

## "Don't Want No Book Farmin'"

By Daniell E. Boissevan.

Some time since I commenced a conversation with a man who was attempting to earn his livelihood by growing grain and keeping some cattle. Choas reigned around his domain and complaints came loud and lively. The blooming wheat was smutty and had averaged low and he had but a small acreage in because "these cows were such a cussed nuisance and yet you couldn't get along without them and they don't cost much anyway, only they would wander off and had to be dogged and took a deal of time and ruanin' around." What paper do you read? I suggested. "I han't got no paper an' I don't want none neether. I han't got no time to read, nohow. Besides I don't want no book farmin'. Things cost enough money forbye foolin' an' fumblin' after some city chap's gim cracks." Don't you think, I mildly suggested, that it p's to read up how other people do an' apply more brains and intelligence to the work? "Brains an' intell'gence haint nothin' to do with farmin', what you want is muscle an' common sense." Don't you think that planning and studying have done much to help the farmer? "No, I don't. It never did an' never will do." Said I to him "Well, Jones, how do you manage to cradle one hundred and forty acres of wheat?" "By gump, man, don't you see that machine in the fence corner? You're a fine feller to come out of town fur enough to see crops growin' and think we fellers are such mules as to use a cradle when we can get a binder on time?" Why do you use a self-binder? "How in the world do you suppose a fellow would get his crops in or off if it wasn't for macheenerie?" "I thought you said it was all muscle? Where did your binder come from?" "That's a McCormick." Does McCormick come out here and build that machine?" "Does the sun come in my kitchen and boil my water? Why, man, are ye crazy? Them machines are built in the city in great big factories." Is there anything to them, or can any kind of a blacksmith put them together?" "Why, man, what's wrong with yer? Don't you know nothin' at all? Them binders are just the slickest machine agoin' and the feller that got them knotters up is just slicker than ten lawyers, be darned if he ain't." "Did he have to know anything about wheat growing to rig up the machine; or was he just a mechanic?" "Did a parson have to know anything about preaching? or could you or I get up there and talk until the women cried? Why, man, alive he knowed more about wheat growin' than a whole countryside full of the likes of me?" Say, Jones, did he learn that in the city?" "Corse not, by Jove" "Did he have any intelligence? Did he do any planning and studying and contriving, or was it all got by main strength and awkwardness?" "Well, I'll be doubled and twisted. I thought you was the dumest thing as wears specs; but you've got me solid." "Now, Jones, I am going to talk on the square with you. Do you know who writes this agricultural paper?" "Well, I suppose the editor does the most of it." "No, my good friend, he does not. Farmers who think and study write of their trials and attempts, their successes and failures and other questions and refute their contentions and arguments, or amplify and illustrate them. Men like yourself

read these letters or papers and apply what seems proper to their individual cases and soon find out that if a little knowledge is of so much benefit, then indeed they want more and more and more of it. Now I will just show you something in regard to that binder of yours. Do you see here how exposure has ruined the paint and rusts those points till they no longer run smoothly? Do you see how this bit of protection has saved this piece of mechanism?" "Yes, I do." "Well, Jones, if you had just a rude shed, that would turn water and sunlight covering that machine it would last you three or five times longer than it will without care. You are too poor to neglect your valuable machinery. You are too busy to go hunting all over your farm for your tools and implements; you can better afford the ten minutes which it takes to put a tool away than the hour and a half it takes to hunt it up. You are surely pressed for time." "Well, sir, I see your point. I'll read that paper regularly from now on, and see if there ain't more in it than I thought at first." When some years later I visited Jones again he had not got a model place; but he told me the paper was his steady friend and advisor; and that he now was clear of debt. His stock were sheltered and somewhat better fed, and required less dogging, etc.; and he pointed with pride to the good implement shed where all machinery was stored and where tools found a handy place around the work-bench and vice. "Say, old feller," he said, "that dollar for the paper done me more good than any dollar I ever spent, and I'll be hanged if I hain't wrote a piece myself that was printed too, and if you'll just step inside where the missus has just got you something good to eat, I'll read it to you myself." This is the account of an actual experience, the conversation taking place in N. W. Canada while I was hired man.

Some fellow with a long pencil and a penchant for prosperity palaver has figured out that Gov. Eaton's big farms in Weld county, Colo., will this season return him over half a million ducats. This writer says the governor is a scientific agricultural director. He leases 16,000 acres and collects the rents therefrom. The renters do the work, while the owner gathers one-third the gross output—potatoes, wheat, alfalfa, oats, barley, chickens, eggs, meats and increase in stock. The renter agrees to give one-third and Mr. Eaton furnishes land and the renter can put up a barn for himself. When the crops are harvested the governor's teams drive up and haul away one-third. The gross income from all these farms will not doubt exceed \$500,000 on account of the extraordinarily good prices which have prevailed as the aftermath of the terrific drouth in the central States last summer.—Field and Farm.

A company is being organized in Topeka, Kan., by A. B. Hulett for the purpose of starting a large dairy and creamery in old Mexico, the ultimate object being to control the creamery business of that entire nation.

The above is from an eastern paper. We'll bet Dave Brown is at the head of this scheme.

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