

not suit his arrangements at the Bell Farm. In any case the more complete tillage in the present instance contributed to an earlier harvest and a larger produce per acre.

Simple but well-arranged granaries had been constructed upon Messrs. McRae and Williamson's farms. They were about 36 feet long by 12 feet in width and 12 feet to the eaves of the roof. The wheat is delivered direct from the threshing machines into either of two openings, which are made immediately under the ridge of the roof, and here the wheat remains until finally put into sacks for market. On these farms there is some excellent grazing land, and some cattle were about to be purchased for breeding purposes. On enquiring as to the kind of stock which had been determined upon, I was informed that "Shorthorns were being bought, as Herefords were too dear in consequence of their being so much in favour." These farms are most creditable to their owners, being distinguished by good management and their highly productive condition. Not far from this land I passed some very feeble attempts at cultivation, by men who had evidently secured free homesteads from the Government, but had neither capital nor skill to work them satisfactorily. The contrast was rendered the more striking by comparison with the well cultivated farms near them. It will give some idea as to the rapidity with which the lands of this district are filling up if I mention that Mr. McRae informed me that in the summer of 1882 there was scarcely a house to be seen from his farm, and that he could now count over 200 residences.

We drove about 15 miles in a north westerly direction over the Pheasant Plains. These lands have a gently undulating character. They are occasionally relieved by small natural plantations, known as bluffs, with small lakes, and the soil very generally possesses all the indications of great fertility. We then descended by a steep road to the Pheasant Creek, near which we partook of luncheon in one of those beautiful little valleys which lead down to the Qu'Appelle River. Surrounded as we were by this lovely scenery, we could not fail to anticipate the time when its now complete solitude should give place to human skill and farm stock would be making good use of the luxuriant grass which year by year grows only to add beauty to the scene, and then make room for the growth of another year. After a short interval sufficient for the rest and refreshment of the party, we worked our way up the hill sides, and continued our course for about ten miles over another table-land district, very similar in character to that traversed during the morning. The entire distance of 25 miles had, however, been driven through the lands which had been selected and purchased by the Ontario and Qu'Appelle Land Company for colonization purposes.

In approaching the edge of this extensive table-land, the Qu'Appelle Fishing Lakes came into sight, and as they extend for a distance of about 25 miles, they added fresh beauty to the scene. We drove down to the side of the lakes and called at the Roman Catholic Mission, and were cordially welcomed by the Rev. Father Le Brett and his colleagues. For a period of ten years this mission has been engaged in its work amongst the various Indian tribes, and amidst much discouragement they have nobly persevered in this good work. The garden around the mission bears silent testimony to the productive character of the soil, and the favourable climate of the district. My friend, Mr. Adam Brown, of Hamilton, Ontario, who visited this mission in 1882, reported as follows:—"We found here a garden adorned with flowers which would do honour to any garden in Ontario. I hurriedly made a bouquet of at least twenty varieties. There were growing in the garden, cabbages, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, carrots, beet, onions, vegetable marrows, cauliflowers, &c., all of which were so fine as to lead some of us to say that they were as if grown for an agricultural show." I am pleased to quote this statement, which accurately describes the conditions as I found them at the time of my visit. Very near to the mission the Government are building an Industrial School for the education of some of the children of the Indians, and there is every reason to believe that excellent results will follow this prudent measure. Continuing our journey round the lakes we soon reached Fort Qu'Appelle, and were pleased to end an agreeable journey by stopping at the comfortable hotel kept by Messrs. Joyner near the Fort.