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THE MANITOBA EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

BY DIXI.

THE primary object of the Dominion Government in establishing Experimental Farms throughout the country, was to ascertain the best means of encouraging and developing agricultural interests, and, with this object in view, an Act called "The Experimental Farm Station Act" was passed in 1886, and in October of the following year, a Director was appointed to undertake the work of establishing farms in different parts of the Dominion where the work done would best benefit the farmers.

The location of the Manitoba Farm was decided upon after many journeyings over and over the country, of which Director William Saunders, in the Farm Reports for 1892, speaks as follows:—

"Later in the summer of 1887, another tour was made through the West in company with Mr. S. A. Bedford, who had resided for many years in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and whose experience of farm life on the plains

"made him a valuable advisor. The investigations extended from Selkirk, twenty-one miles east of Winnipeg, along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to the western boundary of Manitoba. North of Brandon the country was examined as far as Binscarth, and from this point along the line of the Manitoba and North Western Railway to Portage la Prairie. Many journeys were taken north and south of the lines of railway, which involved over 500 miles of driving, and afforded an excellent opportunity of ascertaining the character of the soil and the condition of the settlers over a large portion of the Province."

"After much consideration a site near Brandon was recommended and finally chosen; a farm of about 625 acres, situated partly in the valley of the Assiniboine and partly on the higher land adjoining. This farm combines the advantages of variety of soil, fertile valley land for pasture, extending to the river, a rich sandy loam on the rise towards the bluffs, which form the margin of the valley, on the sloping sides of which—and in the ravines—the soil is lighter, more sandy and gravelly, while on the heights the land is good