

# The Farming World

## And Canadian Farm and Home

Vol. XXIII

TORONTO, 1 JULY, 1904

No. 13

### The Militia's Opportunity

**W**OULD not the farmers of this country have been greatly benefited had all the time and energy wasted in the recent Dundonald discussions about military equipment and control been expended in devising ways and means of solving the farm labor problem and of providing sufficient help to gather in the big harvest of 1904.

The extermination of weeds and the gathering in of the coming harvest are the two chief problems confronting the farmer at the present time. If the country's welfare is the aim of all military expenditure, then let the "soldiers" be marched in force into the root, corn and grain fields, now awaiting recruits. We submit, and we believe, the Minister of Agriculture will agree with us, that there is no lack of arms and ammunition here. A hoe, a rake, and a pitch-fork awaits each member of the force, and with these he can do effective work in the defence of his country. Under Captain Practical Farmer, the hoe, the rake, and the pitch-fork drill, will develop muscle, encourage thrift, and prove most effective in solving for the great farming community their most serious problems. Besides, it would have a most wholesome effect in allaying some of the "jingo" spirit which is becoming a little too prevalent for the nation's welfare.

### Is it Fair or Just?

Our contention that the basis of distributing grants to agricultural societies in Ontario should be changed, is strongly supported by some recent figures obtained by Supt. Cowan. These show some glaring discrepancies. One society receiving a grant of \$380, paid out \$2,410 for agricultural purposes, while another society receiving \$800 paid out only \$1,488 in prizes for agricultural purposes. A third society received a grant of \$600 and distributed only \$60 for agricultural exhibits. Then there is the Notawasaga Township Fair, which received a grant of only \$80 and paid out \$1,019 in prizes. Compare this with a leading district society of Eastern Ontario receiving a grant of \$800 and paying out only \$1,125 for agricultural purposes, and we have a most striking example of how unfair is the present plan of distributing grants to agricultural societies according to membership. If the basis of division were according to the amount of money expended in prizes for purely agricultural purposes this inequality would not exist. The society doing the most effective work would then

get its just share of government funds.

Surely there can be no two opinions in regard to the need for rearranging the distribution of the grants to agricultural societies on a more equitable basis. What do our readers think of it?

### Harvest Will Soon be Here

The growing season for hay and grain crops will soon be over. Then comes the harvest, for this, farmers in the older parts of the country are, perhaps as well prepared as they were a year ago, so far as help is concerned. In Manitoba and the North West Territories they are better prepared, and with the extra supply that will go forward from older Canada, when the harvest excursions begin, are not likely to suffer. In the East, and especially in Ontario, many a well-to-do farmer, who has been accustomed in the past to hire nearly all his work done, has had to turn to himself to save the situation. We have met several during the past week or two who would be willing to pay for all the help required if they could get it. But it cannot be had, and so a large expenditure of their own muscle and energy is necessary.

### They Want to Get at it

Canada is very much to the front these days. Her agricultural resources are not only attracting thousands of people who wish to settle on the land, but also the large manufacturing concerns, chiefly of the United States, who see in this country's development a large market for their produce. So great is the desire of American manufacturers to gain a foothold in this country, that the question of reciprocity with Canada is discussed by them at every convention or gathering of any kind. The importance attached to the Canadian field as a market for manufactured goods, chiefly implements, carriages, etc., is shown in the following extract from a recent issue of the "Implement Age":

"The greatest foreign opportunity for American implement manufacturers is in Canada. Nowhere else in the world is there so great an agricultural empire awaiting American methods of cultivation. Canada is larger than the United States, and more than two-thirds of its area lies south of the northern line at which wheat has been grown successfully. Good wheat crops have been raised in the Canadian Northwest on the sixty-second parallel, 13 degrees north of the international boundary. We can get an idea how far north the Canadian wheat belt extends when we consider the fact that the thirteenth parallel south of the international boundary runs through Tennessee and Oklahoma."

Canada could have no better advertisement than this. The very desire of these people to reach the Canadian field is, in itself, proof that the great Canadian West and the new lands of Ontario are all that the most optimistic claim them to be. Truly, we have a rich heritage, which Canadians should be first in developing.

### To Promote Better Seed Grain

The association formed at Ottawa a week ago for the improvement of seed by selection, is destined to have a far-reaching effect upon the grain growing possibilities of Canada. What is surprising, now that we know what can be done in the improvement of seed by selection, is that something of this kind was not attempted years ago. Had a similar movement been inaugurated, say twenty or thirty years ago, when the farmers of older Canada began to experience a gradual falling off in grain yields there might be a different story to tell today in regard to average crop yields per acre. While a large share of this decrease in yield has, no doubt, been due to a failure on the part of farmers to properly maintain the fertility of their lands, yet it cannot be denied that much of it has been caused by the sowing, year after year, of inferior seed, lacking in vitality and the power to give vigorous growth to its offspring. One may have the richest kind of soil, and yet if the seed sown lacks in vitality a maximum crop yield cannot be expected. The same reasoning holds good in the animal world. A farmer may have an abundant supply of the very best kinds of foods for fattening purposes, and yet if the animal to which they are fed, has not had developed in it the power to lay on flesh profitably, the maximum of beef production, both in quality and quantity, cannot be realized. The quality of the seed put into the soil has much to do with the crop yield, in quality as well as in quantity.

The new association starts under most favorable auspices. It has, through Professor Robertson and Mr. Clarke, Chief of the Seed Division, the backing and active co-operation of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The four hundred or more persons who took part in the recent MacDonald seed grain competition are already enrolled as active members, besides a number of farmers who have made seed selection more or less of a close study. Work has, therefore, begun under favorable auspices, and the success of the movement is reasonably assured.

We bespeak for the association the