

where the barn was located on a side hill a sloping driveway made it easy to take everything to the top of the barn for unloading, thus doing away with the horse fork, and in some cases the Ensilage cutter. I was in one silo where the corn was put in whole, bound in sheaves, with the corn binder, and it was coming out in good shape. The silo was thirty feet deep and filled from the top.

The farmers are waking up to the value of Institute work, and are ready for organization. The French farmer is rather more anxious than the English farmer to learn and it is apparently only a question of time till the English farmers will be almost supplanted by the French in this part of Quebec. The outlook for farmers here is hopeful, although this year they will pay pretty good toll in buying coarse grains to feed their stock. A very large amount of the grain fed in the Eastern Townships is purchased in Ontario. They grow their own hay and fodder corn; but not much of the coarse grains excepting oats. In my opinion they buy too much. It would pay them to cultivate a little more land, manure it well and grow barley, speltz and mixed grains.

We now return to our Western Country, and in my first letter I left off with New Ontario.

The first Prairie Province, Manitoba, I know only from the car window and from reading and hearing about it. The conditions I believe are not much different from those in Assiniboia where I spent a month exchanging views with the farmers on soil cultivation and stock raising.

Assiniboia produces a lot of No. 1 hard wheat and is largely a grain growing territory like Manitoba. There are many parts, however, where stock may be kept quite profitably and in the western portion ranching is carried on extensively.

There are three serious drawbacks to farming in the North West which settlers from Ontario feel keenly. These are, lack of wood, lack of good pure water, and the prevalence of weeds. These problems may yet be solved but at present it seems doubtful. There are bluffs along some of the rivers which are well wooded, mostly with poplar, but being harder than ours it makes a good fire. But these are limited areas. The attempts to get artesian wells so far has not been successful and is very expensive. It can never become a good dairying country without a plentiful supply of good water. Weeds are becoming a serious nuisance so that the government has appointed weed inspectors whose duty it is to see that all lawful means are used for the eradication of this pest.

In the last fifteen or twenty years the North West farmers have learned much about working the land to the best advantage to secure crops. Had many of them known ten years ago what they now know of the country and soil, they could have been worth probably ten times as much. For instance, in breaking from the prairie, they only get below the grass layer or about two to two and one half inches. Then in backsetting they go down four or five inches. This method gives the best results. Again they find it is necessary to summer fallow, if they can, about one third or one quarter of their land. They have learned to plow deeply the first plowing in June and afterwards to give frequent and thorough surface cultivation to destroy weeds and store up soil moisture. Wheat is then sown on the summer fallow. Instead of ploughing the wheat stubble they disk it, having burned the stubble if necessary, and with the press drill put in wheat the second time and summer fallow again. In this way pretty good crops are obtained every year. The farmer is finding that he cannot maintain the soil's original