WINDMILLS.

It is said windmills will yet convert the prairie states into the richest stock growing empire in the world, on account of the cheapness, the sureness and the simplicity of the method of supplying water. A windmill costs from $25 to $150. When it is accompanied by a big wooden or galvanized tank for storing the water the outfit is complete. Then a man, without exertion and with no outlay of money beyond the original purchase and a small expenditure for repairs, can harness the wind, which he will find in abundance on the prairie, and begin the business of continually pumping water from the interior of the earth and storing it in the tank prepared for its reception to be afterwards used according to necessity. With the windmill working away at all hours the supply of water never fails which can be used for watering stock, or the pastures in which they feed, or for the purpose of irrigating the soil when arid or partially so. Flowers and vegetables and lawns can be made radiant or flourishing by means of this acquisition to the farm.

There was a time when the farmer, as a rule, dug his well where it would be more convenient for the stock than for the house in which he lived. The women of the house might be obliged to carry water a long distance for domestic purposes, as there was generally but one well on the place, but nobody considered that any hardship —that is, nobody considered it so who was not obliged to do it. But, thanks to the windmill, that practice has in a large measure been changed. Now water is brought into the house and in the better class of new houses on the farms some attentions is given to plumbing so that a revolution as to household comfort has taken place in modern years. In the olden time wash day was one of terror to women on account of the inconvenience in obtaining water, but happily that time has passed. Through this windmill appliance insurance rates are made less than they would be otherwise.

Twenty years ago little was thought about windmills in the West. But something over ten years ago a feeling in favor of the windmill sprang up and it has been spreading ever since. The enthusiasm was largely induced, no doubt, by the activity and persuasiveness of the gentlemen who represented the manufacturers. The farmer to some extent was led to believe that once he had a windmill on his place all other troubles would vanish. He was told, no doubt, that it would perform all manner of work—run the plows and harrows and harvesters and mowers and threshers, besides watering stock, attending to all the household concerns, and, in fact, leave nothing undone that could be done by any other means. It was a glowing picture, unquestionably, that was drawn by those enterprising solicitors, and while there was much truth in what they said, as already shown, the windmill of course had its limit. At any rate they grew in number amazingly, until one now passing through the country almost anywhere can see them dotting the land in profusion. They are, however, much like the little girl in the nursery rhyme that had the curl that hung right down on her forehead. When she was good, she was very, very good, and when she was bad she was horrid. So with the windmill. It has uses and when it is useful it is very useful, and when it is not nothing can be expected of it. There is no happy medium. In Nebraska and Dakota, where windmills first found practical recognition, they supplied small irrigation streams, and in Iowa and Minnesota, where there is no arid soil, the windmill is used largely for watering stock. A genius may yet arise who will produce a windmill that will take all the hard work out of the farmer's hands, when the labor of the farm will be done by machinery set in motion and carried on its operations by the windmill, but as yet he has not made his appearance and the farmers are not losing sleep on account of his absence.

Farmer's Institutes.

To some farmers the institutes are among those things which at this time of year are not in consideration, with so much work on hand, but a well-conducted institute is not a thing of a day, or two or three at the most. It ought to last for all time with those who took part in it. Hardly a day goes by in the whole farming year but some vexatious problem comes up for solution, and if properly solved what can the farmer do better than make a note of the facts and communicate them to his brethren when next they meet? Similarly if solution is not reached and assistance must be sought and gained will not the results form an excellent theme for public announcement? Often the entire work of years at one of the state experiment stations will be announced at an institute. Again some private individual will describe results achieved only after the expenditure of much time and money. Does that appear as though an institute should be an affair of hours only? The institutes are closely allied with the experiment stations and agricultural colleges in the great work they are doing. It should be the aim of every farmer to aid them to the extent of his ability for his own sake first, then for the sake of others. A little good management in this way on the part of every intelligent farmer and stockman will insure a wealth of priceless material for these gatherings next winter that must in due season bring forth its crop of benefit many fold greater than any yet produced.

In Dexter Park, Chicago, in 1901, were held fourteen auction sales of pure bred cattle at which there were sold 1,069 head of cattle. The prices obtained were good, showing the increasing demand for pure bred cattle. Among the noted sales were McDaugal 4th of Tarbrook, a Galloway bull for $2,000. Missie 153, shorthorn cow, $6,000. Lord Banff, shorthorn bull, $5,100. Choice Good, shorthorn bull sold at price sale, price supposed to have been $7,000. Black Cap Judy, Angus cow, $6,300.

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