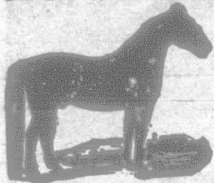


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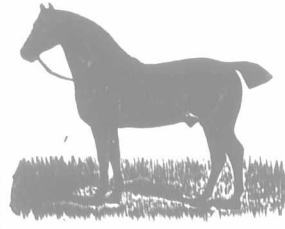
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Farming by Book and
Farming by Brawn.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Seth Whipperton, over on the "8th," says he has to go into a hotel bar-room to discover how little he knows about farming. He always has a case of enlargement of the glands in his neck whenever he finds himself by chance in the presence of an arm-chair farmer—and lately of an arm-chair fighter. Seth never trusts himself wittingly in the presence of either one or the other.

I suppose there are a great many Seths paying regular taxes in the land. And since looking at the subject at intervals for some time I fancy there will always be a great many Seths in our farming fortresses.

Perhaps it is a safeguard Mother Nature has thrown out to secure the perpetuation of the animal and plant kingdoms. There may be inscrutable barriers ahead of the enthusiastic persons who seek to harness all activity to an electric button. This theory would seem to be borne out by the fact that the farther we go from the places where the physical environment is crudest and manual labor most severe the less vitality we find in both the human and vegetable kingdoms. It is an established fact, of course, that the natural orders have depended on the country (as opposed to the city) for reproduction from early ages.

And so Seth's vague vindictive sarcasm against sitting-room agriculturists may have a justification too far off for him to realize its nature but grounded in one of the sublime truths of existence.

Commenting on the fact that very few of the full-fledged Agricultural College graduates turn out to be practical, successful farmers in the ordinary sense, and magnifying an instance of a white-shirted failure who started a small-sized "Experimental Farm" as a commercial proposition half a mile from Seth's,—my hard-headed friend is by no means equivocal in his views.

"If we all become Professors," says Seth, "who'll do the work?"

The neighbors say that when Seth was a young man searching for a suitable helpmeet he had already pronounced views on the subject of the wearing quality of girls, and had chosen his wife in conformity to that point of view.

To say that a man cannot spend four years in the student environment without becoming spoiled for an actual agricultural career seems unwarranted at first view. Seth knows where the trouble lies, though he does not see what causes it. He would talk this way. "You can't farm in a white shirt and patent shoes." The white shirt and patent leather shoes are merely symbols of an indifference to results, so common with the type of fellow he shuns. The student becomes reckless of results, because he feels that he is looking for facts, and at school, neither time nor money count, in the sense that they count on the actual farm, where the time spent must yield an income regardless of facts. The farmer must keep his hand on the tiller of results throughout every process. No white shirt nor patent shoes for him until he reaches port.

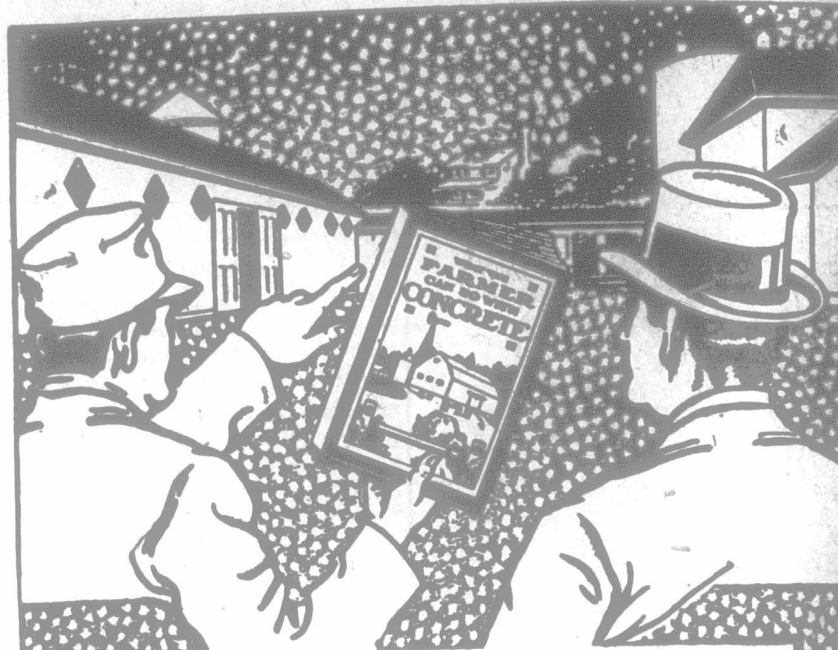
Seth thinks going to college takes out of a man the willingness to be one of millions of humdrum toilers who must be counted on to till ordinary farms and furnish the staple foundation on which all the fancy farming grows and preys. After experiencing the exhilarating dash of a little sprint behind a spirited team, while an enlivening class look on, to descend to the task of following Nell and Jerry down a never-ceasing furrow is beyond the ability of the ordinary one-lived human being, he says.

Students are for learning, not for doing, says Seth. Three things are needed more than ever in a farmer:

1. To know by instinct what to do.
2. To be willing to do it without thought.
3. To be able to do it well from having done it many times.

I once told the old man that his super-farmer was very much of a machine. "To be sure," he retorted. "Show me the good man that isn't near like a machine."

Seth is naturally suspicious of new truths, and therefore reluctant to follow the advice that comes to him so freely in pamphlet form. These, by the way,

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