



Harvesting the Western wheat crop, which, this year, will constitute an important part of Canada's war supplies.

Photo courtesy Immigration and Colonization Branch of Manitoba.

How Large a Farm for the Renter?

Facts That Should Be Considered Before Signing a Lease

AT this season of the year farm tenants are considering seriously the farms or the type of farm that they want for next year. We have in Canada a large number of tenant farmers. This number is always on the increase. Our tenant farmers are, as a general rule, young men, who are taking this method of getting into farming for themselves. The problem of financing a farm and supplying it with stock and machinery on the present small margin that exists between the receipts and the expenses of an ordinary farmer, is indeed a serious one. Beginners are finding, therefore, that it pays better to rent a farm and put their money into stock and machinery.

Two of the problems that confront tenants at this season of the year are, What size of farm shall I rent? and, shall I rent for cash or for a share of the produce?

A great deal has been written, particularly in papers which cater to glorified farming, concerning the profits to be obtained from the "little farm well tilled." But the huge profits to be derived from very intensive farming, outside of a few districts near cities where truck farming is carried on, are usually to be found only in the imagination of the real estate agent who wishes to dispose of such little farms. Too little land has been responsible for many failures in farming. The great trouble with a small farm is that the farmer cannot profitably employ himself, his machinery and his horses throughout the year. In many cases, farmers have found that with "40 acres and a mule" it has taken the 40 acres to feed the mule and the farmers themselves have little for their labor outside of the satisfaction of being near to Nature's heart.

In a survey embracing over 200 tenant farmers in New York State, which was carried out by Cornell University, it was found that tenants farming less than 50 acres made less wages than that made by the average hired man in that State. The most economical use of machinery seems to be made on farms of 100 to 200 acres. And in these days of labor scarcity, it is the farm which can make economical use of large machinery that will make the game worth while for the farmer. In this survey, for instance, it was found that the increase in the size of farms from 125 to 175 acres added 58 per cent. to the average labor income of the farmer.

There is, of course, always a danger of obtaining more land than can be profitably worked, and so of becoming land poor. On farms of over 200 acres additional horses and machinery will become necessary, and it has been found that in such cases the increase in labor income becomes less marked. The idea that the tenant should keep before him, therefore, in choosing a farm, is to get one where the benefits from three-horse

teams and large machinery may be derived. In many cases, it would pay both tenant and landlord if two smaller farms were rented and worked together, for, unless at least 100 acres is rented under a system of general farming, the tenant does not usually do himself justice nor his horses. Each horse should raise 20 to 30 acres of crops.

Cash Renting vs. Crop Sharing.

The tenant who rents for cash of course assumes more risk in the bargain than the tenant renting

ing as growing hay or grain crops are likely to pay the tenant most and the landlord least if the shares are anywhere near equal, as the amount of labor involved on the part of the tenant is not great. On the other hand, crops requiring a lot of work, such as potatoes or a system of farming like dairying if worked on shares would pay the landlord huge profits and impoverish the tenant. For this reason considerable study should be given to the crops which are to be grown before a division of the proceeds is fixed upon. But as has been intimated before, if the tenant is in the position to do so, he will usually find it greatly to his advantage to rent for cash rather than on shares.—S. R. N. H.



Visions of Pumpkin Pies.

for a share of the crop. Should his crops be destroyed by insect pests, drought or hail, it is he alone who feels the pinch. For this reason he is entitled to a larger labor income, and statistics show that he receives it. On the other hand the landlord who rents for a share of the crops, as a general rule receives a larger profit than the landlord who rents for cash, but in this case of course he assumes a certain amount of risk. Unless the landlord is in a position to supervise to some extent the operations on the farm, he is better to rent for cash.

If renting for a share of the produce, the tenant should pay some attention to the type of farming which he intends to take up before making his bargain. As a general rule, such extensive farm-

Watering the Silo

A Good Practice with Frosted Corn

THE heavy frost in early September seriously affected more than half of Ontario's corn crop, the major portion of which was immature at the time. Because of this lack of maturity, the frosted corn was left in the hope that the ears would develop further, and as a result much of it was frosted again. Where silos are not filled until after the corn has been frosted, there may be difficulty in getting the ensilage to pack sufficiently to exclude air and secure good keeping qualities. Whether or not the corn can be put in the silo safely, will depend upon the amount of moisture in the stalks and leaves.

Where the ensilage is light and dry, the only way around the difficulty is to add water. Where water can be had under pressure, the best plan is to run a small stream directly into the blower during filling. Where water is not under pressure it is a practice in some sections to thoroughly soak the surface of the ensilage during the noon day rest, and there is no reason why the surface should not be covered completely with free water. This would aid in compacting the ensilage, will prevent undue fermentation and unnecessary development of acids. When the silo is full the surface might be again thoroughly soaked with several barrels of water. Not only will this aid in keeping all of the ensilage in the silo good, but it will reduce the waste of ensilage on top.

Whitewashing the Stables

IF the stables have not been whitewashed yet this season advantage should be taken of the first mild spell to get the job done. We use good rock lime and stir a little crude carbolic acid into the lime wash. The carbolic acid gives the wash a slightly yellow tinge, but it is a good disinfectant. We gave up using the time-honored whitewash brush long ago. We strain the wash through a fine screen into our spray tank, and do the job thoroughly in a few hours. If we had not a spray tank we would borrow or rent one for the occasion.—A. P. Phillips, Middlesex Co., Ont.