

the work, though hard, is very nice and interesting, and they don't push at all."

A fourth writer says:—"I am delighted with Canada and its people, and the more I see of it the more it appeals to me."

A fifth correspondent writes:—"I think I shall like fruit farming very much, and I don't think there are many young men that would not like it. It is much more healthy than working in the city."

To make up the half dozen, let me quote one other immigrant, who also has settled in a fruit district:—"It is a very nice country here. There seem to be plenty of opportunities for one to get out here, and I wonder there are not more people coming out. Truly, Canada is a great country."

I see in an official pamphlet a statement that the wages of experienced farm hands in Ontario run from £4 to £6 a month, with board, while the inexperienced men get £1 15s. to £3, also including board. The writer adds:—"So much depends upon the qualifications of the applicant that the figures can only be approximate." That is a fair statement of the case. My own inquiries confirm the official figures, so far as they go; and I can go a little further.

A friend of mine with a considerable orchard, relies to some extent on men living in the neighbourhood for help in the busiest season. They work by the day; but he also has an Englishman in his permanent employ. To this man he pays \$35 (£7 6s.) a month for eight months, and \$20 (£4 3s.) a month for the rest of the year, making £6 12s. for the twelve-month in cash. But in addition the man has a five-roomed cottage, woodshed, fuel, a daily quart of milk, and garden ground enough to grow all the vegetables he wants for his family—all free of cost.

The ordinary wage of a capable man in these fruit districts is \$25 or \$30 (£5 4s. or £6 5s.) a month for the season of eight months, with board and lodging. It is not every farmer who has a separate cottage for his man to live in; but the wisdom of providing this is being more and more recognized. If a man has a comfortable little home of his own he is less likely to have a restless desire to move away. He can bring up a family—which is a good thing for all concerned. The wife and children can get plenty of healthy work about the farmhouse and orchard, which adds considerably to the family income, and at the same time relieves the farmer of anxiety when extra help is wanted.

The farmers are also finding the advantage of engaging a good man by the year, even though there is comparatively little to do in the four winter months,—instead of letting him go at the end of the eight months' season and trusting Providence to send another man in the spring. A newcomer should always try to get a full year's contract; and if he is really competent he will generally succeed in doing so.

More slowly, but surely, the farmer is coming to see the advisability and possibility of regular working hours, so that his men can know exactly what time they will have for themselves. When this amount of consideration is shown them, they are found to be perfectly willing to give the extra time necessary in the busiest part of the season.

A farmer who has adopted this system on his combined dairy and