

is therefore competent for me to draw a picture which, if erring in any particular, will err unintentionally.

The Dominion Government and the Provincial Legislatures, as well as the agents of the Dominion and private individuals almost everywhere, afforded me every possible facility to see the various sections of the country as thoroughly as circumstances admitted, and I found no means lacking or withheld of ascertaining alike the advantages and disadvantages of the country as a field for the energies and capabilities of Old Country farmers. It is, in fact, easier by far for a stranger to obtain information in Canada than in England or Ireland, for the people are much more communicative and they spare no pains to give ample opportunity for one travelling as I did to inspect their farms and stock, and the various details of their practice. My tour through Canada has been a singularly pleasant one—made so by the untiring kindness of the people; and interesting, on account of the many striking and beautiful scenes which the country affords.

#### MANITOBA.

A journey to Manitoba by way of the great Lakes Huron and Superior is full of interest. The scenery in many parts is beautiful; in some it is even grand and majestic. The various parts touched at in Georgian Bay present in some cases scenes of commercial activity beyond what I had expected to find. At Collingwood, for instance, and Owen Sound, there are substantial and thriving towns, with well-built hotels, houses, stores, and public institutions, and the country around and behind them is being rapidly cleared and brought into cultivation. At Owen Sound I had a very pleasant drive of ten or a dozen miles back into the country with Mr. Keogh, who, with marked kindness, hitched up his team to enable me to make the best use of the couple of hours which were at my disposal before the boat started again. We saw many farms on the way, most of which had a progressive air about them; there were also several fine orchards with excellent plums and apples, especially the latter, proving that fruit can be easily and profitably raised midway between the 44th and 45th parallels.

Passing along the northern coast of Lake Superior, I saw some magnificent scenery, chiefly in Thunder Bay and in the Fort William district. The last-mentioned place is at present the Eastern terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a road which is being rapidly built, and which will in due time open up the illimitable resources of the North-West territory. This road, in fact, is necessary to the colonization of the North-West. Until it is built, indeed, and until there is a Canadian canal at the Sault Ste. Marie, the produce of the North-West cannot be forwarded to Europe without passing through United States' territory, unless, indeed the Hudson's Bay route can be made practicable.

The Province of Manitoba, so far as I saw it, is, as a rule, flat, wanting in trees, and, consequently, somewhat dreary-looking; but in many parts the land is of striking richness. I was up there in time to see the latter part of the harvesting, and I was certainly struck with the excellent crops of wheat and oats which were grown with the crudest cultivation.

On the day after my arrival, September 3rd, I saw a new string-binder at work in a crop of wheat in the Kildonan settlement, near Winnipeg; it was a very nice even crop, and would average, say, 25 bushels per acre of grain, whose quality was very good; the wheat was the "Scotch Fife" variety, not a heavy-headed kind, but it was a nice, even crop, the straw rather short and weak, but clear and bright, and the grain was plump, well-fed, bright, and fit for the mill at once. This crop was sown on the 22nd of May, on first prairie sod—that is, on prairie land just then ploughed up for the first time—and as such sod is very tough at first, it may be imagined that the surface of the field was rough, and that the seed had been imperfectly covered; yet the seed was sown and the crop dead ripe within a period of 15 weeks. It is, however, no uncommon thing for wheat to be twice in the bag within 90 days—that is, sown, harvested, and thrashed within that period. I saw also a crop of oats which was sown at intervals, as the land was ploughed, from the 7th to