

THE REPORT OF MR. J. P. SHELDON, PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURE
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INTRODUCTORY.

Sailing from Liverpool in the Allan steamship *Peruvian* on the 12th day of August last, I landed in Quebec on the 21st of the same month. I then proceeded by way of Montreal to Ottawa, steaming up the Ottawa river; I afterwards went to Toronto, and from thence, by way of the Great Lakes, to Manitoba, which was the extent of my journey westward. Returning eastward, I spent a considerable time in the Province of Ontario, leaving it at last reluctantly. I then proceeded to the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and my impressions of each of these will be found later on in this report. Having spent exactly ten weeks in the country, I sailed from Quebec on the 30th of October, and arrived in Liverpool on the 8th day of November.

On this occasion I took passage on the Allan mail boat *Moravian*, and I may now take the opportunity of expressing a high opinion of the great care and skill with which these vessels are navigated, the comfortable and elegant manner in which they are fitted up, the attention which the passengers get from the stewards, the courtesy which they never fail to receive from the officers of the vessels, and of the general cleanliness, neatness, and order which reign everywhere on board.

Going out on the *Peruvian* we had a large number of emigrants as steerage and intermediate passengers; and through the courtesy of Captain Smith, who personally conducted me over the ship, being clearly familiar with every detail of its management, I was enabled to inspect the emigrants' quarters. I wish here to bear testimony to the cleanliness and airiness of the sleeping rooms, to the excellent quality of the food supplied, and to the order, neatness and discipline which prevailed throughout. To cross the great Atlantic in these boats is, in fact, a much easier, simpler, and pleasanter thing than people think; and if it really is the case that many persons, particularly females, are deterred from going to Canada on account of the voyage, I may here say that there is really nothing formidable in it at all. After a safe and rapid voyage, emigrants and settlers in Her Majesty's Canadian territory will meet with every attention, and receive the most ample instructions, from the agents of the Dominion Government, who are stationed at every necessary place for the purpose of giving assistance to those who need it.

It must be understood that I can only give in this report the unfinished opinions which may reasonably be expected to come of a tour far too limited in time. Opinions, in fact, I shall scarcely venture to give at all, except on certain points on which my information may be regarded as sufficiently definite; for the most part I shall confine myself to impressions, suggesting rather than drawing inferences. Many of the conditions which bear on the agriculture of Canada are so essentially different from those which prevail in the Mother Country, that dogmatism on the part of a mere traveller would easily develop into egotism; I shall, therefore, mainly confine myself to descriptions of what I saw, and to recital of what I heard.

It is to be feared that some writers on the agriculture of Canada, who were travellers and not agriculturists, have fallen into the error of expressing opinions of a too definite character; and were it not that I am a farmer by early training, and by subsequent experience until now, I should feel diffident at expressing even my impressions of the various Provinces through which I passed, of the different soils I inspected, and of the diversified systems of husbandry which came under my notice. I made it my business, however, throughout the journey, to see as much as possible with my own eyes, and to obtain the most reliable information within my reach; it