

training schools are doing something to meet the want, but the farmers themselves are as yet apathetic. And here comes in the farmer's disadvantage as compared with the merchant; the farmer's mental vision is too seldom "expanded by intercourse with his contemporaries and enriched by travel." He is too much a stay-at-home. Wider knowledge and applied skill are his two great needs.

### The Venezuelan Trouble

THE most absorbing item of news at present is the case of Venezuela against England, France, Germany, and Italy, which has now dragged on for several months, and which may not be settled for two years more. The difficulty arose out of Venezuela's failure to pay certain claims of the European powers, which have been standing for years. While it has not been a case of an absconding debtor it has been a case of a very independent and impertinent one, and a blockade of the Venezuelan ports in December was resorted to as a drastic but necessary course.

There is always something to be said on both sides, however, and President Castro claims that there is much to be said for Venezuela. He finally consented to arbitrate the case with his creditors, and on the mutual acceptance of this proposal President Roosevelt was asked to act as arbitrator. Much to the disappointment of the general public, particularly in England, Mr. Roosevelt declined to act in this capacity, and the only alternative was to refer it to the Hague tribunal. The good offices of that body are appreciated, but its procedure is necessarily slow; and even a greater disadvantage is that after it has given its decision it lacks the power or means of enforcing it. Should the verdict be unfavorable to Venezuela, that little South American republic is quite pugnacious enough to dispute and ignore it.

With all the difficulties of the case,

however, it is a step in the right direction that international affairs of this kind should be referred to a tribunal whose professed purpose is peace and reconciliation. If nations will but get in the way of taking their disputes to an arbitration court the day of permanent and universal peace will be appreciably nearer. After that, the task of impressing upon stubborn offenders the necessity of acceptance and acquiescence will perhaps require some international patience, but it need not be long delayed.

### The Question of Women's Rights

THERE ought never to have been occasion for the cry of "Women's Rights," for it betokens an utterly mistaken conception of society. Men and women are equal, and there can be no question of superior rights. Merely to admit a question of women's freedom has something incongruous and unnatural about it. If man is a creature of free-will, so is woman, for as a fellow-human she is in the same scale. Therefore, discussions of equality for women are radically wrong at the beginning; they are unnecessary.

Woman has a right to lay bricks, if she wants to, quite as much as man has to bake bread. In the business world she has proved her rights by her ability. The last twenty years have seen the triumphant entrance of women into every department of business, and in many branches their success has not only been equal to that of the men, but superior. Thousands of employers in this and other countries will testify to the faithfulness, readiness, and general capability of their women workers, and every year sees an increase both in their numbers and influence. The same thing is true of the educational professions, and even in science, medicine, and the mechanical as well as decorative arts, women are forging ahead. The day of do-nothings is past. Being an equal creature with man, woman must work out her ends by the