

fiscal arguers. An inference drawn by some people is that the States in a few years will be absorbing the export wheat from the Dominion to so great an extent that Indian, Argentine and Russian supplies will be more necessary to us than to-day. Nobody dares to be certain on the point, but—as the chief Free Trade Conservative journal of the North sagely concludes—the report shows how extremely careful we ought to be in committing ourselves to a policy of Preference. But all things suggest that same moral to the wary writers of "The Yorkshire Post."

England has started suddenly at the discovery that workmen's cottages of pleasing aspect can be put up at a cost of \$750 each, in place of the usual \$1,250. An exhibition of model dwellings at this price is to be held at the "Garden City," and in some ways it is to be desired that the adjudication might be deferred for a term of years. Men in the building trade are loth to believe that the hasty erections will last long enough to be fitting investments for capital. Some of the houses are made of hollow concrete blocks, and some are almost monoliths. A whole house-side is cast at one operation from an aggregate of cement and furnace clinker, being lightly reinforced in places with steel. Architects have been quick to show that the dwellings may at least be decorative, and the public is in ecstasies over the picturesque appearance obtained. Journals which are not supposed to have any deep technical acquaintance with building construction are frothing at the mouth because of the iniquitous building laws which obtain in most localities and necessitate the use either of brick or stone. Good prices will no doubt be fetched by the houses erected, because there is a public for the pretty where it is also cheap. The verdict of the capitalist will be returned after a certain lapse of time.

The illicit traffic in insured lives makes headway. From the West Indies report comes of the victimization of an old English office by an agent who appears to have selected the worthless consistently and then to have primed them with early death in the shape of alcohol. In the North of England the ramifications of the industrial companies have been shamefully abused. Sometimes the office itself has not been beyond suspicion in matters of insurable interest. Canvassers also have been exposed too greatly to temptation in the arduous task of keeping up returns. Ex-agents retired have quite a nice little income from policies which ought not to have been written, and from others bought for a song from people who were drunk or in dire extremity. One individual is said to find it remunerative to pay premiums of \$50 a week on the lives of others. Of course our judges are very cutting in their strictures on these proceedings, and the good industrial offices recognize their responsibilities. But by connivances the practice is kept alive, and no man knows the end of the subterranean insuring now in force.

Canadian example is responsible for the new suggestion of a "patriotic" stamp, to be affixed to postal envelopes or goods sold in shops. Its legend runs "Buy goods of British manufacture," printed around a representation of the Union Jack, with the floral emblems of the four countries of the Kingdom in the corners. Our first tendency is rather to despise such artifices, and without influential backing one dare not say that the stamps will be a great success. The notion is to stimulate home industry by creating a platonic preference for home-made goods. Except a few advertisers, nobody troubles publicly to create this feeling. Silently, however, the disposition to prefer British to foreign articles has grown stronger of recent years.

A man now stands accused of deliberately getting his legs taken off by a train that he might secure accident compensation. His pockets were filled with coupon-giving periodicals, and all to no purpose, for it is stipulated that the accident must be to the train and not to the individual. Not wanting to waste his legs for nothing the man has brought action against the Taff Vale Railway Company, and with serious consequences to himself.

NORTH-COUNTRY.

Manchester, August 4.

## ONTARIO CROPS.

The August Crop Bulletin issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, says that the crop of Fall wheat will be a big one as regards the yield per acre, more especially in the Lake Erie counties. Most of the Fall wheat stood up well, and there was not so much "lodging" as is usual in the case of a heavy crop. A number of correspondents speak of rust, but in almost every case it was described as being only slight. The grain may be generally classified as a fair sample. In short, 1905 may be classed as one of Ontario's best Fall wheat years. Comparatively little Spring wheat is now grown in the western half of the province, and in the eastern half the crop appears to be also decreasing in popularity. Cutting was expected to be general during the week beginning August the 14th. The crop is described as being full in the head, with good straw, and promises more than an average yield. Barley, like the other cereals, will go considerably over the average in yield per acre. The condition of the crop is variable, though generally good. While in a few localities oats had been cut as correspondents reported at the beginning of August, the bulk of the crop had yet a week or two to ripen. The yield promises to be one of the largest, both as regards average and total yields, several correspondents classing it as the finest crop in years. High lands gave magnificent yields, but in low places it suffered considerably from the wet. The acreage of rye is comparatively small, and much of it is sown for pasture or soiling, and not for the grain. The yield per acre is above the average, and the grain is of good quality.

During the last four or five years the acreage of peas in this province has shrunk by about one-half, owing to the ravages of the pea weevil. This season, happily, the pest is mentioned only to tell of its absence. The crop has been injured more or less by rain, nevertheless the yield per acre will run over an average. Where grown as a field crop, beans gave promise of a large yield per acre, notwithstanding damage from heavy rains at the time of planting. The crop had still two or three weeks to ripen when reports were received, but it was then looking well, although occasional mention was made of the presence of cut-worm.

The season has been a remarkable one for hay and clover, cutting ranging all the way from the last week of June to the end of July. In fact, on the 1st of August there was some hay yet to mow in various localities, Fall wheat and other cereals having ripened before the heavily covered meadows could be cleared, and there being also a scarcity of labor. Hay cut early was more or less injured by rain,

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