

2362 less farmers in the State of Vermont than there were twenty years before, and that the farms of the State were then worth \$22,360,043 less than they were twenty years ago.

Let us see how the farms of Vermont compare in value to-day with those of Quebec.

In order that the figures may be absolutely trustworthy I will quote from the Senate document, No. 849, from which it appears that in 1900 the average value per acre of improved land in the State of Vermont was \$18.00. In New Hampshire it was \$19.00. In Quebec it was \$24.

Last year the average per acre in Vermont was \$24.00. In New Hampshire \$26.00. In Quebec it was \$43.00.

These figures prove conclusively that in 1900 farms were worth about a third more per acre in Quebec than they were in either Vermont or New Hampshire, while in 1910 they were worth more than half again as much as were the farms in these two States.

They further prove that while the average value per acre has increased 33 per cent in ten years in the State of Vermont and 37 per cent in the State of New Hampshire, it has increased 80 per cent in the Province of Quebec.

The Reason for their Abandoned Farms.

Now, the farms along our border line in Vermont and New Hampshire have the same fertility of soil and climatic conditions as our own. Why are they worth so much less per acre?

Why have the farms on the Quebec side of the line increased so much more largely in value during the past ten years than have those on the American side?

If the American market makes farming more profitable, the farms in Vermont and New Hampshire, to which this market has always been available, should be worth more, not less, than the Quebec farms to which the market has not been available.

How, then, are the abandoned farms and decreased farm values in Vermont and New Hampshire to be accounted for?

The reason is very simple, very apparent.

The Vermont and New Hampshire farmers could not meet the competition of the great states West and South West.

Forty years ago the Vermont and New Hampshire farmer found a market for his produce in the New England States.

The Eastern Townships farmer had this same