

Public schools, high schools, universities, all drain the farm. The schools where seven-eighths of the people received their whole school training are still governed by regulations and methods planned for and applicable to those who expect to work out their careers away from the land. Then came the lure of the West, where men hope soon to grow rich on virgin soil and land speculation. The East made great sacrifices to build itself up industrially, every inducement being offered to the boys of the farm to help to build factories and transfer their industry from the farm or the villages to the cities or towns. Then when the lands of the West became available the appeal was not to the factory hands or clerks but to farmers' sons to go West and grow up with the country. The farm-labor problem is not to be ignored, concludes the writer, and the instincts of constructive statesmanship should lead those in authority to grapple with it now and make its immediate solution their first consideration if the child of the city laborer is to be spared the pinch of hunger.

Equinoctial (?) Gales.

From childhood up we have all heard of equinoctial gales which many appear to fear with alarm. Equinox means, of course, equal day and night, so about the 21st. of March when the sun crosses the equator in its northerly course and again on the 21st. of September when it recrosses it in its southerly course, we are told by the so-called weatherwise that great gales will occur. We are not informed where, but presumably at least throughout the northern hemisphere—for naturally if the sun in crossing the equator exercises such an influence in one portion of the globe, it must equally do so in all the remaining portions. No reasons are given why the passage of the sun across the equator should occasion such an upheaval of atmospheric pressure, and meteorologists are at a loss to discover that such conditions do exist, however, the statement is made by irresponsible individuals that this is the case and accepted by the great majority of people as a fact.

Now, if we take the gales which have occurred in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces in March and September from 1874 to 1913, and from 1873 to 1912 respectively and inclusively, giving particular attention to what happened about the equinox and allowing the wide margin of from the 19th. until the 24th. inclusive, to cover the equinox, we find that in March for the years considered—in Ontario there were 171 gales, 64 fresh to heavy, and 107 moderate; of these 41 occurred between the 19th. and 24th., 6 out of the 41 being fresh, and 6 heavy. The heavy gales were recorded as follows—1880, 20th. and 23rd.; 1896, the 19th.; 1907, the 19th.; 1913, the 21st. and 24th., three before and three after the sun crossed the line.

In Quebec 169 gales, 83 fresh to heavy and 86 moderate; 30 between the 19th. and 24th., 18 being fresh to heavy.

In the Maritime Provinces 159 gales, 73 fresh to heavy, 86 moderate; 28 between the 19th. and the 24th., 12 being fresh to heavy.

In September from 1873 to 1912 inclusive, in Ontario 98 gales, 28 fresh to heavy, 70 moderate; 19 between the 19th. and 24th., 7 being fresh to heavy; the heaviest gales occurring the 24th. 1883, 22nd. 1885, 19th. 1896, 24th. 1907.

In Quebec 108 gales, 32 fresh to heavy, and 76 moderate; 7 being fresh to heavy; 16 between the 19th. and the 24th.

In the Maritime Provinces 77 gales, 21 fresh to heavy, and 56 moderate; 3 being fresh to heavy; 16 between the 19th. and 24th.

These figures, taken from a carefully prepared table, for such a long period prove conclusively that there is no marked increase in storm energy about the time of the equinox, and that a term of any other six days in any other part of the months of March or September would give quite as many gales occurring whether moderate or heavy, as is shown to have taken place between the 19th. and 24th. Figures have not been tabulated for Canada west of the Great Lakes, but there is no reason for supposing that they would vary from those obtained from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces.

The number of gales experienced in Canada increases as the winter approaches, arrives at a maximum during the winter and diminishes towards the spring.

March is seldom as stormy a month as the four preceding ones, but exceptions occur of course in all things, and March, 1913, with six gales in Ontario, three being fresh and two heavy, was one of the exceptions. It was also a coincidence that the two heavy gales in Ontario happened about the equinox, the unusually heavy gale of the 21st. and the second heavy gale of the 24th.

The great gale which blew over Ontario on the 21st. was caused by the rapid development and movement during the night of the 20th. of a depression which on the morning of the 20th. was situated in the vicinity of northern Texas, as a comparatively feeble disturbance. After reaching the peninsula of Ontario it almost as quickly diminished in energy, its accompanying gale becoming quite moderate in Eastern Canada, while there was no storm in Canada west of Lake Superior. The two heaviest gales of the month in Eastern Canada were experienced on the 7th. and the 27th. respectively.

In Ontario since 1874 the stormiest Marches have been 1876, with 6 gales; 1882, 1883, with 8 and 6 respectively; 1888, 1893, with 6; 1896, 1899, with 7, and 1907 and 1913, with 6 gales. On the other hand in 1905 no gale blew in Ontario, 1 moderate gale only in 1889, while 2 gales only were experienced in 1878-79; 1886, 1890-92, 1903-10.

The "Encyclopedia Britannica" under the heading of "Equinoctial Gales" says, "The generally-received idea that gales may be expected about the equinoxes—that is when the sun crosses the equator on the 21st. of March and on the 21st. of September, is not borne out by investigation, and, therefore, quite misleading."

This entirely agrees with the Canadian work on the subject. B. C. WEBBER.

An Impression of Ottawa.

By Peter McArthur.

When the trouble was over, that is, after Mr. Albright and I had given our testimony before the Committee on Banking and Commerce, an old friend clapped me on the shoulder and said, "Now that you have been here for a few days among us, what do you think of us?"

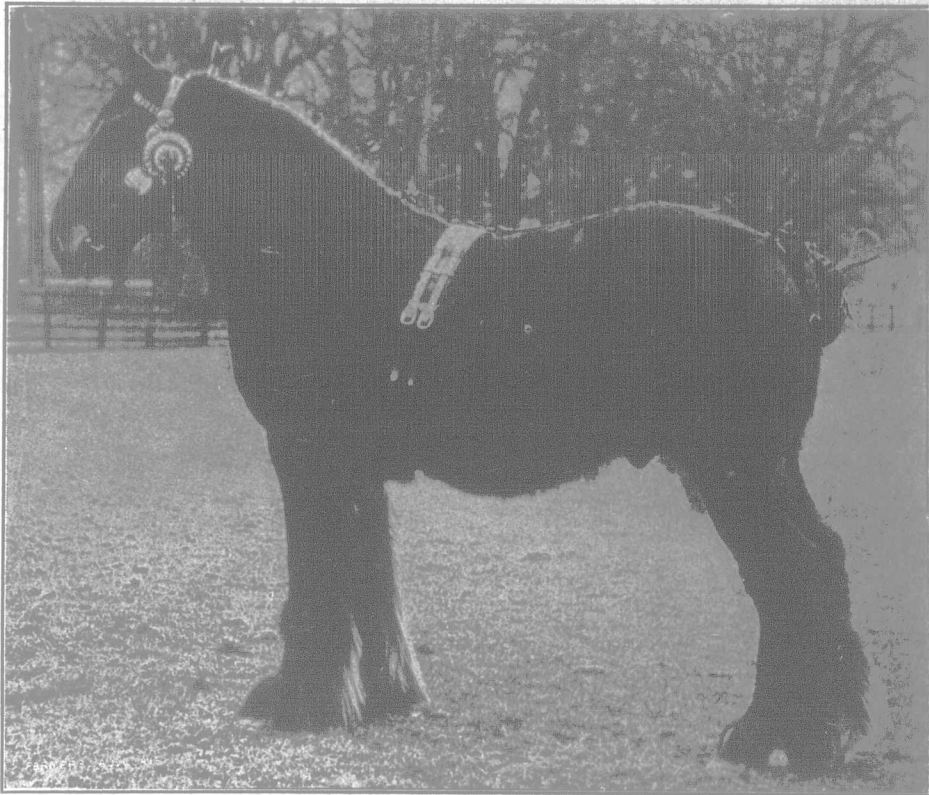
Asked so suddenly, I was lost for an answer, but after thinking it over it occurred to me that perhaps those who have been in the habit of read-

peculiarly isolated position that most of them occupied, while being representatives of the people. The atmosphere of Ottawa is not that of a country riding. People think of things in a different way, and I was not long in seeing that many of the members are rather out of touch with the people whom they represent. Out in the country we have the time to consider public questions on their merits, and it really does not matter so much if we regard them from a partizan point of view. As a rule we are all trying to accomplish the same end, and the only difficulty is that we disagree as to the method. In Ottawa, however, elements enter into the consideration of every public question that are never heard of in the country, and that make correct conclusions very difficult. I feel safe in saying that the interests likely to be affected by legislation are represented in the corridors of the House of Parliament by even better brains than you find on the floor of the House. Now, I do not mean that as an insult to anybody. We are all very human, and most of us have families to educate and feed. Just put the question to yourself for a moment, if the people of the country are only willing to pay \$2,500 a year for men to represent them in parliament, and corporations are willing to pay \$25,000 or more to men who will represent them, do you think it at all remarkable that there are more astute brains in the lobby than in the House? Your member is probably a prince of good fellows, but in Ottawa he is pitted against the best brains that the big interests can employ. He has a fight of which the average man knows nothing. At every step he is in danger of being hampered by the "hired cunning" of the legal experts who represent the big interests. As I looked at these men going about in the corridors, I remembered a quotation from Milton,

"Oft on the bordering deep
Encamp their legions, or with obscure wing
Scout far and wide into the realm of night
Scorning surprise."

But before trying to bring home the moral of this situation, I wish to frankly justify the implication of the questions hurled at me by members of the Banking Committee, and attributed by the press to Mr. Andrew Broder. I understand that it was he who tried to extort from me a confession that I sometimes write spring poetry. In the excitement and confusion of the moment, I was not sure who was trying to get at me, but the net result of the quizzing was to make me see something in parliament I had never before suspected. It also reminded me of a pleasant afternoon some years ago, with the Hon. Minister of Finance, who so gallantly rushed into the breach and protected me by confessing that he himself has written poetry. On the occasion that I have in mind, he was telling me how little wealth amounts to after all, and that perhaps the poets are more to be considered than anyone else. He said that he had often wondered what the wealthy men and great statesmen and soldiers of the time of Cromwell would have thought if someone had told them that Cromwell's Latin secretary would be remembered long after the rest of them were forgotten by all the world. Why, he was only a school teacher, a sort of higher clerk; and yet the Latin secretary was John Milton. While watching the proceedings of parliament I began to understand why the second book of Paradise Lost is so intensely human. The poet drew from his political experience for his wonderful similes, and, with his poetry in mind, I could just about find in our Canadian parliament such characters as he had observed. Of course, I shall avoid mentioning names, but from your own knowledge of parliament, couldn't you find men to whom these quotations would apply:

"His trust was with the eternal to be deemed
Equal in strength, and rather than be less
Cared not to be at all."



Champion's Goalkeeper.

Junior champion of the 1912 Shire Show, and the highest-priced Shire ever sold, bringing \$21,525.

ing these weekly letters, might be inclined to ask the same question. During the past week I have certainly had an opportunity to form some opinions about parliament. As the representatives of "The Farmer's Advocate," Mr. Albright and I were treated with every courtesy, and were not foolish enough to regard it as personal. It is many years since "The Farmer's Advocate" has become known as the guide and champion of the agricultural interests and we both appreciated the privilege we enjoyed in acting as its representatives in the discussion of the Canadian Banking System. It did not take us long to recognize the fact that we were enjoying the respect due to a well-established reputation, and, as "The Farmer's Advocate" has always been non-partizan in politics, we received the same courtesy from one party as from the other.

The first outstanding impression was that without regard to political connections the members were all good fellows, entirely likeable for their personal qualities, no matter what their opinions might be. If they were not good fellows, they would not have the support of either party. The next thing that struck me was the