Dinosaurs Disappeared from Alberta 60 Million Years Ago But Their Concrete Images Decorate St. George's Island

High on Size, Low on Brains, They All Died Out

Stegosaurus Thought Both Coming and Going, Scientists Say

By LESLIE SARA NEW monument has been raised in Cal-It recalls a creature, grotesque and immense, which scientists say ceased to exist more than sixty million years ago. Fittingly it has been fabricated in concrete, this replica of the brontosauris which occupies so commanding a position in the Dinosaur Gardens of St. George's Island Natural History Park. For the cement which forms it is but the dust of rocks which were primordial slime in the dim acons of geological history. It was

into this very medium that the brontosaurus

of the Mesozoic age, sank to its death. Record of its size and shape are only known because

allowing in the marshes of the Jurassic period

the rocks retained it in fossil form. The "thunder lizard"-for that is what pronotsaurus literally means-was aptly named the paleontologist seeking to describe it. Certainly the huge beast, 20 tons or more in weight and over 80 feet in length, was bulky enough for the earth to shake beneath its tread when it emerged from its native marshes to sun itself upon more solid land. Yet were defenceless against the powerful flesh-eating dinosaurs who preyed upon them and safety lay in their very environment, the lakes and marshes of what is now the plains of this continent—for here their fossil remains are

From its very size, the statue of the brontosaurus commands attention. But there are a score or more of other dinosaur specimens modelled in the same medium which the Cal-gary Zoological Society have erected replicas creatures whose existence dates as far back as two hundred million years.

mainly found-rather than in the scant retalla-

tion which their weakly constructed teeth could

Reproduction in concrete of reptiles which in their existence weighed many tons and may have attained a length of a hundred feet, is impressive. But it has not been found necessary to confine the collection entirely to such massive structures. All dinosaurs—and scientists state that fossil remains identify more than 5,000 species — were not mammoths. ranged from the huge brontosaurus and brachlosaurus—who stood 35 feet at the shoulder -down through diminishing scale to reptiles perhaps smaller than a cat. All sizes have been included in this unique collection, giving some impression of a race which geologists contend became extinct not less than 60,000,000

In appearance, these saurians were as varied as they were diverse in bulk. There were some content to waddle on four short legs; others alked upright on their hind feet. Some, like walked upright on their hind feet. Some, like the brontosaurus, were smooth skinned; others, illustrated by the stegosaurus, were covered with scaly plates and armed with huge spikes on their tails. The triceratops carried three horns on a head enormously large. The tyrannosauri were armed with six-inch saw-bladed teeth, and in combat could open jaws four feet Their varieties included toothless saurians, as well as members armed with hundreds of teeth. In some cases, the heads were tiny; in others they were enormous, but possessed of brains weighing perhaps but a few ounces. They swam, they wallowed semi-amphibiously, they walked erect or grovelled. There were a few which flew, a few which were feathered, the fore runners of the bird's evolution from the reptile They carried tons of cold-blooded flesh or weighed less than a jack rabbit. Yet all of them possessed anatomical characteristics which group them together in one vast order.

UEEREST of all these creatures of many million years ago was the stegosaurus.
Contemporary with the brontosaurus, it was smaller in size, being only 25 feet in length. Solely feeding on plant life, its tiny head contained a brain weighing but two and a half ounces. Yet as compensation, the zacrum of the spinal column, enlarged twenty times the size of the brain, contained a peculiar development of nerve centres which probably did more "thinking" than the brain itself. This peculiarity of the stegosaurus has been humorously expressed in the following verses, couched in quasi-legal langauge:

"Behold the mighty dinosaur. Famous in pre-historic lore, Not only for his weight and strength But for his intellectual length. creature had two sets of brains-One in his head (the usual place) The other in his spinal base Thus he could reason 'A priori'. s well as 'A posteriori'. no problem bothered him a bit: He made both head and tail of it.

"So wise he was, so wise and solemn Each thought filled just a spinal column If one brain found the pressure strong, It passed a few ideas along; If something slipped his forward mind, He had a saving afterthought. As he thought twice before he spoke, He had no judgments to revoke; For he could think without congestion, Upon both sides of every question

Though they have distant kinship with the lizards and birds, none of these grotesque brutes have come down to us through the acons brutes have come down to us through the acons of time. Their extinction came about with the drying of vast marshes, the cooling of the climate and the greater multiplication of animals more adapted to the changed conditions, who were able to prey upon dinosaur eggs and their young. Millions of years, however, transpired during this rise and fall of the dinosaurian class.

CREATION of a Discosaur Garden in Calgary's Natural History Park is very fitting. Not only is the surrounding country to the south and east of the province rich in the fossil records of these creatures, but the bits pounding through the formations in the local oil fields pierce the very strata of geolo-gical eras wherein the remains of the earliest forms of life on this planet lie embedded. Interest in oil development links the creatures of millions of years ago with the present. For even previous to the lifetime of these prehisdinosaurs, nature had produced from decaying vegetable matter, and even more primitive animal life, the vast stores of oil which under terrific heat and intense pressure then lay beneath the earth as known during that

epoch.

The genius who has created these concrete

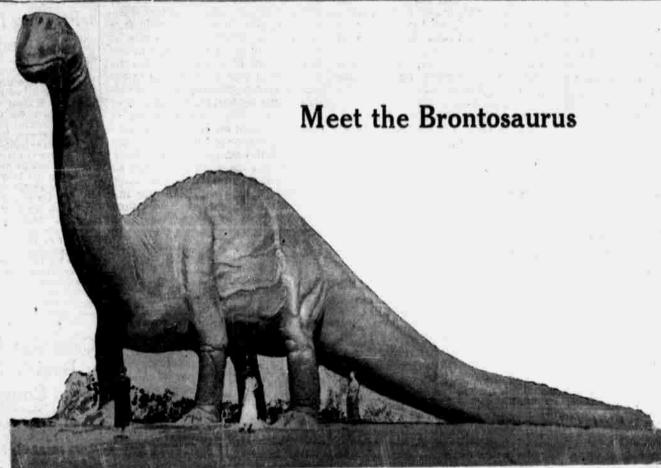


Photo by W. J. Oliver.

him equally at ease. His finest production, in which a knowledge of metal-working in the construction of the hollow framework was a necessity, is the largest of the group of dino-saurs, the huge brontosau 's. In its fabrica-tion, more than 125 tons of steel rods, metal sand and cement here been combined. Months of labor went into the making of this great replica, from the building of the frame to the final delicate trowel work which traced the bulge of great muscles and the ripples of ponderous flesh. Now, the completed monu-ment, painted in colors which are as approximately the tones of the brontosaurus' hide as scientists agree upon, stands as the finest example of this Calgary craftsman's work. It is recognized by paleontologists as conveying in popular fashion an accurate idea of the appearance of this creature when it existed back before the dawn of history.

Some of the smaller dinosaurs have been moulded in John Kanerva's studio, though the larger groups have of necessity, from their very weight, been built directly upon the ground on which they stand.

All in all, the present comprehensive collec-tion—and it is the intention of the society to considerably add to the varieties-is the most outstanding display of dinosaurs on the continent, only exceeded in size by the world-famous grouping of modelled replicas in the Hagen-beck Park at Hamburg, Germany.

Both John Kanerva and the Calgary Zoological Society have been indebted to noted paleontologists for drawings and advice in connection with the modelling of these restorations. C. formidable M. Sternberg and his associate, Dr. Russell, the way. both of the National Museum at Ottawa, have pared with such an apparition.

plaster and later concrete modelling have found assisted as a consultant. Others include Charles Gilmore of the Museum of Natural History, Washington, and authorities on the subject in this branch of research in universities on two continents. Thus, from the field sketches, paintings and carefully prepared models from many authentic sources, the lifelike reproductions which have been staged at St. George's Island will serve as valuable guides to students and naturalists.

> T times they have served a purpose little expected when the society conceived the idea of creating the Dinosaur Gardens from the angle of scientific information. at least on one occasion sudden sight of one of these grotesque creatures brought an amazing return to sobriety to a visitor who lurched around a corner to be confronted with some thing never before experienced in his wildest

> It was shortly after the first specimen was placed in the park among the shrubbery at the east end of the island that a picnic party was annoyed by a "drunk". Their patience be-came exhausted, and someone went for a park's official to get the nuisance removed. Befuddled as the man's brain was, it still functioned sufficiently to sense the approach of the park policeman, and the unwelcome visitor moved unsteadily off, followed by the officer. Barely able to negotiate the winding paths, he suddenly stopped. For a moment, he stood spellbound before the bright green chasmosaurus fantastic, its horned head lowered and the bony shield which protected its neck adding to its formidable appearance it seemed to challenge "Pink elephants" were puny com-

Barnum Brown, of the American Museum he saw a transformation. From a swaying inof Natural History, New York, who, in 1934, as dividual, barely able to control his motions, the head of the American Museum-Sinciair Dino- "drunk" suddenly straightened himself up. saur Expedition, made one of the greatest fossil Turning, he retraced his steps, by this time

Sight of that green monster, glaring at him from the shrubbery, had effected a cure. For to all appearances it was a considerably sobered individual who passed swiftly from the park. But though man in his cups may be alarmed

at the appearance of these weird creations, they inspire little fear among the creatures of the wilderness. Recently a wild deer, possibly lured to the park by the presence of his captive brothers in the adjoining paddocks in the zoo, browsed unconcernedly among the dinosaur statues.

Neither do they act as passable 'scarecrows' for crows caw loudly from the vantage point of the stone monsters' backs, while the gaping jaws of the ceratosaurus served as a nesting

It is unfortunate that a proper respect for the specimens in this Dinosaur Garden cannot be found among all the visitors attracted to the Natural History Park. Sheer vandalism, which has broken fangs and claws from the creatures, and the petty expression of an exalted selfconceit scrawls signatures upon the concrete bodies necessitated enclosing the exhibits within barbed wire entanglements. What might otherwise blend harmoniously again the background of a natural sylvan setting become lu-

dicrous when confined within a paltry pen, Even the aesthetic lines of the sweeping tail of the huge brontosaurus are lost through the incongruity of a barrier wired around its form to prevent adventurous climbers from altempt ing to scale the slippery surface of its back. Public opinion and a civic pride in such

unique attraction appealing alike to the tourist and student of earth's early wonders should render such barriers unnecessary. While the on of the populing year cretaceous, the jurassic and triassic periods, in which these dinosaurs existed, may not be pos-sible—for the flora of those distant days was as finds yet recorded when he excavated the steady and hurried. There was a fixed and among it—the illusion which the figures would skeletons of twelve great sauropods previously frightened stare in his eyes as he passed the create set amidst the vegetation would be more unknown in Montana and Wyoming, has also officer, who wisely refrained from interfering real were the unsightly wire fences removed.

Now the Elevator Agent Comes Into His Own; He Has One Of the Hardest Jobs in Alberta

He Needs Four Pairs Of paratively few months, but during those months Hands from Now Till Spring

By HELEN FRASER

LBERTA'S 1,700 elevator agents are "the A infantry of the grain business. They are the lads of the front line trenches of a vast industry-an industry that stretches tentacles from the prairie wheat fields across the Atlantic to Liverpool-and across the Pacific to the Orient

In a normal year their ranks are augmented by scores and scores of helpers . . . young men recruited from the farm to help in the tremendous task of grading, storing and shipping the

If Alberta were to harvest a bumper cropnext year, for instance—the grain companies would be hard put to it to find enough experienced men to handle the harvest of its millions of acres of cultivated land. This year, when the estimated crop will run about 70,000,000 bushels, they have more men than they actually need. A number of elevators have been closed down altogether in Saskatchewan, as the result of the drouth. The same holds good in the eastern section of this province. Alberta has 1,780 grain elevators—with a

total capacity of 66,000,000 bushels. The biggest crop ever harvested in the province ran to 171,090,000 bushels, and of that amount about 135,000,000 bushels were delivered to its elevators. The balance was used for seed grain, seed, etc.

This year, the province has some 7,600,000 acres under cultivation and will harvest about 70,000,000 bushels.

Back in 1910, Saskatchewan farmers sowed 4,000,000 acres and reaped a crop of 67,000,000 This year the neighboring province east has 14,000,000 acres under cultivationand will reap only 48,000,000 bushels. Her elevator men won't be as busy as Alberta's,

N elevator agent is a specialist. He has A to be, to hold his job, which is one of the most difficult in the business. When the season is at its height, he is one of the busiest nen in the country, working anywhere from 14 to 16 hours a day. Some elevators never close at all.

First and foremost, of course, he must know grain-wheat, barley, oats and flax, and must be able to grade it almost on sight.

"Our grain is graded on a 'visible' basis," a Calgary grain man explained this week, "and when you take into account that there may be as many as 100 grades of wheat in this province alone, not to mention the various grades of barley, oats and flax, it is easy to understand that the agent must be pretty smart at his job These include all the sub-divisions of the grades, damp, tough, rejected, heated, smutty —and the special grades of Garnet, win-ter wheat, and so on. Add to all that the fact that the farmer usually has the idea that his wheat is No. 1 Northern, or at the very lowest No. 2 Northern, and you can see that the elevator agent must be something of a diplomat, as well as an expert.

"Of course, the farmer does not have to de liver his grain to any one specified elevatorthere are always several at a shipping point but most of them prefer to deal with an agent they know and like-so it is up to the agent win that liking if he is to keep the business for his company. Once he has gained their respect, however, they will stand behind him to I have seen that proved over the last ditch. and over again-even when it was to their own interests, possibly, to switch to another ele-

When a farmer isn't satisfied with the grades he receives at the elevator, he can always have recourse to the inspector at Calgary, of course, and the wise agent often advises him to do so-pointing out that the in spector exists for one purpose-and that is to determine exactly what grade the samples forwarded to him rate. He doesn't know the man sending the grain in to be tested and his decision is bound to be impartial.

But when they know and like each other, the farmers of the district and the elevator agenta who hold sway at the shipping point usually manage to thresh these difficulties out for themselves, and to their mutual satisfaction.

THERE are various ways of handling the grain at the elevator, and the agent must be familiar with them all. All grain must be weighed on delivery, and all public country elevators are obliged to receive grain for stor age from any farmer or holder of grain without discrimination, provided that the grain is de livered during "reasonable" working hours, that there is space in the elevator for that particular variety and grade of grain, and that the grain is not out of condition or likely to go out of condition in storage. In a handbook issued by the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada the Department of Trade and Commerce, it adds that while the operator of every elevator is liable for the condition of all straight grade grain received into his elevator he is "of course, not responsible for acts of God, such as storms. or for damage by the King's enemies in the time

If there is only one elevator at a shipping point, it must be licensed as a public one. If there are more, the others may take out a private license-but should the public elevator close and there be need for an elevator to handle grain not destined for a private elevator, then the grain board may cancel the private license issue a public one, thus changing the private elevator into a public one. Storage must be provided at all times for the fruit of the

The general practice in delivering grain to any country elevator is for the farmer to drive the wagon onto the elevator scales, and weigh wagon and grain together. The grain is then dumped, and the empty wagon weighed. weight of the grain is arrived at by subtracting the wagon weight from the gross weight. If the grain is to be cleaned, it must be weighed as delivered, and again after cleaning.

The elevator agent or operator can buy the grain outright from the farmer when it is delivered, or may accept it for graded storage. Many of the big farmers prefer to store their grain in special bins in the elevator until such time as they are ready to ship it and sell it for moisture and "dockage"-the weed seeds other kinds of grain and broken or small kernels and other foreign matter that are removed from the grain in the terminal. Operators must also deduct a definite amount from the gross weight of grain to allow for shrinkage of the stored grain. If the grain is tough or damp, double allowance must be made for shrinkage.

T is pretty obvious that when the elevator ceason is at its peak, the agent in charge has a good deal on his mind. All the work of the year may be concentrated into a com-

he works at fever pitch from daylight to dark. And for his own sake, he must work accurately, speedily and cheerfully. He can't afford to be gruff, no matter how tired and overworked he

In a normal year in the southern section of the province, the bulk of the harvest will be delivered by the first of December-but in the north, in the Peace River area in particular, a lot of grain is hauled all through the winter months. There is always a certain amount delivered in the spring, too, when the farmers bring in their "surplus over seed" after the early sowing. But whenever it comes, the agent must be on hand to receive it.

In the early days of the trade, before the era of the graveled highway and the combine, tractor and truck, the delivery of the grain to the elevator might be spread over many monthsbut in the past 15 years, modern machinery and transportation facilities have changed all that, and 75 per cent of the crop is in the eleva-tor bins three months after the harvest has ended. Many a farmer of today can look back to the days when his crop was delivered in wagon-load lots of not more than 60 bushels and when the trip to the elevator meant a slow plodding drive of many hours. Grain from the same farms is today conveyed in trucks carrying 150-bushel loads, and is delivered almost as fast as it comes from the threshers. Which makes it easy for the farmer, but adds to the rush at the elevator!

Not only must the elevator agent be equipped to judge the grain at a glance, consign it according to directions and issue receipts and grain tickets, but he must keep the elevator machinery operating smoothly, supervise such helpers as he may have recruited for the rush season, keep his books checked and balanced, prepare the intricate daily reports his company demands, and, in many cases, prepare the official crop reports for the district.

In addition, he must report each day to the railway freight agent at the shipping point the amount of grain received in the previous 24 hours, and the total quantity in store in the elevator at the time of the report. And just to make it harder, apparently, the report must be made out at the same hour each day, no matter how many truckloads of grain may be drawn up outside his elevator.

Many of these agents, who are grain experts, mechanics, accountants and reporters all rolled into one, come from the prairie farms where they learned about wheat in their youth. The majority are graduates of the local public or high school of their district, but some are university graduates with a Bachelor of Agriculture degree.

"It takes a smart boy about two years of steady, concentrated work to learn to be an elevator agent we can depend on," the Calgary grain man said, "and even then there is a lot for him to learn. And it doesn't matter much how smart he is, if he cannot get on with the farmers of their district, for it is from them, of course, that he secures the business for the elevator. So you see, he is to be a diplomat and student of psychology too!"

THERE are slack seasons in the grain business, as in any other had ness, as in any other, but even then the agent finds plenty to do. He is supposed to keep his elevator spick and span-which means carpentering on a considerable scale and to improve the surrounding approaches and grounds. In the winter, he does a good deal of promotion work in connection with the junior field clubs, and in many districts the grain companies, through their agents, distributed all the relief feed and seed issued by the government, at no cost to that government. At a number of points, the elevator facilities were placed at the disposal of the U.F.A. for distribution of coal-and again the agent was in charge of the work.

Many of the companies provide pleasant cot-tages for their men, but this property, too, must be kept in repair and agents are encouraged to cultivate their gardens. One suspects that in the case of a married agent, his wife must do a good deal of the spring and autumn gardening for him. It is not much wonder then that when vaca-

tion time comes around, the elevator agent is glad to depart coastwards or to some cheerful mountain resort where he is not likely to hear the word "wheat" for at least two weeks-and if he does, he can change the subject rapidly without fear of offending a man with a pos-

Fire Danger

Blocked by Rain

The forest fire situation in the foothills west of Calgary has this year been a great relief to rangers and residents of the district.

Last year, from the end of April to December, the country was in a dangerous situation. Hot, dry winds and the lack of rains and the customary night dews, placed the country in a tinder-like condition, so that the slightest carelessness would surely have caused a fire.

Fire Ranger Ted Howard went many a night sleepless and haggard from riding over rough mountainous country, hunting for reported fires, often misled by thick smoke hanging in the valleys. This smoke proved to be from the Elk River fire, but Mr. Howard could not afford to overlook the slightest sign. Many a weary day and night he rode, checking ominous signs. Several times during the summer, lightning started fires, but were soon observed by the look-out man on Moose Mountain. He would immediately phone Mr. Howard, and within a few hours a crew would be working desperately to control the blaze. Nothing serlous developed in this region, however.

Quite frequently, falling ashes were observed dropping from a pungent blanket of smoke. Fear was prevalent amongst summer holidayers and many left for the city. These ashes and thick smoke were from the fire in British Columbia.

The conclusion of the fire hazard was in November, when the well-remembered Brushy Ridge area became a mass of flames and destruction. Practically everyone in the country ate a cold breakfast the morning of the terrific wind. Everything was as dry as tinder and a dreadful fear of sparks from the chimneys caused people to refrain from lighting their

This year, rains have been quite frequent and very heavy dows at night have been factors in eliminating fires.

Rangers are, however, forever checking any report of too large bon-fires lighted in a dangerous spot or of smoke rising over this bill or that valley.

Where Are Those Harvest Days of Old When Farmers Went Begging for Highly-Paid Help?

By HELEN McCORQUODALE

WILL happy days ever again return for the harvest seeker—those happy days when a man was in demand the minute be struck a town and when his harvest wages were almost sufficient to keep him all winter,

Although the outlook is not too bright, most farmers are agreed that this is an unusually discouraging year, and that any year of generally good harvest will bring distinct improve-ment for the working man. It is doubtful if the high wages of earlier years will ever be restored, unless employment in all lines of business is greatly improved. But normally, other conditions are likely to rise, which would at least, restore the working man's self respect and create a brisk demand for his services.

For instance, the new power machinery has reduced the demand for man power in some parts by 50 or 75 per cent. But the combines and barges have risen to unexpected promi-hence because of the series of dry years and

"Give us a reasonably wet year," remarked one experienced farmer, "and you'd see us all back to the binders. Then there would be work for the stookers and plenty to stook. Even in a dry year such as this, it takes a lot of nerve for us old fellows to wait till the grain is ready to combine. With hail and frost hanging round, we want to get it into stook where it is pretty safe."

On every band, farmers are agreed that the sinder and stooker will return to favor with the return of rainy seasons. Uneven ripening rolling land, weedy growth, harvest tension, the long wait for the grain to get dead ripe, are all arguments used against the permanent use-fulness of the combine in any but the chronically arid districts.

BUT the bright prospect of coming wet years does not dispet the gloom of the present, when any day and every day. freight trains and little rattle trap cars dump throngs of harvest seekers in every small town of Alberta.

There seems less demand than ever this year, because there are few heavy crops in any part of the province, and because those areas which have crops are loaded with farmers and farmer's sons from Saskatchewan and the dried out parts of Alberta, as well as with their own seasonal laborers and the unemployed from

the cities. many farmers from drouth areas, looking for a few days work and a few precious dollars. Men, who, a few years ago, hired and fired scores of threshing gangs, paying out royal wages to their help, are now pleading for a chance to earn \$2 or \$3 a day for 10 or 12 days work.

A survey of the countryside indicates that men are making a farm-to-farm canvass as never before. They come in groups of two or three from dried out districts, arriving by car and stopping wherever they see a binder in action. Thus the small town is no longer the reproductions for the Zoological Society is John action. Thus the small town is no longer the Kanerva. Of Finnish birth, he has long made market place for dealing. Service is brought sculpture and carving a hobby. Wood, clay, right to the farmer's door, and he can hang a

ever stepping off the place.
"And the toughest thing we have to do these days," remarked one farmer, "is to turn down a man who is perhaps a better farmer than any of us, and who has a family in desperate need

of the few dollars he might earn." Farmer's sons from the northern part of the province hear of good crops in the south. Lads from the south hear there is a demand for labor in the north. They meet and pass, each heading for some fabulous spot that never does materialize, and each spends his few dollars in the disappointing quest.

ND what of the man who is sufficiently A lucky or sufficiently experienced to find a season's work? Will he earn anything worth while?

One employer takes as a typical example two boys whom he has hired for stooking and threshing-one from Saskatchewan, one from Northern Alberta. "These two young fellows are the most capable a man could get. I pay them \$2 for stooking, \$3 for threshing. They will make about \$65 each. They have had to buy suitable clothing, boots, overalls, sweaters, and so on. I figure that if they have \$30 clear out of their full season's work, they will do remarkably well. Ten years ago, on the same amount of land, there would have been twice the stooking, twice the threshing, and the wages of the men of that time on the season's work would have run close to \$300 apiece.

It is not overstatement to say that in the crop seasons of ten or twelve years ago, a working the harvest season through, make almost enough to carry him through to spring work.

In those years of good crops, high wages and labor shortage, a sturdy 17-year-old high school boy had not the slightest difficulty in getting a job at from \$4.50 to \$6 a day. By good management, he could engineer approxi-mately 50 days of stooking and threshing. This many a university student on his way. It was man's wages, but men were scarce and the only demand was a strong back and willing

To go back somewhat earlier-to 1920-a good steam engineer worked for \$20 a day, and at the end of a season, might accumulate \$750. Today the same man would get \$4 or \$5 a day,

Today, men superior in experience and physique to the average stooker and thresher 12 years ago, are begging for jobs at \$2 and a day. Many offer to work for board, but there is no record of such an offer being ac-

HIS congestion of unwanted work seekers has created a situation in the small towns, each centre dealing with the influx in its own way. It speaks admirably for the men in general, that they create so little disturbance, and are guilty of few infringements of the law. One town of a few hundred inhabitants issues a ticket of 30 cents value, daily to each transient, in return for one and a half hours work. Seventy-five transients have hung around the town for days, taking advantage of this source

of supply, pooling their purchases and living in the jungles. No farmers have arrived to deplete the ranks, and the town is getting fed with the expense. In other towns, men are allowed to remain two or three days, and if they do not get work, they are obliged to move on. More take their places. Some carry blan-kets, some are clothed only in scantiest gar-They hole up under bushes, along the railway track, wherever they may find shelter. Some are experienced solicitors of food an dimes. Others go hungry rather than beg. And others again insist on giving service for any kindness offered. There are as many varieties of manhood amongst these work seekers as in any other cross-section of society. Farmers are keenly alive to the deplorable

situation. "It is a terrible thing," said one, when such capable young men as have worked for me, cannot be assured of steady and decent wages. I hope, for their sakes, as well as for the farmers', that farm conditions improve, so that we could absorb such boys in year-round labor, and give them wages that would get them somewhere.

BUT this kindly hope is coupled with an equally earnest hope that labor scarcity will not again clamp down on the farmer as it did ten or twelve years ago. Many a thresherman of that date recalls with some bitterness the long seasons of rainy weather, during which he fed his gangs for days on end, in order to hold them together for a few day's

"I recall the season of 1925," says one thresher, "when I fed a gang of 15 or 18 men for six weeks, and got just two weeks work out of them. I was afraid to let them out, for fear couldn't pick up another outfit. We paid \$5 a day and board for working time, and free board on rainy days. We threshed one and three-quarter days, and then never rolled a wheel for three weeks. Then we threshed one and a half days, and another wet spell set in. I fed them for two and a half weeks more, then they all got tired and quit. And when we did get going again I had to scramble for a new gang. One year I kept a cook for 72 days at \$5 a day, cooking for the gang, and in all that time there were only 30 days threshing."

The present plenitude of labor works the other way. A gang of threshers may be dismissed at the first drop of rain, the employer knowing full well he can pick up another out-fit on ap hour's notice. A workman caught in a rainy season may spent his whole vikeeping himself between threshing spells.

The present season which is bringing only half the customary season's work to the men employed in many parts of the province, and which is employing only a fraction of those seeking work, is hard on everyone. The harvesters no longer create a boom period for the small town, and yet the carefully guarded expenditures in clothing are making it difficult for the workers to save any stake. Probably \$30 or \$40 is the most that the average man may expect to take home. This is small help to the individual, and will bring little relief to which many of the workers may be a charge.