

A quarter of a century ago, when land and labor were cheap, it was perhaps a paying business to raise common or scrub stock. Today, when the land values are high and the population is increasing, we must improve the stock in order to make the business pay. Stock that gave a fair return on land worth ten to fifteen dollars per acre will never do so on land worth up to one hundred dollars per acre. Poor stock spells failure today.

Live stock is like a machine. The best is the most efficient. The kind of stock that can convert grain and roughage into beef, butter, or eggs, to the greatest advantage is the best. It is the only kind worth raising. The call is—breed and feed better stock. It will secure more and better produce and higher prices.

Third, where a farm is under good management a complete farm record is kept. When it comes to selling a lot of beef steers, or a lot of hogs for example, the farmer looks into his record and finds out what they cost him. He knows then the price they should bring in order to make him a fair profit. In dairying it is particularly true that he can keep a record of the cost of production. More than that, by looking over the individual cow records he can see if each cow is giving a reasonable return. In case he finds one that is not doing well she is disposed of. She is not paying for her keeping. She is a "star" boarder. If no records are kept he would never know that he was losing money on her. Furthermore, breeding from such cows would be a direct loss to him.

Fourth, on the prairies where timber is scarce, provision must be made to plant trees for wind protection, for the buildings and stock. Ornamental trees should also be planted as they aid greatly in beautifying the home. No farm is complete without fruit trees. A small orchard should be provided. It should contain a variety of fruits, which will be of value as food and as a source of profit. We realize the need of these things and we are pledged to secure them.

Less than a quarter of a century ago co-operation was an almost unknown thing among the farmers. They did not believe in returning a favor for a favor, or in other words, in working together. So long as this continued, progress was very slow and painful. Happily that attitude is rapidly dying away. There is no reason why the farmers cannot succeed in their business through co-operation, as well as the small manufacturing industries.

Why did the smaller manufacturing firms unite into one large concern? Because they saw they could not do as well alone. "In union there is strength." The same principle holds true with the farmers. They must mutually work to produce better grain and stock, and then sell their produce on a co-operative plan.

Time does not permit me to dwell long upon these very important phases of farming. Our active experience on farms up to the present time is limited. We do not claim to know all about farming. We have tried to come in an attitude of seeking knowledge and of investigating conditions. With the facts secured we wish to teach by example the most important principles.

Is this an ambitious program that we have outlined? Is it impossible of achievement? Perhaps so. But we are in earnest. We believe in these things. We are going to strive earnestly to carry out the correct principles of good farming and good living. We have had efficient help in our training course and feel it is our duty to "make good."

We extend our sincerest thanks to the faculty for their tireless efforts in making the school as valuable to us as possible, and the dormitory as