

ELECTRICITY AND THE FARMER.

Hon. James Wilson, secretary of agriculture, in Success: The prediction of Mr. Edison that electricity will come to the rescue of the farmer during the next fifty years is likely to prove true—but not in the way of heavy machinery. It will come about, in my opinion, through the use of electricity in transportation, mining and manufacturing. It is just a trifle improbable that anything will ever be invented to take the place, for instance, of a team of horses for farm work. Automobiles run smoothly on a level road, but not in mud.

But electric railways are going out into the country, radiating from every town and city in America. Every one of these benefits the farmer. City people move out, build houses, beautify grounds, and come into healthful contact with Mother Nature. The farmer, not to be behind, brightens up his own place a bit, uses the trolley himself, enlarges his horizon—and his market.

So, too, works every other invention of the electrician of Edison's class. Every electrical ore crusher put in operation means more work, more villages, more men to feed. Every improvement in electrical power means more factories.

The farmer is not slow to see these advantages. The American farmer is a business man, keen and alert to grasp situations. Go where you will, you will find him better informed than his city neighbor on prices current, trade developments, and supply and demand. He may not know the details of the coming out party of Miss Sugarloaf, or the latest bit of club scandal; but he subscribes for papers and magazines that help him to get solid and timely information, and he generally profits by what he reads. Unlike the poor creature whom the great French painter and our own distinguished poet depicted, on canvas and in verse, the American farmer is a gentleman quite capable of taking care of himself and of showing to the world that he is not in the Millet, but in the Edisonian class.