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COVER PHOTO: Images of ice and granite, patterns of rural stability and traditional values — these are the themes that most Americans ascribe to the New England way of life. Do they present an accurate picture of rural Maine or Yankee character? In our first article, Richard Wescott and David Vail demonstrate the degree to which Maine farming has been integrated into modern market networks and technological transformation. These economic forces have altered farm communities and traditional ways of life. Joseph Conforti's Eleanor Pickering Sprague Lecture likewise argues that there is much more to Maine and New England character than small-town scenes and old-time yankee "flavor."