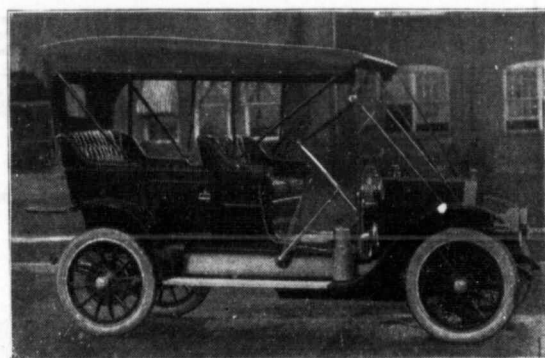




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Not only from the "town-man" but from the "country-man" as well. Ten years ago the automobile was an expensive experiment but to-day automobiles are so planned that they have become not only a practical success but a positive necessity to mankind in every walk in life.

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fare against, not only crows, but skunks, owls, and others that are hastily assumed to be wholly bad, the injurious insects, mice, etc., that do the farmer the real harm have greatly increased. Shortly after corn is planted, the crows appear, and are destructive to young corn. Some assert that the crow pulls up the corn plant merely to get at the grub which would destroy it if the bird did not. How true this may be we do not know, but as the corn is destroyed in either case, it may be as well to let it go without help from the crow. The first impulse of the farmer, when he finds his corn pulled up, is to shoot the crow. This we protest against. Even admitting that the crow does mischief for a short time, it is too useful for the rest of the year to be thus cut down in active life. Let him live for the good he has done and may do. It is vastly better to keep the crows from pulling the young corn, for two or three weeks and allow them all the rest of the year to destroy bugs and beetles in astonishing numbers. The corn may be protected by means of "scare crows," of which there are several very effective kinds. Crows are very keen, and are not easily fooled; they quickly understand the ordinary "dummy," or straw man, which soon fails to be of service in the corn-field. It has

no life, no motion, and makes no noise, and the crow soon learns this and comes and sits upon its outstretched arm, or pulls the corn vigorously at its feet. A dead crow, hung by a swinging cord to a long slender pole, is recommended as far better than a straw man, as it, in its apparent struggles to get away, appeals impressively to the living crow's sense of caution. But the crow may not be at hand to be thus employed, and if it were, the farmer cannot afford to kill it. Better than a dead crow is a glass bottle with the bottom knocked out, which may be done with an iron rod. The bottle is suspended to an elastic pole by a cord tied around its neck; the end of the cord should extend downward into the bottle, and have a nail fastened within the bottle, to serve as a clapper. If a piece of bright tin be attached to the cord extending below the bottomless end of the bottle, all the better. A slight breeze will cause the tin to whirl, and, in motion, cast bright reflections in all directions, while the nail keeps up a rattling against the inside of the bottle. An artificial "bird," to be hung in the same manner, may be made from a piece of cork—one used in a pickle jar—into which a number of large goose or chicken feathers are fastened so as to roughly imitate a dilapidated bird.

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