Farm Labor and Power Farming

OR years there has been a constant movement city-wise of farm workers. Youths of both sexes have looked towards city life as freedom from drudgery and the opening of unlimited opportunities for advancement. The most important factor which influenced the farmer's son and daughter to view city life as more desirable than country life was the longing of a comparatively well educated mind for something to control, some problems to solve, some decisions to make, and responsibilities to bear. More men'tal work was wanted to take the place of the purely physical labor requiring only brute strength.

Progress Through Education

With the advantage of better education and the consequent power of self-thought and the broader vision of life, it was inevitable that the growing generation should know of the methods which an advanced civilization had developed for lessening the drain on human energy in farm work. It was impossible to keep farm labor in ignorance of the improvements and advantages of power machinery which have been coming into the agricultural life of our nation so rapidly. Nor should any attempt be made to retard the spread of such knowledge so long as proper means are provided for counteracting its effect.

On every farm where little or no improved machinery had been acquired the farm hands work continually under the burning knowledge that for ten or twelve hours of their arduous work in the field from two to three times as much was being accomplished in other parts of the country in the same time with less exertion

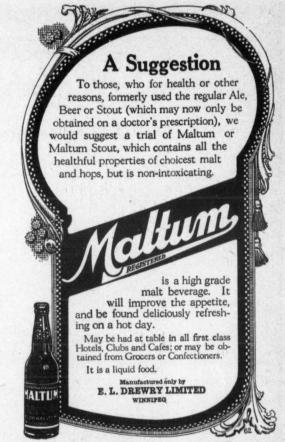
through the use of modern equipment.

Discouragement was the inevitable result of working amid anciently equipped farming communities with the realization that the efficiency of the work being done was decreased 100 per cent by lack of proper equipment and for the same amount and even more expended energy you were producing for your country only one-third as much as others with the advantage of modern machinery.

Considering these points and in view of the labor conditions and the need of the Allied world for sufficient food-stuff to continue its war against the great Leviathan that is stalking over the ravaged fields of Belgium and France, is it not the duty of the farmer to acquire as much modern farming equipment as the capital represented in his holdings warrants and the amount of farm products he should raise makes necessary?

Power Equipment Marks New Era

Power equipment-tractors and gas engines, with the machines they operate; silo fillers, threshers, cream separators, electric lighting plants, saw rigs, corn huskers, corn shellers, etc.—is revolutionizing farm life to-day. It is marking a new era in the evolution of our agricultural life. It is making work on a farm attractive to the average and above the average man and maiden. Business methods are recognized as essential to proper efficient operation, and with business methods and mechanical machinery to attract the enterprising, the trend of labor is now rather from the city to the farm than It is the opportunity otherwise.



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