

## SHORTER HOURS ON THE FARM.

A plea for shorter hours for farm hands and for farmers themselves is made in the August issue of *Successful Agriculture and Forestry Review*, published at Brandon: "One of the objections to working on the farm is the long and irregular hours exacted of hired help in some localities. Farm laborers complain of overwork, particularly on many dairy farms, where the proprietors are obliged to deliver their milk at the station at an early morning hour." And the suggestion is made that if the early morning service could be deducted from that performed in doing the late evening chores the hired man would not complain so much of overwork. His hours now, on many farms, according to our contemporary, are from four in the morning until eight at night. No wonder, therefore, that hired men complain and that it is difficult to get them; no wonder, either, that a lifetime of such hours makes a farmer a physical wreck prematurely. The farmer ought not to need to work so much longer than the factory hand.

Let us say, however, that we are by no means carried away by the prevailing cry in the labor world of shorter hours. There are a lot of lazy people calling themselves first-class mechanics, who are being persuaded by still lazier agitators or labor organizers, that what has been already achieved in lessening a day's work from ten hours to nine, and from nine hours to eight, is not enough, but that forty-four hours a week or even forty-two is enough for them to work. This is the argument of the slothful drone, who would not want to work at all if he could "beat" his way, or else of the smart-Aleck with no knowledge of business principles. Neither of these classes of persons reflects that, given two nations, the mechanics in one of which work eight hours per day, and in the other only seven, the nation which works longer, other things being equal, will produce most and will surpass the other in a world's trade. We do not contend that our artisans should work twelve hours out of twenty-four, as used often to be the case in the old days; for the improved conditions enable modern labor to do as much effective work in eight or nine hours as used to be done in twelve. But we object to the arrogant and shortsighted way in which many now-a-days are clamoring for shorter hours and more pay without considering whether a country can afford the one or its manufacturers the other.

Our contemporary continues his argument for shorter hours on the farm thus:—

"While farmers cannot compete with mechanics in the eight-hour day, they can at least restrict a day's work to reasonable limits for men and horses. The fresh horses will perform more work in a ten-hour day in a week and the hired man will do more in a twelve-hour day than if the work is extended to a sixteen-hour day.

"All the great factories, railways and industrial establishments require specified hours' service of their employees to comprise a day's work. In Europe on farms that employ many laborers, regulation hours of service are adopted, and it is the duty of the superintendent to see that the men are at their tasks and rightly employ their time during the working schedule. As our country grows older all defects in the working hours on the farm will be remedied and uniformity of service be generally adjusted to the mutual benefit of the farmer and the hired man."

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## BOOK NOTICES.

The Incorporated Accountants' Year Book, issued by the council of the Society of Accountants and Auditors, is just published for 1905-6. We are told that it contains the names of 2,108 members in all. Of these 1,619 are in England and Wales, 123 in Scotland, 29 in Ireland, and 337 in other British possessions and foreign countries. The society has district organizations in eight of the leading towns of the United Kingdom, and, we believe, there are also branch societies of Incorporated Accountants in Scotland, Ireland, Australia, South Africa and Canada. The current volume extends to 573 pages, and contains, in addition to the lists mentioned above, the society's regulations, examination papers, and a catalogue of the library.

A friend has sent us from Europe a specimen of the literature distributed by the Canadian Government at the great fair in Liege, Belgium. It is a 64-page pamphlet, full of information about Canada. What makes the book especially serviceable is the attractive way this information is given. Its facts and figures are not condensed into long, solid dreary pages of small type, but are split up into paragraphs which are illuminated by photographs, and assisted by maps and diagrams. There are extracts from letters, and editorials from persons who have visited the Canadian North-West or are now living in it. And there is a list of the 25 persons who, as commissioners or Government agents (12 of them in the United States), are authorized to give infor-

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