

## *His Golden Cycle*

several thousand acres are rarely found even among the Yellow's rich. Extremely small subdivisions of acreage is the rule, and ten-acre plots are considered large farms. A systematically developed rotation of crops is the common practice among this oriental race of irrigators.

For more than ten years Bryan had cherished the idea of special work among this agricultural eighty percent of China's population. He had been a rural boy himself. He knew also by experience what the country preacher had done for the quantity and quality of Southern Baptists in America. The existing mission schools in China had not met the problem of evangelization for these planters of the soil. Very little work had been done for this group in the Central China Mission field. Graduation from high schools or colleges called for high salaries. China's more than three million rustics could not and would not support that type of leadership. Subsidy from the outside could be only temporary at best, and would do much to ruin the goal of self-support which Missionary Bryan so profoundly felt was the foundation of progress in the salvation of China for Christ.

"I will open a Farmers' Bible School," he planned, "to train farmer men from whom God may call some to work as real farmers among their own farmer people."

When he first sent out announcements to distant mission stations about this project, several financially limited candidates arrived hoping to find, along with the proffered Biblical instruction, some avenue toward a better means of living. None of these would-be students were real tillers of the soil. After supplying these same men with working clothes and tools and finding that tender hands and flabby bodies could not stand the test of prac-