

dertake reclamation either through drainage, clearing, irrigating, or a combination of these. At this stage of our country's agricultural development, the Dismal Swamp is to be wrested from Nature's waste and by the hand of Man transferred into a garden.

#### AGRICULTURE, THE BASIS OF ALL INDUSTRIES

A study of the peoples of the earth in their successive appearance in history reveals the truth common to all that the fundamental factor in the constancy of the nation has been agriculture. A review of Egyptian history might be summed up basically in a few words "Culture sticks in the valley of the Nile like a mummy in its coffin."

Where fertility of the soil is, there is found a stable civilization.

While the mass of the population of any country have enough to eat and free access to the rudimentary pleasures of existence, the seeds of revolution ripen slowly if at all. Stability and constancy of nations have always been and always

will be centered in agricultural prosperity.

Originally men were hunters,  
Herding came next,  
Then agriculture,  
Finally horticulture.

This has the order of progress - of necessity. No more rapidly than his sustenance became depleted or difficult of attainment in one activity, was primitive man stimulated to develop the next. Then, the wresting of a living from the soil was merely a crude art, not a science, and it embodies too little of science yet today. Art works with the hands; science with the mind. Art robs nature's storehouse of its fertility; science restores it.

When agriculture was in its early stages industry was unknown.

Along with the development of agriculture was a development in manufacture -- work by the hands. Baskets and pottery were fashioned from reeds and clay, fibre was spun into thread, thread woven into fabrics,

and clothing made from skins. In general the woman manufactured from the raw material furnished by her hunter husband or her own agricultural operations, the finished products of her home. Candles were not bought but made, shoes were not bought but made.

In time there came the shoemaker who relieved the woman of that operation and earned his living by specializing in the making and repairing of shoes. Later came more extensive industries specializing more and more until manufacturing was transplanted entirely from the home to the large factories. Left to the home, the manufactured articles were wrought in hardship and toil; taken to the factory, the same article is made with precision, ease and economy. Today manufacturing has been developed to a state where a machine requiring some four thousand parts may be economically, efficiently, and accurately made in a factory of many departments, each with its recognized head.

How vastly different the development of agriculture!

Farming has developed from the days of the crooked stick for a plow but not to a point above where the farmer is other than the owner, general manager, auditor, milker and field hand.

Farming today is still in the home-industry stage.

Afield, where science claims its birth-right, there it has been neglected. Why have we studied the chemistry of metals and neglected the chemistry of soils? Why have we laboriously counted the molecules in a cube of gray iron and neglected to find out the elements of fertility in our garden? Why have we measured with precision the expansion and contraction of steels and overlooked the chemical reaction which takes place in the heaving of the bosom of Mother Earth with the changing of seasons?

Does the manufacturer guess that the com-

pound is made up of elements in their proper proportion; that the breaking-strength of an I-beam is adequate, or that the draw-bar effort of a locomotive will pull the load? By analysis and by test, he knows. But in agriculture we go on, generation after generation, guessing at results not realizing the direction in which we are headed until the prostituted soil refuses to yield to further mistreatment.

Just as the soil is the fundamental factor of all agriculture, so agriculture is the fundamental factor of all prosperity. Yet it is slighted....

With the wonderful development of manufacture into industry there is, nevertheless, a definite dependence upon agricultural conditions, With good crops money is free, - every conceivable kind of manufactured article is influenced. Be it Victrolas or Clod crushers, sewing machines or boots and shoes, their sale is increased by good crops and decreased by poor ones. In a bountiful

year, interest on mortgages is paid, fewer foreclosures are held.

The railroads are enormously affected one way or the other. Realizing their large dependence upon the crops of the country, a number of railroads in the United States have had the wisdom to establish an agricultural department, - a department for advice and help to the farmer in growing the maximum crops. But agriculture has yet to find itself in this country.

Instead of being, as it should be, the highest type of industry with the best of skilled labor (Chemists) agriculture is still a home industry, utilizing such labor as has not the knowledge and training to command employment in the factories. It is axiomatic that anyone can be a farm-hand, and the land-owner himself often knows no better than to crop his land as long as it will give him a bare living, then to desert it in quest of virgin fields.

The farmer of today should be an agricul-

turist. He should be led to foresee the dire calamity sure to befall a nation which permits this practice to continue. He should be taught to understand that, under our existing social order, there are others than the person who tills the soil, who must depend upon its yield for their subsistence, and that in the broader sense the Holy Land is not confined to that embraced by the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, but that in the light of posterity all lands are holy.

#### IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

Since no necessity heretofore has arisen, there never has been a serious appreciation in the United States of the importance of agriculture. A land of enormous extent and the most fertile of soils, no adequate policy in regard to its farming has ever been maintained. Settling first in the East, the Colonists proceeded to reduce the fertility of the soil by large and bounteous crops - a practice laudable enough in itself provided future crops are con-