

drainage and ease of cultivation, will compare favorably with the very choicest sections of Old Ontario. Unbroken by a sign of rock, and most of the fields without a single stump, the friable clay soil, mixed with rich-brown vegetable mold, turns up in beautiful furrows, while the thick carpet of the new-seeded clover meadows, and the nice, even braird of the late-sown fall wheat, made one forget that he was some three hundred miles due north of Toronto. Barring certain climatic limitations, a finer farming country could scarcely be imagined. Many of the settlers here had come in thirteen or fourteen years ago; extensive clearing have been made, and some excellent farm buildings erected. Our camera will present next week a few illustrations of these, accompanied by notes drawn from experience.

WHAT SOME SETTLERS HAVE DONE.

Suffice it here to note that nine representative men among the better class of farmers interviewed, who had been in the country from 5 to 14 years, bringing with them an average of \$265 apiece, now count themselves worth sums varying from \$2,000 to \$20,000, the average being \$9,722. To be quite candid, we must add that they seem to place quite a high value on their property, basing it, presumably, upon returns that have been derived from the sale of produce in local markets at high prices—prices that must come down as production increases. Asked why they do not sell out and homestead again, they reply that they prefer not to repeat pioneer privations, unless well paid for it. Roads, schools, churches, railroads, drainage, markets, and cost of clearing, are among the factors that tend to hold up the price of improved farms in a country where 160 acres of new land can be purchased for 50 cents an acre, one-quarter cash, and the balance in three annual instalments. The other homestead conditions are very easy, consisting of the erection of a habitable house, at least 16 x 20 feet, the clearing of at least 10 per cent. of the land, and residence for at least six months each year. Of the 10 per cent. mentioned, at least two acres must have been cleared and cultivated annually during the three years next succeeding the date of purchase, and from then up to the issue of the patent.

SOME DRAWBACKS—VETERAN CLAIMS.

The principal difficulties encountered, besides black flies and mosquitos, are lack of sufficient colonization roads, in some cases lack of drainage, and in all cases the usual difficulties of social and municipal organization. These difficulties are seriously aggravated in many instances by the veteran claims held, without pretence of improvement, and untaxable, we believe, for a period of ten years. Near the town of Liskeard one such claim was pointed out, standing as Nature left it, and held at \$10,000. The interspersing of these locations was a great mistake, and the present policy is to group them, as far as possible, in certain townships.

COST OF CLEARING LAND—INCOME AND WAGES.

As to the actual cost of clearing the land, estimates vary greatly. Settlers interviewed placed the cost of cutting green bush and stumping within a year after the axe, at from \$25 up to \$90 per acre, the average figures being \$37. One man who had kept strict account of an acre, said \$40 would barely cover it. By seeding down, and allowing the stumps to rot four to six years, this part of the task is rendered very easy, and the cost of clearing greatly reduced. Then, too, there is now a good demand for pulpwood, at about

\$3.75 per cord on track, or, a dollar extra if peeled. Mr. Dane informs us that he knows of one man who wants to contract for 3,000 cords of it right now. A fairly well timbered homestead should yield 1,000 cords of pulpwood. Good ones run 15 cords per acre or more; \$2.00 to \$2.50 per cord should cut this wood and place it on the track, leaving \$1.25 to \$1.75, thus reducing the average net cost of clearing the land to about \$15 to \$35 per acre, depending partly upon how soon it is stumped and upon the nature of the wood-growth. White-wood land is much more expensive to clear, as the stumps do not rot in less than six or seven years. Of course, much depends upon the location of the lot. The cost of clearing burnt land is very moderate, estimates running from \$5 to \$30 per acre, the average being about \$15 or \$16. Incidentally, we were told that the pulpwood for which the settler receives \$3.75 to \$4.75 a cord, is worth \$13.50 at the Niagara frontier. If a settler has a lot with lumber (other than pine, which he may not sell without stumpage dues, save on the area where his clearing is done), he may make more than from pulpwood. Telegraph poles and railroad ties are other remunerative sources of revenue. Wages are good. Sectionmen on the railroad receive \$1.75 to \$2.00 a day. What with lumbering, building of roads, doing assessment work on prospectors' claims, and one thing and another, there is plenty of chance for the settler to earn ready cash. Truth to tell, this has been a drawback to settlement in the newer parts, the ready dollar obscuring the future benefit of bona-fide clearing and agriculture. Add to this an exciting mining fever, which has distracted many a settler's attention, and it is easy to understand the tardy agricultural progress of the newer townships. The mining fever is now cooling down, and, as a much larger number of settlers have taken up land this summer than of recent years, more rapid agricultural progress may be looked for.

One drawback to the settlement of the country is the unnecessary division of jurisdiction, as among the various departments of Government. Upon the Colonization Bureau of the Department of Agriculture rests the responsibility of advertising the country. Then, the settler must get in touch with the Crown Lands Branch to enter his homestead. Finally, he must arrange with the railroad as to transport. By the time he has dealt in turn with all these Bureaus, it is a wonder if he has not gotten the Western bee in his bonnet, or gone off elsewhere. A suggestion that has been made, and that appealed strongly to the visiting journalists, is that some townships, at least, contiguous to the railway, be ceded to the T. & N. O. R. Commission to settle, the whole authority being thus centralized, and red tape reduced to a minimum. An agricultural expert employed by this same Commission could have charge of the farm at Monteith, devoting it to experiment, and establishing, besides, small local demonstration farms at representative points under settlers' conditions, to obtain accurate data on many points, such as cost of clearing land, returns, etc., where only estimates are now obtainable. The Railway Commission is the one Bureau that has a vital interest in the speedy settlement and progress of the country. Its efficiency is recognized, and there is good reason to believe that the plan mentioned would conduce to the filling up of the country with satisfied settlers.

The fair held at Liskeard this fall is the sixth one held by the society, and the third one in the present grounds, which boast a half-mile track, seating accommodation, and next housing for agri-

cultural and horticultural products and ladies' work. There was a fair display of live stock for a new section, the cattle being classified according to type, as Holstein type, Ayrshire type, etc., while the swine were divided into two classes, registered and grades. Quite a good exhibit of horses competed, though the judge, R. D. Dundas, of Springville, Ont., found blemishes on some of the entries he would have liked to place higher. Field and garden products were excellent in quality. The grain was better than that exhibited from New Ontario at Toronto Exhibition. Thos. Delworth, who judged the vegetables and roots, found potatoes by far the strongest class; only in Muskoka had he seen their equal. We are told, however, that at Charlton and Englehart Fairs even better potatoes were shown. The texture and flavor was very fine, and the skins smooth. There are, however, too many varieties grown. He recommended, for commercial reasons, confining attention to a few varieties, suggesting as a standard sort the Delaware type, and as early varieties the Early Ohio and Eureka, or Irish Cobbler. Turnips were excellent in texture and quality, being free from stringiness. The prize Swedes would weigh about twelve pounds apiece. As at all new fairs, there is a tendency to over-emphasize weight or size. Mr. Delworth, in judging, endeavored moderately to revise this opinion, placing the premiums on quality. The cabbage and carrots were very good. Crisp celery of excellent flavor was on exhibition, and it would seem that the muskogs should be adapted to produce this vegetable to good advantage. A very fine collection of vegetables was exhibited by E. F. Stephenson, President of the Agricultural Society, including a sample of Empire State potatoes, with the fine-netted skins supposed to denote choice table quality. Sugar beets were not so good as the turnips. Onions were not so thoroughly ripened as desirable. Nevertheless, it was a most creditable show, and went to substantiate the journalists' opinion that here is a magnificent agricultural country, whose settlement will not await the filling up of the prairie, as was once thought, but which offers very attractive chances right now to the farmer or farmer's son with too little capital to make an early start in the old-settled portion of the country. New Ontario is making good.

Poultry Stock for the West.

High prices for poultry products is impressing itself upon Western Canada. A carload of breeding stock is being shipped by Gunn & Langlois, on October 16th, from Quebec for the Western Provinces, and indications point to a greater demand in this respect in the Maritime Provinces than the East can supply. Ontario, too, is showing her appreciation of the value of poultry by importing breeding birds from Quebec by the carload.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers, of which G. A. Putnam, Toronto, Ont., is president; A. M. Soule, Athens, Ga., vice-president, and John Hamilton, Washington, D. C., secretary, will be held in Washington, November 14th, 15th and 16th, 1910, when a very interesting and practical programme of subjects will be discussed by prominent persons. The Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Stations hold their annual convention in Washington, beginning November 16th, and continuing through the 17th and 18th.



Clover Field in New Ontario: A Characteristic Landscape.