Below is the old Merrill farm up Thornton Gore, abandoned to the New Hampshire Land Co.

The New Hampshire Land Co. forced the abandonment of the above farm.

Tract denuded by lumbermen in the beautiful Franconia Notch.

A danger which threatens New Hampshire's Hill Country—see next leaf.
AN IMPENDING PERIL TO NEW ENGLAND

That Threatens to Destroy Her Agriculture and Her Manufactures.

DEFORESTING OPERATIONS ON A HUGE SCALE—
SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO DEPOPULATE TOWNS
IN THE LUMBER SECTIONS—WHAT THE LOSS OF
HER FORESTS MEANS TO NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The state of New Hampshire is facing a crisis. The destruction of her forests has reached a point where the very source of her wealth and the most potent factor in the economic life of her people is threatened a blow beyond reparation. She is in the grip of the lumbermen and land speculators, and whether or not she will free herself is of vital concern, not only to herself but to the great manufacturing interests centering along the Merrimac river in Massachusetts and to that vast body of people at large who turn to the White mountains in quest of health and recreation.

Rev John E. Johnson, who has spent some years in the very heart of the White mountains as a missionary of the Episcopal church, has sounded the first note of alarm in a pamphlet entitled: The Box-Constructor of the White Mountains, or the worst trust in the world. In it he makes some ugly statements, the truth of which investigations by The New England Homestead tend to bear out. The bald facts make unpleasing reading, but they furnish food for thought and reflection and show how imperative is the need for immediate action to prevent this wholesale grab from the people.

For years lumber and land companies, of which the New Hampshire land company is by far the largest and most powerful, have been quietly acquiring all the public lands in the White Mountain district, for comparatively little in equivalent. The New Hampshire land company's operations have been on a colossal scale, centering about the famous Franconia notch, and including Thornton, Woodstock, Lincoln and neighboring townships.

The public lands acquired, the holdings were increased by grants under tax titles, and then began a systematic freezing out of the small homestead holders, until whole valleys have been depopulated.

The process is still going on. What the result of this is the little town of Thornton, a pitiful example. The census report for 1890 shows a shrinkage in population of 12% per cent during the last 10 years.

THE CAUSE is sufficiently explained by the following letter and endorsement now in possession of The Homestead):

"In reply to your inquiry as to the cause of the depopulation of the town of Thornton below here, whereby the old town has shrunk until it is no longer entitled to a representative in the state legislature, I would say that in my opinion it is due solely to the operations of the New Hampshire land company. No intelligent, disinterested party would attribute it to anything else. I can doubt that the town would have gained in population from the summer boarding house business and in other ways, but for this cause."

Signed—F. S. Merrill, chairman board of selectmen, town of Woodstock, N H.

"We, the undersigned, town officers and citizens of the town of Thornton, indorse the above. Frank A. Barnard, selectman; John F. Merrill, selectman; Edward J. Canfield, town clerk; Fred W. Connor, ex-selectman; C. M. Gooden, ex-selectman; Dexter Merrill, M. O. Bowles, William Lyford, George Cook, L. C. Burleigh, Warren F. Martin, Augustus Merrill, Oscar M. Jones, F. W. Steele, E. C. Burleigh, H. N. Blake, E. J. Connor, William Merrill."

THE SAME CONDITIONS PREVAIL to a greater or less extent in the other towns where the company operates. It is estimated that seven-eighths of all the woodland in the town of Woodstock is owned by this company. The town is awake to the danger threatened and is making a fight for its existence by raising the taxes on forest land from 4½ per acre to 7½. The New Hampshire land company is fighting this in the courts.

The efforts of the company to depopulate these sections are for the purpose of making its tracts unbroken, to facilitate deforested operations on a gigantic scale. The small land owner cannot add one foot to his holdings from the company's possessions, not even the graves of his ancestors if they chance to be over the boundary line. Everything is subordinated to the deforesting industry.

An effective veto is put upon all summer resort extensions. Recently a growing village in the heart of this region was threatened with the loss of its increasing and lucrative summer business unless its sanitary conditions could be improved. It applied to..."
the legislature for a charter for waterworks, reasonably sure to pay its way from the beginning. The capital required for the enterprise was about $19,000 and upon it depended the very life of the village. It was opposed by the land company and also by some of the road company whose interests were also affected, was sufficient strength developed to secure the charter.

The Monopoly Explored.

No deserted farm-owned by the company can be bought by the seeker for a summer home. No physician can establish a sanitarium there and live on the attitude. No roads can be opened through the company’s land to points of picturesque interest. Nothing is given away.

"We sell lots of 10,000 acres and upward to lumbermen. In short the most beautiful country in America will be given over to the lumberman, the pulp man and after them the charcoal burner. The mountains are to be deforested, the keys to the fairest spot in the country made a dreary blackened wilderness.

The summer resort business nets the state of New Hampshire something over $10,000,000 annually, over half of which goes into the pockets of New England, White Mountain section. The deforesting of this section, then, means a loss to the state over $5,000,000, perhaps a total loss of Massachusetts the loss can hardly be less. Already the operations of the lumbermen about the lumbering of the Merrimack have affected the water power upon which vast manufacturing interests depend. All alike recognize the situation. Conditions are already so serious as to warrant comment at length in the last report of the state engineers. The big pulp mills at Manchester. The carrying out of the schemes of the New Hampshire land company are likely to make matters worse and to put only the total destruction of this water power.

The Monopoly Explored.

The New Hampshire company was organized some years ago under the joint stock laws of Connecticut for the purpose of controlling woodland and real estate in New Hampshire. It has no office there, conducting business through its attorneys at Hartford, Of its holdings 250,000 shareholders, but it is practically a one-man power, the bulk of the stock being owned by Col. George B. James of that city and the public owners of an alleged agricultural journal and other papers. His property consists largely in woodland tracts in New Hampshire and is in the name of the New Hampshire land company, of which he is president.

The Timber Monopoly.

When these timber lands are sold to lumbermen, it is usually with the understanding that after they have been stripped the land may eventually be sold to the state at many times their original value, for public reservation purposes. The lumber interests think they control milk in the larger towns, who are receiving a daily cash income and know upon what to depend. There is no competition in the business. The men who are supplying cream to the creameries, unless unusually skillful in handling the skills and art of their business and perfect in all r, are not so successful. Too many of them have no idea what it costs to produce a quart of milk, no idea how to look after and better themselves until they learn to study their cows, find out cost of production, then reduce it. Most market gardeners have had good crops, but prices have been so low that many of

What This in California Farming.

E. MANCHESTER.

The most prosperous farmers in Connecticut, the ones who sell milk in the larger towns, who are receiving a daily cash income and know upon what to depend, there is no competition in the business. The men who are selling cream to the creameries, unless unusually skillful in handling the skills and art of this business and perfect in all respects, are not so successful. Too many of them have no idea what it costs to produce a quart of milk, no idea how to look after and improve themselves until they learn to study their cows, find out cost of production, then reduce it. Most market gardeners have had good crops, but prices have been so low that many of