

be done, we would strongly advise farmers to make provision for engaging a married man. Once secured and made comfortable in a little home of his own, the married man is not so apt to pick up and leave on short notice as the single man is. Of course, we are well aware that the great majority of our farmers are not at present in a position to engage married men and, therefore, the larger number of the men employed on the farms of this country are, and will be for some time to come, single men. It then devolves upon the farmer, as

far as lieth in his power, without interfering too much with the sanctity of his own home life, to make the surroundings of this kind of help so attractive that he will be loth to leave his employer and will be more and more inclined to make farming his life-work. It is this breaking into the sanctity of the farmer's home-life however, that is the greatest objection to the employment of single men on the farm. But what cannot be cured must be endured and the disagreeable features of it modified as much as possible.

Our Western Letter

The Help Problem. Homestead Entries. Territorial Breeders. Ontario Capital in the West

Winnipeg, July 7, 1902.

In the near future will the call go forth for men, hundreds, thousands of men, to help gather in the golden harvest of Western Canada. The number required will be, according to present prospects, greater than last year, for the crop stands thick upon the ground and the straw is long and heavy. The labor of harvest in the great wheat belt is heavy and severe, but the wage is in proportion, and there is not usually any regret in the mind of the young man who makes the trip. Last year the natural difficulties of handling so many men in so short a space of time were experienced. To hope that things will go more smoothly this year without special preparations would be absurd, and it is only natural to expect that every possible measure will be taken to ensure the proper distribution of the excursionists. That a great deal may be done by the excursionists themselves, which last year they would not do, is undeniable, and we feel inclined to give a few words of advice to those intending to go out to work in the harvest.

In the first place do not despise the advice of the Government agent in charge of the train; his whole business is to help locate the excursionists.

Secondly do not expect any fabulous wages. Men last year began by refusing to take less than \$3 per day. They afterwards realized that such wages would leave nothing for the farmer and accepted less.

Thirdly, if you have been West before, or if you know anyone in the West, write at once informing him you are coming and when. Most farmers prefer men whom they know. Ask your friend to let you know whether he needs help this year, and if he will keep the place for you.

Fourthly, remember that fewer men are required in the city than in the country. Get off at each station and when work is offered at fair pay do not refuse in the hope of getting better pay farther on. The chances are that there are hundreds of others doing the same thing. Do not follow the crowd. In short keep in mind the old saying about the bird in the hand and

the two in the bush.

Also remember that it takes a strong man to do the harvest work and if you do not belong to that class it is risking disappointment to go West on the harvest laborers' excursions.

While the immense sales of railway and other lands are no true indication of the amount of settlement, there is to be found in the recently published report of the Dominion Lands Agencies a sufficient indication of the rapidity with which the free lands are being occupied by incoming settlers. During the eleven months ended June 30 there were 14,832 entries for homestead lands, as contrasted with 8,107 in 1901; 7,426 in 1900; 6,009 in 1899; 4,848 in 1898; 2,384 in 1897; and 1,857 in 1896. The 14,832 entries for 1902 represent 2,373,120 acres, of which approximately 2,000,000 acres are in the Territories and British Columbia, and the balance in Manitoba.

We have heard so many apologies for the beef trust, and so many attempted explanations of the extortionate prices demanded for meats in the larger centres of population of the United States, that the light thrown on the subject by recent trade returns is most opportune. The United States Treasury reports that during the month of May there were exports of beef, dressed and canned, to the value of over five and one half million dollars. At the same time we were being told that there was not enough meat in the country to supply the demands, and many were refusing to eat meat because of the extortionate prices demanded. Meat is not the only article that is sold abroad cheaper than at home by the highly protected exporter. We have heard of farm machinery being manipulated in a similar manner.

A recent meeting of the directors of the Territorial Sheep Breeders' Association transacted business that will have an important bearing on the future of that industry in the West. The two most important items were the adoption of a policy as regards annual auction sales and breeding records. On the former question it was decided to follow the policy of the Territorial

cattle breeders, and to inaugurate same by a sale to be held at Medicine Hat during the coming fall. In framing the rules governing the sale the following important points were laid down. Both rams and ewes of pure breed will be accepted for sale, and an entry fee of \$1.00 charged, which will cover the transportation charges of animals to the sale and their feed while there. An entry fee of 50 cents will be charged on all animals not shipped by rail to the sale. All stock purchased will be delivered to the purchaser's nearest railway station free of charge, for which service a fee of 50 cents per head will be charged. In connection with the sale prizes will be offered for the best breeding stock consigned for sale. This branch will be in charge of the Medicine Hat Agricultural Fair. Owing to the limited number of pure bred sires available in the Territories it was decided to admit animals from Eastern points to the sale.

A motion was unanimously adopted favoring a Western Canadian Pure Bred Sheep Record. This is to be organized on the understanding that as soon as the Dominion Government furnishes the necessary machinery for carrying on the law passed in 1901, the record will be handed over. This was agreed to by all. The fee was fixed at 25 cents for each record. This will obviate the delay and inconvenience hitherto experienced by Territorial breeders in registering. The Breeders' Associations of the Territories are doing excellent work and are to be congratulated upon the excellence of their organization.

Ontario capitalists are now competing with those of the United States in the purchase of Western lands. An Eastern land company represented by ex-Mayor Henry of Napanee is said to have purchased 97,000 acres in Eastern Assiniboia. In boom times, twenty years ago, there were many Ontario people among the number who bought lands at the inflated prices then obtaining. Ofttimes these were held for many years and sold for less than the original cost, and this has had much to do with the apathy shown by Ontario capital towards our lands of late years. But boom times are past, and come again. The present boom however is based upon a full knowledge of the country, whereas the former was founded on too sanguine hopes of immediate development. The purchase of lands was then a speculation, now it is an investment.

The following amusing story is now going the rounds. A farmer, and a prosperous one too, who is a chronic grumbler, and has never been known to be satisfied with his crop, was recently bargaining with an implement agent in a country town in Manitoba. The dealer was expatiating on the magnificent crop that the farmer has in prospect. "Well," admitted the farmer, "the crop certainly promises the best I have ever had, but I tell you its fearfully exhausting to the soil."