

THROUGH THE VACANT LANDS.

A JOURNEY BY MR. R. A. McLEAN OF THE HUDSON BAY CO.

What the Settlers and Unsettled Country are Like Between Yorkton and Prince Albert—The Saskatchewan—Population Wanted.

Prince Albert, Sept. 1.—A distinguished visitor arrived here yesterday morning in the person of Mr. Robert A. McLean, of London, England. Mr. McLean is a prominent director of the Hudson's Bay Company, and usually takes an active part in the annual meeting of the company's board of directors. He has just completed a careful inspection of some of the lands in which he is interested. To a reporter he has furnished the following report of his

TRIP ACROSS COUNTRY
from Yorkton to Prince Albert, a journey, by the way, which is a very uncommon one, especially for an English capitalist to undertake, but, as Mr. McLean enthusiastically remarked, "the fatigue, etc. of the trip was amply repaid by the magnificent country which I beheld along the entire route." The party consisting of Mr. McLean and men left Yorkton ten days ago traveling in spring waggons all the way. For the first 85 miles of the journey a well defined trail exists which, however, beyond that point grows indistinct and in some places the road became impassable on account of the thick growth of poplar, through which the party had to cut a trail, to make passage for the wagon. Along the first fifty miles, the country is well settled with farmers of diverse nationalities, chiefly Dakotas, Germans and Danes. These settlers Mr. McLean describes as a thrifty and contented class, having already made much improvement on their lands. There are some 350 settlers in this neighborhood and others arriving almost constantly.

SHEHO LAKE
which is a beautiful sheet of clear water, was the first camping place; here also the settlers were found in comfortable circumstances and crops excellent. The second day brought the party to Fishing Lake, another fine large sheet of sweet clear water six miles long by one and a half miles wide. All the settlements passed through during the two days lay close to the proposed route of the Manitoba and Northwestern railway, and quite within its land grant. The lands settled on are chiefly

FREE GOVERNMENT LANDS
as the railway company has been satisfied to allow its lands to increase in value by the country settling now at the comparatively low prices prevailing. Farther on are the Mill Lake plains, where one lone settler, a Mr. Mulligan, has for several years successfully engaged in stock raising on a large scale. Three German families, the forerunners of many more of their countrymen, have recently settled there. This part of the country, Mr. McLean says, is admirably adapted for grain raising, being high open prairie land more especially suited for wheat culture. Mr. Mulligan, already referred to has grown with encouraging results all kinds of grain, roots and garden stuff. The country around Fish Lake, Mr. McLean describes as being very similar to

AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN'S PARK.
After the first 85 miles, for the next 70 or 75 in a direct line, the country is unsurveyed, but surveyors are now at work subdividing it and for the whole distance it is an unexcelled tract of country for purposes of mixed farming. There are numerous lakes of fresh water, several running streams and springs in abundance. Within 70 miles of the town of Prince Albert, the settlements of Stony Creek and Carrot River begin. At Stony Creek were found a large number of settlers from Ontario and Dakota, the majority of whom have settled there this season, the results mainly of the advice of delegates sent by them to spy out the land. Several of those from Dakota with whom Mr. McLean conversed informed him that, though only settling on their land in the month of June, this year, they already have better crops than anything they have seen in South Dakota for the past eight years. The country here is

ROLLING PRAIRIE WELL WATERED
with plenty of wood and hay easily accessible. The Carrot River district is similar in nature to that already described. Here also were found many settlers, all contented. In fact Mr. McLean made it a point to find if possible, a discontented or grumbling settler, and it is worthy of note that not a single one was met with in the journey from Yorkton to Prince Albert. The only thing approaching discontent was the objection expressed as to the long haul necessary to get produce to market. The settlers are eagerly looking forward to the extension

of the Man. and N. W. railway and says as soon as it has been definitely decided to proceed with that work, hundreds of settlers from Dakota and elsewhere have promised and are waiting to come. It is certain also that in settled districts remote from railways, farmers will, with this advent, extend and enlarge their operations. All along the route travelled Mr. McLean found plenty of good building timber, and reports there is not a mile of territory unsuitable for settlement or which cannot be utilized for the development of the agricultural and other industries of the country. There has been

NO FROST IN THE COUNTRY
travelled. All through the country bore evidence of sufficient rain; vegetation was strong and abundant and a striking feature was the luxuriant growth attained by the pea vine and other grasses, which in places were a matted mass, rising four feet from the ground; truly a veritable paradise for stock. At the Quill lakes, the waters of which are generally supposed to be strongly impregnated with alkali, Mr. McLean affirmed that his horses drank readily and the party bathed in it with pleasure. Where camps were not made by lake sides no trouble was experienced in finding clear spring creeks, which abound along the entire journey. There are, besides hay in the sloughs, extensive hay meadows, in abundance, and the settler easily get all they require each year. Before entering the unsettled portion of the country, the settlers are digging wells and obtaining

A GOOD SUPPLY OF WATER
at twenty-five feet. "The four great and imperative requisites for successful farming, viz: good soil, water, wood and hay," says Mr. McLean "we found to exist in abundant quantity" along the whole tract of country traversed. The flora of the district is also stated to be most interesting. South of the Carrot River a distance of about twenty-five miles there is a large fresh water lake, twenty-five miles long and about five miles wide, teeming with fish. This sheet of water, Mr. McLean describes as being very beautiful, containing many wooded islands, and fringed with a luxuriant growth of different grasses and poplar woods, is not laid down on the maps of the country. In addition to this, there are, he says, several other large bodies of fresh water to the south and east which are not shown on the maps. On all of these lakes were seen

DUCK, GESE AND WILD FOWL
in abundance; deer, foxes and wolves were also seen. On Water Hen lake, out of which the Carrot river flows, "we saw," said Mr. McLean, "myriads of duck, geese, etc. and their movements in the water of the lake made its surface appear as if ruffled by a strong gale of wind." This part of the country will in time, doubtless be a favorite haunt for sportsmen.

Mr. McLean expressed surprise at the progress visible in and around the town of Prince Albert, and thought the townsites the prettiest he had ever seen. He also spoke of the necessity of settling up the land adjacent to the Saskatchewan river, and suggested that a combined effort in this direction should be made by the towns of Prince Albert, Battleford and Edmonton. By having a continuous line of settlement between the three towns, the river could be used to much advantage, and the streams now lying idle would become of service. The Yangtze-Kiang, in China, Mr. McLean said, was a much worse river than the Saskatchewan for shifting sands, etc. and yet it was successfully navigated for a distance of 1,000 miles through a densely settled country.

Finally, remarked Mr. McLean, "God has given the country, and it is for man to go in and possess it. You have the country, we have the men and money." As Prof. Seeley says, "in the mother country is a dense population clamoring for land," whilst here, "is

A BOUNDLESS LAND,
clamoring for a population," and those oft quoted, prophetic words of Bishop Berkeley come irresistibly to the lips:—

"Westward the course of empire takes its way,
The four first acts already past,
A fifth shall close the drama with the day,
Times's noblest offspring is the last."

Mr. McLean left for British Columbia to meet Finance Minister Mr. Turner, of that province, from whence he will return via Seattle, Tacoma and San Francisco, to his home in London.

Prairie Grove.

Prairie Grove, Sept. 5.—The grain is nearly all cut around here. The wheat was all out nearly a week ago only a few fields of late oats and barley remain to be cut. The wheat is all first class.

A large number commenced stacking last Tuesday. The weather for the last week has been all that could be desired.

NEW WHEAT MARKETED.

THE FIRST SAMPLE OF NO. 1 HARD FROM LETELLIER.

A Report from some of the Leading Wheat Districts—A Cold Dip but Everything in Fine Shape.

Letellier, Man., Aug. 31.—Letellier claims the first new wheat. A load was marketed here to-day, and purchased by Crowe & Co. It was a fine sample of No. 1 hard.

STONEWALL.
Stonewall, Aug. 29.—Fully eighty per cent of the 1892 crop is in stook or stack free from danger. Had it not been that binders needed repairs just when wanted, then showery weather, the whole crop would now be safe. However only a small percentage remains and three more days of favorable weather, will suffice. As to samples the quality is No. 1. Vegetables of all kinds are also a thorough success. A cold dip came Saturday. Yesterday a cold northwest wind prevailed. One anxious man purchased a bolt of cotton, sixty or seventy yards, to cover up some tender garden stuff.

CUTTING FINISHED AT NIVERVILLE.
Niverville, Aug. 31.—Nearly all the farmers in this district finished cutting their grain on Saturday last, and stacking has commenced. Wheat will be all of good quality, (No. 1 and 2 hard). Very little smut is reported. The yield will be about 22 bus. per acre. Oats and barley are also an excellent crop and the yield will fully equal that of last year. With a continuance of good weather for stacking and threshing, all kinds of grain will be saved in first class condition.

GLADSTONE.
Gladstone Aug. 30.—Nearly all our wheat was cut last Saturday night. There were a few acres here and there left standing, much of it being too green. Yesterday morning there was a cold dip, but, as stated, there is very little wheat uncut in this neighborhood. Our wheat is a splendid sample, but the yield will not go beyond twenty-five bushels to the acre. Of course, there are fields that will go much more. The threshers will soon be at work, as some of the farmers have already commenced stacking.

ELKHORN.
Elkhorn, Aug. 30.—A slight fall in the temperature was noticed at some points in this district yesterday morning, but the pumpkin vines and potato plants were not affected. The greater part of the wheat crop has now been cut. Stacking is now going on all around. J. Broadley threshed out a wagon load of his hard wheat on Saturday last to test the machine.

TOUCHWOOD HILLS.
Touchwood Hills, Aug. 29.—The farmers of this district are almost done haying. All report having got a plentiful supply, although the season has been the driest for years. Early cutting has been completed. Wheat and oats will be cut this week.

CUTTING NEARLY FINISHED AT MANITOU.
Manitou, Aug. 31.—The wheat in this locality is nearly all cut and promises to be a paying crop this year. The farmers are all hopeful and we may expect Manitou to boom this fall.

MILLWOOD.
Millwood, Aug. 30.—The farmers are all busy in the field harvesting their wheat, which in some places is an excellent sample. Oats as a rule are later than former years, but on the whole very fair.

SHELLMOUTH.
Shellmouth, Aug. 30.—Hay making is being much retarded by showery weather. The wheat is being safely garnered and will be a first class sample.

ARDEN.
Arden, Aug. 30.—Harvest operations are well forward in this district. The wheat will be a good sample.

FROM THE TERRITORIES.

Interesting Letter from an Old Countryman in the British Northwest.

The following interesting letter, dated Yorktown, N. W. T., Aug. 17, 1892, is printed in the *Minnedosa Tribune*, of August 25:

Dear Sir,—I drop you these few lines thinking it might be interesting to our old friends of Minnedosa. We have just got back to the above place after a trip through the N. W. T. We have been all through Dauphin, Portage Plains and Brandon, and we have come to the conclusion that there is not a finer country for cattle raising than the N. W. T.

Messrs. Livingston of Yorkton and Stewart McNutt, have one of the finest herds of cattle I have seen since I left the old country. We visited the

Poland settlement North West of Yorktown and they have a fine crop of wheat and oats ready for the binder. I may mention they have a section of land under cultivation. This was purchased by an enterprising German by the name of Mr. Simmons.

We then visited the Dakota settlement; it is also well settled and they have also a good crop. There were some fine lakes in this settlement such as Theo and Echo lakes. Our esteemed friend, Mr. Walmsley, has a fine house and improvements done on his claim at Echo lake. We also visited Pelican, Crystal, & Fishing lakes, where we found lots of game such as wild geese, ducks, and pelicans. I had the pleasure of shooting a pelican measuring 11 feet 4 inches from tip to tip of wing and 5 feet 4 inches from bill to tail; its head alone measured 16 inches from top of head to tip of bill. Mr. Milligan of Big Quill lake has a fine herd of cattle and horses also a good sample of wheat that he has grown for the last seven years. He does a big business in trading with the Yellow Quill band of Indians. The only drawback we see to this country is the want of a railroad, so we hope that it won't be long till we see the M. & N.W. Railway having their road running through these settlements I have mentioned.

USELESS IMMIGRANTS.

The Wrong Sort and the Right Sort to Make Money in the Prairie Country.

The following communication has been sent to the press for insertion:

Some persons, perhaps, may leave the city and spend their holiday at the lakes and no doubt have an enjoyable time. The writer, instead of following this example went out and spent a few days on the Portage Plains and found equal pleasure in gazing, not upon rippling waters sparkling in the sunlight, but upon fields, wide fields, of waving grain, and seeing the busy farmer with a smile of satisfaction lighting up his countenance as he went forth with his reapers to reap the fruit of seed sown—the reward of past toil.

It was a pleasing sight to look east, west, north and south, and see activity everywhere in this respect, and when the harvest is over, and the hand that plowed, sowed, and reaped, receives that for which he labored in hope of, the smile of satisfaction will ripen into joyous laughter. Although the yield this year is not as abundant as that of last, the straw not being more than half or two-thirds the quantity of 1891, yet the actual yield of grain (the farmers estimate) will be from 20 to 30 bushels per acre, and of that I handled must say a better sample I never saw, so that if all things are considered, the present year's product will be far more beneficial to the province than last year's and will prove of real value to encourage immigration. But on this point I ask to be allowed to say a little.

USELESS IMMIGRANTS.

This Northwest country is more vast than many living here are aware; in fact, a stretch of the imagination is required to take it in. North and south of the C. P. R. from here to the Rockies has unoccupied land enough to receive a great portion of the population of Europe, so far as space is concerned, but it has no room whatever for men who know not how to handle the plow and to use the pitchfork, and who know but little the meaning of a sweating brow produced by physical exercise which in tilling the soil is required. An instance of this kind came before me when on my visit and will prove this. A farmer I called upon said: "The other day, being in want of extra help, I went to Portage to obtain it, and found a young man hale and healthy, just out from London, Eng., and engaged him; but after a week's trial I found him so incapable of doing anything that was required that I paid him for his time and let him go." This circumstance needs no words of mine to show that such individuals are not the men we want.

THE CLASSES WANTED.

No one can deny that both the provincial government and C. P. R. have done their utmost to encourage immigration, which the community at large should, if it does not appreciate. But if half the number of the many thousands and have brought in this year are found to be as the young man alluded to above, instead of benefitting the country they burden it. What can men who have been brought up in London and other cities, such as Liverpool and Manchester, know about farming in Manitoba? And yet there are hundreds of men with capital and experience who, if told of the comfortable homes and other advantages this country affords, without any coloring, could be prevailed on to come and settle

amongst us—and whose coming in a few years would prove to be of mutual interest.

There are hundreds of such I have named in Scotland, Ireland and England who, if they had presented to them these facts of the country as a whole, where selections could be made to suit every taste, for every kind of farmer, would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity extended to better their condition. This class may require a little consideration as they do not act hastily, but 1,000 such men would be of more value, than 5,000 of those who are unsuited.

A SIGHT NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN.

Stooks of Wheat as Far as the Eye Could Reach.

Winnipeg, Sept. 5.—Mr. F. W. Thompson, of the Ogilvie Milling Co., who has been inspecting the crops in the southwestern part of the province this week, arrived home yesterday and was seen by a reporter.

In reply to the question "What do you think the yield will be?" Mr. Thompson said: "The average yield for the province as a whole will not be under twenty bushels to the acre. In some districts the crop is very heavy, ranging from twenty-five to thirty and even forty bushels to the acre, but again in other places is less. The total yield for the province will probably be between 18,000,000 and 20,000,000 bushels, and including the Territories, will without doubt considerable exceed 20,000,000 bushels. In going through the Mennonite reserve on Tuesday morning last I noticed only three or four fields standing, the balance being cut. Stacking is general, which is a splendid feature, and shows that the farmers are not losing any time nor running any risk after the wheat has become well seasoned in stook."

In company with Messrs. S. P. Clark and W. A. Brady, Mr. Thompson had a very interesting drive from Deloraine to Beresford, passing Hartney and Souris. The scene on the slope just going down into Hartney, Mr. Thompson describes as "a sight never to be forgotten," stooks of wheat as far as the eye could reach. They also drove out to the Sandison farm, north of Brandon, where the same pleasant sight was witnessed.

THE SONS OF ENGLAND

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

BENEFICIARY DEPARTMENT.

Assessment System.

The Beneficiary Board is now prepared to receive applications for increased beneficiaries. The Beneficiary is now composed of two classes, viz: A and B.

Class A includes the present \$500 and \$1,000 Certificates.

Class B represents the increased \$1,000 Certificates.

All Beneficiary members at present in good standing will be eligible to join Class B (providing they pass a satisfactory medical examination), on payment of \$2.00, \$1.00 of which is to be paid the Local Examiner, and the other sent to the Beneficiary Board, less the Lodge Secretary's fee of 25c.

Class B contains no Total and Permanent Disability clause.

The rates of assessment in Class B is the same as in Class A, and until such time as an assessment realizes \$1,000, the heirs or legatees of a deceased member shall be entitled to receive only such an amount as shall be realized by an assessment made upon all members in good standing in Class B at the time of his death.

All old members of the Beneficiary over 50 years of age, desiring to join Class B, may do so until six months from the date of this circular, that is, November 2nd, 1892, after which time no such application can be entertained.

Members joining both Classes at the same time will pay an entrance fee of \$5.00; \$1.00 to go to the Medical Examiner, and the balance to be sent to the Beneficiary Board, less the Lodge Secretary's fee of 50c, 25c. for each certificate.

The Beneficiary Board meets on the First Wednesday of each month. The age of an applicant is made up to the day the application reaches the Supreme Grand Secretary's office; for example, if the applicant is examined by the Lodge Surgeon, say on the 10th of the month, and he would be fifty on the 22nd of the month, and it doesn't reach the Supreme Grand Secretary's office until after the 22nd, it bars him from being admitted.

The Entrance Fees must in all cases be forwarded with the application.

JOHN W. CARTER,

S. G. Secretary.
Toronto, May 4th, 1892.