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## The Rural Canadian.

EDITED BY W. F. CLARKE.

TORONTO, APRIL 1st, 1882.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

It is gratifying to know that the *RURAL CANADIAN* is everywhere received with no common favour. We have had words of commendation from farmers in Provinces as widely separated as Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. The fact is, this journal supplies a felt want, and its general circulation throughout the Dominion is only a question of time.

This is how Mr. N. Farlinger, an intelligent agriculturist in the Province of Quebec, writes of the paper:—

"I am pleased with the *RURAL CANADIAN*, it is so very practical. Every farmer should have one. As farmers, we cannot afford to do without a first-class agricultural paper. Often one suggestion made and put in practice by the farmer would pay for several copies."

We have heretofore refrained from giving "Opinions" of the Press, preferring to let the *RURAL* speak for itself; but from scores of very hearty notices from papers representing both sides of public opinion, our readers will pardon us for making room for the following:—

Gives a large amount of information specially interesting to the farming community, and contains a number of fine illustrations of stock, etc.—*Cannington Gleaner*.

The best paper of the kind published in Canada to-day.—*Durham News*.

It will compare favourably with the best American journals of its class.—*Sarnia Observer*.

Its typographical appearance is all in its favour—neat, clear, well printed from suitable type and first-class paper, while the literary side of the journal is well looked after. The editor is W. F. Clarke, the well-known agricultural writer, a gentleman whose name is known the Dominion over as that of one who thinks clearly, writes lucidly, and takes an earnest interest in his work. The *RURAL CANADIAN* fills a want in the market, and will no doubt receive the cordial reception it deserves—a prophecy we are justified in making on the strength of the success it has already achieved.—*London Advertiser*.

## MANITOBA AGRICULTURE.

The first report of the Department of Agriculture for the Province of Manitoba is an unpretentious little blue-book of about 100 pages, replete with interesting information as to the products of that wonderful country toward which so many eyes are wistfully directed at the present time. It consists mainly of statistics furnished by farmers who have settled in various parts of the Great North-West, and who give the results of their experience in growing the different crops mentioned. About 120 furnish reports as to the yield of wheat per acre. They cover four years, and vary from twenty bushels or less to forty-five, which is the highest quantity obtained. A note states that where the yield is below twenty bushels per acre, the reason has been either some accident to the crop, or it has been sown on newly-broken land. There are enough of these exceptional cases to reduce the average very considerably, yet, notwithstanding this drawback, it stands 26½, 26½, 26½ and 29½ for the four years

reported. In comparison, the following average yields of some of the principal wheat-growing States of the American Union are given:—

Minnesota .....	17 bushels per acre.
Wisconsin .....	14 " " "
Pennsylvania .....	15 " " "
Massachusetts .....	10 " " "

The average yield for the Province of Ontario is not stated, but according to the report of the Agricultural Commission it is 18½ bushels of fall wheat, and 11½ bushels of spring wheat. In 1880, one county in Ontario, that of Bruce, gave an average of 25 bushels of fall wheat, and 15 of spring.

These official statistics of the Manitoba wheat crop are fruitful of suggestive remark. In the first place, they show that the yield popularly reported has been well spiced with exaggeration. The current representation is that forty to fifty bushels of wheat per acre is the usual crop. Only the other day we were shown a sample of Manitoba wheat, which was said to have yielded fifty bushels to the acre. It was nothing extra as to appearance, and, except in flinty hardness, did not at all surpass an ordinary sample of Ontario spring wheat. Among these reports, extending over four years, and furnished by some 120 witnesses, there are only two instances in which a yield of forty-five bushels per acre is reached, and but seventeen in which a yield of forty bushels is returned. There are sixty-six returns of twenty bushels and less per acre, the yield in several cases going as low as ten bushels, and even under that figure. From all which it is manifest, that Manitoba does not excel the yields of wheat given throughout the most fertile districts of Ontario, in those palmy days when the soil was not exhausted by successive grain-cropping.

Moreover, our best farmers throughout Ontario can show an average quite as good as the Manitoban. Their average is reduced by the meagre crops grown by poor farmers on worn-out land. The soil of the Prairie Province is now at its best, and will probably never show a higher average than at present.

So far, therefore, as the one feature of wheat-growing is concerned, those Ontario farmers who are aching to go to the North-West, but find themselves fixtured where they are, have no cause for discontent. The cheap lands of Manitoba furnish an excellent chance for young men and others of limited means to make a hopeful start, but the man who has a good farm in Ontario, and knows how to work it, need not fret himself miserable because he cannot hie away to those far-away wheat regions, in regard to which it may be said with truth,

"'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view."

Oats yield "big" in Manitoba. The average is about fifty-seven bushels per acre. Several returns are given of 100 bushels per acre, and in one case 125. In Ontario the average is 33½; in Minnesota, 37, in Iowa, 28; in Ohio, 23. Here, however, as well as in Manitoba, crops far in excess of the average are often obtained, and the records of the past give 75 to 100 bushels as having been sometimes raised. 50 to 60 bushels are by no means uncommon even in these degenerate days of extensive soil exhaustion.

The average barley crop in Manitoba is 39 bushels, as compared with 25 in Ontario and

Minnesota, 22 in Iowa, and 20 in Wisconsin. Peas average about 34 bushels per acre in Manitoba. The soil is too rank for them, yielding an excess of vine. Ontario probably averages about 20 or 25 bushels of peas to the acre.

Corn has not yet been grown extensively in Manitoba, there are, however, some instances given of its successful culture. The prairie soil seems well adapted to the growth of potatoes. An average of 330 bushels per acre is reported. What a pity the troubled tenantry of Ireland could not be transferred to the North-West, and each family furnished with a homestead on which to raise

"—an Irishman's shanty,  
With praties in plenty!"

Only the briefest mention is made of fruit culture, and that in reference to strawberries, currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and such like small fruits. There is reason to fear that the occasional descents of the thermometer far away below zero, together with the terrible "blizzards," will be fatal to the fruit buds of the apple, pear, plum, cherry, and grape. But there is a large class of farmers who do not care to raise these fruits where they can be grown, and therefore will not miss them if it should be found impossible to produce them in Manitoba.

The crowning advantage of this new region, as already stated, is the opportunity it offers to settlers of small means. A case like the following speaks volumes on this point. John A. Lee, of High Bluff, says: "I came to this country in 1873 with \$30 dollars in my pocket, \$10 of which I paid for my homestead entry. It is two years since I began to cultivate my present place, and I have 74 acres under cultivation, with a substantial house and other fixtures. If I wanted to sell, I could get more than \$3,000 for only one of the quarter sections of my farm. Everything I own I have taken out of the soil. A young man with \$300 can make a start and do well in this country."

While no well-fixed Ontario farmer need hanker after a Manitoba home, there are many unable to get a fair start here, who, gathering up their scanty resources, might, after a brief endurance of some privations, find themselves in a comfortable and even enviable position in the far North-West. To these Horace Greeley's advice is eminently applicable, "GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!"

## A USEFUL PUBLICATION.

D. Appleton & Co., of New York, have done a good turn to agriculture by publishing the "Farmers' Annual Handbook for 1882." We do not know whether this is the first yearly issue of this work, but, if it has had any predecessors, we have not seen them. The plan of this annual is excellent. First there is a calendar; then about 120 pages are devoted to a diary; after which there is a synopsis of information for ready reference on such topics as the following:—Rates of postage; the metric system of weights and measures; rules for measuring grain in bins, corn in the crib, and hay in the mow; age of farm animals as shown by the teeth; emergencies and accidents—a very valuable chapter; instructions for disinfection; agricultural experiment stations; vitality of seeds; facts with regard to milk; register of