

In answer to a question from the Minister, Mr. Spence said he had been in Manitoba since the 22nd December, 1870.

MINISTER—What time does Spring begin there?

MR. SPENCE—In 1871 the Spring opened about the 1st of April. The river is navigable about the 23rd of April. In 1872 the Spring set in somewhere about ten days later. The first steamer went down early in May.

Q. What time do farmers sow wheat there?

A. They sow in April or May, from about the 15th or 20th of April to the 15th or 20th May. The Spring is shorter than it is here, and sets in without any breaks.

Q. What quantity of wheat do they raise to the acre?

A. They raise from thirty to sixty-three bushels to the acre. Forty bushels is the average.

Q. What is the usual weight per bushel?

A. Sixty-two lbs. I have been told by persons who have seen it, that wheat can be cultivated for forty years, continuously, without manure.

Q. What about oats and barley, and root crops?

A. The barley sown there is very fine; the oats not so good. Buckwheat has never been tried. Root crops are extraordinary. Cabbage and cauliflower grow almost of their own accord. Cabbages grow to a very large size. Potatoes and turnips are very fine, also mangolds. Sugar beet has never been grown, but some parties think of trying it. Tomatoes, if they were to take the same trouble as in this country, would answer well. Very little attention is paid to scientific farming. The grasses have not been thoroughly tested; have seen small patches of timothy, which were very good. The wild grasses are very good for pasturage. There are what are called hay farms.

Q. Do farmers house their cattle?

A. Hundreds of cattle are never housed, and they look far better than those you see come out of barns.

Q. Is the climate equal to that of Minnesota?

A. The climate is much the same.

Q. The soil?

A. Yes. The soil is believed to be better than that of Minnesota. I believe there is no country where the soil is equal to it.

Q. What time do they usually cut the grain?

A. At the latter part of July and beginning of August.

Q. What time does winter set in?