

THE PRAIRIE WHEAT LANDS.

PROSPECTS IN THE NEWLY SETTLED DISTRICTS.

Reports from the various districts to which settlers have penetrated in the Great British Northwest.

General Superintendent Whyte, who has just returned to Winnipeg from a tour of inspection in Southwestern Manitoba and the territories, having accompanied President Van Horne and party to the end of the western division of the C. P. R., speaks in glowing terms as to the crop prospects of 1892. He says that in the districts where the soil is heavy, vegetation in spite of a late spring is as far advanced as at this period a year ago, though in lighter soil it was still a little backward, but with the fine warm weather a wonderful change had come over the face of even the most backward districts. There was a considerably larger area being put in crop this spring than in 1891, and farmers were most cheerful in all sections.

After making a tour over the Souris branch the party drove across country from Hartney to Boissevain. This country is well settled, and all were astonished at the number of stacks of grain still to be threshed. It is estimated that in this district only 10 per cent of the wheat has been threshed, and the farmers are hurrying through their seeding to resume and complete threshing ere the hay harvest is on their hands.

The party also drove from Nesbitt toward Brandon, and here again were many stacks of grain observed on every side, as also in the vicinity of Morden, though a larger percentage had been threshed in these districts.

"The reservation of such a large quantity of grain in the country will make your summer traffic unusually heavy," remarked the reporter.

"Yes. There is still an enormous quantity to be shipped east, making the ensuing season an exceptionally busy one for all. Every interest of the country will be benefited. There will be a continual circulation of money, which will tend to increase the prosperity of both the farmer and merchant. If the weather continues warm and dry, threshing will be very general throughout the province in a short period."

Carievale.

Carievale, May 24. Threshing is being done by those who did not succeed in getting it done last fall, and the wheat will soon begin coming into market.

Mr. Sandison, of Brandon, who purchased three sections of land adjoining this town site, has arrived with a force of sixty teams and is pushing the breaking up of his land with vigor. He has had large barns, stables and dwellings built for the accommodation of his men and teams, and is elated over the appearance and quality of the soil since the snow has disappeared.

The country seems to have awakened as from a sleep since the advent of the railroad and with the increase of population and the amount of energy that is being displayed in getting the prairie broken and prepared for crop a few months will witness a wonderful transformation scene in this locality.

The old settlers who had gone slowly during the past years when laboring under the disadvantage of so distant a market are this year working more extensively with the better prospect offered of larger returns for their work.

Seeding is about complete in this vicinity and a greatly increased acreage over other years has been sown.

Otterburne.

Otterburne, May 24.—The bulk of the wheat seeding in this vicinity is done. Threshing is expected to commence in a few days, quite a few sacks remaining over from last fall.

The acreage in this vicinity will in the estimation of some well-posted farmer be increased this year.

We continue to get a scattering of immigrants. Mr. Robert Turner, wife and family arrived from Scotland yesterday and are staying at Elderslee farm.

"The late spring is unprecedented." This remark is frequently heard from the oldest settlers. A good crop generally follows such.

The creameries commenced operations yesterday.

Virden.

Virden, May 23.—The weather for the past ten days has been real Manitoba spring weather, cool showers at night and a hot sun during the day. Farmers are all through seeding in this district, and are wearing a 40 bushel to the acre smile on their countenances.

Building is booming in town. There is hardly a street on which some kind of a structure is not in course of erection.

Duck Lake.

Duck Lake, May 25.—Mr. Amerland and family arrived with his large stock and implements for the Marcelin colony at Muskeg lake. He was accompanied by Mr. Dupuy and his family. They brought in some fine stock among them being two fine stallions and a Holstein bull, all very fine specimens. Two other families of ten persons arrived in the district this week, making a total of twenty five for the week.

Mr. Mitchell, the Irish delegate, will arrive next train. He is now in Winnipeg with his family. He has already secured a farm for this year over in Capt. Craig's settlement.

The Hudson's Bay Co., are shipping all their northern freight from this point and the freight shed is now full, awaiting freighters.

Mr. Thompson has now got his new hotel fixed up and ready to move into. This is one of the finest hotels in this part of the country and Mr. Thompson deserves credit for his enterprise, showing that he has faith in the fortunes of Duck Lake.

Oak Lake.

Oak Lake, May 23.—One of our pioneers, Mr. Enoch Williams, had the good luck to secure four black foxes last week; they are young ones and very valuable also. They are on exhibition at his farm on the Assiniboine valley.

Portage La Prairie.

Portage La Prairie, May 25.—Operations on the new mill of the Lake of the Woods Milling company are making things hum in that portion of the town, as no less than fifteen carloads of new machinery and fittings are being unloaded by a large gang of men, under the personal supervision of the energetic manager, Mr. G. V. Hastings, who is rearing a structure of which the citizens may well be proud.

Wawanesa.

Wawanesa, May 27.—Seeding in this section is about finished; very little will remain undone to-morrow night. The acreage under crop will be about the same as last year. The growth during the past ten days has been phenomenal. Grain that was just showing through the ground a week ago is now two and three inches high. Everything will be further advanced by June 15th than it was last year if the present weather continues. The older settlers all predict a big crop of uninjured wheat as one of the results of the long winter and late spring.

Building operations are again brisk. Several new structures have been completed, and others are in course of erection. Sales of town lots have been correspondingly good.

The Northern Pacific have a large gang of men employed repairing the track west of here, where there has been so much trouble this spring with landslides.

Qu'Appelle Station.

Qu'Appelle Station, May 27.—The weather has become quite summer like. The crops are making rapid progress, and horticulture seems to have a large number of votaries in town who are all anxious to excel in the appearance and productiveness of their gardens.

Medicine Hat.

Medicine Hat, May 28.—The crops are showing well after the abundant rain and warmth of the last week or two. Trees are coming out well in leaf, and notwithstanding the somewhat backward spring, there will be no falling off compared with former years.

The eight men who left here a month ago for Montana, representing the large ranchers here, for the purpose of looking up lost cattle, returned home to-day, bringing with them 2,400. The stock was in pretty good condition.

Mr. McKay, of the Northwest Experimental farm, paid this place a short visit this week. He was much pleased with the country in western Alberta.

J. Dixon of Whitewood, has arrived here with a carload of settlers' effects and one car load of sheep. He will settle here.

Roseberry.

Roseberry, May 28.—Owing to the lateness of the spring, farmers have been kept very busy up to the present, but sowing is now about over and a large proportion of the crops are up and looking strong. Every one predicts a bountiful harvest, chiefly by comparing this spring with similar previous springs and the harvest which followed. The warm steady rains are cheering the hearts of all.

Three deer were reported to have been killed in this part lately, but the offender has so far escaped detection. A game keeper or inspector is necessary along the lakes and valley.

Prairie chickens on some places are becoming a pest, they are so plentiful.

Carmen.

Carmen May 30.—Carmen is a very busy town this spring. Upwards of thirty buildings are under construction and a number of others are to go up later in the summer. Sidewalks are being laid on all the principal streets. The wheat has grown very rapidly during the last week.

An Indian Ruler Dead.

Advices from Gleichen, Alta., dated May 30th, say: "Three Bulls, chief of the Blackfoot Indians, died at 2 o'clock to-day at the north reserve. The remains will be buried to-morrow beside Crowfoot his brother at the south reserve. Three Bulls succeeded Crowfoot as chief two years ago. He was liked by his people and the whites. His last advice to his people was to keep peace with the whites."

Coram.

Coram, June 1.—The weather is fine and crops are looking fine. Although the spring was backward farmers have succeeded in getting through in good time.

Robert Best, Jr., from Lindsay, Ont., has arrived in Coram. He likes the place and has taken up land.

Methven.

Methven, June 1.—The weather is fine. Wheat fields are green and there is a luxuriant growth. A large acreage has been sown in spite of a backward spring.

Brandon.

Brandon, June 1.—Now that the farmers are through seeding operations wheat is beginning to move marketwards. There were quite a number of farmers in the city yesterday offering wheat.

A number of grain buyers who have been laid off work during the past two months returned this week to their different parts to again buy grain.

Melita.

Melita, June 1.—The balance of last year's crop is being threshed this week and offered on the market. The wheat that was anything like being well stacked has come out in good condition.

Messrs. Thompson and Gillanders, of Oak Lake, have bought three quarters of a section here and are breaking up a lot of it. Wm. Forrester, warehouseman for the Ogilvie company at Oak Lake, has purchased a half section and is breaking up a quantity of it. Ex-mayor Clarke, of Coburg, is going to break a quantity of his fine section. Mr. Shearer, of the same town, is coming with a car load of plant and will make a lot of land ready for crop next year. Mr. Shearer bought the half section owned by immigration agent G. H. Campbell. Mr. John Griffith of Owen Sound, started to break on his half section purchased this spring. Melita district has been fortunate in getting such a class of settlers as Thos. Hall, J. J. Anderson, and others. Mr. Anderson will have upwards of six hundred acres for the self binder.

G. L. Dodds, is kept very busy waiting on the land purchasing farmers. Each one he sells to in the Melita district becomes an active immigration agent, they are so well pleased with the land and the wheat they see in the elevators.

A very great acreage of wheat is under crop this year.

The town site of Winkler, Man., between Morden and Plum Coulee, has been surveyed and lots are now on the market. This is in one of the best settled districts of Southern Manitoba and is expected to become a chief trading place for the Mennonites who have much of the land in the immediate vicinity.

The Canada Homestead Settlement Co., and the Free Homestead Co., which do business with settlers in the States, have made arrangements for two land hunters' excursions, which will leave Regina, Man., on next Tuesday and on June 21 for Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton, Prince, Albert, Yorkton, and all colonization points in the Northwest.

News has been received in Victoria that the Hudson Bay company's steamer Caledonian has succeeded in ascending the Skeena river to Hazelton, where she discharged a portion of the freight that had accumulated in the Canyon, returning for another cargo. This will effect a great saving over the old method by canoes and portages.

The Calgary Herald says the work of constructing the line from Macleod into the Crow's Nest Pass will be done by the same outfit that have built the C & E, namely Ross, Mackenzie, Mann and Holt, and that it will go forward at an early day. It understands work will begin as soon as the C & E has been finished to Old Man's river, near Macleod. The junction with the C & E will be about three miles out of Macleod.

BIG SALES OF C. P. R. LANDS.

The Record For Last Month.—Mr. Edgar, M. P., and the Wheat Shipments.

Winnipeg, June 2.—Very little has been said lately as to the sales of C. P. R. lands, though the phenomenal record of the first quarter of the year was fully maintained during April and May. The sales for the past month show an increase of 500 per cent over that of the corresponding period of 1891. In conversation with Land Commissioner Hamilton this morning that gentleman said the sales during May, notwithstanding the great record of previous months had been greatly in excess of expectations. There were 35,000 acres sold, as against 6,000 acres for the same month last year. Values also indicated an advance, the revenue for the past month having been \$121,000, and that of a year ago, \$20,000. The experience of previous years has been to show a decrease of sales for the spring months, with the rush of the season in July and August. Should these months show an equal increase with the earlier period of 1892 the aggregate of sales for the year will be something enormous.

The second sale of C. P. R. lands will be held at Edmonton on Tuesday, July 5.

HAD HIS EYES OPENED.

J. D. Edgar M. P. for Ontario West, who is now on his first visit to Manitoba and the Northwest, travelling as the guest of President Van Horne, was somewhat inclined to doubt the reports as to the export of wheat from the province. But while at Hartney, early last week, the well known Liberal had his eyes opened and expressed his astonishment at the facts presented him. In a conversation with a business man of the town Mr. Edgar asked as to the quantity of wheat that had been shipped from the district.

"I think the total would be about 250,000 bushels," was the reply.

To Mr. Edgar this was an apparent exaggeration, as the town is comparatively a new place, and it was evident he accepted the answer with considerable caution. In addition the visitor was informed that there were some 150,000 bushels still to be shipped. Noticing Mr. Edgar's scepticism, General Superintendent Whyte requested the local agent of the C. P. R. to furnish the monthly returns of the shipment of wheat of the 1891 crop, from that point, and the aggregate was 335,000 bushels. This was undeniable, and Mr. Edgar said the revelation was an astonishment to him.

English Demand For Canadian Horses.

The London Graphic has the following: "At a time when Canada is asking the mother country to consider the question of a preferential tariff for Canadian exports, it may be of interest to know that one export from the Dominion to England is increasing and thriving. It is horseflesh, the market for which in the United States has been closed to Canadians by the McKinley tariff impost of 30 per cent., on the declared value. It now pays better to export the horses to England, where, although the cost of collecting the horses and of bringing them over is considerable, the very good prices paid for them makes it fairly worth the while of the importer.

The horses which pay the importer best are heavy draught horses, but those imported by Mr. R. W. Ffolkes, of Acton, and which are for the main part hacks and carriage horses, realized very good prices. At the last sale, which was the sixth, the prices averaged £65, and the highest price realized was 160 guineas. Among the horses sold by Mr. Ffolkes were: Florence, a bay mare, sold for 75 guineas; Emperor, a black gelding sixteen hands high, for 80 guineas; Tom and Jerry, brown geldings a pair of well-matched carriage horses, for 140 guineas; and Boston, bay gelding, for 110 guineas. The horses are farm bred, and are generally from English sires."

Australia and Preferential Trade.

Mr. Vale, member of the Victoria Parliament, on the 1st inst introduced a motion declaring that the position of the colonies to Great Britain and to one another is not satisfactory, and that any change made should be in the direction of allowing the colonies to impose differential duties on foreign products in favor of the products of other colonies or of the Empire. The motion added that the British tariff should be made favorable to the whole Empire and that the colonies should be granted a voice in the foreign policy of the Empire.

Brisbane (Australia) workmen recently resolved in mass meeting that "the only rational solution of the unemployed problem and settlement of labor difficulties is the extension of the principle of the state as an employer of labor, with the ultimate object of nationalizing the land, mines and all the great means of production, distribution and exchange."

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