

### Observations on the Labor Problem

T. G. Hayner, B. S. A., Seed Division, Ottawa.  
Not long ago a farmer in Lanark Co., Ont., was met with who was attempting alone to do all the work on a 200-acre farm. He was trusting presumably to secure some extra help at harvest time. If he meets the same reply that some farmers met in Leeds county, when they were trying to lure some men to help with the harvest and offered \$50 a month and board, which was, they wouldn't work short of \$60 a month, he might scratch his head and be inclined to say, "Well, I have gotten along so far. I guess I will harvest what I can and let the rest go."

The same farmer, however, said he wouldn't attempt to get along without help another year if it could be had. There are many such farmers throughout the province in the same difficulty, perhaps not by choice but of necessity, as this Lanark county farmer. To be without help makes farming an eternal grind, which takes all the life out of a man and unfits him to live his life as a sane man should.

Despite the efforts of all the agencies that are at work at home and abroad to secure suitable farm help, adequate to meet the demands of Ontario farmers, there is a tremendous lack as yet.

#### WHY LIVING COSTS MORE

Is it any wonder that the cost of living has gone up the way it has? There are hundreds of farms that are not producing a fractional part of what they could if only the labor problem could be solved. Is there no solution? A good many these days are prescribing remedies. They are also giving us reasons why we have this state of affairs. Yet there doesn't seem any immediate relief. So long as manufacturers, the railroads and other big interests are able to pay the wages they do, so long will the bulk of the laboring men gravitate that way, because of the wages, the regular hours and the sociability.

In order to compete with these going concerns, farm conditions must to some extent at least be made to imitate them. How can this be accomplished? First: Farmers, as far as possible, should manage to have sufficient work to employ a man the whole year, instead of seven or eight months. This means that we must have more stock to care for in this country, as lumber and wood-cutting are about done.

#### AN ADVANTAGE OF DAIRYING

Dairy farming lends itself best to furnishing this employment, and it is not as yet overdone. Stock raising of all kinds is now remunerative, and surely expansion could profitably take place on most farms, so that a married man could be employed to live in a comfortable tenement house the year around. The contented married laboring man is a most satisfactory kind of farm help and may be banked on to stay by the goods.

Second: The hired man should be treated as a human being, by paying him a living wage, adopting regular hours of work and giving him a half holiday now and then, preferably on Saturday afternoons, when he can do his week's trading and prepare himself for the Sabbath and its worship.

It is my conviction that if employer and employed were to go to the same church and enter into the true worship of Him Who has said, "Come unto me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest," it would go a long way in solving the vexing problems these days between capital and labor, which finds its expressions in strikes and lockouts. A true conception of the "Man of Galilee" on the part of farmer and hired man, would help things out wonderfully on the farm as elsewhere. Why doesn't the church get busier than it is at present along these lines.

Third: The farmer, in order to employ help

the year around, must do a profitable business. He must make a profit on the labor he employs or he will not be able to make things go very long. To do this he must know how. There are several sources these days from which he may glean knowledge, but the Farmers' Club should prove of all these sources the best. Here too the hired man should be invited.

A friendly exchange of ideas gleaned from the agricultural papers, the agricultural reports and bulletins, the district representatives in agriculture and individual experience should enable a community of farmers to decide on what lines of farming would pay best in their respective localities. Having settled that, thereby working in a cooperative spirit and as far as possible practice cooperation in marketing their produce, they would secure the greatest rewards for their labor.

If the general principles were practiced the details could be worked out and greater prosperity would result.

### My Best Paying Crops\*

John Brown, Chateaugay Co., Ont.

Were I to size up my best paying crop I would be inclined to name clover. Its advantages are two-fold. It makes one of the best roughage feeds for the dairy cow when cut green and properly cured before storing in the mow. And it is of considerable value as a soil fertilizer. It gathers a great deal of nourishment from the air through the root nodules. As the large roots force their way through the hard under soil they



Farm Steadings of this Type are characteristic of many sections of Quebec Province.

There is a great difference noticeable to all travellers in the type of farm buildings that characterize Quebec and the other Eastern provinces as compared with those that are characteristic of Ontario. In the East, bank barns are not common. The low white-wash buildings on the farm of Mr. Gossiaux, Biron, Yamaska Co., Que., here illustrated, are of a type common in that province. This farm secured a good placing in the Quebec Government farms competition.

tend to make the under soil free and open, and when the clover seeds are turned over the following crop benefits materially.

Corn is another good paying crop when the weather is favorable. A much greater tonnage per acre of roughage can be grown from corn than from any other crop that the farmer can grow. It also makes one of the best feeds for cattle when properly matured and placed in the silo.

A great deal depends on the season when it comes to deciding which is the best paying grain crop. In my own case last season, it being exceptionally dry, the land that was seeded to peas was my best crop. The grain was of extra fine quality and sells readily at two cents a pound. It will be seen at a glance that this crop is a paying one. Also the pea crop leaves the soil in fine shape for the following crop. When peas are seeded with barley and clover I get a good grain crop and a splendid catch of clover.

I am an advocate of the rapid curing of clover. We often cut our clover in the forenoon and draw it in the afternoon and it makes excellent feed.—Henry Glendinning, Victoria Co., Ont.

\*Mr. Brown's farm was one of those competing in the Interprovincial Dairy Farms Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy. His farm will be fully described in a later issue of Farm and Dairy.

### Weeds on Road Sides

L. K. Shaw, Welland Co., Ont.

I recently visited the farm of a prominent Holstein breeder in western Ontario who is also a first class farmer. He was expending all kinds of money and labor to keep his fields clean, and one would have to look a while to find many weeds in his 20 acres of corn. But he complained that every year the weeds came up just as thick as ever, and he seemed to be making little progress. The explanation was easy. Along his road side was one of the finest crops of weeds that I ever saw. Had he expended a little more of the labor that he was putting on to his fields in running the mower over those road sides, he would have saved himself untold labor and expense.

To leave the road sides untrimmed while we are devoting our energies to keeping our crops clean inside the boundary line is like putting a dirty collar on a clean shirt. The finest farm would have its appearance spoiled by road sides, where mullen, blue-weed and so forth are making a luxurious growth. Also the crop of weed seeds produced there each year may be sufficient to re-seed our whole farm.

There is a better way, however, of keeping road sides clean than by clipping the weeds with a mower. Why not have those road sides producing crops? I am told that down in Nova Scotia in some sections they have abandoned the road side fences altogether. Crops of grain, hay and roots are growing right down to the edge of the road. I should think the appearance would be

nicer, and it certainly does away most effectually with the road side weed evil. Why can't we do this in Ontario?

### A Farmer's Experience with Hogs

W. J. Telford, Peterboro Co., Ont.

We certainly have made money out of hogs in past years. Last winter, however, was an exception. Feed was too high and hogs too low. We kept track of the food consumed by our hogs, and hence know each year approximately how much money we make from them. We do not anticipate that all years will be like this last one, and hence intend to keep right on with our hogs.

The following account shows how I came out with my hogs last year:

COST OF FEEDING 10 HOGS	
7,680 lbs. mixed grain at \$28 a ton .....	\$107.52
600 lbs. shorts at \$1.20 a cwt. ....	7.20
900 lbs. skim milk at 15c a cwt. ....	13.50
Total cost of hogs .....	\$128.22
Selling price of hogs at \$6.25 and \$6.50 ..	108.81
Loss .....	\$19.41

The wages we can pay depends on our ability to keep the hired man always profitably employed.—E. F. E., Colchester Co., N. S.