

from Somersetshire, Devonshire and Cornwall have this year gone to Canada through this Agency, and, being of an excellent stamp, I can confidently anticipate good reports from them next season. As I have stated in previous reports this class of settlers is only with difficulty secured; much persistent and careful labour must be exerted to obtain a firm hold upon them. I have visited many country markets, fairs, &c., distributing pamphlets and mixing with agriculturists for the purpose of giving them information on Canada, finding, as I do, that oft times in a few minutes' conversation more good is done than may follow from getting a dozen pamphlets read. Large numbers are still holding on to their farms, though at a distinct loss, and many would willingly sell out and move to Canada if only they could secure a fair price for their stock. Before such I am constantly holding out the inducements offered by the lands of the North-West and other portions of Canada. There can be no doubt the time is not far distant when there will be a large emigration of the tenant farmer, and I am sure when it does take place the effect of my labours will be seen in the share Canada will receive of such useful settlers on her lands. I have endeavoured to organize several parties so that emigrants could have the advantages of co-operation, but have always found that no date could be fixed to suit all, some farmers soon disposing of their stock whilst others have had to wait longer for an opportunity of selling out except at ruinous prices.

FARM LABOURERS.

There has been a moderate emigration of this class, but the increase I had predicted would occur this year has not been so marked as anticipated. The numerous strikes have afforded work at good wages in towns for agricultural labourers, and, in addition, many associations have been started for the purpose of keeping them financially, and also encouraging them to be industrious and thrifty. Great efforts are being made to solve the problem of how to keep these labourers in the villages. It is recognized on all hands that one of the great difficulties in this district has been the great migration from the villages into the larger towns around. The slums of the large cities have been crowded, and as the result of this migration the rate of wages in the large towns was run down and the difficulties in the country increased. The question is asked how they can stop their labourers going from their villages into the towns? In the villages it is felt to be everyone's interest to keep their labourers with them, and if this constant dwindling of the population goes on the shop-keepers in the market towns will be the people to feel the greatest pinch. By providing allotments of ground, offering prizes for skill, and other expedients, it is hoped to keep the best agriculturists in the villages. But there are many signs that all efforts will fail, and that, as heretofore, the best labourers will leave for other countries when they find their labour badly paid at home. Good farm hands earn from 12 shillings to 15 shillings per week, and plenty are available at any time if only sure of work beforehand, which, of course, cannot be promised except at the opening of the year. Several Canadians, whilst in this neighbourhood, secured good farm hands, and I hear they are giving every satisfaction. I have been careful in sending out this class to scatter them widely, so that too many may not throw themselves upon any one locality.

DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

Servant girls with good characters have been in great demand throughout the year, in consequence of so many, during past seasons, having either emigrated or gone to work in the factories now so extensively employing female labour. Hence the reason so few have left for Canada this season, and those who did were eagerly competed for by Australian colonists here on a visit. Great inducements have been offered servant girls to go to Queensland and New South Wales. Private individuals have, in many instances, advertised to take back girls free, with a guarantee of situations, and numbers took advantage of such offers. I have done my utmost at all times to secure good, reliable servants for the Dominion, and during the spring sent out about twenty to Winnipeg and Toronto, but later in the year none were obtainable, so great was the home demand.