

who come out to-day will, many of them, in a very few years become employers of labour themselves; and thus it is in a new and advancing country a constant stream of immigration should be kept flowing, and opportunities multiplied for steady and industrious men, however poor, to rise in the social scale, and make provision for old age and the wants of their families.

### THE DEVONSHIRE PEASANT.

(From the Globe.)

A good deal of discussion is at present going on in England in reference to the condition of the peasantry. In many quarters that condition is deplorable, especially in the southern and south-western counties. Devonshire, for instance, which in many respects, such as climate, may be spoken of as the garden of the country, has, in this respect, a noticeable, bad pre-eminence. The agricultural laborer in that and some of the adjoining counties is, in general, most unfavorably situated. Sir Charles Trevelyan says, his "ordinary subsistence is not sufficient to maintain him in the health and strength required for the efficiency, and therefore, the economy of labour; it is impossible for him to make any provision out of his scanty earnings for sickness and old age; and all he has to look forward to is a life of unintermitted toil, shut out from every hope of advancement, and ending with his being pensioned as a pauper on the poor rates." He is made old before his time, and crippled with rheumatism even before he is old, while throughout life he is in a state of ignorance too passive even to be called contented. Two dollars and a quarter per week without board, is about the average he can earn when in employment, and "broken time" is not unknown in "Merrie England." In Northumberland and Cornwall, where the wages for farm labour are highest, they never rise above five dollars a week without board, and no hope of anything better. These Counties are the English labourer's paradise, and yet let any one say if there is before working men there any such prospect as the average industrious laborer on a farm may have in Canada. We have heard some poor, foolish, spiritless fellows say that they would rather be English labourers than Canadian farmers. Every one to his taste; but there is really no room in the premises for anything but contrast. It would surely then be a kindness to all concerned to promote the emigration of such poor, down-trodden drudges as the labourers of Devonshire. It is poor economy to have such a class at all. A poorly fed, poorly paid, spiritless labourer will put in but a poor day's work. It is found so in England and everywhere else. Yet farmers are so foolish that they put every obstacle in the way of their labourers being assisted to emigrate for fear wages should rise. Fools that they are. If emigration went on in

Devon and Dorset and other counties till wages rose to an average of four and five and six dollars a week, all would be better. The farmers would get better work and more of it, while they would have lighter poor rates to pay. The labourer would be more comfortable, and hope would dawn upon him; while education for his children would be possible, and thus the dangerous class would be so far diminished by their having a stake in the country, and something consequently to lose.

The wise and benevolent in England are seeing this, and are planning schemes of emigration on an extensive scale. We wish them all success in their work. They seem to think specially of Australia. We have not a single word to say against our sister Colonies, and the outlets they afford to the struggling classes. They are noble lands, and will be magnificent communities by and by. But for those who depend upon the benevolence of others for the means of emigrating, Canada has special recommendations. Its easiness of access alone is sufficient to turn the scale in its favour, and we have room for thousands of Devonshire labourers, and can promise them more than two dollars and a quarter a week, aye, or its double, and, above all, the prospect of, by and by, cultivating their own land, and in the end dying under their own roof tree, with no fear that their children shall be beggars, or that the only refuge for their widows shall be the pauper's house, with the pauper's fare and the pauper's treatment. Those accustomed to farm service are those specially suited to Ontario, as an agricultural country, and while our agents tell of our resources to the dwellers in crowded cities, let them not forget the many struggling ones in England's rural villages, who know only that they are pinched, but cannot apparently even dream of how the evil is to be remedied.

### Arts and Manufactures.

#### ASSOCIATION OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO.

The annual meeting of the Association of Mechanics' Institutes of Ontario was held in the Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday evening, September 22nd. The President, Dr. Beatty, of Cobourg, in the chair. The following Institutes were represented by delegates, whose names are appended:—Cobourg, Dr. Beatty; Whitby, John Shier; Galt, James Young, M.P., and David Brown; Guelph, David McCrea; Hamilton, Robert Roy and Wm. Brown; Woodstock, W. Edwards; Toronto, J. J. Withrow; Brantford, Wm. Watt; Stratford, W. S. Buckingham; Strathroy, Rev. Mr. Patterson; Woodstock, P. W. Sawtell.

The following report was then read:

The executive Committee of the Association in presenting their first Annual Report, beg to refer to a few particulars connected with public aid to Mechanics' Institutes in Canada.