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Note and Comment

The blight affecting the oat crop is likely to lessen the average yield from this cereal considerably. It seems to be pretty general over Ontario, especially in late sown grains. With this exception there is little change to report in the crop outlook for Eastern Canada. If anything conditions have improved. The hay crop has yielded much better than expected.

Reports regarding Western wheat prospects are somewhat conflicting. The westerner, with characteristic optimism, is looking for an average yield. Dr. Saunders, whose annual forecasts are made with care, predicts a three-fourths crop. Other Easterners equally careful and with no desire to injure the West, who have recently made a careful study of the situation, place the yield at about a three-fifths crop. Perhaps a 65 to 70 per cent. crop will be near the mark. There are varying conditions in the West and there will be varying yields, from a full crop in the fall wheat area and north of the Canadian Northern to about a 40 per cent. crop south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, with the district between averaging about sixty per cent. or better. With estimates of this nature the reader will have to be content till harvest tells the tale.

That relic of the past the toll-road has almost disappeared from Ontario. The purchase of the "proof line" between London and Lucan by the municipalities interested frees Western Ontario from the old familiar toll-gate. There is one between Paris and Ayr, but this has been put out of business by the Government Inspector. In Eastern Ontario there are about a dozen toll-roads, relics of a system that has outlived its usefulness and is no longer necessary to the welfare of the community in which it exists or the country at large.

The order of the Dominion Railway Commission revising the freight rates in Canada east of the great lakes will remove a

long standing grievance. For years Ontario shippers submitted to the injustice of paying a higher freight rate for a shorter distance as compared with the shipper in the United States for a longer distance. Henceforth a uniform rate for equal distances will prevail and through freight will not be favored on Canadian railways over that originating on this side. The Railway Commission is to be commended for its action, which means a reduction of from 10 to 15 per cent. on freight rates in Western Ontario.

Mr. J. Keir Hardie, M. P., leader of the labor party in the House of Commons, Great Britain, in addressing the Canadian Club, Toronto, last week referred to the extreme poverty prevailing in the old land, many able-bodied men being unable to obtain work in the cities even in these prosperous times.

While poverty is to be deplored under all circumstances it is a question whether, as he proposes, efforts should be made to supply such with work. In the old land as here farm labor is scarce and thousands of these able-bodied men could get work if they would only leave the cities. But they won't and look to the government or some one else to find them employment in the city and in case this cannot be had, their daily bread. The same conditions prevail in this country to some extent and they are likely to be accentuated owing to the desire of so many immigrants to remain in the city and not go on the land. The population of Toronto alone has been increased many hundreds this season by these arrivals who when winter arrives, will have nothing to live on, and it will become necessary for government and charity to look after them. Had these people gone to work on farms upon arrival they would have earned before winter set in enough to keep them going. While they may get something to do in the city during the summer, the opportunities to spend their earnings are many and there will be nothing left when the snow flies. The government and others interested

would be well advised if they stipulated that immigrants, for a while at least, must work or settle on farms.

Dr. Henry Smith, a Canadian, who has lived in Virginia for the past forty years, has been sent to Ontario by the government of that State to induce emigration to that country. He states that he has no desire to take from Canada anyone who is steadily employed and likes the country and its climate. But there may be some who are not satisfied and to these the Doctor offers homes in the milder climate of Virginia.

If our friend will confine his emigration propaganda merely to those who are dissatisfied with things here, perhaps little fault can be found with it. We want all the good, thrifty people we can get to work on farms in Eastern Canada and to settle the prairie lands of the West. Those who arrive here, not of this class, our Virginia friends are welcome to. Perhaps the Doukhobors might be more contented in the warm sunny south.

Why do apple growers persist in selling the product of their orchards several months in advance? Already contracts are being made for "orchards" at so much per barrel and in nine cases out of ten the grower will lose by the bargain. It is better business to wait till the fruit is ripe and take the best price going. And a better plan still is for neighbors to co-operate and do the picking and packing themselves rather than let the buyer do it. The Co-operative Fruit Growers Association will do more to regulate the apple market and enable the grower to make the most out of his orchard than any other agency we know of.

Prof. A. E. Parr, of the Iowa Agricultural College, has been appointed Director of Agriculture and Animal Industry for British India, at a salary of \$10,000 a year. The rewards of the student of scientific agriculture are not often of a liberal character, but it looks perhaps as if there were better things in store for him.