

- What are the actual and possible yields of grain and other crops, as distinct from the reported yields?
 Is the country suitable for mixed farming—i.e., for stock and dairy products as well as grain-growing?
 What is the climate like?
 Are the comforts and conveniences of life obtainable, and within easy reach?
 Are the general conditions such as would conduce to contentment and happiness?

*Land**Unoccupied.*

Let me deal with these points so far as I am able from observations which were made in different parts of the West of Canada, and from statements expressed by the farmers and other settlers whose experience justifies them in giving a deliberate opinion. Although the physical character of the country is much less varied than in England, where hills and valleys afford a greater range of variation, the quality of the soil, as well as its adaptability for farming, differs to a considerable extent. There are enormous areas which are less suitable than others from scarcity of water. It is possible that in time this difficulty will be met, but just now a settler is wise to avoid troubles which he might encounter unsuccessfully, so long as land can be obtained where such difficulties do not exist. I was informed by Mr. Johnson, the Dominion Statistician, that since 1890 over a million acres of land have been brought under cultivation in Manitoba and the North-West, and that a prodigious area in the North of the Dominion hitherto believed to be useless for agricultural purposes is now found to contain millions of acres which are adaptable for settlement. That settlement is pending in the direction of this region is shown by the success which has attended the efforts of those who have bought and are farming land at Prince Albert, Edmonton, Battleford, and long distances north of these three settlements. It is extremely easy to see how wonderfully rich and fertile much of the land through which one passes west of Winnipeg is; nor is it necessary in order to form an opinion upon this point to inspect and estimate the crops which are grown. In a large degree they bear no relation to the soil which produces them. The Red River valley is composed of a deep, rich, vegetable soil, which grows abundance of wheat throughout its limited area. Apparently the great bulk of this valley is occupied; but the great State of Dakota, in which the larger part of it is situated, is as poor as its favoured valley is rich. When we cross, however, from Dakota through the miserable bit of scrub, and over the insignificant stream which forms the boundary between Canada and the United States, we are at once in a position to recognise that, for some unexplained reason, the Canadians have not taken the same advantage of the land they possess which has been taken by the people on the other side. From the frontier right up to Winnipeg, the prairie on either side of the line of rail is practically unbroken; and from Winnipeg west, by the side of the railway, there are thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of acres which are in the same primitive condition. I was informed that this was owing to the fact that the

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