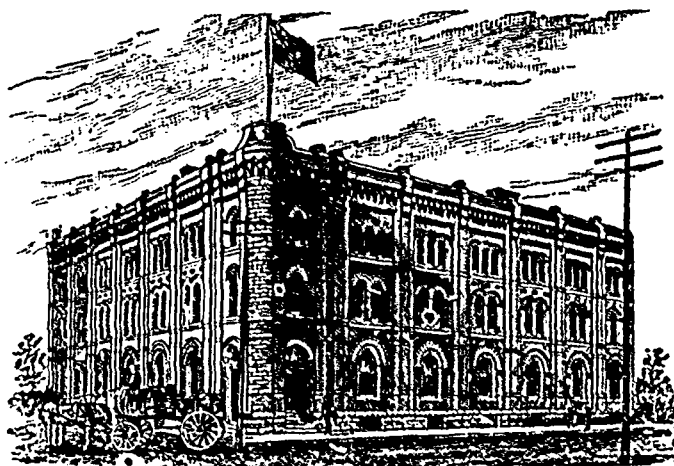


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### The Saskatchewan Country.

#### THE SETTLER'S HOME.

I propose, in this paper, to point out some features of the Saskatchewan valley which render it one of the most desirable parts of Western Canada as a home for the numerous families and individuals of older lands who wish to obtain new homes. The Saskatchewan valley is so called from the two branches of the great Saskatchewan river which flow from the eastern slope of the Rockies and join their waters in a single stream about thirty miles below Prince Albert. This great valley has been formed by the gradual washing down of the Rocky mountains and by the annual deposit, for centuries, of earth and decayed vegetable matter beneath the waters of what must at one time have been a vast sea. The remains of this vast inland sea are still seen in the Hudson's Bay and in the innumerable lakes and ponds which dot the surface of the prairies. From the nature of its formation this valley is exceedingly fertile, producing immense crops of all the ordinary cereals and vegetables. The natural grasses which cover the ground in summer are exceedingly rich and strong, interspersed with nutritious vetches and lupines of great value as feed material. The Saskatchewan country is an important part of what is known as the fertile belt of the west. This belt comprehends a large part of Manitoba, extends northwestward past the great lakes Winnipeg and Winnipegosis, stretches over the valleys of the Carrot river, Red Deer and lower Saskatchewan and extends in gradually widening range till it reaches the slopes of the Rockies. This great fertile area is not a flat treeless prairie as is so often supposed. All through the Saskatchewan valley there are well wooded sections sufficient to supply building materials and fuel to the settlers for generations. Variety is given to the landscape by hills and valleys and lakes, and, in travelling over it, one is struck with the park-like appearance which it presents. In this valley, it will thus be seen, there are to be found all the essential conditions of a settler's home: very fertile soil, nutritious grasses for summer and winter feed for stock, plenty of wood, and an abundance of good water.

The immigrant, upon arriving, will find it a comparatively easy matter to commence farming operations. No heavy forests require to be cut down and burned. The breaking plow and a yoke of oxen will prepare in one summer many acres of fertile soil for the reception of seed the following summer. While the autumn and winter months may be profitably spent in house-building, fencing and other necessary operations.

The climate is a very healthy one. The summer and autumn months are delightful. Generally speaking the rainfall is not great, but sufficient to produce rich vegetable growth. The critical period of the year as regards grain-ripening is from the middle to the end of August. There is almost invariably a cold dip during that period which sometimes reaches the freezing point. To escape danger the farmer must have his wheat in the ground at the earliest possible moment in the spring. With a well prepared soil, good seed and early seeding his wheat crop is generally safe. The coarser grains are always safe except through negligence. The summer of 1890 was wet and the grain continued green longer than usual. Yet the result of the threshing gives from one-third to one-half of the wheat crop No. 1 hard, with a large yield to the acre. This result cannot be equalled in Manitoba. It is not, however, to grain-raising that the Saskatchewan farmers should look for his principal income. Domestic animals and their products should figure largely in his calculations. The Saskatchewan valley is the paradise of flocks and herds. The splendid pasturage, the ease with which coarse vegetables can be raised, the good pure water and the abundance of hay for winter fodder give this country great advantages as a sphere for stock raising. Butter, cheese, beef, mutton, pork, wool, eggs and poultry may be produced in any quantity and of excellent quality. If frost should at any time injure grain for the market it may be fed to pigs or poultry, and thus converted into marketable products.

The question arises, however, where is the market to be found. Hitherto the settlers have had none but the home market, and it was of very limited capacity. With the railway completed we may look for a market abroad.

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## W. F. DOLL.

British Columbia is likely to need a much larger amount of food than its farmers can produce. The agricultural products of the Saskatchewan should and would find their way there. The Indian reserves, Hudson's Bay Company's posts and mission stations of the north demand constant supplies. Winnipeg itself may find it needful to draw upon the Saskatchewan valley for a portion of its food supply. But the great hope of the future is the British market. With the Hudson bay railway built and a line of steamers plying between Churchill and Liverpool, the surplus food products of the Saskatchewan will find their way to the great British centres where they are needed the most. When this has been realized, which will be in the not distant future, the settlers of the Saskatchewan will have themselves to blame if they do not become a prosperous and wealthy community.

ROBERT JARMINE.

### Grain Storage Rates.

The elevator proprietors of Chicago have given notice that the storage rates for grain in their warehouses during the year 1891 will be as follows:—

On all grain received in bulk and inspected in good condition, three-quarters (¾) of one (1) cent per bu for the first (10) days, or part thereof, and one-third (⅓) of one (1) cent per bu for each additional ten (10) days, or part thereof, so long as it remains in good condition.

On and after Dec. 1, 1891, upon all grain in good condition, storage will be at the above rate, until four (4) cents per bu shall have accrued, after which time no additional storage will be charged until the first day of May, 1892.

On grain damp or liable to early damage, as indicated by its inspection when received, two (2) cents per bu for the first ten (10) days, or part thereof, and one half (½) of one (1) cent per bu for each additional five (5) days or part thereof.

No grain will be received in store until it has been inspected and graded by authorized inspectors, unless by special agreement.

A sample copy of the *Illustrated London News*, American edition, has been received from Ferguson & Co, stationers, etc., Winnipeg.