

and watchers appointed to see that the wheat was not eaten up or stolen. When the harvest comes the farmer is not a bit better off. In Macpherson County, after the formalities had been gone through last year, it was found that the bonds could not be sold, and the farmers were in a sorry plight, not being able to plough. This year not over 5 per cent. of the land is ploughed and sowed. The drilling is done amongst the thistles and stubble, and in many cases the horses are of such a poor stock that ploughing is an impossibility. Many farmers are prepared to leave there and come to Manitoba and the Canadian North-West. Nothing prevents them coming out to-day, by the thousand, but the lack of means to pay off their mortgages and pay the cost of transportation to where they could get free land. I could bring out from there between now and the 1st October, 500 heads of families. There is no mistake any longer; we are going to get them out.

I am now going to start away for Winnipeg and Aberdeen, and intend to stay as long as the Department will permit, with the object of bringing out men who, from their knowledge of prairie life and experience—and many have learned the rules of economy to a nice degree—will make valuable settlers for Manitoba and the North-West.

*By Mr. Trow :*

Q. What means of support have those settlers during the winter who are impoverished?—A. They have their stock.

Q. I thought you said they could not sell their stock?—A. They could not down there; they have their stock up there with them now. The homestead company having advanced money to pay off the mortgages, they would have a balance left after paying for transportation. Some of them got a loan of \$500, and would probably have a couple of hundred dollars left after paying off the chattel mortgage. They can go right to work there. They have all their stock, and all they lack is food.

Q. What company is aiding them?—A. The Canada and North-West Homestead Company.

Q. What interest do they charge?—A. Eight per cent.

The foregoing report of my evidence is correct,

W. A. WEBSTER,

*Dominion Immigration Agent, Kingston, Ont.*