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Started Without Capital and Made Good.

Some Farmers Who Have Helped to Make the Delta Famous as One of The Best Farming Districts in the Dominion.

Samuel Morley.

Alexander Davie.

Richard Keegan.

These names are not the names of politicians. Nor are they the names of men who have got themselves in the public eye in any unusual way. They are just the names of three of the good farmers of the Delta who have helped to make that district famous as one of the very best farming districts in the Dominion.

It is stated that there are not more than 1400 acres of what could be called waste

because they have made a more marked success than many another rancher in that wonderfully rich district. They were pickers rather because they were good examples of men who went into farming in British Columbia in a small way, with practically no capital other than their own good sense and a willingness to work, and have made good.

Many an article has been written about the farmer on the big ranch, with ample capital, surrounded with his hundreds of acres and barns full of fancy stock, and the remark is frequently made that it is money

one of the chief cereal crops of the district, though wheat is grown in limited quantities. The oat crop usually runs 37 to 38 sacks to the acre. These sacks weigh 97 to 98 pounds, so that the yield of oats would be approximately 110 bushels to the acre. To an eastern man this would sound like a joke, but in the Delta yields of 150 to 160 bushels to the acre are not uncommon. So rank is the growth on many of the farms that it is a common practice to cut the stand after it has reached a height of a foot or so, or to turn the sheep on to crop it down to prevent the grain from lodging before it is ready to reap.

The common yield of wheat is 50 to 60 bushels to the acre. A yield of 52 bushels to the acre on an Alberta farm the other day was heralded as a marvellous production, and for the ordinary farming district it is, but the Delta farmer would be grievously disappointed if he didn't average more every year. Yields of 80 bushels of wheat to the acre on special pieces of ground in favorable seasons are not unusual. The production of hay is equally wonderful. It would be safe to put the average yield of hay at three tons to the acre, and yields of five and six tons per acre have often been recorded. One individual took 60 tons of hay off a ten-acre field. He got \$600 for it right in the field. Potatoes, too, yield well, 12 to 15 tons to the acre being counted only average crops. One Chinaman who is renting 20 acres, is digging now and will take not less than 300 tons of good tubers off his plot. He will get this year at least \$25 a ton for them, or \$7500 for the crop. He is paying a rental of \$35 per acre, but even with this seemingly exorbitant rent will net a nice little profit.

One of the Pioneers.

Samuel Morley came to the west in 1885, so that he may be classed as one of the pioneers. He has the reputation of being one of the best farmers in the district. He is a hard worker, and believes in doing things right. He homesteaded near Aldergrove in 1886, but being taken with the appearance of things in the Delta bought 107 acres there, and in the spring of 1899 moved on to it. He had a team of horses and no money. He borrowed \$500 to make his first payment on the land, which cost him \$4000.

"The deal looked risky to me," said Mr. Morley to the writer, "but H. N. Rich, the man I got the money from, and by the way he's in business in Ladner yet, told



Mr. Alexander Davies' Farm House, Delta

land in the district. This may be underestimating it a little, but certain it is that a very large proportion of the land can be called good. The waste land is peat, and even this, it is asserted, will some day be brought into cultivation.

As an evidence that the district is an unusually good one it is stated that practically all of the farmers are doing well. One authority went so far as to say that at least 90 per cent of them were making money, many of them actually accumulating comfortable fortunes off their comparatively small holdings.

Samuel Morley, Alexander Davie and Richard Keegan were therefore not selected as the subjects of this little "write up"

that has made such a one's success—that anyone could do as much if he had the money. And while this is not quite true, because many a man starting with all kinds of money and under the most favorable circumstances has not been successful. The man starting with little money and in a small way, as the average man going into the business must also do, is a better and more encouraging example for us to consider than is the big man.

Where They Worked.

Just a few words about the Delta and its marvellous productiveness. It is all flat dyked land, and the bulk of it is heavy clay loam. Some of the stories told of its producing powers to the average outsider, accustomed to ordinary records, sounds like fairy tales, but proof for most of them can easily be obtained. Oats is