

**THE HARD TIMES.
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT
THE TRUE REMEDY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649412136

The Hard Times. Agricultural Development the True Remedy by Franklin W. Smith

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FRANKLIN W. SMITH

**THE HARD TIMES.
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT
THE TRUE REMEDY**

The Hard Times.

Agricultural Development

THE

True Remedy.

BY

FRANKLIN W. SMITH.

FOUR PAPERS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE "BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER."

1. "HARD TIMES;" NOT TRANSITORY. WAR PROFITS; THEIR CONSEQUENCES. THE PANIC; ITS CAUSES AND RESULTS. NECESSITY FOR DIVERSION OF LABOR TO TILLAGE OF THE EARTH.
2. THE PUBLIC LANDS, A HERITAGE OF RICHES. WEALTH OF FRANCE FROM AGRICULTURE. PAYMENT OF THE GERMAN INDEMNITY. SUPERLATIVE ADVANTAGES OF AMERICANS LYING WASTE.
3. FREEDOM OF THE PUBLIC LANDS. SECURITY OF CAPITAL LOANED TO SETTLERS. INCREASE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS,—OF FRUIT CULTURE. LAND SETTLEMENT "THE BEST AFFAIR OF BUSINESS."
4. AMERICAN MIGRATION. SUCCESSFUL COLONIZATIONS OF ANAHEIM, CAL.; VINELAND, N. J.; GREELEY, COL. INDUCEMENTS FOR CAPITAL IN AGRICULTURE. CHANCES OF SUCCESS IN TRADE. BOARDS OF AID TO LAND OWNERSHIP.

BOSTON:

JAMES R. OSGOOD & COMPANY,

LATE TICKNOR & FIELDS, AND FIELDS, OSGOOD & CO.

1877.

Elem 6178.77

✓



1111 Arthur W. Woods

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1877, by
FRANKLIN W. SMITH,
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

PREFATORY.

The writer of the following papers has personally never had any interest, direct or indirect, in lands of any State, or in stock or bonds of any Railroad or Land Company, that could be affected in the least by enterprises such as are herein proposed—excepting the ownership of a few U. P. R. R. bonds, sold ten years ago.

The topics herein discussed are by no means of late interest to him. Twenty-one years since, he wrote as follows:—

[Correspondence of the "Boston Daily Journal."]

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 13, 1856.

"Thus this railroad enterprise (the Illinois Central) has made marketable to both government and the company, a wide territory; while *land ownership*, the greatest boon to the poor, is offered to the poorest." &c., &c.

Again, in 1876, the subject was agitated in the "Richmond Enquirer":—

[Correspondence of the "Enquirer."]

Boston, Jan. 27, 1876.

"I have recently been so much oppressed by sympathy for young men out of employment, that a thought in their behalf suggests this communication. The inquiry presses, What is to become of them?"

In primal California days, companies of such young men aggregated their capital, loaded ships, and sailed for San Francisco; many of them becoming successful and honored citizens. The mayor of San Francisco, recently deceased in honor and competence, was a schoolmate of the writer, in Boston, thirty years ago," &c.

The suggestion made was for holders of large tracts in Virginia to unite in such a tender of lands, as might induce organized immigration from New England.

The following papers were placed in the Daily Advertiser, *first*, to obtain the judgment of discreet parties upon the views therein; and *second*, their opinion of the practicability of measures proposed. In regard to the former, he is gratified to find a general conviction in the community, that as the prosperity of the country depends upon an average degree of individual well-being of the people who govern it, the present tendency to pauperism places that great issue in danger; and as to the latter, he has heard no dissent from the measures suggested toward relief.

F. W. S.

Boston, Nov. 1, 1877.

THE HARD TIMES.

No. I.

"HARD TIMES;" NOT TRANSITORY. WAR PROFITS; THEIR CONSEQUENCES. THE PANIC; ITS CAUSES AND RESULTS. NECESSITY FOR DIVERSION OF LABOR TO TILLAGE OF THE EARTH.

"The time is out of joint."—HAMLET.

Hard times, we exclaim in later days—a brief, emphatic, well-understood designation of the dislocation of affairs that had seemed to be in brisk, harmonious action. It means disappointment, vanished hopes, heavy burdens, struggle, days of care, foreboding, fruitless expedients, sleepless nights, or harrowing dreams. It tells of homes dispossessed—savings of years in gradual, ominous exhaustion—ambition broken—heritages gone—old age made penniless—daughters, tenderly trained, set at challenge with the world for an honest livelihood; their accomplishments utilized in drudgery for bed and board. This is the current paraphrase of hard times in circles of former affluence.

Among the lowly in society, those whose only helpers are their hands, the weighty utterance tells of expulsion from one tenement to another, suc-

cessively more miserable or humble; clothing more and more sparse and tattered; meat diminishing on the board; appetite of children more stinted; their cheeks more wan and haggard; husbands and fathers desperate in distress, drowning misery in drunkenness. It tells of beggary — crime — prisons enlarged — suicide — public safety endangered — virtue surrendered in hunger and cold — want made ferocious — society alarmed lest its foundations break up in anarchy, by the upheaving of its basest elements.

These are generalizations. But throughout our land they are sadly illustrated in the details of cities, towns, and villages. HARD TIMES! For four years this sober password has gained in gravity of import. For awhile it was panic; *i. e.*, excessive alarm from causes theorized to be but temporary and of exaggerated importance. But suppositions of speedy recovery have given place to a conviction of underlying facts, not yet fully developed, and not to be speedily relieved. It does not require argument to convince the majority of people that these hard times are more than panic. Neither are they hopeful of speedy relief. Sanguine prediction has given way to calculations of worse possibilities.

This discouragement is not without reason, and may be not without benefit. The duty is first to comprehend the situation and then act upon the occasion with high courage and energy. That the

American nation, with its intelligence and resources, is to collapse in discouragement,—to retrograde toward pauperism from its rapid development,—none but a misanthrope or a weakling would maintain. If the people are stimulated to investigate causes and intelligently apply remedial measures, the discipline of their reverses will accomplish their ultimate benefit.

The more quickly, therefore, it is recognized that there have been potent elements of disaster in late nominal prosperity; that the figured increase of national and individual wealth has been a false basis of confidence, because fictitious; that highways to wealth, as supposed, have developed irremediable quicksands, and are forever closed; that these later days of sudden accumulation are to be followed by old-time slow and steady gain; that industries in former channels are blocked, and must be diverted into new courses, or disappear,—the more quickly these are apprehended as "unmanageable and uncomfortable facts," the sooner will the practical judgment of the people divert their energies into new and wide fields of promise, now waste and neglected. We would, therefore, append some evidence,—

First. That the existing depression in trade and dearth of employment are not in popular apprehension exaggerated, but are serious results of causes more permanent in their nature than is generally considered; viz., 1, The fiction of paper money,