

THE INTENSIVE CULTURE OF SMALL FARMS

Now little can be bought for \$25 an acre, and much can not be bought for less than \$150.

Mr. Fullerton places his first reliance upon manure as a fertilizer. His contention is that any land contains the chemical properties necessary to the raising of crops. Sometimes these properties are locked up so that crops can not get them. Manure, or, rotted vegetable matter, releases them. Give any soil manure, or rotted vegetable matter, he says, and it will produce enough to pay for the manure many times over.

The success of Mr. Fullerton's experiment on Long Island puts his theory beyond the zone of debate. He has actually done splendidly all that he says any one can do. He has made waste land grow at a profit crops that could not be surpassed on the best land. But he has fitted the crops to the land. He has not tried to raise things that nature intended should grow elsewhere.

Hundreds of others have done as much. The New Jersey coast is lined with market-gardeners who are raising the best produce on "sea-wash," or common sand. None of these gardeners tills more than five or ten acres. Each of them makes up for his lack of land with an abundance of intelligent labor. Each of them plows manure into the soil until all of the locked-up chemical properties are released. Each makes more money from his little land than the average Western farmer makes on eighty acres.

E. E. Davis, of Coram, Long Island, set out three-quarters of an acre to strawberries. His income last year from this patch was \$468.55. The summer before the land was planted to potatoes, from which he received only a fraction of his strawberry income.

John Fisher, of Southold, Long Island, raises cauliflower. In 1907 he tried fish as a fertilizer. On each acre he spread 8,000 fish, weighing 7,200 pounds. The top-soil of a forest would have done as well. From five acres, he cut 1,160 barrels of cauliflower, which brought from \$2 to \$4.50 a barrel, the highest prices being for the earliest cuttings. At \$3 a barrel, his five-acre crop was worth \$3,480. Five acres sown to wheat would have yielded, on the basis of an average crop, 65 bushels. The wheat would have brought about \$65. Eighty acres of wheat would have brought only \$1,040. Beans, fish and cauliflower brought \$3,415 more than a wheat farmer could have raised on the same five acres.

Mr. Fullerton says that popular opinion is wrong in fixing ten