

Blame is Not All on One Side.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE;

I have read your different letters on the deserting hired man, and those of farmers complaining, and am also glad to note that another Indian Header has the pluck to defend himself and fellows. I will admit that some hired men hire with a farmer in the spring with the intention of getting a good wage, until harvest time and then leaving to get the harvest wag, and I say that such a man ought to be dealt with severely. But what must the hired man, and woman do who hire for a fair wage, with every intention to stay on until the agreement is fulfilled when the farmer or his wife make it so uncomfortable for either one or both of them that there is not any pleasure on the same place. There is a cry for more help on the farm, the farm is the right place, etc., and so it is to my mind, if one could only strike the right people too; but if the farmer and his family are not going to try to give their hired help, some encouragement to stay on the farm, in the shape of fairness, they will likely have to do all the work themselves, for while there is so much demand for labor in the towns the men and women will go there the same as we have done. Practically pushed into town, for we like farming and have worked on farms before with great satisfaction to all concerned. I sincerely hope that through your excellent paper you will try to mend this great difficulty between man and master.

A PROSPECTIVE FARMER.

[Ed.—We believe a partial solution of the difficulty will be found in building houses for the married men to which should be attached a good piece of ground for a garden.]

Let in the British Oriental.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I read your paper with great interest, some of the editorials are excellent.

In your issue of the 10th inst. is "Some Immigration Issues," by W.S.J.; has the writer any experience at all of India? I doubt it, as it is impossible there for any European to do manual labor. Also, in the trinity of evils does he mean caste amongst Europeans or natives? He does not specify? Surely famine is an act of God, and heathendom, let him take it from the experience of a man who has worked, Hindoos, Buddhists and Mahomedans for nine years that he has found they are more religious after their kind than the majority of so-called Christians in this or any other country.

Why is British Columbia, Mr. Editor, so hard on Hindoos coming into the province to work in lumber mills and mines? They are British subjects. In a good many cases old soldiers. Surely they are cleaner than a good number of the Galicians and other races that are flocking into the country who are not British subjects! If it is as is reported in the papers that they are increasing the number of cases in the police courts is in my belief that their knowledge of English is slight and they have to be known to be understood.

Another thing is to have proper interpreters in the courts and then the others would understand what the particular crime was.

G. THORNE.

Increased Returns at Average Cost.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Western wheat is king. The prosperity of this part of the Dominion is intimately bound up with the yield and with the quality of the wheat crop, and the industrial welfare of the older eastern provinces is largely dependent on the purchasing power of the West, so that the whole of Canada is influenced by western wheat. A good crop of superior quality, well harvested and marketed, increases prosperity activity, money flows like water, and industry reigns supreme; while a poor crop of indifferent quality has the reverse effect. To one not conversant with the magnitude of our almost illimitable wheat fields, effects so far-reaching are difficult to believe or understand.

Canada has the largest wheat fields in the world, and of this vast area has only a little over three per cent. under cultivation, yet the Canadian West is capable of producing twenty times Great Britain's annual imports of this cereal. Our average yields are high as compared with those of other countries, the quality of our wheat is excelled by few, while the price obtained for it on the British market is higher than that received by any other country exporting to England. We have a great heritage, and it is up to us to make the best possible use of it.

In every instance we are not doing this. Too often poor seed is carelessly sown in but indifferently prepared soil, and the resultant inferior crop is cut, threshed and marketed in a slipshod manner. Methods of this sort are neither profitable to those who employ them, nor calculated to improve the reputation of Canada's wheat, at home or abroad. The grain and the live stock men are alike interested in their improvement. Increased yields, improved quality, lowered cost of production, and good, clean, intelligent farming generally is the foundation rock of both industries and of the prosperity of the country as a whole. The means by which this condition of things can be maintained and enhanced are simple, and can be profitably employed on every farm—indeed the

degree of their application determines the profit derived from the farm. The farmer has no control of the original character of his soil or of the weather, but he has absolute power to determine the character of the seed that he sows, and its subsequent treatment from the time of seeding until it is sold. Good, strong seed, free from weed seeds and from the taint of fungus disease, is the panacea for more of the evils of farming than many suppose. The expense of preparing the land for good and for poor seed is the same; the expense of harvesting the crops from good and poor seed is practically the same; the difference in the cost of good and of poor seed is small, while the difference in the yield and in quality is great.

The seed fairs that are to be held during the winter have as their object, the furtherance of the growing interest in good seed. They afford an opportunity for the exhibition with a view to the sale of clean seed of good varieties, and in addition, a chance for the farmers to discuss amongst themselves and with the lecturer, the various problems that confront the grain grower. The production and the sale of grain is the business of the western farmer. Like any other pursuit, there are right and wrong ways of managing it—profitable and unprofitable methods of conducting it.

Attend the meetings, take part in the discussions, and prove what you there learn, by experiments on your own farms. Let every farmer attend the Fair that is to be held in his neighborhood, and do what he can to make it a success.

Regina.

McFAYDEN.



A SCENE AT THE FAIRS.

The justification for P. T. Barnum's famous saying, "The public like to be humbugged."

Saskatchewan Crops and District Comments.

Although in a sense a discussion of the crops at harvest time is a little belated, yet for all there is something to be learned from the comments by districts in Bulletin No. 4 of the Saskatchewan government.

In 1906 there was estimated to be under crop 1,955,673 acres, an increase of over 300,000 acres over the previous year. In the Carnduff, Alameda and Estevan district (1).

"There is a general complaint that the dry, hot winds have ripened crops too rapidly hence the ears are not so well filled as last year. In some sections of the district considerable damage has been done by hailstones. Wheat cutting commenced August 5, became general by the 10th, and all grain was done by the end of the month. Threshing became general by September 3."

In the Francis, Rouleau, Milestone and Weyburn sections district (2).

"Throughout the district complaint is made that the excessive heat and hot winds ripened crops too fast, thereby shrivelling the grain. A few light hailstorms have been reported, with slight damage and frost on August 26, damaged late flax. Wheat cutting commenced August 10, and was general by the 15th, other crops are 7 to 10 days later. Threshing commenced September 8."

In district No. 3, Moosomin, Wapella, Whitewood and Broadview the comment is:

"On August 18, heavy winds with rain badly laid the crops, making cutting very difficult, and slight hail storms have been reported but damage was slight. Frost is also reported on August 26, but crops were too far advanced to be effected. The yields in this district are not so heavy as was at first anticipated."

Barley cutting commenced early in August, wheat about the 10th, and oats about the 16th, and all cutting was completed by September 13. Threshing commenced September 13 and will not finish before the snow flies, owing to the scarcity of machines.

Around Grenfell, Indian Head and Abernethy, (4): "In some parts of this district smut is very bad, especially on new land, and on well prepared land grain is considerably lodged. A little damage was caused by rust and the Hessian fly, but only in isolated cases. Grain is not so plump as in previous years, owing to too much heat whilst ripening, and this will seriously reduce the yield. Wheat harvest commenced on August 6, and became general about the

15th. Threshing general about September 15.

District No. 5 embraces Balgonie, Pense, Regina and Lumsden.

"The frost of August 26 is considered to have affected late oats, but the majority of the crop was too far matured to take any hurt. Rust is reported in places, but the greater part of the district is entirely free from it. A considerable amount of the heavy crops are lodged, and as in the foregoing districts intense heat has caused the grain to shrink. Very little smut is reported. Harvest started on August 10, and became general by the 18th and finished about September 15. Threshing general by the 17th of September.

The South Moose Mountain (6) country:

"Red rust and smut have affected places badly, so has the cutworm and great damage has been done by the prairie fires sweeping through the district. Grains were badly laid by the storms about August 19, causing late ripening, and these crops were badly damaged by the frost of August 26.

Owing to the heavy state of the land in this district crops are somewhat later than districts previously mentioned. Wheat cutting became general about August 20 and will finish about September 23. Threshing commenced September 20."

Langenburg, Saltcoats and Yorkton, district No. 7, the remarks are:

"Rust and smut seem to have been very prevalent on the heavy land and considerable damage is reported, but the frost and hail of the 30th and 31st of August respectively had little effect upon the crops.

On the average fine weather conditions have prevailed since seeding, and 45 per cent. of the crop will come off new land. Wheat cutting began on August 10 and general about the 20th. Threshing commenced on September 12, but owing to lack of machines will go well into winter before it is finished."

District No. 8 contains Qu'Appelle, McLean and Lipton.

"Smut made its appearance in all parts of the district, but was not sufficiently bad enough to affect the yield to any extent. Heavy crops were knocked down by the storm of August 18, and these were late in ripening and were damaged by frost. There is no report of rust, but in places gophers have done considerable damage. Cutting commenced on August 13 and the end of the month practically saw all grain down. Threshing in full swing by September 10, but through lack of men and teams will be late in finishing.

The Touchwood Hills and South Quill Lake country (9).

"Smut is reported in places but not to any extent. The beginning of August was very warm, ripening grain much too fast, otherwise conditions have been most favorable. No damage resulted from the frost of August 29. Wheat cutting commenced August 10 and 80 per cent. of crops were down by the 23rd. Threshing general by September 15.

Re the Saskatoon, Osler, Rosthern and Duck Lake sections district No. 10 it is said:

"Smut is reported, although not to the extent of 1905 and rust has been detected in several places. The warm dry weather from July 20 to August 15 had some effect on late sowing, and earlier sowing ripened much too quickly. On July 23 hail did considerable damage to the crops north-west of Saskatoon, the frosts of August 20 and 23, having little effect as the grain was too far advanced. Wheat cutting commenced early in August and threshing was general by September 5."

While for the Craik, Hanley, Dundurn comprised in district 11 "Wheat on stubble and oats are a very light crop, although on well worked land heavy crops are reported. The hot weather of the beginning of August shrivelled the kernel of grains which reduced the yield. The hail storm of August 1 did considerable damage around the vicinity of Dundurn. Wire worm and gophers have destroyed a small crop throughout the district, especially on new land. No damage by frost. Fifty per cent. of the crop