

## New Ontario Prosperous

Settlers Flocking in—Towns Flourishing—Prices for Farm Products

Mr. Thos. Southworth, Director of Colonization for Ontario, returned last week from a trip to the Temiskaming country. To a Farming World representative Mr. Southworth said: "I found things in the Temiskaming country in good shape. The towns of New Liskeard and Haileybury are growing very fast. The latter was at a standstill for several years, but owing to the building of the Government railway through that point, business is brisk. I counted from 30 to 40 new frame buildings in course of erection when I was there."

"How about the land. Is it being cleared up quickly," Mr. Southworth was asked?

"Though there is a lot of clearing done, the land is not being improved as quickly as one would expect from the large number of settlers going in. Settlers make too much money out of cutting and selling the timber off their lands to be hurried in improving the land. After a settler has cleared two acres, and has it under crop, built a house 16 x 20 feet, and lived six months on the land, the Government gives him the right to cut timber on any part of his land, and he uses this privilege pretty freely to help out his bank account."

Will it not pay to improve the land for crops? To this Mr. Southworth replied:

"Most certainly it will. Potatoes never sell at less than 75c. per bushel, oats at from 60 to 75c., hay at from \$18 to \$20 a ton, and all other coarse grains in proportion. The big lumber companies operating in the district willingly pay the settlers what it costs to buy these products elsewhere, plus the freight charges, which is no small item. Crops are not generally as good as they were last year, though I saw some good fields. I saw a field of timothy five feet high. Oats were affected by the spring drought, and though rains came later they did not fully recover in many cases. I saw some good apples of the Duchess and King varieties. Mr. Tucker, of Sutton Bay, is growing both apples and grapes with success. I saw tomatoes ripe on August 1st."

How about the timber, Mr. Southworth. Is it all of the pulpwood size?

"By no means. There is a good proportion of large timber, including spruce, pine, tamarac, etc. A Government employee who pushed through beyond the height of land this season found spruce over 30 inches in diameter. The demand for pulpwood affords a good market for the smaller stuff, which would be of little value for lumber and timber purposes. In the Temiskaming section alone the lumber companies paid out over \$175,000 for timber last year. These companies will advance up to 50 per

cent. of the value of the timber to the farmer. This enables the poor man to realize on his timber as soon as he has secured the right to cut it, which is a great help."

It is reported that speculators have secured control of much of the land and are holding it at high values. Did you find any evidences of this?

"No," said Mr. Southworth. "Of course, the Government cannot hold themselves responsible for the actions of settlers, many of whom, after taking up land, and subscribing to the required regulations, for one reason or another, change their plans and turn their claims over to some real estate agent to sell for them. The Government has no control over these, and until the six months elapse cannot do anything to prevent settlers offering their claims for sale."

How are the other sections filling up, Mr. Southworth?

"In the Rainy River district every lot surveyed has been taken up. We hear more about Temiskaming, as that section is being settled mostly by Ontario people. There is a prosperous settlement at French River, also. I think the population of the Temiskaming section is from 10,000 to 12,000 people. 1,300 homesteads were taken out in 1901, 1,500 in 1902, and there would have been more this year had more land been surveyed."

### An Appeal for the Ontario Farmer

At a meeting of the Galt Board of Trade held on August 17th, Mr. Andrew Elliott brought up the question of the scarcity of farm labor in Ontario. Mr. Elliott held that the subject was one not only of provincial but national importance, affecting chiefly and primarily the farming community, but ultimately injuring all classes of trade. It had come to this, that the farmers were now beginning to reduce their cropped area as creatures of the necessities of the times. The agricultural output would be reduced. The income from agriculture would be lessened, and it was evident that manufacturers also would be forced to retract and the general business of the country would be lessened. It was plain that such a condition of things would right itself, but not until after the injury had been done. The factories would close or reduce the number of operatives, and labor would thus be turned from urban to rural channels and thus would be begun anew the building of trade. But great efforts should be used to avoid this course. He advocated a change in the methods now in vogue in the Immigration Department. It was the man from rural England and rural Scotland who was wanted, and he was wanted not for the West and for

New Ontario, but for Old Ontario, where the farms were starving for laborers. Within five miles of Galt he knew of farmers paying \$45 a month. There was not a farm in Ontario that could afford this wage. A resolution was adopted embodying Mr. Elliott's views on immigration.

Mr. Elliott's views bear out what has been said in these columns for several months back in regard to the scarcity of farm labor. The situation has reached the acute stage and a remedy must be forthcoming shortly or, as Mr. Elliott says, Ontario farmers will have to change their methods to those that may be less productive. Such a change would be a calamity not only to the country but to the city and town. The latter depend upon the country for their prosperity, and boards of trade are only looking to their own interests by helping to solve the farm help problem.

The Immigration Department should certainly endeavor to secure more of the farm laborers of Great Britain as colonists. They could be utilized on Ontario farms and we believe would be better off than they are at home. In the development of this great country the farmer of the older portions who for years has been the backbone of the Dominion should not be neglected.

### Canada in the Orient

The attention of our readers is directed to the article on "Canada at Japan" in this issue. Canada's display at the Osaka Exhibition made a favorable impression on the Japanese and will, no doubt, result in a largely increased demand for Canadian products in the Orient. The demonstrations in breadmaking proved the superiority of our hard wheat flour over all others. It should be remembered, however, that only high grade flour was used in these demonstrations and exporters of flour to the Far East should send nothing but the best. This rule would apply to products of all kinds. Canada has established a reputation for the high quality of her products in the markets of the world and it is only by maintaining the standard of perfection that we can hope to increase our foreign trade in this age of keen competition.

The Hon. Mr. Fisher is to be congratulated upon the establishing of a permanent exhibition branch in connection with the Department of Agriculture. The Farming World had for several years advocated the establishment of such a branch and we are very pleased to note that its work has proven so effective in developing trade in the East. It should prove to be one of the most useful branches of the service, as it has been felt for some time that such a department was necessary for the proper exploiting of our products at the large industrial exhibitions which are now of annual occurrence in different parts of the world.