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The Influence of Farm Machinery on Production and Labour by H. W. Quaintance

Review by: H. Rider Haggard

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in Massachusetts, forty thousand in New York. This disparity between the male and female population is greater in the factory towns than for the State as a whole. So marked is the preponderance of women in the cotton mills and shoe factories of New England that such places as Lynn, Brockton, Lowell, and Fall River are vulgarly known as "she-towns." The cause for this lamentable distortion of normal human relations we must seek, not in the wilful self-aberration of the women concerned, but in the fateful influence of labour-saving machinery.

KATHARINE CONAN

WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS.

The Influence of Farm Machinery on Production and Labour.

By H. W. QUAINANCE, D.C.L., Ph.D. (Published for the American Economic Association by the Macmillan Company, New York. London: Swan, Sonnenschein and Co.)

THIS stout pamphlet sets out very carefully and with much elaboration the effects of machinery on labour in the United States. The historical survey with which it is prefaced is also of interest to the general reader. The English farmer learns from it with amazement that in California and Oregon traction engines of no less than fifty horse-power may be found at work. These gigantic machines drag sixteen ten-inch ploughs, four six-foot harrows, and a press-drill which plants the seed wheat. One of them can plough, harrow, and sow at a single operation from fifty to seventy-five acres of ground in a day. The cutting and thrashing is carried out equally expeditiously by means of a giant combination harvester, which leaves behind it the sacked corn ready to be conveyed to market by another traction engine dragging a dozen cars. With the aid of such implements it is not wonderful that the American farmers are able to sell their grain so cheaply and still make money.

H. RIDER HAGGARD

The Business Side of Agriculture. By ARTHUR G. L. ROGERS.
(Methuen.)

THIS little book is mainly concerned with the various methods of the marketing of agricultural produce in Great Britain, a subject which the author seems to have studied with much industry. When it is added that corn alone is said to be sold in one hundred and twenty different ways in England, it will be obvious that this quality is needful to their chronicler.