

Beautify the Highways.

The country should keep pace with the cities in the beautifying of public thoroughfares with flowers and trees. Many of the cities and villages are taking steps to plant trees and flowers wherever it can be done to advantage. In some cases the corporations are furnishing plants to those that will plant them out. We hear of localities in cities where the people have been informed that they will be given all the plants and trees they can use. The result is that whole streets have been beautified. Our country roads can be improved at comparatively small cost, but it must be done systematically. One objection to trees by the roadside is that they shade the ground and keep the roads from drying out after heavy rains. This objection is removed by planting the trees far enough apart to allow the sun in its diurnal journey to shine on all sides of them at different times. On roads that run east and west, trees may be planted on the northern side quite closely without injuring the road. The work of caring for the roadsides is one that must either devolve on the authorities of the towns or must be carried on by associations of citizens. The task looks larger than it really is. The weeds that possess so many roadsides can be changed to a blue grass sod by mowing the weeds for two years. Five cents worth of nasturtium seed will make an old stump a thing of beauty. The time is at hand when communities will attempt and accomplish great things in this regard.

"Agriculture for Beginners" is Proving Popular.

The new text-book for the public schools, "Agriculture for Beginners," is attracting much attention among the teachers and even some of the practical old farmers. Eighty-two per cent of the population of North Carolina is said to live in the country, yet our system of instruction has taught a good deal of conjecture concerning the Milky Way and neglected to say anything of the soil from which the most of the children were to get their bread. Many a bright boy in the public schools has learned by rote the name of every capital, chief city, river and big branch in Europe, and at the same time been kept in profound ignorance of the principal of crop rotation or any ideas of plant food. This book will be the first step towards laying the foundations of a practical, serviceable and useful course of study for the schools. It is the first step for the boys. The first step for the girls will be an elementary text-book on cooking, sewing and housekeeping. How many girls have you seen stand up and spell every hard word in Webster's dictionary, hundreds of them they would never hear used in after life?

"Agriculture for Beginners" is the first sane note. "It's a fine book," said Mr. T. B. Liles, of East Monroe Township. "My daughter has

bought one to study, and I have been slipping it out to read. It was a surprise to me, and a fine book. It will help the boys." A lady teacher who has been studying it, remarked Saturday: "My brother, who is a farmer, has been reading mine."—Monroe Journal.

More Cotton—The South's Need for Additional Labor.

The Textile Recorder, of Manchester, England, publishes an article on the subject of cotton, written by Henry G. Kittredge, of Boston. Mr. Kittredge argues that the demand for cotton exceeds the supply, and that this condition will probably continue for some time to come. Mr. Kittredge estimates that the consumption at the present time requires 15,700,000 bales of 500 pounds each. This is, of course, the world's consumption, and to meet it he thinks the American crop should be now not less than 12,000,000 bales. Mr. Kittredge goes on to say that with the same increase for the next sixteen years as for the last sixteen, the consumptive demand will become fully 20,000,000 bales. He is right on this proposition, and has probably made an underestimate, for in the manufacturing world new uses for cotton are being found every day. The mercerized staple is being worked up into all varieties of woolen and silk fabrics, and the texture and finish are such that in some cases only an expert can detect the difference. The mercerization of cotton alone will result in a greatly increased demand for the staple.

Mr. Kittredge, however, is wrong in his view that the United States is near its limit of productiveness. There are cotton lands in the South capable of being worked up to a crop output of 20,000,000 bales or more with a sufficient supply of labor. What the South needs and must have to produce this increased cotton crop is a liberal influx of the better class of immigrants. With more people to take up the lands the South could easily keep up with the demand for more cotton. The problem which Mr. Kittredge presents of an insufficient supply of cotton is easy of solution. The South has the land from which to produce it. It wants a thrifty class of immigrants to settle upon these lands. Give us the new population and a crop of 20,000,000 bales will be considered a matter of small consequence.—Charlotte Observer.

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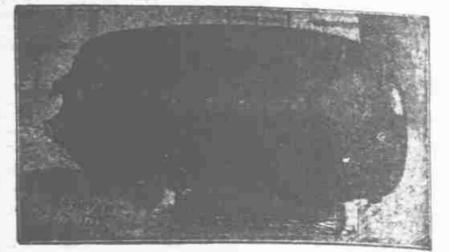
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