

hired man; they themselves, have formed the habit of working from daylight until dark, or later, and expect their men to work those hours also—and sometimes without holidays. Besides this, they employ labor during eight or nine months of the year only, or will pay practically nothing for labor during the winter months. This, of course, causes much discontent among the farm laborers, who usually emulate the example of the farmers' sons and wend their way cityward. Before the farmers can hope to obtain a sufficient supply of competent labor, they must, in some way, operate their businesses so as to employ that labor during all twelve months of the year. As an inducement to married men to become farm laborers, the erection of comfortable cottages, where they may have homes of their own, is to be advocated. However, in a great many instances, even though the farmer offers an attractive yearly wage, laborers cannot be persuaded to work outside the limits of the city, even though they may be out of work and depending upon charity for their existence. Were those who so earnestly advocate a "back to the land" movement of farm owners, on account of the high prices of food stuffs, to devote their attention to the breaking down of the laborer's prejudice against work in the country, the desired results would be achieved in a manner more advantageous to all concerned.

The most potent factor in the cause of the high cost of living, in Ontario, is not, however, rural depopulation or the scarcity of labor. It is the lack of marketing facilities. It is well known throughout the Province that the farmer makes as much or more money during a year of general low production in his part of the country, than during a year of gen-

eral high production, while the price to the consumer is not materially altered. This statement may seem, on first thought, scarcely reasonable, but when we consider that during a year of general high production, many crops are not worth harvesting and are allowed to waste upon the fields, we can conceive of the possibility of such a condition. The keynote of the situation is "inefficient distribution." Herein lies the true task of those seeking to lower the cost of food products. It is a consumer's problem as much as a producer's. Consumers' Co-operative Societies, acting in conjunction with Farmers' Co-operative Societies, could do much to remedy this evil, reducing the cost to the consumer and increasing the price to the farmer. But, as was stated previously, mixed farming is the most difficult business to adapt to Co-operative methods, as Societies which handle a diversity of articles cannot operate successfully, and hence, it is necessary to form separate societies for the handling of the various kinds of farm products. Co-operation is, however, coming to the fore in this Province; it is yet in its infancy, but is proving satisfactory in many instances, and to what extent it may prove applicable to our conditions is not easy to predict.

Another handicap to Ontario's mixed farming is lack of capital and the total absence of a Credit System. It is true that our banks will loan money to farmers, if their security be sufficient but their rates of interest are such as to make this system of credit absolutely prohibitive. Co-operation only will supply a remedy for this much-felt want. It has done so successfully in European countries, and can do so in Ontario, when it has become firmly established throughout the Province. The advent of true Co-operation, with