

## Class Address

"We'll Teach by Example."

Iver Westad, '13.

It is universally conceded that the farmers of today are confronted with problems of increasing complexity. One hundred years ago farming consisted of hard work under pioneer conditions. Today there is still much hard physical work but machinery, new methods, and new business problems have also come. Farming has come to be a profession. Daily the farmer must use his best thinking ability to determine important questions. When and how the work ought to be done to obtain the best results; what kind of stock is best; and many other problems press upon him for solution. Grain diseases, live stock ills, and insect pests have been added to the problems confronting farming. It is coming to be a difficult matter to be a successful farmer.

We realized the need of a specific training for farming before we could engage in the business of farming. That is the reason we came to the Northwest School of Agriculture. We wished to become trained farmers, ready to master the daily problems that a farmer has to meet and to solve them in the best way possible under the circumstances that will surround our lives.

Three years of hard studying have passed. Not from books alone, but also from observing nature's ways, have we set about to accomplish our aim. We know that only by putting our knowledge into actual practice shall we succeed. It is not merely the accumulation of wealth that concerns us. That is our smallest aim. Our purpose is to make the farm a home, not merely a place wherein to live, but a home from which the boys and girls will not depart to go to the city. The country home can be made so attractive that no young man or woman can afford to give it up for a meager place in the city.

It has been said "The man that is most useful is best educated." We believe that to be true. By using our influence in bringing the farm and farmer up to this ideal we are doing what a real citizen ought to do.

Every American citizen, a farmer or engaged in some other vocation, is in duty bound so to live and to act that others will be benefited by his example. For that reason, we the class of 1913, adopted as our motto the following suggestive words "We'll Teach by Example." We have endeavored to live up to this motto here at school. The time has come when we cannot personally be together. These inspiring words will go with us to our homes where they shall be applied in action.

It may be asked, how and what can we teach by example? There are several ways whereby we can do that. First, success in agriculture depends upon the business and executive ability of the farmer. In our forefather's days no scientific study of the requirements of the different crops was necessary. The only thing then considered essential was to sow the seed, to harvest it, and to sell it. Today it is different. In order that a maximum crop can be grown the farmer must know the requirements for the various crops, as well as the physical and chemical condition of the soil. By knowing the soil capacity and taking the necessary precautions, such as using good seed, making plant food available in the soil, conserving moisture and practicing crop rotation, it will be possible for us to grow two bushels where we formerly grew but one.

Second, we should be leaders in promoting live stock raising. In order to be competent farmers we must keep live stock, because it is the most important factor in maintaining soil fertility. It is being realized more and more that the welfare of the nation depends upon the fertility of the soil.