

showed positive evidence of having suffered from severe fire four times within the last sixty-six years, at intervals of nine, thirteen and forty-two years respectively.

To this, nevertheless, Dr. Clark adds. . . . "We still, without a doubt, however, have in our woodlands an asset which, if conserved by wise use, will make of Canada one of the richest of nations. . . . The insuring of an adequate supply of timber for the development of the resources of our country is a matter of the greatest importance to us."



**BELGIAN FARMERS FOR CANADA.**

Among letters of enquiry about Canada which have come to us recently from Brussels, Liege, and Amsterdam—mostly, however, from merchants and professional men—is the following dated from Forest-Bruxelles, Belgique, 18th November. It is doubly interesting because it is from a farmer who proposes to bring to Canada a family of trained farmers. It is farmers this country wants. If experienced in intensive farming, as Belgians are likely to be, all the better.

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that some relations of us and I would like to start for Canada in Ontario in order to cultivate and farming.

I beg to ask you if it is not too much trouble to you to let us know where we could for such a time find any employment near some great farmers? What could be the rewards in return of our services? Each of us being thoroughly farmer in our Belgian cultivating manner, but not acquainted with Canadian use and custom. In such an idea be kind enough to let me know what is to be paid to you as regarding the engagement you could procure to us.

We should prefer such a percentage on our wages paid. If another manner is yours please let me know about it and also if you could not care for such a purpose be kind enough to let me know some address where we could send our ask.

I must tell you all of us are sons of best Belgian farmers' families.

Excuse me for such a trouble to you and, believe me, Dear Sir.

Yours sincerely,  
P. LIMBOURG.

It will be observed that Limbourg says that he and his fellows are all of good Belgian farming families, and thoroughly informed about Belgian methods of farming. But, perceiving that these methods may not be understood here, or may possibly not be best adapted for Canada, these intending immigrants propose to get employment with (or near) some of our large farmers. This proposal indicates good sense. Such people, adaptable and willing to learn, ought to be encouraged. We shall write Mr. Limbourg and hand his letter to the Ontario Department of Agriculture. If any of our readers are disposed to give a hint of encouragement to this Belgian, we shall be glad to hear from them.

Acknowledging our letter and enclosure the Director of Colonization for Ontario, Mr. Thomas Southworth, says:—

I also had a previous letter from Mr. Limbourg writing on behalf of a number of Belgians who desired to form a colony on a sort of co-operative basis. I was obliged to write him that our land regulations would not permit the holding of land here in just the way he wished, but advised him to correspond with the Dominion authorities regarding land in the North-West.



As to the question he asks you, I have no doubt whatever that he could secure employment for him and his friends on farms in Ontario; and if they thought of taking up land here ultimately they would all be wise to take service with a farmer in old Ontario for a year or longer before doing so. Our farm labor bureau in connection with the Department of Agriculture would be pleased to assist them in securing situations on their arrival here.



**WESTERN MERCHANTS AND THE C.P.R.**

The merchants of Vancouver decided, in a largely attended meeting last week, to fight the alleged discrimination by the Canadian Pacific Railway against them, and in favor of the distributors of Winnipeg to such points as Calgary and Macleod, by doing everything in their power to oppose the interests of the great corporation, and by putting business as far as possible in the way of the American roads, the Great Northern, and the Northern Pacific. They practically declared a boycott of the C.P.R. until justice should be done Vancouver. The merchants of Victoria have declared themselves to be in sympathy with the movement. The business men of the Coast, have, it may be said, been for a long time trying to obtain such reduction in freight rates as would permit them to compete with Winnipeg in such places as the Alberta towns. The C.P.R. on the other hand declares that the conditions which underly the making of a freight schedule are not properly understood, and that the rates enjoyed by Vancouver distributors, particularly in view of the heavy cost of transportation through the Rockies, are already as low as they can be made, consistent with a fair profit to the company.



**MINING MEN'S VIEWS.**

This week there has been held in Toronto an important conference of mining men to discuss with the Ontario Government the needs of the mining industry of the Province, and the best direction in which to revise the mining laws. An overwhelming sentiment was expressed at this meeting against the payment of royalties, though a few of those present had the courage to express the reasonable view that the Government, which represents the people as a whole, is entitled to some revenue from the mines. A resolution to the effect that there should be only one mining law for the whole Province carried unanimously. It was decided to form an Ontario Mining Association, the question of affiliation with the Canadian Mining Institute to be considered later.



**EASTERN TOWNSHIPS BANK.**

A good report was submitted by this bank at its annual meeting last week, both in respect of earnings and of the extension of the bank's business. The net earnings are larger than in the year before, which is not to be wondered at, seeing that by an increase of almost two millions in deposits, the bank was able to increase its loans by nearly the same amount. And the addition to rest is doubled this year. We observe with pleasure the item in profit and loss account, "Bonus to employees," which is the sort of recognition that a

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