COMMUNITY GROWING OF CROP VARIETIES.

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INTRODUCTION.

Industrial life is daily becoming more and more complex. This increasing complexity and interrelationship is becoming as apparent in the industry of agriculture practiced on the farm as it has become, in recent years, in the industries of manufacture and commerce in the office, the factory and the shop. From the average farm comes a greater diversity of products than from any factory. The producing of crops and of live stock are as widely different as the manufacture of dry goods and of hardware, which no single factory ever attempts to undertake.

Among the major animal products are horses, cattle, swine, sheep and poultry, each requiring a considerable fund of technical knowledge properly to produce and market. In each of these classes of live stock are many different varieties or breeds, especially in cattle and poultry, each adapted to a somewhat different purpose, having somewhat different habits, and requiring somewhat different treatment in rearing and finishing. Besides the adult animals themselves there are numerous and diverse byproducts, such as young animals, milk, butter, meat, wool, eggs, hides, feathers, bones, etc. On the whole, these make a very respectable factory output for a single industry.

Among the major plant products are cereals, forages, fruits, vegetables, fibers, sugars, oils and drugs, not to mention lumber and other forest products. Consider such diverse crops, in habit, adaptation, and required tillage methods, as wheat, rice and corn among the cereals; alfalfa, timothy and sorgo among forages; apples, grapes and strawberries among fruits; potatoes and cantaloupes among truck crops; cotton and flax among fiber and oil crops, or cane and beets among sugar plants, and the enormous diversity of knowledge and practice required in the single industry of plant production begins to obtain realization. Truly, the farm is the greatest and most wonderful factory of all!