

of the Northern countries of Europe. On this point we have the testimony of an imperial observer like the Marquess of Lansdowne, the present Governor-General — a nobleman not given to enthusiasm or rash assertions — who has recently passed over this region and made himself closely acquainted with its resources. In an admirable speech which he delivered at Winnipeg in October last he stated that he had seen in the course of his travels «a »greater extent of first rate agricultural land than it had ever been «his good fortune to look upon before — a great deal of it of «extraordinary richness”. With regard to the reports so frequently heard as to the injury done to the crops by the frosts he had come to the conclusion «that this obstacle was not going to be «fatal to the cultivation of wheat.” He pointed out what every Canadian knows, that while the best lands of the United States now under the most favourable circumstances annually produce some twelve bushels to the acre, and there is not in that country a large area of valuable land open to settlement, the prairies of the Canadian North West easily produce twenty bushels to the acre, and are of illimitable extent. «With abundance of fertile soil,” continued His Excellency, «with every scientific appliance for its «cultivation, and with easy access by railway to the great centres «of distribution, the farmers of Manitoba appear to be well provided «with the conditions of success, and he would be surprised if, before «ten years are over, the terrors of low prices and early frosts do «not become things of the past.”

During the past ^{by years} summer the settlement of the country has been retarded by the unfortunate rising of the Half-breeds and Indians, led by a reckless man who has paid the penalty on the scaffold. It has always been a matter of surprise to many Americans that Canada has had hitherto so little trouble with the Indian tribes and their equally unsettled cousins, the half breeds or Métis, whose favourite means of livelihood have been gradually disappearing with the cultivation of the country and the progress of railways. The half breed does not yet appear better able to settle down to the patient plodding industry of the farm than his Indian ally. He cultivates his lot in a half hearted manner, and still loves the chase above all other pursuits. Like the French Canadian from whom he is descended he is easily aroused by appeals of dangerous leaders. The policy of the Canadian Government, irrespective of party, has been always to treat the Indian in a spirit of justice and generosity. It may not be the wisest in all respects, but it is certainly the most generous and liberal that our experience has