

## The Farm Boy and His School

How the Boy Can Help Make the School More Useful and Attractive and How the School Can Help the Boy to Better Farming.

**T**HAT LITTLE schoolhouse on the top of the hill beside the road is the place to which I trust you are wending your way these bright November mornings unless you have finished its course and are now in a high school or college. That schoolhouse will be the best place in the world for farmer boys and girls to go to school when our teachers learn to teach things as well as theory and you boys and girls join hands with your teachers and make it a place where children and teacher meet to learn things with the head, and do things with the hand, and to love things with the heart.

What can you do besides learn lessons? Well, carry some brooms and hoes to school. Sweep down the cobwebs from the wall, wash the floor and take a general cleaning up inside the house. Boys and girls and the teacher can take a hand in this work. After this is done, get some nice pictures for the wall, some shades for the windows, and a vase of flowers for the teacher's desk. Then take the hoes and rakes and clean off the yard, burn the trash, and make it look like somebody lived there besides lizards and snakes. Go to the woods, dig up some small trees and set them out in those bare places. Trees will grow in school yards just like they will in the woods.

Before you get through with all this someone has suggested how nice it would be to have a school garden on that level open place just to one side of the schoolhouse, and the first thing you know the garden is there, and the whole neighborhood is proud and glad.

Most boys and girls find only two sources of information,—books and the world around them. I would advise you to learn your text-books thoroughly, but while you are doing this I would have you keep your eyes and ears open to the world in which you live. While you are studying the denominate tables and learning to change avoirdupois pounds to troy pounds, how would it do to solve a problem like this occasionally: If you grow one stalk of corn on every square yard on an acre of land, with one good ear to every stalk, how many bushels of corn would you make? Compare this with the average yield per acre on your father's farm; with the average yield per acre in the State. Suppose you try to find some way to make two ears to the stalk and retain the original number of stalks.

After you have figured out how many gallons of water or how many bushels of corn that cistern or bin will hold, you might ask your teacher to help you to find out how many pounds of nitrogen are floating over every acre of that poor starved land worked this year, and how much of it a good crop of peas, vetch or clover would bring down into the soil to increase that yield. Very likely your teacher would not be able to help you at first, but she would tell you where to write for some bulletins that would help you to solve these problems and make you determine to teach that farm some lessons about how to grow better crops.

As you travel from country to country in your geography lessons, studying to-day the polar bear, walrus and seal of the cold regions of the north, to-morrow the elephant or whale, I believe it would

be worth while to have a lesson occasionally on the domestic animals that we love so much and that mean so much to the future prosperity of the Southland. The study is full of interest, and we must do this if we are to succeed with live stock. If you would like to have some very interesting lessons to study in your school home or in your farm home, write to C. M. Parker, Taylorsville, Ill., for a list of his one-cent pamphlets on the study of farm animals and farm crops.

In Holmes Co., Miss., we have 500 school boys as active members of a corn club and last year they made an average yield of seventy bushels of corn per acre, while the average for the county was less than fifteen bushels per acre.

If you live in a county in which there is no boys' corn club, I suggest that you write to the county superintendent and ask him to call a mass meeting of the school boys of the county for the purpose of organizing one. He will invite a number of agricultural experts to meet you and to tell you how to organize the club, how to prepare and cultivate the crop and other matters. It is a great work to engage in.

W. H. SMITH,  
County Superintendent of Education,  
Homes County, Miss.

## Farmers' Meetings, Conventions and Fairs.

We shall be glad to publish under this heading all notices sent us of County, State or National agricultural meetings.

Farmers' National Congress, Raleigh, N. C., November 3-8, Geo. M. Whitaker, Secretary, 404 Harvard St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Southern States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture and Other Agricultural Workers, Jackson, Miss., November 16, 17, 18.

International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, November 27th to December 10th, B. H. Heide, Secretary.

The Order of Patrons of Husbandry—"The Grange"—holds its national meeting at Des Moines, Iowa, November 10-19.

The sixth annual meeting of the American Breeders' Association is called for December 8, 9 and 10, at Omaha, Nebraska, in association with the National Corn Show, held at that place, December 6 to 18.—W. M. Hays, Secretary, Washington, D. C.

National Association Live Stock Breeders, annual convention, Chicago Stock Yards, December 1, 1909; C. N. Fleischer, Secretary.

The North Carolina Division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, will meet in annual convention in Greensboro, at 10 o'clock, Wednesday, December 15, 1909. H. Q. Alexander, Matthews, President; E. C. Faies, Kings Mountain, Sec.-Treas.

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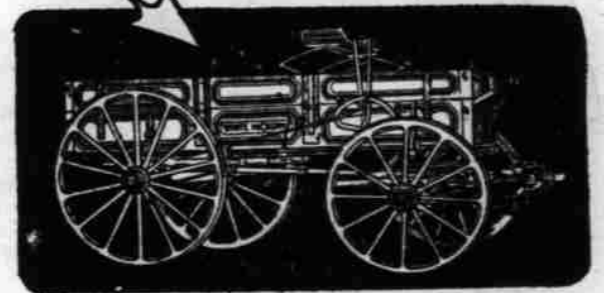
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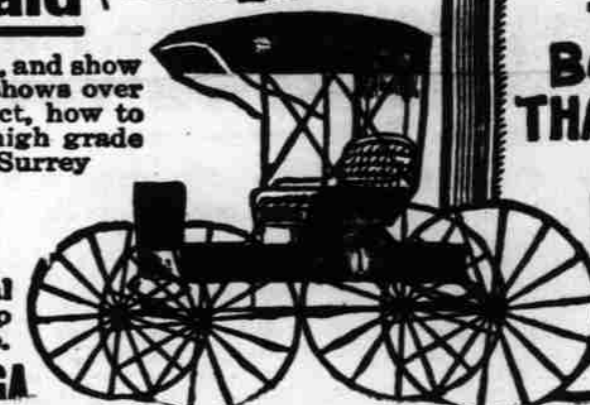
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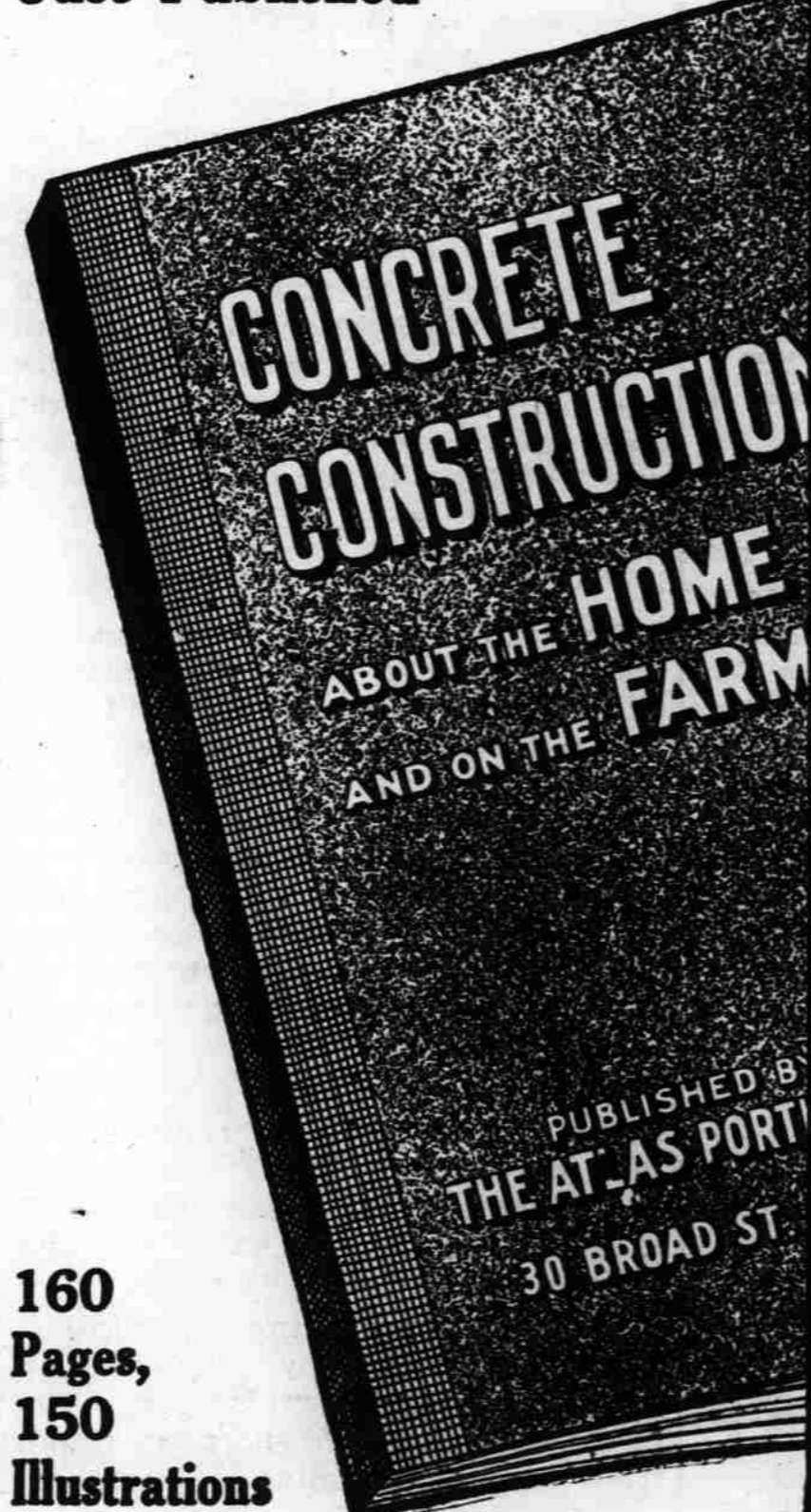
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