

express train and ocean greyhound and while speeding along must keep in touch with our business affairs by telegraph or by wireless.

It is an age of haste, but we do not realize how fast we live until some of the utilities, upon which we depend, fail us.

RURAL DEPOPULATION IN ONTARIO

Ontario which is always universally acknowledged to be the finest farming country in the world, is suffering severely through depopulation of her rural communities. This migration of the best blood from Old Ontario has been going on for a generation or two, but it is only recently that the subject has received the attention it deserved. Unfortunately, the question has become a political one and, because of this, the issue has become clouded and a proper study of the question made extremely difficult. All admit the seriousness of the situation. How to remedy it is another and a different question. That the problem is a real one is shown by the fact that while during the decennial period, 1901-1911, Canada's total population increased 1,833,523; her rural increase was only 574,878 against an urban expansion of 1,258,645. On a percentage basis, the total increase in the Dominion was 33.13% but her rural population increased by just half that, or 17.16%. On the other hand, the country's urban population increased 62.25%. Practically all the increase in rural population occurred in the Prairie Provinces. In Ontario and the older provinces, with the exception of Quebec, there were decreases running all the way from 1,492 in New Brunswick up to 52,384 in Ontario. During the decade, Ontario added 392,511 to her urban population, but lost 52,000 from her rural homes. A further examination of the census returns shows that the loss in the older parts or rural Ontario was in reality more than the 52,000 stated above owing to the fact that there was a gain of nearly 45,000 in five New Ontario districts. It is estimated that altogether there was a decline in Old Ontario of nearly 110,000 people, or 10.82%.

It is unfortunate that this condition of affairs should exist in Ontario. That province, especially the southern part, is the best suited for mixed farming of any country in the world. For the past two generations that part of the province has been noted for its dairying, stock, raising and fruit growing. To-day it possesses rural mail deliveries, rural telephones and other attractive features, but, in spite of this, the young people are drifting towards the cities or moving to the prairies. The question is largely an economic one and its solution not an easy one to find. It is probable that the improved methods of farming, the better prices now obtained for food stuffs and other advantages will tend to keep people on the farm. If the attractiveness of farm life does not hold men to the farm, there may come a time when economic pressure from the cities

will drive men back to the farm. Already the cost of commodities in the cities is becoming burdensome to thousands of city dwellers. The decrease in the number of producers and the increase in the number of consumers is beginning to make its influence felt. In the meantime, it is to be regretted that the fair province of Ontario should be deprived of the stalwart men and fair women who have so largely contributed to make that Province the leading section of the Dominion.

VACANT LOT CULTIVATION.

We would like to see something attempted in Montreal in the way of vacant lot cultivation. This has been tried in a number of cities with very satisfactory results and there is no reason at all why Montreal should not put the scheme into practice.

If steps were at once taken by the Parks and Playgrounds Association, or other interested bodies, something might be completed by next spring and our many vacant lots turned over to the deserving poor for cultivation. At the present time with the cost of living mounting week by week, it would be a real boon to many a poor family if they were allowed to cultivate the vacant lots in the city. During the past few years, the subdivider has been so busy that large tracts of what as once productive farm land is to-day standing idle awaiting the coming of city dwellers. Not only has this land been removed from cultivation, thereby lessening the total production, but in other ways it has contributed to the high cost of living. Much of this land was adjacent to the city and produce could be transported to the consumer at the minimum of cost. Now, farmers must bring their produce from a greater distance, which adds to its cost. All this vacant land would be better if it were in cultivation. It would look better than it does now as waste land and would aid in reducing the cost of living to poor families. Let some ambitious Alderman, who is seeking re-election, make this a plank in his platform and he will be surprised at the heavy vote he will secure in February.

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE OPENS OFFICE IN NEW YORK.

Our readers will be interested to know that the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE is about to open an office in New York City with Mr. L. C. Randolph, at present Advertising Manager of the Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Co., in charge. Mr. Randolph leaves to take up his new work on December 1st and will devote his entire time to the interest of the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE and the other publications associated with it and published by the Industrial & Educational Press, Limited. The Industrial & Educational Press, Limited, incorporated but little over a year ago, now