



**CYRIL
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***THE FARM
THAT
WON'T
WEAR
OUT***

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The Farm That Won't Wear Out

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Preface

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THE FARM THAT WON'T WEAR OUT
WAS FIRST published serially in THE COUNTRY
GENTLEMAN, the privilege having been granted the author
of subsequent publication. It is now issued in book form in
response to numerous requests coming especially from the
Central, Eastern, and Southern States.

CYRIL G. HOPKINS.
CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

"Population must increase rapidly, more rapidly than in
former times, and ere long the most valuable of all arts will
be the art of deriving a comfortable subsistence from the
smallest area of soil."—Lincoln.

"It is not the land itself that constitutes the farmer's
wealth, but it is in the constituents of the soil, which serve
for the nutrition of plants, that this wealth truly consists."—
Liebig.

CHAPTER I

WHAT GOES TO MAKE UP PERMANENT FERTILITY

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IT IS an old saying that "any fool can farm," and this was almost the truth when farming consisted chiefly in reducing the fertility of new, rich land secured at practically no cost from a generous Government. But to restore depleted soils to high productive power in economic systems is no fool's job, for it requires mental as well as muscular energy; and no apologies should be expected from those who necessarily make use of technical terms in the discussion of this technical subject, notwithstanding the common foolish advice that farmers should be given a sort of "parrot" instruction in almost baby language instead of established facts and principles in definite and permanent scientific terms. The farmer should be as familiar with the names of the ten essential elements of plant food as he is with the names of his ten nearest neighbors. Safe and permanent systems of soil improvement and preservation may come with intelligence—never with ignorance—on the part of the landowners.

When the knowledge becomes general that food for plants is just as necessary as food for animals, then American agriculture will mean more than merely working the land for all that's in it. This knowledge is as well established as the fact that the earth is round, although the