

Women have gone into the Fields.

hold have gone into the fields. So desperate have the farmers become that farmer correspondents of the Ontario Bureau of Industries have seriously advocated the importation of Chinese coolies and, having in mind no other consideration than the maximum productivity of the farm, it is, no doubt, an excellent suggestion.

We have always been taught that somewhere, there is a substitute for everything and everybody, but, up to date, none has been found for the hired man. It would appear that an agrarian revolution is taking place. Root crops that require to be hoed or looked after by many human hands are being abandoned. Fields that for years have grown grain are being turned into pasture land, and diminished fertility is not the main cause of the abandonment. The small owners have sold their holdings and quietly followed the hired man west or citywards. Their farms have been sold to neighbours and turned into pasture lands. Is it too much to look forward to the day when grazing will supersede crop growing as the staple industry of Ontario country life?

The extent to which this change in agriculture has taken place is witnessed by the decreasing attendance at the country schools. In some school sections, more particularly in Western Ontario, less than a baker's dozen are in the school-house and the Government will likely be asked to change its educational Act to meet the situation. Every part of our political and social organisation will be affected if this agrarian revolution continues and is accomplished in its entirety. There are those who maintain, however, that the worst has passed and that the flow of emigration will restore to the Province its former methods of agriculture.

Cathedral Builders

IN a study of English cathedrals and abbeys, the question as to the structure of these wonderful creations arises. How did these cathedrals take origin in various countries of Europe between 1100 and 1500 A.D.? A plurality of workers, acting under one governing influence, and called the "Comacine Builders," is the probable instrument or agent in the raising of these lofty piles. The reason for the existence of this guild is due to the fact that such an organisation was the only means in the middle ages of masons protecting their interests. The generic name for these architects was "Magistri Comacine."

Whence did such skill and art arise when all other arts were only in their infancy? The existence of a well organized and highly trained guild can only account for this. The phenomenon of the boy Giotto, who was taken from the sheepfolds and trained to be a sculptor, painter and architect of the Campanile, can only be accounted for on the supposition that he must have come under the influence of this guild. As a guild, its scope was not only Italy, but also the whole of Europe. Under Augustine these men traveled to England and were instrumental in building the cathedrals. Diplomas

and papal bulls confirmed to the guild the privileges it had enjoyed under the patronage of the national sovereigns. It is said that this guild originated in Lombardy as early as the fifth century. Every builder is mentioned with the prefix "Magister" before his name. The stone cutters of that day had the term "Operarius" prefixed to each of their names.

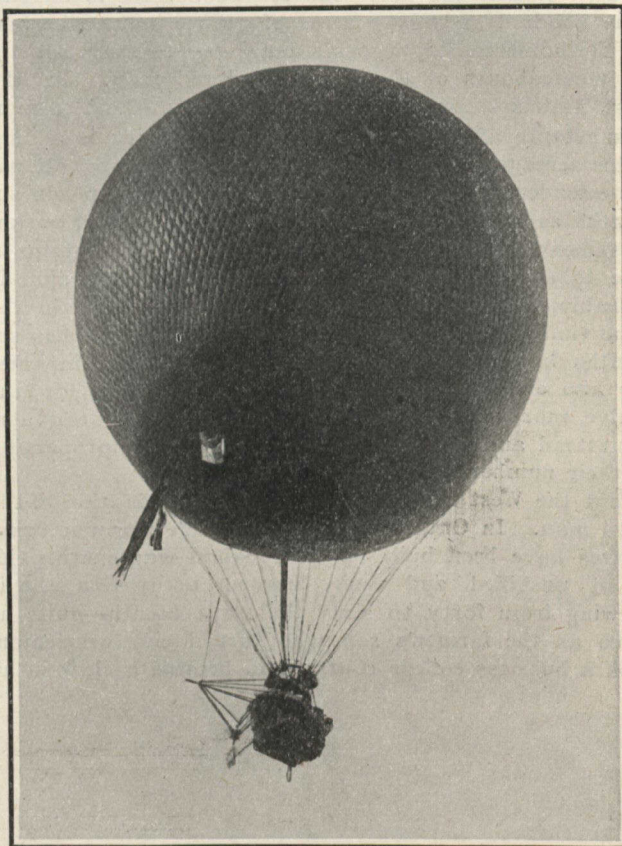
For similar organizations we go back to the time of Solomon. Adoniram, the architect of the temple, had his men divided into three classes for convenience in paying them. To each class a secret sign was given and password. Thereby fees could be regulated and imposture avoided.

As to the spread of this wonderful guild, we find it recorded that these men established a fraternity in every place in which they worked. (Possibly the Masons or the Knights of the Ancient Star could tell us something more about the "Comacines.")

W. Inglis Morse.

Balloons and Aeroplanes

THE progress in navigation by balloons and aeroplanes is exceedingly rapid. The Gordon Bennett balloon race from Paris to England a few weeks ago marked a new era in European opinion. The winner's name was Lahur. The accompanying photograph shows the start of Mr. Santos



The Start of M. Santos Dumont's Balloon at the recent Balloon Derby in Paris.

Dumont's balloon, which had a remarkable mechanical device consisting of a motor and propeller which enabled him to rise more quickly than the others.

The greatest strides in ballooning are being made by military experts, says Hon. C. S. Rolls, who recently visited Canada. The French army are sending up balloons every day for observation purposes and to test the possibility of dropping explosives upon towns and forts. In England they are experimenting extensively with kites which raise a man 2,000 feet into the air so that he can take observations and telephone down what he has seen.

For transportation purposes the balloon is being superseded by the aeroplane. The Labaudy type now used by the French army is the most successful. It can successfully make headway into the wind at any angle.