The Farmer and Progress.

It used to be said if a man had brains he could make a doctor, a lawyer, or a minister; if active and skillful with tools, he would do for a mechanic; if good-looking and talkative, must be a society man or merchant. If he had none of these, or in fact no other commendable qualities or accomplishment he would do for a farmer. There were yet in the very recent past a large number of people who advocated similar ideas. Even at the present time, it is not an uncommon thing to hear the young man or woman advised to prepare for a "more respectable" career.
erative, and easy occupation. This, it seems to me, is one of the principal reasons why farming has not ranked with the trades or professions. There are none so sure to fail as those who abuse themselves, for the man who 'kicks' himself is likely to have the assistance of his neighbors.

But this is not the only reason for the unfavorable position of the farmer. One evil is found in the methodical manner in which agricultural pursuits have been conducted—till farming—to the acceptance of too many things as matter of fact, without entering into an investigation of the causes acting necessary to the production of the final results.

There has, however, been a great change. The custom of sowing and harvesting by rule is mainly a thing of the past. What the
intelligent, enterprising farmer
of the present calls for, is the rea-
on in all things. This way
of sticking the seed into the ground,
of feeding stock on dry corn, hay,
and water, is not profitable, and
progressive farmers are well advised
to investigate.

Another feature sure to give good
results is that the number of peo-
ples who ascribe every crop fail-
ure to natural causes rather than to
lack of brain exertion or muscular
energy is rapidly diminishing.
The weather and the moon have
influences less significant now
than ever before.

All over our own, and in other
countries, the last quarter of a cen-
tury has seen developed an in-
re sistable spirit of inquiry. The
crue condition of things, a rapid-
growing population and an
rapid an occupation of the
public lands has made necessary improved and more productive methods of cultivation. Besides the investigations of individuals for private information and profit national governments have shown an intense interest in the development of agricultural science. Many failures have been exposed, many truths discovered, the truths to be gained from which are only limited by the ability to practically the knowledge gained.

To meet the closely competitive markets of the future, and be successful, will require more than has been required of the average farmer of the past. To make use of an abundance of experimental information the farmer must have, at least, a superficial insight into several sciences as chemistry, botany and animal anatomy. Probably more important yet, he must
also is a student of economics as applied to farming. The wonderful transportation developments of the century have enabled American producers to place their pork, beef, and wheat in European markets at competitive prices, and, as it has come to be that a crop failure or success in Kansas has comparatively little influence on the prices in this or other states, so in our relations with other nations. A crop failure in western European countries, with all the lines of rapid transportation, is now easily overcome. German meat supplies fail and we, 400 miles distant, furnish her with pork; if, in the future, her grain yield is short, we will feed her hungry population on corn bread. As if our grain yield is a failure, other countries will readily make up the deficiency.
The farmer is learning a lesson from these things. With all the apparent benefits to be derived from supplying remote wants he will not help on them alone as a source of profit, and rush wildly from one extreme to another. That European wheat fails will not justify him in giving over all the crops and growing only Others may, but the thoughtful farmer knows it is the wheat now in the granary which must supply present deficiencies and not the expectant production. He will then practice if ever there was a rule which applied in farming the rule of saving what his neighbor don't saw.

Farming on such a plan must necessitate a wide knowledge of resources and the ability to foresee the probable demands at home and abroad. The successful farmer will
then, not only know of the immediate forces connected with his calling but his stock of information will be so general as to include facts of trade, experience, and science all conducive to prosperity. Such a farmer will understand that his increasing wealth does not depend on the success of one, two, or three crops; but on his close observation, his improved farm and its capability of yielding fair returns under all conditions-and I am not talking politics either.

But it will be safe to say the vast majority of farmers will hereafter take a more active interest in all political, especially those pertaining to their profession. One reason why farming classes could not heretofore complain of legislative bodies being drawn from other than agricultural classes is that they were not generally prepared on questions of law and state and nation
al economy — not earn on those of the trade influencing the profits on their own production. But, with a wider knowledge of commercial relations, transportation, finances, and revenues, will come a demand for the exercise of "country brains" to displace the corruption of declining city politicians. Not only will the farming classes know how to vote intelligently, but they will know how to legislate intelligently.

The Inducements will provide more than the bare literature of the farm. Besides the county papers and one or two papers on agricultural topics, literary and household magazines will lend their enlivening influences to round out, and give the tastes and graces of culture to any ambitious tiller of the soil. The young
folks will, temporarily lay aside the worn out history of the United State, the fourth reader and the almanacs for the new, interesting pages of an illustrated monthly. Most of the discontent of the young people of the country is due to the mechanical nature of their work and to inferior educational advantages — discontent which a slight outlaw would overcome and reduce unquestionably the number of those who annually throng to our cities. With the qualifications which the times will demand and extended insight into the advantages gained, will come more liberal views in many directions. With such conditions there might anticipate a radical change in the home life of country people. Barren lands would be turned into productive fields and pillowy meadows!
straw sheds would give place to commodious barns, in the place of the unkempt, weather beaten huts, will be found the comfortable, home-like cottage, handsomely furnished, within, neatly adorned without, surrounded by fertile gardens, fruit laden orchards, and flower beds, all teeming the ounces contentment, peace, and prosperity.

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