

made it seem necessary on the farm to work from sunrise to sundown, and often longer. Now is there any reason why farm work, as a rule, should need these long hours? We tried the ten-hour system with success on the farm years ago, and we found that the men accomplished just as much, if not more, than those around us who worked during all the hours of sunlight. In fact, our work was usually ahead of theirs. A man who knows that he is to keep at it from sun to sun will naturally favor himself, while the man who is looking for a little while for himself in the evening, will be willing to put more exertion into his task. If the farm hand is encouraged to read the farm papers and is given time to do it he will become a more efficient hand. There is nothing, in our opinion, that will tend more to the improvement of farm labor than shorter hours for work. Men will always be willing to put in some extra time in a pinch when the hay is to be hurried in or other crops saved if they know that it is extra time and is to be paid for as extra time. In short, we need more business methods on the farm in many ways, and the shorter hours will help in this direction.—G. Welch.

The Law of Water Diversion.

—H. N. Haynes.—

It is manifestly the intention of the law that the water commissioner should act as faithful servant of all the appropriators on the stream, to see that their rights are protected under the judicial decrees. The administration of the water system of the state was provided by the legislature so that there should be some one person to act as agent for all to see that their rights were respected, so as to obviate the necessity of farmers, busy with their agricultural work, employing a man to patrol the stream and to discover whether or not they were defrauded of their preprtry rights. It is to be feared that there are too many water commissioners who are neglectful of the emphatic language of the statute requiring them to be constantly watchful.

Too many commissioners wait to have complaint made to them of unlawful diversions, without themselves taking the initiative in such matters. It is evidently not the purpose of a statute that a water commissioner shall draw a fairly liberal per diem merely for giving orders concerning a few of the main ditches in his district and waiting for some one to complain that a wrongful diversion is being made by a late ditch from some slough or tributary, or from the main stream itself, but that she should be actively concerned and have his assistants under his immediately supervision active to watch for abuses and to prevent them, if necessary by the full force of the country.

A statute was passed in 1889 to enforce greater vigilance on the part of the water commissioners. The vesting of a water commissioner with the power of a constable and imposing upon him the duty of prosecuting for violation of his orders and particularly making it his duty to be actively employed, supervising and directing putting in head-gates, waste-gates, etc., grew out of the need of the hour. A clause was inserted making it a misdemeanor subject to \$50 fine to willfully neglect his duty and this fact indicates that the legislature was led to believe that the previous general definition of the duty to divide the water according to the prior rights of all was not found in practice sufficiently definite to bring forth the activity needed.

The President and the Farmers.

—Theodore Roosevelt—

In a country like ours is is fundamentally true that the well-being of the tiller of the soil and the wage-earner is the well-being of the state. If they are well off, then we need concern ourselves but little as to how other classes stand, for they will inevitably be well off, too, and on the other hand there can be no real general prosperity unless based on the prosperity of the tiller of the soil. But the needs of these two classes are often not the same. The tiller of the soil has been of all our citizens the one on the whole the least affected in his ways of life and methods of industry by the giant industrial changes of the last half-century.

There has been change with him, too, of course. He also can work to best advantage if he keeps in close touch with his fellows and we believe much can be done for him by rational action of the government. One of the greatest and most beneficent measures passed by the late congress, or indeed by any congress in recent years, is the irrigation act, which will do for the states of the great plains and the Rocky mountain region at least as much as ever has been done for the states of the humid region by river and harbor improvements. Few measures that have been put upon the statute books of the nation have done more for the people than this law will, I firmly believe, directly and indirectly accomplish for the states in question.

There are a number of very important questions, such as that of good roads, with which the states alone can deal and where all that the national government can do is to co-operate with them. The same is true of the education of the American farmer. A number of the states have themselves started in to help in this work, and they are accomplishing a good deal in the most practical way. It is, therefore, clearly true that a great advance has been made in the direction of finding ways by which the government can help the farmer to help himself—the only kind of help which a self-respecting man will accept or I may add—which will in the end do him any good.

Much has been done in these ways and farm life and farm processes continually change for the better. The farmer himself still retains, because of his surroundings and the nature of his work, to a pre-eminent degree the qualities which we like to dwell upon as distinctly American in considering our early history. The man who tills his own farm, whether on the prairie or in the woodland, the man who grows what we eat and the raw material which is worked up into what we wear, still exists more nearly under the conditions which obtained when the embattled farmers of '76 made this country a nation than is true of any others of our people.

Wide Tires.

Are "all the go" in many parts where a few years ago not one could be seen. They seem to be gaining in favor all over the country, judging from the number of wide tires we see scattered over the country. On hard prairie roads it does not seem so important to have tires that will pack and smooth the road, in place of cutting it into a rutty mess; for most of our roads are too hard to be cut up, but judging from some of the recent experiments made it pays to have wide tires on smooth hard roads nearly or quite as well as on soft ones. In a late address upon the sibject, Prof. C. F. Curtiss expressed himself as follows:

"The commonly used narrow tires are an-

other enemy to good roads, and they have no reason for existence. Practical and scientific tests all condemn them, from the standpoint of utility as well as for destructibility of roads. A series of tests have recently been made the Missouri experiment station demonstratng that on macadam streets narrow tires gave 26 per cent. heavier draft for the same load than wide tires; on gravel roads the difference was 24 per cent.; on dirt roads, 6.8 per cent.; on muddy clay roads, 52 to 61 per cent., and on meadow, pasture, stubble, corn ground and plowed ground the difference was 17 to 120 per cent., in every case in favor of the wide tires and against the narrow tires. On the college farm we are now buying only wide-tired wagons and we prefer them in every way. The last wagon we purchased has four-inch tires and is three inches lower than standard height, and it is far more practicable than those in common use. All local dealers can obtain the wide-tired wagons if they are demanded. In many localities the use of narrow-tired wagons is restricted by law."

The Everett Fair Association is certainly a hot outfit. The Coast managers of a well-known cream separator company made an inquiry recently regarding space to make an exhibit and received the answer that it would cost \$30.00. Most fair associations are glad to have such displays, and furnish space gratis.

W. I. Lawrence, a graduate of the Wisconsin Dairy School, is advertising in the Classified Advertisement department for a position as buttermaker or to manage a creamery.

The Skagit County Farmers' Institute is a live organization. A very successful meeting was held last week at Ridgeway, at which H. R. Wells, Geo. D. McLean, Miss Linda Jennings, Mrs. Sam Dunlap, J. M. Shields and Geo. Hayton delivered addresses.

J. C. Robinson, Coast manager of the Empire Cream Separator Co., made a trip into Central Washington last week, visiting North Yakima and Sunnyside. He reports that dairying in those valleys is progressing steadily. Dairymen seem to be pleased with the profitable, sure returns they are receiving.

L. K. Cogswell, of Chehalis, Wash., has sold to J. G. Anderson, of Sumner, one red polled bull, one pair of mares and one Berkshire boar.

Every stock breeder in the state should exhibit at the State Fair this year.

Live Stock Sale.

The breeders' combination auction sale of live stock to be held at the Oregon State Fair this fall will be one of the greatest sales ever held on the Pacific Coast. All of the large breeders, such as Chas. E. Ladd, W. O. Minor, C. B. Wade, A. J. Splawn, Geo. Chandler, John Sparks, J. M. Flaherty, Alex. Chalmers, D. H. Looney, Chas. Cleveland, P. A. Frakes, Hazelwood Company, W. J. Townley, J. Matty, J. B. Stump, Atkinson Bros., are sending some of the best stock on their respective farms to this sale, which will give the farmer and small breeder a splendid opportunity of buying some choice stock right at home. See advertisement in this issue and write for catalogue.