

the establishment in rural districts of schools, churches, and social organizations, and the greater comfort of the majority of the people. The average homesteader has, in too many cases, neither cows, sheep, pigs nor poultry; and the consequence is that almost everywhere throughout the Province the products of these animals are scarce and dear. That the farmer should be a customer of the country storekeeper for such articles as butter, eggs and bacon, is almost beyond belief, but it seems to be the fact nevertheless. Of the advantages of mixed farming the people themselves are rapidly becoming convinced, and it is shown by the statistics collected with so much care, and published, from time to time, by the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Manitoba, that great advances in the direction of this change have been made in the course of the past two or three years. Another respect in which there is great room for improvement, is the care of implements. I regretted to see, on every hand, valuable ploughs, harrows and harvesters lying in the open air, exposed to sun, wind and rain—a condition in which, I am informed, they frequently remain throughout the whole season, except when they are in actual use. Many of these articles have been purchased on long credit—and, it is not necessary to add, at long prices, too—and it is greatly to be feared that, in many cases, they will be worn out through exposure to the weather before they are actually paid for.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. M. BURGESS,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

The Hon. Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

I want to add, at the point where I mentioned the arrangement made with regard to the exclusion of sheep from the cattle country, that the cattle industry has grown to be one of great importance to the North-West; that there are millions of acres outside of the territory now occupied for that purpose—as there will continue to be for many a year to come—the quality of which is far better suited for ordinary agriculture; and that, in my opinion, it would be a great public misfortune if the Government should pursue any course calculated to interfere with the successful pursuit of cattle raising, and the investment of a still larger amount of capital in what is proved to be so important an adjunct to the opening up of the country.