

Alexander Begg, Esq., General Emigration Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, has been the recipient of a large number of letters from practical farmers in the Canadian North-West which contain a great amount of important and interesting information with regard to the agricultural capabilities of the country. His correspondents are scattered all over Manitoba and the Canadian Territories. A perusal of these letters will satisfy most persons that the Canadian North-West is one of the best countries in the world for farmers to emigrate to. Appended are summaries of the statements of a number of Mr. Begg's correspondents, selected at random from amongst about five hundred letters. The facts are conclusions of these correspondents are given in their own language and present a remarkable body of unanimous testimony on this interesting subject:—

R. McKNIGHT, ESQ.,

Carman, Manitoba, states his experience as follows:—He went from Oxford County, Ontario, into the Canadian North-West in April, 1879, having purchased a homestead and pre-empted 640 acres of Government land. His capital amounted to \$5,000. He has now 160 acres under cultivation. His first house was of logs, built at a cost of \$200, and he now values his property at \$10,000. His crop for the present year is 55 acres of wheat yielding 20 bushels to the acre, 26 acres of oats yielding 55 bushels per acre, 17 acres of barley at 45 bushels per acre, besides roots and vegetables. His potatoes yield from 200 to 400 bushels per acre, his turnips from 400 to 600 bushels per acre. He states that vegetables grow with very little trouble and he can raise almost all kinds, including rhubarb, beet, corn, onions, parsnips, cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, peas, beans, cauliflower, asparagus, cucumbers, melons, citrons, pumpkins, and other varieties. The wild cultivated fruits grown are strawberries, raspberries, currants, cranberries, plums, blueberries and wild cherries. Of flax, he remarks that it grows splendidly. The soil is a clay loam from one to three feet deep. Manure is not required for the first few years, but it will be necessary after a while. He has any amount of hay and his cattle thrive well on the wild grasses of the prairie in summer, and he has no trouble in keeping them fat in winter when they run out in the day time and are stabled at night. His stock consists of four horses and twenty-nine head of cattle, besides sheep and hogs. He has suffered no hardship or loss in winter from the climate, which he considers very healthy. The winter extends from the first or the tenth of November to the first of April. Plowing commences at the earliest about the 11th April and harvesting about the 12th August. The fencing he uses is mostly

barbed wire of three wires, costing \$103 per mile for posts and wire. He uses mostly wood for fuel, which is easily got as he has 50 acres of timber. He has plenty of water, namely, the Boyne river and a well 12 feet deep. The cost of breaking land he places at \$2.50 per acre, when labor is hired, and \$2 for backsetting. He has suffered no serious loss from storms in winter or summer, he finds that the sheep do well and are paying stock, and he finds stock raising, combined with grain farming decidedly profitable, even where cattle have to be housed during winter. The necessities of life are a little higher in some things than in Ontario. Summer frosts are entirely exceptional. The best time for breaking the virgin soil is from the 1st of June to the 1st of July, backsetting in the fall. He estimates that a man with oxen will break an acre a day; with horses one and a half to two acres. In harvest, cutting and binding cost one dollar and a half an acre. He is perfectly satisfied with the country and the climate, and his prospects are as good as can be. Mr. McKnight says: "I would advise anyone with a small capital to come to this country. I have made more capital in five years in this country than in twenty years in Ontario, and have not to work so hard. Here all the work is done with machinery. It is a great deal easier to sit on a binder than to swing a cradle." He advises settlers coming from Great Britain to bring good warm clothing and bedding in the case of families, and if single men, as little as possible.

S. HANNA, ESQ.,

Reeve of Whitehead, resident in Griswold, Manitoba, gives the following as his experience: He went into the Canadian North-West from Oil City, Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1881. He homesteaded the eastern half of section 12 of township 10 of R 23, and purchased section 7, T. 10, range 22 and 46 acres of wood lot. He owns 1,006 acres, of which 450 are under cultivation. He values his property at \$10 per acre. His first house is a frame building costing \$370. This year's crop includes 170 acres of wheat, yielding 25 bushels per acre, 70 acres of oats at 45 bushels per acre, and 15 acres of barley at 30 bushels per acre. Flax grows well, yielding 16 1/2 bags of seed to the acre. The soil is black loam, two feet deep, with a yellow clay subsoil. The cattle do well on the wild grasses, and they are stabled in the winter. He has plenty of wood and water, having two wells on his property, one 21 feet and the other 62 feet deep. He expresses himself satisfied with the country and climate and the prospects ahead of him.

PHILIP DICKSON, ESQ.,

lives in Chater, Manitoba, and has been there since 1879. He had previously resided in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, and Ontario. He owns 320 acres of land, which he values at \$4,000. His wheat this season yielded 25 bushels to the acre, his barley 40, and his potatoes 400 bushels. He is thoroughly satisfied with his new home and its surroundings, and considers the climate of the Canadian North-West

the most healthy of any country he has been in.

MR. JOHN B. DAVIS

lives at McLean, Assiniboine. He went to the Canadian North-West in April, 1882, from Ontario. All the money he had was \$15. Between homesteading and purchase he has acquired 480 acres of land, which he values at \$5,000. He has built a frame house which cost him \$400. He has raised this year 600 bushels of wheat, besides oats, barley and a great variety of roots and vegetables. He has not had to do any fencing so far, nor has he any use for manure. He finds plenty of good water in a well six feet deep. He estimates the cost per acre, of preparing the land and sowing, including the price of seed grain and harvesting, at \$10 per acre at first. Mr. Davis says, "I would sooner be here now without one dollar than have \$2,000 in Ontario and have a day there."

Here is what an Englishman thinks about the country:—

W. C. KNIGHT, ESQ.,

is from England. He settled at Oak Lake, Manitoba, in 1879. He commenced with a capital of \$2,000. He homesteaded and purchased 800 acres of land, and devoted his attention chiefly to stock raising. His first house was of logs, built complete by half-breeds for \$25—certainly not a palatial residence. Wheat yielded with him forty bushels to the acre and potatoes 160 bushels. His garden supplied him with an abundance of vegetables of all kinds, and without manure. His cattle thrive well on the wild grasses. This is what he says on that subject:—"My thoroughbred short-horns have *nothing* but the wild grasses of the country, and they are in splendid condition—in fact, quite fat. I should take a prize for Christmas beef in England. The beef cannot be beaten." The cattle thrive well in winter on hay only. He considers the climate wonderfully healthy, the exceeding dryness of the air in winter being very favorable to the healthy and vigorous action of the lungs. He has not suffered loss from early frosts, which he regards as altogether exceptional. He has enough to do in the winter attending to his cattle, hauling wood, hay, logs, fence poles and visiting his neighbors. He, in fact, regards the winter as a very enjoyable season. He is satisfied with the country, as it comes quite up to his expectations. He advises any one who is able and willing to work, and has a capital of some £200 to start with, to settle in the Canadian North-West. He says: "There is no doubt the country has a brilliant future before it, and there is room for millions of independent happy homes to be established. I would strongly recommend," he continued, "a new settler to take up land immediately on his arrival, and get on it without delay; it will save no end of trouble and expense."

THE HIND BROTHERS.

are Englishmen, and Cockneys at that. They settled in Assiniboine in April, 1883, and give their first impressions of the country. They have taken up a large quantity of land, 1,640 acres, and have evidently gone to the Canadian North-West to stay