

## DECLINE OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT DUE TO MACHINERY.

The agricultural methods of to-day are very widely different from those of 1861, especially in the matter of the use of labour-saving machinery, which has revolutionized agriculture. How great the change has been may be shown from statistics of the United States Department of Labour, published some years ago. Here we find that the nine principal crops of the United States required 120,000,000 days of human labour in 1895, with the methods then in use, while they would have required 570,000,000 days of human labour with the methods of 1850. In other words, 400,000 agricultural labourers, working 300 days a year, could do in 1895 work which it would have taken 1,900,000 labourers working 300 days a year, to perform in 1850. It is entirely probable, to say the least, that the 4,000 people in Chinguacousy to-day can cultivate the soil of that township quite as efficiently and thoroughly as the 7,000 could in 1861. Under the new conditions thirty persons to the square mile are able to perform the work which once required fifty, and still demands forty in the French-speaking districts, where agricultural methods are backward and unprogressive.

Labour has thus been displaced in agriculture, just as in the manufacturing industries, by the introduction of labour-saving machinery. The displaced farm-labourers of the past generation have very wisely migrated to "fresh fields and pastures new" instead of remaining at home and attempting to secure employment by the hopeless method of underbidding the machine. They and their descendants are now, as a result, using labour-saving agricultural implements on their own Western farms, and their position in life is vastly higher than it could otherwise have been. The labour-saving machine, which would have crushed them by its competition had they remained at home, has helped them to raise themselves altogether out of the class of manual labourers, and the total agricultural product of the country is vastly greater than if they had remained in the East.

## TRANSFER OF OTHER EMPLOYMENTS TO THE CITIES.

Not all the labourers who have left the farms of Southern Ontario have migrated to the West. Thousands have gone to the stores and factories of Canadian and American cities. But what of that? In 1861 these people who worked on the farm were yet by no means exclusively agricultural in their occupation. The farm household of 1861 produced all its own food, nearly all its own clothing, was quite capable of building its own house, and often did so. Thus the three primary needs of mankind—food, clothes, shelter—were satisfied within the household, and the average household had few others. Some of the