

unclouded sky almost continuously. So strong is the sun in its reflection from the snow, that farmers and those much out in the open air protect their eyes with green gauze, close spectacles and the like. In March or early in April, the snow passes away, and spring is at once present—if, indeed, there be a spring at all, so soon does summer follow in its wake. It has been my experience to see the country with the snow gone and most balmy weather on the 31st of March in several different years, and on two years out of the last ten in the middle of March. The snowfall of the North-West is comparatively light. One and a half or two feet may be taken as the average depth over the ten years just past. Some persons met on this side of the Atlantic seem to regard four and a half or five months of winter as very long. The cessation of all work in the fields seems to make British agriculturists think with such a season farming can scarcely be carried on. On the other hand the North-West winter is found quite short enough for all the work to be done in it. The grain must, much of it, be then threshed. The great facilities for transport afforded by the sleighing, by means of which enormous loads can be taken, are used for drawing wood, cutting and drawing fencing materials, and collecting timber, stone, lime, &c., for building—similar work to what, so far as circumstances require it, I suspect, is relegated to wet days by the British farmer."

Next we insert an extract from a letter from His Honour Lieutenant-Governor ROBINSON, of the Province of Ontario, to the Minister of Agriculture.

The letter from which this extract is taken is personal and unofficial, and is therefore a free expression of His Honour's views, after a visit to the North-West:—

*Extract from a Letter of the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
TORONTO, November 1st, 1882.

MY DEAR POPE,—

\* \* \* \* \*

And now, before finishing my letter, let me add that which you may have seen in the newspapers, that I have lately returned from a trip to Manitoba and the North-West territory, tempted to do it so speedily after my return from England owing to the many enquiries made of me when there respecting it.

Having seen it for myself, I am able to give a ready answer to all enquiries about this portion of our Dominion, now attracting so much attention. I must say that no better land purchase was ever made on this continent than when our Government by a payment of £300,000, acquired this magnificent Territory. One little town in it now, is worth what was paid to acquire the whole.