

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

VOL. XXIV

TORONTO, 15 MARCH, 1905

No. 6

Wages for Farm Help Higher

THE most serious problem that has confronted the Canadian farmer in recent years is that of farm help. While conditions have improved somewhat during the past year or two, a scarcity still exists, and every spring sees farmers scurrying around to secure help for the busy summer season.

When this help scarcity became a reality a few years back it was the opinion of many farmers that it was only for a short time and that a year or two at most would see an adequate supply forthcoming at reasonable wages. But each succeeding year has brought no material change in the situation. Good experienced farm help is just as scarce as it ever was, and present indications are that it will continue to be so for some time to come. Consequently many farmers are becoming resigned to the situation and are adopting such measures in engaging help as will secure more permanency and greater efficiency in the work obtained. More are engaging men by the year instead of for the busy season only. Then more married men are being engaged, and homes supplied for them and their families. All this has a tendency to hold help for a longer period and does away with the necessity of looking for men every spring.

We have already stated that the situation has improved somewhat the past year or two. That improvement has been almost entirely due to the work of the Ontario Colonization Department, which, under the direction of Mr. Thos. Southworth, has been instrumental in bringing in thousands of old country laborers, who have relieved the situation very much indeed. In fact, had it not been for this source of supply, there would have been a famine in help by this time, instead of a scarcity, and real suffering would have resulted on many a farm. The Colonization Department, if it had done nothing more than this, would have fully justified its existence and amply repaid for the money it has cost the people of Ontario. But, in addition to supplying help, it has been effective in filling up New Ontario, and bringing in many thousands of desirable settlers. In 1900 3,000 immigrants came to Ontario, while in 1904 the number was over 25,000.

In 1904 between 5,000 and 6,000 British laborers were placed upon Ontario farms through the efforts of this department. Only a small percentage of these were experienced help. The great bulk were inexperienced men, but willing to work on Canadian farms in order to learn the business. It is encouraging to know that the English laborer who comes to this country thinks it more degrading

to clerk in a store than to work on a farm. According to his view he can do the most menial work on a farm and yet lose none of his social prestige. It would be a good thing for this country if more young Canadians had similar convictions, though a growing change for the better is noticeable in this regard even among our own people, and farming has advanced a peg or two upward socially. May it continue to climb.

Mr. Southworth states that farmers this spring are willing to pay higher wages for suitable men. In fact, this has become a necessity if men are to be had at all. Wages this season range from \$100 to \$140 per year and board for inexperienced men, men able and willing to work, and \$15 to \$20 per month, or \$175 to \$200 per year and board for experienced help. An experienced married man with a family will get a free house, an acre or two

so. There is no more profitable animal for the farmer to raise than the sheep.

The wool outlook seems to be favorable for good prices the coming season. At the moment there is a slight lull in the market, a not unusual occurrence at this season, as buyers are getting ready for the new clip, and want it to come forward under conditions as favorable to themselves as possible. Supplies of domestic wools, both here and to the south of the line, are pretty well cleaned up, and the new clip will likely find a market practically bare of good stock. Wool should, therefore, bring good money, though the producer should not look for too high a figure.

On the whole, the sheep situation in this country has not been as favorable for many years. Sheep, lambs and wool sell at good prices, and there should be good profit in the business for the grower.

National Records Attract Attention in U. S.

The decision of Canadian breeders to nationalize their records has already attracted attention in the United States. The *Live Stock Journal* of Chicago, in its last issue, gives liberal extracts from Live Stock Commissioner Hodson's address, as published in *THE FARMING WORLD* of Feb. 15th. On the question of nationalizing the records it says:

"We would be glad to see government supervision of our American stock books, herd books and records. The mere government recognition is of no consequence."

"Our breeders' associations could as readily secure half-rates for pedigree stock as the Canadian breeders' associations, but entry fees is the only ambition, object and purpose of our stock books. Whether the animals are true to type, or however unsound, they gladly record them for the entry fees."

Evidently some Americans are not running over with enthusiasm in regard to the way their live stock records are managed. Canadian breeders know that more than one of their record associations exists for no other purpose than to secure a fee, and a very big fee at that. National records here may induce our American friends to do better in the future, and to be a little more reasonable towards their northern neighbor in the recognition of records.

Assistance to Horse Breeding

At the horse breeders' banquet in this city several weeks ago it was announced that the new government in Ontario was prepared to do something substantial towards improving horse breeding. What policy it will adopt in promoting this end has not yet been made known. It is, perhaps, a little too soon to ex-

DAIRY NUMBER

Every farmer is more or less interested in dairying. If he does not supply milk to a cheese factory or creamery, butter is made on his farm. Therefore, information of a practical nature on this subject should appeal to him directly.

The annual dairy number of *THE FARMING WORLD*, to be issued on May 1st, will contain a fund of practical information of value to every farmer. Several new and important features will be introduced. The number will also be well and suitably illustrated.

Advertisers will find this number of special value in reaching a good class of customers. Applications for space should be made early.

for a garden, milk, fuel, and fruit, and from \$240 to \$300 for a yearly engagement. Of course, this does not include the man's board. These prices are higher than many farmers have been accustomed to pay. But seemingly they cannot remedy matters and are compelled to pay a sufficient wage to induce help to work on farms rather than at other occupations.

The Boom in Sheep

The sheep boom has arrived. Breeders report a very active demand for breeding stock. What is somewhat unusual about this demand is that it comes from the Canadian farmer, who for the past few years has been reported to be giving up sheep raising. But a reaction has evidently set in and farmers everywhere are endeavoring to get into sheep raising as quickly as possible. It is a good thing for the country that it is