

Tomorrow –

The Way to Have a Better Tomorrow is to Start Working on it Today.

In my 86 years of fascination with life, I have been privileged to be a part of the greatest revolution in all history.

The 20th century saw unbelievable accomplishments in medical science, engineering, and transportation, miracles in computer technology, and, tragically, the development of instruments of war and destruction that could mean the devastation of the human race.

All of these I have seen and been a part of. They influence the lives of everyone today and are a constant source of wonder.

There is another revolution – one taken for granted by so many – the great changes in agricultural science and farming that enable us to feed the people of this world.

Few can visualize life on the farm at the turn of the century – horses and mules, grueling manual labor, no electricity, poor sanitation – and no money. Crop yields and farming practices were about the same as they had been for centuries. Even in the 1930s, changes had been slow in the South where I lived; yields of 15 bushels of corn and one-third of a bale of cotton were common – “too dry”, “too wet”, “poor soils”, “worms and bollweevils.” Agricultural scientists themselves had limited education and few resources. What a different panorama we see driving through the beautiful farmlands today.

Now as I see the end of my chapter on this earth, it is a thrilling experience to visualize the great discoveries that lie in the future – high yield, soil conserving, precision agriculture – today’s greatest challenge.

*Editor’s Note: Dr. Reed passed away
on June 8, 1999.*



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