

# THINGS FOR FARMERS

## to THINK ABOUT

### Shortage in Meat Supply

The present meat supply of the United States is more than 18,000,000 animals short of the number necessary to feed nearly 99,000,000 people, according to an estimate by the department of agriculture, based on the supply per capita in 1910 before the tremendous increase in the cost of living began.

The increase in population and the shrinkage of meat supply have operated to increase the farm value of animals

cost of production has probably increased more rapidly than the increase in the selling price of livestock.

"The shortage of meat animals is probably due to a number of contributing causes. Some of the more important of these are:

"The encroachment of farms upon the range territory.

"The shortage in the corn and forage crop due to the severe drought in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma in 1913.

"The increase in the value of land and the increased cost of labor and stock feed.

"The decline in stock raising on farms in the East and South because of poor marketing facilities.

"The temptation to sell livestock at the prevailing high prices rather than to continue to carry them with high-priced stock feed.

"Enormous losses from hog cholera.

"The competition of higher prices for other farm products."

nearly \$400,000,000 in four years, yet the farmers, the department says, are not profiting to that extent on account of the prodigious increase in the cost of production of meat for the market.

In a bulletin issued today the department shows a decrease of 5,230,000 cattle and 2,729,000 sheep and an increase of 747,000 hogs since 1910.

The department estimates the present population of the United States at 98,646,000. In order to maintain the per capita ration of 1910, 18,259,000 more cattle, sheep and swine would be required.

Notwithstanding the fact that the estimates show there is actually a decrease of 7,305,000 food animals since the census of 1910, the estimated farm value of the cattle, sheep and swine on farms on Jan. 1, 1914, shows an increase, because of higher prices, of \$395,487,000.

The estimates show that the farm value of beef cattle has increased from \$19.07 to \$31.13 a head, or 63.2 per cent, an average annual increase of over 15 per cent. Swine have increased in value from \$9.17 to \$10.40 per head, or 13.4 per cent. Sheep have decreased from an estimated average farm value of \$4.12 in 1910 to \$4.04 in 1914.

"This increasing average value of meat animals, however," the department says, "does not necessarily mean that farmers or stock raisers are making more profit. On the contrary, the

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### FLORIDA COULD EASILY SUPPORT FIFTEEN MILLION PEOPLE.

Florida is growing so rapidly that those who do not know possibilities of the state may suspect that the growth is too rapid. No state in the Union has ever grown more rapidly than Florida could grow and grow soundly. What other states can produce, Florida can produce, but she does grow such products only to a limited extent, because she can grow products that no other state on this side of the continent can grow, and these are much more profitable than the products that are shared by other states. Florida has all kinds of tropical fruits in addition to the farm products of other states. \* \* \* By the last census Florida had three-quarters of a million people, and now has nearly a million. If six million people lived in the state, the opportunities of each would not be less than now. In fact, Florida could easily support fifteen million people, and if she had twice that number would not be more thickly settled than England.—Times-Union.

### HENRY WARD BEECHER'S CREED.

We believe that soil likes to eat as well as its owner, and ought, therefore to be liberally fed.

We believe in large crops which leave the land better than they found it—making the farmer and the farm both glad at once.

We believe in going to the bottom of things and, therefore, in deep plowing and enough of it. All the better with a subsoil plow.

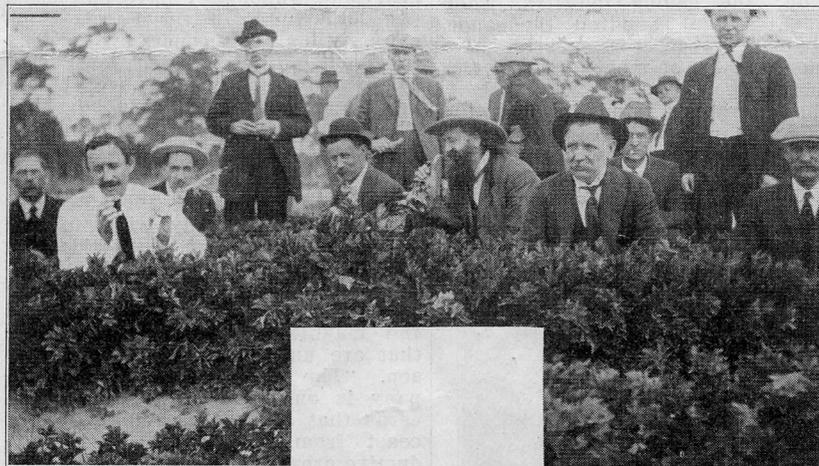
We believe that every farm should own a good farmer.

We believe that the best fertilizer for any soil is a spirit of industry, enterprise, and intelligence. Without this, lime and gypsum, bones and green manure, marl and guano, will be of little use.

We believe in good fences, good barns, good farm houses, good stock, good orchards, and children enough to gather the fruit.

We believe in a clean kitchen, a neat wife in it, a spinning wheel, a clean cupboard, a dairy, and a clean conscience.

We firmly disbelieve in farmers that will not improve; in farms that grow poorer every year; in starving cattle; in farmers' boys turning into clerks and merchants; in farmers' daughters unwilling to work, and in all farmers ashamed of their vocation or who drink whisky until honest people are ashamed of them.—Colman's Rural World.



### A Stimulus to Cattle Raising

The new era in Florida agriculture is proceeding rapidly. Its possibilities are attracting the attention of capitalists in other States. The railroads are no longer content with merely transacting the business which comes their way, but they are giving their attention more than ever before to developing whatever will be the means of bringing them an increasing volume of business in the future; chief among these is agriculture. One of the latest instances of this is the movement of the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company to develop the dairy business along its lines. One of the early results of this has been the preparations to establish a modern dairy at Live Oak to supply that city with milk, cream and butter and to ship the surplus to Jacksonville. Parties from Tallahassee have been looking over the field to ascertain what Jacksonville has to offer Leon county dairymen in the way of a market.

One of the most important accessories to the business of this city and

one that will make it a still greater factor in the development of Florida and of the Southeast will be the stock yards that it is announced will be established in a very short time on three and a half acres of land leased on Enterprise street and convenient to the railroads; that the contracts for buildings, stock pens and dipping vats, with all the other appliances necessary for a complete plant, were to be let immediately. Here cattle and live stock generally will be handled en route to other markets, and horses, mules, cows, sheep and hogs will be sold, while a modern abattoir to furnish fresh meats to local dealers will follow eventually.

What this proposed new enterprise means by way of incentive to the farmers of Florida can hardly be exaggerated. With a market within the state for all he can produce, the Florida farmer will be inspired to raise meat animals, knowing that he will not have to send them long distances to find purchasers. Many will see a

reason for raising a beef or two, the grower converting his crops into meat, whereby they bring him greater returns, while the fertility of his farm is increased; he will know that he can well afford to raise more sheep, with a good market near at hand. We have learned, too, that inquiries are coming in as to what advantages Florida offers for large breeding farms, the only obstacle in the way being the prevalence of the cattle tick and the apathy of many of our farmers regarding the eradication of the pest.

This will give Jacksonville the first dipping vat built at this leading railroad center. We believe the lack of one here, in conjunction with the large shipments of cattle through this point last year, had much to do with the inception of this project. An authority on this subject informs us that letters are arriving from persons in all parts of the country asking how purchases of cattle can be got out of the State, quarantined as it is; and from these letters he draws the conclusion that the cattle shipments this year will be much larger than in 1913.

The inference is that the raising of cattle is becoming a more promising industry than ever before. With all the advantages of a mild climate and a wealth of grasses and forage plants that grow luxuriantly in this state, it needs but a determination to be rid of the tick to make this a cattle raising state of the highest importance. This makes for further diversification and the employment of larger areas in the state in agricultural industries.—Florida Times Union, Jacksonville.