

The Hon. S. C. Wood's Estimate of Manitoba, British Columbia, and the Western Territories.

The Hon. S. C. Wood, late Treasurer and Commissioner of the Province of Ontario, has recently visited Manitoba, British Columbia, and the Western Territories of Canada. Mr. Wood is now and has been for years the General Manager of the Freehold Loan and Savings Company. His inspection was, therefore, in the interest of his Company, a very careful and critical one. He was accompanied by Mr. John Russell, B. A., and Mr. Cooper, the western agents for the company. Mr. Wood is a very shrewd, careful financier, and an accurate observer experienced in agricultural matters. Mr. Russell and Mr. Cooper have had a long experience in Manitoba, and a careful previous training in Ontario. The conclusions come to by these gentlemen are, therefore, worthy of attention. In speaking of their trip, Mr. Wood said:—"I found Victoria, the capital of

BRITISH COLUMBIA,

to be a handsome and prosperous city. Vancouver, to my mind, has the greatest prospects of any city or town on the coast. It is situated on the main land, and the development of the mines, timber, agricultural and other interests, will all tend to build up Vancouver. The Great Northern railway is likely to have large interests in the city, and it is now not unlikely that the city will be the northern terminus of the Northern Pacific railway, all adding to the wealth of the place. These railways are moving that way."

"Mr. Van Horne's predictions regarding Vancouver will be verified!"

"Vancouver's residences, business places and public buildings would be creditable to any city. The population is 16,000. The value of buildings erected in 1891 was \$1,239,975, one-third of the value of the whole buildings in the city. That speaks well for on year."

"I don't think farming land is the largest element in the prosperity of British Columbia. The supply of land is too limited. If I take a liberal view of what is estimated by parties who profess to know, there are only a few hundred thousand acres at most. What farming land there is is good, equal to anything in the world. So far as the mineral interests is concerned there is a larger development going on just now than for some time past."

CALGARY, EDMONTON, PRINCE ALBERT AND OTHER WESTERN DISTRICTS.

We went forty miles out from Calgary before reaching a good farming country. It extended to Edmonton and on to the Athabasca district, a country which will find an outlet by the extension of the M. & N. W. R. through the Yellowhead Pass to the Pacific.

At Edmonton the business is concentrated on Central street; the dwellings have an air of comfort and neatness. The district is suited for farming to the north, west and north-east, and along the Sturgeon river. The whole territory is the very best for farmers, and an excellent opportunity is offered for every kind of farming on any scale. The soil is first class, rich sandy to clay loam, verging principally towards the latter. Coal is delivered at \$2.50 per ton. Going north fifteen or twenty miles Metaskwin is reached. Wheat here has been slightly touched by frost. There has been a large influx of settlers from Washington, Idaho, Nebraska, Dakota and other states. These farmers are well satisfied. The C. P. R. has disposed of 52,000

acres during the season to these same people. Farm land prices range from \$3 to \$5 per acre. On the way to Prince Albert from Regina we saw the Mennonite settlement at Rossthurn. Some forty families of these people are doing well. They have good water and land. Prince Albert merchants are doing an active business. North-west, north and north-east of Qu'Appelle and Indian Head, extending across the Qu'Appelle river and into the Pheasant Plains, the crops were equal to anything seen in the west. The farmers are contented; the future is bright.

MANITOBA.

"Speaking candidly, the present is the most valuable of any crop ever harvested in Manitoba. A large quantity of grain has been threshed from the shock without rain, and stacking has been done in the same careful way as in Ontario. South of Brandon, on the farm of Mr. James Smith, we saw 55 stacks of wheat and oats, all well put up. Regarding the yield, according to government returns 875,000 acres under wheat. The estimate was originally 22 bushels per acre, but we placed it at 15 bushels, which would place the yield at 13,125,000 bushels; taking out the quantity necessary for seed and home consumption, that would leave 10,000,000 bushels of first-class wheat for shipment. Some 330,000 acres were sown in oats, the yield averaging 40 bushels per acre, a total of 13,320,000 bushels; 97,000 acres were sown in barley, the average per acre was thirty bushels, a total of 2,910,000 bushels. As the average in peas and flax was small, we did not make an estimate of the yield. We are grateful to be able to say that more threshing has been done this season than any previous year. This is largely owing to the despatch in threshing operations. There are 1,160 steam threshers in the province, and one of these machines threshed 3,000 bushels in a single day. Farmers are giving their attention to stock raising and dairy farming. In the annual report to the directors of the company I will say the prospects of Manitoba are quite as good as in any province of the Dominion, and investments are as safe here as anywhere in Canada. I am very favorably impressed with Winnipeg's progress during the past year."

An Encouraging Letter.

"Brookdale Farm,"

Douglas, Man., Oct. 15th, 1892.

Editor Farmer's Advocate, Winnipeg, Man.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed find subscription to October, 1893. Mrs. M. and myself are highly pleased with the ADVOCATE. Mrs. M. looks for its arrival each month as eagerly as if it was an old and much valued friend. Am very much pleased to know that we shall receive it bi-monthly.

Now a few notes may not be amiss. This year I had in 300 acres of wheat, and about 100 acres between oats and barley. I had threshed about 1,000 bushels wheat out of the stook, and had an average of 25 bushels to the acre of No. 1 wheat, for which I realized 58 cents per bushel for some, and took 56 cents for the rest. A pretty sight on the farm this summer was to see five binders following one another round the field. Every person who saw my crop growing admitted it to be one of the finest in a radius of over 45 miles. I have 38 pigs, to which I feed my frozen grain of last year, which I could have sold for only 25 cents per bushel, but expect to make very much more out of it by pork. I have a lovely farm of 600 acres, with nice brook shaded with trees on each side—water all year; have 80 acres fenced for pasture on each side of brook. At present I have only 18 head of cattle and 12 head of horses, but intend having (in time) a model mixed farm. Thanking you kindly for waiting on my subscription so long, and wishing the ADVOCATE much success,

Yours very truly,

WM. MITCHELL.

Growing Spring Wheat.

BY JAMES GRAHAM.

I again ask your valuable space to reply briefly to a communication of Mr. Ketchen in the October issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, regarding the expense of the growing of spring wheat. In a former article Mr. Ketchen calculated the expense at 78½ cents a bushel, and now returns to the question by including an additional expense of 22 cents a bushel for manure, which he says he overlooked in his former calculation, bringing up the cost now to over one dollar a bushel; this must be very serious and discouraging information, if true, to farmers. The fallacy of this manure theory is self-evident, and can be seen at a glance; it confutes itself. The 84 acres which I took as a basis in my article would cost at this rate the extravagant sum of \$462 for manuring alone. Manuring land is only utilizing straw which has a certain value within itself quite sufficient to recoup the labor of returning it to the soil whence it came, and therefore no labor attending the saving of it has any claim on the charges of the production of wheat. Mr. Ketchen persists in taking exception to every item of mine, making up the expenditure to the farmer in growing spring wheat, and does not appear to recognize the scientific application of machinery and the cheapening of labor thereby. With a little levity, a little logic and free use of figures he concludes that I am altogether away down; he also says that if I find my way down to Huron he will introduce me to a dozen farmers who paid 50 cents an acre for reaping (and the farmer to furnish twine), and to one who paid \$1 an acre for reaping fall wheat. Well, what has that got to do with the question in Ontario? I have no doubt there are many sparrows in Huron. The little farmers there, without machines of their own, who, by the dozen, have to hire their wheat cut as best they can in a hurried time, should not be quoted in this discussion by Mr. Ketchen as paying the reasonable expenses incurred in the growing of spring wheat in Ontario. He also says that raising wheat at 18 cents a bushel (my estimate) and selling it at 75 cents a bushel would yield a clear profit of 400%; here again occurs a gross misuse of figures, but we will let that pass. Then pathetically he asks, "Why is it that so many of our farmers' sons are leaving comfortable homes and braving the cyclone and blizzard, and enduring hardships too numerous to mention, in order to make homes for themselves in the great Northwest, instead of staying at home and raising wheat at 18 cents a bushel?" I beg to trespass by saving the use of the above language by Mr. Ketchen does him very little credit, for it certainly was illogical as well as out of place, for no country on the face of God's earth, for the short time it has been attached to Canada, ever credited such a name for itself in such a short period as the Northwest has done in the production of the very finest quality of wheat, and in such quantities as is likely at the present time to affect the grain markets of the world. In reply to the query asked for in reference to our farmers' sons, there can be only one answer, that is, to get clear of the square 10 acres or small holding, and to grow spring wheat and spring wheat only with a 25 cent tariff against them by way of freight, in addition to what we in Ontario are subject to. In discussing the real expense in raising spring wheat, my main object is chiefly to dispel a false idea inculcated by some that it is almost hopeless to expect a profitable return following the costly labor required for its production. Our methods and machinery are progressive, which enables us to keep abreast of the times in farming as in everything else, making it cheap, speedy and profitable. My estimate of the work is not by any means too low or unreasonably too heavy for the time given. In conclusion, allow me to say, Mr. Editor, I feel satisfied that the thrifty farmers of Ontario will endorse my estimate as being as nearly accurate as possible, and that experience will justify them, as it does me, in arriving at that conclusion.