

with the rich black loam which overlays a clay and gravel sub-soil to a depth of from two to four feet, renders the region particularly well adapted to the production of all sorts of cereals. Outside the Rainy Lake and Rainy River region there are no extensive and unbroken tracts of agricultural land of any value. It must not be understood, however, that among the rugged Laurentian hills no good land is to be found. Indeed there are many valleys of much more than ordinary fertility, but these are small and are often found almost completely shut in by sterile rocky ridges. There are hundreds of hillsides where rich succulent grasses grow in abundance, but even here the settler would not often find a farm that would compare in grain producing power with those that are found on the boundless prairies of the great Northwest. The settler who farms within the limits of the Disputed Territory (excepting in the Rainy Lake and Rainy River districts) will be the man who prefers hill and dale to broad plains, who prefers mixed agriculture to grain growing, or who prefers sheep or dairy farming to either. Here the farmer can enjoy beautiful and picturesque scenery, excellent fishing, hunting and trapping, and should his inclinations lead him in that direction, he can occasionally devote a day or two to prospecting for economic or precious minerals, with reasonable prospects of success. But it is not for one moment to be supposed that, except in the case of the district previously alluded to, the Disputed Territory, can hold out any very brilliant prospects to the farmer who expects to become rich through grain growing. On the other hand the abundance of natural shelter, the sweet short grasses growing on the hillsides, the unlimited ranges and the springs of sweet pure water to be found flowing from beneath the granite ridges, all point to this region as one destined by nature to be the home of a pastoral population. Any one who knows the farming sections of Northern Ontario and Quebec, knows that these Laurentian hills have been noted for products of mutton, cheese and butter, that have compared favorably with those of the oldest and most prosperous sections of those provinces. Indeed it is a well known fact that to-day no better mutton is to be found in the Cana-