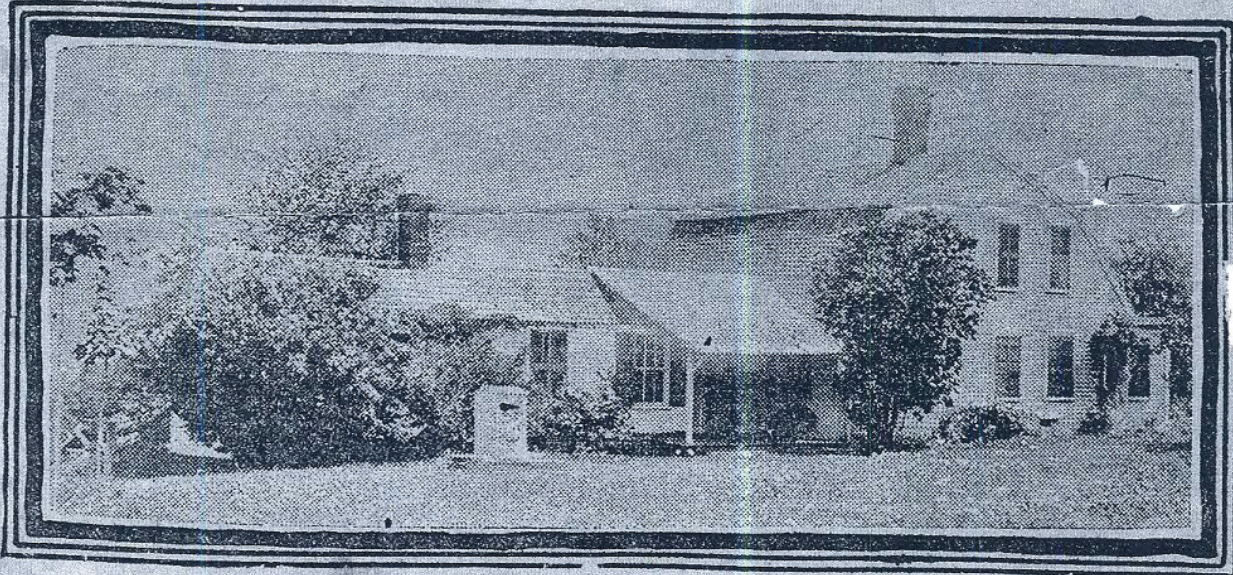


## A PROFITABLE 25-ACRE FARM.

IT IS IN THE PAWTUXET VALLEY AND BY INTELLIGENT MANAGEMENT  
IT RETURNS A FAIR PROFIT.



### THE OLD LEVALLEY FARMHOUSE.

One of the Best Preserved 200 Years Old Houses in Rhode Island.

**I**N the Pawtuxet Valley, on the high land between the North and South Forks of the river, and not far from the village of Phenix, is a tract of land known as the Levalley farm. The original farm comprised all the land from Riverpoint to Harris on the North Fork, and thence to Quidnick on the South Fork. It was a grant from the King in Colonial days. All that now remains of it in the hands of the descendants of the original Levalley is in these days developing into a successful fruit farm, with accessories, which is carried on by Mr. Clarence H. Spencer. His mother, a Levalley, occupies the ancient Levalley farm house, which is one of the best preserved 200-year-old farm houses in Rhode Island, and is in the centre of the portion of the original Levalley farm still in the family.

There are a few old farms where new methods and new blood are working wonders with the Rhode Island soil, but

These were Hale's Early, and the first were ready for market July 28. It will be news to most Rhode Islanders that Rhode Island peaches can be ripened so soon, and the fact that from the time his Hale's Early fruit appears until the latest ripens in late September, Mr. Spencer is always gathering peaches from his trees, show his wise policy of cultivating succession products, which he employs in all kinds of fruits.

He raises asparagus, for example, in four successive yields, from 23 many varieties of the plant, and he has 50 varieties of peaches in his several orchards. In like manner he is growing apple orchards, which contain, his most recently planted one, for instance, new fruit to carry him along from the early ripening supplies to the late winter apples.

He finds a ready market for strawberries, having several acres of plants, but has a proportionately larger acreage of blackberries and other high-brush fruit. Four varieties of red raspberries are marketed and two of black raspberries or blackcaps. Here also is the purple raspberry and the white raspberry, and

bushes and the peach trees a hill of melons, making 600 hills of melons in all. Between the rows of peach trees, lengthwise, he put in potatoes. Everything on this piece of ground is now growing well, and the crop of melons alone will easily pay for all the labor that has been bestowed upon it.

One often hears that farmers must diversify, must not, so to say, carry all their eggs in one basket. This example of diversification shows how successful the process can be carried out, and suggests that it is not one whose execution requires a great supply of brain effort or an agricultural college education. The practical man, with care and foresight relating to soil, may accomplish results without great financial risk.

In marketing his products, Mr. Spencer employs first his own teams to deliver the merchandise for shipment to the city, next the old-fashioned horse express and steam road express facilities, and finally his own wagons after the stock is laid down in this city. He has his own man here, who takes a different route each day, retailing everything. The middleman's profits, therefore, are the producer's, and it goes without saying that the latter secures about the largest possible per cent. of profit on all that he raises. Those who think, as many do, that a market gardener with Providence to look to, must have a farm within four or five miles of the city, may learn from this case and their ideas are not altogether sound. Phenix is miles from Providence, but Mr. Spencer's customers are drawn to him because they can get fresh things as easily as if he grew them in Johnston or Rehoboth.

Some notable features of the farm are the large poultry houses, and the use of public water and electricity for lighting. The water and lights reach every building on the place. On the place, also, a substantial financial result of his labors, Mr. Spencer has erected a modern house, which now stands beside the old Levalley farmhouse.

#### GERMANY'S WELSH COAL.

200,000,000 Tons for the Kaiser's Navy.  
Finest Steam Coal.

The purchase by a German syndicate



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**CLARENCE H. SPENCER, PROPRIETOR OF THE LEVALLEY FARM.**

new farms and new farmers are the rule where success is the rule. In this particular case the unusual fact is also to be noted that the farm is contributing market supplies to Providence. Moreover, it is not conducted by a typical farmer, or by one who is agricultural-college bred.

The proprietor is essentially a business man, with a business college training. As a business man, with business methods applied in the practical manner, he has won his success. He has turned everything to account. Along with his berry patches and orchards, his cornfields and his acreage of other vegetables, he has cows enough to produce considerable cream, pigs which yield hog products that are cured and smoked on the premises and poultry appliances that furnish chickens of a high class and of every stage of growth to consumers.

It may interest many persons who know something about the Pawtuxet Valley to hear that a portion of Mr. Spencer's fruit orchards are laid out on the old "circus lot." Years ago all the circus tents visited the town of Woonick

the dewberry, a cross between the blackberry and the black raspberry. Over 2000 quarts of red raspberries were picked this summer, in addition to the blackberries, and it is assumed that next year the additional plantings that have been made will increase the yield. In the whole list of his fruits, Mr. Spencer finds none that does not prosper on his soil. Even his peach trees always flourish, sometimes, to be sure, yielding more than at other seasons, but never freezing and dying. He says he has had some trouble with the San Jose scale, but that energetic treatment has driven this pest off.

The skill and vigor with which the proprietor develops his fields is illustrated by the crops which he has this summer been growing on one patch of ground. It embraces three acres, and in the first place he planted 300 peach trees, putting them in rows 16 feet apart. He then planted 300 currant bushes between every two rows of trees and between the currant



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25 acres to the proprietor is directing his business efforts marked by a favorable character, his success as a fruit farmer is an example of other things; is, so to say, and yet, if it be considered the idea of a practical man in circumstances that have favorable conditions. He began to farm when he had no capital and, and at that time raised pigs, sending them all over the

line he went into thoroughness of the prominent varieties into supplying poultry for the market. As his means increased he undertook vegetable and fruit and now is putting his energies into the latter. He says he once had as many as 2800 fowls on the place and many buyers of his fruit and poultry, cream, hams and other products.

Mr. Spencer had a treasure of fruit originally. The soil is rich that produces pretty well without exhaustion. It seems to be well adapted for berry bushes, corn, sugar pumpkins and other vegetables. There are many peach trees on the place that have been planted in the past with foresight that they would yield fruit.

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**200,000,000 Tons for the Kaiser's Navy - Finest Steam Coal.**

The purchase by a German syndicate of a vast Welsh coalfield between Neath and Aberavon is causing much food for thought in political and business circles, and, although the British vendors maintain the strictest silence as to what has actually occurred there can be little doubt that the "deal" is practically an accomplished fact, though the actual transfer of the property is not believed to have taken place.

The magnitude of the sale will be better realized when it is remembered that the estate in question comprises about 650 acres of mining land, which experts have estimated contain something like 400,000,000 tons of coal, half of which at the lower depths is said to be the finest steam coal, such as is used in the British Navy.

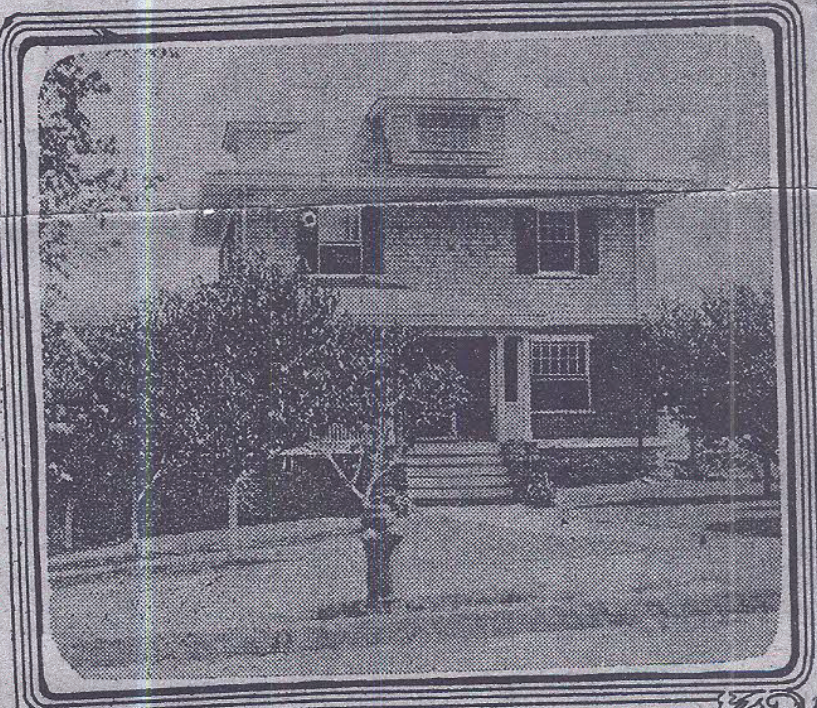
And it is on record that an expert, when giving evidence before a Parliamentary committee nine years ago in connection with the Port Talbot Railway bill, gave it as his opinion that the amount of best steam coal on the estate was 200,000,000 tons, an amount sufficient to coal the British Navy for more than 170 years on the basis of 1,120,000 tons a year. The actual amount consumed by the admiralty ships in 1903-4, according to Prof. Boyd Dawkins, was 1,117,000 tons.

The estate is connected by railway with Port Talbot, where there are excellent facilities for loading colliers rapidly. In due season there will doubtless be a constant stream of German colliers leaving that port for "home" to bring the finest steam coal that the world produces.

The lower levels on the estate have not been worked, and shafts will have to be sunk to reach the best quality coal, but work has been carried on in the upper levels by means of side borings into the hills.

Mr. J. C. A. Henderson, who has owned the coal field for some years, is a Scotsman, well known in London and Johannesburg. He had great financial interests in South Africa, having been one of the pioneers of gold mining in the Transvaal. It will be remembered that Mr. Henderson long before the South African war played a prominent but unofficial part in attempting to bring about terms between the British Government and President Kruger, whom he knew intimately.

At the present time Mr. Henderson is the Chairman of four South African mining companies and is a member of the board of five others.—London Daily Mail.



**SPENCER'S MR. LEVALLEY'S HOME.**