

...AT THE...

## Editor's Desk

**A**LTHOUGH slightly changed in garband name, the first number of MASSEY-HARRIS ILLUSTRATED for 1897 by no means comes as a stranger to the farmers and the farmers' families of Canada. An intimate acquaintance, possessing much of the warmth of friendship on both sides, was established several years ago between the farmers and ourselves. It was not, however, until after it was decided, a year ago, to discontinue the publication of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED as a separate journal that we fully realized what a prominent place had been accorded us in the consideration of the many thousands who had formed our constituency. The demand from all parts of the country for "the ILLUSTRATED and nothing else" has been incessant during the last twelve months; and to this is due the decision of the Management to revive the publication of the magazine which experience has proved occupied the place of first favorite in the Canadian farm home.

In launching this first number of the New Series we do so, then, with the comforting assurance that it will not go a-begging for friends, but that it will be given a warm welcome from a majority of those into whose hands it shall find its way. The slight change in the outward appearance, to which we have alluded, is rendered necessary by technical exigencies, and must not be taken as an indication of a wide departure from the lines of work which MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED has followed in years gone by. True, our energies will have a wider scope than before; it must still be remembered, however, that we are not a newspaper, but an illustrated magazine; and our efforts will be directed towards providing in each issue an abundant supply of pictorial and literary matter of a character that will be acceptable to the community of farmers, both in their professional capacity and as a class who take a keen and intelligent interest in

events transpiring in different parts of the world, and which in their results bear so largely upon the welfare of mankind at large; and equally appreciative of our efforts on their behalf do we hope to find the different members of the farmer's family—the wife, the mother and the young people—for all of whom ample provision is made in our various departments.

With this brief introduction of ourselves, we very heartily wish the farmers of Canada, and all friends, old and new, a very happy and prosperous New Year. We send our greeting forth with none the less pleasure that there are many indications that the present year will be more prosperous for all classes than its immediate predecessors. In Canada, as elsewhere, the cry for several years has been "hard times." The early "nineties" saw the arrival of one of those cycles of depression which insist upon making their appearance two or three times in a generation.

The visitation was by no means local. While some countries, owing to the greater stability of their institutions, and to other causes, suffered less than others, there is not a civilized state on the four continents that did not feel the pinch of hard times. In some cases, notably Australia and the United States, the pinch became a veritable squeeze, which at one time pressed so heavily on the commercial and industrial life of those countries as to reduce it almost to a state of utter collapse—certainly to one of suspended animation. With what avidity a number of the people of the United States expressed their readiness to seek relief in the quack nostrums of the free silver leaders, is fresh in the memory of all. Fortunately for the big Republic, and for commercial interests and good government the world over, the thinly veiled anarchy which the free silver leaders were advocating, and which was embraced by many in sheer desperation, was reduced to a thing of shreds and tatters when election day came round.

Nothing more forcibly illustrates the greater stability of our Canadian institutions; the more perfect union of all

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