

the agricultural communities. The visitor for the first time is surprised at such a growth and such prosperity and wonders in a casual way if it will continue, but if he goes into the problem a little further he will find that the thriftiness of the new settlers and the productiveness of the soil are the chief causes.

But what of the social conditions of the more sparsely settled districts, in which are to be found many homestead lands not yet taken? In these sections thousands of the best farmers of the states and Eastern Canada are settling and building homes. Most of these new settlers are farmers who have had experience in growing grain crops such as grow in Western Canada, or understand mixed farming as it should be carried on in a new country. Therefore, the new settler becomes at once a successful farmer. Organization is natural with him. He is essentially a home builder and is quick to avail himself of those methods of co-operation that bring the settlers of farm communities closer together in conducting affairs of mutual interest. It means something to be a farmer under such conditions, for agriculture is there in all its glory.

Liberty loving people have all the liberty the heart can desire under Canadian laws. The foundation of the social fabric of an agricultural country may be said to rest on the efficiency of its school system. In this regard Western Canada has a system of education based upon the best that can be obtained from the states and Eastern Canada. Its school system and regulations are second to none. Good high schools or graded schools are found in all the towns. "The little red school-house" is seen in all the organized districts. Any district, not to exceed five miles in length or breadth and having within that area four residents and twelve children, may be organized into a school district, a school-house built and teacher supplied. Thus every boy and girl has a school brought to his or her doorway.

The government is most liberal in its support of higher education. In Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Edmonton are to be found excellent colleges and universities, so that the problem of higher education is solved. The provincial agri-



A Homestead near Edmonton, showing the Old House and the New—The Evolution of Five Years.