

nounced. A considerable portion of any crop more than usually abundant is either reduced in quality or altogether lost by reason of the impossibility of getting labour to handle it properly. Discouraged small farmers sell their land to larger proprietors who can profitably substitute machinery for men.

The country needs more workers on the soil. Not to turn the stranger away, but to direct him to the farm instead of the city; not to watch with fear a possible increase of the birth rate, but to use every means to keep the boys on the farm and to send youth from the city to swell the depleted ranks of agricultural industry — this is the necessary task of a well-advised political economy and an intelligent patriotism.

The United States has been able easily to take care of its great increase of population in the past because it had a vast area of unoccupied land. This was the main asset in its natural inheritance. Within practically the last half of the last century the whole country from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains was occupied. No pressure of population could make itself severely felt when it might be turned loose in such an empire. In those fifty years there were added 547,640,932 acres to the agricultural area, an increase of nearly two hundred per cent., and the increase in the actually improved acreage was nearly three hundred per cent. This is cut off from the list of our resources. Within the last six years there have been transferred from public to private ownership more than 100,000,000 acres of Government land, an area twice the size of