

It is certainly a right and proper application of the theory of "Canada for Canadians" that our own people should be given the work on professedly national enterprises. The only conditions to this would be that there should be enough to do the work, and that they were capable of doing it. Too strict enforcement of an anti-alien regulation would be unwise, but within certain limits, there can be no doubt that some such measure is necessary to safeguard Canadian public interests. But just here both the Government and some of its critics are strangely self-contradictory. The Minister of Labor has said that Canadian labor must have the preference over American; yet the Government permits American manufactures to interfere with those of Canada, with very little restriction. If labor is to be protected, why should there not be protection also of products? On the other hand, some of the Conservative papers, which are ordinarily consistent advocates of a protective tariff, have been decrying the anti-alien labor movement; yet if products should be protected, why not labor also? They seem to be halves of the same proposition, and the consistent advocacy of one implies that of the other.

The Cry for Men

IT is not only in the cities and on the railways that labor troubles are being encountered. Trade unions, with their attendant strikes, are an outgrowth of city conditions, and such a question as that of alien labor arises only where some public work is going on; but a difficulty of another kind occurs in the country sections, the effects of which are felt most keenly by the farmers. The farmer is coming more and more to be an employer of labor, and as the demand for farm labor increases, its supply seems to be lessening. In Ontario, especially, the difficulty has assumed very serious proportions, and one farming industry in particular has suffered heavy loss. Dairy farming in the western part of the province has been so hard hit that for the past two or three years the output of cheese has been steadily decreasing; and

that this is due to scarcity of labor is shown by the fact that in eastern Ontario, where there is a better labor supply, the cheese output has been increasing. The dairy industry is one of Canada's best, and it is most unfortunate that the increase, which might have been general, has been retarded in half the province by labor conditions. Great difficulty is also reported from the fruit-farming sections.

A slight improvement in the situation is shown this year. The drain of the East to supply the demands of Manitoba and the West still continues; but, on the other hand, this is being partially offset by an increased immigration from Great Britain. Over five thousand persons have this year come to Ontario from various points in England. This is entirely distinct from the immigration movement to the West, as all but a very few intend settling in Ontario. Included in the number is a considerable proportion of mechanics, some of whom were attracted by the prospects of work in rebuilding burned Toronto; the majority, however, are farm laborers, and have found ready places among the farmers. The situation has thus been considerably relieved; it will be more permanently improved when the farmers adopt a more businesslike system of bargaining. Employing men only for a few months during the busy season, even at a higher wage, they find themselves short of help each succeeding spring; whereas if engaged by the year, at only a small extra cost, the laborers would be on hand when wanted for re-employment.

Making Our National Waterway Safe

WHATEVER may be the political and public opinion of the new trans-continental railway project and other transportation schemes recently proposed, there is at least one point on which all are agreed. The improvement of the St. Lawrence is a national work whose importance is self-evident. The great water highway is the key to the transportation situation in Canada, and the facilities which it provides are exceptional. Unfortunately, however, one serious drawback has retarded the