

Plenty of Opportunity For Men in Alberta If They Will Go on the Land



**A Place for Them Not Only in Summer but in the Winter
Fifteen Thousand Homes and Positions Were Offered
For Twelve Thousand Men—Cities Afford Only Limited
Employment—Work to Be Had in Lumber Camps, in
The Mines, on the Railroads — No Man from the Old
Country Need Be Ashamed of Starting to Work with
His Hands—Alberta Has No Promise of Silken Ease in
Luxury, but She Extends the Boon of Honest Toil.**

By MRS. FRANCIS REEVE
(Continued from Last Week)

BUT to come back to the solicitation of the farmers to take in the English harvesters for the winter. After the harassing events of the summer above mentioned, it may be thought that Mr. Farmer would turn a deaf ear to these canvassers for the men from the old land. Far from it. The result was quite remarkable, if one takes the figures of the railroads and the government into consideration. Fifteen thousand homes and positions secured for twelve thousand men! That was the tremendous response of the Canadian farmer.

I am told that out of the 12,000 men who came here only about 1,000 returned to England. In our own district of Calgary 300 positions on farms were found for men for the winter. The winter wage, it is true, was not high—probably averaging about \$20 to \$30 a month—in some cases lower. I have heard of some men who went out to farm and are working for the winter for their board. A great many of these harvesters had saved harvest and threshing wages. It is no uncommon thing in this country for harvesters and threshers to have enough saved from their season's work to lay off for the entire winter.

Other Kinds of Jobs

First of all, I might recall the fact that this is an agricultural country. The cities afford only limited employment, and they should therefore be eliminated in considering possible places of employment.

Most people cherish the erroneous notion that farming is a simple occupation that anyone can undertake; that requires no brains, no apprenticeship, no experience, no especial gift. That is a most fallacious idea. Farming, properly conducted is as skilled and important a business as any that exists. The farmer, indeed, needs both knowledge and skill in a hundred directions. In fact if a man desires to go in for farming in this country, it would be well for him, first, to go to work for another farmer and learn his trade. Too many come out here, take up a homestead or buy a farm; go out upon the land and then blunder along helplessly till they are either broke or have won out. The most successful farmers here are those who either started in the service of another farmer or who have had experience elsewhere before coming here.

Lumber Camps

Next to farming the lumber camps offer perhaps the best opportunities for employment. The camps are unable to get anything like the labor they want. The work is healthy and the hours are regular. It is, of course, hard and husky work, but many men prefer it to any other type of physical labor. In some camps—I might especially mention the camps of British Columbia—modern appliances are afforded. There the men have bathing facilities and are given clean quarters and good bedding. The lumberjacks and loggers demand and get the best of grub."

Mines

Work in the coal mines is hard, and not especially pleasant, but it is well paid for. I believe the wage is from \$8.00 to \$20.00 a day, and it is fairly regular employment. There will likely be a considerable development of the mines in the coming years, as Alberta is being recognized as a great coal country and only time and capital are needed to bring it up to a producing centre that will compare with that of other coal countries.

The Railroads

I am told by railroad official heads that there is always work on the railroads. In a big country like this, railroad construction goes on constantly, and the man who is willing to handle a pick and shovel will find employment.

Trapping

A good living is made by the successful trapper. This is a limited field, however, and to make an actual living, a man needs to know the country well and be a good woodsman. He should understand the habits of the animals whose pelts he is after. Some men spend a whole lifetime in the woods acquiring such knowledge.

However, many of the farmers and more of the men working on the farms do make considerable on the side by trapping or killing beavers, lynx, coyotes, muskrats and other animals. We had a man who worked on our grain ranch who made \$250 in a single season from muskrat and coyote hides.

Road Work

Road work is done in the summer. The roads of this country are kept in shape by gangs of laborers. They are paid from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per day and board, and if they possess a team of horses they are allowed \$3 a day extra for the labor of each horse.

Riders

Good riders are always in demand on a cattle ranch. It is a favorite employment with younger men. Some outfits employ only the experienced riders, but others prefer men who are new at the "game" but are willing to "learn the ropes." The experienced rider is often spoiled for other work on a ranch. They balk at any job not directly connected with the horse or cattle, such as branding, dehorning, vaccinating and, of course, riding and rounding up, and in the case of horses, cutting out, breaking, etc. Most of the ranches prefer men who besides riding will give a hand at fencing and also work in the field at haying time.

Physical labor in this country carries with it a certain dignity. A man does not lose caste by working with his hands. Sons of our best families, and some of the best families in England go into our fields at harvest time, while others are engaged upon road building and in the lumber camps. College men are as numerous in the harvest fields as men of no education.

Snobbery is out of place in a country like Alberta. It's not the employment, but the man, that counts. Personally, I have more respect and a feeling of fellowship, for the overall-clad chap upon the land or in the shop, who is contributing his honest share toward the productive work of the world than I have for the white-collared spats-footed, cigarette-smoking, boozefighters and jockeys who are the main props of poolrooms, dance halls, gambling

houses and other places. There is no work, however hard or even menial, that can degrade a man. It's the man who degrades a man. There is no reason why any work should not call for the tribute of respect.

For the past seven years I have watched the men of the farming and ranching country who have worked for us and for neighboring ranchers. In boosting the wage from \$4.00 to \$6.00 a day at harvest time, or holding out for top wages during the war years, I do not doubt but what they had their side to the question. Take the case of the harvesters this summer. Eight to ten hours a day, laboring in the field, under a hot sun, stooking up bundles that this summer at least weighed from 20 to 40 lbs. each! A man's job, indeed, and deserving of a man's pay. Or at threshing time, working in all kinds of weather, fair or rough, tossing those same bundles into stook wagons. Unloading maybe in wind and biting cold, with chaff flying from the separator and blowing into their faces, their eyes and down their lungs. Changing from farm to farm, wherever the threshing machine might go. Sleeping in bunk house or caboose, in tent or granary or shed, or any old place the farmer could afford—sometimes upon a bed, but more often than not upon straw upon the ground.

Small wonder that these men demanded the highest wages possible for their sacrifice and labor. But in asking for more than the farmer was himself earning, showed poor judgment. In considering the work of the harvester, we must at the same time look at the average farmer, who employed the harvester. Was he not working hard—yes, harder, than any man in his employ? I know of few outfits where the farmer was not working shoulder to shoulder with the harvest and threshing hands and when the day's work was done in the field, unlike the man he employed, the farmer still worked—and on. Nor could he be sure of the daily wage upon which at least the harvester could count.

The Climate of Alberta

We suffer abroad from an erroneous conception of the climate of Canada. We can trace this curious idea of our country to the pernicious literature which has been circulated in the form of stories, articles, plays, motion pictures and even lectures by people who are not Canadian, but who have sojourned for a brief season in Canada, and returned to their own countries to exploit and misrepresent Canada. Some day we will realize the incalculable harm done to Canada by these libels. We are always represented as being a land of ice and snow, where hardships and privation and poverty are the general rule of life. Only in certain parts of Canada, very sparsely populated, do we suffer from the extremes of cold and privation thus pictured. Taken as a whole, Canada has a healthy robust winter, and summers that are almost unrivalled. The climate of British Columbia, the year around—or rather a part of British Columbia, compares with that of part of the boasted climate of California, where the flowers bloom the year around. For my part I consider that Alberta possesses the finest climate in the world. Its sunlight and its Chinook winds make it unique. It is true, that we have spells of bitter zero weather in winter, but they never last long, and they are broken by Chinooks that compensate for the transient cold by long spells of warm days of sunshine. Our springs are not as warm or balmy as one might wish. I do not like our springs, but they are not unendurable at all events. I believe our summers and falls cannot be surpassed, and the long sun-lighted days stretch sometimes clear up till the end of December.

Even the temporary sojourner in Alberta feels something of the fascination of this country, and I believe it is more or less due to the climate—the eternal sunlight, and the bracing air; though the magnificent scenery on all sides of us, whether it be in the hill country, with its stretch of matchless peaks, or the wide spreading prairie lands, stretching into unlimited distances and seeming to be merged into the sky itself, these contribute their share to the spell of Alberta. The tang of the big new land; the pull of the immense open spaces—these are the magnets that draw and hold us.

Immigrants From All Over the World

It is now generally known that immigrants from all over the world are preparing to pour into this country during the coming year. Already a great number of Russians and Mennonites have come during the past year. They have been filtering in gradually, but I was surprised when told that of 20,000 Russians had come in during the past year. Central Europe, the United States, the Scandinavian countries, Holland, Italy—all are preparing to send a large quota into Canada. Canada has all the potentialities that go to the making of the greatest of countries, but she lacks capital and population. The signs point to the fact that these will ultimately come to her either from the motherland or our neighbors to the south.

Canada recognizes that her crying need is population, and she is anxious to select the type of immigrant who will be a credit to the country. For that reason many schemes are under way to induce the best kind of immigration. One plan, which is likely to be laid before the British government, considers the desirability of bringing whole families into Canada, and settling them upon five and ten-acre farms in good farming districts, where the father, and possibly the sons, if old enough, may find regular employment among the neighboring farmers. Meanwhile the small farm would not only supply a home to which they might return nightly, but contribute materially through dairy products, poultry, pigs and garden truck. It is certain that such a plan would be most desirable so far as the farmers are concerned. A steady man in a farming neighborhood would be sure of work from the farmers who have to depend upon the uncertain help supplied from the city. With his wages, which should be considerable over the harvest and threshing period, this man

Ryerson Essays, Nos. 23 and 24; Divine Healing by George Coulson Workman; Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto; 50 cents. John Wesley as a Letter Writer, by Wm. Creighton Graham; Methodist Book and Publishing House; 20 cents.

For those who are interested in the controversy always evident where Divine (or faith) healing is under discussion Mr. Workman's little book is an interesting contribution. He claims to have produced a new and complete answer to the Eddy teaching. The book is divided into three chapters and is suggestive rather than exhaustive in its tendency. Mr. Graham, in the other essay, has given us a most interesting sidelight view of the founder of Methodism through the medium of his letters. It is an entertaining and illuminative little brochure.

Fantastica, by Robert Nichols; The Macmillan Co., Toronto; \$2.50.

This book which is well named, contains three tales. The first—The Smile of the Sphinx, is an allegory; the second—Perseus and Andromeda—is an ironical fantasy, and the third—Golgotha & Company—is a parable which, whatever one's opinions may be, is well worth reading. With a boldness that is refreshing the author has in this tale voiced his fear for the future should the world continue as it has been traveling for many years past. He visions a time when the billionnaires of earth in their frenzy to maintain control of the masses will sense that only by a fresh appeal to faith, through religion, will they be able to attain their end. This leads to a new religion, promoted by the agents of the billionnaires and including a new Christ and another crucifixion, all of which is systematically planned and carried out. The London Times says it is a biting satire on the ethics of captains of industry. It is all of that and more. It carries through it the undying and unwavering faith of the author in Christianity as the one redeeming, liberating influence capable of combatting successfully the evils of industrial slavery.

The Woman of Knockaloe, by Hall Caine; The Ryerson Press, Toronto; \$1.75.

Readers of this book must have a care or they will be disappointed. The distinguished author has made a name for himself with other books that have been quite different. There

FOSTER'S WEAT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1924.—Get yourself prepared for one of the most severe storms of the winter during the week centreing on January 23. A week of unusually high temperatures, east of Rockies' crest is expected to precede that storm and the latter will be more severe east of Rockies' crest than west of it. This will be a battle royal between the great winter drouth and the storm forces. The incessant war of the severe storms on the intruding drouth makes it more difficult to forecast weather details.

There are many peculiarities about this and some other great drouths. One of these is that this drouth is weak east of longitude 92 and strong west of that line. Such drouths are almost entirely broken when there are numerous severe storms while the drouth decreases in destructive force as the severe storms become more destructive. Perhaps Joseph, and the Egyptian scientists, better understood the causes of drouth than we do when they prepared for seven years of plentiful crops followed by seven years of drouth and crop failures. They saved their plentiful crops for the seven years famine. I am not a Joseph but I advise North America to prepare for a loss of one-third of the crops in 1925.

February weather promises very little that of January; one moderate storm period during first week and one severe storm week centreing on February 13. But the winter drouth is expected to extend its territory and be more severe. Up to January 7 all west of Rockies' crest, all middle Canada and all Atlantic coast sections in America had past from the first attack of the drouth, but in a wide strip between the Mississippi river and the high plains sections excessive rains fell. Half the drouth period is gone, three months more to come. Very little snow and much warm weather in the past three months were drouth symptoms.

First half of February promises an average much colder than last half. West of Rockies' crest promises colder than usual up to February 24; east of that line warmer weather will begin near middle of the

would be comfortably fixed, and after a couple of years would have earned the right to take up the quarter section homestead which it is then intended should be allowed him.

I have heard it said that many of the immigrants from Central Europe and Russia speak of Canada as the land of promise and refuge, the sure haven and retreat from the torturing problems that make of mere living a desperate and stark struggle against the grimmest of antagonists.

Splendidly immense, aloof, yet holding out warm mothering, inviting arms, Canada calls across to the war weary and hungry ones of the old world. She offers no promises of silver or gold, of silken ease or luxury; but she extends a great—indeed the greatest of all boons—honest toil!

HER CHILDREN HAD WHOOPING COUGH

This is one of the most dangerous diseases of children. It starts with fever and cough. The cough is at first short and sharp, but gradually increases in severity, and occurs in sudden spasms, vomiting follows, and sometimes there is nose bleed; the child turns livid in the face, the eyes appear as if they would burst from their sockets, and suffocation seems imminent till relief is brought on by the "whoop."

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup will clear the bronchial tubes of the collected mucous and phlegm and in this way ease the racking cough, and in a short time make it disappear. Mrs. L. Ambrose, Sarnia, Ont., writes:—"My little ones were both sick with whooping cough. I read where Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup was good, and I only used two bottles and they were better. I had chronic bronchitis for three years and tried everything until, finally, I got Dr. Wood's. I would not be without this remedy."

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