

The Farming World

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A Banner Crop Year

THIS is a banner year for Canada. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, as our reports on crop conditions published elsewhere in this issue, show, a good harvest is in prospect. With the exception of Southern Manitoba and the Western portion of New Ontario, conditions are shaping for a fair average yield of all grain crops. The effects of the May and June drouth from Ontario east have been largely overcome, and with the exception of hay, which will be light, a good harvest is expected. Ontario has in prospect one of the biggest crops for many a year. Farmers are encouraged and are looking forward to another season of prosperity and progress.

There are, however, one or two flies in the ointment. The scarcity of farm help is one of them. In more than one district there is not enough help to do the work. When farmers have to plow up root crops because they cannot get help to cultivate and keep them clean, as is reported from Waterloo county, the situation is becoming most acute. What is to be the outcome of it all? Will our farmers have to turn their farms into large pasture fields and confine their operations to stock raising? It certainly looks as if the more intensified system of farming, for which Ontario is well adapted, will have to give way to methods in which less labor is required.

The reports from some sections that the planting of poor seed has greatly injured the prospects for a good corn crop are of serious import. Why farmers will continue to plant seed the vitality of which they are not absolutely sure of, is a mystery. Farm help is too scarce and land is too valuable in this country to risk a crop failure because of inferior seed. If the dealer is to blame for this poor seed, the pure seed legislation now pending at Ottawa cannot come into operation too soon.

The Movement for Dollar Wheat

Not a little interest is being taken in the movement for dollar wheat recently started in the Central Western States, though so far as we can see from this distance, it does not appear to be having any material effect upon values. How the price is to be advanced to the dollar mark is not very clear. A society to be known as the American Society of Equity has been started. It is proposed to start branches of this society in every township and to form a great co-operative organization of

farmers who will agree to ship and sell their wheat only at such times and at such prices as may be determined upon by a board of directors. The intention is to make the minimum price for wheat \$1, the aim being to have the farmers themselves fix the prices at which they shall sell their wheat, instead of having them fixed by the boards of trade in distant cities.

All this seems good in theory, but how it will work out in practice is another matter. The law of supply and demand, which governs the prices for all products cannot

demand. The latter seems to be the surer and more sensible way and the one that would help most to develop the great wheat lands of the Dominion.

James J. Hill, the railroad king of the West, referring to the dollar wheat movement, advises the development of the Orient as a market for American wheat. One bushel of wheat per capita sold in China and Japan means a consumption in a year of 450,000,000 bushels. He further adds that if the United States could send to the Orient each year only 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, it would advance the price of wheat sent to Europe 15c. to 20c. a bushel, which would put the price up near the dollar mark.

This is a more rational method of increasing the price than that proposed by this so-called society of equity. To curtail the marketing of wheat means curtailing the output, which our great West is not prepared to do. But Canada should have a say in opening up the Orient for wheat. Her display of flour at the Japan exposition has opened the way and the course seems clear for pushing the sale of Canadian wheat, or better flour, in the East. Let every advantage be taken of this opportunity. There is no surer way of securing dollar wheat. Increase the demand and you increase the price.

To Make Gentlemen Farmers

A couple of issues ago we touched upon the encroachment of unionism in connection with the employment of farm labor in some portions of the United States. Since then it has been reported that the American Federation of Labor has sent organizers into the agricultural sections of the Eastern States to organize the farm laborers into unions. Some success has been had in a few localities and from the rules prescribed therein we can form some idea of what things would be like if the movement became general.

The rules sought to be enforced may be summarized as follows:—Wages shall not be less than from \$2 to \$3 per day, the employing farmer and his family are prevented from doing any labor themselves under penalty of being boycotted as unfair. In short, the work on the farm is stated as belonging to the members of the union. The plan is to make the farm owner a gentleman of extreme leisure, while even his rights of supervision are greatly restricted.

Looked upon in the light of practical agriculture in this country these proposals seem very ridiculous, and how any body of men can hope to force them upon the hard

Our Annual Exhibition Number

On Sept. 1st next will be issued the sixth annual Exhibition Number of The Farming World. This number will in many respects be the superior of any of its predecessors. A number of special articles are under preparation by some of the best writers on agricultural topics in Canada and Great Britain. The illustrations will be a noteworthy feature, comprising views of English and Canadian farm scenes, specially taken for this number, which will contain upwards of 100 pages, and will be one of the best things of its kind ever printed in the Dominion. Don't fail to make sure of a copy.

An extra large edition will be issued and distributed at the leading fall exhibitions. Already a large amount of space has been secured by advertisers desiring to take advantage of this splendid medium for reaching the best class of farmers in Canada. Others requiring space should make their wants known at once.

very easily be set aside. Besides, it will be no small task to unite the farmers, even of the United States, in an effort to work out the aims of the society. Then, what is the farmer, who has rent or interest to pay, to do, should this commission of directors decide that all wheat should be held for six months so as to force the market. Who will help him to meet his notes when due? There are many difficulties in the way of carrying out such a scheme.

However, we wish the movement every success. If it succeeds in raising the price of wheat in the United States to \$1, the Canadian farmer will profit thereby. At the same time, we cannot but think the whole thing a delusion and a snare. There are two practical ways of securing better prices for wheat; reduce the amount or enlarge the