

### The Hired Help Problem

John McLennan, Glangarry Co., Ont.

The question of hired help on the farm is an old one, but I have been looking into the matter for a long time and making a study of the same. In travelling from Montreal to Seattle last summer I found that as a rule the same scarcity of help was prevalent among the farmers everywhere, although some were fortunate in having good help who had a proper insight into correct farming. The various governments of the Dominion spend a lot of money in searching for suitable help for farmers. When men are secured the government directs them where to go.

The majority of farmers do not begin to look for farm help until they are confronted with some extra work, such as an extra good crop, repairing farm buildings, draining, etc. Then they apply to the government bureau, stating the kind of help they require. They are supplied with a good man, but they find that when the extra work is finished they have not sufficient work to pay the man the wages at which he was first hired, even though the employer and employee be well satisfied with one another.

#### Government Wages Four Months

The suggestion I have to make to the various governments is this: If a farmer hires a good man for eight months of the year, when he can keep him supplied with work, that the government will pay the man the other four months of the year at the same rate of wages as he receives from the farmer. This chance would only be given to the man who had worked for a farmer eight months and had agreed to work for him the following year. Should he decide to leave before the two years expired, he could do so by paying back to the government whatever money they had advanced him.

This scheme would be for married men only. My reason for suggesting such a scheme is that I find a great number of married men who would work on the farm only for the fear of being left without employment during part of the year. This idea would also give the farmer a chance to build up a larger herd and build a suitable cottage for his help. It could be tried on a small scale first and if found satisfactory might be enlarged upon. I have no doubt but that if such a method was carried out there would be an end to the high cost of living, as we have an abundance of land in many districts that is not tilled properly on account of the lack of proper help, to say nothing of the unsettled districts that might be cultivated.

#### Study Your Farm

All the farm papers and the Minister of Agriculture are advising the farmer to go in for wheat raising. It may be very necessary to have an increased acreage of wheat, but most farmers will do well to study which crops are most adaptable to their soil and plant the crops that will give the largest profits. If wheat growing was not profitable in the past, a few cents more on the bushel will not make it such a profitable crop for a few years until things right themselves. The farmers of Eastern Ontario will do well to stay with dairying, as Eastern Ontario is a dairying country, and there is sure to be just as good demand for other products as for wheat. It behooves every farmer to do his best and grow what his farm is particularly adapted to.

These suggestions are from a farmer whose farm is not adapted to wheat growing, but who will endeavor to grow something else and receive a share of the increased prices that are sure to follow the war.

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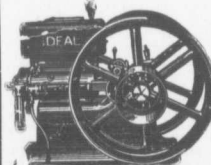
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Is he prospering? Are you doing your part towards helping him to prosper?

Remember that unless he prospers you yourself will suffer.

Whatever he makes or sells, see that you buy it from him, rather than from someone else—to the end that he may be able to buy what you yourself make or sell, to the end that you create prosperity for him and for yourself.

Every Canadian is your next door neighbour—every Canadian needs your help now just as you need the help of every Canadian—every impulse of patriotism and every ounce of reason urge you to buy only Canadian-made goods—if you will resolve to do so and consistently carry out the resolve every Canadian workman will be employed, Canadian merchants will prosper, you yourself reap the benefits of "good times."-----Remember-----

**EVERY CANADIAN IS YOUR  
NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR**