

though this would be a very satisfactory way of dividing the day of twenty-four hours: into three periods of eight hours each, one for work, one for sleep, and one for recreation. If all the workmen would be benefitted by this it would certainly be a good plan; In our opinion it will only effect a portion of them. It will aid coal miners, and we think they need the change more than the men that work at any other trade. The life of a miner is at best short. If the number of working hours were less the men could be above ground more, and this would perhaps, prolong their lives and make their business more profitable. As far as the other industries are concerned, nearly all will, probably, be benefitted with the exception of farming. Here, seems to us, to be an injustice. The farmer has been in the habit of working from ten to fourteen hours a day. He has to make up time lost on account of storms or some other unavoidable cause. In winter he does not have to work so many hours each day, but the inclement weather is about as wearing on him as the long days work in summer. After he has gathered his crops, what has he? If his crop consists of corn and wheat it has cost him, according to investigations, at the rate of twenty-one cents per bushel for corn and fifty cents per bushel for wheat to raise it and get it ready for market. Of late years this cost exceeds the market price that is obtained for the grain. Why does this state of affairs exist? It has been argued that the farmer himself is partly to blame because he still persists in raising corn and wheat when the country is already flooded with these cereals. They say the farmer should change his crop, that there are other things he might raise that would be more profitable than corn or wheat. The country is not flooded with these products. There are people in different parts of the country who are starving for want of the corn that farmers in other parts of the country burn. The reason is that the farmer is unable to transport his corn to those who are in need only at a great sacrifice to himself. No matter whether the crop is corn or wheat or anything else the labor in producing it will be the same. How, then, can the farmers, composing as they do about one-half of the working class, afford to labor only eight hours a day, when they have to mortgage their farms to get money to support themselves, working as they now do twelve hours a day? It is certainly an injustice to grant a boon to one half the laboring men and deny it to the other half. It is the object of every labor agitator to obtain equal rights for all hard-working men. It seems to us that if this eight hour system becomes universal the discord will be increased and in the end the difficulties will be harder to overcome.

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#### MISCELLANY.

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The change in commencement programs is an assured fact. The seniors have secured P. S. Henson, L. L. D., of Chicago to deliver the commencement oration. Dr. Henson has long been connected with the work of the Chautauqua circles, is an eloquent and witty speaker, and has attained great eminence in educational affairs. This is a great improvement upon the plan of having orations by the members of the graduating class; all who attend the commencement exercises may feel sure of hearing an interesting and instructive discourse by a man of recognized ability. The University of Nebraska is not far behind other educational institutions of high rank in abolishing the high school system of graduation. A man should show the world what he has gained from his college life by what he does after he leaves college and not attempt to render a balance-sheet in a fifteen minute oration.

The farmers' alliance will appear next fall as a factor in politics. The farmers of this and neighboring states, have at least become aroused, and realize that officials who spend one-half of their time procuring government positions for ward politicians, and the other half in efforts to secure personal popularity and obtain a mortgage on a second term are not suitable statesmen to take charge of the interests of the people. We, of the university, who look upon liberal education as the ultimate cure for nearly all of the social evils of the age, welcome with pleasure, the advent of this powerful educator. At their meetings the farmers discuss new methods of farming, and derive great benefit from intercourse with men possessing a wide knowledge of agriculture. The alliance claims to be non-partisan, but it is not. Its party will be that of reform, bound to no one of the old parties it will be master of all. If it compels existing parties to place in nomination men who are capable and honest it will gain a great victory, but there is another point to consider. Honesty is not the only essential for state and federal offices; their interests must be identical with those of the people. Monopolists and heads of great corporations are honest, and when they are given power they are true, in the use of it, to the interests of those with whom they are identified in business. The alliance will be worse than a failure if it does not keep itself free from the dictation of demagogues. The other extreme is also dangerous; a party controlled by an irresponsible, unintelligent majority is a source of danger to the state. Intelligent, successful men, whose interests are identical with those of the farmers are the men who should rule; they have shown by individual success that they are qualified to undertake large enterprises. The alliance need not be "in politics" but it must be ready to go in at any time. This is its political mission.

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"The library is open every day for two hours for consultation, and certain classes are allowed to take books for use at their rooms." The above is quoted from the university catalogue for 1873-4. What splendid library facilities we had in those times, 'two hours' every day for consultation of library books. At present the library is open eight hours each day except Saturday when it is open four. This is no doubt a vast improvement upon the old system and shows great advancement, but we made this advance so long ago that it is almost forgotten. Let us take another step forward.

The library is the general laboratory for all university students, especially for the students in the college of literature, and it should be managed with the ultimate object of giving to each student the best facilities possible for consulting the books pertaining to his individual work. The greater part of a student's work in books is done in the evening. In order that we may obtain the best use of our library it is necessary that there be an assistant librarian, and that the library be open from 8 o'clock in the morning until half past ten or eleven at night. By adopting such a plan as this it would be possible for any student to go to the library for the purpose of reading references and be sure of securing the books desired: no reference books need be allowed to leave the library; everyone could do the parallel reading in the reading room. When a large class is referred to four or five books for the principal part of their work it is manifestly unjust to allow one person to monopolize one of those books from five o'clock in the afternoon until nine the next morning. He can use the book but once during that time and may be entirely through with it in an hour or two. If all such reading were done in the library each book might be used by several students. We see no valid objections to