

nights return in September and are followed by a delightful Autumn. Winter sets in in the latter part of October and continues without thaws until March, when the spring weather opens rapidly. The country is free from chills, fevers, ague and similar local maladies, there being no malarious exhalations from which such diseases could possibly emanate. Wheat, sown on the newly broken prairie lands, yields from 35 to 40 bushels per acre. Potatoes, roots, garden plants, &c., are produced in quantity and quality which cannot be excelled by any country in America. For the past three years wheat has always been in demand at \$1.50 per bushel, and other staples in proportion. Fences are generally built of poplar poles, which last for many years if "barked" on one side. The blooded stock imported many years since by the Hudson Bay Company has greatly improved the native horse, which is small but good, and well adapted to the wants of the country.

CLIMATE, &c.

From the Gulf-stream of the Atlantic the temperature gradually lowers until the ridge which separates the sources of the Mississippi from the water sheds of the northwest is reached. There the cold is intense. Thence the temperature rises, especially in a westerly direction, along the valley of the Saskatchewan and Peace rivers, falling and rising with the Rocky Mountains, to the Pacific coast north of Vancouver Island. From the Rocky Mountains, along the Saskatchewan valley, for a distance of hundreds of miles eastward, north of the parallel of 50° and over an area of many thousand square miles, the climate is so favorable for wintering stock that the Indians and hunters travel hundreds of miles to reach it and find abundance of feed for the whole winter. These indispensable facts fully sustain Blodgett, an eminent

American authority, respecting the climate and wheat products of Winnipeg basin, the Saskatchewan valley, and the northwest.

EAST AND WEST—COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES.

In the eastern provinces the new settler has to clear the dense forests from his land, grub out and dispose of the stumps and roots; and generally the clay lands have to be laid out in small fields, and ditched all round before they are ready for the plough or for crops. This, to reclaim a farm of 100 acres, was the work of the long and laborious lifetime of a single-handed settler; and generally after the fifth crop the land must be fertilized. The provinces of Manitoba and the northwest are ready for the plough. They require no clearing of bush, grubbing of stumps and roots, or making ditches. All the preparation required for a crop is ploughing and fencing. The soil is free, sharp, fertile, warm, and from two to four feet deep, resting on a grey clay, upon which the surface water settles. The green prairie can be ploughed or broken up with a pair of oxen, which is the best team a beginner can use. There are marshes and tracts of sand which are useless; but most of the marshes are very valuable, yielding from two to four tons of excellent hay annually. The country is well watered, and generally good water is found within 30 feet of the surface, but not always. Notwithstanding the advantages of the northwest, these large prairies have disadvantages which are scarcely realized by the present settlers, who have been able to locate near wood and water; but such places are being rapidly taken up. They are limited in number, and soon will all be occupied. Then the want of wood will at first retard and next stop the settlements, as was the case 25 years ago in Illinois before the epoch of railways in that state, where many of the best lands had been in the