

# Good Points of Secret Fraternities in Connection With Colleges

**W**ILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., Aug. 3.—The upper class club system at Princeton was described in an account recently here in an account of its rival development, the college fraternity, which may be said to have become a factor in the social life of the American college when Kappa Alpha was founded at Union in 1825.

This form of student club, which was ruled out at Princeton at a time when it threatened to become an academic evil, has in other colleges, with increasing popularity and success, until its aggregate membership roll, including the dead and the living, now numbers more than 20,000 names. In many ways it closely resembles the Princeton club, but its adherents attribute to it a more useful place and influence in the college world.

In point of luxury it is not much behind the Princeton club, but its headquarters at Cornell, which burned down last winter, was said to have cost \$250,000. It was the finest fraternity house in the country. At both Columbia and the Sheffield Scientific school, the home of Delta Psi—generally known as St. Anthony Hall—is noteworthy and other examples of the fraternity architecture are plentiful throughout the country.

Here the fraternities have taken possession of Main street with its extensive lawns and towering elms, and the fraternity houses in dignity and beauty are quite on a level with the college buildings. Kappa Alpha, through its recent purchase of the Colonel Proctor mansion, takes the lead for expensive quarters, though its new move in this direction has been much criticized. This house contains fifty-three rooms and is said to have cost \$120,000 when erected a few years ago, and the lead about it is easily worth \$40,000 more house and land were purchased this year for about \$20,000.

Other notable fraternity houses are the Sigma Phi house, valued at about \$100,000 and the home of Alpha Delta Phi, which is often pointed out as the finest adaptation of the colonial style to the needs and uses of the college fraternity. The other lodges—there are twelve in all—possess each some distinctive feature that lends a charm of its own.

As at Princeton, there appears the same constant desire for more expensive quarters, so that now there are two new houses in course of erection and other societies have the same move in contemplation. But even now, though there are degrees of luxury, the interior of almost every house has its own atmosphere of ease and comfort.

Years ago, when the Greek letter fraternities first sprang into prominence, they met with opposition on all sides. They were few in number and tended to exclusiveness and arrogance, a spirit contrary to the ideal of democracy in college life. Almost immediately a student organization opposed to their methods arose in every college where they existed, soon uniting under the motto "Dikaia Utopheke (Justice our foundation), to form a new national fraternity known as Delta Upsilon.

Almost 75 years old, this fraternity is now represented by chapters in thirty-seven colleges and universities and is one of the strongest and most prosperous in the country. Today it differs little, if at all, from the other fraternities, and the advocates of the system point to this fact as evidence that the old evils of fraternity life have disappeared.

And members of Delta Upsilon heartily

acquiesce in this. Extreme secrecy, snob-business, exclusiveness are less and less sought after by fraternities because they have been found to be in the end harmful.

With the increased number of societies at an institution the strength of any one of them must depend first of all on the extent to which its members are known and liked throughout the college body. The first thought of a fraternity nowadays, next to seeing that its men satisfy the requirements of the curriculum, is to make them get out into college activities and mix with their fellow students in a democratic way. In other words the aim of the fraternity is to secure for its members a reputation for congenial temper, character and energy, so that when lined up with the other societies they shall rank as a fine set of men.

Now while this bears a close resemblance

to the aims of an upper-class club at Princeton, in other ways, say fraternity men, the two forms are widely different in their effects. Under the Princeton system members are chosen at the end of sophomore year, and those who have failed of an election at that time—and there must necessarily be many—are out to feel that they have been tried and found wanting by their fellow students. Inevitably college spirit is weakened.

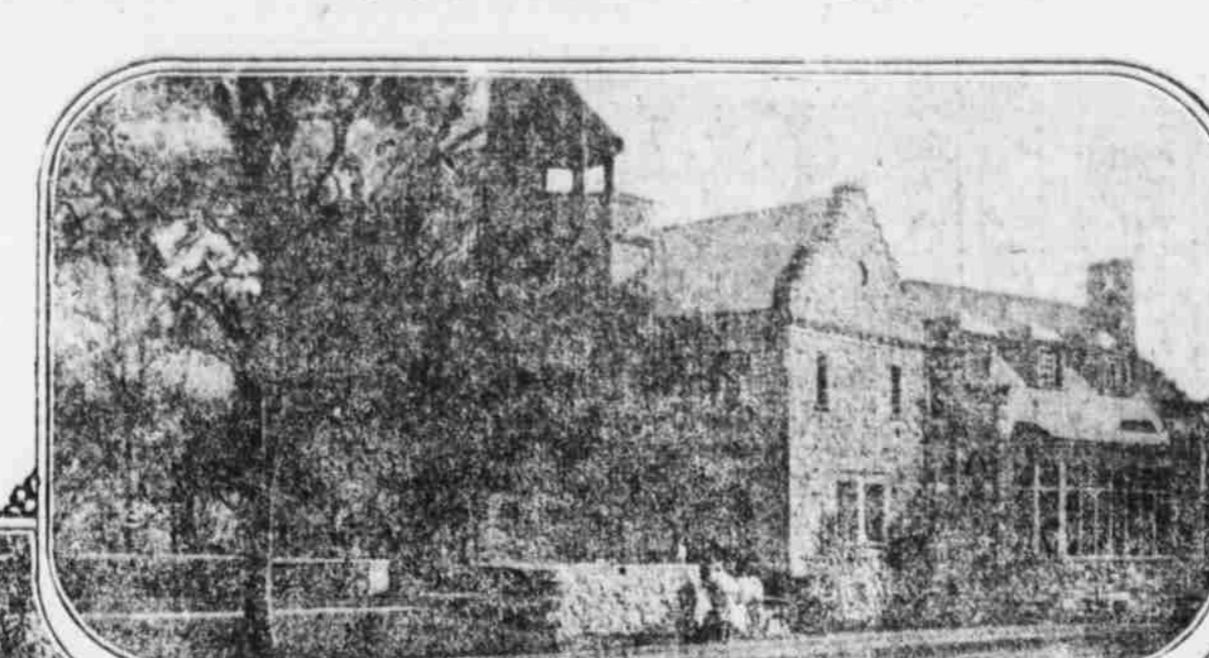
It is claimed for the fraternity, on the other hand, that it is a far more agreeable presence to the man who is not a member. In most colleges a fraternity elects yearly all its new members as soon as they enter college, or within a month or so afterward. The basis for judgment is by no means adequate. Sometimes a new man has a friend in the fraternity, sometimes his personal appearance and manners gain him admission and sometimes he comes with a reputation for proficiency in athletics or literary work. Thus many good men are invariably overlooked.

Not uncommonly a man refuses to join a fraternity until he has been a year or two in college. There are others whose families object, and still others who think they cannot stand the expense. In addition to these a large class of nonfraternity men is comprised of those who show small promise as freshmen, but develop by the time they become upper-class men.

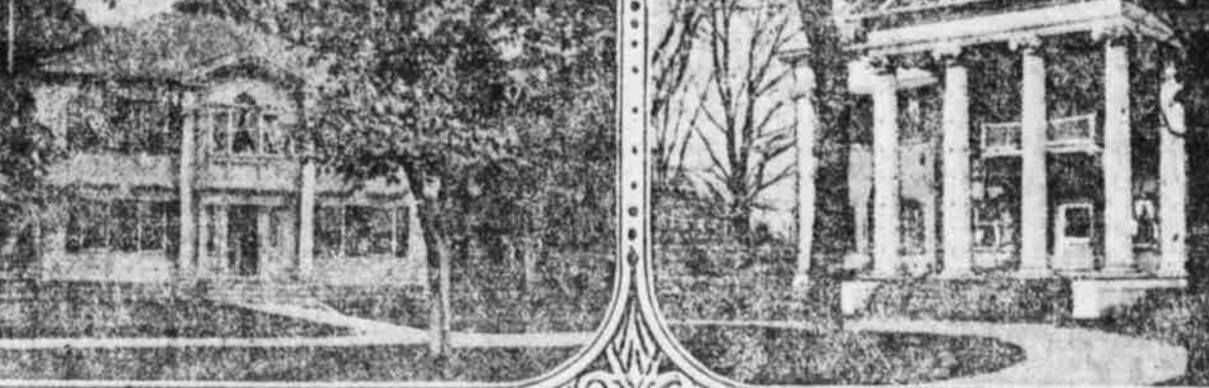
In these ways, it is explained, the non-

fraternity men, or neutral, has no reason to feel that he is in any sense an outcast. He is in very good company, and there are plenty of reasons to explain the fact that he is not a member of any fraternity. Moreover, there is always the possibility of a man's being invited to join later on in

his course. But this, it is asserted, presents only an incomplete view of the situation. There is much more to commend the system. Membership in a fraternity does not come as the goal of under class ambition and failure to attain it does not necessarily



ST. ANTHONY HALL, HOME OF WILLIAMS CHAPTER OF DELTA PSI.



DELTA Upsilon CHAPTER HOUSE AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE.



DELTA KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY HOUSE, WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

bring disappointment that lasts. Before the student becomes a junior he has learned the true value of a fraternity. He sees it in its true light as a useful agent in culture and social intercourse.

But the barriers are down; he regards his fraternity as a mere incident in his

college course, and among his classmates he observes no such distinction as fraternity and non-fraternity. His judgment of others is based on personal qualities, and it is along these lines that his friendships deepen. The result is in the end a hearty comradeship between fraternity men and neutrals.

Thus a system of election which is hazardous achieves its own useful ends. It removes the stigma of the term non-fraternity, and in addition it serves as a great levelling influence among the fraternities themselves, for when freshmen are the candidates each fraternity has an even chance to get its share of the desirable men. Moreover, the system brings all four classes into close relation, giving freshmen the benefits of upper-class supervision.

These are the arguments put forth by the adherents of the system, to prove its superiority as a form of student club life. But it has further advantages. These are the opportunities it gives for intercourse and friendships throughout the collegiate world, and the exceptional privileges it lays before the graduate.

In Williams, for example, all the fraternities but one are national; that is, they are merely chapters of a fraternity that is represented in the same way at other colleges and universities all over the country. Each fraternity holds a yearly convention, at which delegates from all of its chapters are present. In visiting another college a fraternity delegate naturally goes to the chapter house and is welcomed for as long a time as he cares to stay.

The broadening influence of such a condition is obvious; an undergraduate at Williams cannot fail to gain much from a comparison of ideas with a fellow student from the University of California. The same is true of alumni. When in a college town he meets a former classmate, they stay to dinner, perhaps, and are thus brought into touch with the undergraduate world.

But they also have a little world of their own, for in most cities of any size graduate members of a large national fraternity are organized into fraternity alumni clubs, which have dinners and smokers and occasionally have quarters of their own. A good instance of this is the dinner given to Governor Higgins by the Delta Upsilon club of New York last March. The Association with men of his own fraternity after graduation often proves also to be of great value to a man in a business way. Besides all this alumni always have the freedom of the chapter house when returning to their own college at commencement time or on the occasion of an athletic contest.

But with all its advantages the modern college fraternity has its faults. It not infrequently bores a man into a position to which his merits do not entitle him. The sin of extravagance, with which fraternities are often charged, is less common perhaps than is supposed. Fine houses erected by alumni subscriptions need not imply expensive habits. They are built to give dignity and weight to the chapter's name.

Occasionally the societies which own them are so heavily indebted that no dues beyond the initiation fee are required of members. This makes possible the election of desirable men whose purses are small.

But more frequently the erection of fine houses tends to a condition that is perhaps a chief evil in the situation. A chapter building a house generally finds it necessary to borrow. This places a heavy financial burden on the active membership.

To obviate this the house is built with living accommodations for a large proportion of members, the increased revenue from rental being made it easy for them to carry the obligation and eventually pay it off. As a result, where a dozen years ago it was exceptional to have more than seven men out of twenty-five or so rooming at the house, the newer lodges are built to house from fifteen to twenty or even more.

When men eat, sleep and study in the same house it is clear that in the end it will become harder for them to mingle with their other fellow students. This tendency is growing so that there are many leaders in educational work who believe that eventually fifty or a hundred years hence, perhaps—the fraternities will resolve themselves into separate colleges, as at Oxford and Cambridge. It is not an unusual thing at the present time for graduate students—candidates for the master's degree—to be living in the fraternity house in the quality of boarders and tutors to the undergraduate members. In this the prophets see nucleus of a separate faculty.

With all the criticism of the fraternity system it is an interesting fact that thirty or forty years ago, before the question had attracted the attention of the outside world, open hostility between the fraternity and non-fraternity elements was not uncommon, actual rows even taking place, while today the two are on the friendliest of terms. The fraternity man is careful that his manner shall betray no suggestion of distinction toward the neutrals and if the subject comes up in conversation it is mentioned in a humorous, matter of fact way that carries no offense.

Extreme secrecy has disappeared and fraternity men and neutrals frequently laugh together over some funny incident that happened "up in the house." They are frequently each other's guests at meal time. Therefore many of those who are in touch with academic life are inclined to ridicule the fears of some modern critics. The American college fraternity has been developing for more than seventy-five years, and during that time has rid itself of its worst evils, they say.

# King Cotton is Distributing Great Wealth Among Farmers of the Nile

**W**ASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—I have spent the whole of today wandering about the cotton wharves of Alexandria. They extend for a mile or so up and down the Mediterranean coast, and along the Nile, and are flanked on the other side by railroads filled with cotton trains from every part of Egypt. These wharves lie under the shadow of Pompey's Pillar, and they extend all along the canal almost to the harbor. Upon them are great warehouses filled with bales and bags. There are cotton presses nearby, and in the city itself is a great cotton exchange where the people buy and sell just as they do at Liverpool from the samples brought in from the plantations.

**Alexandria Cotton Market.**  
Indeed, cotton is as big a factor here as it is in New Orleans, and the banks of this canal make one think of the great cotton market of that city. The warehouses are of vast extent and the road between them and this waterway is covered with bales of lint and great bags of cotton seed. Skull-capped blue-gowned Egyptians sit high upon the bales on long bedded wagons hauled by mules. Other Egyptians are unloading the cars and boats and others are carrying the cotton to the warehouses. They tote the bales and bags on their backs and now and then a man may be seen carrying a bag of loose cotton weighing a couple of hundred pounds upon his head. The cotton seed is taken from the bales in the same way, seed to the amount of 300 pounds often forming a load for one man.

Late in the afternoon I went down to the harbor to see the boats of the country were taking on cargo for Great Britain, Russia, France, Germany and the United States. Cotton forms three-fourths of the exports of this country and something like \$200,000 worth of it is annually shipped to the United States. This is so notwithstanding we raise more than two-thirds of all the cotton of the world. The total product in 1906 was almost 18,000,000 bales, of which we raised over 12,000,000. Egypt then produced a little less than 1,000,000, and its product brought more per bale by far than ours. There is always a big demand for Egyptian cotton. It is worth more on the average than that of any other country, and it is, in fact, the great money-maker of the Nile valley.

**Cotton is King.**  
Cotton is the great white Pharaoh which the Egyptians worship. He has the mastery of the Nile farmers in his employ and he pays them royally. He has rolled up a wave of prosperity which is now engulfing the Nile valley, from the Mediterranean to the cataracts, and the prospects are that he will make his country grow richer from year to year.

Cotton is now pouring about \$90,000,000 of new, clean money into the laps of the Egyptians every twelve months, and this means an average of about \$40 per family. In addition, about \$10,000,000 are annually realized from the sale of cotton seed and cotton cake; so that every man, woman and child in the valley of the Nile has on the average, \$2 worth of new money from this crop alone.

Not only this, but the cotton yield is steadily increasing, and, with the new irrigation works now under way, it will soon be greater than ever. From 1860 to 1900 the average annual value was only \$8,000,000. And the Assouan dam was

completed. It jumped to \$70,000,000, and it is now, as I have said, over \$90,000,000.

**Greater Future.**  
In the past few months the British government has decided to raise the Nile. This will almost double the amount of water which can be used for the cotton crop, and that means more cotton and more money. Lord Cromer, the British governor general, says that the greater part of upper and lower Egypt can be made to grow cotton, and that the cotton plantations will eventually cover more than 5,500,000 acres. If 40 per cent of this area is annually put into cotton, at the present average yield of 400 pounds per acre, it will produce something like 2,000,000 bales per annum, or one-ninth as much as the present cotton crop that the cotton plantations will eventually cover more than 5,500,000 acres. If 40 per cent of this area is annually put into cotton, at the present average yield of 400 pounds per acre, it will produce something like 2,000,000 bales per annum, or one-ninth as much as the present cotton crop that the cotton plantations will eventually cover more than 5,500,000 acres. If 40 per cent of this area is annually put into cotton, at the present average yield of 400 pounds per acre, it will produce something like 2,000,000 bales per annum, or one-ninth as much as the present cotton crop that the cotton plantations will eventually cover more than 5,500,000 acres.

**Egypt's Cotton Crop.**  
As it is now, Egypt is fast taking a high place among the cotton countries of the world. The United States stands first. It produces about 12,000,000 bales annually. East India has had the second place, its annual production ranging from 80,000 to 2,900,000 bales, with Egypt far in the rear. Since the building of the Assouan dam the crop of Egypt has been steadily increasing. Until last year it was 6,750,000 kantars, which, at 100 pounds to the kantar for every figuring, make 675,000,000 pounds, or over 1,800,000 80-pound bales. Egypt produces more cotton for its size and the area planted, than any other country of the world. Its average crop is 400 pounds per acre, which is far in excess of ours. Dr. Webber of our Department of Agriculture says that our average is only 130 pounds per acre, although we have, of course, many acres which produce 500 pounds and more.

**Brings Big Prices.**  
Egyptian cotton brings big prices. There are some kinds which sell for double the amount of our cotton. It is, in fact, the best cotton of the world with the exception of the Sea Island cotton, which grows on the islands off the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina. The Sea Island cotton has a little longer fiber than the Egyptian. The latter is for the most part brown in color and is noted for its silkiness, which makes it valuable for manufacturing mercerized cotton. We import an enormous quantity of Egyptian cotton to mix with our cotton. I hear of cotton here selling for 25 and 25 cents a pound, and am told that there is a great difference in the varieties raised, and also as to the parts of the Nile valley in which each kind is raised.

The very best cotton grows in the delta, and that region is now producing more than four-fifths of the crop. Less than a quarter of a million acres are now in cotton in the valley of the Nile above Cairo, and the yield is neither so large nor so good as that of the delta.

**Egypt's Cotton Plantations.**  
I wish I could take you with me on a trip through the cotton fields of the Nile valley. The scenes there are nothing like

those of our southern states. Much of the cotton is raised on small farms, and every field is marked out with little canals, into which the water is introduced from time to time. There are no great farmhouses scattered over the landscape, and no barns. The people all live in mud villages and go out to work in the field. They use animals for plowing and harrowing, and the crop is handled in a different way. Let me give you a few pictures as I have made them, while traveling through the country.

Take a look over the delta. It is a wide expanse of green, spotted here and there with white patches. The green consists of alfalfa, Indian corn, or beans. The white is the cotton. I can see it stretching out before me as far as my eye can reach.

Here is a field where the lint has been gathered. The land is black, and it has windrows of cotton stalks running across it. Every stalk has been pulled out by the roots and piled up. Further on we see another field in which the stalks have been tied into bundles. They will be sold as fuel and will produce a full ton of dry wood to the acre. There are no forests in Egypt, and all sorts of fuel are scarce. The stalks from one acre will sell for \$1 or more. The cotton stalks are used for cooking, for the farm engines on the larger plantations and even for running the spinning establishments. In that village over there you may see great bundles of stalks stored away on the tops of the flat-roofed houses. Cornfodder is piled up beside them, the leaves of the fodder having been torn off for stock feed. Is not this a queer country where the people keep their wood-piles on their roofs?

**Cotton Picking.**  
Here is a field where they are picking cotton. There are scores of little Egyptian boys and girls working away among the white bolls. They have dark brown faces. The boys wear blue gowns and dirty white skull caps. The girls have cloths over

their heads. All are barefooted, and some of the boys are almost naked. They are picking the fiber in baskets and are paid so much per 100 pounds. A boy will gather thirty or forty pounds in a day, and he does well if he earns as much as 10 cents.

The first picking begins in September. After that the land is watered, and a second picking takes place in October. There is a third in November, the land being again irrigated between times. The first and second pickings yield the best fiber. They are kept apart from the third and sold separately.

**Camels and Cotton Bales.**  
After the cotton is picked it is put into great bags and loaded upon camels. They are loading four such beasts in that field at the side of the road. The camels lie flat on the ground, with their long necks stretched out. Two bags are a load for each camel, and together they will weigh about 600 pounds. Each bag is as long and wide as a single bed mattress and about four feet thick. Listen to the camels groan as they load them. There is one which is actually weeping. You can see the salt tears run down his cheeks.

Now watch the camels get up. Each rises back and forth, the bags swaying to and fro as he does so. How angry he is. He goes off with his lower lip hanging, grumbling and growling like a spoiled child. How odd the camels look as they travel. The bags on their backs reach almost to the ground, and each ungainly beast seems to be walking on six legs.

Looking down the road we can see long caravans of camels loaded with bales, and on the other side of that little canal is a small drove of donkeys bringing in cotton. Each donkey is hidden by a bag which covers its back and all but its little legs. It looks like a bed tick walking off upon legs.

In this way the cotton is brought to the railroad station and to the boats. The latter go out of one little waterway into another until they get into the Mahmudiyeh canal, and thence to Alexandria. The railroads are filled with cotton trains during the harvesting season and just now there are long strings of cars loaded with cotton coming into this city. Some of this cotton has been ginned and baled upon the plantations; other is sent in in the seed and ginned here. There are also ginning establishments at the larger cotton markets of the interior, many of which are run by steam and which have as up-to-date machinery as we have. At these gins the seed is carefully saved and shipped to Alexandria by railroad or by boat.

and this is kept up almost to the time of picking. The planting is usually done during the month of March, and, as I have said, the first picking begins along in September.

**White Nile Makes the Cotton.**  
It will surprise many to know that the cotton crop of Egypt is not fed by the rich mud of Abyssinia, which comes down in the waters of the Nile at the time of the floods. That mud is brought to Egypt by the Atbara and the Blue Nile and is poured over the land during the seasons when the cotton needs it least. The most of the water used for cotton raising comes down during the summer. This is from the White Nile, which is almost as clear and pure as the water you drink on your tables. The fertilizing properties must hence come from the silt deposited during the flood or from manure and other fertilizers.

I am told that cotton, as it is grown here, exhausts the soil and that the people are injuring the staple and reducing the amount of the product by overcropping. It used to be that cotton was planted on the same ground only every third year, the ground being used for other crops or allowed to lie fallow during the remaining two years. At present some of the cotton fields are worked every year and others two years out of three. On most farms cotton is now planted every other year, whereas the authorities say that in order to have a good yield not more than 40 per cent of one's land should be in this crop from year to year.

**Fighting the Boll Weevil.**  
Egypt has had a lot of trouble with the boll weevil. This pestiferous cotton worm is to be found all along the valley of the Nile, and I am told that it is doing great damage on the plantations of the Sudan, a thousand miles above Alexandria. It is said that more than 10,000,000 were destroyed by it in 1904, and that hundreds of the smaller farmers were ruined. In the meantime the government has been doing all it can to wipe out this plague, but it is working under great disadvantages. The Egyptian Mohammedans are fatalists and they look upon such things as the boll weevil as a judgment of God, and think they can do nothing to avert them. The government has had to inaugurate a system of forced labor in consequence. It has made the boys and men of the cotton region turn out by the thousands to kill the worms under the supervision of the officials. The results have been excellent and as those who have been forced to work have been well paid the farmers are beginning to appreciate what has been done for them.

The government has been helping the farmers in other ways. It has an agricultural department which is working much as ours. Last year it sent out selected seed for planting 10,000 acres in cotton, contracting with each farmer who took it that it would buy his seed at a price above that of the market. The seed, which has come in from that venture is enough to plant 75,000 acres this year, and this is to be distributed at cost price to such farmers as want it.

The government is trying to induce the farmers to use artificial fertilizers. It began this six years ago, when it was able to distribute \$20,000 worth of chemical manure. The demand had so increased for such fertilizers that more than ten times as much was distributed last season.

With our knowledge of the Nile lands it seems a queer thing to talk of their artificial fertilization, but there is no land on earth where manuring pays be-

ter. On the grain lands, where this stuff has been used to the extent of about \$5 per acre, the crops have increased from \$15 to \$20 per acre, and the probability is that the smaller harvests of grain are steadily growing. During the past year the government has lent to the agricultural department \$500,000 at 2 per cent per annum, with the understanding that the money is to be used in buying and distributing manures.

In another letter I will describe the wonderful fertility of the Nile valley and tell you something of the Abyssinian mud of which it is made. It has been farmed for ages with almost no manure whatever, and that the conditions are such that if manure at all is to be employed it must be brought in from abroad. It is now, the droppings of cattle are gathered up by the women in their bare udders and patted into cakes to be dried for fuel, and about the only manure that is saved in the Nile valley is that of the millions of pigeons, which are raised by the millions throughout the valley of the Nile.

Another fertilizer is that afforded by the ruins of the ancient towns, which were built of unbaked clay, and which now are mere mounds of earth. Out of these mounds, made of the rubbish of a thousand years, comes a containing a large percentage of soda, ammonia and other salts. This stuff is carried by the peasants out to the cotton fields and sprinkled over the ground, and the result is an extraordinary increase in the yield.

**United States Leads World.**  
The bureau of the census has issued Bulletin 75, Agricultural Implements, Continuing, for the year 1905, statistics for the manufacture of implements used for sowing the soil, sowing or planting the seed, harvesting, and preparing the crop for the market. The industry, associated as it is with progress in farming methods, has exercised a far-reaching influence upon the country's economic conditions. The advance from the simply constructed implements of former years to the complex machines of the present time has been accompanied by an inevitable increase in capital. In value of products the increase in the last twenty-five years has been moderate but steady. The following figures show the general items to be considered in making a study of the industry, and the increase or decrease since 1900: Number of establishments, 418, a decrease of 84 per cent; capital, \$28,746,288, an increase of 54.18 per cent; number of salaried officials, 478, etc., 7,150, a decrease of 28.3 per cent; average number of wages-earners, 4,254, an increase of 4.7 per cent; total wages, \$3,061,650, an increase of 11.4 per cent; miscellaneous expenses, \$15,178,098, an increase of 23.2 per cent; cost of materials used, \$18,231,495, an increase of 2.9 per cent; value of products, \$112,607,341, an increase of 10.7 per cent.

The United States leads the world in the exportation of agricultural implements, with the United Kingdom as its principal competitor. In the fifteen years ending 1906 the extension of trade to foreign countries has been remarkable. The value of exports during the fiscal year 1905 formed 18.5 per cent of the total value of products of the census year 1905 and 15.9 per cent in 1900, whereas in 1900 the proportion was only 13 per cent. Russia and Argentina, the two great wheat-producing countries, were in 1906 the leading importers of American agricultural machinery. Russia received 18.5 per cent of the total value of exports, nearly four times as much as in 1900, and Argentina 24.1 per cent, an increase of 178.7 per cent.

ON A COTTON WHARF AT CAIRO.

