

REPORT.

On the seventh of August last, W. H. Felton, Esquire, Barrister, of Arthabaskaville, who had been working with me for over ten years for the same object; a delegation of Farmers from the district of Arthabaska, and I left on our journey, first to Owen Sound, thence by Lake Huron and Lake Superior in the magnificent steamships of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., and arrived at Winnipeg on the 13th. Here we were joined by Mr. Roderick Munro McKenzie, a delegate chosen by the English-speaking people of the County of Drummond, who had left some time before for Morrison, in the State of Iowa, where he intended to settle unless he found the land where we were going proved more favorable.

I was detained one day at Winnipeg and one day at Regina. During that time Mr. Goff, delegate from the Township of Leeds, and Mr. Andrews, delegate from the Townships of Inverness and Ireland in Megantic, and Mr. McKenzie, visited several localities between Winnipeg and Regina to see farmers from their counties who had been settled for some time in the North-West, and to take notes of all the information they could get from them. They rejoined me three days after and reported that the land they saw under cultivation was very good with good crops.

We left Regina on the 16th and arrived at Calgary on the 17th.

The immense prairie traversed by the Canadian Pacific between Winnipeg and Calgary, 838 miles, has been often described before.

It appeared to me like the middle of the ocean in a calm after a storm; but as our mission was agricultural we viewed the land in that light all the way out while we had daylight, and with the exception of a few miles opposite the great sand hills, the very poorest soil on the whole route we considered better than the very best *in our Province that we had seen*.

We got out almost at every station and examined the growth of the grain that had dropped in the railway ditches, in the subsoil and the weeds, and in the much talked of Alkali lands. We found in the broken ground of the railway lambs-quarter growing to a size and rankness which could never be seen in the richest garden or barn yard in our Eastern Townships, besides wheat, oats and barley, with 30 to 40 stools to the seed. We also carefully examined the Canadian Pacific Experimental Farms, and there, *on those very alkali lands*, with the short, yellow, dry looking grass all round, the grain on a sod only three inches thick stood over four feet high, with plump, well-filled heads, just beginning to turn.