

cidently poured in the tide of foreign immigration,¹ bringing contact with new, if not lower, standards of livings.² Wealth, seeking other and

1 The force of the impact of foreign elements on New England is shown impressively in the new census returns, though comparisons cannot be made in the case of Maine, which is omitted in the census returns of 1880. Counting as foreigners the first generation born in this country from foreigners and excluding negroes, we obtain the following table of gains and losses (marked respectively by the plus and minus sign) for the last census decade in the New England States outside of Maine :

	Native	Foreign
New Hampshire.....	—13,609	+ 43,143
Vermont	—10,692	+ 10,281
Massachusetts	+71,673	+ 379,212
Rhode Island.....	+10,806	+ 57,010
Connecticut	+22,910	+ 99,375
	+81,188	+589,021

The "native whites from native parents" in Massachusetts now are but 42.67 per cent. of the population of that state; in Rhode Island 39.81 per cent., and in Connecticut 47.87 per cent. These figures count as native those born into the second generation from the immigrants, and were taken two years ago, leaving that time for a new foreign increment. The incoming of the French Canadians is, moreover, a special and new branch of immigration of which New England is receiving the onset.

2 See article by President Francis A. Walker in the *Forum* of August, 1891. One of the features of the farm life, due largely to the farmer's contact with modern "civilization," is the diminution of the family, a fact which almost every census enumerator in agricultural regions of New England has noticed. At this point, too, it may be said that the native race are not only overreached by immigration but by the fecundity of the imported races, although the death-rate of the latter is much higher. Returns from an investigation made some years ago in Massachusetts show that native mothers bore, on an average, 3.37 children, of whom there were then living 2.41 .96 dead; while foreign mothers in the state bore 5.22 children, of whom there were then living 3.46 and 1.76 were dead. The survival ratios of the two classes are, therefore, about 3.46 to 2.41. The ratio would probably favor the imported races still more, if the comparisons were made in the rural regions, and the unsanitary conditions, in which so many foreigners live in the cities, allowed for.

quicker investment than the farm, generated yet more wealth, and the riches thus accumulated stratified the communities and created classes, some of them lower in *morale* than the farmer, others holding themselves aloof and above him. Industrially conservative, the farmer thus has seen the mechanical vocations outstripping him and the whole federal policy of the nation thrown against him in the scale, aggravating ills which a different policy would have left bad enough at best. The New England farmer stands industrially to-day on a little hillock but slightly raised from the old level; all around him he looks upwards to mountains, the symbols of the progress and achievements of other callings than his own; while socially he is not even on the old plane, but in a depression below it. The allurements of fortunes often quickly made, very often tariff-made, and of the swift life and luxuries of the cities circle him closely on every hand, and the verbal jokes of the wits and the cartoons of the familiar "Farmer Hayseed" type, play with sharpest stings on the fancies of the younger farm generation.¹

The results may be briefly, and it may be added, sadly told: The delimitation of the farmers of New England into a special and relatively, if not absolutely, decreasing class; the cheapening of the farms;² the

¹ See article by Prof. W. H. Brewer in "New Englander" of May, 1890.

² Except in very rare cases, the "abandoned" farm of New England is a misnomer, but the extreme cheapening of them is a most amazing and realistic fact. The best statistics, perhaps, on the subject are supplied by Secretary T. S. Gold, of the Connecticut Board of Agriculture, in his pamphlet advertising cheap farms for sale. The average "asked" price—which would be somewhat lower at actual sale—for 20 farms, including all buildings and containing 2,948 acres or about 4½ square miles, is \$7.56 an acre or about \$22,300 for the whole