



WHILE the crop reports of our essayists indicate a generous harvest, with but few crops below the average, the essays have been more select than numerous. They are unanimous in asserting an improvement in the position and prospects of the farmer in contrast with that of a year ago, as they are also all cheerful and optimistic in tone. We have not received a communication on this topic that we should not like to print had we the space, and it is with reluctance that we publish only that of the winner, Arthur Ransom, who is but eighteen years old.

As the subject for the next literary competition, we propose to invite replies to a letter that has been received from a boy now an inmate of the Stepney Causeway Home, and employed in one of the shops. He wants advice that will help him to make up his mind whether to volunteer for Canada or to remain where he is, and he would like to get some idea as to the sort of experience he will meet with if he comes and what will be the prospects before him. He has heard of some of his former mates doing well in different parts of Canada, and would very much like to have some suggestions from them. For the best reply to this letter we offer a handsomely bound volume containing photographic views of Canadian scenery. As the object is of personal and practical interest we intend to print every reply if be helped in kind, and trust to be rewarded with many letters from your party. We will direct light on this subject.

The following is the prize essay:

BRAMPTON, ONT., Dec. 4th, 1899.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have tried my hand to write from my head an essay. Chingua-cousy, as I know it, is one of the best farming districts in the county of Peel, as it goes by the name of the Garden of Eden. Its land is a nice black loam, very suitable for farming, and the farmers of this vicinity are now reaping the rewards of their former brothers. Spring crops were very good, and the prices well on the average of former years. Spring wheat was an excellent crop and averaged twenty bushels to the acre, and is selling at seventy cents per bushel at present. Barley was a good crop, better than former years; its average yield is twenty-five bushels to the acre, and is selling at forty cents per bushel at present. Oats were a favourable crop, better than last year; its average yield is forty bushels to the acre, and is selling at twenty-eight cents per bushel. Peas were a very unfavourable crop, on account of such a dry summer, and the pea bug did considerable damage; its average yield is ten bushels per acre, and is selling at sixty cents per bushel at present. Rye was a very unfavourable crop, on account of a very severe winter and hard spring; its average yield is fifteen bushels per acre, and is selling at fifty cents per bushel at present. Buckwheat is very little grown, and I am unable to give its output. Fall wheat is almost a failure, on account of a very severe winter and hard spring. Field after field was torn up and sowed with spring crops. Its average yield in some parts was ten bushels per acre, and is selling at sixty five cents per bushel at present. However, on the average of the crops, the farmers of to day are much better, and the prospect much brighter, than that of a year ago. The weather has been very mild and the farmers are well done with their ploughing. A large quantity of fall wheat has been a win in this part and looks very good. Hoping Mr. Editor you will forgive all mistakes, as it is the first essay I ever wrote I am truly Yours truly,

ARTHUR RANSOM