

good crop. It was also a fair district for cattle and sheep, but the soil had to be cultivated and sown down with grass seeds before many could be reared on the land. Generally slight frost came on the end of August, getting severe the latter end of October, but often the snow did not cover the ground till near the end of November, remaining till the end of March or beginning of April. But though the cold was intense, its severity was not felt so much as even in more southern latitudes, owing to there being so little wind. Mr. Smith said he liked what he had seen of the Crofters, and would help them in every way possible. He considered it an immense advantage their getting the bullocks, waggons, &c. through Mr. Scarth; the bullocks, at any rate, would be 20 dollars less money purchased in that way. Mr. Scarth informed me he purchased the bullocks in a lot from Russian settlers, halfway between Killarney and Winnipeg, and I was much taken with their appearance.

Each Crofter has been allowed to choose his own holding of 160 acres. Some land is on the borders of Pelican Lake, which is surrounded by wooded cliffs and gullies. The trees the Crofters can cut gratis for firewood. The lake and streams are full of pike; I caught four in a short time with a trawling hook and piece of string, fish weighing in all about 20 lbs.; they were excellent eating.

The next morning my wife and I passed the Crofter settlers on our drive across the prairie to Brandon. One of them, McLeod (I think Alexander was his Christian name), a man somewhat advanced in years, said to us on parting, "We are far better off than we expected; not even though I got the promise of 100*l.* from the Government, would I want to return to Scotland. I only wish my own starving countrymen would believe what the Government tell them, and join us as settlers in this good land. Ah! Sir, I never expected such kindness as we have received since our arrival in Canada."

On our way to Brandon we met the wife of a wealthy miller, who told us her husband hoped to employ some of the Crofters in his mill during the winter months.

Owing to a severe thunderstorm, I was unable to visit the Crofters who had settled near Moosomin in 1884, but many people have told me that most of them are in advancing prosperity.

Though I saw the new settlement at the most favourable time of year, still I am confident that, with continued activity and strength of purpose, the Crofters that your Lordship has lately sent out here will, in a few years, be in most comfortable circumstances.

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W. W.

The Marquis of Lothian, K.T.