

Henry Ford

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CONSOLIDATION.

Everything in this age tends to consolidation. Articles of general use, whose area of manufacture covered a kingdom, are being concentrated in certain towns where superior facilities exist. Individual enterprise and skill, are rapidly becoming absorbed in corporate bodies. The great improvements in machinery, have conduced to effect this. This condition is not alone true in a few respects, or in regard to a small portion of the manufacturing interest of the country; for is it without its benefits? with consolidation come increased responsibilities. The competition is so keen, and the race for wealth so earnest, that hopes for a dividend can alone be based on the superiority of the article over that of others, combined with cheapness. In past days, land alone was the attractive object in which men of capital were willing to invest their surplus. But it is otherwise now. Thousands of spindles in companionship, hum the death knell to the cottage wheel. The heavy stroke of the Nasmyth hammer, has destroyed the "anvil chorus" of many a village smithy. Neither can the lover of his race regret this. It permits many to turn their attention to agriculture, who otherwise would be compelled to breathe the sooty atmosphere of the forge, and his children grow strong and hearty, in romping over the fields, who would have had their horizon bounded by stately piles of brick and mortar, and whose idea of a stream, would have been founded on the sewer, that so fragrantly denoted its existence in the narrow ally. We believe consolidation to a certain extent, is a benefit. By it fragmentary skill and experience, are embodied, and the result made known to the world by superior results.

But while this principle is working wonders in the manufacturing world, how is it with agriculture. Farmers are content to plod in

the footsteps of their sires, asking no questions and doubting nothing. True, now and then a few meet to compare notes at some exhibition, but in too many instances these meetings are prostituted from their legitimate purpose, and are twin places with the race course. How few ask what kind of labor-saving implements do you use? or what kind of seed did you sow? Their impression of the superiority of machines, are formed from some smooth-tongued agent, and the broken pieces of wood and iron, resting quietly in some fence corner or beneath some shed, attests the truthfulness of his representations. Year after year, the same kind of seed is sown, and as often do the race of destructive insects rejoice at the thoughtfulness of the kind soul who provides broad acres for their repast. As the farmer looks upon his field, musing at the uncertainty of crops in this country, he remembers that his neighbor's field has escaped, and then he enquires, and lo! he discovers that he has sown a better kind, and secured a yield. It is to do away with this unsatisfactory condition of things that the Emporium has been established. We certify to nothing, unless it is of such a nature that we can endorse it fully, and such as we would use ourselves. The seeds that we offer, we have tested, or others have on whom we can depend. If we receive a species to experiment with, we tell all our subscribers so, and give them an opportunity to assist us in proving its worth. Our columns are not open to praise the merits of every untried machine, neither can our name be used by every ambitious inventor.

We have lost much money by our strictness relative to this. But we will still adhere to our intention, resting assured, that the confidence reposed in us in the future, will repay the present loss. The idea of the Emporium is no mere whim with us. It is no ideal scheme, but eminently practical. Let the farmers support us and we will soon

convince the most sceptical, that it is a reality and a mighty engine for good to the agricultural community. Let all assist consolidation in this respect. If any have an unclassified species of grain, let them mail it and we will test its worth and announce it to the world. A seed of value in one latitude may be worthless in another. Hence we hold it the duty of all, to assist in the laudable work of discovering the merit of those varieties adopted to this climate. The duty of the government in this respect will be the subject of another article.

WISDOM.

To see a chemist refuse to take a periodical, written for the purpose of elucidating the principles of the science, for fear he might receive some incomplete details of some test, or acquire hints how to obtain a result, that he might have blundered on, without aid.

To see a politician refuse to subscribe to a paper, in order to prevent learning what the wants of the country really are, so that he might remain true to the principles of his forefathers, as to the government of the nation.

To see an inventor refuse to encourage a scientific journal, lest he should discover, that all the specifications of his patent were not original, thereby mortifying himself and learning there were better machines than his own.

To see a physician refuse to read medical works, lest it should be made manifest to him, that there was a method by which he could save patients, that hitherto he had considered his high prerogative to dispatch.

To see a farmer ignore the claims of the "Farmer's Advocate," for fear he might raise better crops than his neighbors, and thereby excite their envy, and render himself liable to the charge of being a "book farmer."

The Arabian Philosopher has said "Everything has two handles—beware of the wrong one."