

CHAPTER XII

FARMING

The sugar beet industry carried on so extensively in some localities would be a paying thing here if it was handled right.

The raising of beets has been tried on a small scale here, but is not pushed since the onion raising became so common.

We have excellent land for raising the sugar beet, and I presume that it is not a far distant day until the farmers will begin in earnest to raise them by carload lots.

The raising of alfalfa is comparatively a new thing in this county, but those that have tried it report it with favor.

There is no reason why alfalfa could not be raised upon our lands as well as anything else.

It is just about the same thing as Samuel Lefever said during the '50s about raising wheat, as I made mention before: "He had lived here several years before he knew he could raise wheat on the lands in this county," when, in fact, we raise just as much wheat to the acre here as they raise anywhere.

What it wants is an effort on the part of the farmer to see what he can do, and this is just what our farmers are doing for the last few years.

This is an agricultural district and there is no crop but what can be raised here successfully every year, except perhaps peaches and apples, that are not a positive certainty every year, although we do raise some of as fine apples and peaches here as can be found in any part of the state. Certainly it is the same here as other localities, we have some farmers that couldn't raise an umbrella on their farm and some farmers that are doing well, raising large crops of everything, which is a convincing argument that we have the soil to raise those crops upon.

It is no fault of the land. If your crop is light it is perhaps the way you farm the land. I know of some farmers that are raising fine crops on the same land that years ago they condemned. Of course, those lands have been ditched and drained (as I have already commented on this drainage problem, will just allude to it and pass on), but we are beginning to look well into the proposition of fertilizing and manuring our land, which you see them doing in what they call the best countries. The idea of perpetually taking off the land and never putting anything back would soon run any land down until the crops

would be a failure and your labor lost. We are having experts looking up those questions for the benefit of our farmers.

The county agricultural agent is also giving his time to the questions that are of vital interest to the farmers, it being his duty as well as a privilege to answer any questions you wish to ask him in reference to your farm, your stock, and how to make a success of all the branches of your farm, the fertilizer that is the most suitable for the different kinds of soil and the crops that are best adapted for the land.

This reminds me that an expert is visiting this county and making tests and ascertaining what the farmers are doing in the way of success as farmers of the county.

Taking a clipping from the newspapers published in our own county for your benefit, if you should read the item in the county papers of November 18th and 19th, it would greatly encourage the farmers, I will give it here, as follows:

"Mr. W. E. Elser, who is connected with the office of Farm Management of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and who works in co-operation with Purdue University, spent the past week here working with our County Agent. Mr. Elser is making a study of the various systems of farming which are being practiced in Indiana with a view of determining what farmers are making as a salary for their work, after paying interest on the money invested in their business. By taking a record of the farm for the year, including an inventory at the beginning of the year and again at the end of the year, taking into consideration the increase in value of live stock, supplies, his sales, purchases and expense, it is possible to determine fairly accurately how much the man on the farm is getting for his services. In nearly every case a set of figures like this will show what operations on the farm have been most profitable and what other operations have been unprofitable or have incurred losses and it is frequently found that where a complete record has been made and summarized that the farmer finds it very interesting and valuable to him and he would like to have a record made every year. Seven complete records were made last week and it is interesting to know that the labor incomes for these seven farms, that is, the salary which the farmer himself made after paying interest on the investment at 5 per cent, ranged from \$22.00 to \$2,497.00 every year. Mr. Elser left a supply of these records and blanks with the County Agent, and if any farmer would like to find out as accurately as possible what he is doing in a financial way the County Agent will be glad to take his record for him and figure these things out."

No class of men are more deserving of success than is the farmer. It is the farmer that raises the meat that you eat, it is the farmer that raises the potatoes you eat, it is the farmer that raises the fruit you eat, it is the farmer that raises the wool that goes into the clothes you wear, it is the farmer that we must look to for all the comforts of life. You should not condemn the farmer, for it is he who makes it possible for you to enjoy all those things. Of course the labor item

is a great thing to consider in raising corn in this country. Statistics several years ago showed that the raising an acre of corn, including cost of rents for the land, was something like ten dollars. Certainly conditions have been wonderfully changed since those good old days.

By scientific investigations it is found that it requires on an average the employment of one man for eight days and one horse nine days to raise one acre of corn. Counting the wages for the man at 10 cents per hour and allow one-half that sum for horse hire or the use of your own horse, would bring the cost of raising one acre of corn to about \$12. Calculating the corn to be 60 cents per bushel, it would take 20 bushels to come out even. If, in addition to this, the land can be rented for \$5 per acre, it would take a little more than 10 cents a bushel to liquidate this item.



CORN

If there be any profit to the grower there must be a greater yield than twenty bushels per acre.

If corn should bring 50 cents a bushel, it would take nearly 25 bushels to pay the cost of the labor of one man and a horse alone, and 10 bushels more to cover the cost of \$5 for rent, so that if there is a profit in this instance it must be from a field that yields more than 30 bushels to each acre farmed. Gathered from some 200 fields, consisting of about 2,000 acres, representing 23 counties in the State of Ohio, it was shown, too, that wages were about 19 cents per hour. To figure on the theory the entire cost of raising an acre of corn would be very much higher, which would increase the first estimate from \$12 an acre to about \$16 per acre, which means about 25 per cent higher. In some cases it was found that the yield from many fields did not cover the cost of production. Some did not even cover the cost alone. This shows that in some cases the farmer with his home help falls short of the average wages even when he owned the land, so that when

he rented the land the wages would be to the extent of the cost per acre for rent proportionately that much less for the year's work. In Starke County, where we raised on an average more corn to the acre than did the adjoining counties, yet it was not all profit, for allowing that it did cost the renter farmer \$16 per acre, you can readily see that his crop should equal or average 32 bushels per acre, counting the corn at 50 cents per bushel for the whole year, which would be reasonable.

Now it is made plain that to make corn farming a profitable business we should give some attention to fertilization, putting something back on the land in place of always taking off and never putting any-



SHEEP

thing on. When we were boys our parents gave considerable thought and attention to raising cattle, that too before the country was fenced up as it is now. This greatly improved the lands, and I can see very clearly that to make farming a complete success requires the raising of stock more abundantly than we are doing at the present time. Taken from the Iowa Homestead giving an analysis of the corn-belt cattle-feeding conditions, which has recently been made by Prof. H. W. Mumford and Prof. Louis D. Hall, of the Illinois Experiment Station, among other things, attention is called to the fact that about one-third of the cattle except milch cows are found in the seven corn surplus states of Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. In value the cattle in these states equal about two-fifths of the total value of the cattle of the United States. In addition to this, large numbers of cattle are shipped into those states to be fattened for the markets, but with this being the case it is not equal to raising the stock from calves to grown cattle upon your farms as in days long since passed. The test made from the Ohio experiment above related would not exactly apply to Starke County, it being higher than would necessarily be the case here. Our soil is easily cultivated and would not require

the time and labor upon an acre that it usually requires in some other states. From what some of our farmers say, it would be safe to estimate the entire cost of farming one acre of corn here at about one-half the figure given. Then if it cost \$12 there, it would cost \$6 here, which looks reasonable to us. Then with a yield of 50 bushels to the acre would be \$25, less \$6, would equal \$19. Then, allowing you rented the land and paid \$5 per acre for rent, it would still leave you \$14 profit. The farming question is one that has not been watched and figured out by the farmers as close as it is now being done. Many farmers have harvested their corn crop in the fall of the year, heavy or light, just it happened to be, without stopping to calculate the cost of raising and harvesting it.

The question of raising cowpeas has attracted the attention of a great many farmers in this county. For several years past there has



CATTLE

been a quantity of those peas raised more as an experiment than anything else, but in traveling over a portion of the county one can see great fields where a few years ago there was no thought given to them.

During the years 1913 and 1914 there seems to be a general feeling among the farmers that the cowpea season is at hand, and for that reason it is no uncommon thing to see large fields of cowpeas. They are easily raised and to thresh them out is only a short job to do with the threshing machines with which the county is well supplied. As I said before, the farmer is giving the matter more attention of late years to see and determine what crops are best adapted to his particular kind of land and then farm it to that end. Wheat does well here and so does rye. So far as vegetables are concerned, they grow abundantly in our soils, so do potatoes, but all land is not adapted to all kinds of products, so therefore the farmers are becoming convinced of this fact and are beginning to farm on a different basis, a more modern

way of doing things. True, we have the muck lands that are cultivated to onions and peppermint and celery, but those muck lands in a favorable year will raise a fine crop of corn. Timothy hay, which was unknown to the boys of fifty years ago, is quite extensively raised in Starke County, it being as much of a curiosity to us to see a load of wild hay as it was years ago to see a load of timothy hay brought into our feed stables.

The wild hay would sell for something like two dollars per ton, and the farmers have become aware that it is just as much labor to prepare a load of wild hay and market it as to prepare a load of tame hay and take it to market. Then you can get from five to ten times as much for the latter as you can for the wild hay. It is, however, a convincing argument within itself to see that the farmers have begun



MODERN WAY OF THRESHING

in the last few years to build silos and otherwise manage their farms upon a plan much different than they did when we were boys.

You should, however, take into consideration that a majority of our farmers have good and commodious barns to house their stock in and to hold their summer's crops, which of course is a great advantage over the long-ago farmer who was in rather limited circumstances and could not provide those conveniences until he became in better circumstances. But it is all working the farmer's way, and it will not be many years until you will see a full and completed system of farming in this county. Then the farmer of several years ago had to work against difficulties—far from pleasant memories when he calls them to mind. Many farms were plowed or broken up with oxen, and that, too, when land was too wet to be cultivated with any degree of success. But a great change has taken place, with the machinery they have and the new methods of farming are bound to put the farmer ahead. Fertilizing his land and using the right crop on the different soils, as I have already said, is sure to bring him success.

I have farmed for many years,
I tried hard, I done my best,
But among those difficulties
It was hard to make it a success.

Now with our new inventions,
We can now proceed again
To farm our plantations,
Raising of the golden grain.

Looking far over to the West,
Against the setting sun,
Viewing the landscape o'er
And the grain a-blossoming.

What pleasure now we see
Above the days of yore,
Reaping our golden grain.
Thanks, those dreadful days are o'er.

Fruit in this county has been wonderfully improved. The planting of peach trees has attracted the attention of the farmers, as you can see acres of peach orchards that have been set out in the last few years. Of course, as I said before, the peach crop is not an absolute certainty every year, but it has proved reasonably satisfactory to the farmer, otherwise he would not plant acres and acres of peach trees upon his land. Good care of those trees is a most sure cause for a successful crop.

The land farmed, too, in the last few years is of a very different character from the land farmed in the early days. As has been mentioned, the high sandy lands were the only lands farmed until late years. The crops raised on the sandhills were necessarily very light, and as the farmer had no thought of trying to farm the lower or black lands, no wonder then that the land was considered of but little value. When the farmer began to cultivate the lowlands, as they have in the last few years, it was not until then that we found that we had the good and productive land that we have. Experience has brought all this out and every year farming is getting better. The county is getting in a better condition each year and machinery has so much improved that it is easy to see why we have better farms and better farmers as the years roll on.

The farmers have long since abandoned the little log cabin and have built for themselves and their families good and substantial dwelling houses, and instead of the small log pen or a shed made from the sod they have fine barns and granaries that mark the location of their first settlement in the county. Of course, many of the first settlers have gone never to return, but those places are filled by the rising generations, who will farm on a very much different plan than

the first farmer did, having all the modern conveniences at hand. Many farmers have their own automobiles, which is a great saving on their horses, for when they want to go to town to do some shopping they can get into their automobile and in a very short time be in town, do their trading, and spin for home, thus leaving the tired, fatigued team in the barn to take its rest while the family makes the trip to town. Certainly those machines cost quite a sum of money, but while there may a little loss on the one hand, there is a great gain on the other. Automobiles are as common with the farmers as with the town people. Taking a trip into the country, it is surprising to see the automobiles that are on the public highways coming and going constantly. When some of us were boys we did not know what an automobile was; in fact, there was none in those days. It will only be a few years until the farmers will market all their grain with auto trucks, or some such machine. As we are getting good gravel roads all over the county, it would be an easy matter for the farmer to market his crop in that way.

We should not forget the fact that the farmers of the present day have the railroads as an advantage that the first farmers knew nothing about. It was a very difficult thing for the first farmers to market their crops, if they did raise any grain, with no wagon road to haul their grain on, and no railroads to haul it to. It is easy to see why our farmers today have such advantage over those of years ago.

It is, however, doubtful if farming will be carried on here to the extent that it is in some counties, as for instance in Canada and Kansas, where harvesting is done by an oil tractor which draws four or five machines—all of which are managed by one man on each machine. On those wide prairies and level plains it is no uncommon thing to see an oil pull or tractor in a harvest field with five or six harvesters hitched behind, each one doing its part. A person can hardly perceive how this country has advanced. From a little crooked knife called a sickle to a grain cradle, then the dropper, then the binder, of course drawn by horses, then the oil tractor hitching on behind it a row of binders. No horses are required to pull those machines. Wonderful to relate, a few rounds in an ordinary field would harvest the whole crop. The writer can recollect when a mere boy on our farm in Bedford County, Virginia, when harvesting was done with those crooked knives, or sickles, as they were called. What would you think, Mr. Farmer, if we had to go back to those days and harvest our crops in that way? With more than sixty thousand men at work in the factories of this country employed in manufacturing this machinery, is it surprising to find the American made machinery scattered all over our land? Then it has got to the place where the man that operates this machinery has it so constructed that he can sit and ride and operate his machine by working a lever from his seat. I am reliably informed that one man can run one of those oil tractors and operate two or three of those binders alone. Just a few years ago our prairies were broken up with ox teams; now on the most extensive farms it is done by machinery.

What has been the outcome of those fifty-five or sixty thousand men spoken of above? According to the advice of the year book of the department of agriculture, in forty years prior to 1894, the time of labor required to produce a bushel of corn was reduced from four hours and thirty-four minutes to forty-one minutes. Thus it was by reason of the farmers being provided with the gang-plow, the disk and the corn-planter operated by horse-power. Then there had been furnished to the farmer the harvester, operated by horses, to cut the corn and bind it into bundles, a corn shucking machine and at the same time cutting up stalks and shucks for feed, the power being a steam engine; they had furnished to the farmer a marvelous machine to shell the corn, operated by steam, and shelling one bushel per minute instead of the old way, in which it would take one man one and half hours to perform the same work. I speak of those improvements because



Duroc Hogs

they are true, because we see the machinery and see it perform the work that it has been made to do, and also I feel interested in this proposition, having seen for myself this labor performed in all the phases and conditions above given.

Having been raised on a farm, I can congratulate the farmer on his good fortune in having these improvements placed at his command.

Everything done by machinery. Should not the farmer feel encouraged when the modern way of farming is so far above the old way that he can rejoice in the advent of all the machinery that it takes to run a farm during the last thirty or forty years of his existence? The gasoline engine that you can hear in a great many farmers' yards gives rise to the thought that everything is coming to that point, where the farmer can not only grind his own feed, and pump the water for his stock, but saw his wood by his own machinery. There can be nothing more remarkable than introduction of farm machinery. This

has reached the scene of potato digging by tractor or oil pull machinery. There is nothing left undone. Machinery for everything is the universal aim of genius in our land.

One of the greatest advantages in harvesting outfits like the power-driven machinery is the chance to keep at it. In Canada they often work fourteen hours a day during the harvest season. In Kansas, however, twelve hours is considered plenty of time, even in a busy season. You could not keep up your horses and work them fourteen or fifteen hours a day. Besides, you escape the trouble and time that it takes to feed, water and curry the horses, which necessarily takes considerable time, for you would not slight your team under any consideration. There are localities where you could not use those oil pulls and harvesters, but usually those rough lands are planted to fruit and such crops as do not require machinery of this kind to gather it in the fall of the year.

Fruits you usually have to gather by hand and the uneven land is usually better for an orchard anyway, so you do not lose anything in that respect.

No doubt the farmer in Starke County will soon cut his harvest here with an oil pull and a reaper attached to it, saving his horses for other work on the farm.

Whether or not farming will be done here as in Canada or Kansas, there is no reason why it should not. We already plow considerable of our prairie lands with machinery. One could do our harvesting here the same way.

The Kankakee Valley in Starke County is well adapted to the use of oil pulls or tractor machines, and they could be used successfully in that part of the county to the full satisfaction of the farmer, and only wait till this kind of harvesting is done in earnest in this county. The wonderful improvements we have made in our roads makes it possible for the farmers to haul their grain to market, hauling as much at one load now as it was possible to haul in three loads prior to our good roads of recent years.

No country on the face of the globe can beat Starke County in raising melons, both watermelons and muskmelons, some farmers giving a good deal of their time to that industry. Cabbage does well here and the farmers raise them by the carload lots, either selling them at the pickling plant here or shipping them to some foreign market. But, after all, there seems to be no difference about what you raise on the farm, so it leaves the farmer a fair income.

Just as has been said before, much depends upon how the farmer manages his crops and endeavors to farm the land with the crop that is best adapted to that particular piece of land. A ten-acre field of land in Washington Township produced twenty-eight bushels of wheat to the acre just a few years ago, when the same ten acres thirty years ago produced only fourteen bushels to the acre.

Now it is plain to the farmer why such a state of things as that exists. Thirty years ago that land was comparatively new, but the

land lately has been fertilized and well taken care of, hence the twenty-eight bushels was easily produced.

This would be exactly double the number of bushels raised on the same land, as above outlined, and again the labor required was less than half, as the ground in the last instance was prepared for the crop by machinery of our present day and the crop harvested with our modern machinery, which convinces every one that the farmer is on the road to success.

A table formulated by the United States Agricultural Department for the year 1911 shows what effect the corn yield makes as compared between the demonstration and the ordinary methods of farming in eleven states:

DEMONSTRATION
Average bushels 34

ORDINARY FARMING
Average bushels 17

Thus you will notice that the man that farms the old ordinary way will raise 17 bushels to the acre, while under the demonstration method he raises 34 bushels to the acre, or just double the grain that he has been raising in the old way.

The very thought of the happy farmer, the ever-busy farm-hand, the busy farmer's wife too, with her duties so well taken care of, the meals so well provided for the farmers and his hired help all working in unison, never neglecting any part of the work that is required to be done on the farm from sunrise in the morning until the sun fades away in the western horizon. This brings to memory the little poem thus:

The valleys like a paper
Lie spread out at my feet,
'Tis the fall's last edition,
'Tis her embellished sheet.

Nature's tri-weekly I whisper,
As my roving fancy reads,
The chatter of the golden rods,
The music of the weeds.

The rhymes of the prairies
You can hear everywhere,
The broad acres of the stubble,
So common over there.

The broad expanses and
The farmer's beauty plots,
And the parental fences
Around those homelike lots.

Each page is loudly painted,
And around the border runs
A woodland red as crimson,
Brightened by many a summer's sun.

The photographic village
In the far distance lies,
Whose painted buildings
Glimmer with many, many dyes.

Scattered o'er its many places,
With its golden green,
The mansions of the farmers
With their corn cribs between.

It is a lovely edition,
And I often wonder when,
If it was produced in Heaven,
And God signed it then.

No set of men within the boundary lines of our planet have better machinery to farm with than they have in this country, as I have said before.

The auto trucks, the gasoline engine, the oil pull—all of which have mostly been introduced into this county since our well-improved roads became so common in each township—have revolutionized the plans of farming, and the auto truck can be seen plodding its way from the farmers' big granaries to the railroad stations with more grain at one load than they could haul with horses in a half dozen trips.

The plan upon which the Germans purchased their trucks and automobiles was very much different from our way of making a purchase of one of those machines. The government of such countries reserved the right to extend to you the privilege of purchase with the absolute understanding that they held the right of seizure of any automobile or truck so purchased if, in case of war or insurrection, they deemed it to their interest to do so to help in the transportation of men or munitions of war from one place to another.

But in our own free and United States of America there are no prohibited or provisional clauses to interfere with our purchasing any one of those machines. Having the money to pay for an automobile or truck or anything else in this country to be used legitimately upon our farms is the privilege of all. Those provisions adopted by that country would greatly facilitate the movements of soldiers and supplies to the railroads, but those conditions are not imposed upon our free and worthy farmers in this country. The best paved roads in the world are found in Belgium and some other countries, and in case of war they have the advantage of that ever grateful necessity—"the paved roading."

The oil pull, or tractor engine, the automobile and the gasoline truck has reached a point in this country in which an experiment is uncalled for, as its use is fully known and established beyond any guess work or conjecture. It only remains for it to be more universally used in this country by the farmers, as its qualities are well known. Yes, the day has arrived, it has come to stay, the automobile shall forever be with us, the farmer and the merchant, the livery man, the contractor, the business man, the lawyer and the doctor, all in possession of one of those machines, coming and going at a rate of speed beyond the knowledge of us all when we were young. Great is the reward for the farmer in the universal use of those horse-saving machines in this country.

The farmers of our county, realizing the importance of farm machinery, have taken advantage of the new and late improved machinery that it takes to farm with successfully.

Then the same notice should be taken of the women folks in providing them with the late methods of machinery. I was going to say farm machinery, and well I might, for the reason that the housewife is filling a very important part of the farming industry of our land. She should be supplied with the latest kinds of machinery that apply to her house affairs just as well as the men folks are supplied with every kind of machinery that lessen the labor of the farm.

The washer, the churn, the iron, the sweeper and many other kinds of machinery, that fill the stores, should be placed at the hands of the farmers' wives so that they, too, may perform their part of the farming system with less manual labor than formerly done. Many good housewives are engaged the whole livelong day putting out washing where she is compelled to do it by the old-fashioned washtub route, while the farmer himself is riding his machine all day humming some sweet strains of music muffled by the hum and clatter of his machinery, sometimes, I fear, forgetting that his wife, too, is human, that she has a heart that feels for the comforts of home, that she so much deserves, being a part and parcel of that home that should be enjoyed by all. A vacuum cleaner is a wonderful help to farmers' wives. No one will claim that this is extravagance on the part of the farmer to provide those things for the house, as it all goes to make up a successful farmer's home. Many unpleasant hours were spent by us when children on the farm churning butter and many times the farmer's wife would labor with the butter proposition until all would be tired out waiting for the butter to come, while with the improved method of churning with a gasoline engine furnishing the power she could make herself busy in her other household duties while the churning was being done without her physical labor attached to it. The same Ruler that looks to you looks after your wives, and it is He that causes all things to be possible for you and your home surroundings. Then is it any wonder that the fair-minded wife of the farmer should demand those things, not asking more for herself than she is willing to grant her husband, but merely aiming to make life pleasant and profitable to all? We often think of the mottoes framed and

hung upon the wall of some kind farmer's home—"What is home without a mother," "Noble thought," "In remembrance of our home." There is no one that takes pride in the house duties except the women, and it must be very embarrassing to them to work and keep everything in order without the aid of some of the late and modern machinery to lighten the burden they have endured so long. Many times we have been stricken with sorrow at the sight of some women laboring to support a family without the use of some kind of facilities to aid them in their work.

It is the ever-forgetful husband, not with any bad motive but with a lack of forethought, that allows his wife to perform her work by the most laborious methods while he enjoys the full benefit of our modern machinery performing his work without any physical labor on his part. "But there is a Divinity that shall shape our ends."

Much has been said by the farmers as to the conditions of stock raising in this county and the most profitable stock to raise, taking in consideration the feed that is the cheapest and the easiest to obtain.

Hogs are easily kept and will consume any kind of feed, while cattle need plenty of hay, corn or silage.

The matter is comparatively small as to the difference in the kind of stock you keep, but the main point is to attend to it well and make the best thing possible out of whatever kind of stock you engage in raising. There can be no doubt about the profits in any kind of stock raising, let it be cattle, hogs or horses.

Even the poultry raising is a thing that is carried on quite extensively in Starke County. Many farmers are giving considerable of their time to the raising of poultry. It is no uncommon thing to see poultry houses on many farms. This you see in traveling over the county from one end of it to the other.

The farmer is not confined to the one kind of stock or the one particular kind of grain, as the lands on the different farms are perhaps better adapted to different kinds of grain, and this is what the farmer is watching with a desire to profit by such investigation.

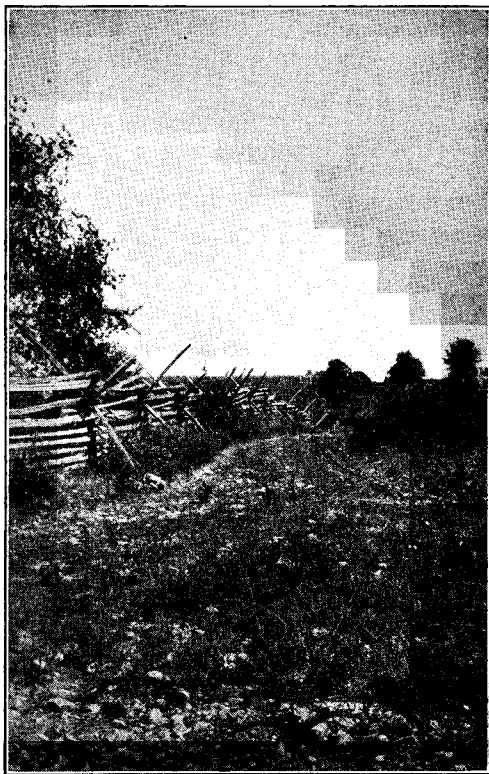
It is a pride and a pleasure to see fine, up-to-date farming in any community. It shows what interest the farmer has in his occupation. Farming is one of the most honorable pursuits that a man can engage in. Many young men that leave the farm and go to town with the expectation of becoming great men often make a great mistake. True it is that some make a success of whatever they engage in, but many go wrong and do not realize their condition until it is too late.

The Government, through many learned professors and business men, has taken up this question and are recommending the young men to remain upon the farm, thereby in many cases making success instead of failure.

The manner of farming is so much different nowadays, as has been outlined, that it ought to appeal to the young man to take advantage of those privileges more abundantly than in the past, when all farming was performed by physical labor. Certainly it is the thought of the

young men to go to town and eventually get into some office, or engage in the mercantile business, or become a lawyer or some kind of occupation besides farming; but it often leads to a loss of your precious time, and failure is the result.

So far as the automobile is concerned, as we have spoken of it before, some idea can be formed as to the per cent of the inhabitants in Knox that are owners of the automobile when it is shown that on Main Street, south of the Free Methodist Church, there are twenty-two out of twenty-nine residents that are owners of an automobile. Now the same rule will apply to the farmers in some parts of the county.



THE OLD RAIL FENCE, FAST DISAPPEARING

The automobile is a piece of machinery that has come to stay, and it will sooner or later be in the hands of all or almost all our farmers. It is the farmer that needs those machines. It is he who should own one, as he is in a location where an automobile will be of much use to him.

When the automobile was first introduced into town there was no thought of it getting into the farmers' hands, but it was soon seen that the farmer was the person to profit by its use, hence the farmer is becoming the majority owner of those very much used machines, and well may he too. It leaves his tired horses to rest after their big day's work is done, as the farmer can step into his automobile

and go any place in a little time and transact his business almost while he would be hitching up his team to make the drive. That, too, facing the storm of the cold autumn months; but the trip is soon over, where if he had to drive it would be a very disagreeable trip. Many a farmer's wife hesitated to ride in one of those machines for fear it would go into the ditch, but by careful management they are as safe as a horse team. True there are many automobile accidents, but the most of them are the result of the driver becoming so much interested in his associates that he lets the car get the advantage of him, and then something is going to happen, and that very quick.

The first automobile ever brought to Knox was by Sidney A. Uncapher in the year 1903. This was a Hoffman machine, one cylinder, five passenger, eight horsepower car, and, as I said, was the first automobile ever introduced in the town and was the first automobile owned and operated in Starke County. Mr. Uncapher was the sheriff of Starke County at that time and he soon discovered that it was a wonderful improvement over the old way of bringing his prisoners into town. There were no speed limits established at that time and each one, as they procured cars, soon after could cut a dash to his own fancy; but the town councils soon passed a speed limit, since which time the cars are restricted to a speed-limit not to exceed eight miles an hour in the corporate limits of any of our incorporated towns. Soon after Mr. Uncapher brought the first machine to Knox there were others that did likewise, some running a line to Bass Lake, hauling passengers and pleasure seekers to that very much noted lake, and that is kept up every summer. Aetna Marvin introduced that idea in the year of 1904, and it is kept up ever since. At first it was a hard haul to the lake, as we had just begun to make gravel roads in the county, and for a few years they had to run their cars on a dirt road the greater part of the way, but we now have good gravel roads all the way to the lake.

This now, with the building of good gravel roads, is when the farmer took up the idea of purchasing the automobile, a thing that he will never regret, and more will follow.

The manufacture of automobiles in this country is wonderful. Those machines are shipped all over the country and the foreign demand is great for our American machines, as you can see by an order for \$2,000,000 worth of those automobiles from Indiana and Michigan, placed during the last few months.

One thing is noticeable, and that is that there are almost as many motor trucks and cars of this character manufactured as there is of the pleasure car and automobile, which strengthens the theory that the farmer and business man is onto the automobile as well as the pleasure seeker. In the electric cars they are divided nearly evenly between the pleasure car and the commercial trucks and cars made for carrying merchandise and other kinds of freight. The merchants and manufacturers have these auto trucks in constant use, but the farmer has the same chance to use them in his business as the business man. The

oil pull or tractor engine can be used to a better advantage on the farm than most any other place.

It is only a short time until the farmer will place all the burden of farming upon the machinery of the land and then the horses will be permitted to take their ease just like the men of the farm who have labored many years, who now see the benefit of the late improved machinery and are putting it in use.

If our farmers were to hold to the idea that they could not purchase a piece of machinery on account of accident that might occur from their use, then they might as well conclude to not keep horses for the same reason. A farmer that drives his own machine seldom meets with an accident. It is generally the case that it is brought about by the careless driving of some careless young man.

We, however, frequently hear of some team running away and causing the occupants either to be injured or sometimes killed, but you can't always charge neglect to the driver, neither can you charge the accident to the chauffeur of an automobile. Accidents will happen, always have and always will, and for that reason the use of the automobile will continue evermore.

Crop rotation should be adopted or practiced more than it is. All land will produce more and better crops if the land is farmed upon the rotary system. Then by applying plenty of manure, which it takes to give the soil the nitrogen and humus back to the land, you can make farming a successful occupation. Many of our farmers have those questions well in hand and are profiting by the new methods they have adopted.

No farmer should get the notion that land will not wear out. It certainly will by constant usage unless the soil is replenished with something that will take the place of that which you take off. Many farmers run their farm on the theory, or rather without any theory, but just farm from one year to another, and so on without giving the soil any feed whatever and, as we said before, the land would soon wear out. No farm will raise good crops from one year continuously to another without something to build up the soil.

Those conditions must be met if farming is made a successful business, even though you have No. 1 good land to farm. It will give way sooner or later just like a person that would not take nourishment, he would soon succumb. A farmer that sees no need of fertilizing his land will soon see the mistake that he is making. The farmer in the East felt like he could farm without fertilization of any kind, but the land became almost worthless so far as bringing a crop, and then it was that he too could see his mistakes and of course had a hard time bringing the soil back to a good and productive state. From the soil is produced our wealth, although it may not be in gold or silver coin, but in our crops that it bears, hence we should all look well to the matter of keeping our farms well fertilized. This theory has been learned perhaps from experience, and farmers are not getting their

knowledge all from books or magazines, but have discovered many of those ideas from every-day experience upon the farm.

It is also to the interest of the farmer to see that his land is well tilled. With the hundreds of miles of dredge ditches in this county there are but very few farmers but what have an outlet or a good stream to tile into, and a good many farms have some low spot of ground that could not be reached by the dredge in cutting the ditch, as it would have been impossible to reach all the lowest spots on the farm, but a proper amount of tile ditches put in on those lands will drain them out in good condition. This is being done by many farmers throughout the county. I expect that Starke County has as many miles of tile ditches as any county in the state, but there is always room for more, and when we get in a full and complete system of tiling and our lands are all drained out, then farming is a complete success in Starke County. I have gone over the question before of our open ditches, both shovel and dredge ditches, but what we need now is plenty of tiling and then the system is complete.

We see good crops raised on land that before it was tiled was used for duck and goose ponds, where they would swim and quack and honk all day, but now those ponds are gone and large shocks of big-eared corn occupies the place. All this change was made by the farmer putting out a few dollars for tile and draining into a near-by dredge ditch, just like you can do too if you should desire to do so, making the duck pond pay you many times what it cost to tile it.

Never in the history of Starke County has there been as much tiling done as has been in the last four or five years. On almost every prairie farm you pass you can see tile piled up ready to be placed in the ground as fast as the farmer can get it or employ some one acquainted with that kind of work to lay it for him. No farmer will make any mistake in tiling his land, as good results are bound to follow in every case. There is going to be a general revolution in farming next year if all calculations don't go amiss. Farmers are already making their plans for 1915 and 1916, some planning a big crop of potatoes, some planning to raise more corn and some going into the peppermint business more extensively than they have done heretofore. The good prices obtained the last year are an inducement for them to push farming, as it never has been done before.

The condition of the lands will warrant this effort on the part of all farmers. The conveniences for taking care of their crops too are a great incentive for them, and take all the equipments and add that proposition to the other facilities, silos, barns, sheds, and pumps—makes the thought of farming one of pleasure instead of a burden as has been the case in former years. As a lady said, why do they call farming a burden nowadays—"why, law me, when I was a girl we had to churn by hand, we had to iron by hand, we had to wash by hand and the farmer had to cut his grain by hand and had to thresh it out by hand and had to walk all day behind a plow, when now all this is a thing of the past, all done by machinery, why do you lay so much stress on

farming? If you had lived through what I have, then you would have some cause for complaint." It is an evident fact that some of us do not understand what it meant to farm the old way, but let some one who really did the farming in the long ago give you a true picture of what it was then.

The question of seed selection is another thing that the farmer is giving more attention to than formerly. It used to be that the farmer would go into his corn-crib in the spring of the year, and after dispatching a couple of big blacksnakes from among the corn, he would proceed to shell his seed corn from the most favorable looking ears of corn in the crib. But it is getting to be quite different from that now. Of late the farmer goes into the field in the fall of the year and selects his seed corn for the coming year and puts it away in some dry place until spring, and then he will shell and plant the corn he has selected and kept for the year's planting. Seed corn should be kept in a dry place during the winter months. It is not the cold that hurts seed corn if it is kept dry. It is the freezing when wet that is injurious to the germ of the grain, and as I said, the care and preparation of seed corn is looked after with much interest by farmers in the last few years and the consequence is that it tells in the crop that is grown on the farms of those who take the time and pains to care for the seed as above outlined. Every year there comes something more impressive upon the minds of the farmers in the manner of more successful farming, and I presume such conditions will follow unto the end.

Every farmer in the county is making improvements beyond what they formerly have done—breaking up land and bringing it into cultivation, land that has lain out undisturbed except by the tread of cattle or viewed from above by the wild fowls of the air. Some employ the use of the tractor to do the breaking, turning four and five furrows at one time, breaking up those prairies in the fall of the year in order that they may have it in readiness for early spring farming. This is getting to be a common thing—plowing in the fall. It enables the farmer to be on time with his spring work. Besides it gives the sod some time to rot and become tillable by plowing it up in the fall. Disking is practiced universally all over the county. It is only a few years since the disk has been in general use and the farmers have found much benefit in its use, especially soddy land. It cuts up the sod and pulverizes it in such a way that it makes cultivation much easier than it would be without the use of the disk or pulverizer. This is another step in the wake of farm advancement, and the farmer is using it to an amazing advantage, as shown by its use on most of the farms in the neighborhood.

Step by step the farmer is advancing, and why should he not? The farmer is an intelligent being, or at least the most of them are, and is keeping a close lookout for everything new in the shape of machinery and new inventions that will facilitate all the departments of farm life. Years ago it was very different. The farmer just used such implements as he had without much concern about anything better, but not

so today. Everything that can be had to help the cause of farming is resorted to of late years. The timber lands are left as nature has made them and the farmer is giving his attention to the cultivation of the prairie lands, breaking whole tracts of forty or eighty acres in one field, which is made possible with the machinery at his command.

Some, however, get the notion into their heads that there are no enjoyments in farm life, but that is a great mistake. No set of people upon the earth have more to feel proud of than the farmer and his family. The very song of the robin and the bluejay; the sound of the babbling brook; the wind as it furls the green leaves of the forest trees; the squirrel as it sits upon some magic oak above your head with that chattering sound and the honeybee buzzing over the fields gathering honey from every flower. Those are the things that bring sweet memories to the heart of the farmer, when he can lie down to rest after his day's work is done and there sleep and dream of the pleasant day just past. Then why can anyone complain of the farm life?

Many times when you were boys on the farm you have sat down and watched the sinking sun settle in the western horizon with that dazzling light becoming to you a fond farewell for the night; then to rise the next morning with the merry songs of the forest birds making their sweet sound reverberate far over the hills, a melodious sound that you will listen for until its sweet strains shall die away beyond your reach in the meadows and the flower-laden valleys, for miles beyond the reach of the naked eye to see or the ear to hear; beyond the golden grain-covered fields of the farms.

It is no uncommon thing in the cities to see two persons living close together and not knowing each other. How much different is the farm life! The farmer, if he should need the assistance of his neighbor, would not hesitate to call upon him, should the occasion demand it. Many of us, if we would admit it, would have to acknowledge that we saw our best days upon the farm. In the cities the life is so much different, and if you live in a city it's a question whether you know your neighbor on an adjoining lot. If you live on a farm you will know your neighbors for miles around and frequently you will be brought together by some house-raising or corn-husking, or some other kind of business with much amusement thrown in for good measure. Stay on the farm is the advice of one who knows, one that has a feeling for your welfare, a feeling for the success of your boy or girl, a feeling for the success of you all, a pride we should have for each other's welfare, a devotion we owe to each other in this life and a life to come.