

and well cultivated during the season and no planting done until the next year. Beware of grass where young trees are concerned, for once it becomes established in the plantation it requires special diligence to eradicate it. It is well to see that all bad spots of grass are taken out before planting begins.

When the seedlings are obtained in the spring, they should be planted in the prepared land as soon as possible after the frost is out of the ground. Much care is required at the time of planting. Do not expose the roots to sun or wind, but keep them wrapped in a wet sack, taking out one at a time so that any exposure they get to the air will only amount to a matter of seconds. A dull, cloudy day is preferable for tree planting. Be sure the roots are firmly packed with soil. Pull each seedling slightly up and down as the loose soil is thrown on, in order that the soil may cluster in among the fibrous roots. Finish up by tramping around the stem, using the heel of the boot to press the soil into the roots. Cultivation should be performed regularly to insure a supply of moisture and to keep down weeds. It is better to exercise care at the time of planting and during the first season, than spend months lamenting over failure through too much haste to the detriment of efficiency. Remember, your trees do not fluctuate on the market, but gain in value each year and are, at all times, a valuable asset to the farm, and things of beauty.

Agriculture, the Most Intellectual of Occupations

By George W. Russell,
Editor Irish Homestead, Dublin.

Farming is, as we have always held, the occupation which more than any other gives the fullest and most varied employment to all the faculties of man, to his physical, intellectual and spiritual faculties. That this is not recognized is due to faulty education and the hypnotic influence of bad traditions. The child is blinded mentally and morally by con-

tinued social suggestions that other occupations are higher and more dignified. We want an educational miracle worker who will open the eyes of the blind and make them see that of all human occupations, this connects man more directly than any other to the mysterious nature of which he is part, of whose substance his own body is formed. He, as cultivator and farmer, is continually drawing on the mysterious fountain of life and energy in the earth; the clerk, the trader, the workman, and, indeed, most of the persons engaged in urban occupations, are, by the nature of their employments, divorced from that mother nature. They get a kind of sophisticated intelligence, they count up rows of figures, make entries in books, all trivial employments, giving a kind of mean quickness to the brain. How anybody could have supposed that such occupations had a greater dignity than presiding over the growth of crops is one of those wonders philosophers in a later, happier, and saner world will set themselves vainly to solve.

We ourselves have always dealt with agriculture as the most intellectual of

all occupations. We have never tried to write platitudes about it, because we believe that it is an occupation that requires the very highest intelligence. Doctors, biologists and scientists are, perhaps, on a par with the farmers, for they, too, deal with real forces and with life itself. But what other occupations are there which invite so much thought—which, by their nature, bring man into contact with eternal realities? Here in a field is the seed. That field is electric with hidden energies, chemical forces, which play on the seed. What is in the seed? Who knows? A spirit, perhaps—and other kind of life, differing from ours. But how mysterious! It lays hold on the energies in the earth, and out of that tiny cell, as out of a fountain, come the wheat, the barley, the field of green and waving leaves, the swelling of tubers beneath the earth, all miracle and wonder if one stops to think about it. Does anybody believe that if in the schools, the young folks were made to think about the things scientific men have discovered of the ways by which these wonders come to pass if they knew about that marvelous vital chemistry of

the soil, would they ever for a moment think that the work of the farmer was not a thousand times more intellectual and dignified than the trivial occupation of a clerk writing records of trivial transactions in books? Never, never! They would feel in an office as in a prison house, shut out from all the light, wonder, glory and beauty that the earth puts forth for her children.

We want all the brains possible put into this industry of agriculture. We have, as we say, always regarded it as the most complicated and intellectual of occupations, and have written for farmers as if they were men of intellect and varied knowledge. Their occupation requires a far more profound education than the person who is going to be that simple thing, a bank clerk or a book-keeper, which occupations really require very little education at all, being mainly mechanical and routine in character.

A school teacher declares that children have no intelligent comprehension of grammatical rules till they are at least twelve years old. The conversation of Hetty, who is eight, tends to confirm the statement.

Hetty's uncle, who is a school teacher, met her in the street one day, and asked her if she was going out to a party."

"No, I ain't going."
"Oh, my dear," said her uncle, "you must not say 'I ain't going.' You must say, 'I am not going,'" and he proceeded to give her a little lesson in grammar. "You are not going. He is not going. We are not going. They are not going. Now can you say all that, Hetty?"

"Of course I can," she replied, making a curtsy, "there ain't nobody going."

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