

product of the worsted combing machine, being the longest and best of the fibres drawn from long wools and used in spinning worsted yarn. The wool tariff should be revised, as our whole Canadian tariff should be revised, by gradually shortening the manufacturers' end of the stick. Then, prices of food products, cost of living, and cost of manufacturing, will largely take care of itself.

Like Filling a Leaky Granary.

Periodically a cry is raised in some quarters for more effort to secure immigration to Eastern Canada to relieve the labor problem. Many fancy that because this imported labor is cheap it must be economical. But the more we try this class of labor, the more do our hopes of thus really solving the labor problem sink. There are some good laborers secured from these immigrants. Those who voluntarily come here to better their fortunes frequently do all right, but very often the Europeans and Englishmen lured to Canada by glowing immigration literature descriptive of Western or other opportunities, make discontented laborers, and are liable to leave us about the time they have gained a little experience. If, instead of seeking this cheap labor, we were to pay a proportionate figure to Canadians accustomed to the country and trained to the work, hiring them by the year, providing good houses, and treating them well, we would find farm helpers not quite so scarce as they seem, and would not only be benefiting ourselves, but laying the foundations of an enduring economic and sociological structure. Once more we repeat that the problem of Eastern Canada is not immigration, but emigration; it is not now we can induce the riffraff of Europe to come and toil for us, but how can we provide more remunerative and more congenial employment for our own people at home? He who sets himself individually to solve this problem is his own and his country's best friend. He who tries to find some expedient, such as pauper immigration,

is allowing himself to become a victim of circumstances. Immigration, by increasing the competition among laborers, may lower wages temporarily, and may alleviate labor scarcity, but it will never solve the problem. It requires deeper thought and more earnest mental effort than that, else it would have been settled long ago. It may be all right for a young and growing country, with large, undeveloped resources, to swell its population by welcoming worthy emigrants from the Old World; but, while doing so, it is well to remember that the only way we can really solve the labor problem is by getting down to the causes, dealing with economic conditions, and meeting them with sweeping, if gradual, changes in farm practice. Seeking European immigration merely as a means of solving the labor riddle, is like trying to keep a leaking granary full by dumping in inferior wheat. The only economic or permanent remedy is to stop the leak. This may be awkward, but it is the sensible thing to do.

People who view with such light-heartedness the embarking of Canada upon a naval policy, might be sobered down through knowing what financial burdens it may entail by a consideration of the growth of naval expenditures in Great Britain. The cost for the fiscal year 1910-11 exceeds that for the preceding year by about \$28,000,000, and 1908-9 by about \$38,000,000, the total appropriation of the present budget being nearly \$200,000,000, four times the annual expenditures for the decade 1870-80, and double the expenditures for 1880-90. Not only this, but it has withdrawn from the productive industrial work of the nation the vast number of 132,000 men. To secure competent men to till the soil is one of the great problems of Canada. It will be a mark of statesmanship now to keep the brakes upon the naval propaganda, and devote the money and the energies of the people to the development of the land and industry.

Diversification.

Some men seem to have a very wrong conception of this term as applied to farming. Driving across country, one rides through districts where men truly diversify. Dairy cattle, hogs, horses and sheep appear on farm after farm. Then one's road leads over a hill or through a low woods, and he emerges into a new community, where diversity means something else. Here are found a few cows; a forlorn, lonesome pig here and there; a chance colt, and never a sheep. The diversity shows in the fields, instead; wheat and cockle are found growing together; ox-eye daisies vie with and overtop the alsike, and the wild mustard brazenly flaunts its colors everywhere in one's very face. These two types of diversified farming do not mix well; the one or the other prevails. Where all kinds of stock are found and cared for, one does not often find weeds running riot, displacing the grasses and grains which are needed for stock. And the addition of a flock of sheep to a farm's equipment is especially gratifying. Wherever they are to be found, the thistle, the buttercup, and the myriad weeds that infest, disappear. Whether the sheep are responsible directly or indirectly, they accomplish a splendid end. Of these two types of farming much might be said, but the lessons are obvious.

Up go the silos! But if the most is to be made out of them, alfalfa-growing should be adopted in conjunction. Good corn silage and well-cured alfalfa hay make a cheap balanced ration, each supplying an excess of what the other lacks. Quite profitable results in milk production may be obtained from these two feeds alone. Clover hay is about the best substitute for alfalfa, but falls quite a way short of being as good.



Scene on Northwest Miramichi River, N.B.