

An Agricultural Education.

GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL.

The following interesting account of the life work of Edgar J. Hollister is sketched by Mrs. Grannis, who has had the opportunity of personally observing some of the results of his wonderful activity.

Hollister proceeded upon the theory that, climatic conditions being equal, certain crops are adapted to certain soils, and that planting those which will bring the greatest revenue will enhance the value of the land.

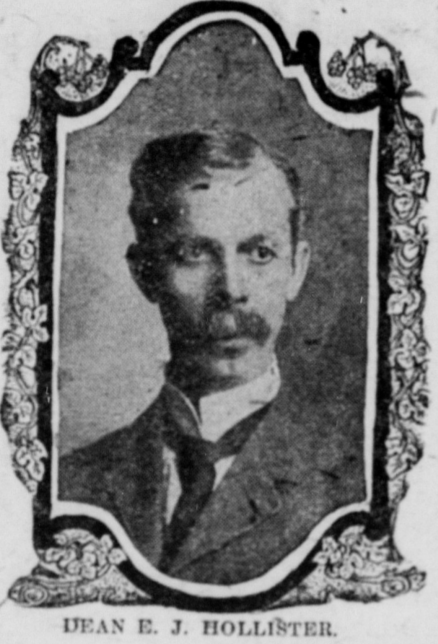
Through Toil to Triumph.

By Anna C. Grannis.

It is a far cry from a Canadian farmer boy in the sixties to the Dean of Agriculture to-day in a rising institution in the West, yet by the application of science to practical farming, such a change has been wrought by Edgar J. Hollister, a soil expert of wide reputation.

No agricultural college opened its friendly doors to this young pioneer, nor was the Canadian government so deeply interested at that time as now, in its farming population.

A call from western Ontario, his birth place, came in 1873 and in response, some time was spent in setting out peach orchards, the work losing its attractiveness because of the study which accompanied it.



DEAN E. J. HOLLISTER.

He was taught the economical use of water and the method of creating a favorable environment for plants.

After some further years of study and preparation Mr. Hollister became interested in the organization of a company for the development of a large tract of swamp.

In some instances five years is the period allowed for the reclamation of land by the slow process of nature after the drainage has been obtained.

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To make these lands productive immediately after drainage, it is necessary to correct their acid condition by the use of lime and by disintegration of the soil particles.



WINONA BOYS SELECTING WHEAT FOR SEED. WINONA PARK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

trogen, phosphoric acid, potash, and phosphoric acid and make them available as plant food.

When alfalfa is fed to horses in considerable quantity the grain ration must be proportionately reduced and an abundance of other roughness furnished.

Mr. Hollister visited Florida and secured a tract of land which for five years was used experimentally.

a crop of corn sown broadcast. The corn was plowed down in the fall and the sand lot planted in rye.

The work of this interesting man attracted the attention of many people pursuing scientific agriculture.

EDUCATING FOR SMALL FARMS.

A plan is now taking tangible form, which will lead to the establishment of small farms comprising five to twenty acres each.

Thus each day reveals some new progress, and farming, that once seemed a hopeless, hapless drudgery, is being shown a golden highway to an ever increasing success.

Value of Alfalfa to Farm Animals.

The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture has recently published a study by I. D. Graham of the use of alfalfa for the growing and fattening of animals.



STUDENTS CLEANING OUT A DRAIN AT WINONA.

considered by stockmen in other sections.

Some of the questions considered in the experiments were composition and digestibility of alfalfa, the calculated cost of nutrients supplied by alfalfa and other feeding stuffs.

Horses and mules, it is stated, thrive on alfalfa pasture, and while alfalfa is too rich a food for mature horses unless used in combination with some other roughness.

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hay for pigs, it is considered better to cut it early, so that a larger proportion of leaves may be saved and consequently a larger proportion of protein conserved.

The Irish Potato.

A rich, sandy loam is best suited to the production of Irish potatoes, and the fertilizers employed should contain high percentage of potash.

In a recent bulletin on farm vegetables, the department of Agriculture recommends that for late potatoes, the rows should be 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart.

As soon as the plants appear above the ground and the rows can be followed, the surface soil should be well stirred by means of one of the harrow-toothed cultivators.

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