

standing the fact that the frost came earlier. The reason of that is clear to me. Any farmer coming to that country—I do not care how good a farmer he may have been in Ontario—knows as little about the system to be adopted in the cultivation of that prairie country as if he had never held a plough or reaped a crop. They know how to plough, drive horses and harvest grain, but still they do not understand the peculiar character of the country, and do not know how to cultivate the soil properly. They came there with their sulky ploughs and expected, by ploughing 2 inches deep, to raise a crop and make money. In the fall, when the frost came, they went home to Ontario and returned in the spring late, because they did not seem to know that the spring sets in earlier there than it does in the Eastern Provinces. Then they harrowed the land they had ploughed in the fall. They found that the roots of the grass were so matted together and so tough that you could hitch a mass of them as long as this building on the harrow and drag it about. To harrow land ploughed as that had been so as to get the soil into condition to cover the seed took six harrowings, and then half the grain remained on top of the ground. The consequence was, that when the warm weather came the land soon dried out, so that there was not vegetation until the June rain came. The result was, that before the grain could ripen, in consequence of this late start, it was caught by the frost. Experience has taught farmers in that country to summer fallow entirely—that is to say, they will prepare 50 or 100 acres of land and after they have got that seeded they will plough for next year. That land works up into a good, deep seed bed, and in the spring, after the snow disappears and the surface of the ground thaws to a depth of 2 or 3 inches, you can put on your seeder. I never saw a country like it for growing crops. You do not have to wait until the frost is out of the ground. You just sow the grain, and the frost underneath it, instead of injuring the crop, keeps the grain growing as the frost thaws, and even though we have no rainfalls the grain keeps on growing. The result of adapting our system of farming to the character of the country is that even last year, dry as it was, the farmers raised a great deal of wheat. They put the wheat on the land that had been summer fal-

lowed, and the oats and barley on the spring-ploughed land, and the result was that while the latter crops were very light, there were good crops of wheat—I mean fairly good, under the circumstances. Now, the farmers are getting into the habit of cultivating the soil in that way. It has taken them quite a while to get that experience, but they have learned the proper system now, and there is no doubt that they will make more rapid progress in the future than they made in the past. Every farmer going into that country had the idea that he would get rich by raising grain. I discovered very soon that that was wrong, and I told them on one occasion, when somebody had advised them to keep only one cow and tether her in a slough, and feed her on straw or at the hay stack, that it was the worst advice that could be given to the people. I said: "Sell your horses and get cows. The frost will not kill them, and you will have more products, and a greater variety of them, to sell, that cannot be affected by summer frosts." The farmers are getting into that system, and those who commenced that way and followed that system from the start are comfortable now, and are making as good a living as any farmers in Canada to-day. I could name plenty of farmers around my own town who have done well by following that system. For the first three years that I was in that country, 1883-84-85, there was sufficient rainfall, and if the land had been in readiness for the seed in the spring, as it is now under a better system of farming, there would have been marvellous crops for those three seasons. The straw grew first rate—there was an immense burden of straw, and everything was all right, but the frost, even at a late period, destroyed the grain, so that it was unmarketable. It would not pay to take it from the country and it was a burden on the farmers' hands. They never got a market for any of it until the spring of 1885, when the demand created by the Rebellion enabled them to sell a portion of it. In 1866 we had a dry year, the dryest that I have ever seen, except last year. The year 1887 was a fair one, and 1888 was an immense year. I never saw it rain so much in New Brunswick as it did in the North-West that summer. There was as much rain as the country required, and we had good crops of grain and hay every-