

THE FARMER'S FATE.

TOIL AND TEARS, A LIFE OF HONEST LABOR ENDING IN FAILURE.

Such is the Reward a Great Nation Gives to Those Who Feed It—Such is the Haven Offered the Shipwrecked Laborer, and They Can't Reach Even That.

(Special Correspondence.)

We are often told that the people who live in slums, and those people who strike, and those who agitate for a change, and those who recently came from some other country are the occasion and the cause of business depression and that if they would but get out on the land and emulate the farmer's contentment and solid prosperity the evils that came into the business world simultaneously with the introduction of slums, strikes, agitators and foreigners would vanish.

Such opinions, or rather fancies, are founded, if indeed they may be said to have a foundation, on the supposition that farming is a natural-to-all and sure-of-a-living undertaking, not requiring, like other businesses, undivided attention and skill and experience, and the ponderous style in which such fancies are often set forth, as though they were not merely careless fancies or opinions only, but incontrovertible, undisputed facts, and the reputation for superior learning and authoritative character of the publications, societies, churches, etc., which are pleased to become instruments of their setting forth, make the fancies seem as real, even to people who know better, as seriously related fairy tales to 8-year-old babies.

Pinning together these floating fancies and some facts which are quite fully and painfully realized by many people, we have a curious implication, something like this: A penniless man can buy a farm and keep out of debt. A farm without a good number of good buildings, implements and stock or fertilizers in some localities is valueless. But the penniless man, ignorant of farming, can select the right farm, can select and buy the right fertilizers, which he should be able to judge are adapted to his soil and to sell in a varying market. While he plows, sows and waits for crops he can, if he has energy, keep his family decently, so that they may be dressed suitably to go to church. Energy and large brains are not dependent on food, leisure for culture, necessary rest and an inheritance of such from well fed ancestors. Energy is spontaneous. It is a product of invincible determination itself. Energy all poor people should have, or if it could be admitted that some poor people by some unusual, undeserved misfortune had lost energy as an effect of chronic starvation these will be supplied, after investigation, with soup. Then they can get out on the land.

If farming ever was a simple muscular exercise requiring only a dull head and muscles which could be trained to stand a strain from 12 to 17 hours long, it is different now. While tough muscles are still necessary, brains must direct them. But nature unfortunately has so arranged that an excess of muscular work indisposes to mental labor—in fact, it usually makes unusual mental labor impossible. That is why farmers habituated to hard toil dislike any change, finding it so difficult to think over and learn new ways, and so a problem which is easy of solution, and even a delight, to the scientific farmer will be evaded by the working farmer, though it comes to mean the loss of all profits—hard work done for no pay.

The late Joseph Henry Allen, a learned minister, once said that it required a greater variety of knowledge and more native ability to make a successful farmer than to gain success in any of the learned professions. Be that as it may, it is now stated by an official experimenter of the Massachusetts experiment station that the average Massachusetts cow is kept at a loss. He urges great care in breeding, so as to raise only extraordinary cows, that science be applied to the soil for raising foods suited to the soil as well as to the cows, constant figuring on available nutriment of feeds so as to find only the most economical as prices vary, also even taking into account the fertilizing value as well as the flesh and milk value of the different feeds. He advises Massachusetts farmers to abandon better making and find ways of getting cream and milk to market in good condition before the change is made necessary by heavier losses. This will necessitate not only the unwelcome change in farm ways, but loss of implements and co-operative creamery stock.

The profitable culture of fruit has become a science, and the same is true of the profitable cultivation of soil in any way. Two years ago many Massachusetts farmers paid 15 cents for barrels and sold their best apples for 20 cents, including the barrels. Some put the apples in cellophane to wait for prices to rise or to feed to stock. Prices did not rise, and the apples' feeding value was so little and the work of moving them so much that it was found that many farmers would have been better off if their apple trees had refused to bear at all. The cheapness of the Massachusetts apple was explained at the experiment station by the fact that the New York

apple was larger, and buyers went there for what fruit they wanted.

He who has inherited the best brain, lands, buildings, machines, proximity to markets or money will succeed. But if all were equally well supplied with these some would be handicapped by some slight untidiness because of the working of the laws of competition.

It would be interesting to know just what proportion of farmers may be considered reasonably prosperous. What proportion are not overworked are able to improve their farms, educate their children, give all the children a start in life and save something for their own old age.

The Connecticut labor statistician in 1888 induced some 600 farmers to keep accounts. About half the accounts showed a small profit and one-half a small loss. The question arises, What of those farmers who in 1888, when competition was not quite so fierce as now, ten years later, could not quite make both ends meet? The commissioner who reported the account of the 600 farmers advised that Connecticut farmers stick to their own farms rather than go west or into other business, for, he said, "reliable statisticians show that less than 4 per cent of those who make the venture" (business other than farming) "succeed." That was wise advice. Those who are experiencing the fierce heat of the frying pan will not, unless of decidedly suicidal inclinations, wish to exchange their present situations for beds of coals.

In a certain small town in New England only two adult men died during the past winter. Both were intelligent and very industrious. What had they earned by lives of ceaseless toil and self sacrifice? One, an old soldier, left to his son and daughter a farm mortgaged for \$1,600 and an unpaid grocery bill of \$400. The farm could scarcely be sold now at any price. The value of farms which leave industrious farmers in debt after 40 years of toil can scarcely be estimated. The other man left only his unsalable farm and personal property, pathetic in its testimony to rigid economy. For three years he had attempted to eke out a living by collecting the town's taxes, sometimes bidding off the work as low as \$40 per year, and an examination of the books after his death showed that he had taken at different times \$900 of the town's money. Was this kindly, intelligent man, universally respected, a deacon in a church, a natural villain in disguise? No. This was the only way he saw to supplement the earnings or make up the scant food and clothing actually indispensable to the existence of his family. He had "saved and worked and practiced self denial" all that it was possible for a man to do. He was left only the choice of debts that could never be paid, theft, or to see his family starve. Whether the choice was wise or not is not pertinent to the present discussion. Weakened by grip the preceding winter and warned by his physician to be very careful, he worked in the woods days and applied mustard plasters night to still the pain caused by overwork and exposure.

The conviction is growing that overworked people who cannot get the means for a respectable living and people who can find no work to do are not deserving of the treatment they are getting from society in this age of marvelous development and great opportunities.

We may be growing long hair. That is a matter of taste or perhaps even a matter of economy in barber work and certainly exclusively our own business. We are not starting new political parties whenever floods or pestilence troubles us. But it will be well for all the people if farmers, laborers and would be laborers will swell the vote of some party which would make all joint owners in those monopolies which are now making a few people rich and insolent at the expense of many.

ELLA ORMSBY. New Salem, Mass.

A Problem to Figure Out.

According to Carroll D. Wright, United States labor commissioner, real estate mortgages in the United States amount to \$12,094,000,000; annual interest on the same, \$840,000,000. See census report.

The total money in circulation, according to the treasury report April 1, 1898, is \$1,756,658,645. Of this amount more than half is held as bank reserves as required by law.

Were it all in circulation there would be enough to make two payments of interest on real estate mortgages alone.

Other debts not secured by real estate doubtless amount to more than \$12,000,000,000, but leaving them out of the question entirely will somebody please figure out how the present indebtedness, secured by mortgages, is to be paid?

While the trusts, railroads and high taxes are absorbing all surplus production above a bare living, is it any wonder that thousands are concluding that repudiation or revolution is the only way out?—Chicago Express.

Our Railway Men.

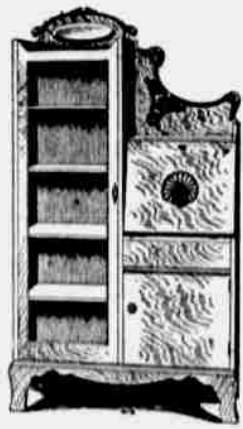
English railroads employ about four times as many men per mile of road as compared with ours. This keeps their men fresh, alert and vigorous. Trains are not intrusted to men more dead than alive from overwork. This is an important fact. However efficient our men, brave and capable railway employees may be it is unjust to expect of them four times the labor of an equal number of athletic, intelligent and capable Englishmen. It is in effect cold blooded murder, as if "through malice aforethought." Nor can these crimes be compensated by all the "fatly" administered by their taskmaster. It may seem kind to put a man on the back and say, "Bravo, Sam, I am proud of you," but when scolded men are compelled to "go on strikes" in order to maintain wages above the starvation point it is not permanently satisfying.—John Davis in Junction City (Kan.) Tribune.

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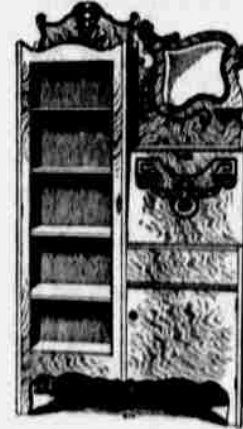
No. 852.—Handy, neat combination book case, 66 inches high, 38 inches wide, French plate mirror 4x12 inches; made of oak, nicely carved and finished, cheap at \$9.00.



No. 853.—Another combination Book Case and Writing Desk. Mirror 10x12 inches. Can be furnished in antique oak, finely finished, 68 in. high, 38 inches wide, \$10.75 for.

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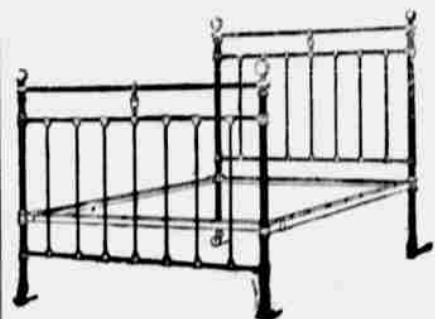
Is what people do when they buy their Carpets from a firm that has no standing. We have the largest stock of Carpets, Rugs, Mattings and Draperies in this part of the state. We are cheerfully attending to the wants of our customers, always giving them the best goods at the lowest possible prices. Nearly all kinds of goods are advancing in price, but our stock was bought before the new tariff went into effect and before the war began. We have not advanced our prices. A dollar buys more in our store today than it did a year ago. Send for samples and prices of Carpets.



No. 854.—Better order one of these cases to keep your books nice and also have a handy place to write. Same size but more finely finished than No. 853, \$12.25 only.

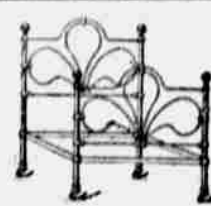


No. 855.—Still better and larger, 72 in. high, 59 in. wide, beveled mirror 12x14 in.—a handsome piece of furniture, very ornamental, and only \$14.00.

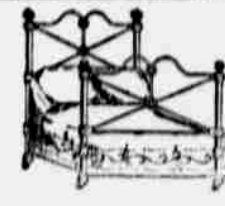


No. 1077.—Our leader. This white iron Bed can't be excelled. Large posts, brass knobs and top rail, finished in first class manner, our price \$4.40.

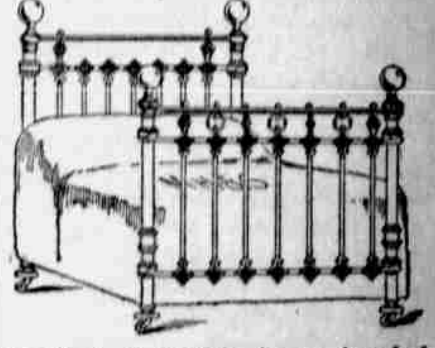
We Furnish Your Home Complete From Cellar to Garret.



No. 1076.—Clover Leaf Iron Bed, any size, brass knobs, just what you want, strong and neat, yet cheap, only \$3.50.



No. 1075.—Our best low priced White Iron Bed, best material, brass knobs, nicely ornamented, well made \$2.75 full or three-fourth size, only.



No. 1079.—A bargain in an iron bed. Brass knobs, rails and rings. Strong and durable, a handsome piece of furniture, worth \$12.00, our price only \$9.00.



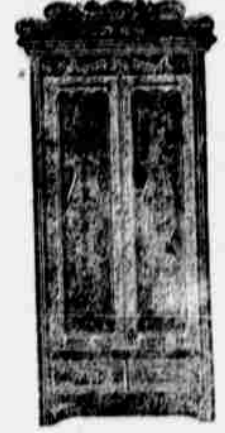
No. 650.—A handy cupboard—nice embossed door panels and top ornament, with perforated ends. Is 4 1/2 feet high and three feet wide, our price \$3.50.



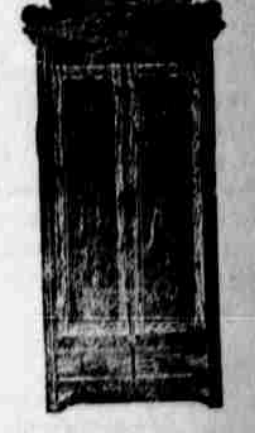
No. 651.—Cupboard Sale—large size, top ornament, ends perforated, two good drawers, all nicely finished. Our price is only \$5.00.

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Finds its most favorable solution in our store. The satisfaction obtained in buying here is contagious—it has spread—many new faces tell us how deep it has "struck in." April was a memorable month, May will be more so. Our Grand Spring offerings are drawing the crowd, getting the business, keeping things lively, daily demonstrating to scores of new patrons that IT PAYS to trade here. If you have a penny to spend for furniture, whether you are rich, poor, or just so, don't spend it until you have seen our spring collection of household necessities and luxuries. If you can not visit the store send for our catalogue.



No. 656.—Handsome Antique wardrobe, well finished, beautiful top, well made and very ornamental, 7ft 4in. high, 3ft 4in. wide. Worth \$7.50 \$6.00—our price is only \$6.00.



No. 657.—Antique Oak Front Wardrobe, handsomely carved and nicely finished, two drawers at bottom, same size as No. 656, our price \$6.50.

Nebraska state Insurance Association.

For Fire, Lightning, Cyclones, Tornadoes, and Wind Storms. Located at Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska.

Correspondence conducted by J. M. Sanford, General Manager.

The above named company is one of the most successful mutual insurance companies in the state. On December 31st, 1896, we numbered 29 from the top as to the amount of insurance in force, and on December 31, 1897, we were number 9, having passed twenty other insurance companies in the year as to the amount of insurance in force. In other words there were only three other mutual companies in the state that wrote more insurance than this company did last year, and there is only three mutual companies in the state besides our own company that wrote more insurance in the whole year of '97 than we have written in the first four months of '98. This company is the cheapest and best company in the state for fire, lightning, cyclone, wind storms and tornadoes. This company gives a perpetual membership fee and issues a perpetual policy.

We never charge for making any changes in said policy provided the insurance is not increased. We never charge for cancellation.

If you have insured your property by fire in some stock company, on account of a mortgage, we will insure you against cyclones, wind storms and tornadoes as cheap, or cheaper than any other stock company. Before you insure ask some of our agents as we have 100 in the field. In case there is no agent of ours in your locality write for an agency for yourself or recommend some good live man. Address: J. M. SANFORD, General Manager, Fairfield, Neb.

FARMERS' MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, OF FAIRFIELD, NEB.

Correspondence conducted by J. M. Sanford, general manager.

Know ye that this is the oldest and only mutual had insurance company that has ever proved a perfect success in this state? It has run two years and has paid all losses in full as per adjustment, and has remitted over \$2,000 surplus back to the policy holders. We over 200 agents in the field with certificates from the auditor of public accounts, and we have agents contracts with over 100 more agents, who are not yet ready to order auditor's certificates. These agents are well scattered over 74 counties in the state. This will protect

us from both local and general hail storms that sometimes run for 100 miles and from five to ten miles wide. In fact if a whole county should be haled out we can pay the same. Your only safety is in a company that does a business in all the cultivated counties in the state. We are doing a good hail insurance business at present, notwithstanding it is only the first part of May.

We want a good agent in every township in Nebraska where the soil is generally well farmed, for which we will pay the best commission.

This company has no salaried officers at present for all salaries are set after one year's work is done, by the board of directors, at what they think is reasonable for the work done.

This association last year had a branch office at Lincoln, Nebraska, conducted by J. Y. M. Swigart, but said branch office proved unsatisfactory and was therefore discontinued by the members at the annual meeting and we now have no connection with any insurance companies doing business in Lincoln. Agents wanted in every township that have not now an agent and a good commission will be given on all work done. For agencies write to J. M. SANFORD, General manager, Fairfield, Neb.

ANOTHER KLONDIKE DISASTER.

San Francisco, Cal., May 9.—A special to the Examiner from Victoria says: Monday last the ice covering a stream in a defile near Crater lake gave way under the passing throng of Klondikers, and more than a score of men were precipitated into the water and carried to certain death. Dr. J. F. Fizzle of Los Angeles, who came down on the ALKI, who brings the news, passed the scene only a few hours after the calamity occurred.

It was on the other side of the summit between Linderman and Long lake, at a point in the canyon some fourteen miles above Stonehouse, where an ice slide over a mountain stream had been utilized as a path for sleds by the fortune seekers. A number of men were advancing in almost unbroken ranks, each holding his sled, when, at 3 o'clock in the morning there was a crash. The ice opened for thirty feet or more, and in an instant twenty men were under their supplies were whirled downward under the smooth surface of the stream to drown without even a chance of bathing for life.

The names of the victims of the ice Captain Fizzle did not give.

Fat boys and heavy men will not be allowed to crowd citizens off the sidewalks in Liberty Ave that progressive men have been elected on the town board. The Journal says: "The new village board will keep stock off the sidewalks and make us more the rub-bish out of our alleys. Now, that's a good thing!"

To Puget Sound and Alaska Points.

The Northwestern-Pacific is the direct route to the Puget Sound and Alaska points. Morning and afternoon trains make direct connection at Fremont with through tourist sleepers and free reclining chair cars to Portland. For correct information call on A. S. Flaiding, city ticket agent, 117 south 10th st., Lincoln, Neb.

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NEW TOURIST CAR LINE.

Weekly Personally Conducted Excursions to Portland, Ore., via Burlington Route.

On February 17, and every Thursday thereafter at 6:10 p. m., Pullman tourist sleepers, in charge of our own excursion conductors, are scheduled to leave Lincoln for Portland via Denver, Leadville, Salt Lake City, Ogden and the Oregon Short Line, passing through the grand scenery of the Rockies and stopping several hours in at Salt Lake City to allow a visit to the many points of interest there. Births, tickets and full information may be obtained at B. & M. depot or city ticket office, corner of O and 10th streets. GEO. W. BOWNE, C. P. & T. A.

Certificate of Publication.

OFFICE OF Auditor of Public Accounts State of Nebraska.

Lincoln, May 6, 1898.

It is hereby certified that the Des Moines Life Association of Des Moines, in the State of Iowa,

has complied with the insurance law of this state and is authorized to transact the business of life insurance in this state for the current year. Witness my hand and the seal of the Auditor of Public Accounts the day and year above written. JOHN F. CORNELL, Auditor P. (Seal) SAMUEL LICHTY, Jns. Deputy.

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A Necessity to Weak Women. Positively the only remedy curing Female Weakness or nervous prostration. Cures all Womb Pains and Dysmenstruations, strengthening the generative organs. Price for treatment which cures 20 days, \$2.50. Dr. M. H. S. Pharmacy, 624 1/2 St.

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