

# Labor Shortage Serious for Farmers

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# CROP WILL BE SMALLER, SAY EXPERTS

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Grain Growers Pessimistic of  
Getting Enough Help This  
Spring

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## AUGUST EXPLAINS SITUATION

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Asserts Manitoba Will Have  
Greatest Summer Fallow  
for Many Years

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Manitoba's crop for 1916 will not approximate the wheat production of 1915. This is the opinion of experts. And the sole reason for the decrease is found in the acute labor shortage.

A. E. August, M.P.P. for Dufferin constituency, arrived in the city today for the purpose of interviewing the minister of agriculture on the subject of farm labor. He says in Dufferin district the farmers have just about given up hope of getting enough help.

### Cites Own Case

"As for myself" declared Mr. August. "My one remaining son and I will put in as much of the crop as we can handle. We will allow the balance to lie fallow. And in my opinion Manitoba will this year have a greater summer fallow than for many years past."

The great recruiting boom, says Mr. August, is responsible largely for the labor shortage.

"Out in our county," he said, "it is all 'enlist', 'enlist', 'enlist'. Farmers' sons, hired men, and even school boys are flocking to the colors in dozens. My own son and hired man have gone. And I'm left with one young son with which to handle more than 900 acres of cultivated land. Of course we can't handle it. I'll sow

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as much of the best as I can and I'll have to summer fallow what's left.

### His Situation Typical

"Most of the farmers out there and in adjacent counties are in the same position," he continued. "The worst feature of it all is there is no plowing done. The crop was tremendously heavy last year; there was considerably greater acreage than ever before. Farmers had been told to put in every acre they had available. They did so; and many of them sowed what should have been summer fallow.

"Then the harvest season was backward. The current rains prevented a rapid clearing of the fields. This made much fall plowing impossible. And now we are all left with a huge quantity of land, unplowed; with a huge amount of seeding to do, and no help."

Mr. August said he would not complain, however. His eldest son had enlisted and today he expected to see him away for France with the Ambulance Corps. He regretted his departure, but he was patriotic enough to be glad that the boy was "doing his bit" for the empire.

### Labor Shortage Acute

Hon. Valentine Winkler, minister of Agriculture, admitted that the labor shortage was acute. Every effort was being made to bring men up from the south, but according to all reports indifferent success was being met with, he said.

Louis Kon, provincial immigration agent, who has been given the task of providing men for the farmers, said he has applications from 300 or 400 farmers.

A registration bureau for prospective farm laborers will be opened shortly in the new offices of the provincial immigration department. The bureau will be located in the old Molson's Bank premises, Main street. It is confidently expected that about a thousand uninterned aliens will take advantage of this office.

### Servants Are Scarce

There is also a cry for domestic servants. T. H. McCallum, a farmer from the Sperling district said today he had read with interest the statements made by certain Winnipeg women who want to go out on the farms to drive horses, engines, and in other ways take men's work.

"If those women will only take the work they are eminently fitted for, domestic work, at which very few men are capable, it would greatly relieve the situation."

The female help problem was an ever present one with farmers, he said, but this year it was even more acute than the male help shortage.