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Fenelon Falls, August 18th, 1891.

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Two doors South of Mr. Heard's hardware store.

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JAS. JOHNSTON & Co.
Fenelon Falls, June 30th, 1891.—19 t.f.

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JOHN AUSTIN, Agent.

Fenelon Falls, June 12th, 1890. 17.



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All good Goods, and purchased low

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Fenelon Falls, July 23rd, 1891. 22-4.

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Dressed Lumber, Planed Surface Lumber, Inch and 1 1/2 inch Pine & Hemlock Flooring, V-Joint & Novelty Siding, which will be sold

Cheap For Cash

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AT GREENE & ELLIS'S MILL.

Fenelon Falls, June 16th, 1891. 17-8.

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Marble Works.

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Estimates promptly given on all kinds of cemetery work.

Marble Table Tops, Wash Tops, Mantel Pieces, etc., a specialty.

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Why Our Farming Populations Migrate to the Cities.

To the Editor of the Napanee Express.

The late census returns show that out of an absolute increase of 186,067 in the population of Ontario, the cities of Toronto and Montreal have absorbed 158,000. An one at all acquainted with rural life, and especially with the financial state of farmers as a class, will not marvel in the least at the steady and ever increasing migration of our rural population to the cities.

In the first place, even if farmers were free from debt, farming, as it is carried on at present, is one of the most laborious of occupations. From April till November many of them work from four o'clock in the morning till nine and even until ten o'clock at night. There is no time for recreation, no time for mental culture even if they had money to spare for paper or books,—but they haven't. The many opportunities for enjoyment that the city life affords are entirely lacking in the country, and the compensations that country people have are not nearly so real as they seem.

However, it is not the attractiveness of city life as compared with that of the country that is causing our rural populations to rush to the cities. Farmers are seldom carried away by impulse or imagination: averse to change, the father works from year to year, satisfied if he can make a comfortable living, or even with something less than comfort; and if by any possibility he can purchase a farm for his sons, they, too, cheerfully take up the laborious work that they have been bred to from their childhood, and work on uncomplainingly as their fathers did before them. It is not the attractiveness of other occupations so much as the farmers' inability to purchase farms for his sons, that cause them to enter the learned professions or the business colleges. To give his sons what is popularly termed an education costs much less than to buy farms for them.

And the farming class is poor.

A large majority of farmers in Ontario, as elsewhere, are already mortgaged so heavily that they will never recover, and it is only a matter of a year or two at most before they become bankrupt. Thousands are sold out every year under mortgage. Such seek the cities. They are wise in preferring the chances of competition there to starting again with all the disadvantages of a broken down farmer, who, if he found the toil hard and the profits small when working his own land, would find it doubly so in working the land of a landlord. The longest hours in a city are short to him. What is twelve or even fourteen hours! He has been used to sixteen hours and seventeen. Do not talk to him of the economy a laboring man must practise in the cities, or of their lack of comforts. He has experienced such all his life and has been harassed by debts besides.

'Tis deplorable, but nevertheless true, that while monopoly and mal-administration of public affairs is ruining our farmers, it is sending them to the cities to compete with our artisans and laborers there, and to lessen still more their chance of employment and the wages received by them. In no case, perhaps, has the truth of the labor proverb, "an injury to one is the concern of all," been more fully exemplified than in this. That the losses sustained by farmers could to any appreciable extent affect the workers in the cities seems at first improbable. And apart from the friendly fellow-feeling, almost invariably found among workers of all classes, that instinctively desired justice for all, the fate of the farming class, a prey on the one hand to money-lenders, and on the other to land monopolists, would seem to be not at all the business of the laboring classes of the towns and cities. Yet it is their business. 'Tis clearly to their interest to help the farmer to get back his inheritance, the unused land in Ontario and elsewhere that has fallen into the hands of land speculators. Perhaps the one thing that has injured farmers more than all other causes combined is land monopoly. Free the 95,000,000 acres of unused land in Ontario, among which Sir Richard Cartwright says there is enough land good for agricultural purposes to furnish profitable employment for several millions of prosperous farmers, and though he may be injured to some extent by a high tariff, and by lowered prices for his products in consequence of the opening up of new territory, still he cannot become bankrupt. How often do we hear it deplored

(Concluded on eighth page.)