

It, concrete stable 16x24 and all clear of debt, new wagon, buggy, plows, harrows, and owes no man a cent.

My health previous to moving here for 15 years was poor, I and my family have enjoyed the best of health ever since we came, I believe there is no healthier country under the sun. The best of water and plenty of it is had at a depth of

crops and higher quality in the product. To attain the object first named, practical information has been given in regard to the best methods of maintaining the fertility of the soil and of renewing the cropping capabilities of land which has been partially exhausted. The proper care of barn-yard manure has been discussed and the effects of fertilizers on various crops demonstrated

The object lessons which have been given in the raising of fodder crops and the converting of these into ensilage, thus providing succulent food for cattle during the winter have greatly stimulated the dairy industry, especially the manufacture of butter in winter, also the economical fattening of steers, thus affording more profitable employment for farm labor during the winter months. The experiments which have been conducted in reference to the economical production of butter of the highest quality and the best management of milk to secure the most complete separation of the butter fat have commanded much attention from those engaged in this special industry. The demonstrations which have been made by the feeding of swine with the coarser and inferior cereals and the otherwise waste products of the farm and converting these into pork has stimulated and enlarged the swine industry. The business in eggs and dressed fowls for the table has also been advanced by the publication of results obtained from experiments in the poultry branch of the Experimental farm work.

The difficulties which settlers experience in the more remote portions of the Dominion where the climatic extremes are greater, have also been carefully considered and means devised for their benefit. Many experiments have been made in the treatment of the soil with the view of conserving moisture, also in the introduction of suitable fodder crops and grasses. To the experimental farms are due the credit of the introduction into the Canadian North west of the Awless Bromo Grass (*Bromus inermis*) and of demonstrating its value both for hay and pasture, thus supplying a want which stood much in the way of successful cattle raising and dairying. The general cultivation of this useful grass, which endures severe drought and intense cold with impunity, gives early and succulent green food and large crops of nutritious hay, is preparing the way for a vast extension of the cattle trade and also of the butter and cheese industries.

The instructive experiments which have been carried on in the testing of many varieties of large and small fruits have served to show where these can be grown to advantage and by skilful cross-fertilization on hardy wild forms new and improved sorts are being produced, some of which will, it is believed, prove useful as well as hardy enough to eventually furnish the settlers throughout the Northwest country with some of those healthful and agreeable luxuries which nature has given with such a liberal hand to those who dwell in those portions of the country where the climate is more genial. The cultivation of vegetables and the encouragement given to



Brandon Experimental Farm—Superintendent's Residence and other Buildings

from 10 to 20 feet, the soil is a black sandy loam and is from 2 to 3 feet deep and sandy below. One more good crop and I will care for no man so far as debts are concerned. My wheat has never yet been frozen. This country is a sure cure for asthma. We have had to draw our produce 20 miles to a market but will have a railroad within 2 miles of us next summer. I have two binders, two mowers, two sets harrows, two new wagons, granary 20x30 feet, stone foundation and need only a new house. The temperature drops to 30 and 40 degrees below zero but we do not mind the cold so much as in Michigan owing to the dryness of the atmosphere. Never have seen a blizzard here yet. The snow falls from one to two feet deep and lays from November till March, we are always through seeding in April. In conclusion I will honestly say to my Michigan friends if you are in business and are making money or if you are farming and are getting ahead and are satisfied with your condition then stay where you are, but if you are struggling along and playing as it were a losing game, then I say come west, take up 160 acres, be economical, industrious, and in a few years you can be independent.

Very Respectfully,  
JAS. BOYCE.

also the best methods of preparing the soil to receive the seed, the most successful methods of sowing, the quantity of seed to be used and the depth in the soil to which it may be placed to the greatest advantage. Long courses of experiments have also been conducted to demonstrate the best time for sowing the more important crops in the different climates of the Dominion.

To accomplish the ends sought in the second line of work mentioned, suitable varieties of grain and other products have been sought for in every accessible country where climatic difficulties exist similar to our own. To add to the chances of success the art of cross fertilizing has been practised with the object of combining the good qualities of existing varieties in the progeny thus produced. Although the time has been short, a gratifying measure of success has attended the efforts which have been made, our farmers



A Road on the Brandon Experimental Farm

## EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

What the Federal Government does for Canadian Farmers

In no part of the world does the Government do so much to help the farmer as in Canada. Both Federal and Provincial Governments lend willing aid. The director of Experimental farms in his report for 1897 sums up the work as follows:

From the outset every endeavor has been made to help farmers who were striving to gain that experience which would enable them to cope with difficulties, and to carry on their work to better advantage and with increased profits. Of late years the obstacles in the way of profitable farming have been multiplied owing to the low prices for produce and ever increasing competition; amid such pressing difficulties it was imperative that the larger portion of any work undertaken for the benefit of the farmers of this country should be directed on the practical lines of better methods of farming, and the testing and of such vigorous, productive and varieties of the more important and be likely to result in increased

have been aroused to an intelligent interest in this work and new and more prolific strains of seed are fast taking the places of some of the less valuable sorts hitherto grown. A great impetus has been given to this special branch by the judicious and free distribution in sample lots of all the surplus grain of the best varieties produced at all the Experimental farms.

the growing of trees for shelter and ornament, and the stimulus afforded by the example shown and by limited distributions of seeds and cuttings to those who desire to improve their surroundings by the planting of trees and shrubs has had the effect of making many a wilderness bloom and of converting bare and uninviting surroundings into attractive and sheltered homes."