

reclaimed by the restorative power of sheep. Professor Shaw maintains that at least one-half of the \$50,000,000 that is being paid out annually in the Eastern States for commercial fertilizers could be saved by the multiplication of sheep on these Eastern farms.

Professor Shaw's views in connection with the sheep industry of the United States are just as applicable to Canada. If it will pay the farmer of the United States to keep more sheep, it will pay the Canadian farmer also, and for the same reasons. As we have pointed out frequently in these columns, there are many Canadian farms that need some kind of a weed scavenger in order to make them look respectable and clean, and why not utilize sheep for this purpose? Then again, the question of keeping up the fertility of the land and of restoring it on many impoverished farms, is equally important. The value of sheep as destroyers of weeds and as restorers of the fertility in the land should make them one of the most valuable animals on the farm. Coupled with this is the fact that sheep will return a profit on the wool produced and the lambs raised, which gives them an additional value. Then there should be no hesitation on the part of our farmers in regard to the advisability of increasing their flocks of sheep. A great many of our farmers estimate the profits from sheep rearing only on the amount of wool produced. This gives only one side of their value. There is a good profit all along the line that cannot be estimated directly in dollars and cents.

The sheep industry of the United States has made rapid advancement during the past years. Some are apprehensive as to the outcome, and fear the industry will be overdone. On this point Professor Shaw states that in all the United States there are fewer than ten sheep for every arable farm. This, he states, is not enough to adequately supply the farmers' homes with mutton for one year. Mutton should be used more for food on the farm. If there are fewer than ten sheep to every arable farm in the United States, we are quite sure that the number of sheep to every arable Canadian farm does not exceed that number. There is then ample room for greatly extending the sheep industry of Canada and for our farmers to "keep more sheep."

Hired Help on the Farm.

Editor FARMING:

Will you kindly allow me a few lines on this subject of hired help on the farm.

It has been truly stated that this is a broad question and a great deal can be said on it.

Mr. Harrison is against young men marrying to qualify themselves for the situation of a farm laborer. Well, I am too, but we must admit that the majority of young men and those with the greatest amount of intelligence are desirous of marrying when they come to maturity, and if their employment is not steady they will very soon move in some other direction and join some other line of business which will furnish steady employment the year round and permit them to establish the desired home.

Now, Sir, I am of opinion that there is not a fertile 100 acres of land in the Province of Ontario which will not furnish a good living for two families and something to spare providing it be properly managed.

I agree with Mr. Harrison when he says that most of our hired men are farmers' sons, and he could have gone on and said that many of them commence working out while quite young, having received a vigilant training by honest parents. The young man hires out for seven or eight months and gives good satisfaction; he gets interested in his master's work and becomes familiar with the whole farm just about the time he must quit work. He is paid off, and receives an invitation to come back the next spring and he would get a job again; and perhaps he does so, but his boss may be heard telling that he is not the boy he was last year; he swears at the horses and does not seem to take the interest in the work that he formerly did. The boy was sent adrift the fall before. He got among other young men who were paid off about the same time. They have a little money and feel free, and there comes a strong temptation to abandon the principles taught them and to spend their money in folly.

Mr. Editor, if the farm is rightly handled the farmer cannot afford to discharge the smart, intelligent young man in the fall of the year any more than the business man in a town or city can spare the attentive young clerk.

When he grows to manhood and understands the rearing of stock of all kinds, the cultivation of the soil and all the different branches of farm work, is it not necessary that he be kept on the farm if it is possible to do so? If he gets married so much the better. Build a comfortable house for him; for all must agree that a man is more manly and contented married than single. Surely it is an insult to such a

man to say that his services on the farm for twelve months will not increase its assets to the extent of \$250 or \$300.

As regards the large mortgages, we must admit they are great obstacles in the way. But very few mortgages exist as a result of hired help on the farm where the owner understands his business; and it is my candid opinion that an important factor in the removal of those mortgages will be the steady employment, encouragement and equipment of those bright youths, who too often are found seeking other occupations because they never hear farming styled anything but drudgery, and that only obtainable during the summer months.

It will pay to help the good honest farmers' sons the year round, and when they get married and relieve your patient women of that much extra work keep them still. They are cheaper than before, for is it not a fact that:

A man may be willing and doing his best,
But his mind will be weak if robbed of its rest.
The man who can rest and move wisely through life
Nine times out of ten is a man with a wife.

J. A. GIBSON.

Petrolia, March 21st, '98.

Editor FARMING:

DEAR SIR,—I have read with interest the articles written on the "hired man" question, and if I were clever, would take a side. I agree with you so fully, especially in your comments on Mr. Harrison's first letter, in your issue of March 8th, that I can but say with Will Carleton, "Them 'ere is my sentiments tew." Truly it is a wonder the women do not rise up in arms. I have never figured the matter of board up in dollars and cents; have always considered the home comfort side of the question, and surely it cannot be reckoned in dollars and cents. What family, whether rich or poor, but must feel the privacy of the home life marred by the continual presence of an outsider, no matter how respectable the outsider may be, or whether a farmer's son or not. And the man himself, how much more he would enjoy a home of his own. But I did not begin this with a view to argue, merely to applaud you, Mr. Editor, for your large-heartedness. I feel that you are a friend to the farmer's wife.

A FARMER'S WIFE.

Wyoming, April 2nd, 1898.

Mr. Gibson touches on a very important point when he shows that the present method of only employing young men on the farm for a part of the year is tending to drive many farmers' sons and others engaged in farm work to seek more steady employment elsewhere. Is it not a fact that many young men leave the farm just because they do not see in it a business that would give them steady employment during the winter as well as during the summer? It costs a young man as much to live during the winter as during the summer, and, in fact, more when we consider the extra clothing required for withstanding the cold. Is it not, therefore, reasonable to suppose that any young man of ability and push would prefer to seek employment in some other line of life that would afford him steady work both winter and summer. We are all anxious to retain the young men on the farm, and one way of doing it is for our farmers to engage men for the whole year instead of for a few months during the summer. To do this it is not necessary to keep the farm help idle during the winter. On every well regulated farm, where stock is kept, a hired man's time can be as well utilized during the winter as during the summer, and made just as profitable to the farmer.

We are pleased, indeed, to have the kind words of "a farmer's wife" in regard to this whole question. We were brought up on the farm and lived there long enough to engage in every kind of farm work and to know something of the conditions of farm life and the difficulties under which many of the farmers' wives are suffering. The extra work which the women folk have to perform because of the presence of the hired man in the home is not the important consideration from that point of view. It is, we believe, the fact that the privacy of the home life is broken into because the hired man boards in the home that makes his presence undesirable. We do not believe in class distinctions, yet at the same time we do not think the hired man on the farm should feel at all slighted because he is not looked upon as one of the family and admitted to their joys and sorrows. He is engaged to work on the farm, and his first aim should be to serve his employer faithfully and well. But we have known of more than one instance where young hired men on the farm have become offended because they were not admitted to all the pleasures of the home life. No merchant in a city would

think of employing a clerk in his warehouse and giving him a place in his home, and no more should a farmer be called upon to do so with the hired help on the farm.

Beet Sugar.

There may be an opening for beet sugar factories in this country yet. In the Budget Speech of last week the Government announces its intention of increasing to some extent the duties on sugars. This is intended to equalize the tariff and so react against the importation of bounty sugars from Germany. At the same time there is a provision made to allow the West Indies sugars to come in on the preferential clause at 25 per cent. less than the regular duties. This will no doubt be the means of larger importations of cane sugars from these islands. But the whole effect of the change is towards a higher tariff on sugars.

The real working of this change is not definitely known yet, but it may make it possible for the beet sugar industry to be operated at a profit. The importation of bounty sugars has been the chief drawback to the establishment of the beet sugar industry in Canada. We consume 330,000,000 pounds of sugar annually. If it were possible to produce only one-third of this sugar in Canada it would require 100,000 acres of land upon which to grow the sugar beets; and we do not see any great difficulty in the way, if the bounty sugars are taxed a little heavier. To cultivate and produce sufficient sugar beets to make 100,000,000 pounds of sugar would mean a new enterprise for many of our farmers and a new and profitable outlet for their energies.

NOTES AND IDEAS.

The editor of the *Canadian Produce*, who is now in England to investigate the standing of American butter, regards Canada as the greatest competitor which the United States butter-maker has in the English market. Australia has never come up to its record of 1895, when it shipped 311,896 cwt. of butter to England. The outlook does not appear to be for heavy increases in that direction. Already Denmark, Ireland and France are complaining that there is little money in the business of producing butter at the prices which have ruled during the past few years.

CANADA'S FARMERS.

G. W. Clemons, St. George, Ont.

The subject of this sketch, Mr. G. W. Clemons, though of Welsh descent, is a Canadian by birth, and was born on the farm on which he now resides in the township of South Dumfries, in the county of Brant, in 1846. Like many more of our successful farmers, Mr. Clemons received his early education in the public schools, and, as he aptly puts it, "In the hard school of experience."

Mr. Clemons' farm consists of 100 acres, and is situated near the village of St. George. He is well known as a breeder of purebred Holstein-Friesian cattle, and though he keeps Shropshire sheep, Berkshire swine and Plymouth Rock poultry, makes this noted dairy breed his specialty. He started his present herd in 1891, and gives as his reason for so doing that he found high grade Shorthorns "a delusion and a snare" as dairy cows. In 1895 he imported one bull and seven cows from the well-known herd of H. Stevens & Sons, N.Y., the best to be had. He was the first to introduce in Canada the famous Dekol strain, which is sought for by all breeders. Mr. Clemons has recently purchased two most promising bull calves in New York State for use in his herd.

Mr. Clemons has been a successful exhibitor at the leading Canadian shows where his herd has always taken a leading position. In 1897 his herd won over all the Ontario herds at Toronto, London and Ottawa, taking the gold medal at the last named place. Stock from his herd have been sent to all parts of Canada. Though recent sales of young stock have very much reduced his herd, he still has twenty-five head of pure-breds on hand.

For the past five years Mr. Clemons has been secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association, which position he still occupies. He is also a director of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association. Among the honors which Mr. Clemons prizes more than any of the others, and which has been conferred upon no other Canadian breeder, is that of being an honorary life member of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.