

Farming

(LEVI SOKTOR)

America feeds and leads the world. This country furnishes one-fifth of the wheat, one-fourth of the hops, one-third of the corn, two-fifths of the meat, nearly one-half of the oil cake and oil cake meal, almost one-half of the leaf tobacco, two-thirds of the cotton, and four-fifths of the cotton-seed oil.

The cotton goes to Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Most of the grain which we export is sent to Great Britain, The Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. The animal products go practically to the same countries.

Cuba takes nearly \$9,000,000 worth of our animal products, such as bacon, ham, fresh beef, lard, pickled pork, salted pork

Our live stock is sent across the Pacific Ocean to Russia. Some of it goes to British South Africa. Much of it goes to Northern Europe.

The annual farm value of the products of the American farms for the last five years amounts to nearly \$7,000,000,000. An almost incredible sum.

I am a farmer. We boys who study farming and the principles of agriculture at Chemawa are interested in statistics like these I have just given, as it shows to us the importance of what we are doing, and the great place farming has in the world's work and has had since the time of Adam.

The Indian is a land owner. As such, he should find agriculture the most available occupation. In former times farming was distasteful to him. As a crop producer, he was a failure. His capacity for the necessary arduous work required upon a farm was doubted. The

monotonous drudgery, so unlike the traditional life of generations of Indians, made it appear very unlikely that he would ever till the land, of which he is owner, with any success. Stock farming, herding, and so forth were, and are, congenial to him. In these pursuits he excels and will excel.

However, the study of agriculture has been made such a prominent feature in the industrial school that the Indian has gradually assimilated the idea that farming—tilling the soil—will be of more practical value to him than any other occupation.

The Indians have passed the experimental stage as laborers. His capacity in that direction has been proved. The steadfastness of the old-time Indian, that steadfastness and determination which he used in battle, on the trail, in the hunt, has made of him a trustworthy laborer, and, in proper environment, a valuable citizen. That same steadfastness will make of him an agriculturist and an up-to-date farmer.

The educated Indian, the boy who has been away to school, who has studied farming as we are taught it here, will return to his home, will see the profit to be made from the land he owns, and will use the knowledge he has gained for his own and his country's good.

Mrs. Newcomb and her daughter, Miss Frances, will be in Salem during the period of Mrs. Newcomb's vacation.

We were very sorry to see Mrs. Brewer and her children depart last Saturday for their home in Tacoma, Washington. They had been identified with the school for so many years that they will be greatly missed. A host of friends at Chemawa wish them happiness and success.