

## WHY THE FARMER BOY NEEDS LIBERAL EDUCATION TOLD BY PRINCIPAL

By A. C. Voelker

We live in the midst of a splendid farming community. There was a time when the idea was prevalent that a man that had failed in business or in a profession could make a success at farming. Experience has proven that forming is a science and that a person to be successful in this line of work must have some training for it. To meet this demand agricultural colleges have sprung up in practical, every state and thousands of boys and girls are receiving help that they may go back on the farm and be better and happier farmers.

### Two Kinds of Education

There are two ways of looking at education, one is that it will enlarge a man's earning capacity, and the other is that it will enlarge his manhood. The one view is purely utilitarian. According to it every study must have some practical end, no study is worth while unless it increases the pupil's power to earn a living. The pupil who follows this view studies arithmetic and book keeping because he expects to enter business, and latin and algebra because he expects to teach. Even today there are some people who think that no part of one's education is good unless it is an aid to earning dollars and cents.

My aim is to tell you why a farm boy should receive a liberal education. Nearly every farmer will agree that a practical education is alright for his boy, but not all will take this view of a liberal education which is just the opposite of a practical education. The object of a liberal education is to enlarge and discipline the mind and make it master of its own powers, irrespective of its influence on one's future business or profession he may follow. The person inclining extremely to this view might be well educated and still not have the capacity of earning a living.

Most schools of today place the "bread and butter" subject along side those that are purely cultural subjects.

### Education Pays

If my subject were not modified by the word "liberal," I would say to the farmer boy to go to school for it will pay him in dollars and cents. He would be less likely to be taken in by the gold brick man. He would be better able to understand the market and so could buy and sell to better advantage. He could plan more carefully and use better judgement in the sowing and harvesting of crops and the saving of waste matter. With a good education he might make a living on fewer acres of Oregon soil with less work. Understanding the botany of the fields and forests, the geology and chemistry of the soil, the zoology of pasture and barnyard, his apples would be sweeter, his hogs fatter, his cattle in better condition and in fact he would know at the beginning of his career what it usually takes a life time to find out.

But I am to show you why the farmer boy should be educated in mathematics, in music, in literature, in art, in science, in history, in language, why he should be trained in these branches though they do not increase his earning power. Life means more than the sordid grasping after material things. The average farmer is not unappreciative of music and art and poetry and refinement. He feels that the development of his powers and possibilities the expansion of his normal nature and the cultivation of his tastes lie within the realm of his opportunities. If the college man knows that thought without work is idle dreaming, the farmer knows that work without thought is drudgery. Without these higher aspirations and feelings life sinks to the level of mere existence.

### Make Life Worth Living

If there is one thing that education can do it is to make life worth living. We must not value man's earning power too highly. If a man had no higher value than to earn his own living, he would be no better than a horse, for the keeping of a horse costs less than the keeping of a man, and a good horse can earn as much per day as a poor man. Human life should be more than providing food and raiment and holding those things that must eventually return to dust.

We often pay the highest prices for the things that bring us no returns. There are farmers who have pianos in their homes when they could have bought a good piece of farm machinery for the money. The piano brings them no money, but is the music in a happy family circle of no value? There are farmers who at this season of the year are spending for Christmas, without expecting any return or compensation, but isn't it worth while to make some one happy at Christmas? There are farmers who have bought expen-

sive caskets in which to lay the remains of their loved ones when a pine box would have done the service just as well. But was there no value in this costly expression of heart broken grief? There are farmers who have given hundreds of dollars in the name of religion for the spread of truth, for the diffusion of civilization and the salvation of mankind. Are such expenditures made with an eye single to practical returns?

I think that you will agree that sentiment and beauty and religion and the higher things of life cost more and are more valuable than the bare necessities of food, clothing and shelter.

Every farmer boy should receive a liberal education in order that he may realize all the normal possibilities of life. The development of his manhood should be the chief end in view. An ideal must be formed consisting of a symmetrically developed body, a keen, well balanced mind, capable of acute observation, comprehensive imagination and accurate judgement, a taste for the beautiful in sound, in color, in form and in rhythm, a heart tender, brave, true and noble, a well rounded character, beautiful when viewed from any standpoint. It lies within the possibilities of the farmer boy to attain this ideal. His eye can appreciate, his mind can realize, his soul can commune with the infinity of good beauty and truth, within his own nature if he receives the advantages of an education.

One difficulty is that a farmer often sees the frills and appendages of a high school and college education, when the real benefits are not seen. The farmer boy may be gaining a deep insight into the beauties of literature, but the farmer sees only the high collar, the fancy clothes, the long hair and the cuffed ways of his son. The farmer can see the sense of arithmetic and book keeping, but he can see no use in algebra and logarithms. He is absolutely disgusted when it comes to sports for he sees the time they take but does not see their help in character building. "My boy has graduated" said an old farmer. "He has begun to get some sense. The second year at school he was quarter back, the next year he was half back, and the last year he was full back; and now, by gum, he is way back."

The educated farmer boy measures values from a new standpoint. The unseen and not the seen possesses the greater reality. Sublime thoughts produce greater pleasures than a full purse and a kind heart is as valuable as a skilled hand. Spiritual discernment is finer than judgement of material things. The farm is no longer narrow and confined. Work ceases to be a drudgery for every flower by the wayside becomes a type of truth, every rock becomes a land mark of some past age, every one of God's creatures is not so much an object of traffic as it is a manifestation of the creative power of the Infinite. Thus life takes on a new meaning, "God's in His heaven, all's right with the world."

The benefits that would come to the people in general if education were more universally diffused cannot be conjectured. Our manner of life is higher than that of our fathers 500 years ago. What we would gain by further education can be realized only by comparing our present condition with what it would be if we had no education at all. If our public schools would close for 25 years, millions of our population would sink to the level of Russian serfs. Our farmers now independent would become the vassals of a few capitalists. Why? Because immigration pours in a horde of ignorant people. Our school systems make intelligent, respectable citizens of them and their children. Increasing ignorance of the masses is too often the signal to devise laws for the benefit of the capitalist and corporation. We want the farmer boy educated in civic and political economy so that he will understand the political problems before us today, and be able to help solve them intelligently. Thus the farmer boy, if called upon, could represent his district in the state legislature or in congress. Universal education of our laboring classes will give them the power which comes knowledge, will shake wickedness which sits enthroned in high places, will destroy the distinction between the rich and the low, will exalt the dignity of labor, and strike the shackles of down trodden humanity, and bring about the universal brotherhood of man.

## Hermiston Locals

Receipts at the post office Monday were over \$80.

R. C. Challis and family moved into their house on Gladys avenue Monday.

Notice to all members Modern Woodmen of America. Be present at special meeting at Mack's hall Friday night, Dec. 23, 1921. Election of officers and other important business. J. S. West, V. C. W. R. Longhorn, Clerk.

Lew and W. W. Rogers have finished the big wooden bridge they have been building on the Holdman-Cold Springs highway 10 miles east of Hermiston. The structure is 18 feet wide and 120 feet long. They have begun work on a smaller bridge at the junction of the north and south forks of Cold Springs canyon.

Wm. Kennedy, former real estate partner of E. P. Dodd and now of Portland, is the father of a baby girl born on December 14.

H. K. Dean, E. P. Dodd, Chas. Webber, F. C. McKenzie, H. M. Schilling, W. J. Warner, J. T. Hinkle and J. W. Messner were visitors to the Irrigation congress at Pendleton last week.

W. S. Mitchell returned Monday from Pendleton where he has been in St. Anthony's for the last six weeks. He is getting along nicely now.

Miss June Rowe has received the sad news of the recent death near Chicago of her fiance, David Merton Halleck.

Students who have returned home for the Christmas holidays include Miss Bertha McKeen from University of Oregon, Logan Todd and Gordon Shotwell from O. A. C., Misses Jane Gunn and Dorothy Briggs from the Oregon Normal and Misses Emily Shotwell and Laura Phipps from Whitman.

A number of improvements have been made in the Hotel Oregon during the past week. The lobby and dining room have been revamped and the counter moved to the north side of the dining room.

W. A. Ford and Harold Benjamin were two Umatilla visitors of Hermiston Saturday. Mr. Ford is clerk of the school district and Mr. Benjamin principal. The Umatilla school district is one of the most prosperous in the state with no outstanding warrants and a huge cash balance on hand.

Sam Rodgers returned from Portland Wednesday of last week and has now reopened his Oak Tan Shoe Store. His brick building has been finished and is an attractive addition to the Main street business section.

The new Knights of Pythias officers elected for next year are as follows: R. A. Brownson, C. C.; H. M. Notz, V. C.; Ed. McKeen, P.; E. O. Comegys, M. W.; H. C. Miller, M. A.; W. H. McMillen, K. R. S.; F. C. Woughter, M. F.; F. N. Whitney, F. N.; Harry Kelley, I. G.; W. A. Miles, O. G.; R. C. Challis, Trustee.

Louis C. Garner returned home Wednesday morning from his studies at North Pacific Dental college. He will spend the holidays here with his parents Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Garner before returning to school.

Rev. Father Ignatius Collins, a chaplain in the British army for several years was an interesting visitor in Hermiston Monday, leaving on the night train. Father Collins saw service with the British expeditionary forces in France during the fore part of the war. He was in Paris at the time of the first battle of the Marne in 1914 and was with an infantry regiment in the great Somme drive of 1916. The last 13 months of the war he spent with the British on the Italian front, which he says was a vacation after the fighting in France. After the armistice he was in Russia for a time and since then has been an army chaplain in India. He is now on his way back to his old home in southern Ireland.

Remember the cooked food sale of Christmas goodies given by the Baptist Ladies Aid at Sappers' on Saturday, Dec. 24.

Mrs. Russell Pratt is seriously ill at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Eaton.

The Skinner family is holding a Christmas reunion here this year. Those who will be present are Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Skinner who have sold their ranch at Orencia and are spending the winter here, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Skinner, Dr. and Mrs. Ray G. Skinner of Boise, Miss Ruth Skinner of Berkeley, Calif., Catherine Skinner of Portland and Helen Skinner of McMinnville. Ray Skinner is already here and the ladies will be here in time for Christmas.

### "THE OLD NEST TO BE AT PLAY HOUSE CHRISTMAS"

One of the finest casts ever assembled will be seen in "The Old Nest," the Rupert Hughes story of mother love and American family life, that will be shown at the Play House Christmas. The story is a film version of a short story that appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, and was produced by the Goldwyn company.

The director, Reginald Barker, is well known for the many fine productions he has made for Goldwyn.

In the cast Mary Alden plays the leading role, that of the mother, who appears first as the young matron with her six children of school age. Then, a little older, with greying hair, she is their companion and advisor. Finally, they grow to manhood and womanhood, leave the old nest and strike out into the world for themselves. Here, the poignancy of Miss Alden's acting as the old mother is irresistible.

## COLUMBIA NEWS NOTES

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Neighborhood club will hold its next regular meeting Dec. 28 at Columbia school house. Don't forget that this is to be a "gift" meeting. Each one is to bring an inexpensive gift to exchange with someone.

Columbia school was dismissed Monday on account of the bad weather, but was called again Tuesday and continued the remainder of the week.

Don't forget the community tree and program at the school house Friday evening. The school has been working hard on the program and promises us a good one. The soliciting was done by a representative committee selected from the Sunday school and the Neighborhood club. Everyone welcome.

O. O. Felthouse was a Pendleton visitor Monday.

The poultry demonstration which was to have been given at the E. E. Graham ranch on Tuesday was postponed because of the weather. A meeting was held in Hermiston at the Oregon Hardware building instead.

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Haddox and Frank Waugaman motored to Pendleton Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Meyers have gone to Portland to spend the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Leathers spent the week-end in Pendleton returning Sunday evening.

Mrs. W. W. Felthouse and daughter, Margaret, returned Wednesday from Denver where they have been visiting Mrs. Felthouse's mother, Mrs. Mary Newcomer, for the past month.

### BUSINESS BUILDS AT BOARDMAN

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ected the hay market the view is decidedly hopeful.

Plans are being worked out for the development of a 10 acre park site east of the school grounds and the improvement of a 20 acre cemetery site east of town, and the O. W. R. & N. have an item in the 1922 budget for a depot. C. H. Latourite of Heppner is building a cement building on the highway which will be the headquarters of the Ford agency for this section.

**Christmas Dinner at the HOTEL HERMISTON Sunday, Dec. 25, 1921 1 P. M. \$1 per plate**

## 50 DRESSED TURKEYS

TO CHOOSE FROM

35 cents per pound

also

Dressed Chickens at 27c

Dressed Geese at 30c

## Cold Storage Market & Grocery

R. C. CHALLIS, Prop.

## OGDEN'S

Is the best place to get that eleventh hour

PRESENT

WM. H. OGDEN

"GIFTS THAT LAST"

JEWELER and WATCHMAKER

Hermiston, Oregon

## Morrow County Creamery Company

HEPPNER, OREGON

Will pay highest market price for butterfat. Honest weights and test. Give us a trial shipment.

W. C. Cox, Manager

## Speaking of Christmas Poultry

This will be the place to get it. We will have ducks, chickens and turkeys. Always the best to be had in meats.

## CITY MEAT MARKET

SIKEY & HENDERSON, Props

Prest-O-Lite Storage Battery



### Best Battery for Winter Use

COLD weather driving makes heavier demands upon any storage battery. Engines are stiff—oil is sluggish—gasoline vaporizes slowly—lights burn longer—and the severe cold tends to cause battery deterioration. Only a battery of maximum power and vitality can meet these demands.

The Prest-O-Lite Storage Battery has proven in the toughest of cold weather tests, to be by far the best battery for winter use.

Why be satisfied with anything short of the best? There's a Prest-O-Lite for every car.

Hermiston Auto Co.