

The Farming World

Devoted to Canadian Country Life

VOL. XXVI.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 15, 1907.

No. 22

NOTE AND COMMENT

Our English correspondent, this issue, mentions the arrival of Argentine beef in London preserved by the new process of sterilization, and throws out a hint that American exporters of chilled beef will have to look to their laurels if half of what is claimed for this new process comes true. Everything seems to be working to supply the Englishman with good beef at a reasonable price. Decent quality of English-raised beef has sold during the month at 9c. per lb., wholesale. This is about as cheap as the retail butcher in Toronto gets his supply for, and the quality is nothing extra at that. Everything considered, the consumer here should be able to get his meat supply for one-third less than the consumer in Old London. But does he?

The Ontario Government has decided to discontinue distributing immigrants among farmers, as the Dominion Government is now doing the same kind of work. The Province will likely co-operate with the Dominion Department of Immigration in other ways and devote the funds released from distribution work to more extensive advertising in Great Britain of Ontario's advantages. Owing to the system of bonusing booking agents by the Dominion Government for farm laborers sent to Canada, the number of this class reaching the Provincial Bureau at Toronto has been gradually getting less and away below the requirements as indicated by the applications received. It makes little difference to the farmer where he gets his help, so long as he gets it and it is efficient.

Once more Ontario fruit-growers and shippers have presented their grievances against the railway companies to the Railway Commission. Car shortages, delay in getting cars, delay in transit, and inadequate icing were the chief items. The judgment of the Commissioners was favorable, and the fruitmen are to be congratulated upon the outcome. Not so with the grain shippers. Their complaint of discrimination at Owen Sound in the matter of cars was not proven to the satisfaction of two of the Commissioners. Dr. Mills, however, dissented, and presented a statement that, in his opinion there was discrimination and unjust treatment of the grain-shippers.

The evidence submitted both by the fruit and grain shippers serves to bear out the comment made re-

cently in these columns, that the railways have not kept pace with the progress of this country in equipment and rolling stock. Not only have they not kept pace with the country's progress in this respect, but evidently the railways have done little to remedy matters, as the same grievances exist to-day that were complained of five years ago. Some more effective means of improving matters must be devised. In this connection it may be interesting to note a recent order issued by the public service commission of New York State, which requires that where unjust discrimination has been alleged, the railroad complained of shall transmit at once to the commission a detailed statement of the matter, with the reasons relied on by the corporation as justification for its action. The order also requires the railways of the state to report to the commission every

out other crops. The necessity for prompt, vigorous, intelligent action in regard to weeds is only too apparent.

The scarcity and unsatisfactory character of farm labor is largely the result of the system on which most farms are managed. The remedy lies in an intelligent change of that system. Instead of hiring labor for a few months only each year, at a high figure, farmers will have to do as they do in the old country—put up neat laborers' cottages and engage men by the year. This will necessitate in many cases a change in the system of farming. The farmer will have to so arrange his system as to have work to do, not for a few months only each year, but every day of every month. He must milk more cows and feed more stock, which will necessitate his growing more corn and roots.

That it will repay him many fold to do this, no one conversant with agriculture will question. It will not only solve the labor problem but the net returns per acre will be greatly enhanced. Owing to increased cultivation, fertility will be improved and weeds kept under control. By offering suitable encouragement to old countrymen, the farm labor problem could be easily solved. Many such settle in Ontario and remain for a year or two, then after receiving a training in farm work they take the excursions to the West.

The best way to keep out the yellow man is to bring in white men. In Great Britain there are thousands of men of our own kind ready to come here if proper efforts are made to bring them—good workers but too poor to stand the expense of moving their families to Canada. They make excellent citizens.

One of the causes of the labor difficulty is the public school, which has not tended, as it should, to train either good laborers or progressive employers, but has tended in a marked degree to overcrowd the professions and deplete the ranks of farmers and laborers. If some of those in high places had their way the country would soon be filled with a pauper class of ignorant foreigners, content to toil for a pittance, like the Asiatics who have lately poured into B. C.

The problem in Canada is not to bring inferior races here to toil for us, but how to fit our own people for the occupations the country affords. We do not mean that the door should be closed to all immigrants. Thrifty immigrants of good character and physique, should be welcomed among us. But there is a great difference between

DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU?

IF SO—ACT NOW
DON'T PUT OFF

We refer to your subscription and ask you to kindly look at the label on your paper and see if you are in arrears. The date given there is the time to which you have paid.

When sending in your renewal subscription, try and send one new subscription along with your own. We will accept one renewal and one new yearly subscription, both for \$1.00.

January 1st is fast approaching and on that date the subscription price to the Farming World will be advanced to \$1.00 per year.

Subscription forms will be found on pages 1043 and 1069.

case in which it has been unable to place a car for loading within four days after the time for which it was ordered. This applies to car-load lots.

FARM LABOR

The most pressing need on farms to-day is labor. Requisitions sent in from various points for men indicate that year by year the demand for farm labor is becoming more acute. On the other hand the available supply is surprisingly small.

The ill effect that such a condition is having on farm lands in the older provinces does not stop at the inconvenience and handicap suffered by farmers. It is seen in the alarming increase of noxious weeds, which in some sections have gained such footing as to crowd