

THE FARMER IN THE FUTURE.

How He Will Be Affected by the Proposed Change in Conditions.

GREAT INCREASE IN CULTIVATED ACREAGE.

Disproportion in the Increase of the Population and the Results to Which Exportation Leads.

Twenty years since wherever the cultivator owned the land he occupied he was exceptionally prosperous and so continued to be until about the middle of the eighth decade, when the opening of so many new farms in the Missouri valley and the development of the Indian wheat exportation so changed the relations of supply and demand for food products that prices fell greatly and the farmer's revenue, from a given acre, was greatly lessened, yet it is more than questionable if this lowering of the price of food has resulted beneficially to the industrial classes although it has enabled them to buy their food for less money, yet probably such food has, because of the disastrous change in the farmer's condition, actually cost them more labor than it would had prices remained at the level obtaining during the first half of the eighth decade when the price (in gold) of English grown wheat, in the markets of Great Britain, was 85 per cent greater than the price obtaining in the same markets in the year 1850, as the changed conditions surrounding the employment of the capital and labor of the farmer have, in a very large measure, destroyed the purchasing power of the most numerous class of the customers of the merchant, manufacturer, artisan and laborer.

The agricultural population of the United States numbers some 25,000,000 and is 43 per cent of the whole. The purchasing power of such a great proportion of the population has been destroyed, or greatly diminished, it means lessened employment for others, lower wages, as well as a lessened purchasing power on the part of all the industrial classes, more or less commercial stagnation, hard times, a descending scale of land and other values, and increased indebtedness on the part of the producers. The products of the soil are selling at or below the cost of production. This has long been the case with a very considerable portion of the products of the agricultural class and has resulted in less power to purchase the products of the labor of others who, in turn, have thereby had their purchasing power diminished, so that the whole economic fabric has been subjected to unprofitable conditions which have affected all classes alike, if not in varying degrees.

In the case of the American farmer, as in all other farmers, the reduction in his returns has been abnormally great as the prices of farm products, as measured by the price of wheat, were 55 per cent greater during the first half of the eighth decade than those obtaining during the year just closed and this change in price very accurately measures the change in his purchasing power and the result is that he wears last year's coat, buys little or no hardware, and the new buildings, makes the old buggy last another year, the daughter has to do without the promised musical instrument, the son cannot secure the expensive automobile, and the makers of hardware, coats, books, pictures, organs, pianos, furniture and carriages and teachers, transporters, merchants, jewelers, professional men, and half employed, and find it more difficult to buy fur made from 75-cent wheat than they would if wheat had never sold below \$1.50 per bushel.

This state of affairs has, however, under conditions which have existed in this country, probably been inevitable, and many such auxiliary causes as the unreasonable exactions of the transportation companies and the fact that the wheat is raised in practices of the board of trade gambler in farm products have been largely contributory, the primary and potent cause lies deep down in that desire of the race to increase, each man, under his own vine and fig tree which has found such wide scope for its realization in this phenomenal increase in the number of farms, and in the absence of a restraining forest growth, resulted in an increase of 112 per cent in the cultivated area of the United States during the fourteen years ending with 1885 while population increased but 44 per cent.

During the last half decade, however, a radical and far-reaching change has obtained, obtained because the raw material from which farms are made, is not so abundant, and while population continues to increase in nearly as great a ratio as prior to 1885, or 12.5 per cent the cultivated area has increased in price very accurately measures the change in his purchasing power and the result is that he wears last year's coat, buys little or no hardware, and the new buildings, makes the old buggy last another year, the daughter has to do without the promised musical instrument, the son cannot secure the expensive automobile, and the makers of hardware, coats, books, pictures, organs, pianos, furniture and carriages and teachers, transporters, merchants, jewelers, professional men, and half employed, and find it more difficult to buy fur made from 75-cent wheat than they would if wheat had never sold below \$1.50 per bushel.

The following table shows the rapidity of agricultural development and the progressive increasing rate of increase in the cultivated area and indicates the early coming of that time when the American, and indeed the world, will be the most prosperous member of the community. Exhibits showing increase of cultivated area in the United States, and the rates per cent of increase.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Cultivated Area in Acres, Increase in each period in per cent, Rate per cent per year. Data points for 1871, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1890.

WORK OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN.

They Encourage the Young and Help the Old in Life's Battle.

HOME FOR UNFORTUNATE OLD LADIES.

How a Band of Earnest Women Have Labored for Years in a Noble Work - Association of Christian Women.

The fact that an organization for the care of aged and indigent women has been recently formed in Omaha should not lead the public to think that the Women's Christian association of this city, has abandoned or sold or broken up that most worthy institution which she called the "Old Women's Home." The association presented by the ladies could afford to furnish plain accommodations for these rooms for destitute women a good deal of the year, and the association from the very beginning has been a home for the aged and indigent women of the city. Many poor children and grown people were taken in and provided for, and 200 girls were taken in and provided for.

The directors of the mint estimate that the United States can rely upon producing at least \$25,000,000 per year in gold for several years to come. Illinois has a larger railroad mileage than any other state in the union; or, to be more exact, it has 10,163 miles of main lines and 2,842 miles of branch lines. The great Northern railway system reports earnings for the year ending June 30 of \$12,091,580, an increase over the previous year of \$1,016,094, or 9 per cent.

Some Big Men. Tolstoi eats a raw onion on rising. This prevents any interruption of his literary labors. The Minneapolis Tribune advocates a monument to William Windom, late secretary of the treasury. Congressional Lodge will preside over the republican convention in Boston on September 16.

Edward Belamy is the descendant of six generations of clergymen. And yet, standing in the shadow of the pyramids, Napoleon had the audacity to assert that religious thought had made no progress for 4,000 years. Herr Phillips Brooks is said to be the fastest speaker in the world. Verbatim reports which he made found that he speaks on an average of 21 words a minute, stammering in the youth is said to be a religious waste in speech.

Great Telegraph System. Few persons outside of the newspaper and office circles understand the vast, complicated machinery by which the news of the world is daily gathered and transmitted from point to point. This great system is explained in detail in the "Young Women's Home" in the Century under the title, "The Press and the Telegraph," from which the following facts are taken:

During the year ending June 30, 1890, the Western Union telegraph company delivered 32,000,000 telegrams. The cost of the telegrams is paid by the sender. The telegrams are carried by the telegraph lines, and the cost of the telegrams is paid by the sender. The telegrams are carried by the telegraph lines, and the cost of the telegrams is paid by the sender.

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Advertisement for Phenolene, a cure for colds in the head. Includes text: "Phenolene Cures Colds in the Head" and "ALL DRUGGISTS SELL IT."

Advertisement for French Specific, a positive and permanent cure for all gonorrheal diseases. Includes text: "FRENCH SPECIFIC. A POSITIVE and permanent CURE for all gonorrheal diseases."

Advertisement for Union Depot Hotel, located at the corner of 11th and Mason Streets. Includes text: "UNION DEPOT HOTEL. Corner 11th and Mason Streets."

Advertisement for The Hotel Ruxton, featuring a new building with modern amenities. Includes text: "THE HOTEL RUXTON. A new building with modern amenities."