

## The Labor Market.

There has been considerable discussion in a section of the press, led perhaps by a local labor paper, against the action of the Canadian Pacific railway officials in bringing in a large number of farm laborers from the Eastern provinces at very low rates. It has even been asserted by some papers that the importation of any additional labor to assist in the Manitoba harvest was unnecessary, as there was alleged to be plenty of available help at home. In the light of ordinary common sense, such a statement is too ridiculous to make any refutation necessary. There has been an outcry that many of these people who came up from the east could not find work. It is quite probable, and indeed it appears to be the case, that too many of the men brought in went to certain points, while at other points all who came were at once supplied with work and more wanted. This could hardly be avoided, however, and was to be expected. To distribute the men to the points where they were needed, the Canadian Pacific railway offered to carry any of these men free backwards or forwards to any points on the line, and at this rate all who wanted work would soon get it.

Manitoba would certainly be in a bad state to-day if this extra help had not been brought in. An investigation made by the Canadian Pacific railway on Wednesday last showed that only about 100 men of the excursionists who came from the East had not found work. At the same time there were applications in for 80 to 40 farm hands from points along the Emerson branch, and 50 to 100 farm hands were also wanted along the Northern Pacific lines, very few of the labor excursionists having gone to these points. It is thus seen that all the men were wanted, the only trouble being in their distribution, and this was speedily being arranged by the free transportation of the men to points where they were needed.

Some of these men who came up from the East did not want work. Some simply took advantage of the low rate to see the country; others had property here which they wanted to see, or friends whom they wished to visit; others had other matters of business to look after. Having accomplished their purpose in a few days, they wanted to return. Here the difficulty came in. They could only secure their return passage at the low rate on showing proof that they had worked for a given length of time in the harvest here. In order to secure their return the story was therefore concocted that they could not get work. We do not say that there were many cases of this nature, but undoubtedly there were a number, and it only required a few cases to start the reports that many of the men who came up could not get work. Some others were perhaps willing to work, but they wanted higher wages than was offered. Cases were mentioned to us of men who had refused \$25 and even \$30 per month, including board, demanding \$40 per month. A few men who were taken ill on the way or after arriving here, or who were evidently incapable of hard labor, were given returns at once, and some of these were returned actually free of the stipulated return fare. The company was justified, however, in refusing the low return rates to able bodied men so long as applications were coming in from some points for more men.

Mr. Calder, who conducts the principal employment agency in the city, said on Thursday that he could place 300 men at once, and he had not been able to secure a single man for five days. Of course the most of the men he wanted were railway laborers, and it is difficult to secure men for this class of work when there is plenty of other work

## Every Mackintosh

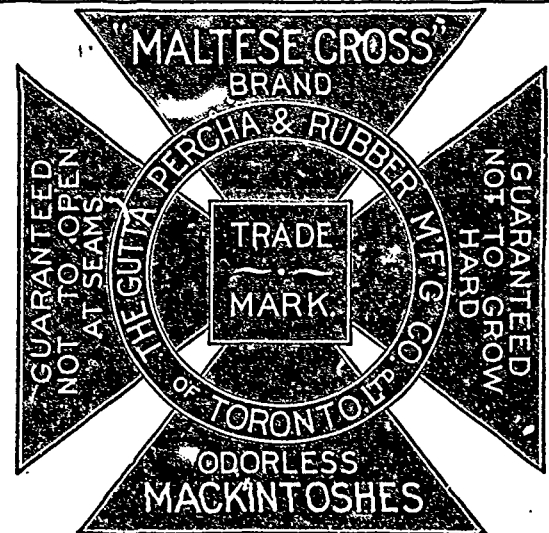
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going on. The fact, however, that men could not be secured for railway work, shows plainly that there is not a surplus of men in the country. He also had some calls for farm hands, but he could not fill them. At Brandon, where the largest number of eastern excursionists were reported to be idle, a call was made for forty men for railway work, and only three could be secured in a week's time. Some of the excursionists who were demanding their return tickets at the reduced rate the same as if they had worked the specified time here, were offered free transportation to points where more men were wanted, but they refused to go. This shows that it was not work they wanted, but that having completed the object for which they came they wanted to get home again at the low rate. It is admitted, as stated, that a few more went to some points than were wanted, but as soon as threshing starts, which will be almost at once in some districts, a large number of additional men will be wanted.

The labor organ in Winnipeg brings up the question of the payment of wages, and justifies the refusal of some men to go to the country to work, on the ground that their wages are not secure. The Commercial discussed this aspect of the case years ago, and was perhaps the first paper here to take this matter up. Much that has been said in this respect is true. There are some farmers who hire men with the intention of cheating them out of their pay, and the law should certainly be simplified so as to make it the easiest thing possible for these farm laborers to obtain their wages, even to the extent of making their labor a first lien upon the crop. The laborer is worthy of his hire, especially when that labor is performed in the long hours of the arduous harvest field.

## Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending August 29, were \$833,622 balances, \$179,932. For the previous week clearings were \$990,452. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were \$856,587. For the month of July clearings were \$4,038,846, as compared with \$3,695,874 for July last year.

Following are the returns of other Canadian clearing houses for the weeks ended on the dates given:

	Aug. 8.	Aug. 15.
Montreal..	\$11,927,918	\$11,412,326
Toronto...	5,963,423	5,240,518
Halifax...	1,460,005	1,150,215
Winnipeg.	923,910	763,533
Hamilton.	658,927	689,457
Total	\$20,934,163	\$19,216,049

## Threshers Gloves

To meet the unusual demand for the above goods this Fall, we have put in an extra large stock at our WINNIPEG BRANCH and WESTERN MERCHANTS can have all orders filled at shortest notice.

The largest assortment of GLOVES, MITTS, MOCCASINS, etc., in the west to choose from at lowest prices.

Our travellers are now out with a full range of specialties.

## James Hall & Co.

Ontario Glove Works,

BROCKVILLE, ONT.

Winnipeg Branch, 150 Princess St.

LETTER ORDERS A SPECIALTY.

Sole Manufacturers of the Celebrated  
Chester & Workers Suspenders.

## Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Aug. 24, 1895, shows a decrease of 1,803,000 bushels, against an increase of 870,000 for the corresponding week last year and a decrease of 572,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat at the end of the first week in each month on the dates named for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade:

	1895. bushels.	1894. bushels.	1893. bushels.	1892. bushels.
Jan. 2...	83,631,000	80,223,000	81,238,000	45,907,000
Feb. 5	83,376,000	79,863,000	81,333,000	43,161,000
Mar. 4	78,785,000	75,669,000	79,038,000	41,556,000
April 1	74,308,000	71,458,000	77,654,000	41,038,000
" 8	72,703,000	70,762,000	77,291,000	41,177,000
" 15	70,487,000	69,217,000	76,090,000	42,655,000
" 22	68,626,000	68,425,000	74,869,000	39,149,000
" 29	65,770,000	66,588,000	75,027,000	37,938,000
May, 6	62,196,000	65,156,000	73,069,000	36,190,000
" 13	59,623,000	63,610,000	72,682,000	35,190,000
" 20	56,484,000	62,044,000	71,392,000	30,697,000
" 27	54,244,000	61,329,000	70,159,000	29,522,000
June 3	52,239,000	60,394,000	71,650,000	27,310,000
" 10	49,739,000	58,211,000	68,662,000	26,950,000
" 17	47,717,000	57,005,000	66,376,000	21,008,000
" 24	46,225,000	55,832,000	63,081,000	24,561,000
July 1	41,661,000	54,637,000	62,616,000	24,263,000
" 8	43,330,000	54,114,000	61,819,000	23,130,000
" 13	41,237,000	53,164,000	59,328,000	22,439,000
" 20	40,457,000	53,771,000	58,901,000	23,063,000
" 27	39,233,000	57,144,000	59,310,000	23,291,000
Aug. 3	38,517,000	60,001,000	59,424,000	26,078,000
" 10	37,839,000	62,321,000	58,839,000	28,213,000
" 17	38,892,000	63,800,000	57,812,000	31,776,000
" 24	35,483,000	64,771,000	57,240,000	31,950,000