

different lands. The almost unavoidable interchange of ideas and the comparison of different methods of doing certain things, gradually, if almost insensibly, lead to the adoption in such a community of a much higher composite standard than can be found in districts peopled by settlers of common origin.

The remarkably rapid advance in agricultural science which has taken place in the newer districts on this continent, especially during recent years, is unquestionably largely attributable to this commingling of the ideas of people from different countries, and when it is borne in mind that but few of our immigrants are derived from the classes in which the greatest mental development and the highest training exist, it goes without saying that a universal interchange of agricultural knowledge would be of inestimable value to farmers throughout the world.

We all know that, if, in any community farmers stand aloof and fail to meet with each other for the discussion of matters of common interest, but little advancement is made, while in those districts where Farmers' Clubs and Institutes flourish, the trend is in the direction of greater progress and prosperity.

In the same way, the province or state which devotes the most attention to agricultural education and the general spread of agricultural knowledge very soon begins to derive direct and tangible benefit from this policy and the same is true of those central governments which are sufficiently broad and far-seeing to make the knowledge and experience of their various component parts available for the benefit of all.

In this connection, too much cannot be said in appreciation of the magnificent work achieved by the agricultural press, constantly engaged as it is in an active propaganda of useful knowledge steadily increasing in scope, as well as in value.

As a rule, however, these various agencies have their limitations, inasmuch as the information which they disseminate is local, or at best, national in character, and in this respect, agriculture has until lately lagged behind almost every other line of human endeavor.

From the beginning of time, students of theology throughout the world have endeavored with more or less force and fervor to impress their views upon each other; the scientists of all countries have long been in the habit of exchanging ideas, while that fine field for the imagination, international law, has been, and still is, a profitable source of revenue to the legal profession. In the industrial world, and in mercantile life, knowledge practically ignores national lines, while in the realm of finance, we western forelopers have from time to time painful reminders that the supply of ready cash is controlled by the money kings of many different countries.

In this respect, as in many others, however, the farmer is now returning to his own; I use the word "returning" advisedly, because from the days when "Adam delved and Eve span" until the commencement of the period of tremendous expansion which followed the discovery of steam power but little over a century ago, the tiller of the soil was always rightly regarded as the most important factor in the community in which he lived.

Although for a time his importance has been partially obscured by the brilliant achievements of those whom he has all the time been feeding, he has recently again asserted his eternal right to the leadership of humanity.