

hard to speak with certainty. We have, however, reached a season of the year when high values are likely to prevail, and good prices may be looked for till the fall supplies arrive, though present figures may be lowered somewhat. The English market for Canadian bacon has advanced two shillings during the past two weeks, and an active business is reported. Though things are brisk, farmers should not neglect proper feeding methods. It is only the finest quality that brings the highest price. In this connection read notes on causes of soft bacon elsewhere in this issue.

The Hired Man in the Home

At Woodstock a week ago a rather curious suit for wages came up for decision before Judge Finkle. A young man engaged with a Blenheim farmer to work. The agreement, as he stated it, was that he should receive \$180 for nine months' work, and that he should be accorded all the privileges of a member of the farmer's family. All went along smoothly till several nice-looking girls came to visit in the home. The visitors sat at the family table and so did the hired man, but the latter claimed that as he was not introduced to the young ladies by his employer he was barred from entering into the conversation which went on around the table. This, the hired man claimed, was a breach of contract, and consequently left his employer and began a suit to recover the full amount of his wages. The Judge dismissed the case.

In referring to this incident, we have no desire to discuss the merits of the case in any way, but to draw attention to the conditions surrounding the employment of farm labor in this country, which make a suit of this nature possible. We do not wish to reflect in any sense upon the character of the hired man, as we believe honest labor in every walk of life is deserving of all the legitimate pleasures which come its way. But this does not alter the fact that the general system of employing hired help on the farms of this country is radically wrong, and cannot but prove unsatisfactory to the employer and the employed. Where a man is engaged only for a few months during the busy season, and has to remain idle or seek employment in some other line, he sees nothing in farm life to induce him to remain in it, and generally drifts to the city, or takes up land for himself in some new district, thus making it difficult for the farmer in the older districts to get sufficient help during the busy season to carry on the work of the farm properly. The remedy for this kind of thing is to be found in the employing of help on the farm all the year round. And if the farmer has a separate house, and employs a married man, so much the better. Taking everything into consideration, this is the most satisfactory way of engaging farm help. A married man, in the very nature of things, will give better service, and as he has a family depending upon him, will do his best to please his employer. And if he is supplied with a little home and a small plot of ground, he will not be anxious to change his position or to seek employment elsewhere. It would be worth a farmer's while, who secures a steady young man to work on his farm, if he were to throw out inducements in the way of a little

home, in order to retain his services for a number of years.

Then, in addition to all this, the providing of separate homes for the men eliminates the hired man as a factor in the farmer's home and family. No matter how capable, how honest, or how many other good qualities a hired man may have, his presence is always a discordant element in the home, and tends to prevent that free and full intercourse between members of the family that should characterize every home. Why should a young man, engaged to work on a farm, claim all the social and other privileges which belong only to the family? But his presence in the home makes it almost necessary that he should be accorded some privileges of this nature, which must eventually lead to friction later on. A man with a home of his own could be entertained in a social way by the farmer's family, if they saw fit, and neither side would have cause for complaint. But under the plan where the hired man is in the home, he must receive some attention from the family or he will become discontented. Besides his presence there entails a large amount of extra labor on the women folks that they would not otherwise have to contend with.

Ontario Crops

A bulletin on crop conditions in Ontario on May 1st has been issued by the Department of Agriculture. But for the injury done by the Hessian fly in the south-western part of the Province, fall wheat would be classed as a most promising crop. Every county south of a line drawn from Hamilton to Sarnia has suffered considerably from the fly. Outside the counties affected by the Hessian fly, fall wheat looks well. Some injury was done by ice on low-lying or poorly-drained lands, but, as a rule, the crop presents a luxuriant appearance—the growth having been almost too rank in places in the fall—and several counties may be expected to give yields well up to the record.

Regarding methods for prevention of the ravages of the fly, Prof. Lochhead, in the report of the Ontario Agricultural College for 1900, which is now being distributed, says: "The long, open falls of the past two years have been very favorable to the breeding of Hessian flies. Reports of the dates of sowing of the fall wheat in the infested districts make it quite clear that the time of the sowing of the seed should be postponed till the last week in September. Where such late sowing has been done the crop has escaped the fly. It is often maintained that seed sown after the first week in September does not produce a yield equal to that produced from seed sown prior to that date; but, on the other hand, it does not take many Hessian flies to make a material reduction in the yield of an infested field."

All classes of live stock came through the winter in good condition, horses especially. Cattle were rather thin, but, on the whole, healthy. Sheep are reported to be in particularly fine form. Scab has disappeared, and lambs are plentiful and vigorous. While litters of pigs have been large, there have been heavy losses among the young pigs, and during the latter part of the winter many hogs suffered from a form of rheumatism, which, however, appeared to wear off when the animals were turned out in the spring. In most parts there was an