

first year's payment, and the farmer has the crop of lambs and a one-third of the cost of the old sheep paid for. They are all satisfied, and more are being encouraged to stock their farms with sheep to help meet the nation's wool shortage, which has been brought about by a reduction from 60,000,000 sheep in the United States in 1900 to less than 40,000,000 today. More than half the wool used in America today is imported.

As a result of North Dakota's growing interest in combination live stock and grain farming, the outgoing shipments of live stock have been greatly increased in recent years. Revenue is already pouring into the state from the meat animals that have been sold. Last year a total of nearly 20,000 carloads of cattle, hogs, and sheep was shipped to central markets, and it is expected that this figure will be more than doubled within a few years.

Another evidence of the effects of the new farming system is found in the fact that big creameries have had to be built to take care of the surplus cream that is being produced in the state. During the last three years several big creamery plants, as well as small plants, have been built, including big ones at Fargo and Grand Forks and at Moorhead, Minn., just across the state line. Several centralized collecting stations have been established to take care of the chicken and egg production on North Dakota farms.

When farmers got interested in the "grow your own" plan they began to search the timber along the streams on their farms for wild honey bees with headquarters in old hollow trees. That has resulted in the starting of many home apiaries, and last fall for the first time farmers in this state produced enough surplus honey from the wild colonies of bees to ship it in carload lots.

Hundreds of carloads of poles and posts have been shipped from Minnesota to be used in building sheds and barns for the cows and hogs and sheep.

To encourage this, railroads reduced freight rates on posts and poles forty per cent. One Minnesota farmer has sold more than 70 carloads of posts and poles during the last year, and the demand has been so great that railroads have extended the time limit on their rate reduction schedules, to aid the North Dakota farmers in providing shelter for their new flocks and herds.

An illustration of how the hog population is being increased is found in Grand Forks country, where there were only about 16,000 hogs five years ago. Today there are more than 22,000. Wheat acreage in the same county has been cut from 282,000 to 186,000 acres, which illustrates the swing from wheat to other crops.

Farmers are so convinced that the diversification plan pays that they have introduced several new crops, including sugar beets, in the Red River valley. In small fields of from five to six acres, farmers in the valley last year produced more than 60,000 tons of beets, which had to be shipped to a factory at Chaska, Minn., near Minneapolis. Beet growing has increased at such a rapid rate in the Red River valley that a

factory which will cost \$2,500,000 is being built at Grand Forks, N. D., to take care of the 1926 crop.

The big wheat farms in the state are being cut into smaller units. The average sized North Dakota farm today is about 480 acres, and advocates of the new system say 240 would be enough. North Dakota now has about 75,000 farm units, and leaders of the diversification farming plan think there should be a further reduction in the size of the farms to make 150,000 units. In the eastern part of the state farms are being broken up into half and quarter sections.

The increased prosperity of the North Dakota farmer under new scheme of agriculture is reflected in the state agricultural college's enrollment. During the last four years, when practically every one of the other similar land grant colleges have suffered a great reduction in their attendance, this school at Fargo has increased gradually, climbing from an enrollment of 1,123 in 1921 to 1,620 at the close of the last year's session.

THE ENGLISHMAN'S "H"

IT HAS BEEN alleged, with some show of evidence, that certain Englishmen often use the aspirate when the language has not been hard-hearted enough to make an extra breath necessary; also that they coolly ignore the presence of h's where correct usage demands what a Cockney bricklayer slightly referred to as "more wind." The subject is a little inflammable, but it has always piqued American curiosity. England is the home of the aspirate. Why, then, do many of its inhabitants, otherwise conservative in nature, ride roughshod over a rule, or rules, which they inherited from past, and incidentally handed over to us?

This is a question raised by a friendly nation in a friendly spirit. In some respects it would appear to be a literary question, having also direct connections with social psychology. We feel sure we are not mistaking in saying that the answer cannot be found in a study of English education. It goes deeper down.

We suggest that the answer is found in one word: aversion — conscious and subconscious.

Boys and girls at English public schools will learn the rules about the aspirate in ham and in honor. They will even aspirate correctly when reading aloud. But they will not do so in conversation. They consider it an affectation — an effort to be "uppish." They look down upon the "h" as a nonsensical thing in itself; and, as the "classes" seldom omit an aspirate, or misplace one, the "h" thus becomes a boundary line between two sections of society.

Precisely at this point it becomes evident that the Englishman's hoity-toity treatment of the aspirate is not entirely a matter of grammatical ignorance. Indeed, many who transgress know the rules well enough, but all the same they refuse obedience. Why? Because in the "set" in which they move it is the custom to drop the "h," just as in the smart set it is (or was) the custom to drop the "g," so that hunting becomes huntin'. If George, a carpenter, calls to Harry, saying, "'Arry, 'and me the 'ammer," he is speaking the proper and respected lingo of his class. But if he said, "Harry hand me the hammer," Harry would stare in astonishment, then shout to his comrades, "Sy,