

and what we had hardly seen in Canada before, a large shed for implements; but he and his family live in Portage la Prairie. His system is to keep few men and horses on the farm, being able to hire any quantity of both in the busy time; only during the winter having a foreman and one other man to pay. He only visits his farm once a fortnight, except during the busy seasons of spring planting, hay-making, harvesting, and autumn ploughing—this lasting about six months from the middle of April. He said he had let 640 acres to a man to plough for 1 dollar 75 cents (7s.) per acre, and the work was being well done. He purposes growing wheat successively for four years, and then planting timothy grass and stocking, rather than having bare fallow. No rick cloths, waggon cloths, thatching, or horse-shoeing being wanted in this country is a consideration. This is, without doubt, the easiest system of farming we have seen, and must pay well for the first few years—the question arises, Will it last? This the present owner cares little about, leaving those who follow him to find it out. My opinion is that the prairie farmers will soon find out that the land will repay better and more careful farming than it now in many cases receives. The land now, including buildings, is worth about 50 dollars an acre; much of it would grow barley, and this will, no doubt, be resorted to as a change of crop.

A paper mill using straw, for which they pay eight shillings per load of 15 cwt. delivered, is in this district, and the company have mills in other parts of Canada. This would appear a rising industry in a country where straw is not valued as a manure. We left Portage on Thursday evening, arriving at Indian Head on Friday morning, and having breakfasted at the Commercial Hotel, went at once over the Government Experimental Farm, carried on here under the management of Mr. Mackay exactly on the same lines as those already described at Ottawa and Brandon, and certainly with equal credit to him as regards skill. The land is of better quality, but the climate more backward. Here an excellent lunch was prepared for our party, and great hospitality shown to us by Mr. and Mrs. Mackay.

We then started to see the world-wide known Bell Farm, formerly consisting of 53,000 acres, but not proving a success, the land was sold, some 13,000 acres being purchased by the then manager, Major Bell, and the remainder by a colonisation society under Lord Brassey. A very heavy storm of rain and hail coming on, we could not do justice to Major Bell's farming, as, unfortunately for him, we entered on the side of his holding on which all his wheat was badly frosted, much standing uncut and horses and cattle feeding on it, and the other cut green and made into stacks for fodder. The storm was so heavy that we turned back, and did not see his finer and better wheats, of which he had grown 1,400 acres, and hoped next year to grow 3,000 acres and 200 acres of oats. We saw at his house, which with the buildings was remarkably good, some good samples of the corn grown this season. The Colonisation Society's Farm comprises 60 sections of 640 acres each, but as it was only started in May last little work has been done beyond the erection of a manager's house, buildings, and cottages. The idea is for English labourers to be assisted