

# WILEY



---

Agricultural Depression in New York State, U.S.A.

Author(s): Christabel Osborn

Source: *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 6, No. 22 (Jun., 1896), p. 317

Published by: [Wiley](#) on behalf of the [Royal Economic Society](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2956525>

Accessed: 17/02/2015 03:42

---

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at  
<http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Wiley and Royal Economic Society are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Economic Journal*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

*Agricultural Depression in New York State, U.S.A.* A Report of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

THE principal aims of this Association, which was founded in the winter of 1842-3, are to establish co-operation among different charitable agencies, to improve their methods, and, while assisting and relieving the poor, to raise at the same time their physical and moral condition. An important branch of the work of the Association has been to make investigations and collect information about the many economic and social conditions existing in a great city, with which poverty and crime are so intimately connected. The pressure of the unemployed difficulty in New York has led the Association to make inquiries into the relation between the congested population in cities and the reported existence of deserted farms. Their report, which has lately been issued, shows that there has been a great depreciation in the value of farming land in New York State averaging 48 per cent. to 50 per cent., and this in spite of a great increase in the population of the State. The depreciation is attributed to a variety of causes, notably to low prices, the opening of western land, and the high price of labour.

There is obviously a very wide-spread discontent with rural life. Eighty-six per cent. of the farmers of whom inquiries were made report that their children cannot be induced to take up agricultural life. Different causes are assigned for this tendency, such as unprofitable farming, want of educational and social advantages, and difficulty in obtaining good labour. If the farming industry is to be restored to prosperity, the Association are strongly of opinion that greater facilities should be provided for the scientific study of agriculture. A district near Ithaca was found to be in a flourishing and hopeful condition in spite of the depreciation of land, and this was due to the establishment at Ithaca of one of the Government Agricultural Experiment Stations. Many other instances are given which show that the farmer's failure to make his land remuneratively productive is mainly owing to ignorance of scientific methods. Consequently, the establishment of agricultural schools is urgently needed, besides other reforms. It is very necessary that the tide of migration from the countries to the cities should be turned back, and the Association believes that there are no very great economic difficulties in the way.

CHRISTABEL OSBORN