

Government Loans to Beginners.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Periodically, you publish in your valuable paper different opinions re the labor problem, and also the keeping of sufficient persons for our farming industry in this country, and more especially Ontario and the Eastern Provinces of Canada.

Many are the views expressed editorially, and also opinions by different contributors to your columns. Chiefly, they are: (1) Our boasted educational system, whereby the boys are taught such useful things to make them lawyers, doctors and tradesmen of all descriptions, rather than the training necessary to fit them to be good farmers, studying the best methods of our greatest and most important industry; and where the girls are fitted out as typewriters, stenographers and piano thumpers, rather than practical housekeepers and homemakers. (2) Slackness of our emigration Department, and those responsible for bringing over suitable immigrants of the proper type. (3) The lure of the West, where thousands are making their homes, to the loss of Ontario and Eastern farming communities, towns and cities.

Now, sir, as we are advancing toward another spring time and seed time, perhaps your readers will study these vexed questions, and perhaps find a remedy or remedies for these things.

How shall we remedy these things? Perhaps a farm hand's ideas will not come amiss; at any rate, they will be open to discussion, and I trust, Mr. Editor, that you will also pass your judgment, as well.

I will not say anything about our school system, because I am not up enough in that, and our editor is more capable of handling that part than I am. As to the immigration policies pursued, many of us are fully aware that we get thousands more every year, and that the majority are brought out from the crowded towns and cities of the old lands, many not knowing wheat from barley, and calves from goats; many not understanding teaming or the least thing required of them. Why do the farmers hire them? How can they, who have been brought up as builders, boilermakers, coal-miners, shipbuilders, clerks, or pen-pushers in a commercial house, be engaged, with the expectation of becoming good farm hands? I am afraid the reason is because they can be procured for low wages. Let us explode this theory, because it is proved by any up-to-date farmer that the cheapest labor is the dearest in the end, and no business concern would employ cheap, inexperienced help if the other is available. And why should the farmer? So we see at once that it is best to pay good wages, and especially on the farm, where the hours per day are longer. Don't let the immigration officials and booking agents send the city worker to the farm. Many of these are bonused by relief committees, corporations and charitable organizations; but if a genuine farm laborer, and perhaps a wife and family, wish to emigrate to Canada, a five-cent piece is not given them to help, but they are required to pay the full passage money. Lack of money and support is the drawback to the honest laborer and his family, while the thief, gadbird, scum of the slums, and the slick Cockney are sure of an assisted passage, either directly or indirectly. Around my old home, very, very few farm laborers ever emigrated to Canada.

Why are we draining this Province to fill the West? The last census tells us that there are four or five thousand fewer inhabitants in some of our purely agricultural counties, and that, of course, means abandoned farms. Is it because the West is a more desirable place to live in? No, but because the West offers advantages that are denied in Ontario. I have thought many times that if the Government would only help some of these farmers in a practical way, the exodus from Ontario would cease.

Why cannot the Government assist young men.

Farmers' sons, and tried-and-true hired men in getting farms? Loan a sum of money to them for a term of years, they, in their turn, to keep books and close tab on all the doings of the year, and to give an account of their stewardship to a responsible set of trustees. The reeve and council of the municipality would do all right. I believe a loan system to farmers is operated in Australia; and if so, why not here. We won't be behind Australia, if we can help it, surely. We are supposed to be up-to-date. I am sure we should like to hear opinions on this subject. Take my own case. I am the son of an English farmer, and came over here seven years ago to see what conditions were like. I have travelled through the West on two occasions to the coast, and have also gone over home, as well, and returned again. Am engaged to a young lady, and would be married if I had a home for her, and would also get out one or two of my brothers to assist me in farming. Many farmers have told me that I could make a success, and have offered to lend me implements in exchange of work. So, well and good, but, still, \$300 or \$500 would do better, and if the Government would lend such sums to individuals free of interest, for, say, five years, it would keep many a young man in the townships and give him a start. The money could be expended for implements, two brood mares, cows, etc., and the young man could then go in for pure-bred stock when he was in shape to afford it. Otherwise, I believe the West offers the best terms—160 acres, free title, after three years—certainly, a different proposition to any that Ontario offers (New Ontario excepted), but all do not care for home-steading, and need not, while we have such a splendid farming Province, and thousands of town and city dwellers close at hand to buy our supplies, and even they are yelling with sore throats about the increased cost of living, which will continue while we have so many farms idle, or just keeping the old people, while the young are out West.

Middlesex Co., Ont.



Fred. W. Goble, B.S.A.

President Ontario Experimental Union for 1912.
Cut by courtesy O. A. C. Review.

Why He Goes West.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A great many letters have been published in your valuable paper the last few months re the hired-help problem. In my opinion, the most important points have, so far, not been discussed.

As an English immigrant of four years residence in Canada, I think my humble experience may be of some use in this very debatable question. The most important point is, from the hired man's view, when shall he be able to have his own farm and home. If he intends to farm in Ontario, it will mean from ten to fifteen years of hard work in the prime of his life before he can accomplish his ambition and have that independence for which farming is so greatly praised.

Another reason that drives so many young men to the city from the farm, and has never been discussed, I would speak of, Mr. Editor, from my own experience. I came to this country four years ago, and hired with a farmer for one year. Having no experience, I did not earn very much the first year, as is only to be expected. The second, third and fourth years saw an increase in my wages, and for the coming year I have been offered the maximum wage paid in this district. I declined the offer, and people wondered why. This is my reason, and I think you cannot but say it is justifiable: If I were to continue working out for another ten years, I would not receive another increase in my wages. In ten years' time, I might, with economy, save \$1,500 to \$2,000.

You might say that, if I went to the city I would not save as much as that. Perhaps not, but the opportunities are there, and it depends on the man whether he works his way up to the top of the commercial ladder, or not. On the farm you do not have that opportunity, and an ambitious young man will not work at any employment in which there is no advancement possible. What is the result? Hosts of immigrants pour into Ontario every year and go out on the farm. As we know, a great many get dissatisfied and go to the towns and cities after a few weeks. The remainder work out for four or five years, and then they all turn their faces towards the Western prairie, where it is possible to get a home-stead and a home of one's own with a few hundred dollars.

I went out West this harvest to see the country, and not liking the farming methods of the country, I returned to Ontario, with the thought of settling down here. I looked through the local papers and saw advertised a number of farms for sale, but none to rent. Farmers do not seem inclined to rent nowadays, but always want to sell. On applying to these would-be sellers, they coolly ask for about one-half the purchase price in cash. Now, to me, this is obviously impossible, and so that, instead of being attracted by the West, I am practically forced to go there in order to make an independent living at my favorite profession.

Why does not the local Government make it possible for a young man to start in Ontario by loaning money on the same plan as they do for drainage purposes? If this were done, I am sure that a great many young men that go to the city to make a living would stay on the farm and work, if they were able, after gaining experience, to start on their own account. Until the future possibilities of the hired man on the farm are made better, it will be impossible to keep an ambitious and experienced young immigrant on a farm in Ontario, and the people will have to stand by and see the best blood go to the Western Prairie, while the useless characters hang around our towns and cities, which means a serious check on the prosperity of Ontario, the banner Province of Canada.

Wellington Co., Ont.

RICHARD A. YOUNG.

Success Attends the Great Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show.

Ottawa was the Mecca for farmers and live-stock men from Tuesday, Jan. 16th to Friday, Jan. 19th, inclusive, these being the dates of the annual Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show. In each and every department, from the classes for the massive, clean-limbed draft horses, to the deepest and most evenly-fleshed fat bullock and the heavy-milking dairy cow, the long, despoiled bacon hog, the even-fleshed, broad-backed mutton sheep, down to the smallest cock bird which had the gameness to crow, and his miniature mate, which made a strenuous effort to keep up her share of the noise necessary on such occasions, vast strides toward that perfection at which all show managements aim, were noticeable.

Each of the four days saw large crowds pressing through the entrance to Howick Pavilion, where the exhibition was held. This large building gives excellent stable accommodation for the stock, is well ventilated, warm and comfortable, and the outstanding feature which makes it pre-eminent as a place to hold a winter show, is the large judging arena, where any horse, no matter

how speedy, has ample room to show his paces to best advantage, and where the public can see the awards made in comfort, and without undue effort. If one commenced to name the special features, it would be necessary to report the entire show. Horses made a showing never before equalled in Eastern Ontario; beef cattle were forward showing greater finish and in larger numbers than ever; all previous dairy records were smashed; sheep and swine and dressed carcasses showed an increase in numbers and quality, and the poultry exhibit was the high-water mark of excellence for Ottawa. What more need be said?

The lectures, most of which were given at Guelph in December, were well attended; any that were not given before will be published later. The management had arranged that all lectures be held so as not to conflict with the judging, which is a commendable move, worthy to be copied by other exhibitions. The weather moderated from the extreme cold of the week previous, and the attendance was well up to that of previous years, placing the exhibition on a strong financial basis.

THE HORSES.

All the horse shows held in Canada during the past year have been greater than their predecessors, and the Winter Show at Ottawa was no exception. The exhibit of draft horses was confined to the Clydesdale breed, and the competition was of the keenest order in nearly every class. Admirers of the lighter breeds saw their favorites out in fair numbers, and the quality was all that could be desired. Next to the Guelph Exhibition, this show stood out as the leading display of horses during the past season. The light breeds were judged by Dr. F. C. Grenside, of Guelph, and the heavier breeds by J. M. Gardhouse, of Weston; Nelson Wagg, of Claremont, and O. C. White, of the Ottawa Experimental Farm. The work on the light horses was wholly satisfactory, but considerable difference of opinion was expressed by the ringside talent over the placings in some of the Clydesdale classes, and the three-judge system in this case did not give the best possible results. Had Mr. Gardhouse been left the task alone better work might have