So long as New England's tillage area or improved land is constantly decreasing, pasturing may hold its own in acreage or available forage in spite of the aggressiveness of bushes, the durability of rocks, and the decrease in total land acreage of farms. If we add to this the fact that grazing livestock is tending to decrease in quantity also, the acuteness of a possible pasturage shortage, or problem of maintenance even, may be considerably alleviated indefinitely.

Pasturage is cheap feed, and considering the area involved, there is little stimulus to do much pasture improvement so long as any kind of pasture is available. Should pasture become so scarce that barn feeding must be substituted, the cost will be five or six times as much and the farmer will then become interested in pasture improvement and will be able to show figures to substantiate any unwonted enthusiasm which he may develop. The vital questions for investigators to answer are three:

1. Do we approach such a situation on farms either individually or collectively, occasionally or continually?
2. How far do we have to go in this direction, or how near must we approach the ultimate condition before some improvement may be undertaken economically?
3. When something has to be done, what is most feasible?

These questions are easy to ask but hard to answer. Our knowledge of pasture production and maintenance is meagre.

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