

machinery and labor-saving devices that we need not look for much more relief from that source for some time to come. Does the farmer generally keep enough help? Would it not pay much better to keep more help than is generally kept? So many have been paying for land and have had to save for that purpose; but now that is, generally, a thing of the past, and would it not be better to keep more help? Yes, you say, but how are we to get it?

But, sir, there is still one great cause of the scarcity of help that we have not touched upon. When our country was being settled, and when our young man got a piece of land and put up a log shanty, what did he do next? Why, sir, every kind of work or study was practically laid aside and he went a-wooing, and did not stop, either, until he took his bride home to share his sorrows and joys, and in course of time the young couples raised fine crops of boys and girls, and there was plenty of help for all kinds of work. Now, sir, in the township in which I live there are at least 150 bachelors who own good homes and ought to be married. Now, I think the average number of the early settlers' families would be about six. Well, then, six times 150 would be 900, or about two children for every 100 acres in our township; then the difficulty would be solved. But, you ask, how are we to get these bachelors married? There have been agricultural commissions, assessment commissions, and numerous other commissions; why not have a matrimonial commission to deal with this deep subject? This is no new thing. If we go back as far as the days of Abraham we find that his son Isaac was very much like many of our bachelor farmers, and the old patriarch appointed his head manager a sort of commission to get a wife for the young man. Would the "Farmer's Advocate" readers, especially the bachelors, carefully study the 24th chapter of Genesis and see how this worked out? It is a fine story, and well worth reading. I sincerely trust that the bachelors will appreciate our kindly interest in their welfare, and that they will also see that they are blocking the onward march of progress in our otherwise progressive Dominion. Farmers who are already married, and whom Providence has not blessed with children, would do well to adopt and train up for spheres of usefulness some of the orphan children and many who are worse than orphans, with shiftless parents. These children could be taken to the farms, away from city influences, and trained up to be useful men and women. Don't forget about the "matrimonial commission"; think about it, and agitate and work it up. JONAS.

Claiver Ha Lea.

Enable One Man to do the Work that Two Did Before.

The situation in regard to the farm-labor problem has become a very serious question to the agriculturist to-day. Farm labor has become so scarce that many farmers are much hampered in their operations, and are not able to make their farms turn in the revenue that they might. There are many causes which contribute to this state of affairs.

One of the principal ones that affects Eastern farmers is the opening up of our great Western country, which holds out great inducements to our most energetic and enterprising young men. They leave us by the thousands to make themselves homes in the new West, where rich virgin soil, cheaply obtained, holds out great promise of success. Another cause that has always existed is certainly our system of common school education, which has had no place in the past for agricultural teaching, but has rather had the effect of leading our best and brightest minds in the direction of mercantile or professional occupations. As this is now being remedied by the introduction of agriculture and nature study into our schools, we look for a reaction to set in that will direct the energies of our best young people to the farm and imbue them with the idea that agriculture, intelligently and skilfully engaged in, is the most dignified and ennobling calling in the world, and that the farm laborer holds as honorable a position as any workman in other occupations.

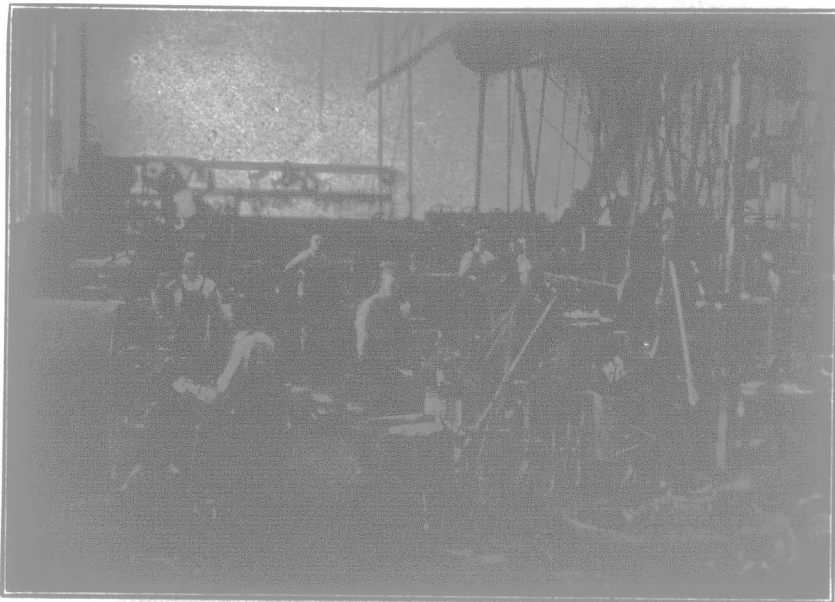
But, perhaps the greatest cause of all for the flocking of our young people to the cities is the unproductiveness of and bad business methods followed on so many farms. It is hard to impress a thoughtful, progressive youth with the dignity of a calling that requires him to work hard for long hours all the year—without vacation—on a farm that is not producing enough to give the owner and his family a respectable living. Labor will always seek the best pecuniary reward, and farmers, to compete in the labor market, must adopt the best business methods in cultivation. Must keep a better class of stock and handle them more intelligently, must put more intelligence and skill into all their farming operations, a more intensive system of farming, so as to put the farmer in a position to pay his hired help a sufficient wage to induce him to stay by the

farm and enable him to save something for old age.

For the immediate and partial solution of the farm-labor problem we can suggest nothing better than using improved, faster-working farm implements, so that one man, by working four to six horses, will do the work formerly done by two to three men; also the growing of alfalfa (where it will succeed) and the common clovers in greater abundance for stock feed instead of large acreages of roots that require so much labor.

WALTER SIMPSON.

Prince Edward Island.



The Monotony of the Machine Shop.

A Blessing in Disguise.

A great deal of inconvenience and loss has resulted from the scarcity of help on the farm, both in the house and in the field. In my opinion this has been a blessing in disguise. You will remember, Mr. Editor, in the good old days of grain (barley) growing in the banner County of Peel, the rush at this time of the year to get the thousands and tens of thousands of bushels of barley to market at 75 cents to \$1.00 per bushel; also the thousands of bushels of wheat, both spring and fall, to be marketed later on at a certainty of \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bushel.

All this is now changed; and well it is so, for had it continued a few years longer it would have meant ruin; our fertile farms were rapidly being exhausted.

Farming in Ontario, for some years back, has been in a state of transition, which has caused a good deal of confusion and loss. No doubt the higher wages, shorter hours, and the social conditions prevailing in the towns and cities have been the means of drawing many good men from the farm. This is now changing everywhere throughout Ontario. In our towns and cities rents and general cost of living is increasing, while wages have not kept pace with those on the farm.

At the risk of being unduly optimistic, I will



The Pawn-shop—A Necessary City Institution.

say that the prospects for the Canadian farmer were never brighter. With our healthful climate, fertile farms, natural resources, good educational institutions, with an intelligent and enterprising people, we will ere long be second to none in the race, for I am firmly of the opinion that, with good judgment and care, we will become the best stock-producing country in the world.

Note some of the changes that have taken place: the thousands of beautiful, even palatial, homes; large, comfortable basement barns, and the improved sanitary conditions of both. In the years past our wives and daughters on a large farm in the summertime had to board a small army of men, where now one or two men can do the work. On few well-regulated farms

are the women now expected to do milking, and then it is in cool, clean stables.

I do not think the public school has much to do with the case. Every boy and girl should have a good public-school education, and a term or two at the High School—the mind must be trained to think and act. The O. A. C., at Guelph, has done and is doing a good work. Usually things will regulate themselves, but we may assist by cultivating small farms—not to exceed 100 or 150 acres—following a mixed system of farming, keeping six to ten cows, the best of whatever breed selected; two or three good brood sows, and a brood mare or two. Sheep have been paying extra well of late, and poultry will give the women all the employment they may wish and a good profit. The work should be distributed over the whole year as much as possible.

In order to keep the boys and girls on the farm, our social conditions must compare favorably with those of the towns and cities. A few of the things that will bring this about are: Shorter hours of labor, made possible by labor-saving machinery, both in the house and on the farm; better means of communication, which means better roads; rural postal delivery, as far as practicable; rural telephone lines—we have installed one in our home this summer, and would not think of being without it now. I know

farmers as a class are rather conservative in business matters and slow to make changes, but these are bound to come. These are only a few of the changes, but I have already exceeded the limit of space allotted. Every farmer should give his very best thought and energy to his life's calling, remembering that it is brains as well as brawn that will tell in the future. J. PICKERING.

Peel Co., Ont.

Study to Meet Changed Conditions.

President Roosevelt's panacea for the present farm-labor difficulty would be larger families of rugged boys and girls among the rural population. Such an argument would appeal with considerable force to the undersigned, who is depending entirely for assistance on his neighbor's boys. But inasmuch as the above plan would not bring very immediate results, we must cast about for a more ready solution of the difficulty.

The causes which have led up to the present situation are various. The hard times of the seventies, and later, in the nineties, broke many a farmer's finances and spirit, and the reflex influence on the boys, to my mind, contributed largely to the exodus to the cities and towns in the years that followed.

In the social world, the jibe and sneer, the anecdote that provokes the laugh at the farmer's expense, the public press, with its cartoons, representing the farmer as an "old slouch," with hayseeds in his whiskers; the spirit instilled in the pupils of many of our rural schools—not so much by the particular subjects taught, but because the teacher, in urging the pupils to greater effort, has pointed to the professions as the reward of diligent study—the false impression in many homes that sends one boy to school because he is smart, and consigns another to the field because he is a dunce—these are some of the causes that have contributed to bring about the present stringency in farm help. When a new gospel is preached that does not degrade manual labor, but gives agriculture its rightful place among the honorable professions, this vexed problem will be on a fair way to solution. In this connection the "Farmer's Advocate" has been like a clarion blast calling our young men back to our ranks, and the Agricultural College at Guelph has done much to give tone and lend dignity to the noblest profession on this green earth.

Trouble often brings its own compensation.