas the farmer is using the automobile extensively and he no longer "homeward plods his weary way." There is no doubt that farming is a paying industry and more people realize it yearly.

Modern ideas of agriculture are carried on as yet by only the minority of farmers, for many plod along in the same old furrow. But the rising generation will cause this evolution to become general. There are yet unlimited opportunities for farming in this country. When the western lands have all been settled, scientific agriculture can be profitably applied to many abandoned farms in the East. Although Canada attracts about seventy thousand of America's farmers yearly, the United States still has plums to distribute in the form of public lands. A year ago the beautiful Flathead Lake country was open for homesteaders. This region is admirably adapted for fruit growing and has a salubrious climate. Back to the farm is not a bad plan from any standpoint; for the modern farmer is rapidly becoming more important, commercially and politically.

F. J. W., '13.

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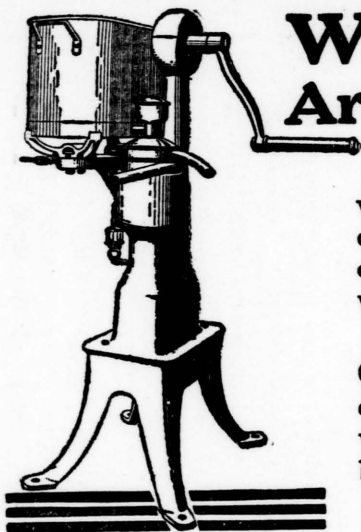
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