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NEW RACE OF FARMERS IN THE WEST

Operation of State School of Agriculture in Conjunction With
University Gives Soil Tillers the Advantage of a
Scientific Insight Into the Knotty Problems that Confront Farmers

A new race of farmers is being bred in the west. The man who believes in signs and dark and light of the moon is being rapidly replaced by the man who knows. Farming is not a haphazard occupation. It is true that crops are the prey of the elements, of too much wind, heat, rain or hail, or too little moisture, but these are the incidents, the hazards of the work—the exceptions. The man who knows how to rise superior to the perplexities, to solve the problems of his business is the man who succeeds. That state or government that teaches men and women to be practical and to know best serves its creators. Farm lands

an education fitting them successfully to solve the problems of farm life, have not been provided in quite a number of states. True there are agricultural colleges in most of the states, but before a student can be admitted to these colleges he must have a high school education, and quite frequently the student loses all taste for farm life before he is prepared to enter.

Nebraska, however, has taken the lead in establishing a school of agriculture to receive as students the sons and daughters of farmers who have completed eight grades in the public schools. This school is in connection with her state university. In it are

thousands of dollars every year on any stock farm where he may be employed.

A large majority of the farmers of Nebraska are engaged in feeding live stock for the markets. The chief aim of those engaged in this industry is the production of meat with the greatest economy. Through the efforts of our experiment stations and from the results of our most successful feeders, the student of agriculture now has at his command much information which will be of service to him in feeding farm animals. In live stock the students are given work in judging, feeding, and the principles of breeding.

fully the ravages of insect pests. This is fully covered by the course at the university.

Dairying is another great and growing industry in Nebraska. No man can be successful in home dairying unless he has a thorough knowledge of dairy machinery. Recognizing this fact, the department of dairy husbandry is making extensive preparations to give a thorough course in the manipulation of hand separators. The department has ten kinds of separators for use in the course this year.

Success in the dairy business depends very greatly on a knowledge of food stuffs. The dairyman must know



SHOWING SOME OF THE BUILDINGS AT THE STATE FARM.

are becoming high-priced and competition is every day becoming more and more severe. Men are learning that good crops or bad crops are not the result of chance, but largely of ability to control all the conditions which influence crop production. So it follows that the farm boy cannot get too much knowledge of the business he is to follow as a profession.

No state can be said to have an ideal educational system which does not provide for the education of the industrial classes. The industrial classes must have opportunities to fit themselves for the greatest efficiency in their chosen work, if the state does its whole duty toward them. The last few years have seen great progress in industrial education.

Strange to say the opportunities for farmers' sons and daughters to acquire

taught the following subjects: Algebra, breeds, botany, chemistry, dairying, economics, English, entomology, field crops, geometry, histology, horticulture, physiology, shop work, stock judging, and veterinary practice.

Last year several hundred farmers' sons and daughters were enrolled as students. This year it is hoped to double that number. The curriculum as will be seen, is very comprehensive. The stock industry, for example, is a big one in Nebraska. Now anyone who expects to become a stockman cannot afford to be without a knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of farm animals. He must also be acquainted with the diseases of animals and the best methods of dealing with them. Every young man who takes the course receives such training as will enable him to save hundreds and

The future breeders of improved live stock thus prepare for their important work by making themselves familiar with those laws concerning animal reproduction which are essential to success in this work.

Every farmer has to fight insect pests, many of them of a destructive character. It has been estimated that the annual loss to the United States from insect ravages amounts to between three and four hundred millions of dollars. When it is known that not a single crop which is grown upon the farm escapes the attacks of insect pests, it will be apparent that an essential part of an agricultural education should be a training in elementary entomology, and that the course in the subject named above should be planned to give such knowledge as will enable those who take it to combat success-

what to feed in order to produce a copious flow of milk, and he must also know how to feed economically. Experiments in the feeding of dairy cows will be conducted as a part of the dairy course offered by the school of agriculture, and the forage plants of Nebraska suitable for the successful feeding of a dairy herd will be carefully studied.

Nebraska has a great future as a horticultural state, but experience has taught that climatic conditions in the west are vastly different from those in the eastern states. Our severe climate makes it necessary to know what varieties to plant and how to take care of them after planting. Many orchards fail because the owners do not know what varieties to select and what culture methods to use. Hence it will be readily seen that scientific methods