

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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Some Immigration Problems

WE have pleasure in this issue in introducing to the readers of the Farming World a new English correspondent, who will write occasionally under the pseudonym of "Bedford." Our correspondent is a gentleman of fine literary attainments, wide travel and observant qualities, who is familiar with agricultural conditions in all parts of the world, and especially in Great Britain and her colonies. His articles, therefore, cannot but prove of first importance to the people of Canada.

Elsewhere in this issue "Bedford" deals with some phases of the immigration problem that are worthy of considerable attention. It is quite true that the great majority of the immigrants coming to Canada this spring from Great Britain are neither farmers nor workers on farms. They are for the most part mechanics of some sort from the towns and cities of the old land, unacquainted with agricultural conditions of any kind and which may be just the sort from which "kickers" are made, though we hope "Bedford's" prophecy in this regard will prove false.

The reasons given by him why the English farmer does not emigrate should be of value to our immigration commissioners in prosecuting their work in the old land. While mechanics and people unacquainted with agriculture are better than no immigrants at all, every effort should be made to induce English and Scotch farmers, and more especially laborers, on English and Scotch farms, to settle on the great prairie lands of the North-west and in New Ontario. These are the kind who will make a success of farming on the new lands of Canada and who will give the country a good name and say a good word for it when writing to friends at home and elsewhere.

An Arbitrary Definition

Elsewhere in this issue are given the standards of excellence for fine butter and cheese as decided upon at the meeting of exporters, instructors and factorymen held at Montreal for the purpose early in June. With the standards decided upon for cheese no one can find much fault. But it seems somewhat arbitrary that in defining finest butter the process by which it shall be made is specifically named. Of course this is intended to put a ban upon the making of butter on the cream gathered plan so

largely practised in the western part of this province and of necessity all through Manitoba and the Territories.

Do these Montreal dealers mean by this definition that none of the butter made in the government cream gathered creameries of the Territories and in the cream gathered creameries of Manitoba and Ontario can be classed as finest. The experience of the past year or two will not bear them out in this. Butter made on the cream gathered plan has about held its own when in competition with the so called separator butter at our large exhibitions. Why then should it be proscribed in this arbitrary manner?

We have nothing against the separator creamery and would like to see more of them in the country. Most certainly the finest butter can be made after this plan when all conditions are favorable, occasionally bad butter is made also. But this is not saying that finest butter cannot be made on the cream gathered plan if properly looked after. It would have been better to have defined finest butter in some other way and made some strong recommendations to the operators of cream gathered creameries as to how their system could be perfected and made more effective in producing a fine quality of butter. There are hundreds of farmers, even in Ontario, so situated that they cannot patronize any but cream gathered creameries and these would-be dictators, would, forsooth, before they have seen the butter itself, condemn it as a second rate article. In our opinion such arbitrary measures will be without avail in compelling a change from the cream gathered to the separator creamery, if that is the object in view.

Is It Coming to This?

A St. Louis correspondent of the New York Times, in an article on farm labor unions, announces that the farmers of the United States will have to pay 20 per cent. more this season than last for the harvesting of their grain on account of the organization of the harvest hands into national unions and the determination of the latter to advance wages and to regulate the application of harvest labor. These unions it is stated, have classified the work in harvest and put up the wages in each class. Binder drivers, who have heretofore got about \$1.50 per day are to get \$2.00; shockers are to get a raise from \$2.00 to \$2.50, and other classes in proportion. It is ruled also that neither women nor boys shall be al-

lowed to act as binder drivers. Drivers will not be allowed to shock nor shockers to drive. It is also stated that if farmers submit to these prices the cost of grain raising will be greatly increased and if they don't their grain will be lost. Such is the view of one who is evidently quite in sympathy with the union-idea.

While farm labor, both in the United States and Canada, is scarce and wages are higher than they have been for some years, we do not think the farm labor union will become widespread or a factor in regulating the price of farm help. Conditions in the country are such that unionism cannot thrive. Besides should the price of farm help advance to too high a point, the farmer can change to some line of farming, in which less help is required, or by cooperating with his neighbor so arrange the work that it can be performed, especially in the harvest season, with less help. If so far then as farm labor unions are concerned we do not think the Canadian farmer need have any fear. The floating population, who work in the harvest field, are needed for so short a period that a little advance per day, will affect the yearly cost of farm help comparatively little. It is the yearly or the season helper on whom the farmer, in the older settled country is more dependent, and he, as yet, shows no sign of giving over to unionism.

Honest Fruit Dealing

We are now at the beginning of the small fruit trade. Will there be more honest dealing this year than in previous years? The Fruit Marks Act has, no doubt, greatly improved matters in this respect, and yet a great deal more can be done.

In a letter to the Canadian Grocer Mr. W. A. McKinnon, Chief of the Fruit Division, asks the Grocers' Association to assist in protecting this trade. If fruit packers realized that the trade, in an organized way, were determined to stamp out fraudulent packing and marking it would have a good effect in preventing dishonest practices in our fruit trade.

Canadians Successful

In the prize judging class for corn held recently at the Iowa Agricultural College, Messrs. C. I. Christie, Winchester, Ont., and W. A. Linklater, Stratford, Ont., won special prizes.