

Stay In Western Ontario!

Abandoned Farms of Middlesex Call Out for Plow--County Has Room for Hundreds More

All over Western Ontario the land is starving for men. In every county there are hundreds of acres lying idle or "gone to pasture." These neglected fields need only the touch of the plow to bring forth food for the thousands who are fighting a losing battle against the increased cost of living in a dozen Canadian cities. All over the country, in "boom" counties as well as districts as yet untouched by the spirit of the new agriculture, the cry is for men; men to make two sheaves of grain grow where one is now produced. Men to occupy the deserted houses found by dozens along nearly every country road. Citizens with the welfare of the country at heart are questioning the advisability of expending millions of dollars on the development of untried country while the proved farm lands of old Ontario are supporting but one-quarter of their possible population. Anxious eyes are turned toward the Government in search of relief.

The Advertiser invites its readers to use its columns as a means of discussing ways and means to repopulate the abandoned farms of Ontario. It will, in the future, give the views of prominent citizens in various districts as to what is needed and what can be done. It asks the co-operation of its friends in town and country in demonstrating that Western Ontario is a good place to come to and a good place to stay in.

SEES PROMISED LAND IN ABANDONED FARMS OF BANNER COUNTY

Strathroy Man Says Land Is Capable of Supporting Thrice Its Present Population in Opulence.

Strathroy, April 15.—West Middlesex, like dozens of fertile agricultural districts all over the western peninsula, is crying out for men to till the soil. Middlesex, affectionately termed "The Banner County," is in danger of being outstripped by less favored localities, because, while other counties are exploiting their lands and exerting themselves to the utmost to attract settlers, her rural population remains nearly stationary. The dissatisfied are leaving the county, while the successful farmers who remain are so prosperous that they do not feel the need of more intensive methods of agriculture. Meanwhile much land is lying idle or used as pasture, which, if farmed, might swell the agricultural production of the county four fold. At least that is the opinion of far-seeing men who have spent many years in the study of agricultural conditions.

"I have no hesitation in saying that land in the district around Strathroy is not producing more than 25 per cent of the yield which it might return under proper cultivation," said Mr. J. W. Cameron, of the Cameron-Dunn Manufacturing Company. Mr. Cameron, in addition to having owned and dealt in farm lands during a large part of his life, is an enthusiastic advocate of the back to the soil movement, and a well informed student of agricultural conditions in his own district. "The trouble is that farmers cannot get men to properly work their land. The Government might well exert itself to provide laborers for these neglected acres. We can have no men for Northern Ontario until the idle lands of the older districts are under cultivation. Things are moving too slowly in this part of the country. It is all very well to open new lands for settlement, but first we must have a more intensive system of agriculture on the older farms if Ontario and Canada are to realize their possibilities.

Two Things Necessary

"As I see it, two things above all others are necessary to the working out of Western Ontario's destiny. In the first place, an effort should be made by the Government to attract farm laborers to this district. And, more important even than this, farmers should be educated to the fact that if they are to obtain desirable and steady help they must make provision for the family man. As it is the farmer goes to the immigration office in search of labor. Let us suppose he finds a man able to fill his requirements. The man has a family which he must support. Now what happens? The farmer, in nine cases out of ten, tells the man that he can give him work provided he will consent to break up his household and come and live as one of the farmer's family. Very few men will do this. They drift into other lines of endeavor or go west where they can find employment on the land for both themselves and their families. The sooner the farmers in this vicinity find out that there are not enough single young men willing to do farm work to supply the demand the better it will be for themselves and the country.

Must Provide Quarters

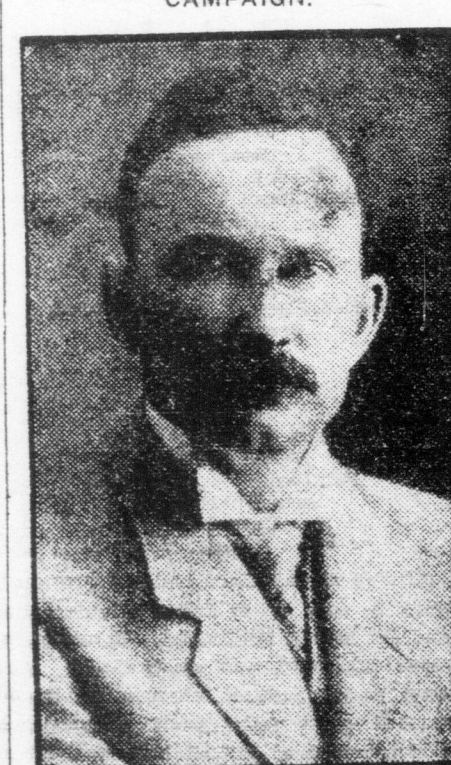
"Sooner or later, they must make up their minds to provide little houses for their help, where men may have in the midst of their families, keep a little garden and enjoy the comforts of home like their fellow workers in other occupations. When this is done there will be less congestion in the cities, farm labor will be no longer difficult to obtain, and hundreds of acres of land now lying idle, will be utilized for crops.

"It should not be inferred from this that there is any lack of prosperity among the farmers. On the contrary they are growing wealthier faster than ever before. The trouble lies in the fact that there are not enough of them to properly care for the available land. One man can only cultivate so much. If he has more than he can attend to, some of it is lying practically idle. The country is capable of supporting three times its present population in the same degree of comfort now enjoyed by nearly every good farmer in the district.

Fertile Fields Neglected

"As an example, I owned 500 acres of land near here for a good many years. During that time I often felt

that I had no right to it. I could not get it worked. At the present time it is partially cultivated, but while in the days before the rush to the West five families gained a good living from this land there is now but one tenant for the whole 500 acres. The soil is just as capable of supporting the five families of former times as it is now.



"I think The Advertiser's Stay in Ontario Campaign is the finest possible thing for a newspaper to advocate," said Mr. Duncan Ross, M. P. for West Middlesex, while talking with an Advertiser representative yesterday. We have as good land here in Ontario as anything the West can show, and I fail to see why our young men should leave the old home to try their fortunes in a new country."

mer years as the one of today. In fact, I know of numerous instances where farmers near here are making from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year net profit from farms of between 150 and 200 acres. Not every man does this, but such returns are not at all unusual among the more progressive class. The business of cattle and horse

raising alone proves enormously profitable. It costs about \$25 per year to raise a colt, and when the colt is three years old it can be sold for from \$250 to \$300."

Plenty of Room

"We do not a larger population reduce the area of pasture land so that the stock business would decline and give place to other activities," Mr. Cameron was asked. "On the contrary, I think there would be more

stock than ever," was the reply. "With intensive farming the land would produce more cattle. But you cannot have intensive farming without a supply of labor. At present a 100-acre farm will feed about 20 steers. With better methods that number could easily be doubled. The more cattle we feed the more land will be enriched, and the more the land is enriched the larger crops it will bring forth. The larger crops means more food for cattle and so on until the maximum development is reached."

A PROPHETIC VOICE

"Stay in Ontario and Let the Crowd Drift," Says Farmer's Advocate.

From the Farmers' Advocate:

"They're off to the West," remarked a thrifty Ontario farmer at a railroad station the other day, nodding towards a little group of men, each with a new grey telescope. And then he added, reflecting cheerfully upon his own well-ordered homestead, "There's a better Northwest at home, if they would only work it."

But what's the use of talking? People will act the sheep. Twenty years ago, when economic conditions were hard in the east, and an empire of opportunity lay virgin upon the Canadian prairie, you could hardly drag renters or hired men out there with horses, and many who did go found their way timidly back east. But once the rush set in, the western fever spread through people's veins, and now we see thousands upon thousands leaving the finest province in the world to gamble on wheat farming in the West. Many of them will make money for a time by increment in the value of their investment, but wait till the boom subsides and economic conditions come to their own. Then they will find themselves up against a complex situation, beset with weeds, insects, crop diseases, transportation problems, and waning fertility, without the special adaptability to clover-growing and mixed farming that makes restoration of fertility comparatively easy in the east.

Just now the east, with all its improving opportunities, may not offer quite the same chances to get rich quickly that may be run across by lucky individuals in the West, but sane people know that there are better things in life than getting rich. Anyone prizing the chance to make a sure, comfortable living, while gradually accumulating a competence, following a variegated and interesting system of agriculture which develops brain power and builds character whilst rewarding toil, need look no further than Eastern Canada. Here we have a fine, steady, temperate climate, good water, good social and business advantages, and are situated on the main line of continental intercourse. Far off fields look green, but, in point of fact, there is no better country under the sun than Eastern Canada in general, and Ontario in particular. Of course, thousands will still continue to leave it in search of fresher pastures elsewhere, and nothing that may be said or written will stop them. Let them go. There will be enough level-headed persons left to hold the heritage the movers so lightly forsake. Meanwhile we would say to those who think below the surface, get a title to a piece of good farm land. The time is not far off when you or your heirs, holding a few hundred acres of arable land, will be independently rich. Let the crowd drift. Be wise and hold fast.

MIDDLESEX FARM VALUES RISING

Day of Cheap Land Is Nearly Over in Banner County.

25 PER CENT INCREASE

Prices One-Fourth Higher Than Five Years Ago--Neglected Fields Good Investment.

[By The Advertiser. Strathroy, April 15.—One of Strathroy's businessmen, who deals largely in land, today made the statement that in spite of depletion of population farm prices have risen 25 per cent in the last five years.

"There is not much \$30 land left around here," he told The Advertiser. "In fact, I think there is scarcely an acre in the county today which could be bought for that figure. A good average estimate is from \$40 to \$50 per acre in this district, but there are many farms which sell for much higher figures. Although the rush westward has placed much land on the market, the better farmers among those who stayed at home are making so much money that they are able to buy it up. Even if they cannot use it all it is a good investment and one that cannot depreciate in value. Many men buy land to give a start in life to their sons.

"The present prices of land are only an indication of future values when people become more alive to the producing capacity of the home acres. As it is there is a steady and sure increase from year to year which assures a good rate of interest even on land which is allowed to lie idle. In Lambton County, where a land boom is in progress, a man bought a farm, let it lie idle one summer, and then sold it in the fall at a profit of \$500. Within a few years the same thing will be possible in this county."

Even at present farms are selling at prices which would have seemed fabulous ten years ago, as is indicated by the following figures taken from records of real estate transfers in

Middlesex County for the current year:

Two hundred acres sold for \$11,600.
One hundred acres sold for \$4,200.
Eighty acres sold for \$2,500.
Eighty acres sold for \$2,800.

In selecting these figures care was taken not to exceed the average. Instances are on record where exceptionally good land has sold for much larger figures. Even at the highest prices obtainable, however, Middlesex land offers a good investment.

FARMERS BLAMED FOR OWN TROUBLES

Relief Inspector McCallum Believes He Holds Key to Labor Problem.

WOULD GIVE MEN HOMES

Ambition of the Worker to Build Up Family of His Own Impossible Under Present Conditions.

"Short-sightedness on the part of the farmer," said Relief Inspector McCallum yesterday, when asked by The Advertiser why people prefer to undergo privation in the cities rather than accept employment as farm hands. "Years ago nearly every farm of, say 100 acres, had its patch of timber. When the men were pressed into two or three months of the year, and the farmer instead of planning his work so that he will have something to keep a hired hand busy in the winter, works his help at high pressure during the planting and harvesting seasons. In the fall he lets his man go, after having worked him to the limit of his strength during the entire summer. There are very few men who want to put in the summer at hard labor on the farm only to be turned loose in the fall, just at the season when work of the class which they are able to do is most scarce. It is no wonder that they pre-

Ready in Short Order

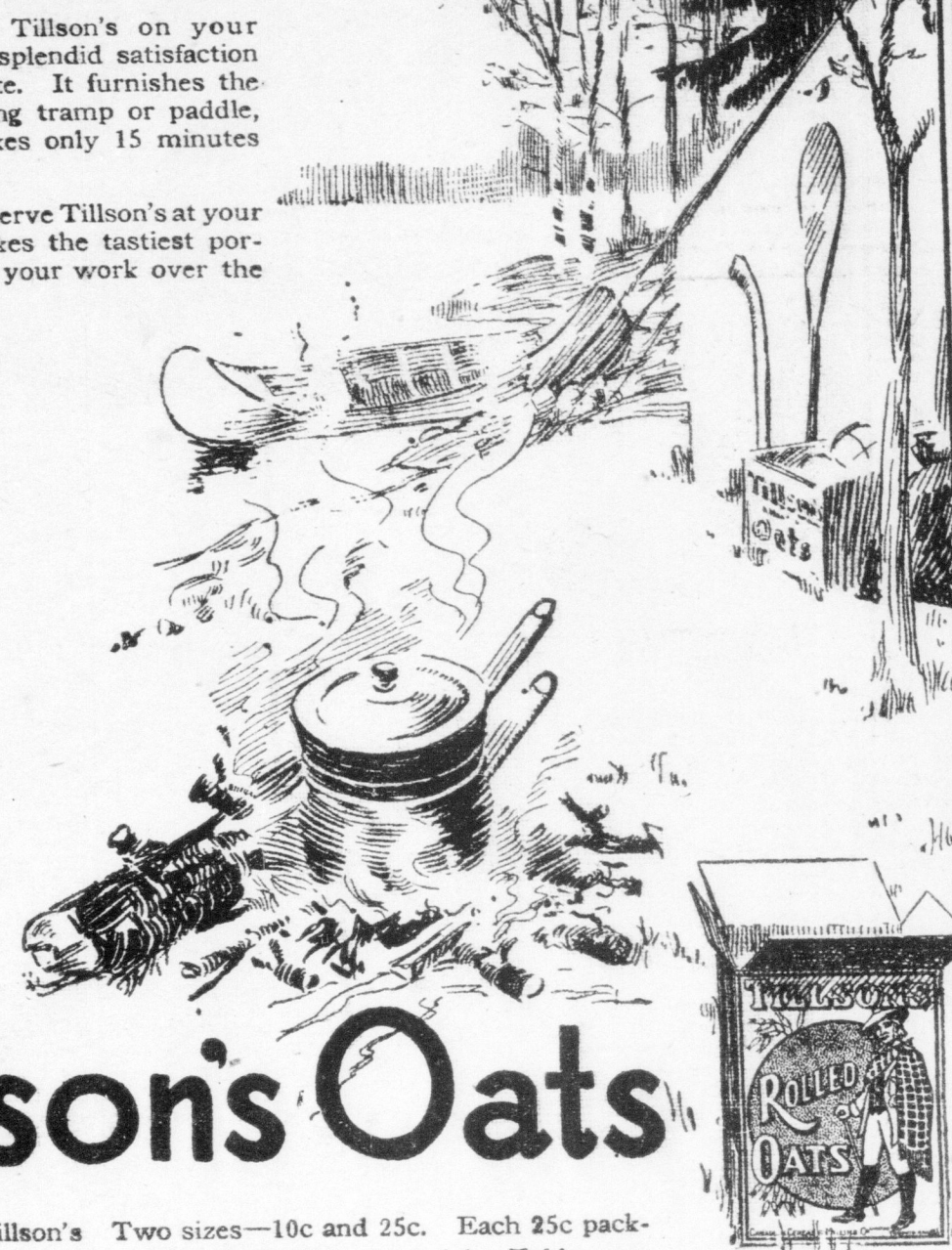
Campers like Tillson's Rolled Oats. There's a lot of paddle power in a big dish of Tillson's.

And it's ready in 15 minutes.

When a man is in the woods and has to do his own cooking he begins to appreciate what it means to a woman to shorten the hours she spends in cooking.

CAMPERS: Take Tillson's on your camping trip. It's splendid satisfaction for a hungry appetite. It furnishes the endurance for a long tramp or paddle, and best of all it takes only 15 minutes to cook.

HOUSEWIVES: Serve Tillson's at your breakfasts. It makes the tastiest porridge and shortens your work over the stove.



Tillson's Oats

Your grocer has Tillson's. Two sizes—10c and 25c. Each 25c package contains a handsome piece of English Porcelain Tableware.

CANADIAN CEREAL & MILLING CO., Ltd.

TORONTO, ONT.

fer staying in the cities, even at starvation wages.

No Home Life.

"Another condition which makes farm life unpopular lies in the ambition of every normal man to marry and have a little home of his own. The average farmer has no use for the married man. He wants a single man who is willing to work on indefinitely without any prospects ahead of him but to keep on working. If large farmers would provide little houses where a man might live and bring up his family in comparative comfort, the labor problem would begin to take care of itself. Of course, there are many practical difficulties in the way of such a scheme, but no man with ambition is content to live his whole life in an attic room without wife, children or home of his own.

"Many farmers' sons leave home simply because of the narrow policy of their fathers in refusing to give the boy any return for his labor beyond shelter, food and clothing. If more men would allow their sons to share in the profits of the farm, instead of treating them as machines to do as much work as possible, while the head of the household handles all the money and does it out a few cents at a time, there would be more good farmers and fewer unsuccessful clerks or office men. Any young man with a little spirit likes to have a little money of his own. It may be only a little, but he likes to feel that it is his and that he has earned the right to spend it. He goes to the city and sees young men of his own age drawing their own wages and spending them at their own discretion.

A Common Type.

"If he is unfortunate enough to have a father of the type which is too common in farming communities, he compares the position of these city boys with his own and becomes discontented. He looks upon the farm as a place of bondage, and as soon as he is his own master loses no time in getting away from it.

"Now, if the boy's father had given him a reasonable portion of the farm

COULD NOT SWEEP FLOOR

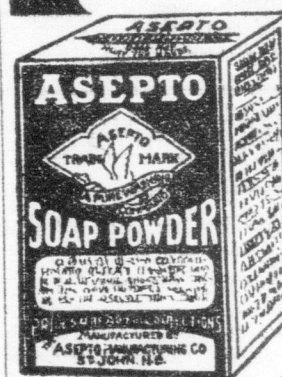
Was So Terribly Afflicted With Lame Back.

It is hard to do housework with a weak and aching back, and no woman can be strong and healthy unless the kidneys are well.

The weak, lame and aching back comes from sick kidneys and should be attended to immediately so as to avoid years of terrible suffering from kidney trouble. Mrs. Harvey W. Brownell, Northport, N.S., writes:—"I now take pleasure in writing you, stating the benefit I received by using Doan's Kidney Pills. About a year ago I was terribly afflicted with lame back, and was so bad at times I could not sweep my own floor. While looking through your B.B.B. Almanac I saw Doan's Kidney Pills were a great remedy, so I bought a box of two. After using five boxes I was completely cured, and I am very thankful to have found so speedy a cure."

Doan's Kidney Pills are 50 cents per box, or 3 boxes for \$1.25, at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont. In ordering direct specify "Doan's."

ASEPTO SOAP POWDER



The large 5c package

Literally the one perfect cleanser—since it is the only soap powder that both cleanses and sterilizes—makes all it washes free from germs—gets things clean and sweet and pure with least work and at least cost. Do make up your mind to try

The Soap Powder that Purifies

Won't roughen the skin nor harm the finest fabric. Use it instead of soap.

ASEPTO LIMITED
St. John, N. B.

"Sweetens the Home"

profits in return for his labor, allowed him to clothe himself and provide his own needs he would still be on the farm. He would have realized that farming is a business and learned that the amount of his income depended upon his own efforts. Instead of becoming disgusted with the country and everything in it he would have remained on the land and become a factor in the agricultural upbuilding of the province."

ILDERTON VESTRY

Reports Presented at Annual Meeting Were Most Satisfactory.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ilderton, April 16.—The annual vestry meeting of the congregation of St. George's Church, London Township, was well attended, and the financial reports of the wardens showed the affairs of the church to be in the most satisfactory condition. The total receipts for church purposes were \$526.78; total expenditure, \$439.91, leaving a balance on hand of \$36.87. The report of the young people showed net proceeds of \$57.91, and that of the women's auxiliary \$45.

Messrs. John Hall and William Gibson were re-elected wardens for the ensuing year, and these together with Messrs. J. T. Gibson, Wes. Hall, J. Robson, C. C. Robson and T. H. Martin form the select vestry.

The auditors elected were Messrs. Ernie Robson and Thomas Gibson. Eldermen: Messrs. Harry Gibson, Norman Robson, Fred Calvert and Ernie Robson. Mr. Robert W. Charlton was elected vestry clerk.

TALBOTVILLE.

Talbotville, April 16.—Misses Alice and Nellie Auckland, S. Axford and E. Haines have returned to their respective schools after the holidays. Miss Blanche Fletcher is ill with scarlet fever.

Dr. B. Axford and Dr. Ramsey, of

Victoria, Hospital, London, visited in the village recently.

Mrs. E. P. Boughner visited recently in St. Thomas with her brother, Mr. Webb.

Mrs. Ed. Smith, who has been spending the holidays at Aylmer, has returned.

Mrs. Holmes and children, of Wingham, have returned home after visiting Rev. J. Holmes.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison, of St. Thomas, were the guests of Mrs. Penny recently.

PAID OFF \$700

Trinity Church, Birr, Had a Most Successful Year.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Birr, April 16.—A most successful report was presented at the vestry meeting of the Trinity Church, Birr. Total receipts were \$439.29; expenditure, \$433.57, leaving a balance of \$5.63. The church collections in both congregations during the past year showed a marked increase. There was also paid off almost \$700 on the rectory debt.

Mr. Frank Scott was elected minister's warden for the year. The sidesmen are Messrs. M. Rowell, R. Reeves and C. J. Scott. The auditors are T. Reeves and M. Kohl. At the congregational gathering Mr. William Elliott was elected lay delegate to the Synod of Huron.

RIDS FEET OF CORNS.

IS SAFE AND PAINLESS

No substitute has ever been devised that gives the quick, painless results you get from Putnam's Painless Corn and Wart Extractor. Its success is unequalled. It soothes, cures, heals and painlessly removes callouses, bunions, warts and corns in 24 hours. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed with 25c bottle of Putnam's Painless Corn and Wart Extractor. Refuse a substitute preparation. Putnam's is sold by druggists.