

**Agricultural Department Educational Department**

**Can We Grow Corn Profitably?**  
The question which heads this article is an interesting one to thousands of Eastern farmers, and in fact to many cases, especially in New England, it has been answered in the negative. Not that it would have farmers grow any crops merely for the sake of it. It is the object sought in good farming, and it conduces to profit to buy corn, wheat, butter or even milk, let each and all of these articles be bought rather than grown. But it will be to quite sure of ground before discarding any article of produce and especially so important a price as corn. Many centuries ago a Roman remarked that selling not buying was the business of the farmer. We hold to something of this idea in the everywhere prevalent belief that the farmer is more independent than other classes of citizens—the theory of his independence being, of course, that he can produce from his farm whatever he absolutely needs. This is not true nowadays, partly because men's needs have grown space with the increase of civilization. Most families find kerosene oil a necessity in our long winters; but if a farmer has a well on his farm, he is not so dependent on the land as not for much else. Even in clothing most farmers' families would be scantily dressed indeed, if they were obliged to depend on the farm which they grow and harvested or the wool that they carded and spun, clipped from the sheep which they had shorn. I do not regret the old days when the reverse of this was true. The division of labor which absorbs ninety-nine hundredths of the farmer's time, and which grows flax or wool, has done much for him in progress. It is entirely possible that in like manner, the mass of Eastern farmers are to be relieved from the necessity of growing corn.

Still I do not believe it, and should regard such relief as a very doubtful advantage. Corn is the great American staple. Its increasing use in Europe will make it more and more important as an article of export. If any section of the country is unable to profitably produce this staple, it must lose much of the wealth that it will bring to the country. Corn has been profitably grown in Eastern States, and with good management it can be made to grow in any section of the country. It is profitable to produce this staple, and it will bring to the country. Corn has been profitably grown in Eastern States, and with good management it can be made to grow in any section of the country. It is profitable to produce this staple, and it will bring to the country.

Where we grow corn by the wholesale, as do the farmers of the West, I see no reason why it should not be a profitable crop. Ability to grow corn is not a bad thing for the farmer and labor, and not infrequently the corn alone is worth fifty dollars per acre. The reason why Eastern farmers do not grow corn more largely, is because it does not pay them. No such reason hinders the Western farmer, though for the same work he gets much less pay. This explanation throws a flood of light on the comparative advantages of Western and Eastern corn raising.

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was had a long head about schools, as well as other things. The school term was not three months, or five, but twelve; and school was kept seven days in the week—Sunday being the day for religious teaching. No holidays allowed. A few quotations from his law:  
"As in many towns parents do not send their children to school in summer, on the plea that they have to guard the cattle; our magistrates and judges in the districts shall see that a special shepherd is engaged rather than allow the children to be kept from school. Where the cattle are scattered far apart, and the cattle cannot be driven into one place to be guarded, one child after the other, if there are several in the family or neighborhood, shall alternate every day attend to the herds, and the tan-keepers and inhabitants of such towns shall make other arrangements by which each child can go to school at least three days of the week, that it may not forget in summer what it learned in winter."  
"No week day vacations are to be given, not even during harvest time."  
—*Wa. Ed. Journal.*

**BAD LITERATURE.**  
In three days of moral reform, when the public mind is agitated upon the various vices of society, and the best talent of the land is putting forth gigantic efforts for the suppression of evil, one crime has been almost overlooked, or at least ignored. I refer to the publication of cheap reading matter for boys and girls, vile in its nature, and calculated to inflame the youthful mind against all the best passions of all humanity is subject.

There is nothing more pernicious in its effects upon the mind than the reading of bad literature. The dime novel, Boys and Girls Weekly, and a host of other publications of the same class circulate freely among young people, and their minds become poisoned by the sensation-seeking and sensational nature of the material. It is not necessary to go into any extended description of the nature of this literature, as it is so well known to all.

It seems as if people should arouse themselves to catch up an evil which has done so much mischief to the youth of our country. It is not necessary to go into any extended description of the nature of this literature, as it is so well known to all.

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