

The Farming World

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Note and Comment

The last day of the month is set apart for national Thanksgiving. In no other land is the true spirit of the occasion manifested more than in this country. The Canadian has many things to be thankful for even in this year of nineteen hundred and seven when crop yields have fallen off somewhat. Prices for nearly everything the farmer produces run higher than for several years past. Peace and prosperity reign in our midst and the outlook for their continuance is bright. While accidents and disasters have been more numerous, no great catastrophe has overtaken our land. Our people live in comfortable homes, with health of body and mind preserved, ready to buckle to whatever task lies before them. For these and other numerous blessings they should be truly thankful.

And these good things have not passed by The Farming World. Last March, when the present proprietors assumed control, they determined to add 5,000 new names to the subscription list before the end of the year. They are now rejoicing in the fact that already one-half of this number has been secured, and that prospects are bright for securing the balance before the year is out. The best of the subscription season is to come. We counted upon our present subscribers aiding us in this effort and they have responded nobly. If they will keep up the good work until January 1st, when our subscription price goes to \$1.00, the full 5,000 new readers will have been secured. This can be done with little effort. They have a paper that can be recommended to friends and neighbors without hesitation, and the present price is low enough to suit everyone.

For several years The Farming World has advocated the issuing by the Federal Government of a Dominion crop report. According to a special correspondent in this issue this work is likely to be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in time for next season's

crop. The value of an authoritative and carefully compiled report covering the whole of Canada can hardly be overestimated. Not only will it be of value to the grower in indicating the probable price he will receive for his crop, but it will aid very materially in advertising Canada abroad. No factor has been more potent in advertising the agricultural possibilities of the United States than the monthly crop reports issued regularly from Washington. Canada may expect to reap the same advantage by adopting a similar course.

Among the legislation foreshadowed for the coming ses-

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sion of the Ontario Legislature is something dealing with the automobile nuisance. That this system of locomotion as practiced by many people is a menace to the safety and comfort of farm life all will admit. At the same time the question should be approached in a calm and judicious spirit. Reactionary legislation might defeat the object in view, that of preserving the highways of the country for those who need and use them most. Further restriction of the reckless chaffeur is undoubtedly needed and our legislators have no easy task before them in devising legislation that will best meet the needs of the situation.

No stronger evidence is needed to show the prosperity of Can-

ada than the annual reports of the two leading railroads of this country recently published. Both the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific report a large increase in the surplus of earnings over expenditures, as compared with other years. While large expenditures have been made by both railroads for rolling stock and equipment, a much larger outlay in this direction is needed before our transportation companies are sufficiently equipped to meet the needs of the shipping public. The fact of the matter is, that notwithstanding the large expenditures of recent years by our railroads they have not kept pace with the growing needs of the country for better shipping and transportation facilities. In many places a car shortage and delay in getting goods to their destination are just as prevalent as they ever were.

Another step in advance has been made towards the teaching of agriculture and kindred subjects in the rural schools. The Minister of Education for Ontario has decided to grant direct to rural teachers who qualify for the teaching of this branch at the Ontario Agricultural College and inaugurate the work in the school, the sum of \$30 per annum so long as the work is continued. This should encourage many teachers to take up this branch of education, though a great deal will depend upon the extent of the course to be taken at Guelph, and the cost incurred in obtaining it. Another way of accomplishing the same thing is to establish one of the Normal schools at Guelph in connection with the college. Were this done many teachers would take advantage of it.

The Post Office Department is considering a return to the one cent rate for letters posted in a city and addressed to parties within the municipality. The surplus which the department has every year, largely through the postage on newspapers and the higher rates levied on third-class matter, will enable this to be done. But where does the farmer come in?