

NEW ENGINEERING FIELD OPENS IN AGRICULTURE

NOT MUCH SEEN IN THIS BRANCH
BY SOME.

OTHERS PREDICT GREAT FUTURE

Three or Four Fields of Employment
Now Open to Students—Will
Change Farming.

To the student in the high school attempting to decide upon which line of work he shall adopt for his own future, the engineering profession in its various branches always loom large. Perhaps to his limited vision a mechanical engineer appears simply as a man who runs an engine, an electrical engineer as a man who manages the local power house or runs the wires and poles over the town and the civil engineer is merely a glorified surveyor. Unless the student has had some experience around engineering offices or on engineering projects he will not realize the broadness of engineering work until he has spent at least two years in some engineering college or university. His eyes will then be opened and he will get a larger vision of the great field before him.

Agricultural Engineering being a practically new field, is seen by many men in the older branches of engineering almost as imperfectly as their work in turn is viewed by the young student. They see in the agricultural engineer a man who is running a traction engine through the dusty fields, or who is down in the ditch laying tile, or who is swinging a hammer, erecting a corn crib. Only those who are making a special study of the work can see the broadness of it and the future of it. It might be possible that those who see the work in such a light see it through a magnifying glass. It will take time to prove this, however.

There are three different fields of employment now open to the agricultural engineer, with possibly a fourth. Probably the greatest of these at present is instructional work. The other two are as consulting engineers and managers of large farms. While the fourth might be that of designing special machinery for agricultural purposes. This field of work should, however, be covered at present by the consulting engineer and the mechanical engineer.

This seems to point to the development of two widely varying types of farming, the small farm upon which horse power is used to the very great exclusion of machinery, and the large farm with its tendency to eliminate the horse and which in order to be operated with the greatest possible economy must be of a size sufficient to reduce as much as possible the time when the machinery is idle.

Modern machinery is changing the size of the farms which may be handled economically. The last two census reports show a decrease in the number of medium sized farms and an increase in the number of large and of small farms. In the countries where the land has been taken up since the advent of power machinery for the fields the farms are remaining large and are being handled by mechanical power. In all of the great wheat states it is not an uncommon thing to see a large farm which is being handled altogether by farm tractors. Agricultural machinery has been developed more for handling wheat than for any other line of farming. But farmers can not always raise wheat, hence in order to do intensive farming with tractors and the like there is a demand for a consulting agricultural engineer who is able to plan the machinery and lay out the other equipment so that the

products of the farm can be handled with the mechanical motive power which has proven in the last few years to be so much cheaper than the animal motor.

Drainage is another line of work which is typically agricultural and has in this section as yet been hardly begun. In order to get this work started the government has been compelled to do the engineering on a few projects without compensation. The people are now awake to the necessity of the work and a great field is opening up.

Even now the farmers are learning the benefits of properly designing buildings and equipment and there is a field of engineering here which is ready to be utilized as soon as there are men to handle it.

The courses in agricultural engineering as they are now being presented in the various colleges are not completely worked out. This can be explained in two ways. The field is new and the material is not at hand for good cultural work. Nearly all of the courses offered are simply compiled statements of facts which should be offered as first or second year work. Men have not been developed in the proper lines of education to handle the work satisfactorily. As requisite for a good teacher in this work a man must be an engineer, a practical farmer, an economist, the possessor of a large amount of inventive ability as well as an engineer. When the work becomes better grounded and sufficient students take the courses enable the development of specialists in the lines then agricultural engineering should be put on a firm pedagogical basis which should make it of a practical, technical, and cultural course.

ENGINEERING GRADS

WHERE THE MEN OF 1909 AND 1910 ARE AT PRESENT LOCATED.

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FOR BEST SWEDISH STUDENT. Prize of Twenty-five Dollars Offered University of Nebraska.

"The Society for the Preservation of Swedish Culture in America" has included the University of Nebraska in the list of institutions which are to give prizes for excellence in the Swedish language and literature. The prize given at the University of Nebraska will be called "Andrew Lanquist's Stipendium," in honor of Mr. Lanquist of Chicago, who has liberally contributed to the fund. The prize amounts to twenty-five dollars and will be offered yearly to that regular student of the University who has given best evidence of excellence in Swedish. The name of the recipient will be announced at Commencement exercises in June of each year.

The Phi Beta Kappa society at Yale has organized a baseball team and is taking an active part in the interfraternity games there. Last Thursday Phi Beta Kappa played a twelve-inning tie with the Yale News.