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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

Report of a Practical Scottish Farmer on the Canadian Northwest.

The following is the concluding portion of the report made by Mr. John Lee, of Edinburgh, to the Canadian High Commissioner, on his tour of inquiry through Western Canada last summer, the first part of which was published in last month's COLONIST:—

EXPERIENCE OF SETTLERS.

I had many opportunities of conversing with those who had been settled in the North West for several years, and the almost universal report was that they were very well pleased with their present condition and prospects. Apparently, every one was thoroughly convinced that he had got the best section in the district—a feeling no doubt arising in part from the natural pride of proprietorship, but also, in my opinion, showing the general excellence of the land all over the North West Territories. The majority had gone there with little or no means but had gradually been able to purchase stock and implements and are now in comfortable circumstances. I could not help contrasting the very hopeful view these men took of their prospects with the rather gloomy view the farmers in this country are forced to take of theirs, and wishing that not a few of the latter could be induced to cross the Atlantic and share the comfort and independence of those already there.

THE CLIMATE.

As may readily be supposed, the climate differs considerably over such a large area of country. The extremes of heat and cold are far greater than in Great Britain, but the dryness of the atmosphere makes the heat, and also the cold, quite endurable, with little or no discomfort. Occasionally during the winter months there are short periods of very cold weather, but fortunately, these do not last longer than a few days at a time. The winter extends over fully four months or from about the beginning of December to the middle of April. Some districts are liable to early frosts, which often cause considerable loss to those whose crops have not been harvested. Early seeding, however, is found to obviate this evil to a great extent, and all agree that the best farmers suffer but little from frosted grain, and that, when failure of crop occurs, it is too frequently due to late sowing or some other preventable cause. Cattle, and especially horses, are wintered out in some districts of the North-

West, although little doubt exists as far as cattle are concerned that when hay and shelter can be provided it pays the settler to house and feed his cattle, not only in the North-West, but all over the Dominion of Canada. Horses, however, are wintered out in thousands and do well, coming in from the wintering in splendid condition quite plump and fat. Sheep also do well whenever they have been tried—large tracts of land being even more suitable for this class of stock than for either cattle or horses. Sheep require to be fed with hay for two or three months during winter; but I was informed by a settler who had a few that breeding ewes get to fat and would not breed, which fact speaks volumes for the feeding properties of the prairie grass.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

The Minister of Agriculture has established experimental farms in five different centres of the Dominion—viz., Ottawa (which is the central experimental farm), Napaa, Brandon, Indian Head, and Agassiz. I had the pleasure of visiting two of these experimental farms, including the one at Ottawa. I was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and was introduced to the different managers of the farm, who explained the various kinds of work connected with their several departments. I was greatly pleased with the general management of the farm, and with the great care and exactitude exercised in connection with all the experiments which are being carried out, and which included almost every department of agriculture and horticulture.

Great attention is being given to the best and most useful varieties of grain. Very interesting experiments in connection with the dairy are also being carried out, and these ought to be of immense value to the dairy farmers in Canada. With such an abundant supply of rich prairie grass, Canadians ought to be able to compete successfully with any other country in the world for the supply of dairy produce in the home market; and judging from the beautiful samples of butter which I saw at this experimental farm and elsewhere in the course of my travels, I have little doubt that in the course of a few years, this will be an accomplished fact.

Experiments too numerous to mention in this report, but equally interesting and instructive, are being carried out in the field and elsewhere, all of them, however, being singularly well fitted to advance the science of agriculture in the Dominion. I do not hesitate to

say that, in establishing these farms, the Minister of Agriculture is greatly benefiting the Dominion of Canada, and is at the same time setting an example which might very wisely be followed by the Minister of Agriculture for Scotland.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES OF THE NORTH WEST.

Judging from the work accomplished during the last decade, or since the country was opened up by railways, we can form some idea of what is likely to be the rate of progress in the future. And yet this record can scarcely be taken as a standard by which to estimate the future, as everything in a new country is undertaken by a comparatively small population. Taking, however, the past ten years as a standard, we find that in the four western provinces—viz., Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, the population has increased from 40,000 to 260,000; the number of bushels of wheat grown from 720,000 to 55,000,000; the number of cattle reared from 50,000 to 600,000. I have no statistics to guide me as to the increase of sheep, but I am within the mark when I say that within that time the stock has increased from a few scores to over a million. If this record be merely maintained during the present decade (although, in all probability, it will be far surpassed) it will place Canada in a position second to none of the countries of the world from which we will be able to draw our food supplies.

Indeed, I quite agree with those who hold that Great Britain, with the rich fertile soils of Canada, is, or at least may be, independent of any foreign country for her food supplies. I have had an opportunity of visiting several of our own Colonies, having travelled in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, and also in California; and although I would not by any means assert that Canada is preferable to any of these countries, or that land in some of them is not equal to that of Canada, yet, after comparing the terms on which land suitable for agriculture can be acquired in these countries with those offered in Canada, I do not hesitate to say that for men with a moderate amount of capital, Canada is much superior. Indeed, I do not know of any country in the world where a poor man, if endowed with energy, good health, and perseverance, can sooner be independent than in the North West of the Dominion of Canada. JOHN LEE.

The largest and longest stone bridge in the world is over an arm of the China Sea, five miles long, 300 arches, each 70 ft. high.