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BLACKSMITHING

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BY

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PREFACE

SINCE the automobile has taken the place of the horse and buggy, and the tractor has almost supplanted the farm team, there is so little work left for the horseshoer and wagon maker that these tradesmen are fast disappearing from the scene. The village or crossroads blacksmith, once an important factor in the working force of the rural neighborhood, if he has not already retired, is beginning to see the end of any profit in his business; and as no young men are learning his trade, his race bids fair to soon reach the vanishing point.

In the future, whatever blacksmithing is necessary to be done in connection with farm tools and machinery, and the farm teams, must be done by the farmer or his sons.

It is this condition of affairs that has brought about a recent demand for a book on the subject of farm blacksmithing. This book has been written in the attempt to supply that demand. The author, who, during a long term of years, had the pleasure of teaching the elements of forge work to several thousand Minnesota farm boys, hopes that this little book may be of help to those farmers and farmers' sons who wish to, or through force of circumstances are obliged to, do the work which formerly fell to the lot of the village blacksmith.

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