

Let us not forget machinery in the home. This is of utmost importance to the housekeeper. A small gasoline engine can be secured at a very reasonable figure. This engine will be doing work every day which at present is done by the women, such as turning the washing machine, the wringer, the meat grinder, the bread mixer and similar work. Such machinery will save a great deal of energy and valuable time for the women, and give them time for social and educational work which they must now sacrifice.

When we get this better agriculture that we as a class stand for we must and will have better schools. The one room schoolhouse is doomed. It can have but a very small place in the rural communities of today. The rural districts must be consolidated, and larger buildings erected where they can teach, not only the common branches, but also agriculture, domestic science, music, art, home sanitation and higher subjects. With such schools we shall soon have on the farms in general, well educated men and women fully prepared as citizens of the state.

As the schools are developed, the people will learn to appreciate good roads. Better agriculture will make it possible to spend more money on roads. At present it costs the farmer from three to five dollars per ton to market his produce. With good roads this expenditure can easily be cut in two. This would mean a great deal not only to the farmers but to the city people as well because it would reduce the cost of living.

Better agriculture would mean better social conditions. People need to get together in order to become acquainted, better to understand and appreciate each other. This may be accomplished by organizing farmers' clubs and societies, where questions of public interest may be discussed. These clubs will give not only amusement, but will spread much useful information. Good roads would play no small part in promoting this better social condition.

After all, what is our object in trying to develop agriculture, to build better rural schools and roads, and to increase the comfort of life? Our great object is not to accumulate wealth, but to make better and more worthy homes.

What is as beautiful as an ideal country home? How can I picture for you the better home toward which we are striving? Here nature manifests herself wherever we look. In the morning at sunrise the birds are singing cheerfully, all nature seems to rejoice that day is coming. The farm animals graze peacefully in the pasture. There is a quiet spirit of rejoicing that all is well with the world. In the home, peace reigns supreme. The atmosphere is filled with love and mutual understanding. In these homes are developed the strongest characters of the nation. A country home is unsurpassed for its healthfulness; country life unexcelled for its wholesomeness. We must strive to raise the country home to the highest standard, that it may continue to develop the nation's most noble characters. This cannot be accomplished until the farmers in general change their ideals and work earnestly to better conditions there. The majority of farmers are still indifferent to rural development. They do not wish to employ new methods of agriculture because their fathers employed the old methods. They do not realize that with changing conditions their success can only be attained by keeping up with the times.

It is necessary that we all work together to accomplish our aim. If we do, we shall succeed. In a few years we can have a splendid system of agriculture, schools, and homes, that will be a credit to the community and a blessing to ourselves. Let us then resolve to pull together and attain the desired result, which will be "Better Agriculture and Better Homes."