

On the following morning I determined to drive through the district lying north of Fort Qu'Appelle, towards the Touchwood Hills. On leaving the Fort we soon rise from out of the valley to a magnificent table-land which stretches away to the north through the lands belonging to the Touchwood-Qu'Appelle Land Company. I had been prepared beforehand to expect to find much good land in this direction, and this public testimony, I found, was abundantly justified by facts. Mile after mile, hour after hour, did our drive extend through lands which deservedly take rank amongst the best portions of this fertile district of the Qu'Appelle. We drove for about thirty miles through a district which may be described as a grand area of ornamental lands, having a good turf and well adapted for tillage and mixed farming. We passed some cultivated lands and found the crops excellent, even under rather rough conditions of tillage. The Red Fyfe wheat here also is regarded as the favorite variety, and on some fields there were 35 bushels per acre, while 30 bushels to the acre were not unfrequent. These results were the more surprising to me as the preparation had been so imperfect.

The wild-fruit of this district indicates its suitability for the successful growth of cultivated varieties. Wild strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries, blueberries, and cherries were produced in abundance. The wild hop here possesses a vigour of growth, an abundance of bloom and a high aroma, which leave little to be desired for its perfect growth. Over large breadths of this land wild peas were growing freely amongst the prairie grass, strengthening the feed and giving additional evidence of the fertility of the soil. This district is well supplied with water, for not only is it very generally obtainable by wells, but numerous lakelets add beauty to the landscape and at the same time improve the lands for grazing purposes.

It was my privilege, during my stay at Fort Qu'Appelle, to be present at the reception given to Sir Hector Langevin, and some specimens of farm and garden produce were collected for the purpose of showing him the capabilities of the neighborhood. Wheat, barley and oats of very excellent quality were shown, as well as mangel wurtzel and other root crops possessing great density and high nutritive character. Some splendid specimens of white fish weighing 8, 9 and even ten pounds each were exhibited. They had been taken from the Qu'Appelle Lakes, on the borders of which Fort Qu'Appelle is situated. Each morning I was at the Fort, one fisherman alone brought in about 5 cwt. daily of exceedingly delicious fish of this kind. Game also is plentiful in the surrounding district.

From Fort Qu'Appelle I accompanied Sir Hector Langevin to the Edgely Farm the property of Colonel Sykes, and we inspected some of the improvements which are being carried out on that land. There were about 1,000 acres under wheat and 200 acres under oats, and next season it is intended to double the extent under crop. The land belonging to Colonel Sykes extends over about 20,000 acres, but it is not in one block, every alternate section of 640 acres being Government land, which has been taken up by various settlers. It is the intention of the proprietor to improve this 20,000 acres area, and dispose of the same in farms of various sizes. The tillage of the land was commenced by the aid of steam cultivation, but during this summer the "breaking" has been done by cattle and horses instead of steam, and the work it consequently more economically and better done. The general scheme is not as yet sufficiently developed for any satisfactory conclusions to be drawn as to the ultimate measure of success likely to result from the use of steam cultivation; but, as yet, I have not seen any sufficient inducement to commend the use of steam appliances for the early tillages, and especially in a district where coal is at present dear.

From this farm we proceeded to Qu'Appelle, which is already an important town on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and the centre of a flourishing agricultural district. This town is sometimes known as Troy, but there is such a strong feeling in favor of the