## COLONIZATION Alberta, the Land of Work, Is New Name Given to This Country by Calgary Author

In Article Written Specially for Old Country Papers Mrs. Francis Reeve, (Onoto Watanna) Tells of Real Conditions Which Exist in This Province—Bright and Alluring Titles Given It Convey Wrong Impression, and to Apply a Sinister One Only Swings the Descriptive Pendulum Too Far in the Other Direction—The Land of Work Appears To Be the Happy Medium—Mrs. Reeve Deals with Chances for Men in This Country

Who Are Ready and Content to Work Away from the Cities and Towns-No Doubt At All that the Man Ready to Start at the Foot of Ladder and Work Up Will Find Alberta to Be the Land of Promise-Slackers Will Find It the Land of Heartbreak.

to write articles for certain British newspapers and for the London Board of Trade, dealing with "ranching, farming, trapping, and anything else to which the surplus population of England might turn for a living if carried over to Canada." Special inquiry into the matter of the 12,000 harvesters who came to Canada during the last year is requested. Stress was laid upon the fact that Great Britain's trouble today is unemployment. "Dominion statesmen are anxious to help by taking consign-

Mrs. Winnifred Reeve has been asked !

ments of the unemployed people and settling them in their respective countries. The English people wish a clear, unblassed statement of conditions as they exist now in this part of the world." Before attempting to write such ar-

ticles. Mrs. Reeve stated that she would have to satisfy herself that conditions were such that it would be desirable to hiduce people from the Old Country to come out here. She stated that she could not conscientiously contribute to anything that might be termed propaganda, unless she was assured that we could take care of and give employment to our prospective future citizens. She has made an exhaustive study of the matter and has interviewed numerous men and women connected with the railroads, the government, the soldier settlement board, and she has talked with many of the men themselves, both in the city and in the country. This article is the result of her investigations. Mrs. Reeves, besides being an author is also a rancher and farmer. Sheels

secretary and one of the owners of the Pleasant Range Stock Farm, Limited, a cattle ranching corporation, and the Rocky View Farms, Limited, a grain ranching company, of which her hushand is president. For the past seven years Mrs. Reeve has lived on the farms and the ranches of these companies, and she has come in personal contact with all types of farm hands and laborers. She knows the point of view of both the farmer and farm hand, and she is well acquainted with the conditions that prevall upon the Alberta farms today. By WINNIFRED REEVE

#### (Onote Watanna) Author of "Cattle," etc., etc. HE history of a new land shows

that for every one who reaches the goal of his aspirations, another falls by the way. That is life: that is human nature. What one man picks up for gold, another discards for dross. Life is a race, and not all of us may win the first of the prizes; but, at least we all may strive to hold our place in the vanguard of Either a man reacts to the spur of the new land, or he succumbs. It

is said of Alberta, which has been called "The Last of the Big Lands." that it either "makes or breaks" a man. Many names have been applied to

this great province: "Sunny Alberta, "The Land of Promise," "The Land of Opportunity," "The Land of Optimism." "Man's Land," "God's Land": but opposed to these bright titles are the sinister ones that name the country "Vampire Land," "Land of Heartbreak," "Land of Lost Hopes." A Hard Parent Alberta may be likened to a hard

parent, who nevertheless conceals beneath his stern front a warm and generous heart. Of all the names applied to it. I do not recall ever hearing Alberta named as "The Land of Work." And yet it seems to me that is the most applicable of any of the titles for Alberta-"The Land of Work." A place where every man may find his job, if he is of those who are willing and able to work. The English Harvesters The claim is made by railroad and

twelve thousand men brought from England, fifteen thousand positions were obtained-three thousand more positions than there were men. This refers, to winter positions. During the harvesting and threshing period. these men were put upon the land at the going wage of from \$4 to \$6 a day as stookers and bundle throwers. The Soldier Settlement Board claim that they can give a position today

to any man who is willing to work on a farm, and is satisfied with the nominal wage that the farmer is able to afford for winter work. Recently an article appeared in a London newspaper to the effect that

there was no work in Canada for the Englishmen, and warning those at home that many who had come here this summer were now stranded and in desperate straits. This article has been denounced by some as the work of a malcontent and agitator. It is claimed that only a

minority of the men who came from England were dissatisfied. They were men who had been engaged in various trades in the cities at home, and they did not relish living on farms in the winter, or taking employment outside the cities. It was a mistake to bring to this country men who did not clearly understand that the only certain employment which this country can proffer is that outside of the cities. Three hundred men have been placed in positions upon the farms in the district around Calgary. So far there has been no word of complaint from these men. . The question arises whether we can conscientiously continue to induce men to come to this country

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erable to do with the placing of the and fields of unstooked grain lying on sussess. Why? Because they could men in positions just what the pros- | the ground, and in every instance the file on a homestead and than find pects were of future employment for farmer asserted that he was unable work immediately on the new railsuch men and he replied with in- | to get stookers save at the probibi- | ways, thus grub-staking themselves tense seriousness, and as if the sub- live wages mentioned above. Nev- while doing land duties until the ject were one that was close to his ertheless during that period the hand itself became a farm and selfheart:

conditions wherever I have been. It ing for jobs to be called at the wages There is no free land today within know how things are at the present demanded. Many a farmer went up reach of transport. The man with felt, and are feeling the pinch of hard \$20 a day, according to the outfit. offer greater appeal. harvested the greatest crop in the to 17 cents per bushel. history of this or any other country. When the cost of putting in, har Alberta is on the upward climb of vesting, threshing and marketing

of them upon our grain farm, and the hauling of the grain to the elewe are one of the outfits which have vaters anything but a comfortable given winter employment to the men job, the farmer deserves our sym-ideveloped farms and happy settlers; from the old country. We operate a pathy. cattle ranch in the foothills, and a ... Winter Jobs grain ranch on the prairie. While threshing was in progress, getic citizens who landed in this Like everyone else we had heard came emissaries from the War Vet-

harvesters, and we had wondered from the government, and from other whether the complaints would prove fraternal and charitably inclined as- are now comfortably off; giving the as in the case of the Hebrideans, sociations, who made a farm to farm inexperienced man the message "Go. premature. There was great alarm canvass on behalf of the English thou and do likewise." expressed in regard to the Hebri- harvesters, soliciting homes and "When he lands in this country he be stranded and not properly pro- That is what they said to the farvided for. I understand now that mer. That was their preachment and after the first confusion of placing part of their propaganda. The facts them upon the land had passed, sat- were that they-the government and isfactory farms and homes were the railroads-had brought these men found for them all, and none of them to this country and, no doubt, had now desire to return. General satis- made promises of winter employment. faction has been expressed by the At all events many of the men as-Hebrideans, and their future looks sured me that this was the case. promising. The railroads, the gov- They took the solution of the probernment, the Soldier Settlement lem of caring for the men to the Board now insist that this is the case | already overburdened farmer, and also with the English harvesters. They were well treated, and the majority of them are satisfied. Work For All There is work, declare those who

are in a position to know, for all who are willing and able to do it. That work, however, is not in the cities, but:

Upon the land; In the lumber camps; In the mines; On the railroads:

On the cattle ranches.

contemplate coming to Canada. It for hammers, and he would hammer (To be continued next Saturday.) is most unfair to attempt to organize | farm laborers into a sort of a union, as was done this summer by some of the harvesters. Unions are all very well for trades and other forms of labor. In a new country like this, where every man-the farmer as well government officials that for the as his "hand"-is himself a laborer, to hold the hard worked and harrassed farmer at harvest time for wages that he cannot afford to pay and continue to function save at a loss, is a poor return for a sincere effort on the farmer's part to give a home and a living to the stranger within his gates. -Farm labor in Alberta is paid for at the going wage of the season. If

there is a good crop in sight, wages soar accordingly. If, on the other hand, drought, hall, cutworm, frost wipe out the farmer's crop, the wages must necessarily be low. This is not the fault of the farmer, but is due to the fact that he is engaged in a gamble, and the man who works for him must take his chance with the farmer who has speculated not merely with his money, but with his personal labor: \$30 to \$60 a month is today the average wage of the gen eral farm hand in Alberta. This includes board. At harvest time \$3 to \$5 a day is the going wage for the stooker in the field; \$4 to \$6 is paid the man who

rides the binder, as more skill and experience are required for that work. This summer we started our stookers at \$4 per day and board. This was a fair wage. It must be borne in

mind that since the war, grain has a low value. A great part of the world's markets have been closed to us, owing to high tariffs as in the case of the United States, and bankruptcy and inability to buy in the case of Europe. However, this country was highly optimistic and in a happy state of mind when the harvest set in. In the first place we had an immense crop, a bumper and a record crop. There was work for everyone. Indeed, it was feared that we would be unable to secure sufficient labor for the harvest. Despite, however, the bumper crop-and it may be said in passing that in some districts the wheat went as high as 60 bushels to the acre, while a fair average throughout the country was about 25 bushels to the acre, an exceedingly good figure-in spite of this crop. there was not a great deal of profit for the farmer in sight. The cost of the seed grain, the implements, the labor of putting in the crop, and finally the harvesting had all to be taken into account. Added to this was the considerable item of threshing, the hauling of the grain to market, the excessive freight rates and, as mentioned above, the drop in the price of grain. Only by close-figur-Also it should be berne in mind the most of these stookers were "green" and knew not the first thing about farming. Of that more anen. As I have said we started the har-

hibitive wages. The result was that

many of them clubbed together and

helped each other to harvest their

own grain. Some of the farmers left |

their grain unstooked in the field, de-11

Saringult would be cheaper not to

All Girls' and Misses' \$13.50 Coats, in big range. Each

vest at \$4 per day for the stooker, but hardly a week had gone by when the wage rose to \$5, and then shot up to \$6, and even \$7, and some of the big outfits toward the end of he season were paying is a day to the stooker. Ladies \$7.50 Dress Shirts. It is a fact that the farmer could not make a profit and pay such pro-

and assure them of a livelihood here. thresh then pay such wages. Motor a tion. Men without resources of any I asked a man who has had consid- | ing over the country we saw fields | kind but their labor, came and found have made a special study of labor playment office was full of men wait- easy.

the land itself, our splendid farmers was not the owner of the outfit, drew are of a recuperative nature, and his \$10 to \$25 a day. Cooks-were they are sure sooner or later to reap | paid \$8 to \$12 a day. Forced to pay the reward for their faith in the these excessive wages the threshing land. Look at this last year. We outfits charged the farmer from 13

the ladder. I'd stake everything I that crop is taken into account, one have, or hope to have, on a bet that wonders what there was left for the this country is due to become one of farmer's work. Grain has an inclinathe greatest countries in the world." I tion to strike the tobeggan just as I was especially interested in the harvesting ends, and with the shortproblem of the English harvesters be- | age of cars always at this season, and cause we ourselves employed seceral the uncertain weather, which makes

the hard luck tales of certain of the erans' Association, from the C.P.R.,

they pointed out to him that here was an opportunity to have good strong workers at a lower wage than that paid experienced hands. Just here I might point out that an inexperienced hand on a farm or

a ranch often costs in losses from incompetence and ignorance far more than his wages could pay for. As ani, However, this is all part of the be borne in mind by the men who Nevertheless he acquired a passion his job.

Major E. J. Ashton, of Soldier Conditions Existing Today . Opportunities on Sm a

IN WESTERN C

BE CAREFULL

When one considers colonization today one is apt to think of it in terms of colonization as it existed a decade or two ago. Immigrants then streamed into Canada from all over the world. Free land was the great Homesteads were available near existing lines of transportation. or, what was probably better, near transportation in course of construc-

streets of Calgary were thronged with supporting. Starting in those days "I have lived all over the world. I idle men, and the government em- without capital was comparatively

day on the farms in the United and down the streets, personally no capital today is difficult to place States. I know what the European soliciting the men, and offering the as an agriculturalist. The would-be countries are contending with in the highest wage he could afford to pay settler must have some cash to meet way of unemployment. I can truth- without a distinct loss. believe it, that this is the greatest | Came the threshing. The previous immigrants with sufficient cash to country in the world for the man who | year bundle throwers had been satis- | farm adequately are not plentiful, comes here determined to work. We itled with \$4 per day and board. This and it is a trend of the times that have nothing like the unemployment | year they demanded and got \$6, and such men of capital are not interof other countries. Like everywhere some outfits paid \$7 and \$8. The ested in farming as an investment. else in the world, our farmers have man on the separator got from \$5 to Other fields are open to capital that

times, following the war, but, like The man on the engine, where he Colonization must adapt itself to the material available, and this material consists almost entirely of the man of small means, whose capital is from \$500 to \$2,000. The great majority of our new settlers will be from Great Britain and northern Europe. The movement from the United States will not be large for some years. Today it is actually away from agriculture altogether.

Major E. J. Ashton of the Soldier Settlement Board has this to say in regard to colonization problems: "Our present practice," saiys Mr.

Ashton, "is to point out to the incoming settler the enormous unoccupied spaces in Canada; to show him lantern slides and pictures of our and to tell him of the wonderful successes that are being made by enercountry a decade or two ago with a negligible amount of money on arriving at their destination and who

deans when they first came here, positions for "the men who crossed unfortunately finds that conditions and it was predicted that they would the sea to harvest your crop for you." are considerably changed from those

and bang everything into the shape he thought it should be, with the result that an astounding number of implements were most perniciously bent and injured. Another Englishman who had averred that he was used to and understood horses, put to work at summer fallowing, used the ingenious method of stopping his horses by pulling at their tails and calling "Whoo-a-a." The horses took fright and were soon off in a bad run-away. Three horses, with badly skinned shins against a barbed wire fence, a twisted and partly broken disc and an Englishman limping tuefully home with a sprained ankle, which laid him up for a week or two. were the net result of this adventure.

instance I might mention one Eng it "game." We are not hard on the lishman who was a perfect dub about | men who make these kind of mistools and implements. I don't be- takes through ignorance, and we lieve he knew a screw driver from a know that often the greenest tenderwrench, and every implement upon foot will sometimes turn out the There are several things that must the farm was "a plough" to him. best of workers, once he has learned

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