

As long as the price of grain is so unremunerative surely the object of the cultivator should be greatly to increase the supply of forage crops on his arable land, maintain a *larger* head of stock on his farm, and by growing more food-stuffs to render himself less dependent on the merchant for such expensive articles. If science can help him to accomplish this, it will have done much, but it will never do so unless assisted by the landowner, and brought within reach of the cultivator.

Grass land is cruelly neglected in large districts of England, and nothing responds more readily to science. This has been proved by experiments at Cockle Park in Northumberland, where grass land worth only 5s. an acre was by scientific treatment raised to the value of 25s.

Another serious question which landlords have to face in many places is the comparatively scanty supply of applicants for arable farms. Is not our system to blame? Have we not relied too largely on the big farmer with ample capital—now a vanished quantity?—and have we not been neglectful to build up in recent years a more humble element to take his place? Landlords, not unnaturally, dread the outlay on small holdings, but would it not be wise, by letting arable fields in small plots, near towns and villages, to induce persons from those localities to cultivate them from their own homes, thus satisfying the natural desire for land, and stimulating the successful to increased effort in a wider field. By graduating the size of the farms into small, bigger, and big, many a competent and efficient waggoner, labourer, or other rustic would gain a step on the ladder which *might* lead him or his son to occupy a larger farm, and thus the way would be open to reward the thrifty, multiply the number of producers, and materially strengthen the position of the landlord.

The landlord could accomplish this far more easily, far more efficiently, and far more satisfactorily, than any official body, and, by degrees, arrange to admit his tenants at small cost to the benefit of expert advice of the utmost value.