

### WHEN WILL THE PANAMA BE READY?

The Canadian railroad presidents are said not to be unduly exercised as to a revision of their freight rates by reason of the advent of the Panama Canal. A cable message from London last week will not be inclined to hasten them to action. It said that experts sent to Panama by a leading German steamship line which contemplated big developments when the canal is available, have reported that in their opinion large ocean-going liners will not be able to pass through that waterway for another five years at least. They base this opinion on the frequency of landslides in the Culebra Cut, which have been on such a scale recently that the steam shovels are making little progress in that part of the work. Moreover, the engineers are said to recognize that when the water is let in there will be some erosion, and that unless proper preparations are made it will cause the slides to block the canal.

Only the other day, Colonel Geothals, chief engineer of the canal, said it would be open for traffic early in 1915. Canadian interest in the waterway does not seem very strong and there appears to be here an attitude of waiting for substantial demonstration of the actual effect of the canal on the world's shipping and commerce.

### ICE CREAM ON THE FARM

Down in Findlay, Ohio, H. B. Clark is trying to solve the farm labor problem. He has several hundred acres of corn dying for the want of cultivation. In order to make more radiant the dusty attractions of farm labor, Mr. Clark offers the following to any man who will take a job with him:—

1. A riding cultivator to save walking.
2. A sun umbrella to keep off the sun's rays.
3. Plenty of sterilized ice water to drink.
4. Ice cream every other day.

No mention is made of a hammock for picking berries, an electric fan attachment for the cultivator, a copy of "Capital Investments in Canada" for after the evening meal, a corn-cob pipe, or of a little something in the sterilized ice water. But Mr. Clark probably has those and still other allurements up his agricultural sleeve. The Findlay farmer, though, is working along the right lines. The farm laborer's job is not sufficiently attractive. That is partly why Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and other provinces are calling in vain for help. Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P., some years ago struck the keynote of the situation with his question, which duly became embedded in Canada's pastoral history, "Where shall the hired man wash his feet?" The hired man is too much of a side issue in the matter of comforts. Many farmers think only of the greatest amount of work to be squeezed in the least amount of time. Being human and masculine, the hired man naturally objects to the squeezing process. Hoeing, harvesting, picking, packing, and the thousand other duties of the farm, performed in the broiling sun, do not bear the earmarks of what the immaculate city boy calls "a soft job." There is the rub. If the farmer wants labor of value he must make the job "softer." His hired man must be classed with the family in the house, rather than with the neighbors and the bleaters in the barn. Burnish the attractions of the farm, then the rural depopulation will be lessened and some of the good stock which has drifted to the cities will return to the land.

There is, we know, the problem too of the hired man who is not worth his salt. That will mostly solve itself as soon as life on the farm magnetizes the man who is worth not only his salt, but also three square meals a day, good wages, and a few trimmings. Mr. Clark, of Ohio, begins to see where the real weeds lie.

### SELLING BONDS LOCALLY.

Several municipalities have been patting backs with satisfaction at moderate success in selling their debentures to the local citizens. While no fault can be found with the choice of investment, it is better to sell the bonds to outside capital, retaining the local capital for other purposes.

### SMALL CHANGE

What is the fire insurance rate on the English suffragette?

\* \* \* \*

Life insurance men say there will soon be a little Sun in the Home.

\* \* \* \*

General Money Market to Trooper Town Treasurer: "Halt; dismount."

\* \* \* \*

One of the penalties of development is to be in a constant state of unfinish.

\* \* \* \*

The hot weather seems to have burnt out the fuse from our stock exchanges.

\* \* \* \*

Those who are taking part in "flag incidents" should acquire a little common sense.

\* \* \* \*

In Quebec, they are putting stones in baled hay to make weight. And the horse cannot speak!

\* \* \* \*

The Montreal and Toronto stock exchanges have as many excuses for a holiday as the office boy.

\* \* \* \*

The Montreal thermometer, taking a hint from the stock exchange, performed a forty-point drop last week.

\* \* \* \*

Little by little we learn that some of those industrial combines of yester year are not all they were cracked up to be.

\* \* \* \*

It seems as hard for Canadian provincial securities to get into the British Trustee List as for the fly to negotiate the patent window screen.

\* \* \* \*

And now a number of prospective purchasers of Canadian Pacific Railway at 200 will be disappointed if the stock does not drop that far.

\* \* \* \*

James J. Hill says the "boys" in Western Canada have had a little too much ambition—and that has proved one of James Jay's greatest assets.

\* \* \* \*

Twenty-one productions were received in an American anthem competition, but not one was good enough for the prize—probably not enough of \$ note thrown in.

\* \* \* \*

A Toronto ice cream company's bonds are to be offered to the public. The office boy says investors will probably freeze on to them, keeping them in cold storage.

\* \* \* \*

Even if Mackenzie and Mann did sell the Canadian Northern to the government and the Toronto railway and light plant to the city, they could get jobs as rapid money raisers.