

a few light frosts in October, but the winter generally sets in about the middle of November, and although the cold is much more intense than in England, yet there is no damp, and the air is most pleasant to breathe, and winter need not be dreaded by anyone who wraps up well on going out of doors.

#### FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

In summer vegetation grows apace. Wild strawberries, wild gooseberries, and other wild fruits grow to much greater perfection than they do in England. The wild rose also grows all over the prairie, but the tree rises only to a height of 12 or 18 inches. It is not like the English briar and does not interfere with the breaking of the ground, for it dies away as soon as the sod is broken. Numerous flocks of small birds are to be seen feeding on the seed of the wild rose. From the perfection at which the wild fruits arrive, I conclude that cultivated fruits would attain an equally high perfection. The wild flowers too are very beautiful. The red tiger-lillies (a small species of sunflower) and numberless other flowers can only be described as masses of bloom, and the country is best compared to a beautiful flower garden that has been left to grow wild.

#### NO SUMMER FROSTS.

The tale of summer frost is quite exploded now, for Indian corn ripened to perfection in the Qu'Appelle valley this last season, and summer frosts always strike worst in the low places and valleys.

#### CROPS.

If the settler is on his holding, as soon as the frost begins to die out he can grow a crop of oats, barley, peas, and potatoes, which will well repay him. Such has been the experience

of others in their first year. It can be safely reckoned that in the North-west wheat, oats, barley, peas, beans, and potatoes can be grown of a much better quality than any that can be produced in England; and, taken all round, the same quantity per acre can be obtained at a much less expenditure of labour. No man could wish to see his crops when growing of a deeper green colour than they are in the North-west. The warm summer and the slight rainfall causes them to stand upright in the straw, and it will be many years before the land will require the assistance of manure.

#### CONTENTMENT OF SETTLERS.

Generally speaking all who come to the North-west are well satisfied, no matter where they come from. Even many persons from the United States take up land and stay in the country, for the climate is very pleasant, and heavier and better crops of grain are grown, there is no ague, there are no hurricanes, and there are no poisonous reptiles.

#### BUFFALO.

Although the North-west has formerly been overrun by millions of buffaloes (or American bison), as shown by the bones lying scattered over the prairie, there are very few left now in the North-west, and buffalo hunting will soon be a thing of the past.

#### FENCING.

The young poplar trees make very good fencing rails, but wire fencing can now be put down and is a lasting fence.

#### RAPID PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

Before many years have passed the North-west will have a teeming population, and, as in all such cases, those who get there first will be able

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