

wages of agricultural laborers be not less than 2s. 6d. (60c.) per day." Wages in England do not include food and lodgings, as in Canada.

There was considerable discussion on an eight-hour day, but this was considered not to be practicable. The secretary of the Union remarked that, "The agricultural laborers are still the worst-paid, worst-housed, work longer hours, and have fewer holidays, than any class in the Kingdom."

Electric Power on the Farm.

Agnes C. Laut, a Canadian contributor to some of the leading magazines, has a recent article in Collier's, in which she deals with one of the vast and urgent problems of the day. By way of preface, she refers to the problem of help upon the farm as one of the most pressing and expensive at present. Wages have risen enormously, and even at what are considered high wages neither sufficient nor efficient help can be secured. And so profits are lowered, and hours of labor lengthened, and this, according to the writer, tends to make the farm less attractive and to accentuate the trouble by tempting the boy and girl to still further lessen the farm force and go where hours are shorter. This, of course, is a very gloomy picture, and not a true one, but there is some force in it, and it is so drawn in order to emphasize the brighter side, the possibility of help from electric power. We smile at the suggestion, yet we must admit that most of the conveniences we at present enjoy were thought impossible at first.

Water-power is the cheapest form of energy in the world. "Harness me," calls the brook, "and I will do your work." Steam-power has had its day, and electric energy from water-power will drive the wheels in days to come. It is pointed out that water-power costs nothing, once it is started working. The dam and the dynamo, the belt and the wire, are the harness, and the only things that cost. Hitch the brook to the washing machine, the churn, the farming mill, the cutting box, the thresher and the pump! Light the house and the stables and the lane with a glow direct from the sun!

Making allowances for exaggeration, and for the fact that those conditions, where brooks are plentiful, are in mind, there is probably a prophecy in the article. Electricity may be a source of farm power in coming days, though scarcely likely from the harnessing of small brooks by individual users. To install a water-wheel and dynamo on a brook to furnish light for farm buildings is an expensive proposition, and makes the light cost very dear. With present conveniences for utilizing water-power in the form of electricity, such a proposition is by experts regarded as impracticable. Prof. Wm. H. Day, of Guelph, advises us that he has figured on the proposition two or three times, always with the same conclusion. When a large number of farms can be supplied from one generating outfit, it is a different proposition. Not from brooks in all parts, but from the power lines being stretched in so many directions, or from some as yet unthought-of sources, will the energy be probably tapped.

A much-needed warning is hinted at in a few sentences pointing out how the water-powers of the continent are being secured by capitalists. When the big capitalists are out after water-power, and the big capitalists are out after water-power, Canada has immense water-powers, mostly unalienated. These should not be allowed to be gobbled up by corporations. Their value is but beginning to be realized. They are a part of the people's heritage and should be held for the people's benefit.

Basis of Land Values.

Reports of land transactions indicate that improved land in the West is selling at higher prices this spring than ever before. Good quarter-sections in Manitoba are changing hands at as high as \$9,500 each, a trifle less than \$60 per acre. Well-situated farms, with good buildings and clean fields, are selling even better than this, while average quarters are exchanging at from \$7,000 to \$9,000 each. Other farms are selling at much lower figures than these; in fact, so-called "improved land" in the oldest-settled parts of the West can be bought at one-third or less than one-third these prices.

"Farm values are based on a number of factors entirely within the owner's control," remarks "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg, commenting on these facts. "It pays in dollars and cents to make the farm a home, as well as a grain mine; it pays to keep the buildings in order, to plant trees, to fence properly, to conserve fertility, to actually 'improve' the farm. There is no investment for capital that will give returns equal to what is possible to earn by investing it intelligently in improving a farm. The basis of land values is careful farming. There are thousands of men starting to farm on the prairies this season who should take to heart the lesson taught by the difference in value between

farms that have been actually improved and farms that have been merely abused. Don't wait twenty-five years to find out whether or not this assertion is true."

Trifling with Danger.

Chatham, April 22.—A cow belonging to Thomas Burke, of Dover Township, died last night from rabies contracted by a bite from a mad dog. This is the third cow to die of rabies this month.

"Since the first of the year, nine cattle and eleven hogs have died from rabies. It has aroused the countryside, and the muzzling regulations are now being strictly enforced.

"Another dog suffering from rabies was killed in Dover Township to-day by a farmer named Frank Stokes. A cow belonging to Thomas J. Sloan, of Harwich, was also killed to-day. The animal showed symptoms of rabies."—(London Free Press.

Some more stable-locking after the horse is gone. When will people learn to take time by the forelock and adopt rational preventive measures, recommended on good authority? How easy it is to jump to the conclusion that there is "No danger in our community!" The fact is there is a risk of just such developments in every district within the area of the dog-muzzling order. It is sheer folly to wait till the live stock and human beings are bitten by mad dogs before waking up to the serious probabilities present. The muzzling regulations should be strictly enforced, whether the special need is apparent in every township or not. Danger lurks, and wise men do not trifle with Danger.

HORSES.

Feeding Work Horses.

The Iowa Experiment Station has been conducting a series of experiments during two seasons, in feeding work-horses. It was believed that a ration could be used in which corn, oil meal, cottonseed meal and gluten meal might take the place of oats, and the experiments were undertaken to determine the effects of using such foods on the health, spirits, strength and flesh of the horses, and also on the economy of the ration. In all, five farm teams were under test while doing

the summer's work. While the effect of two different rations was being compared, one horse of each team received the one ration, and his mate received the other. A substitute ration in place of corn and oats, equal parts by weight, that gave excellent results, contained corn, oats, and oil meal, in the proportions of 12-4-1 by weight. It was found that a larger percentage of oil meal than that had too laxative an effect. Cottonseed meal was also compared with oil meal as a part of ration, and gave practically similar results. Gluten meal was also tried, but, as it was not relished, its use was soon dropped.

The conclusion of the experimenters is that oats are expensive to feed in large quantities, and that the ration may be greatly cheapened by substituting oil meal, cottonseed meal, or gluten feed. The health, spirit and endurance of the horses was the same when fed corn in combination with one of these feeds, as when oats were fed. A hard summer's work was done by the horses on these feeds, without any considerable loss of flesh. Bulletin No. 109, Iowa Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa, contains the published results of these experiments.

Observations on Horse Subjects.

"To all appearances, the horse trade of this country is entering upon a period of unprecedented expansion," writes a Western correspondent signing himself "Equitant," to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg. "It has been expanding at a very desirable rate for the past five or ten years, but, unless the signs are all wrong, horse-breeding is going to advance, and horse prices are going higher, much higher, in the next decade than they did in the past. We are only at the beginning of large things in the horse business, and, so far as this Western country is concerned, it will be some time before we see their end. Breeding stock this year will sell above last year's prices. We can safely figure on a twenty-per-cent. increase in draft-horse prices. Clydesdale females are difficult to procure, both here and on the other side. Percheron importers report a similar condition of affairs in respect to the French breed. We have been drawing so heavily upon the studs of the Old World that they have not kept pace with the demand. We shall probably have to pay more for their pure-bred stock or do without it; and at the present stage of horse-breeding in this country we can expand in this industry in proportion to our growth only as we are able to increase our breeding stock by importations from abroad, and I would say to



Baron Royal (imp.) (11267) [3981].

Clydesdale stallion. Bay; foaled June, 1900. Imported by Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont. One of the group of ten that won the \$200 prize for best ten-horse exhibit at Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1903. Second in aged stallion class. Owned by S. McComb & Sons, Berville, Ont. Sire Baron's Pride (9122).