The Decline of Rural New England.

Not only is the area of cultivated land decreasing, but the land owners are quietly surrendering their tillage. The land is growing poorer, partly from natural causes and partly from less careful tillage and the marked decrease in the amount of live stock kept upon it. The fact is, farming does not pay, especially if help must be hired to do a large part of the work.

The farmer finds himself the victim of all the evils of a protective tariff without the supposed benefits. The protection he has fretted to his case, if it ever was, is a delusion and a snare. If the manufacturing centers in his vicinity have raised the price of some of his products they have advanced the cost of labor to a greater degree, and drawn to themselves the best brains and muscle from the farms.

He is being heavily taxed for the benefit of the whole list of favor assistant industries that rely him of his working force, while the competition, intensified by labor saving machines suited to the large prairie farms of the west and stimulated by lavish gifts of land to settlers and subsidies to railroads, enables him to obtain the prices of his products in his natural home market. He buys western flour and western corn for his own consumption at a cheaper rate than he can produce them with hired labor, and to remain of the farm where he can be comfortable with the west and south in crude reading for the eastern market at his door. Combining his attention to the few crops that, from their bulk or perishable nature, are not subject to the competition of the west, the ordinary farmer barely lives and pays current expenses, while he less shrewd and careful neighbor falls behind each year, and sooner or later will be sold out of home and home.—Professor Aaron N. Cancer in Popular Science Monthly.

Suggestions About Firewood.

Wood is invariably bought and sold by the cord, the purchaser stipulating that it shall be "body wood," that is, sticks of "back work." The only reason for this is body wood packs closer, and there is from one-fourth to one-third more wood in a certain bulk of it. On the second much of the limb wood is so twisted and has gone into the brush pile and is wasted, save a contribution to The New York Tribune. Round wood will burn longer in a stove than split wood because flames cannot so readily enter the grain of the timber, and consequently is more valuable. Were wood sold by weight the branches would find as ready market as the body. I once saw a lot of weights of a cord of various kinds of wood, both dry and green. If somebody would publish it they would do good thereby. The weight of a cord of green and a cord of dry seasoned beech would be something of a guide. There is fraud sometimes in the way the sellers make up wood. Purchasing by the cord is safest and unsatisfactory; weighing would suit both sides.

A Word About Incubators.

If an incubator is to be used, and as a rule of very early broilers are to be raised, says The Republic, arrangements ought to be made as soon as possible so as to secure both the incubator and brooder and have on hand ready for use. While an incubator has one advantage in being always ready for service, yet it requires more care than hens, and unless you are willing to put in some time every day in attending to it the better plan is to stick to hens.

A hole in the stock shelter is a leaf through just as truly as does a hole in the granary.

Agricultural Items.

Virginia's peanut crop is estimated at 1,000,000 bushels.

The woods in Hinton furnish a large percentage of the Christmas trees for New York stores.

The increased fund provided by the new Morrill bill will be used at the Iowa college to maintain a dairy school.

The English Shropshire association offers a prize of $50 for the best Shropshire shown exhibited at the World's fair.

The Belgian breed of draft horses attracted attention at the late American horse show at Chicago for their uniformity of type and excellent quality.

Some of our progressive farmers have tried crossed vineyards with financial success; others do not report so favorably on them.

Two Californias.

There are people not a few in California who indulge the hope that some day in the future the state will be divided into north and south Californias, just as Carolina and Dakota were divided. A Texan will fight if it is proposed to divide his domain, and he lives in the largest, and what may one day be the greatest state in the union; but Dakotans did not have the same feeling of patriotism, neither do Californians.

In favor of the division of California it is urged that the state has been settled by two distinct classes of people, inhabiting practically two climates and interested in totally different occupations. Friend of congratulating themselves that California has thus such splendid resources within herself, the Californians urge these differences as a reason why two states should be made.

Northern California, the gold and wheat country, was settled by the pioneers of '49 and those who came immediately after them. They dug gold, and in this way sate wheat raising and agriculture also. They were the typical community of an average northwestern state. It was at length discovered that southern California, the region south of Santa Barbara, had a climate unrivaled for mildness and salubrious, and a soil that nature had made with an eye to growing the most gorgeous and glorious fruits of semi-tropical countries. Then rich men, the millionaires from eastern states, went there and started great fruit farms and vineyards—started them with combined motives of business and pleasure. They moved there their families and those took with them their business tastes and habits of idleness. The result is, as the divisionists say, two peoples as unlike as the inhabitants of Ohio and Louisiana would be, and with the difference they do not see how one legislature and one governor can please both.

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