

EASIER CONDITIONS FOR HOMESTEADING

Important Temporary Change to Meet the Shortage of Farm Labor

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—With a view to meeting the serious shortage of farm labor in the Prairie Provinces for this year's operations, the Government has decided upon an important temporary change in the homestead regulations. An order in Council has been passed enabling all homesteaders to have counted as residence duty on their homesteads all time spent by them as farm laborers within Canada. The order in Council also provides that for the war period all cultivation duties on homesteads, in order to secure patent, may be performed in two years instead of three years.

It is believed that some homesteaders, by working as farm laborers for the larger producers having all necessary stock and machinery, would augment the agricultural output to a much greater extent than if they spent their time on their own homesteads, hampered by lack of stock or machinery. Moreover, the new regulation, which is passed under the war measures act, will, it is hoped, induce numbers who have been following urban occupations in Canada to settle on the land, and may also induce numbers of farm laborers to come from the United States, make entry for homesteads, and immediately engage themselves to farmers in Canada requiring help. With this object in view the widest publicity is being given in the United States to the order in Council just passed, and advertisements for farm help are being inserted in about 7,000 of the best papers in the States. Reduced railway fares from the international boundary to interior points have been arranged for all those who intend to farm.

To prevent persons from getting credit on homesteads entries who are not entitled to the same, each homestead entrant who is employed as a farm laborer is required to furnish the Agent of Dominion Lands for the district in which his homestead is located with sworn evidence as to the location of his homestead, the name and address of the farmer for whom he worked in Canada, and the length of time during which he was so engaged.