

of the country this season. Last year, from a twenty acre field of oats 2,000 bushels were sold and still some of the crop left in the granary. To some this may seem an exaggeration, but it is a fact given on the most reliable authority. A good deal could be said about the other successful farmers in the same neighborhood. Around here are some 200 families engaged in farming, and doing so under very favorable conditions. It may be said that, as far as we could judge, the class of men who have settled on these farms is of the right stamp, and that means a great deal in the early settlement of a country. The force of example is a powerful factor for good or ill.

Passing on to the much talked of

SETTLEMENT OF DRYDEN,

our train being late and it being near the gloaming, our visit was necessarily a short one. The writer having spent two days in the district in the summer of 1897 had an opportunity of noting the growth of the town and the improvements which have been carried out since that time. There are 33,000 acres of land now taken up. The class of men occupying these farms, are, speaking in a general way, men who would make good farmers anywhere. The ordinary farm crops grown in Ontario do well here. On the occasion of the former visit referred to, the crops on the Government farm—the soil of which is a fair average of the farming land around—were quite equal in quantity and quality to those to be seen on the average farms east of the great lakes, and this result had been brought about by no extra treatment, but simply by following the practice adopted by the other good farmers of the older parts of the country. This farm and what is being done upon it is an admirable object lesson for all around. The growth of the town and the development of important prospective industries which are likely to be gone on with in the near future will have much to do in giving a stimulus to agriculture in this new and important settlement.

ALONG RAINY RIVER.

From the hour we started we had been hearing much about the grand farming country that was to be seen when we reached the Rainy River. The people living in Algoma are optimists to a man—they are never tired of praising up their country, and especially of its great possibilities. And while they have much to say about all the other districts and are never tired of extolling them, yet they always ended by saying "Wait till you see the Rainy River country." The time came when we did see it, and we were not disappointed.

From the entrance into Rainy River from the Lake of the Woods to Fort Frances is 100 miles, the actual length of the river being eighty miles. The river is the dividing line between the Canadian territory and Minnesota. On the American side it is an unbroken forest, the land not yet having been put upon the market. On the Canadian side there have been settlers as far back as twenty-five years ago, but it is only within the last few years that there has been any considerable movement in the way of settlement. Last year 245 locations were taken up. The land on both sides of the river may be termed a timbered prairie, with deep alluvial soil apparently as rich in plant food as that of the best lands in the prairie province. The timber is composed mainly of elm, spruce, tamarac and poplar, all of which has more or less of a commercial value, depending partly upon the distance from the river front. If the prospective construction of the Ontario and Rainy River railway is carried out, and if it is built through this district, as it is expected it will be, it will give another outlet for the timber products, and will provide profitable employment for the settlers during the slack season of the year. This means a good deal to the farmer in the early years of his settlement.

What may be termed the belt of good agricultural land extends the whole length of the river and runs back, we are told, from ten to twenty-five miles. There are Indian reservations at different points along the river aggregating

over 60,000 acres. These reservations, it is said, include some of the choicest of the lands on the river front.

There is a pretty strong and growing feeling among the people in the district against the Indians holding so much of this good land, cultivating as they do only a small portion of it; their time being mainly occupied in hunting and fishing.

While the sections referred to, and no doubt many other large tracts which we did not see, and of which not very much will be known until they are tapped by the new railroads now under contract, will yet be the homes of thousands of prosperous farmers, yet it must not be understood that there are no drawbacks. But while this must be admitted, they are only such as are incidental to nearly all new forest countries.

The objectionable feature of the large Indian reservation has been spoken of. Then there is the objection in the minds of many to the comparative isolation for some time to come.

Further, there is the intolerable nuisance of one season of the year—lasting for about a month—of the fly and mosquito pest. But, to offset the above, there is strong, rich and productive land, easily brought under cultivation and easily tilled, splendid climate—perhaps a little too cold in the winter, but, on the whole, healthful and invigorating.

And lastly, and what is of great importance, there appears to be an absolute certainty that there is not only a first-class market for all that the farmer can produce at present, but that the demand for years to come is likely to go on increasing more rapidly than will the means of supplying it.

It must always be borne in mind that the men composing the great army of workers which will be required to develop the mineral lands are absolutely non-producers of food products, and that it is in close proximity to these farming lands of vast areas where are to be found earth's treasures in great abundance—gold, silver, copper, iron, nickel, the wealth of the forest and the waters are there.

Some Points of the Draught Horse

By "E. R.," in *Stockbreeders' Magazine*.

The general utility of a horse is not the only standard by which it should be judged. Authorities have marked out its various external features, and these points are considered. Some of the elements which go to constitute a good draught horse are indicated in the accompanying illustration, which has been lettered in order that the man who reads may see.

A.—Forehead: It is essential that this feature should be highly developed, and that it should gradually narrow downwards from a broad and well-formed base.

B.—Face: Much depends on the formation of this part; an arched or Roman cut, with a tendency to slope towards muzzle, is a desirable characteristic.

C.—Nostrils: As these organs play a most important part in the innate economy of the horse, they should be well formed. Largeness is a material desideratum, while the skin should be of fine texture, pliant and free from cuticular blemishes.

D.—Muzzle: The animal's sense of touch is mostly concentrated at this point. The feature, too, is indicative of the breeding.

E.—Eye: Brightness, prominence and good size are points necessary in this organ, the eyelid being thin.

F.—Neck: Length, depth, and a nice tapering towards the head should be evident. Form is obtained materially from graceful arching of the neck.

G.—Shoulders: Without well-formed shoulders, the draught horse is not of much worth. These important points, the seat of the posterior muscles, should slope towards the chine and possess both width and depth.