

## HE CLINGS TO THE CITY.

### ENGLISH IMMIGRANT LOATH TO WORK ON THE FARM.

Scans the "Want Columns and Digs in the Cellars Rather Than Work on the Land—Ridiculous Rumors Spread in Leeds, England.

The English immigrant clings to the city like ivy to a wall. Since Friday 500 immigrants have arrived in Toronto, and less than half of these have accepted the farming positions that awaited their acceptance. Many are mechanics, who prefer city life, and they may now be encountered on the downtown streets in groups of two or three. Employment agents are active at the Depot Immigration Office, and a number have been engaged for railroad construction and other rough labor at \$1.75 a day. Those that do go to the farms do so with apparent reluctance, and the fear of loneliness is indicated by the number who insist on being engaged in pairs or trios.

"You must go alone, boys, or not at all," said the immigration officer to two young men who wanted to go to the farm together.

Among the gentlemen in the Immigration Office yesterday was Mr. Robert Verity, an employment and immigrant agent, with office in Leeds, Eng. To a Globe reporter he showed a letter from Mr. W. H. Pinder, the oldest shipping agent at Leeds. One paragraph read as follows:—

"It is reported here that thousands of men willing to work are out of employment in Toronto, and some without food and shelter. I should like to know from you the truth of this. I have had several reports brought in to that effect, and the same was reported to the press here, which just now deters many people from going out."

Mr. Verity has informed his correspondent that mechanics must take their chances, but adds that farming positions await all who will accept. He denied also the more ridiculous rumors quoted in the above paragraph.

Many undoubtedly, while discouraged by the first touch of homesickness, write discouraging letters home. This was the case with an ex-Leeds constable who came out and after a short stay returned to England. In a letter he says:—"I see it differently now. I will never be satisfied to stay in England, and sail for Canada August 3rd." He is in Canada or nearing her shores to-day.

In front of a downtown newspaper office seventy-five men, the majority unmistakably new arrivals, were eagerly awaiting the paper to read the "help wanted" ads. A farming position was open, but that is the "court of last resort," and starvation alone will drive many to it.

A contractor who was spoken to yesterday said:—"I have probably a dozen English laborers on excavation. They work well, but are not as tractable as the foreigners. I cannot see that they have yet made any impression on the labor market."

An officer of a labor union said:—"If some restriction is not put upon the importation of these men good Canadians will soon be walking the streets, because they will be displaced by the cheaper men. On farms no doubt their presence would be for the general good, but the flooding of the cities will not make it better for those already crowded into them."