

turist. He should be led to foresee the dire calamity sure to befall a nation which permits this practice to continue. He should be taught to understand that, under our existing social order, there are others than the person who tills the soil, who must depend upon its yield for their subsistence, and that in the broader sense the Holy Land is not confined to that embraced by the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, but that in the light of posterity all lands are holy.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

Since no necessity heretofore has arisen, there never has been a serious appreciation in the United States of the importance of agriculture. A land of enormous extent and the most fertile of soils, no adequate policy in regard to its farming has ever been maintained. Settling first in the East, the Colonists proceeded to reduce the fertility of the soil by large and bounteous crops - a practice laudable enough in itself provided future crops are con-

sidered and the fertility maintained by restoration of what has been taken out. Such consideration, however, was not given and year by year the soil was mined of its fertility.

With the decrease in crop yields thus brought about, farms were abandoned and a movement westward to more fruitful lands was begun. As long as there were fertile lands to settle upon, the food question was of no importance and so, although the population of the U. S. from 1890 to 1900 increased 21%, this condition was easily met by a 37% increase in the amount of improved farm land occupied during this decade.

With the beginning of the 20th century, however, practically all of the readily available Government lands had been taken up and in the ten years from 1900 to 1910, there was an increase of less than 5% in the improved land although the population of the country again increased by 21 %. Small wonder that the average price of corn in Illinois from 1890 to 1895 was 22 cents and the price of hogs was 3 cents.



Dense Growth of Timber on Virgin Swamp

WHEAT EXPORTS OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

1891 to 1895	166 571 122		
1896	126 443 968	#1901	215 990 073
1897	145 124 972	1902	234 772 515
1898	217 516 004	1903	202 905 598
1899	222 618 420	1904	120 727 613
1900	186 096 762	1905	44 112 910
5 year average	212 832 250		163 701 762
1906	97 609 007	1911	69 311 760
1907	146 700 425	1912	79 689 404
1908	163 043 669	1913	142 879 587
1909	114 268 468	1914	145 590 349
1910	87 364 310	1915	332 464 976
5 year average	121 797 176		

N o t e s

Beginning with 1901, exports are for non-contiguous as well as continental United States. Exports from non-contiguous United States are very small.

Increase in exports after 1913 show the effect of the war and were attended in this country by the advent of high prices.

AVERAGE PRICE OF HOGS (HEAVY) IN THE UNITED STATES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Price per 100 lbs.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Price per 100 lbs.</u>
1896	3.36	1901	5.96
1897	3.59	1902	6.97
1898	3.81	1903	6.06
1899	4.04	1904	5.16
1900	5.08	1905	5.29
5 year average	3.97		5.89
1906	6.24	1911	6.75
1907	6.08	1912	7.60
1908	5.80	1913	8.37
1909	7.57	1914	8.36
1910	8.94	1915	7.13
5 year average	6.93		7.64

AVERAGE PRICE FOR CORN IN THE UNITED STATES ON DECEMBER 1

<u>Year</u>	<u>Price per bu.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Price per bu</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Price per bu</u>
1891	40.6	1896	21.5	1901	60.5
1892	39.4	1897	26.3	1902	40.3
1893	36.5	1898	28.7	1903	42.5
1894	45.7	1899	30.3	1904	44.1
1895	25.3	1900	35.7	1905	41.2
5 year average	37.5 cents		28.5 cents		45.7 cents

<u>Year</u>	<u>Price per bu</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Price per bu</u>
1906	39.9	1911	61.8
1907	51.6	1912	38.7
1908	60.6	1913	69.1
1909	57.9	1914	64.4
1910	48.0	1915	57.5
5 year average	51.6 cents		60.3 cents

<u>Year</u>	<u>Price per bu</u>
1916	85
1917	1.47