

beautiful farm he has. Everything about the place is new as he has only been on it a year. It will be much changed in a year or two. Before moving to it he farmed in the Northern part of the Saskatchewan, but being greatly struck with the Duck Lake district he has settled permanently in it. He and his sons farm from 300 to 400 acres and intend going into it even more extensively, as they own upwards of 1,000 acres.

One of the illustrations represents a number of settlers arriving at the Canadian Pacific Railway station with wheat for shipment. The marketing of grain is often left till winter, as the farmers have more time to spare then than in the busy times of harvest, threshing, &c. Another of the illustrations shows the advancement of one of the Indian settlers, giving his old house which he lived in for a number of years as well as his new one which is well furnished and comfortable.

### A Pioneer's Views.

By Hillyard Mitchell, M. L. A.

Duck Lake is situated in township 44, range 2, west of the 3rd meridian, Dominion Land Survey, between the north Saskatchewan and the south Saskatchewan rivers, being about 6 miles from the south Saskatchewan and 12 miles from the north Saskatchewan. It is in the centre of one of the best farming districts in the North West Territories, including an area of some 6000 square miles.

The soil is generally a black sandy loam, varying in depth and with a clay or sand subsoil. The soil is not sticky, and is very easily worked and it possesses all the food that the wheat plant requires for its successful growth. The district is well watered by the two Saskatchewan rivers already named, the banks of which are heavily timbered, and by numerous and large lakes, also a number of creeks and small running streams. The surface varies from a gently undulating to a high rolling prairie, and is dotted with bluffs of timber. All kinds of grain and roots can be successfully grown, particularly wheat, but it is generally conceded that mixed farming pays best.

That portion of the district between the two Saskatchewan rivers, and all south of the north Saskatchewan, is best adapted for grain growing, but a great deal answers well for mixed farming. The parts best adapted for ranching are north of the north Saskatchewan, where hay is plentiful. Timber for fuel and fencing is plentiful in all parts of the district, consisting chiefly of poplars, whilst fir, spruce, tamarac, jack pine and other timber can be obtained at easy distance for the settler in any part of the district for building purposes.

Horses do well wintering out, self-fed on grass and self-watered on snow, the short buffalo grass being most nutritious, and thus enables horses not only to keep their condition, but to come out fat in the spring. Cattle have to be fed hay or straw, 3 or four months during winter, but it is not necessary to stable them. All breeds of cattle do well, I believe Aberdeen Polled Angus and West Highlanders are the hardiest and thrive best. All breeds of horses do well and the same may be said of sheep, and there is never any loss on account of the region or the climate, which I consider the best all around climate in the world, very healthy and agreeable. We are not troubled with blizzards, and the settlers' every day work is not deterred by cold. Owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, cloudless sky and sunshine almost continually during winter, the cold is not felt as much as in a damp climate. We sometimes have severe cold, but only for a few days, and some winters we do not have any severe weather. The snow varies in depth from one to two feet. The summer is not disagreeably hot, and sunshine predominates; the nights are always cool.

The Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan Railway, which is operated as a branch of the C.P.R., runs through the centre of the district, the principal towns and settlements on the line being Saskatoon, Rosthern, Duck Lake and Willoughby. Saskatoon occupies a commanding site on the banks of the South Saskatchewan where the railway crosses that river and is the headquarters for the Temperance Colonization Company. Duck Lake is a town of about the same size. Rosthern is a settlement of about 60 families of German Mennonites, who are the advance guard of a large number of most desirable settlers. Willoughby is a station

in the centre of a prosperous and well advanced farming community.

There are vacant lands in Alberta and every township in the district, but the land near the railway is being rapidly taken up. Schools are sufficiently numerous to be within reasonable distance of children's homes, and education of a sound nature is provided. There are no municipalities in the district and the only taxes levied are for the support of schools, which average about 8 mills on the dollar. The roads as a rule are naturally good, owing to the nature of the soil, and the government grants are sufficiently liberal to provide for bridges, grading and repair where required. There are churches in various parts of the district, and also a number of visiting clergymen where there are no churches. Postal and telegraphic communication are sufficient for present requirements.

We have abundance of game all through the district and both Saskatchewan rivers are teeming with fish, as also are many of the lakes. Agricultural implements can be had at reasonable prices from the Massey-Harris Co., who have their headquarters at Duck Lake, and the settler can get every requirement at prices that will compare favorably with other parts.

### Farming in Duck Lake District.

By Capt. Wm. Craig.

There is a large and important class of settlers whom it is desired to attract towards the Saskatchewan country, those practical farmers, namely, in the eastern provinces of Canada, in the United States and in the old countries of Europe, who are looking out for new locations, where their skill, industry and capital will meet with an adequate return, and where they may safely expect to attain that comfort and independence which have not always rewarded their labors hitherto. It is for the instruction of this class in particular that this article is specially intended. It has therefore been considered advisable to throw together a few remarks on the conditions and prospects of the farming industry in this district, the information sought to be conveyed being derived solely from personal experience and observation. This, it is hoped, will in some measure enable practical men to judge for themselves and to draw safe conclusions as to the resources and capabilities of Duck Lake as a farming country.

The geographical and physical features and climatic conditions being described elsewhere, it is only necessary to say here in passing, that, from a farmer's point of view, the district will compare favorably, as regards situation, soil and climate, with any area of similar extent in the North West. Lying in the richest part of the Fertile Belt and within easy reach of Hudson's Bay, the great trade route of the future, and to which it is confidently expected the railway which now traverses the district will soon be extended, it has the further advantage of being intersected by the North and South Saskatchewan rivers, flowing from the Rocky Mountains through pine forests, coal-fields and immense tracts of grazing and farming lands. It has also, by these rivers, direct connection with Grand Rapids, near Lake Winnipeg, where the first railway to Hudson's Bay is likely to cross the main Saskatchewan, the enormous water-power of which, when utilized for economic purposes, will be a powerful factor in the development of the whole country. Its geographical situation is therefore peculiarly favorable, and besides it possesses the uncommon advantage of being located in the region where the forest country of the north and the treeless prairie of the south come together, and thus embraces within its bounds a variety of soils suitable for every branch of farming. In short, whether a settler desires to follow ranching, on a moderate scale, stock-raising in any line, dairying, agriculture proper or mixed farming, he can here find land and other facilities exactly suited to his wants and wishes. Roughly speaking, the northern portion of that part of Duck Lake district which lies between the rivers is well adapted for grazing and the southern portion for cultivation, while the intermediate division, as well as the great stretches of virgin country south of the South Branch and north of the North Branch are admirably suited for mixed farming. The climate does not materially differ from the rest of the Saskatchewan valley. The summer is pleasant and the winter, though long and no doubt severe

at times, is dry, free from sudden, excessive changes of temperature and very healthy for both man and beast. Experience has proved this beyond a doubt. Whatever the causes may be and however explainable scientifically, the fact may safely be relied on and it is a fact the importance of which can hardly be exaggerated, for of what value are all other material advantages if good health is wanting? There is also no "summer cyclone and winter hazard," which frequently play such havoc in the true prairie regions south of the international border, and this too is a feature that should be borne in mind by careful and prudent settlers.

Farming in all its branches has been carried on in this district for a good many years and its capabilities have therefore been thoroughly tested and proved. The pioneer settlers were chiefly French and English-speaking natives, with a percentage from the older provinces and other countries, but since the railway was completed there has been an influx of the latter classes. This spring many more immigrants will doubtless locate, as the district was visited during the summer and fall of last year by numerous farmers' delegates, who were uniformly pleased with the country, its produce and its prospects. Farming is conducted under natural conditions very similar to those that prevail throughout the greater part of Manitoba, but although wheat is a main crop with the majority, mixed farming is the universal custom, having been found to be more suitable, reliable and profitable than the growing of grain exclusively. All kinds of live stock are raised in considerable numbers, easily and cheaply.

Regarding horses, it may be said that, numerically, the native ponies are still the principal class, but horses of a better grade are now being raised successfully, though this branch of the industry will bear much future development. The native horse is hardy and requires little care or attention. The past winter was more severe and the snow deeper than for at least 10 years previously, and yet bands of these horses have been running at large all winter, pawing for their living, and are to be seen in wonderfully good condition. Indeed so highly is this particular district thought of as a wintering ground that numbers of settlers from a distance have been in the habit of bringing their spare horses here year after year and leaving them to their own resources for the winter. Even the better grades of horses bred in the country will, if allowed to run out, and good animals require good treatment and it will always be found most profitable to have them comfortably housed and well cared for in winter and this remark is more especially applicable to horses imported from the east.

Cattle are largely bred and as good animals are to be seen here as in any in the country. Mr. Hillyard Mitchell, M.L.A., has the largest ranch in the district and has shown great enterprise, as well as sound judgment, in importing thoroughbred animals of various breeds, notably Polled Angus and the picturesque Kyles or West Highlanders. Both these breeds, the imported stock and their produce also, have been found to do remarkably well here and they are always to be seen in the pink of good condition, though as a rule they are never housed summer or winter. In winter, however, all cattle require to be fed more or less, as owing to the greater depth of snow, they cannot "rustle" here for their living as they are said to do on the Alberta ranches. Where shelter is available, cattle, especially young stock, will winter quite well round the straw piles and continue in good condition, still it is always safer and more economical in the long run to have them housed during the very coldest weather. Although the country cow is still in evidence everywhere, there are now many moderate sized herds of grade animals, chiefly of the Shorthorn breed, and in some cases, in the case of horses, so here, there is considerable room for further improvement. At present cattle are reared chiefly for beef and as a well bred steer can be raised just as economically as a scrub and with much better result, there is a universal desire for improvement in this line. As a rule all cattle are fed in summer only on the natural pasture, which is rich and abundant, and in winter on natural hay and on straw. There is little or no grain fed and roots are but sparingly used. Soiling and stall feeding may be said to be practically unknown, although, where tried experimentally, the result has been very favorable. Besides supplying local wants, there is always a sufficient export demand for all the good two and three-year old steers that can be produced, and at remunerative

prices, and a branch of the danger of dairies, small scale richness, abundance, it is m and the showing system in ever, own this can the farm future. Although still in the of the so made a years. ing, not of other nothing safe and winter a beneficial and Mexican succeed most un and the loss from loss from. Pigs a numbers ment in tance, a of bacon to be th started in the indi the ho bacon. grains, raised v be any wheat, although the stock is really no mya and a l informa in the work, sa and win With grain an tinuous and the success mention ranges a natural vine, to and ha to vary skillful not be e any kin manner is here ordinary of seed return