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Agents wanted in every village, town and township, to make a thorough canvass for the RURAL CANADIAN. Liberal inducements. Work to commence at once. For full particulars address—

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TOO MUCH LAND.

One of the common mistakes of farmers is the cultivation of too much land. The farms are too large for the work put on them. One man, with a servant for three or four months of the year, will undertake to crop, say, eighty acres. But with what results? The ground is imperfectly prepared. Perhaps the only system of drainage is the running of furrow drains with the plough. There is a lack of manure, and the seed is sown on a lumpy soil. The whole business is rushed. Oats and barley and peas being got in, the ground for potatoes and corn is broken, and by the time these are planted sheep-washing and sheep-shearing are upon him. Then comes the summer-fallowing and the cultivating of planted crops, and before this work is half done the clover meadow is ready for the mower, to be followed in its turn with the grain harvest. And before the grain is secured it is time to get ready for sowing the fall wheat. So it goes on. The farmer works hard, and late, and early, but he can't overtake his work. There is always more to do than can be done with the means at his disposal, and much is neglected. The corn and potato fields are overgrown with weeds, and the summer fallow is foul and baked like a brick. What profit is there in this style of farming? None whatever. It is unsatisfying in every way, and the land so worked becomes a nuisance to every good farmer in its neighbourhood, for it is a propagator of noxious weeds. This is a kind of cultivation that calls loudly for reform. Far better to work a farm half its size and work it well; for one acre properly drained and cultivated will often yield as much as two or three acres with slovenly tillage. It is an easy matter to keep down weeds if one has time and inclination to attend to the work. The harrow and the cultivator can accomplish it speedily, and the oftener the ground is stirred with these implements the better the crop will be. A big farm can't be run without capital. The farmer must have teams and implements and men to use them. And well equipped in this way he need not fear failure, just as without them he can not hope for success. Let weeds gain the day and they will speedily impoverish both farm and farmer.

THE WAY TO "GO WEST."

It is all very well to echo Greeley's advice and tell the young man to "go west;" but there is a wise way as well as a foolish way both to give and to take the advice. We think, indeed, that there are far too many Ontario farmers acting on the advice themselves. For, why should a man who has lived forty, or fifty or sixty years on a good farm sell out and move with his whole family into the woods of Michigan, or out to the prairies of Dakota or Manitoba? Those who have done so are to be numbered by the thousand and the ten thousand. The number of native Canadians in the United States is enormously large. Are they more comfortable or better off than they might be had they remained in Ontario? Some are, perhaps, and many are not. For grain-growing our Province ranks ahead of any State in the Union. Our land is easily cultivated, and a good crop is generally sure. Then our live

stock is better than the average on American farms. the fact is, indeed, that a most profitable business is done in Ontario in breeding horses, cattle, sheep and pigs for American farmers. Our soil and climate are admirably adapted for producing vigorous and well developed animals. We have a school system, too, unsurpassed by any country or State in the old world or the new; and well sustained churches, in an atmosphere of toleration and religious liberty; and political institutions that nourish a manly race. Added to all these things, our farmers have all the comforts which civilization can confer. Lumber is cheap, and they can build dwelling houses and outbuildings at little cost, such as would arouse an old country farmer to envy and jealousy. Fuel, too, is to be had for the gathering. Why, we ask, should the Ontario farmer sell his good farm, leaving it and his comfortable buildings and breaking up the associations of a life-time, to become in middle age or old age a pioneer and adventurer on the western or north-western prairies? We think that such a step should not be taken without weighing well all the pros and cons. But if migration is a necessity in the interest of the young men, why should the old men think it a necessity too? We think that our friends on the south side of the lakes understand these things better. Consider the practice in Ohio, for instance. Four or five neighbours have more sons than they can provide farms for around home. They take counsel together and conclude that it is desirable the young men should go west. Two of the old men, or perhaps three, go on a prospecting tour in the fall. They find suitable locations and secure claims, and next spring the colony of young men is sent forth to settle upon the lands thus secured for them and to make homes for themselves. They know each other, and trust each other, and help each other; they have been companions from boyhood; and the old associations continue unbroken through life. But the heads of the families remain on the homestead, and enjoy in their old age the comforts they have earned so well. This, in our opinion, is the wise way to "go west," if west our men must go.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE CANADIAN FARMER'S MANUAL OF AGRICULTURE. P. Charles Edward Whitcombe. (Toronto: Willing & Williamson.)—Like every class in the community farmers are proffered any quantity of advice, good bad and indifferent. Being, however, gifted with shrewdness in what pertains to their occupation, they are as a general rule able to estimate advice tendered at its proper value. There are theorists who write on agricultural matters, who would miserably fail in a competitive examination in practical farming, and there are practical farmers who would be decided gainers by a larger acquaintance with the principles of scientific farming. The work named in this notice has many striking merits. Its author is a graduate of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, England, and a practical farmer in Ontario. It obtains a hearty endorsement from Professor Johnston, M.A., late President of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, who writes an introduction to the work. This Manual will be of great use to the farmer as it contains a vast amount of valuable information, well arranged for ready reference, on all subjects pertaining to Canadian Agriculture. Several subjects are illustrated by serviceable cuts. To immigrants, intending to follow farming, the book is indispensable.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO FRUITS. By William Saunders, F.R.S.C. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.)—Many parts of Canada are peculiarly adapted for fruit growing. Much intelligent attention is now devoted to this pleasing and profitable department of culture. This great branch is only yet in its infancy. Ontario is now the leading fruit growing Province of the Dominion. This enterprise is capable of great expansion. The fruit grower has many things to contend against. The insect pests that single out the plants on which they prey are very numerous and very destructive. The successful fruit culturist must fight them perseveringly and intelligently. To help them in this contest Mr. William Saunders, one of the most accomplished of our Canadian practical scientists, has written an excellent work on "Insects Injurious to Fruits." This is a most valuable book. In its preparation Mr. Saunders has taken the greatest possible pains to make it thoroughly accurate and reliable. It is written in a very clear and intelligible style, and illustrated by over four hundred engravings. These cuts are not of the rough description usually met with in popular books on farming. The objects are accurately drawn and the engraving has great beauty of finish, making these illustrations thoroughly serviceable to the reader. To all interested in fruit growing, this work will prove a valuable help.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

The importance of correct information pertaining to the agricultural resources of Ontario is fully appreciated by the Farmers of the Province. From the following circular issued by the Secretary of the Bureau of Industries, it will be seen that every effort is made to procure a complete and reliable presentation of facts for the benefit of the Agricultural community:

The object of the circular is to procure information for the second Annual Report of the Bureau of Industries. Last year the Schedules were sent to farmers through the schools; and, when filled and returned to the teachers, school section reports were made up for the Bureau. There were some objections to this system, and there is reason to believe that fuller returns can be obtained by distributing and receiving the Schedules direct, as in England. The return for each farm will by this plan be known only to the Bureau, and it will be treated strictly as confidential information, to be published in bulk form with all other returns for the County. I need hardly add that it has nothing to do with assessment, with taxes, or with party politics. The main object of the Bureau is to benefit the farmers themselves, by collecting and publishing useful facts about farms and farm-work, crops, live stock, etc. This benefit is chiefly two-fold.

(1) By knowing whether there is a likelihood of abundance or scarcity of crops or stock, farmers have a good guide to prices. It often happens, for instance, that some kinds of crops are excellent in one part of the country and a failure in another part. Much depends on the rainfall, on local storms and drouths, and on weather effects generally. So, too, with the supply of fat and store animals. Farmers may have large numbers on hand, or they may have none to sell. Dealers know pretty well the state of the country in these respects, for it is a part of their business to keep posted and they have correspondents to supply them promptly with information. And so informed they may, and often do, buy up the surplus grain, fruit, roots or live stock of a neighbourhood before farmers know that there is either scarcity or abundance elsewhere to have any effect on prices. The Bureau, in collecting such information from all parts of the country and publishing it in special reports and through the newspapers, enables farmers to judge for themselves as to the course of prices, instead of selling or holding on in the dark.

(2) By comparing results in their own and other countries farmers are better able to judge of the value of their property, and less likely to part with it too cheaply in the hope of getting