

2 GEORGE V., A. 1912

| Birthplace.                   | 1901.  | 1906.   |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Prince Edward Island. . . . . | 907    | 2,957   |
| New Brunswick. . . . .        | 1,489  | 3,514   |
| Nova Scotia. . . . .          | 2,705  | 5,990   |
| Quebec. . . . .               | 12,567 | 19,905  |
| Ontario. . . . .              | 95,795 | 163,962 |

From these figures it will be noticed that in five years the population of the Prairie Provinces had been increased by settlers from the east as follows:—

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| From Prince Edward Island. . . . . | 2,050  |
| “ New Brunswick. . . . .           | 2,025  |
| “ Nova Scotia. . . . .             | 3,285  |
| “ Quebec. . . . .                  | 7,338  |
| “ Ontario. . . . .                 | 68,167 |

As already stated the figures are not yet available to show the westward movement between 1906 and 1911, but very likely it was as great as for the period from 1901 to 1906.

The second reason for the scarcity of farm help, almost as important as the first I believe, is the tendency on the part of farmers to engage their help for the busy season only and turn them adrift as soon as the rush season is past. So long as this practice continues, so long will a considerable proportion of the farmers be unable to secure help when they desire the same.

*By Mr. Sutherland:*

Q. Do you find any farm labourers out of employment during the winter months?

A. Yes.

Q. You do?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you find any during the past winter?

A. They don't want farm work though.

Q. Then it is not the fault of the farmers that they are not engaged during the winter?

A. Because he is not hired for the year.

Q. Is it not a fact that many farmers during the winter months cannot get labour?

A. I cannot tell you that.

Q. There are a great many who have great difficulty in getting labour?

A. At present we are trying to place as many farm labourers as we can by the year, but the great percentage of farmers hire their labour for from six to eight months. At the end of that period the farm hand does not stay at the village nearest the farm; he goes into the cities, to Hamilton, London, or Toronto, where there are factories, and being a husky young man tries to get work there where they are looking for men and they get into the factories.

Q. Is it not a fact that a great many farm labourers will not engage for more than six or eight months in order that they may go west in the fall of the year?

A. I cannot tell you that. I may say that there is now a considerable tendency both in the east and the west to abandon the practice and to keep the help for the year around. In the west the extension of mixed farming provides employment for the help which was not available in the winter months when more attention was given simply to the growing of wheat. In the east I believe the change has largely been caused by the realization that help could not be secured unless kept for the full twelve months. The question of wages is also a factor in deciding the ultimate destination of immigrants coming to the country. In this connection I would quote