

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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The Farm Help Supply

As spring approaches the farm help problem becomes more acute. The situation this season, however, does not appear to be as serious as on some former occasions. Mr. Thomas Southworth, director of Colonization for Ontario, informs us that the number of applications received for farm help to date is not as large as at this time last year. The decrease is not very great, just sufficient, perhaps, to indicate that the demand for farm help is not so keen as at this time a year ago.

However, there may be other reasons for this falling off in applications. Previous to this year the Salvation Army and the Ontario Labor Bureau were the chief agencies engaged in this work. The Dominion Immigration Department has now entered the field and has established agencies in several counties in Ontario through which farmers can be supplied with help. In addition, there are several private agencies engaged in the same work, so that the farmer is much better looked after in regard to help than he was a few years ago.

So far as the quality of the help is concerned, there is, perhaps, little improvement. The percentage of experienced help coming in from the old land is not large, the great majority of immigrants being recruited from the towns and cities. Care is, however, taken by the larger agencies to secure only sober and industrious people who desire to better their condition. Those who arrived the other day, through the Rothechilds agency, are said to be of a better type than some others that have come to the country recently. These were all placed by Mr. Southworth before their arrival in Toronto. A number more are expected shortly. He has been sending out help all winter, which fact, with the other agencies in the field, may account for the slight falling off in applications this spring.

Clydesdale Horses for the O. A. C.

The purchase of three pedigreed Clydesdale mares by the Minister of Agriculture for use at the Ontario Agricultural College marks a new era in the history of horse-breeding in Ontario. Other than the keeping of a good class of work horses, nothing has ever been done at the College in the systematic breeding of horses. The keeping of a number of high-priced horses for breeding purposes has been looked upon as too costly an undertaking for the College to engage in. And, perhaps, it was in those days when the College had not so strong a hold upon the farming public as it

has today. Of late years, however, there has been an urgent demand from the horsemen that something should be done towards giving the students at the College a thorough training in, and a practical knowledge of, the principles of horse breeding. Mr. Monteith will, therefore, receive the hearty support of horsemen generally in his efforts to supply this need. We understand that it is not the intention of the Department, for the present, at least, to place stallions at the College. The aim will be to keep a number of good brood mares of the leading breeds and demonstrate the principles of good breeding by breeding these to suitable stallions selected from the leading studs of the province. More than this should not be expected at the beginning.

It is worthy of note that Clydesdale breeding stock is to be found at nearly every agricultural college in the United States. The individual, more than all others, responsible for this, is Mr. R. B. Ogilvy, secretary of the American Clydesdale Association, who was a purchaser of one or two good ones at Mr. Davies' sale. He is a practical Clydesdale breeder of repute and has never failed to keep the "Scotchman's draft horse" to the front at all times. There are those who say that if the Canadian Association had had a man of this stamp as its executive officer, the Ontario Agricultural College would not have remained so long without good breeding stock of the Clydesdale kind in its stables. However this may be, it is to be hoped that now that a good beginning has been made, practical education in horse-breeding will be given the attention its importance to the country demands.

Toronto Fair and the Agriculturist

The new plan of electing directors of the Toronto Industrial Fair Association has not worked as well for the agricultural end of the concern as the old method. True, the agriculturist is well represented in three or four of the men elected, one of whom has been chosen president, but the number on the board directly representing agriculture is not so large as it was a year ago. This should not be. The agricultural section is the most important part of the exhibition and should be adequately represented on the board of directors.

The new arrangement provides that there shall be twenty-four directors, eight appointed by the City Council, eight representing agriculture and eight representing the manufacturers. But it does not work out this way in practice as the recent election shows.

Instead of having a third representation on the board of directors the agriculturists have only three directors who may be said to directly represent their interests. The reason for this is that representatives to the manufacturers' section and those appointed by the City Council have the right to vote for directors representing the agricultural section. This plan mixes up the vote and makes it almost impossible for the agricultural section to get its proper representation on the board. The only way things can be satisfactorily arranged is to have the agricultural section elect its own directors and the manufacturers the same. There should be no objection to this, if the powers that be are at all sincere in their desire to have the agriculturists adequately represented. Why should the City Council or those representing the manufacturers have the right to say who shall represent the agricultural section, or why should the agricultural section have any say in who shall represent the manufacturing interests on the board? To continue this arrangement will only complicate matters and prove to be the thin edge of the wedge that will eventually alienate, to a very large extent at least, the interest of the agriculturist in the exhibition. Let there be fair play in this matter. The representatives from the live stock, dairy, fruit, and kindred associations know better than anyone else who are most capable of representing their interests on the board and they alone should be allowed to say who they shall be.

The Farmer's Wood Lot

It is expected that a forward movement will be inaugurated this year in respect to farmers' wood lots and the reclamation of waste lands. What is aimed at is the establishment in each county of at least two experimental wood lots on farms centrally located so as to be easy of access and which would serve as models to farmers in the district. It is proposed to supply farmers, who will give a small portion of their land for experimental wood lots and give it a reasonable amount of care, with suitable and specially selected saplings. Experts will advise as to the planting, etc. It is expected that the Ontario Department of Agriculture, the Ontario Agricultural College, the Experimental Union and the Farmers' Institutes will co-operate in carrying on this work.

Demonstration work of this kind, if properly conducted, should prove effective in stimulating an increased interest in the farmer's wood lot. If