

# THE PRAIRIE.

(ILLUSTRATED)

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**WEEKLY JOURNAL OF INTEREST TO ALL.**


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ERNEST BEAUFORT, Manager.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1891.

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A VALUABLE bulletin has just been issued from the Department of Agriculture, which is doubly valuable as seeding will shortly be commenced; farmers should endeavor to procure a copy of it from the department. The author of the bulletin is that well-known authority, Mr. Wm. Saunders, Director of Experimental Farms, while the subject is the important one of two-rowed barley. In February of 1890, it was decided to place \$25,000 in the estimates, for the purchase of two-rowed barley in England, to be disposed of for seed in Canada.

After careful enquiry, 10,000 bush of barley were purchased, from James Carter & Co., of London, England, of the variety known as Prize Prolific, this being selected mainly for the reason that the experiments already made with this barley in Canada had given good results. It was brought out in 5,000 bags of 112 pounds each, and on arrival carefully inspected, and as it was not found as clean as was expected the bags were all opened and the barley passed twice through the cleaning apparatus of the Montreal Warehouse Company, by which means the sample was made uniform and good, and although not absolutely clean, was, from a commercial standpoint, very clean. About 3,200 bags were sold to 2,600 purchasers. Of these, 1,052 have sent in reports of the crop produced and samples of the grain.

A number of extracts from the reports of farmers who used the seed are given, which is followed by a summary, which states that the experience of 320 farmers in Ontario has been given, covering every district where the two-rowed barley has been grown. The list might have been greatly increased with similar testimony equally good, but enough has been

given to show that there is not much fault to be found with the barley. A proportion of the reports are less favorable than some of those which have been given, but in most instances these may be attributed to the very wet season, lack of drainage, or want of care in the preparation of the land. Many think that the straw is a little weak, but a very wet season does not afford a good opportunity for correct judgement on this point. There is no doubt that two-rowed barley takes a longer time to mature than the six-rowed, and that it should be sown early.

After referring to the inexhaustable market in Great Britain for this crop, the report concludes as follows:—I desire to refer once more to the importance of early seeding and of a thorough preparation of the soil before sowing. The figures given in the early pages of this Bulletin on the results of the tests of the past season show in the increase of crop the advantage of sowing barley after roots, but where this is not practicable a good mellow piece of ground should be selected, one that has been well worked and is in a fair condition as to fertility. This crop will not give good returns when sown on cold, wet ground, or on land that has been too much impoverished by frequent cropping and scanty manuring. The roots of the young barley plant make rapid growth under favourable conditions, but they do not strike so deeply in search of food as those of some other cereals; hence the nutritive elements they need should be presented to them in the soil in such a well digested condition as to admit of its being readily taken up by the growing rootlets. A little experience will no doubt enable our intelligent Canadian farmers to obtain in favourable localities and average seasons good results from this promising crop.

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## An Opinion From Winnipeg

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"The *Commercial* has received a copy of The Prairie Illustrated, a journal started at Calgary, Alberta, a short time ago. This is the first copy of the paper we have had an opportunity of examining, and it is certainly a surprise to find such a large and attractive journal of the kind coming from one of our western towns. Heretofore only large cities have supported such a paper. The copy before us contains a number of good illustrations, including cuts of D. W. Davis and James Reilly, the two candidates for parliamentary honors in Alberta. We hope The Prairie Illustrated may prove profitable to its owners, and we are certain it is a valuable acquisition to the press of the Territories."