

*Dulph*

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Some idea of the rapidity of settlement may be gathered from the fact that the export of grain this season is estimated to be upwards of 3,000,000 bushels, against 1,000,000 last year. The harvests in the North-West are not only bountiful, but certain; at least, that is the experience of the last seven or eight years. Late last summer, it is true, a cold wave swept over the whole North American continent, and the wheat crops of Manitoba that were still unharvested suffered with those of the rest of North America from a summer frost, though not to so great an extent. This is, however, a most unusual and exceptional occurrence, and will in all probability not occur again for many years. The floods arising from the overflowing of the rivers in the spring, of which you have doubtless heard, occur at long intervals, affecting only the lands immediately adjoining the stream, and not spreading beyond half a mile at the most from the bank. These floods do not, therefore, affect any considerable portion of the country. Grasshoppers, which in the old days visited the land, doing much damage to crops, are not likely to visit the country again, for the experience of Minnesota and Dakota, two American States, which also suffered from these pests, teaches us that settlement is a sure preventive of the grasshopper visitation. The yield of the crops is certainly wonderful. Wheat averages 30 bushels per acre; oats, 59; barley, 40; peas, 38; potatoes as high as 600 bushels, while turnips, as a general rule, yield 1,000 bushels to the acre. It has been ascertained that the farmers in the Canadian North-West can afford to sell their wheat, owing to the large yield, 50 per cent. cheaper than those in Minnesota, which is looked upon as the banner State of the Union for wheat-growing.

One gratifying feature in connection with the Canadian North-West is the fact that the settlers who have made their homes there are, as a rule, content and prosperous; nor do they hide their light under a bushel, but seem proud of sounding the praises of their adopted country. On one occasion I received no less than two hundred letters from settler friends of mine, giving me their experience; and I am happy to state that there was not a single case of discontent or regret at having settled in the country—all were happy and prosperous. People on this side have been for some time past kept informed as to what has been termed the "agitation" among Manitoba farmers; and while I have no desire to discuss the *pros* and *cons* of the question, yet it must be remembered that the character of this "agitation" is very apt to be misunderstood at this distance from the scene. The promised extension next summer of the South-Western Railway to White Lake, 160 miles from Winnipeg; the opening of the land, hitherto reserved, which that line will serve; the removal of the mile belt restriction along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway; the further pushing of railway facilities in the fertile belt; the increased facilities and reduced charges between Montreal and Winnipeg—these together will do much to remove any possible reason for discor-